

Hampstead Parish Church and Covid 19 Information Update - 17 March

These are challenging and fearful days for the whole community. Hampstead Parish Church will continue to be a place of prayer and hope, and to be a community of service and welcome for all. Here is up to date information in response to the pandemic, as at 6 pm on Tuesday 17 March.

Responding as a Community

All church members are encouraged to **look out for those who are isolated or in quarantine**, meeting their needs in a safe way.

If you are in need please call the office 020 7794 5808, or email vestry@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk, and we will find someone who can assist.

If you would like to **volunteer** to be of help, please contact us.

The church remains able to collect supplies for **foodbanks** – which are in desperate need. The box for your donations is inside the church door. We will distribute frequently.

Gathering for Worship and Events

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have instructed that there is to be **no public worship** across the Church of England “for a season”. Their letter, and the Church of England’s updated advice, can be found [here](#)

There will therefore be **no public gatherings for services of worship at Hampstead Parish Church** on Wednesday, 10.15, Thursday 6.30, or Sunday 8.00, 10.30 and 4.30/6.00. This will continue to be the case until further notice.

Church life continues

Please check the Hampstead Parish Church Facebook page, where we plan to have live video at regular times during the week, and on Sundays. Jeremy, Ayla and others will live stream thoughts, Bible readings and prayers. We will update you about the times, and with further suggestions for worship and prayer.

Your parish church will be **open every day** 9.00 – 5.00, for prayer and welcome.

There is plenty of space for people to be in a holy place but able to practice physical distancing.

We will keep the church and its facilities and surfaces cleaned as much as is possible.

There will always be a lit candle.

The clergy will say Morning and Evening Prayer at the usual times, in church, on behalf of all the parish. Our staff will work from home as much as possible. The office answerphone and email will be monitored, but the office will not always be staffed.

Many of you **give financially** through standing orders.

If you give regularly in cash or by envelope, please consider giving direct to the bank.

HSBC Bank plc,
12 Hampstead High Street,
London NW3 1PY
bank sort code 40-03-36;
account no. 11104004

Changes and Cancellations

Junior Choir is suspended until further notice. There will be **no** rehearsals on Thursdays and Fridays, and no individual music lessons.

Community Choir Thursday evening rehearsals are suspended until further notice.

Holy Hamsters and the **Monday Toddler Group** are both suspended until further notice.

Regular users of the **parish rooms** should contact the group organisers, as some groups may continue to meet subject to advice from their organisations.

The **Literary Hour** on Wednesday March 18 is cancelled, as are other Parish Church lunchtime concerts and events until further notice.

Lent gatherings: Groups, Contemplative Silence and Compline are cancelled. It may be that these are offered online – further details will follow.

The **St John Passion** on Sunday 29 March at 6 pm is cancelled.

Prayer and Action

The Archbishops have invited us to:

- pray the Lord's Prayer each time we wash our hands,
- make each midday a time of prayer for the nation,
- make this Sunday, 22 March, a day of prayer and action.

They say:

*This Sunday light a candle at 7pm and put it in your window,
ring someone who is isolated and vulnerable;
buy an extra item and place it in your local food bank,
keep your night shelters open.*

We will ring the church bell at midday every day to signal the prayer of this church for our community and nation.

We will offer further ways of continuing our fellowship and prayer in subsequent emails.

This setting of a prayer of Teresa of Avila will, we hope, bring comfort in testing times. The text is:

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

With our prayers

The Clergy and Churchwardens of Hampstead Parish Church.