

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PARISH CONTINUITY PLAN

Benefice of Redenhall with Scole – Tuesday 24th March 2020

Introduction

The in mid-March the Diocese of Norwich requested that each parish/benefice/mission community or alternative put in place a continuity plan in preparedness for further development of the Coronavirus situation. This is the plan for the Benefice of Redenhall with Scole.

There is also guidance available from the National Church of England and the UK Government:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

There are many unknowns about the development of this virus over the coming weeks and months; this plan will be revisited and kept under review as circumstances change.

1. Infrastructure

The aim of this plan is to ensure as far as possible the continued mission and ministry of parishes, and the maintenance of the critical ongoing business of the parish.

The Nigel's nominated deputy is the Revd. Sue Auckland. The Revd. Tim Rogers will fulfil this role should both Nigel and Sue are unwell. If any of these are not well enough to respond to your enquiry, a message to that effect will appear on their answerphone and as an email response.

2. Communication

If you are concerned about whether an activity should go ahead or have other concerns then please contact Nigel. This includes weddings, funerals and baptisms, and Nigel will have the latest advice ready to hand.

If churches become closed for worship, then this will be communicated via email to the usual parish contacts and the ministry team. It will also be posted on the door of each church affected, if possible. All updates will be posted on the "Welcome" page of the benefice website <http://www.7churches.org.uk/> .

Major updates to this document and other advice will also be communicate by Nigel via email.

3. General Hygiene

There are general principles you can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

1. washing your hands more often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser when you get home or into work, when you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, eat or handle food
2. avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
3. avoid close contact with people who have symptoms
4. cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands
5. clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

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4. Worship

Our church buildings are now closed and locked, except for essential uses, e.g. Foodbank.

A list of online worship resources including details of live online prayer and worship across the benefice, may be accessed via the benefice website: www.7churches.org.uk. If you are unable to access the internet please use your Lent Course resources, read your Bibles (perhaps read a Gospel from start to finish), and any prayer books that you have.

5. Pastoral

If you know of someone who needs the pastoral care of a minister, please contact Nigel in the normal way.

Weddings: As of Monday 23rd March weddings may not take place until further notice.

Funerals: Funerals can only happen at the Crematorium or at the graveside. Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) – that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way.

Burials: The burial of cremated remains attended by a minister is suspended. The burial of the dead may continue, attended by close family only.

6. Activities

All activities in our church buildings has been suspended, except essential activities such as Foodbank.

7. Finance

If you donate to your church using cash or cheques. Please place your usual donation in an envelope (or your usual donation envelopes) until you can offer these in church once again.

The Reverend Canon Nigel Tuffnell

24/03/2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Tuffnell', with a horizontal line underneath.