

# St Christopher's Church Thornhill

**The Vicarage: (023) 81787435**



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the PCC Standing Committee, I am writing to give you the latest situation with regards to Church life during the Coronavirus situation and the impact that this is having on all of us in many ways.

I am aware that many of you, due to health conditions or age (70+), will be preparing to 'self-isolate' as the Government are describing it. This will, of course, change your pattern of life and will also have an effect on how we can be Church at St Christopher's. So we are putting some measures in place which we hope will be of support and help in these challenging times, but which will also enable us to remain close as a Church community and shine the light of God's love in dark times.

+ **Please let Duncan know if you are self-isolating** (and you are not over 70) and he will do his utmost to ensure that you are supported as best as we're able. Anyone can phone him whenever they wish (just leave a brief message if he's not there), or email ([duncan@stchristophers-thornhill.org.uk](mailto:duncan@stchristophers-thornhill.org.uk)) if you prefer. If Duncan is not available, please contact Chris O'Brien (023 80463585).

+ **Worship** - The Archbishops have decided that **all** public worship (except funerals) and all other gatherings be suspended until further notice, but that the church can be open whenever possible for private prayer by anyone who wishes to come in.

+ **Prayer** – Please make use of the Prayer Chain if you have a particular prayer request, and continue to pray at home in the way you usually would. The contacts for the Prayer Chain are Joy Smith and Sue Googe – or you can let Duncan or Matthew (07597 989399) know. There are many other prayer resources available.

+ We are developing a network of **practical support** by those who are still able to get out and about – such as doing a bit of shopping etc where there is no-one else who can do it for those who have to stay indoors. **If you are able to help in this way please let Duncan or Matthew or Chris know asap.**

+We are also devising a **Mutual Support System** of all the congregation (whether or not you are self-isolating), which can help everyone to have at least one other person with whom they can keep in regular contact – via the telephone.

+ There will be **regular updates** on the Church website ([www.stchristophers-thornhill.org.uk](http://www.stchristophers-thornhill.org.uk)), so if you have internet connection please check this – and again we will be devising a system whereby those who do not have the internet can be contacted about these updates.

Despite these being unsettling times, as our bishops remind us, we can always hold onto the truth that *'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble'*. Ps46

*Yours in Christ,  
Duncan.*