

From: The Revd Canon Janet Chapman, Rector of St Laurence Church

3rd April 2020



Dear Friends,

I am sending out this pack to all members of our church electoral roll by e-mail or post to help us continue to worship whether home-alone or connecting through Zoom or Conference Call. It also contains sensitive material to enable us to **'Prepare for the Worst but Pray for the Best.'**

It includes :

- a) Worship material to enable us to worship together as much as possible, especially during Holy Week. Page 2 of the Holy Week booklet contains the list of services and how you can access them. The Stations of the Cross booklet will be used in the 2pm Service on Good Friday.
- b) Pastoral material for preparing for admission to hospital and for death, whether of ourselves or of others

I suggest that you go through this once to get the overall feel of it then return to the Pastoral material at a time when you can give it your attention.

Currently, I am travelling through these days with an increased sense God's presence and of my priestly calling to be your Rector. I'm also grateful for the support you are giving to one another including Peter and me – the churchwardens are very good on checking up on us!

However as the growing rate of hospital admissions and death toll sadly underlines, we are more at risk of being seriously ill or dying than we have ever been. If we do go into hospital the facilities may be more basic than usual, including the lack of a chaplain or your familiar minister. We are also having to cope with the pain of not being able to attend funerals, whether the death is from CV19 or from other cause.

So, I have put together something of a DIY pack to help you be both practically and spiritually more prepared for what may lie ahead. Hard as you may find some of these enclosures, I would not be doing my job if I did not offer you these resources. I am grateful to Fr David, Fr John & Sue, Janice Wones and Claire Whitmore for their help in this.

Please DO phone one of the ministry team if you find this distressing or want to talk through any of the material. We are all out and about much less than usual so are very ready to talk and pray with you, including offering a short service of Reconciliation/Confession over the phone.

Canon Janet Chapman 0121 477 3111

Fr David Pycock (and Anne Pycock) 0121 476 3117 07821 151484,

Fr John Richards (and Sue Richards) 0121 603 0801

Others who are available to pray with you include:

Janice Wones 0121 459 7417

Debbie Keeves 07956 306315

Rowena Nicholls 07724 170448 (not during the working day)

Prayer requests may be also be e-mailed prayer.request.stlaurence@gmail.com Fr David will collate and enable them to be prayed by himself, Canon Janet, Janice and Fr John

The church building may be closed but we continue regular worship as follows:

Sundays	9.30am	Holy Communion (about 40 mins)	CC and Zoom
Wednesdays	10am	Holy Communion (BCP)	hopefully Zoom from Holy Week onwards
	8.30pm	Compline (about 20 mins)	CC only

If you have any type of phone, services in **bold** can be joined through Conference Call (CC.) We had 18 people join a recent one! Simply phone 01902 693302 from 10 minutes before the service; when asked enter the code 1139 and say your name. You can join in the responses but please say them quietly.

Please do NOT phone this number except at Service times and do check the costs of the phone call!

We are also recording many of our services and you can find them on our YouTube channel later on in the day of the service. Rise and Shine is happening most weeks for our younger members on YouTube but there is no age restriction! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42fQgbL9R-siTz6C7r5t0w/>

There are also an increasing number of services on the TV and Radio including (currently)
Sundays Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Service, BBC1 mid-morning Sunday Worship & 1.15pm Songs of Praise
Sundays and Wednesdays Radio 3 3pm Choral Evensong
Monday-Friday Radio 4 (Long Wave only & BBC Sounds) 9.45am Daily Service

If you need help
and live in **Northfield constituency** call the **NNNS Hotline on:**
0333 772 1931

(daily 11am-3pm)

Please note: this hotline is very busy & times subject to change. Check times on B31Voices.

If you live in a BVT property and are in need please contact them direct.

The Hotline offers help with Food bank referrals (for those without funds to pay for food
Essential shopping and collecting prescriptions.
Advice about benefits and employment
How to receive 'friendly phone calls'
Anything else!

If you are worried and want to talk the Samaritans are there for you day or night 116 123

If you can offer help as a street champion, which means volunteer to shop etc for people on your street please sign up at <http://b31.org.uk/2020/03/register-as-a-covid-19-street-champion/>

There is also the NHS volunteer scheme you can join <https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHS>

We are all trying to work together but it is still early days for it everything to be joined up.

Donations to food banks through supermarket drop-off points are still very welcome.

Financial Matters

If you are struggling or debts are rising do talk to your bank or Citizens Advice sooner rather than later. It is amazing what can be sorted out. If you need to reduce your giving to church, then please don't be embarrassed to do this.

If you are not struggling (and some are finding they have more money than usual because they aren't going out as much) please consider helping others including the continuing ministry of St Laurence. Although we are saving money on heat, we are losing rental and fee income (most weddings have been postponed) and donations.

If you don't already give through standing order you may wish to consider doing this – some have already asked about this so the details are below. You can also continue to give through QR codes (smart phone needed) or Just Giving at the bottom of the worship page on our web-site.

Account Name	St Laurence PCC
Account Number	00095606
Sort Code	40-52-40
Ref	Ideally your Name



You may also wish to consider supporting Christian Aid, at the forefront of helping in more poorer countries and also affected by CV19 or The Children's Society is having increased calls because of the restrictions.

Other Church Matters – all GOOD NEWS!

The Interior Porch We now have the full faculty and are completing all the forms ready to start the work

Church Noticeboards We've new notice boards outside church and the Pastoral Centre. The latter have been mainly funded by a grant from the Local Innovation Fund of Birmingham City Council.

Eco-Church We've now been awarded the Bronze Award. Hooray!

Homes under the Hammer recently included a Northfield property and glimpses of the church.

Parish Office Lorraine is working from home so you can still phone 0121 475 1518 or e-mail stlaurence@btconnect.com

Until we meet again in person, we hold you in our prayers

Canon Janet

(and her self-isolating gnome!)



