

Coronavirus Update January 2021

Dear St Saviour's,

Temporary move to online services

The PCC met on Monday 18th January to discuss whether the church should remain open for some regular services or temporarily move to online only provision during this latest lockdown. After a lengthy discussion of the various risk factors and viewpoints of both PCC members and the wider church family, the PCC voted to temporarily move to having online only regular services. This was a difficult decision and we are aware there will be some members of St Saviour's who will be disappointed by the outcome, but we know you will understand that it was taken with concern for the health of church members, volunteers and a desire to stand in solidarity with the wider community and nation at this challenging time. Please note this decision is a temporary measure and will be reviewed when the PCC meets on Monday 22nd February (or sooner if the situation improves).

It would be very easy for this to divide us as a church at a time when it is most important that we remain united. I must again ask for your patience as we seek to support and encourage each other. As Paul wrote "let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up." (Romans 14:19, NLT).

Resources & Support

We will continue to provide printed resources and our Sunday service on Zoom can be accessed both online and via phone (details of how to do this are below). The Daily Hope phone line offers music, prayer and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. Call free 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

In recent months it has been wonderful to see church members supporting each other over the phone, giving lifts to hospital appointments, picking up prescriptions and helping in other practical ways. If anyone needs help or support at this time please don't stay silent but get in touch as we would love to help.

Let us continue to be a church that looks after and loves each other.

Joining us online

- 10.30am Sundays - Worship at Home
- 7.30pm Tuesdays – Prayer or Bible Study

These meetings take place on Zoom and a link to a YouTube recording of the Sunday meeting is emailed round afterwards. Zoom is a video and phone conferencing platform. You can join the Zoom meetings in several ways (see below). If you would like help with technology please just ask.

- If you have internet access but are not yet receiving the church email, please email Ben (rector@stsavioursretford.org.uk). We can then send you details of how to access the meetings online.
- You can also phone into the meeting (you won't be able to see anyone but we will be able to hear each other) by dialling 0208 080 6591. When prompted you will need to enter 876 915 053 into your phone keypad then press # if prompted you may need to type in the meeting password: 029737. Call charges will apply.

In the ongoing uncertainty we can continue to draw strength from the living God whose loving presence can shelter and sustain us.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation.

2 Samuel 22:2 (NIV)

With much prayer,

Ben Clayton

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