

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH PELSALL
As from 17/3/2020

**ALL PUBLIC WORSHIP AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH PELSALL
HAS BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

On the advice of the Archbishops we have suspended all public worship for the foreseeable future. This means there won't be any Holy Communion services or other services on Sundays or during the week.

Prayers will be said by the clergy at allocated times during the week in church when prayers for our world, nation and those affected by the virus can be offered. Although these services won't be open to the public they will be at the heart of our concern.

First of all, may I say that our prayers are with those directly affected, those who are grieving or afraid, and with all those for whom the necessary isolation will be hard to bear.

Secondly, at a time of increased anxiety for many people, and with much that is unknown, we want to assure everyone to encourage all of us to stay in touch by telephone, social media, email or text. We as a Christian community intend to keep in contact with our congregation and parish. So please do not hesitate to be in touch with the clergy, church officers and pastoral care team (contact details available on our website).

Thirdly, the latest Church of England guidelines calls for churches to put public worship on hold but remain open for prayer, presenting an opportunity to re-imagine church and explore new ways of providing support and community spirit. So our church will be open for individual prayer and reflection. Finalized details will be posted here on the church notice board, website and Facebook.

Fourthly, we are examining options for maintaining our worshipping community, including providing prayer, bible and reflection materials to be made available in many ways including on the website. More details about material will be available very soon.

Lastly, St. Michael's Church along with many churches, will be joining in prayer this coming Sunday (Mothering Sunday, 22 March), asking everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 19.00 as a sign of solidarity and hope. I do hope that you are able to join in with us as we pray together as a nation.

During the coming weeks we are presented with an opportunity to re-imagine church and explore new ways of providing support and community spirit. As a loving, prayerful and inclusive church community we aim to explore new ways of reaching out to the congregation and parish offering with others, the practical care and support many will need. We pray that in these difficult times we'll discover new resources of togetherness and what it is to be a Christian community which provides reassurance and stability in challenging times. With faith, love and hope in our God I have no doubt that we will rise to this challenge through the grace and strength that He will provide.

This Collect below will be used in our prayers and I encourage you to use this prayer accordingly in your own daily prayers.

Almighty God, who sees that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended against all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Alison M. Morris - Associate Minister