

## St Peter's Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Especially as we suspend all public services and events. Do be in contact if that would be helpful.

With love in Christ



### Responding as Christians

We are all bound to feel anxious during this crisis, especially for our loved ones and church family as well ourselves. This outbreak is a sobering reminder of our human frailty and mortality and of the limitations of medical science and government. However, if we trust in Jesus, our living sovereign Lord and loving personal saviour, we can be absolutely sure that he loves us deeply and that nothing can befall us except what he knows can help us become more like him (Romans 8:28).

So may I encourage you to '*cast all your anxiety on him*' **in prayer**. You could do this in short prayers throughout the day or you could spend some time at the beginning or end of each day of this crisis, on your own or together with your family or housemates, to give this crisis over to our Lord. You could read through Psalm 23 which reminds us that our Good Shepherd, Jesus, is with us as we walk '*though the valley of the shadow of death*'. Or perhaps use this [amplified version of the Lord's Prayer](#) or use these [prayers from Paul's letters](#)

At a time when many around us will be afraid, God may be giving us special opportunities to **love and serve others** – which could lead to wonderful opportunities in due course to share the gospel. We have the glorious comfort of Jesus who loves us so much he died for us and who lives to offer us the certain hope of resurrection! Let's pray for opportunities to speak. Perhaps we could check in on neighbours, colleagues and friends, whether in person or on the phone, especially those who are elderly and frail, to offer practical help like shopping or accessing online help and information. It may feel appropriate to offer to pray for them and with them, and to say something about our confidence in Jesus. May I encourage you to look for opportunities to '*give the reason for the hope*

*that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect*' (1 Peter 3:15).

### Gathering together

In the light of the most recent advice from the Government and the Archbishops following the spread of Coronavirus and the increasing need for isolation and being aware of our responsibility to care for the church family and act as good citizens **we have, sadly, had to take the decision to suspend all public worship and services for the time being.**

We are also suspending all midweek activities and events such as Craft and Chat

Some of us will be self-isolating and remaining at home but if you are able to, check up on those you know from the church family, and your neighbours, particularly those you know who might be on their own, and particularly frail and a vulnerable. If you would appreciate any practical help or you are already self-isolating please let us know by emailing [office@saintpeterlepoer.org.uk](mailto:office@saintpeterlepoer.org.uk)

### Continuing in our discipleship together

On Sundays we are looking to provide a downloadable liturgy or possibly stream a service (or as much of one as we are able) or so that we can join together, albeit virtually, to hear God's word and respond in trust and obedience, in praise and prayer. more details to follow.

The church building will remain open for prayer (people will be encouraged to observe the advice for social distancing)

### There are a whole raft of online possibilities for ongoing discipleship

**Downloadable PDFs that can be used at home:**

[CofE Midweek worship at home](#)

[CofE Prayers if you cannot get to church](#)

[CofE Prayers about the outbreak](#)

[CofE Prayers with children](#)

**Online resources to join with others in prayer**

[CofE Daily Prayer](#)

[Today's Prayer](#)

[Radio 4 Daily Service](#)