

Praying And Worshipping Together When We Can't Be 'Together'

These are difficult times, when we need each other's support and prayers. We also need to pray for the world, our country and our community. Although we cannot physically assemble for worship and prayer, we can still pray and use the technology available to communicate with each other in Christian fellowship and support.

The Church of England Website www.churchofengland.org has a number of resources on it to do that, as well as the prayers which Suzanne has put together for us to use at home. A pattern of worship, Bible Study and prayer will be really important for us to keep up as individuals and as a church community; it will significantly help us get through this. Praying for others, regardless of their own faith, is also vital in us joining in with God's compassion for His creation.

In the coming weeks, Suzanne, Steve and Julie will be emailing out some prayers and reflections on the Sunday lectionary readings to help us keep a pattern of worship and prayer even though we can't get together. Please email stnicholasashchurch@hotmail.com if you wish to be added to the list.

Each Sunday a service, including prayers, hymns and a short sermon, will be broadcast online by the Church of England and broadcast across 39 local BBC radio stations at 8am as congregations across the country find new ways of sharing worship together after public church services were put on hold.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York have this message for us:

"Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.

Please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure the night shelters wherever possible are kept open. There are many very encouraging schemes happening right across our country in communities to focus on caring for the most vulnerable and do continue to play your part in those.

Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.

This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly are a church for all, or just the church for ourselves. We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world."

The Church will also be providing a range of resources to enable people to continue to walk with God at this difficult time. This includes [#LiveLent daily reflections](#), [prayer for the day audio and text](#) and [Alexa and Google Home smart speaker apps](#).

In the days and weeks ahead, the Church will be significantly expanding this output with audio of a simple daytime prayer and night prayer service, more video content and some live-streaming, new mental health reflections to support people, and webinars to help churches stream sermons, events and make the most of social media. The aim will be to make as much as possible available in simple downloadable and printable formats for those who can't easily access the technology.

For those who are not online, we will be looking locally at how we can produce further prayers and other materials to support you.