CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Dear friends
These are strange times. As a church we are having to work out new ways of worshipping, of keeping in contact and helping each other.

Very sadly, we have cancelled all church services and activities until the end of May. This is a huge step to take, but it is in line with the advice of the national church and the example of the Diocese. It means, among other things, that our Easter services and our Parish Weekend Away will not take place and that The Hub and House Groups will cease immediately. Perhaps even more difficult, a large number of our church family who will be following the government's advice on self-isolating or social distancing. This will be very trying and may well bring anxiety and frustration.

However, our church is not dead, nor is it asleep. We are alive and well and still serving Jesus Christ - we are just doing it in a different way. There are a number of steps that we are taking to help each other as we carry on. These are explained in more detail on the attached document, but the headlines are:

Updates on twitter, Facebook and our website
A live streamed service at 10.30 on Sunday (starting this week)
Paper prayers and news for those who are not online
Churches open each day for personal prayer
Pastoral teams contacting church members by phone
A practical support team offering practical help where needed

More immediately:

Join us for prayer at home at 7.00 pm on Thursday 20th March, with our Central Prayer Meeting
Look out for resources on the website, twitter and Facebook, or in paper form.

The Church of England's National Day of Prayer and Action on Mothering Sunday.

The Archbishops say: "light a candle at 7pm and put it in your window, ring someone who is isolated and vulnerable; buy an extra item and place it in your local food bank, keep your night shelters open."

We have taken the liberty of sending this to everyone on our church emailing list. If you would prefer not to receive future communications, please let us know by return of email.

Thank you all. Things will no doubt continue to change, but may you know today the forgiveness, peace and presence of God.

With much love

Peter