

## Email from the Rector – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March



Dear member of St Nic's

Since the government measures announced on Monday afternoon, all of us will have been trying (and struggling) to process the implications. We are affected in different ways, depending on our stage of life and state of health, but all of us are affected. We're in this together – nationally and globally.

Of course, the hardest thing about this crisis is that while we're in it together, we cannot be together – at least not physically. This is painful for society and it goes against all our instincts as a church family. At the very time when we want to draw together in worship and fellowship, to comfort one another and to reach out to our community, we must remain physically apart. Nevertheless, we are still called to be a church fellowship. Even in these strange times, we need to connect together and to care for one another. Exactly how we will learn to do this at St Nic's will take a while to take shape. But this email is to let you know a few things in advance of the coming weekend.

### **This Sunday**

We are putting together a range of resources for use at home on Sunday. They will include a message from me, a sermon from Joy, and some worship and prayer resources for all to use, including families, youth and children. For this weekend, we are not planning on 'livestreaming' a service. We want to start with something simple and sustainable. Our hope and prayer is that these resources will enable us to worship together, in our different homes. I will email you again on Saturday with more details. We also ensure that those without access to email or the internet will receive these resources, so that no one is left out.

### **Care for those in particular need**

One of the phrases in our recent vision document is, "*We offer particular support, prayer and encouragement to one another during life's difficult times*". If ever there was a time to put this into practice, it is now! We will work hard to ensure that no member of our church is overlooked or left out. As we do this, please can you let us know now if you are self-isolating or if you need any other help. Reply to me or email Mandy in the church office: [mandy@st-nics.org](mailto:mandy@st-nics.org). Please also let us know if you know of anyone else who you think we can help at this time.

### **Open for prayer**

While our services have been stopped, our church remains open for prayer. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have urged parishes to keep church buildings open at this time. Anyone is welcome to come into St Nic's for prayer. We will also have the church open on Sunday morning and Sunday evening. As long as people wash their hands and sit two metres apart (and have not been told to self-isolate), we can continue to pray in our building. Please drop in. (Currently, our church building is shut on Saturdays. If you would be willing to volunteer as part of a rota to help keep it open, please let me know).

## **2020 Prayer**

Our next 2020 Prayer evening is this Friday night (praying for 20 minutes at 20:20 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month). Please join in at home. Or join us at church – the building will be open for silent prayer, 2 metres apart. Materials will be available on our website tomorrow or at the back of church.

Thank you to the many of you who have been in contact with offers of help and ideas. We have not got back to all of you yet – but we will. This challenge is for all of us, and we all have a part to play in it.

*“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”* Ephesians 4:16

With love in Christ

Will

**Will Hunter Smart**  
**Rector**