



ST.MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH - CHELSFIELD

Rector: Revd John Tranter

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‘Staying in Touch’ – Church Communication in a time of Crisis – update 23 March 2020 pm.

Dear Friends,

First of all a big thank you to all who lit a candle in their window on Sunday evening, the Light of Christ is needed more than ever in these troubled times. Thanks also for your prayers and messages of support.

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to follow the instructions given by the Prime Minister to stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

‘The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close as the UK is seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives. Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, all church buildings in Country are now closed.’

This means that from today the doors of St Martin’s must remain shut. But as Bishop James reminds us – though the building may be closed the church remains alive and active. So once again our plans must change:

- **Worship** – I will continue to pray daily on your behalf as advertised. Our video Service on Mothering Sunday was well received and can be viewed on the church website, We hope to add further videoed worship accessed via our website.
- **Weekly newsletter** – will still be produced but available only via e-mail or on the Web.
- **Prayer** – if you have specific prayer requests or wish to have a candle lit in church for a suffering loved one, please provide me with brief details and I will act on your behalf.
- **Private Prayer** – can now only be done at home. Please make use of the many resources available.
- **Magazine** – we are no longer permitted to produce printed material but will endeavour to provide one monthly as an email attachment to those who wish to receive it.. Please continue to share stories and messages.

Our Lord’s Summary of the Law reminds us of the way forward:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all

your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except as authorised by the Government.

I remind you that you may call me at any time for prayer or a chat, and please let me know if you have any bright ideas about how we might develop our ministry in these difficult times.

Keep safe, keep secure and keep in touch. v John.

Please do refer regularly to the church website www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk for regular updates.

If you have any pastoral needs, or are anxious and need prayer please contact Rev John at the Rectory on

01689 825749 or rector@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Rev John

Rev John Tranter
Rector

If you require advice or help in accessing the Church Website please email us on stmartin.chelsfield@btinternet.com and we will try and help you.