

Latest advice on the corona virus

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear friends,

As a parish church we have been in constant contact with both the Diocese of Gloucester and the national Church of England. The situation is constantly changing, but this is the latest advice. At the moment we are not being advised to stop our regular pattern of services, but we recognise and respect the wish of some, particularly those with existing health issues, not to attend services or other large gatherings of people.

In all three parishes, until further notice, the following provisions apply:

Holy Communion

-Communion will now only be given as bread. The shared cup will no longer be offered. Only the minister in charge will take the consecrated wine.

-During 'the Peace' shaking of hands should be strongly discouraged. A friendly wave or 'hello' will suffice!

Refreshments

We are temporarily stopping refreshments after the 10am service due to the concerns over people touching the same crockery, cups etc. We realise the importance of the fellowship time after a service and hope to reinstate this as soon as we can.

Hygiene

Good hygiene should be encouraged. If we can get supplies, we will have hand sanitizer available. We will also stop passing round the offering plate during services – the plate will still be available at the back of church during services.

We would encourage everyone to heed the latest government advice on health and hygiene at this time:

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

Let us pray for national and international leaders at this difficult time, and that the spread of the virus will be contained. We also pray that people will not panic or over-react. We all have a responsibility to care for friends and neighbours, particularly the isolated and vulnerable in our community. It would be most helpful if as a church family we are made aware of those who are self-isolating at this time.

We continue to hope in the Lord, our strength and refuge (Ps 46).

Every blessing to you all,

Revd Andrew Cinnamond – vicar

Richard Bell, Susan Holmes – churchwardens