



**CHURCH NEWS FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF
APPLESHAW & CLANVILLE & FYFIELD &
KIMPTON (WITH PART OF SHODDESSEN) &
REDENHAM & SHIPTON BELLINGER & THRUXTON**

March 2020

You will, no doubt, be aware by now of the Archbishops' decision to suspend all Public Worship for the time being. This means that there will be no Sunday (or weekday) services in any of our five churches until further notice. The only exceptions can be weddings and funerals, but the number attending has to be limited and the standard precautions taken.

When "normal service" can be resumed, there will be at each church information about what will be taking place.

Meanwhile, the church continues to be available for all: we are not "shutting up shop" but doing things differently and focussing on Prayer and Service to the Community. Our churches will remain open as they usually are (it varies in each place), and the churchyards can always be visited. Fyfield church open Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There is something we can all do to help at this time, when even more people are in need: that is to support the local Foodbank.

The Andover **foodbank** relies on your goodwill and support, so please put any items you may wish to give into our **foodbank boxes**, found at the back of the church in **Shipton, Thruxton, Appleshaw and Fyfield**. Thankyou

In addition to food you can donate toiletries & cleaning items, baby items & donations of household items in good condition. Always needed.... washing up liquid, washing powder/liquid, deodorant, shampoo, shaving gel/foam, razors, tinned fruit, tinned potatoes, tinned fish, tinned meat, instant mash potato. Long life fruit juice, long life milk

LIFE EVENTS

Please contact Christine Barrett, the Benefice Administrator, if you would like to arrange a baptism (christening), confirmation, wedding, burial, cremation, communion at home, confession, counsel, pastoral or hospital visit or any other related matter, or if you would like to know more about the local church or the Christian faith.

Contact details are christine.barrett1@yahoo.co.uk 01264 571029/07933 352855

"What's - NOT - on"

Coffee morning at May Tree Cottage, Mondays 10-11am
Coffee Pot at the Fletcher Room, Shipton, Tuesdays 11am-1pm
House Group at Appleshaw, Wednesdays 7.30pm
Coffee morning at Fyfield Church, Thursdays 10-11am

APCM dates and Election for Churchwardens ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE

6th April, Kimpton
15th April, Appleshaw
22nd April, Shipton Bellinger
27th April, Thruxton
30th April, Fyfield

A PRAYER FOR ALL AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS

(and that's every one of us for each of us is affected in some way)

Keep us, Good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious;
be with the sick and those who care for them,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

During the Interregnum, please contact the Benefice Administrator,
Christine Barrett. Tel: (01264) 571029
e-mail: christine.barrett1@yahoo.co.uk

Revd Ann writes

I may be officially retired but as many of you know, I have continued to be an active part of the Benefice team, and it now seems appropriate that, on behalf of our five churches, I should say a few words to you all.

We are in an unprecedented situation: not even during the two World Wars or other virus outbreaks, was public worship suspended. It is a sensible decision, though, for no risks should be taken at this time.

Life can now seem surreal – with a feeling that we might be having a bad dream. There are so many unknowns and worries. The world can seem a very dark place. We are on the verge of new territory, a kind of wilderness which lacks signposts and the usual reassurances around us. It may emphasise for us the fact that we are in the season of Lent. And then, we may wonder, how can we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection at Easter?

I would never claim to have all the answers to the troubles and anxieties currently besetting us, but I can say that more than ever we need to PRAY and to be GOOD NEIGHBOURS.

I trust you don't need me to tell you how to do the latter, but below are suggestions to help with the former. And please remember to be thankful – there is every day at least one small thing to appreciate. This can help us feel more positive as well being nice for the recipient, God or a human being, to be thanked.

Lastly, within the common-sense limits, I am available. You can phone between 9am and 9pm on 07733 112975, or email me at ann.mckenzie@waitrose.com.

With my prayers and very best wishes, *Ann*

What should we pray for?

Wherever we are, and as often as we can, for the sick and all caring for them, those who are self-isolating, the anxious, the lonely, those without work / money, the dying and the bereaved, the government and medical researchers.

What words to use?

Our own are always good and highly acceptable in God's sight, but at a time like this we can find ourselves at a loss. There is already a wealth of resources on the CofE website, eg. "Topical Prayers" – see "Prayer and Worship", and they will be added to regularly: churchofengland.org

Apps

The Church of England provides free apps: "Daily Prayer" and "Time to Pray". Details on the website (as above); also currently, resources for Lent: "Live Lent" daily reflection and prayer, which can also be received as a daily email.

Radio and TV already provide regular Acts of Worship such as Radio 4's Sunday Worship (8.10am) and Daily Service (9.45am on long wave), and Songs of Praise. More will be added so watch out for details in the media. And don't forget Catch-up. It is also planned to stream live services; churches across the country are working on this.

SING!! (if only in the bathroom)

St Paul urged the early Christians to sing psalms and hymns, to praise God and give thanks. The psalms may be ancient but they still resonate with our 21st century laments, angers, frustration, and other feelings. Amongst the hundreds of hymns most people have at least one that they particularly like. And now it is well-known how good singing is for our general well-being – just think of Gareth Malone's choirs and those now being set up online. Words of hymns can be found on websites if you don't have a book. St Augustine said, "those who sing once, pray twice." Go for it!

