



From Edward

Dear all,

As we are now into the second week of 'Lockdown 2' we begin to take a bit more stock and adjust to the situation. Maybe this is a stressful time for you? Maybe a fearful one? Maybe the biggest challenges are boredom and the frustration of not being able to get out and about? Whatever your situation, I hope you are weathering the storm – please do get in touch if you need to.

As I mentioned in the weekend's email, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called on the Church to make this lockdown period a 'month of prayer': Spending time with God and finding ways to intentionally (and safely) be a people of hope and light for the good of the wider community.

As a church, and as a Team Ministry, there are a number of ways we can support you in your prayer and spiritual life, and this email is intended to detail just a few of those:

Church Open for Individual Prayer: Government regulations allow for places of worship to be open for individual prayer and St John's continues to be open on Sundays and Wednesdays throughout the day (and into the evening on Wednesdays) although no public acts of worship can take place in the building at these times. Please do feel you can use this space for prayer, silence or sanctuary – but don't feel in any way obligated to do so: It is understandable to stay at home if you feel safer.

The Parish Devotional Pattern: I'm sure you're all very familiar with this by now, but I'm attaching a copy of the November pattern once again with daily observances, readings and intentions for prayer. You'll find the readings have links directly to the passages, so if you don't have a Bible to hand, just click to access the text.

Lockdown Labyrinth: How many of us are using this Second Lockdown to make a fresh attempt at the 'Lockdown Skills' we never quite mastered during the previous period of restrictions? Personally I've been attempting to take on the art of crochet – it's taken some time as the tensions are very different to knitting (plus there's only one implement!). Attached to this email is the pattern, along with some prayer resources for a *Lockdown Labyrinth*. As we look for ways of engaging spiritually without leaving our homes, the 'Finger Labyrinth' seems especially appropriate, and whether an old hand with a crochet hook or a complete beginner, I hope this devotional craft project will keep many of us occupied!

Daily Psalm: Throughout this period, Team Curate Rev'd Matt Hodder will be sending out a Daily Psalm over email or WhatsApp to provide a sense of prayerful togetherness across the four parishes.

Online Worship: The first joint Team Zoom Service will take place at **10am on Sunday 15th November**. Whilst this is a difficult, unusual and perhaps frightening time for us all. It is my hope that we can all find at least a moment of peace and order in this season of chaos.

Stay Safe:

Edward