

# The Parish of Christchurch



*The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity, Christchurch  
St George, Jumpers • St John at Purewell*

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Dear Friends

Following the Prime Minister's address to the Nation on Friday evening on the subject of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown for England, I write to you once again with details of what the Clergy and Churchwardens have agreed will take place, moving forward within our parish. This has two central points: We will comply fully with all legislation, and in those areas where we are still permitted to operate, we will do so as safely as is possible.

From Thursday morning 4<sup>th</sup> November until 2<sup>nd</sup> December there will be no public acts of Worship held in the Priory or at St George's. You will be aware that a decision was made at an earlier date that no Services would be held at St John's until all social distancing measures have been lifted.

The last public Services in the Priory will then be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the 11.00am Eucharist in the nave and said Evening Prayer at 5pm in the Great Quire.

We will try our very best to ensure that a pre-recorded Parish Eucharist is available via the parish website homepage on Sunday mornings. From 15<sup>th</sup> November this will hopefully be available from 10.00am. On Remembrance Sunday from either 9am or 9.30am. This is to give you time to watch the Service of Remembrance at 10.50am. This will also be a pre-recorded Service.

From Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November it will no longer be possible to have organ recitals or concerts in our Churches. The Priory shop and Cloister's café will also be closed during this second lockdown.

Access to the Priory during the lockdown will be for private prayer only. No tours can take place and neither is it permissible for people to visit to have a look around the Priory. The times that the Priory will be open for private prayer are yet to be confirmed but will be published as soon as possible on the website home page. St George's will not be open for private prayer and nobody is permitted to enter St George's without the express permission of either the Vicar or one of the Parish Churchwardens. This is to ensure that we can ensure cleaning takes place after each entry to St George's.

The website homepage is also the place to check for any day to day updates across the parish. [Christchurchpriory.org](http://Christchurchpriory.org)

We can continue to hold Funeral Services at the Priory and at St George's with a maximum of 30 people in attendance. Interments in the Priory Garden of Rest can continue but with a maximum of 15 people attending such burials. Weddings may only take place in exceptional circumstances and I feel sure the same will be the case for baptisms.

Advent Sunday falls during this lockdown period on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. I have already written to inform you that the Advent Fayre due to take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November has been cancelled. In view of the new regulations, I can now, with great sadness, let you know that the Advent Carol Service, Darkness to Light, planned to take place at 7pm on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November will not now take place.

Well if page one of this letter seemed rather factual and somewhat negative, I hope that you will understand the reasons behind our decision to set out the new rules in this way. On page two I want to try and be somewhat more positive and hopeful.

As I have mentioned, we will do our very best to ensure that a Sunday Eucharist is available on line each Sunday. In response to some suggestions made during the first lockdown, we will be attempting to include two hymns in these Services. During the last few weeks our choir have been recording some of our favourite Christmas Carols and Anthems. These are safely banked now, just in case! Yesterday morning, our choir stayed in Church after the 10.00 Sung Eucharist and have recorded material that can be used in pre-recorded Services during the Kingdom season and in Advent, as well as the musical element for the recorded Remembrance Sunday Service.

The weekly Pastoral letters will continue as now.

You are still very welcome to join us on Zoom for Morning Prayer at 8.30am (Monday – Saturday.) Details are available on the website.

Our Director of Music, Simon Earl has plans to make a few organ recitals available online.

Finally, and in fact most importantly, I say once again that the Priory will remain open for private prayer each day.

Please do be assured of our love and our prayers for you all. This is going to a difficult 28 day period for us all and I am sure that I am not the only person who believes that the time period of the lockdown may well have to be extended. As I said just a few days ago, being a part of the one body of Christ should be a comfort to us all. Please continue to provide the practical love and care for each other which is central to being a part of that one body of Christ. If you feel lonely, anxious, depressed, Please do contact one of the clergy. As I said yesterday at the Eucharist, if we are not here for one another in these most difficult of times, then we really have no claim to be part of that one body of Christ. You are not and never will be a burden and we will always have time for you, no matter how busy we are or you think that we might be. You are loved by God and you are loved by His Church in this parish.

With my love and my prayers

Richard.

If you know of any member of our parish who is still not receiving these pastoral letters, please do let me know. This letter will be sent via email today and will be posted to those without email together with the letter Jonathan will write at the weekend.