



TO ALL LICENSED CLERGY, PTO CLERGY, READERS, CHURCHWARDENS & LAY CHAIRS

AD CLERUM Update 4

12th March 2020

Dear Colleagues

The Church of England has updated its Coronavirus Guidance webpage. Please read it carefully:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na>

In view of the fact that the Government and Public Health England are updating their guidance on an almost daily basis it is important that you consult the Church of England website on a regular basis yourself so that you are up to date with developments

The webpage provides helpful new advice about:

- Baptism, confirmation and the laying on of hands including prayer ministry
- The serving of refreshments at services
- Not passing around the collection plate
- Supporting people who are self-isolating
- Supporting the wider community
- Maundy Thursday footwashing

Parishes are also being encouraged to plan ahead and a Parish Contingency Plan template is included on the web page.

Schools

Today it was announced by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland that schools in Ireland are to close. Currently our Prime Minister has said there are no plans to close English schools. However, this may change. Like me you will be concerned for vulnerable children in our schools some of whom are reliant on school dinners for their nourishment. It would be good particularly if you have a church school in your mission community if you could liaise with your head teacher to see if there is any way the church can support these families in such circumstances. This is where local food banks come into their own and you may also want to make use of our own Family Fun Cooking Club initiative:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/faith-action/family-fun-cooking-club/>

It is also important that you have up to contact information for your church members in case you need to contact them should someone who has come to a church service subsequently test positive for coronavirus.

There is also an updated section on the Church of England webpage about the digital resources available, plus a blog on live streaming of services.

In addition BBC Radio Devon broadcasts a half-hour weekly service at 0630 on a Sunday, which is then available on BBC Sounds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p083rl0x>

This service began during the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001. The BBC is keen to keep providing core faith programming during this coronavirus outbreak. They also broadcast a daily Pause for Thought at 0625 on weekdays and 0725 at weekends:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p083rlc6>

Here in the Diocese of Exeter we have a core group working on local contingency planning and local digital worship and pastoral resources.

If you have any questions or something to contribute to our planning please contact:

The Archdeacon of Exeter, The Venerable Andrew Beane:

archdeacon.of.exeter@exeter.anglican.org or

Chloe Axford, Communications and Engagement Director:

chloe.axford@exeter.anglican.org

My thoughts and prayers are with you all in this ever changing situation, as we all seek to do what is best for our communities. Be assured that we are working hard to provide the best support for you and your churches that we can. The most important thing is to follow the official advice and continue to pray for all those affected by this crisis.

+Robert