

St Edmund Warkton

News Sheet

29 March 2020

The Church continues to be alive and active, but our building is closed.

We are 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, this and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.

Our worship of God and our care for each other continues but cannot be done in this building.

The St Botolph website, <https://stbots.org.uk/> contains information about the Benefice, including past St Edmunds Church News Sheets and offers information online for prayer, worship, study, and community life.

There are links to:

a Sunday Service online click on the [Quick Links](#) in the menus
join Mark as he leads Morning Prayer every day at 8.00am
(select the Live stream video)
the St Bot's Blog - for news, information and thoughts

<https://stbots.org.uk/>

The Rector, Revd Mark Lucas can be contacted in an emergency by telephone - 0778 8100 757 or email - rector@stbots.church

'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 for essential trips.

St Edmund's - young people meet this morning via a video app from their homes.

Helen Tilney - the Benefice Families Worker writes,
'I just wanted to get in touch to offer any support we can as a church family to members of St Edmund's (and Warkton folk).

I am in contact with many of the St Botolph's congregation who could do some shopping for anyone who can't get out themselves, or need any other assistance at all.
Just let me know of anyone we can get in touch with.

We are praying for you all and trusting in our good God to bring us through these difficult times.

Every blessing, Helen

The Rector writes - To keep you going!

Well, it looks like the present situation will be with us for the long term, at least until late summer anyway. I don't know how we'll all cope shut up inside, especially as the weather gets warmer.

I guess we just have to remain stoical and remember the wartime motto, 'Keep Calm and Carry On'.

At least we get to explore all those amazing applications of current tech we might otherwise have missed.

Talking of which, I am streaming 'Morning Prayer from the Rectory Breakfast Table' each day at 8.00am.

Why not join me? What better way to start the day.

Also, I am posting a daily thought each day on our YouTube channel.

youtube.com/channel/UCrHr1ekRU4TNnZAgSVvyn3Q/videos

Each one is around 10 minutes long from different members of the team, and designed to spark your thinking and praying.

I hope you find them useful.

Please let us know if you find either of these things in any way helpful.

Send us your ideas and questions too.

There's a 'Contact' page on this site, or you can add comments under the videos (do bear in mind that comments under videos are public).

May God bless you. Mark

The Bishop writes - Questions, questions?!

A crisis like the one we are currently facing inevitably leads to questions. How can I make sense of what is happening? When will it end? Even, will I survive it? These are quite apart from the theological questions about God's part in it all. Well, I hope to write some articles here over the coming weeks to help us think through these questions. However, there is no point reinventing the wheel, and there are some pretty good (as well as some, frankly, terrible) pieces already available in the blogosphere. So, for starters, have a look at these:

<https://www.ccef.org/anxiety-waiting-and-the-coronavirus/>

<https://www.ccef.org/seeing-the-people-in-front-of-you/>

A testimony by Dr Julian Urban.

He is a 38-year-old doctor in Lombardy, Italy.

Up until two weeks ago, my colleagues and I were atheists.

I always laughed at my parents when they went to church.

Nine days ago, a 75-year-old pastor came to us for medical help.

He had grave respiratory problems, but he had a Bible with him and it impressed us that he was reading the Bible to the people who were dying and holding their hands.

We were all tired, discouraged doctors, psychologically and physically spent, and so we found that we were listening to him. We realised that we had reached the limits of what man can do. We need God, and we have begun to ask for his help, when we have a few moments free. We cannot believe that we, who were fierce atheists, are now seeking for interior peace by asking the Lord to help us.

The 75-year old pastor [has now] died. Despite the fact that in the last three weeks we have had over 120 people die in our unit, and we are all exhausted and feel destroyed, he succeeded, despite his own condition and our own difficulties, to bring us a PEACE that we no longer hoped to find.

The testimony was gathered by Gianni Giardinelli and translated by Giuseppe Pellegrino.