

Email sent on 24th March re Church Closures

Dear all,

Following the Prime Minister's announcements yesterday of the new restrictions, I am sad to tell you that we have now locked all the churches in the Shelswell Benefice.

More on worshipping together:

We will continue to live stream a short reflective service at 12 noon on weekdays on the Shelswell News group on Facebook. If you are not signed up to Facebook, you might want to consider it – several of the villages have Facebook groups, and it can be a good way of staying connected with what is going on in the local area.

We then upload it onto YouTube at about 12.30 (ish), but you can listen to it at any time after that – either search for 'Shelswell Parishes' on YouTube or copy and paste this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbY6gFUF1M9GhIA6BRHbqAQ>

We will also live stream a communion service at 10 am on Sundays, again onto the Shelswell News page on Facebook, then upload it onto YouTube at about 11.30 am. A good few people joined us this last Sunday on line, and it was great to know that we could still worship God together. So do give it a try.

We have also just heard that Bishop Steven is asking every disciple of Christ across the Diocese to pause at 11 am each day if your work permits and say Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer, beginning tomorrow (with Pope Francis and our Archbishops).

Whichever of these options you choose to pursue, or whether you go for something totally different, please pray and keep on praying.

The magazine:

We have asked the printers to cancel the printing of the magazine this month as we felt it would be irresponsible of us to ask people to distribute it, given current restrictions. Instead we will send it to you electronically, and will also put a copy of it on the website (<http://www.shelswellparishes.info/>).

Community Networks:

The village networks will be continuing to operate, so if you need help fetching shopping or medications, or just want to talk to someone, please do make use of that. I suspect that over the coming weeks, we may all find ourselves calling on the network at some point or other. If you have lost the list, you can find a copy of it on our website.

Meetings

Over the coming weeks, if there are important church matters to attend to, we will do so by phone / email / or videoconferencing. The Ministry Team are experimenting with Zoom, which is working quite well so far. If you need to convene a meeting, contact me and I will set it up for you.

Keeping in touch

The coming weeks are likely to seem long and challenging. So keep in touch with one another and with us. Please feel free to phone or email any member of the ministry team for whatever reason (or just because you want to hear a voice on the end of the phone).

And rest assured that Yvonne and I are continuing to pray for the Shelswell Villages, albeit from our own homes rather than from the churches.

With love and concern during these difficult times,
Alice