



Dear Friends

We continue to pray for you. Alongside many questions about what life as church looks like over the coming weeks, we are also very much encouraged to hear of how Christians across the diocese are rising to the challenges of mission and ministry.

As many of us face a very different kind of week, and a very different Sunday, we encourage you to stay in touch with one another by whatever safe means available. For many people, loneliness and fatigue will already be a concern – so we suggest phoning someone to pray with them, or participating in the continuing prayer and worship of the church by viewing a live streaming service. There are more suggestions on the diocesan website, and more resources will follow for the National Day of Prayer and Action on Sunday.

We want to draw the attention of clergy and lay ministers to yesterday's updated advice on the CofE website (linked from the diocesan website). There are answers to Frequently Asked Questions about weddings, funerals, live-streaming, PCC meetings, food banks and other issues. To this we have added an FAQ produced by our Diocesan Registry, addressing some issues in more detail, as well as some further guidance to explain these answers more fully. Many more questions remain, but please be assured that we are working to get information to you as soon as it is available, seeking to address issues in order of priority. Further advice is expected soon about baptisms, and work is ongoing in relation to Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

The news is full of people and places to pray for. As we pray, we are moved to act. Today the bishops have written to our older and more vulnerable clergy to encourage them and assure them of our prayers and support.

With our prayers and best wishes

The Bishops and Bishop's Staff Team