

FROM THE VICAR

Dear friends,

Once again this has been a week of significant changes and further restrictions to our common life as Christians and as communities. The shape of our ministry is therefore forced to change once again, but it remains as vital as ever.

Church closures

All church buildings in the Church of England are now closed to everyone. This is a direct and clear instruction from the Archbishops and our Bishop. Even if you have a key, please do not access any of our buildings without prior permission.

Prayer and worship

Thank you for the huge amount of positive feedback about the prayer booklets. It has been a great encouragement and comfort to me to know that so many of us are praying together from our own homes. I am pleased to attach the booklet for this week.

Due to the closure of the church buildings it is no longer possible to leave printed copies of the booklets for collection. If you know anyone who needs a printed copy delivered to them, please contact me directly with their name and address – or please consider printing and delivering a copy yourself.

Many of you will already know that the Morning Prayer service I am providing in the booklet is a shortened version. For those of you who would like something more substantial, <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps> has various apps for your smartphone or tablet which are particularly designed for the Church of England – including ‘Daily Prayer’, which will give you the full-length versions of both Morning and Evening Prayer every day.

Plans which were being made to ‘live stream’ some services via YouTube have needed to be put on hold for the moment, but I am aiming to have some pre-recorded content made available for Holy Week – look out for more on that next week.

Social media

St Peter & St Paul Hambledon now has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StPeterandStPaulHambledon/>). I am hoping to have similar pages for St Peter Soberton and Holy Trinity Newtown up and running within the next few days. If you are on Facebook, please do ‘Like’ or ‘Follow’ them all! In the present circumstances the content on each

page is likely to be very similar, but as time goes on it will be good to share the unique life of each church as well as our common life as a benefice.

The Facebook pages for the Diocese (<https://www.facebook.com/CofEPortsmouth/>) and the Cathedral (<https://www.facebook.com/portsmouthcathedral/>) are good sources of news, prayer and encouragement from our diocese and beyond.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

I am sure that the APCMs have not been uppermost in many of your minds at the moment! But for the avoidance of doubt, I can confirm that they have all been postponed until further notice.

As always, I encourage you to follow all the relevant public health advice. If you need help, please ask – if you can help, please offer. Please look after yourselves and each other.

May God in his love and mercy bless and keep us all.

Fr David

Revd David Morgan

Vicar of Soberton, Newtown & Hambleton

snhvicar@gmail.com

023 9263 2921