



The Bishop of Exeter

Coronavirus – Update 1

Further to my Ad Clerum yesterday, it has come to our attention that a person who subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 was present at Holy Communion at St Mary's, Churston Ferrers in Torbay last Sunday (1st March). Medical guidance has been received from NHS England. Members of the congregation present on Sunday have been informed and asked to seek advice via NHS111. The church is temporarily closed for a deep clean on the advice of Public Health England.

We are offering all those involved, together with the local clergy, full support. The Coronavirus situation is being kept under continual review nationally, and all those with responsibility for church worship and activities in the diocese are urged to check the official guidance available on the Church of England website for the latest regular updates at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

The Reverend Professor Gina Radford, vicar of South Brent and former Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, has been advising the Church of England on its guidance and is currently working on a simple protocol for church leaders to follow should they have a case in their congregation.

With my thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,

+Robert Exon: