

Ways churches can help during the coronavirus pandemic

1. Recover true worship

We cannot easily sing together, but we can offer God the worship that he prefers anyway: caring for the vulnerable. (see James 1:27)

2. Prioritise the vulnerable

Continue to protect the needs of the vulnerable, young and old. Support foodbanks, visit older or single community members virtually, provide extra support to children at risk, help the homeless...

3. Embrace the digital revolution

Web pages, web links, emails, social media, church news sheets.

4. Pick up the phone

5. Become your street's pastor

Too many of us barely know our neighbours. See your street as your parish and release compassion to your neighbours.

6. Support the supporters

Teachers, medical practitioners, government officials, delivery drivers, vaccine researchers will be working extra hours. They need to know we are behind them, so ask if there are practical ways we can help.

7. Be open and vulnerable

Because we have somewhere to go with our worries, we do not need to show stoicism. If we open up about what we are feeling, others will feel able to do the same and we can offer to pray with people from a sense of mutual need.

8. Be good news

We have good news to tell. The God who made us and died for us, cares about us and invites us into eternal relationship with him. There is more to life than food, work and sleep. Death is not the end. It is more important than ever that Christians are good news people when there is so much bad news all around us.

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All Deacons available by ☎ if needed.

Please note! Items for 7/52 should be given to **Sally** by **midnight THURSDAY** on 641305 or email: ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com

7/52 @ RBC

22 March 2020

All church activities are suspended because of the coronavirus outbreak, but we will still bring you regular news and items for prayer.



Check out our website at **www.rydebaptist.org** for general updates.

More specific pastoral information, sermon notes and suggestions for reading and study will be on **www.rydebaptist.xyz** —the Sunday supplement.



A **National day of prayer** for the global pandemic of coronavirus has been organised for all churches by Churches Together in England. Archbishop Justin Welby, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Revd Dr Hugh Osgood (Free Churches Moderator), Archbishop Angaelos (Orthodox) and Pastor A Irukwu (Pentecostal) write: "**This Mothering Sunday, 22 March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At a time when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds**".

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your home as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

- **Special broadcast** from Premier Radio 10 am Sunday.
- The BBC is launching a **virtual church service** on Sunday mornings across local radio in England, initially led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. The BBC also aims to broadcast a weekly Sunday morning church service on BBC One, but this will be subject to outside broadcast capacity.
- Check https://baptist.org.uk/Articles/569642/Coronavirus_advice_letter.aspx for the latest news from the Baptist Union.



All **Open the Book** activities have been suspended with the closure of schools. Please pray for the children and the teachers as they try to work out ways in which the children can still receive teaching by post or online.

'At **Carisbrooke Priory** we are asking ourselves what God is saying to us through the rapid spread of Covid-19, currently sweeping its way across the world. As many other businesses and facilities close their doors, we will endeavour to keep our 'Open door to the Peace of God' for those who may need it in the coming days. Please keep watching our website and/or Facebook page, or phone the Priory on **533354** for updates.'

A number of people have asked how they can donate to Kerry's **Walk all over Cancer**. You can donate online at: walk.kappa-beta.org.uk

A message from Nigel Harris, Tearfund CEO:

'Tearfund is praying for all our supporters during this time of great uncertainty. You mean so much to us and we are grateful for your ongoing support. We are assessing how coronavirus is affecting the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities, to see how we can best support locally based partners and churches. We are praying, asking for God's protection and wisdom to deal with this global situation. We would greatly value your prayers in the time ahead.

It is important to remember we have a God who loves and cares for us. He has told us, 'Do not fear, for I am with you' (Isaiah 41:10). We can have courage when faced with fear of the unknown, because we trust in an all-knowing God who has promised to be with us wherever we go (Joshua 1:9).

I can assure you that Tearfund's work will continue through our network of Christian partners and churches around the world. I am dreaming that this could be an opportunity for the church to be known globally for its compassionate response, putting the needs of others before our own, just as Jesus did.

We are doing all we can to make sure we can continue to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, bringing help and hope to the most vulnerable, just as we have been doing for over 50 years. This is only possible because of the prayers and gifts of people like you.

We are looking at producing some resources to encourage people who can't get to church, and to support church leaders. Please visit www.tearfund.org to check for updates in the coming weeks'.

Thank you for your continued financial support of the work of the Church. Some folk have been asking how they can continue to give to the church in the current situation. If you would like to set up a standing order, bank details are as follows:

**RBC Barclays current account number 20731102
sort code 20—60— 55**

If you usually give in cash or by cheque, we suggest that you save it up until you have a few weeks' worth and then contact Kerry or one of the deacons who can collect it from you.



Offerings for **February** were as follows:
Cash and Envelopes **£894.20** Standing orders **£1605**
Total: £2499.20