

Dear Friends,

19th March 2020

Thank you very much for your positive response to my last letter to the estate which was posted on my Facebook page, the church's Facebook page and Moreton Hall Voice. It was wonderful to see how many people read it and how many people liked it and have begun to put into practice what we suggested.

Since that message you will have heard on the national news that the Archbishops have ordered the churches to stop holding public services. While we are compliant with the Archbishops' wishes we are still open and will remain open until circumstances change.

Why are we doing that? First of all, we will still be able to conduct funerals, baptisms and weddings for those who need them. At present, we have a number of baptisms booked in and potentially one wedding. We really hope and pray there will be no more funerals, particularly in connection with Covid-19.

Second; so that various businesses can operate from our premises, and some special clubs, continue to operate as well.

Third; so we can be open for prayer. Every weekday morning, I will be in the church saying prayers between 8.00 and 9.00. We have also arranged the chairs in such a way that you can enter the building, sit quietly well away from others, still hear what is going on and, if you wish to, say prayers of your own. These could be silent or public prayers. At the time of writing we are thinking of creative ways in which we can mark Sundays and keep the church open for longer.

### **Other ways we are trying to help our community**

So you may all be supported spiritually I will be producing a daily Thought for the Day on our Facebook page. This will take the form of some simple prayers, followed by a reading from the Bible and a few thoughts and comments by me, followed by some more prayers. You can access it at any time, download it or pass it on.

We hope by these means we will be able to support the community of faith that exists on Moreton Hall regardless of denomination. We know that the more we pray to God the more we will be protected and things will change. It is my pledge to you to pray for every street and every house on the estate every day until this crisis has passed.

Finally, we are in the process of setting up a system of phone calls so that people who are self-isolating or are forced into isolation can be supported. It is good to see volunteers coming forward to be part of this process and also being made aware of those who need our care. If you wish to give us information about people needing prayer please do leave a message on the answer-phone at church or send us an email via the website.

We have other plans in hand to help the community and if we can get the recourses organised we will launch them. We will keep you updated as we progress these ideas.

It is greatly encouraging to see the way the community here on Moreton Hall is in step with the rest of the country in seeking to care in practical ways for the people around us.

I know that God's eyes are upon us and His heart is always open to us, therefore Christ Church, Moreton Hall will remain open so we can pray for each other and bring God's presence into all our lives now and always.

With my sincerest good wishes and prayers,

Yours sincerely,

Revd. Canon Jonathan Ford.  
Minister Christ Church Moreton Hall