

Dear Friends,

Corona Virus Covid-19

At the time of writing the full enormity of the Corona Virus is beginning to dawn on this nation. This is a truly tragic situation of global proportions.

I believe this country has some of the best medical care and expertise anywhere in the world. I am pleased to see that the national church and the government is working in close partnership to do everything they can at this stage to prevent the spread of this virus. So Christ Church will remain open for worship on Sundays; and will continue offer full use of all its facilities to every club and organisation who meets there until we are ordered to close, if we are.

However, there is something more that we can do other than wash our hands and take precautions. We have to safeguard community and also those around us. I know that isolation is the best remedy but we still need to keep an eye on one another. I am concerned for the elderly and the young who may be excluded from regular society and therefore are victims to other things that may come their way. It would be a tragedy if somebody took a fall in their home and nobody called to see if they were ok.

So, I am calling on everyone on this estate to be a good neighbour to those around them. You don't make physical contact; you can stand some distance away (2 metres) and still make sure people are ok. I don't just mean the people you know, I mean the people you don't know. On every street on this estate there are people we are aware of but never talk to. Now is the time, when you have a few moments, to just call by phone or just be on the lookout.

The other thing I would ask you to do is to pray. I know many of you don't have any time for prayer or you think it is irrelevant. That is not my experience.

Since I understood what prayer is for and who it was I was dealing with, prayer has become an important part of my life. Through it I have seen lives and situations transformed out of all recognition. By it I have seen people safeguarded from the consequences of actions done to them or by them. Better still, when I am in prayer I am in the presence of somebody who loves me, cares for me, provides for me, protects me and directs me and has nothing but good for us in His heart.

Now is a good time to pray. It is often said that there are no unbelievers on a battlefield. Everybody begins that day by saying, 'Dear Lord, protect me.' I would urge you to pray a similar prayer but also I would ask you to pray, *'Dear God, protect me and protect everyone around me. Protect too all the medical staff and care agencies serving on the front line. If I am called on to help, be it ever so little, or ever so great, I will make myself available to others as they need me.'*

Please be assured that at Christ Church, Moreton Hall, we will be praying daily for the estate. If needed, I will call special prayer meetings to help people through this dark time.

Yours sincerely,

Revd. Canon Jonathan Ford.
Minister Christ Church Moreton Hall