

Prayer in the time of Coronavirus

The Archbishops and others have emphasised that we will be part of "a different sort of church in these coming months", that "Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day".

*Alongside churches throughout the nation and world, let us be open to the Spirit's leading in these unsettling and unknown times. This may be a time unlike any other when we can reconnect with God through patterns of prayer. Of course we all know we should be praying but for many of us we need to hear anew the saying: '**Pray as you can, not as you can't**'. We hope you will find some or all of the following resources helpful:*

1. Join with others in **listening to services** which will be broadcast on local radio and available on line: www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/archbishop-canterbury-lead-first-national-virtual-church-england-service and www.lichfield.anglican.org/online-worship-resources



2. May I particularly commend '**Pray as you go**' to you. I have been using it on a daily basis for nearly 10 years now and constantly find it resourcing, uplifting and above all a means of daily opening myself to God. It consists of a 12 minute download which starts with a bell ringing followed by some reflective music. Then a short bible passage is read followed by a couple of short open questions which help us to engage and listen to God. Then the passage is read again and after some further quiet reflection 'Pray as you go' ends with a blessing. It is free and easy to access. I like to listen through headphones which makes the experience more intimate and immediate but earphones or speakers are also good. <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

3. The C of E has produced an excellent app '**Time to Pray**' to access short daily and night prayer for each day. <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>



4. The **Community of Saint Chad** booklet has prayer for the morning and evening and is very usable. When you pray you are aware of praying with others throughout the Diocese and beyond. An audio version is available: https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourfaith/community_st_chad/ and additional copies can be obtained from philip.swan@lichfield.anglican.org 07857703303

5. **Further prayer resources** are available <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources> These include prayers about the outbreak, for those who are ill, for hospital staff and medical research as well as material for leading prayers. Some of these are printed out on the attached sheet.

6. We are seeking to provide a daily prayer on the **Diocesan Prayer Diary** through the excellent PrayerMate App or https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourfaith/prayer_diary/

Philip Swan

on behalf of the DVE Team



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Prayer Resources (from the CofE)

Prayers about the outbreak of Coronavirus

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain, *(mention them by name)*
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.



A prayer at bedtime

I WILL LIE DOWN AND
SLEEP IN PEACE, FOR
YOU ALONE, O LORD,
MAKE ME DWELL IN
SAFETY. PSALM 4:8

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.
Tonight we pray especially for *(names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus)* and the people of *(country or place which is affected)*. Please
give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them. **Amen**