

Parish Notices Sunday 22nd March 2020

Please pray for:

Mon: The NHS and amazing Health Care Workers.

Tue Teachers who are continuing to keep schools open, and will have to continue through school holidays.

Wed: National and Local Government and all those with authority.

Thu: Shop workers, suppliers and all involved in the distribution of food and basic supplies.

Fri: Small business owners, those facing particular economic challenges.

Sat: Church leaders, nationally and locally - our witness in Chesham and the villages.

Clergy Contact Details

Revd John Shepherd- john@theshepherds.org.uk Tel 01494 784372

Revd Josh Bailey- associate@cheshamchurch.co.uk Tel 01494 786789

Revd Chris Gercke - curate@cheshamchurch.co.uk Tel 01494 783498

Revd Tim Yates - tim.yates3@btinternet.com Tel 01494 772914

Revd Simon Winn -rev.simon.winn@gmail.com Tel 01494 773318

ELECTORAL ROLL

If you are not already on your church's Electoral Roll, but would like to join it, please would you request an ER form and email it into the Parish Office. **The Electoral Roll closes**

on 14th April

St Mary's & St John's,	Martin Paxton
Emmanuel	Kris Grannell
Christ Church	Hilary Povey
St George's	Ken Gooch
St John's, Ash Gn	Rodney Newth
Hope Church	John Harland-Smith

The Parish Office remains operational. Lynette will be based there. Please contact by telephone or email but please do not come in person.

Details of Sunday Services around the Parish are given on the monthly rota, a copy of which is available in each church

Parish website address: www.greatchesham.org.uk **Parish Office:** Tel: 01494 783629

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Address for Friday printing: printers@greatchesham.org.uk

Dear friends across the Parish,

This week has seen unprecedented peacetime guidance from the government as we seek to respond to the impact of Coronavirus. The Archbishops have wisely responded by suspending all public gatherings across the Church of England, and so we find ourselves unable to meet together on a Sunday in our 7 churches across the Parish to enjoy fellowship, hear God's Word, sing His praises, pray with faith, and share in communion.

The churches are all working on plans to keep everyone connected and able to join together in online worship through webinars, on Facebook and YouTube. Some have been using 'Zoom' for meetings this week – I gather the Lent Course at Christ Church and St George's was able to continue in this way. I know that Technology is a challenge for some, and so a Parish Tech Support team has been set up for those who lack confidence (do speak to your minister for info), and all churches will work hard to stay in touch with those who have no internet access.

A Parish Central Response Group met this week to put together a Parish Continuity Plan, and we will be meeting regularly to update that plan and work with the districts. We are a complex Parish, and much of our pastoral response will be done at local level, but we want to coordinate where we can, in order to support one another across the team and be a blessing to the town. We will continue to meet weekly as a staff team (online).

Communication is vital when many are having to distance themselves socially, so please do contact your minister or one of the church wardens if you have particular needs or are feeling especially alone. All the districts are working hard at making sure the most vulnerable and isolated will be supported at this time.

This crisis is deeply unsettling for many people, and so it provides an opportunity for us as Christians to love our community and point them to God, who is our Rock and Refuge. If you're well, this can be done informally amongst neighbours and networks, by continuing to support Foodbank, and joining with others – I gather St John's Ashley Green have joined with the Community Association to support the most vulnerable. We will be considering other means for reaching out in a coordinated way, but let's be praying that this very challenging time might be used for God's glory.

Today, March 22nd, has been assigned as a National Day of Prayer, and although we can't be in the same place, we can be together in prayer, seeking God for our churches, our town, our nation and our world. The Archbishops have suggested that you might like to put a candle in your window at 7pm as a symbol of Christ's Light that continues to shine in the darkness.

with love in Christ,

John Shepherd