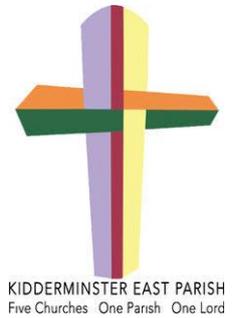


Hi everyone,



At the time of writing it has just been announced that there will be no more public worship in our buildings for a significant period of time. For those of us who are used to worshipping in buildings (most of us I guess), this will be a real culture shock over the weeks and months ahead.

In the light of this I want to encourage everyone to remember that, despite everything, God is still in control even when it feels like there is no shortage of concern and apprehension all around us. However, we all still have to play our part in this and so I urge everyone to **please follow the advice given by the health professionals** even if it leads to a large degree of inconvenience and interruption to our daily lives. The advice is there both for our own benefit and for the benefit of others.

For those with access to the internet you will be able to keep up to date with advice on our Diocesan website at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk the Church of England website at www.churchofengland.org or the National Health Service website at www.nhs.uk For those who are not on the internet, we will be finding new and creative ways to support you and to pass on any information as needed.

An oft-quoted phrase that is often heard states that “The Church isn’t the building, it’s the people!” I think that we now have an unwanted and yet a unique opportunity to prove the truth of that sentiment. Our buildings are now out of use to us and we need to find new ways of being church both for ourselves and for our communities. This situation is forcing us to ask the question “**What are the essential ingredients that makes the Church what it is?**” Together over the following days and weeks we must seek to find fresh answers to that!

Now that closures have happened please let us support one another in every way possible. Keep in touch with each other via email, Internet and phone. As always, we will be using our website (www.kidderminstereast.org.uk) as a means of sharing Parish information. Can we check that our neighbours are ok and make sure

that the most vulnerable members of our Church community have all they need in terms of food and provisions. One of the saddest aspects of all of this has been the “panic buying” in our shops and supermarkets leaving many people without basic provisions. Our lives should not be dominated by panic and fear, but rather by care and love for one another, as Christ loved us.

Earlier on I mentioned the Diocesan and Church of England websites. They are a great source of material for Bible reading, prayers and meditations and I encourage you to use them as much as you can. We will also try to provide material on a regular basis for those of you who are not online.

Above all I want to call us all as a Parish to continue praying for the situation in which we find ourselves. This situation is big, however our God will always be immeasurably bigger and so let us pray that He will be with us and sustain us as we go through this present difficult time.

Let us pray;

Keep us good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
Be with those who care for the sick,
And lift up all who are brought low
That we might find comfort
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

God bless.

Robert

Robert Legge – Team Vicar
19th March 2020

