

Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Churches

19th March 2020

Things are changing all the time both in church life, nationally and personally. We want to keep being church and live out our aim together to Follow Jesus, Love God's Family and Bless Others. Having reviewed the Church of England guidance, here's where we've got to in our thinking:



1. Church events

As well as public worship, we've suspended all non-essential meetings, including Toast for Tots, Youth Bible Study, Life Groups, Prayer Group, and Saturday Coffee. We're working on how we might continue to have some of these meetings virtually, starting with a bit of a trial with Youth Bible Study tonight.

Weddings and funerals are still able to go ahead but taking into account government guidelines, particularly on distancing and protecting the vulnerable. We will be making contact with wedding couples with more information.

We are also working on making available a time of worship this Sunday at 10am live-streamed via the website. More details about this will be sent tomorrow.

2. Helping those in need

It has been great to have so many offers of help for those in need in the community. This is a key area where we may be able to bless others at this time. We're conscious that many others are doing some great things but here's our contribution:

Village magazines: We will offer help through the village magazines either through a flyer or an article which explains that we as a church are able to help, and to get in touch if there is something people need.

Neighbours: We're working on a flyer to post through the door of your neighbours offering help.

Collecting food donations: Normally we do this for Foodbanks in Newbury, Basingstoke or Tadley, but just as a temporary measure, given restricted travel and self-isolation advice, we have decided to collect donations of food, and distribute it to those who need it locally. If you are able to donate food, please leave it in Kingsclere church.

Swan Street Stores in Kingsclere, and the Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop have offered a delivery service to the elderly and those at home isolating which is fantastic. If you could help with deliveries, please let us know.

3. Church Communication

Church Notices will continue to be sent out to everyone who currently receives them weekly. If you would like to receive updates, please sign up via our website. Please also note that both St Mary's, Kingsclere and St Paul's, Ashford Hill have a Facebook page.

Finally, if you know anyone in need, please get them to contact us and we'll see what we can do to help.

Let's continue to trust in the Lord as we face these various trials, remembering all that He went through on the cross to save us, to know us, and to tell us He loved us. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Hebrews 15:13).

Yours in Christ,

Ben