

St Paul's Church, Slough



Advance Notices #12

There will be NO service in the church on Sunday 22nd March due to restrictions because of coronavirus

Mothering Sunday Service will be available online, as follows:

Welcome to St Paul's

We plan to provide our Sunday service online for viewing at any time after 10am on Sunday, as follows:

Website at <https://stpaulsslough.org.uk/> and follow the link.

YouTube Account at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StPaulsChurch1906>

Facebook account at: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/stpaulsslough/>

This is new for all of us and we are doing our best so please be patient. We will learn and improve as the weeks progress. :)

Theme	Welcoming when it is costly Exodus 2 v 1-10
Preacher	Helen
Leader	Nadeem

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

SERVICES AND MEETINGS ALL SUSPENDED: As instructed by the Church of England and other churches our usual pattern of Sunday services and all other midweek meetings must immediately be put on hold until further notice.

PLEASE KEEP GIVING – Church services may have been suspended, but we still have all the usual costs to cover, including staff, Diocesan share etc... Our Treasurer, Ray Lewis, explains how you can still give without coming to church see below.

MOTHERS DAY FLOWERS: Mothering Sunday flowers will be available for anyone to collect from the porch step nearest the main gate on Sunday morning until they run out.

CHURCH OPEN FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER; As suggested in the Archbishops attached letter we are encouraged to keep the church building open for private prayer wherever possible. The prayer room will therefore be open at 10.30 am to 11.30am Monday to Friday for private prayer. Please use the porch door nearest the entrance to the drive.

VOLUNTEERS: If anyone can volunteer to manage the prayer room during the above times and to help with plans we are developing to be 'good Samaritans' to those around us at this time of need, please let the church office know on email at parishadmin@stpaulsslough.org.uk or by phone at 01753 531022.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

A message from Bishop Steven:

You will be aware that the government has introduced additional measures aimed at preventing the further spread of corona virus. The Health Secretary **made clear** in Parliament that the guidance applies to all faith communities.

The Archbishops have issued the attached letter in response to the guidance. You will see that the letter contains the very significant news that our usual pattern of Sunday services and other midweek meetings must be put on hold.

This will mean significant and immediate change in every place. We will need to seek other ways to continue our common life and to fulfil Gods mission.

We will continue to hold our nation and the world in prayer through the coming weeks and to demonstrate Gods love by every means open to us.

St Paul's APCM – POSTPONED

We have decided to postpone our Church AGM until 31st May and so there will **not** be an AGM on 19th April. This may still change again.

Coronavirus: The Financial Impact

Whilst a reasonable proportion of our income from Giving is made by Standing Order, a substantial amount of giving is by Cash or Cheque - either placed in a brown Gift Aid envelope or straight onto the giving plate or bag at Sunday services.

Clearly with no services being held in Church on a Sunday for the foreseeable future it will no longer be possible to do that. This is a prime example of why for a long time I have asked people switch to Standing Order! I am very grateful for those who do give in this way.

The potential loss of the money given via the collection plate presents a very big threat to our ability to meet the cost of our outgoings, which do not diminish just because services are suspended. It is vital that we continue to receive as much money as possible from church members and as regularly as possible.

With this in mind I outline some options for those people who do not currently give by standing order:

Set a Standing Order up! If you have access to online banking this is very easy to do from home. Otherwise, complete the Standing Order form in the attached leaflet and post it to your bank ASAP. The Pledge and Gift Aid section of the leaflet should also be completed and posted to the Church Office.

If you have Online Banking, but do not wish to set up a Standing Order, make your giving using the bank transfer facility. The church bank account number and sort code are shown in the attached leaflet. Please show your name as the payment reference so we can identify who it has come from.

Coronavirus: The Financial Impact (continued)

If you have a bank account but do not have an online facility, please post a cheque to the Church Office – made payable to “St. Paul’s Parish”.

- Should you be in a position where you have no choice but to use Cash PLEASE DO NOT POST IT TO US as that is a very unsecure method and it could get stolen. Instead save it up and then put it on the collection plate once we are allowed to hold services in church again.

I appreciate these are difficult times, but this Coronavirus crisis does not diminish the need for Giving to also be increased beyond what people had been paying until now. The underlying issues we faced and which gave rise to the plea for an increase in Giving have not gone away.

Should you have any concerns, need help with setting anything up, or need more information, then please do telephone me – 01753 677709 or 07765 882969.

The address for the Church Office is:

St. Pauls Church Office, 130 Stoke Road, Slough, SL2 5AS

Thank You and God Bless You.

Ray Lewis

Treasurer

LEADERSHIP SAFEGUARDING TRAINING (formerly C2)

On Wednesday 10th June 2020 from 7pm to 10pm, St. Paul's will be hosting a Leadership Safeguarding Training evening. This is open to other churches in the Diocese. Many members of our church in leadership roles have already completed this training but some have not. Maureen and Christine will contact those who need to complete this training in the next few weeks and encourage them to register for this course which has to be delivered face to face and not completed on-line.

Resources for worship during these extra-ordinary times:

You might like to note the following:

There are a range of Christian resources already available:

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation - the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This daily audio content is available via the app and daily emails. [Sign up for free.](#)

The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship - radio programmes will be using some of the [themes from #LiveLent as part of their broadcasts.](#)

Prayer for the day - each day the Church of England [publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.](#)

Smart speakers – daily prayer and #LiveLent audio content can be [accessed via our smart speaker apps.](#)

Bishop Steven will preside at the Eucharist this Sunday and offer a brief reflection to the whole Diocese from Christ Church at 10 am. In keeping with the restrictions only a handful of people will be able to be present.

We are aiming to live stream this service. Details of how to connect will be circulated across the Diocese before the weekend.

Bishops Colin, Alan and Olivia will be offering reflections on our three local radio stations early on Sunday morning. These will be recorded and shared on the website.



Holy Communion Services

We are planning for the following online services to include communion taken by the clergyman and those at home can follow the words.

29th March: 9.00am & 10.30 & 6.30pm with Canon Rod Cosh

9th April: Maundy Thursday 7.30 with Rev Margaret Harper

12th April: Easter Sunday with Rev Margaret Harper

5th Sunday

Next Sunday 29th March

Theme	Welcoming turning to friendship Luke 10 v 38 –42 and John 11 v 1-45
Preacher	Canon Rod Cosh
Leader	Nadeem