

## 12th March – Our response to the Corona Virus

Hi everyone,

As we are all aware, the **Corona Virus situation is developing fast** with the government now escalating the response from containment to delay.

At time of writing we don't know exactly what this will entail, but as far as I understand it, the idea is to **slow the spread of the virus** as much as is possible so that it peaks later rather than sooner, hopefully when the weather is warmer and the NHS less winter-burdened.

I will be **meeting with the ECC on Sunday afternoon** to look ahead to the likely needs of our church and community over the coming weeks and how we might respond. Hopefully we will have some idea by then of government recommendations regarding gatherings. We will also consider how to best support those in self-isolation.

As things stand, **we will be meeting on Sunday**. You will be welcomed at the door with a hand sanitizer rather than a handshake, and we will also ensure the fire door to the Main Worship Area is open for the second service to make access easier. We won't be passing the Moment to Give baskets round during the service; but will invite people to leave their seats to make an offering, which will also include our response to Commitment Sunday. We look forward to Archdeacon Paul Davies being with us for both services.

If at any time you are choosing to self-isolate, could you make sure either your home group leader, Caroline or myself are aware so that we can ensure you receive the support you need.

This morning I spent some time reflecting on Psalm 46 which struck me as appropriate to our situation:

*'God is our refuge and strength,  
Our ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
Even though the earth give way  
And the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.  
Though it's waters roar and foam,  
And the mountains quake with their surging.'*

In other words, no matter the chaos around us, we need not fear. God is with us and will give us the resources we need (individually and together) to meet every circumstance.

Hope to see you on Sunday,

Every blessing,

*Patrick*

(PS, Following our encouraging **Evaluation Evening on Tuesday**, I will be sharing the main points of feedback at 12.15pm on Sunday (after the second service) to those who weren't there but would like to know what was shared).