

Newick Community Response

Support and Help during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Issue 6)

St Mary's Church, Newick Parish Council, the village pastoral care team and many wonderful volunteers have been working closely together to support our community since the start of the outbreak of Covid-19. We have Newick Community Response (NCR) email newickcommunityresponse@gmail.com for Parishioners who need help and people able to offer help. The Facebook group 'Newick Community Response Covid 19 – Mutual Aid' is offering real time help for those who need it. The website www.newickcovid19.org.uk and the additional Covid 19 tab to the Newick.net website are central sources of information.

The Newick Community Response Facebook page continues to grow with over 500 members. In the past week the lockdown measures have been extended by at least a further three weeks. Many of you will not have seen loved ones for some time. You will be missing your grandchildren, children, parents, and extended family. It is extremely difficult not being able to see those we hold dear to us. We want to thank you. The sacrifices that you are making will help stop the spread of this disease. We would also like to thank those who have supported NCR with a financial donation through St Mary's PCC and for the continued support of Newick Distress Trust - shows what very compassionate and generous village we have.

Members of the NCR completed their first load of deliveries using a new grocery distribution system on Friday to great success, 12 vulnerable people were supplied with provisions. The NCR has now completed over 60 requests for help and the feedback is that our community (particularly those on the vulnerable list) feel well supported. More volunteers are always welcome, as are further requests for support and assistance. We would like to thank all the people who have volunteered, particularly Patsy Bailey, Kate Alexander and Heather Ward who have worked tirelessly to support the community. A team of sewing ladies have made an amazing 440 scrub bags for Princess Royal Hospital which is an outstanding achievement. The latest project is wool for knitted hearts; a pattern is available so if you are a knitter or just have some wool to donate, please contact Patsy on 722590.

How we buy our food and provisions have changed so much in such little time. We are blessed in Newick to have two great general stores, our bakers, butchers, pharmacy and the Pantry who have all remained open throughout this time. We thank all the people who work in these shops as they have been a lifeline for the community. Many local farm shops offer delivery of produce to those who need it. These include Old Spot Farm, Isfield Farm Shop, Holmansbridge Farm Shop and Nose to Tail Butchers. Upcountry Garden Centre provides free delivery of groceries to Newick including fruit, veg, bread, tinned goods, baking ingredients and toilet roll. Adams Wholesale are based in Sussex and offering contactless next day delivery to the general public <https://www.adams-wholesale.com/>.

East Sussex County Council has asked residents to please not burn their garden waste, or any other type of rubbish. Not only does an uncontrolled fire pose serious risks to your safety, but bonfires are very harmful for your neighbours with asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory health issues. While emergency services are already stretched, please support East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service by not having bonfires. Please store your garden waste until ESCC can safely reopen the household waste recycling sites.

A reminder of the key contacts - if you are aware of any of your neighbours who are vulnerable and are without a family, please contact Patsy Bailey on 01825 722590 or Revd Paul on 01825 723186. Newick Distress Trust for donations or financial assistance please contact Geoff Clinton on 01825 722512 or Revd Paul on 01825 723186.

Full details of the government measures can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

In the words of Bob Marley "You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have." Stay strong Newick and continue to do what you do best.

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22/04/2020