

Dear Parishioners

January 2021

Warm greetings to you all in the Lord Jesus Christ in the season of Epiphany. The theme of this season is celebration of the 'holy light' now shining amidst the darkness. As this new year opens, we are all praying for better times. We can celebrate that many are now being called for vaccination but have to face the reality of staying safe until all are inoculated.

To this end, with the new variant strain of COVID 19 proving considerably more infectious and the increasing degree of infection I suggested to the Church Wardens that we should close Wimborne Minster to the public, for safety's sake, for the time being. The Bishop subsequently encouraged each church to make appraisal of local circumstances and make our own decision.

I am following the news carefully and the Standing Committee of the PCC are being advised by the national Church of England sources, with help from Church Warden, Andrew Patrick. We will keep the situation viz closure under continuous review but at this time I do not foresee reopening until March. I pray that we can celebrate Easter in church this year!

In the meantime, we continue to broadcast live worship from the Minster on Zoom and YouTube at 9:30am on Sundays. Sunday Evening Prayers (instead of Evensong) is on Zoom at 6:30pm. YouTube has the added advantage that it can be accessed and watched at any time – there are many past services now recorded and available to view.

Daily Prayers from Monday to Saturday continue on Zoom at 8:30am and 5:00pm. Help with accessing all these services is available through our website and personally if you need it, just telephone me.

I am ministering 'from home', and welcome any telephone calls for any kind of assistance, pastoral or practical. If I cannot directly help, I will probably be able to connect you to someone who can! Please continue to stay in contact with each other – let us continue to love support and encourage one another.

I feel sure that you have found ways of expressing and nourishing your faith – which is being tested – and entreat you to 'Rejoice in the Lord Always' and to be blessed: -

May the Lord Bless you, and guard you

May the Lord make His face shine unto you, and be gracious to you

May the Lord lift up His face unto you, and give to you peace

Assuring you of my prayers,

Yours in Christ

The Rev Canon Andrew Rowland – Rector

PCC of St Cuthburga
Wimborne Minster
The Minster
Church House
High Street
Wimborne
BH21 1HT

Tel: 01202 884753

Charity No 1138072