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8.1.21

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are keeping safe and well, as we enter into a new and necessary lockdown.

In this lockdown the government advice is to stay at home. Government and Church of England guidelines also allow for public worship to take place. The Bishop has given authorisation for each parish to consider their local situation and make informed decisions right for their area.

The standing committee has met to carefully consider what is appropriate for Harnham Parish that supports the community, the worshipping community and the NHS. **We have decided that the best way forward for the immediate future is that live worship in our church buildings will be put on hold.** Amongst our considerations were the evidence of the rise in the Covid pandemic even in Wiltshire among both young and old; that the new strain of the virus is more easily passed on; the amount of people counted as 'vulnerable' who attend church or help in services. We would like to keep you all safe as possible. **We will review our decision during Lent.**

We are aware that we all have different physical, mental and spiritual responses to this new lockdown and will be trying to think creatively about how to support each other in the immediate and longer term.

So how will we provide worship and support?

- Services will be recorded and put on the Harnham Parish YouTube channel.
- Weekly reflections will be sent out via email and where necessary carefully delivered.
- A short morning prayer will take place on Wednesdays at 9 am via Zoom. Please contact Linda Baker for the link.
- Messy Church will continue to be recorded by Zoom and put on Harnham Parish YouTube channel.
- In due course services will be live streamed. We will notify you how to access these.
- We will be inviting you to Zoom coffee meetings so we can listen and talk with each other. If you would welcome an early invite please do ring or email Linda Baker. If you would like to be part of this but have not used Zoom previously then please do ring or email Linda Baker so that we can support you in joining in with a trial meeting.
- We will continue to have a pastoral phone call support system in place.
- We will prepare for the marking of Lent and Easter in creative ways and welcome your help. More information to follow.

Occasional pastoral services can take place as follows:

Weddings can take place inside church with up to 6 people. We do not have any planned until May.
Funerals can take place inside church with a maximum of 30 people.

If you need help with any shopping or prescriptions, then please do contact Harnham Community Network- Charles Woodd (convener) on 07900 815605 or harnhamcommunity@gmail.com
If you just need a chat please call Revd Becky 01722 333564 Jean Mercer 01722 324229 (LPA)
Debbie Musselwhite 01722 334020 (LPA)

Thank you to all who have been part of the team that has kept the churches open over Advent and Christmas and to all of you now for your understanding.

I hold you and the community in my prayers.

R ROBERTS

Revd Becky Roberts on behalf of Harnham PCC standing committee.