

To all the Church Family of St. Mark's, St. Michael's and St. Luke's:

As you will be aware, the Archbishops have suspended all Public Worship until further notice. This means that we need to find new ways of being Church – ways to support one another, to continue to grow in faith and prayerfulness, and to reach out to our community. To that end we have put together a Continuity Plan for our Parishes of Oulton Broad and Oulton, and copies are available from St. Mark's Office (01502 514771 or stmarks.oultombroad@gmail.com) by request.

Here is a summary of what the plan includes:

- We will be maintaining contact with all members of our congregations. This will take place via email, text, message, phone, letter or a combination of all three.
- We will seek to maintain up to date lists of those who are unwell or self-isolating, as well as a list of those who are willing and able to offer practical support to those in need.
- We will send out links to online worship resources and printed copies of prayer and daily liturgy for those who don't have internet access and request them via St. Mark's Office.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated in isolation, but vicariously i.e. on behalf of us all. This will happen at St. Mark's on Wednesdays at 10.30am and at St. Michael's at midday on Sundays. You might like to have a quiet time of prayer at the same time that Communion is being celebrated.
- St. Mark's will be open for personal prayer and contemplation, Monday to Friday between 10 and 11am. St. Michael's will be open between 2 and 3pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. There will be prayer cards, candles and other resources available in both Churches. Please wash or sanitise your hands when you enter the building. These opening times are intended to support our community, as well as congregations, so please pass this information to any friends, family members or neighbours and that you think may like to know.
- On Sundays, at 10.30am, we will have an online video/audio gathering. This will be an opportunity for corporate prayer, bible study and worship and is open to all who might find that helpful, and have the technology to access it. Those wishing to avail of this online worship gathering should download the Zoom app on a table or Smartphone, or go to <https://zoom.us> You will need to set up a free Zoom account and then email Helen (revhelenjary@gmail.com) who will send a link to access the next Sunday's online gathering.

Unfortunately, all of our Church activities, including all groups and meetings are stopping until further notice and the Easter Egg Hunt at St. Mark's has been cancelled.

There will obviously be financial implications for our Churches during the coming period and I would like to ask you to continue to set aside the money that you would usually be giving to the Church at weekly worship, as this will help us later.

At present, whether you are part of St. Luke's, St. Michael's or St. Mark's, please can you contact St. Mark's Office if you are currently unwell, if you are self-isolating and especially if you are without friends, family members or neighbours who can assist you at this time. We want to maintain up to date information about how everyone is coping so that we can offer prayer and support.

Please also let the Office know if you are willing and able to be one of a team of volunteers who would be able to help those in need with collecting shopping or other small practical tasks, maintaining social distance.

This is only the start of a challenging period and, as time goes on, we'll all be affected in different ways. However, God is our refuge and strength, and an ever present help in times of trouble. You may wish to reflect on the words of Psalm 91, which is a great Psalm about God's protection. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers.

With much love and prayer,

Helen, your Rector.