

Please see below the message from Bishop Will:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You will see from the email below that the Head of Environmental Health for Rother and Wealden Councils, in discussion with the Director of Public Health and East Sussex County Council, has requested that we voluntarily close places of public worship until cases decline across all East Sussex districts. Having spoken with Bishop Martin I would encourage you all to comply with this request.

This action should not stop clergy who wish, from entering church buildings to pray and celebrate the Eucharist, whether that service is live streamed or not. Normally the priest and those in his/her household should be the only ones in church for these services, unless one other person is needed to enable live streaming. Funeral services can still take place in church as long as the current COVID protocols can be adhered to. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and will offer further guidance on when we will be able to encourage reopening.

I know that decisions to close church buildings always go against the grain of who we are as the household of faith; But I would also like to give thanks for all the imaginative ways that you are continuing to lead worship and reveal God's light and hope in the communities you seek to serve.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Archdeacons or me if there is anything we can help with.

Yours in Christ

+ Will