

Wimborne Minster
The Parish Office
Church House
High Street
Wimborne Minster
Dorset BH21 1HT



Dear Parishioners

I am writing to you as a member of Wimborne Minster Parish Electoral Roll to keep you apprised of our current situation. The novel COVID-19 virus has disrupted church life in many ways! We are instructed by our Prime Minister and advisors to stay at home, to reduce and minimise social contact and keep a safe distance.

The Archbishop's recent instruction to cease all public worship until further notice in all our churches is both shocking and unsurprising. Wimborne Minster presently remains open for private prayer. **We are a people of prayer.** I will continue to offer daily prayer, morning and evening; several persons regularly assist me in this. The Eucharist is, sadly, no longer a public act of worship, but I will offer it on behalf of all and I invite you to pause and pray at home with me at 9:30am on Sundays and Wednesdays. We can faithfully pray during this time of confinement, wherever we are, so that there is a **praying presence.**

Minster opening times are restricted because we cannot keep the doors open without supervision. We depend on volunteers to assist our vergers, and most volunteers have had to be stood down. The shop and library are closed, and the operations of our guides suspended for the time being.

The Parish Office in Church House is also closed to the public. I, your Church Wardens, and the Parish Office all remain readily contactable by email or telephone. Please also check the parish website and Facebook pages for information, links to worship, and resources. The national Church of England website is also a good source of information and spiritual support. There you will find information about **Spiritual Communion.** Please use this service at home. There are also links to live 'web streams' so you can attend virtual church.

www.wimborneminster.org.uk www.churchofengland.org www.nhs.uk FB:
Wimborne Minster Church

All our events and concerts are cancelled (or postponed). Church Councils and Committees are in abeyance. We, Rector and Church Wardens have authority to act in this unprecedented time – we will consult with Standing Committee and PCC colleagues as seems appropriate. We will use email to communicate.

We can all watch televised church services or listen on the radio. We must pray for all, and now we have time and space for reflection and devotional reading and bible study.



Phone: **01202 884753**
Email: parishoffice@wimborneminster.org.uk
Web: www.wimborneminster.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1138072

Wimborne Minster
The Parish Office
Church House
High Street
Wimborne Minster
Dorset BH21 1HT



We are concerned for the long-term pastoral well-being of all our local residents, especially for those who are required to self-isolate confine themselves. We advise you to 'buddy-up' with trusted friends and neighbours, especially if family are not available to support. Please be aware of cons and their scams attempting to take advantage of you! **We are a people of love.** Stay in regular contact with one another and let us know through the office telephone if you become unwell. As Rector I am here to support you in any way that I can. That may well include help in obtaining shopping or medication locally. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any pastoral assistance, through the Parish Office telephone, 01202 884753 or on my home number, 01202 882340. I am your servant in the Way of the Lord Jesus Christ.
"Brother, sister let me serve you..."

Amidst the anxiety and fear of these uncertain times the love of our Lord, and we in his service, can shine through, as a light in the darkness. The church is not closed, it is just learning how to minister appropriately at this time. Assuring you of prayers and any support the church can offer and trusting in the Lord always.

Yours in Christ

Andrew Rowland, Rector on behalf also of Peter Cook and Andrew Patrick, Church Wardens

Jesus said, "I am with you Always, to the end of the age". (Matthew 28:20)