

My Dear friends in faith

With a heavy heart, the guidance from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on Tuesday lunchtime leaves us with no alternative but to announce that all social gatherings – including our public worship – at St Mary's Newick, are hereby suspended until further notice.

Regretfully, this suspension will apply to all church gatherings, including our services, the Lent Course, concerts, Owls Club, bell-ringing and choir practice. This will also impact all gatherings which fall under the umbrella of our church, including Home Groups, TLC, Lunch Club, Mens & Ladies Suppers, NYC, Holiday Club and May Camp

The parish office will NOT be open for visits but please use the numbers on the website or provided on the Newick Community Resource Page should you wish to receive counsel

That's the bad news!

Now the good news

Rather, we are invited to experiment – and be creative – with praying, worshipping and serving differently. Some excellent online resources for daily prayer can be found on the Church of England's website, and as we respond and explore other resources we will share them with you appropriately.

This Sunday at 7pm, let us join together in prayer by lighting a candle and placing it in the window or in a jar outside the door and pray the words of Psalm 139;

"If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day for darkness is as light to you."

Our overall aim will be to offer support to those who need it, and the opportunity to continue connecting with God through the ministry of the church throughout the coming crisis. We will be updating details as they arise or change.

Please join me in praying for all who may feel anxious at this time. Please do contact myself, James, Patsy, or the Newick Community Resource Team through the website by using the relevant contact details.

I am reminded of the prayer of St Teresa of Avila

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

This is our calling, this is our mission, this is our joy as a community of faith in Jesus Christ

With love and every blessing through this unprecedented time,

Paul
Associate Vicar