



*Committed to God – through worship, prayer and scripture*  
*Committed to Community – within our congregations and reaching out*  
*Committed to Growth – in discipleship, service and numbers*

## News Sheet number 1

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

**One inclusive and extensive  
Church family  
Gathering in  
Three meeting places  
Around the Woottons  
Near to King's Lynn**

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### **To The Church in the Woottons family**

I am sorry to have to announce that our Sunday services are cancelled with immediate effect and until further notice. This sounds terrible doesn't it? Everything is moving so fast, and developing in so many unexpected ways that it is difficult to keep up and make sense of what is happening.

Please be assured that Dan and I will continue to pray in church and be available to you all. **You can contact us by phone, email and on our Facebook page.** We can arrange small meetings too. We will be working hard over the next few days developing ways in which we can continue to serve you through phone calls, messages and maybe even video links.

All mid-week activities have ceased for the time being including:

1. The Lent Lunches.
2. The APCM due on 29<sup>th</sup> March is cancelled
3. The Prayer Weekend due on 28/29<sup>th</sup> March is cancelled
4. The Course on Prayer
5. All music practices
6. The Thursday House Group
7. The Thursday Dropin
8. Friendship Coffee Mornings
9. The Gathered Holy Communion.

**Please note: Canon James and the Revd. Dan Tansey will continue to meet to pray in the Mornings on:**

**Monday 8.30am at St. Mary's Church  
Tuesday 8.30am at St. Mary's Church  
Wednesday 8.30am at All Saints Church  
Thursday 8.30am at All Saints Church**

### **James and Dan also intend to be present in our churches at times on Sundays**

We will think of ways to encourage everyone to pray anyway over the **"Prayer Weekend"** even if we cannot actually be together physically. I'm sure the Holy Spirit will sort that bit out.

We offer thanks to those of you who have supported the Lent Lunches so far and pay tribute to those of you who have already started to preparing to host us during the remaining Fridays – we're sorry we can't be with you to enjoy delicious soup, bread, cheese and company!

**Please remember that God is with us wherever we are** – His presence is more important than any particular place of worship. We will continue to care for our wonderful church buildings and they will be kept open during the day as usual. Please feel free to pop into them at any time.

We will all face many challenges in the coming days, weeks and months – but we have strength in our faith in God, and strength in the love we share as members of his Church.

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### **Queen Elizabeth Hospital QEH**

#### **News from Stella Green – Hospital Chaplain**

Just making contact with regard to the QEH Chaplaincy and the Covid-19 outbreak. The hospital is gearing up to face this challenge, and their plans are well in place. As you know, the hospital has asked the public not to come into the hospital to visit patients, except for new-borns, children and those nearing the end of life. Only those outpatients who have cancer, whose treatment is urgent, or who have been on a waiting list for a long time are still coming in for appointments. Other outpatient appointments and elective surgery are being stopped for now, and affected people should expect to receive a phone call.



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From a Chaplaincy point of view, we have taken the decision to suspend Sunday services in the Sacred Space for the time being. Although strenuous hygiene measures are in place, with so many people coming and going, the hospital must be a higher-risk area, and we need to allay people's fears of being together. Instead, the Chaplains will be focussing on visiting patients and bringing them Holy Communion by the bedside. I'm sure, after the expected rise in cases, we will be able to resume Sunday services, but I don't know at this stage when that will be. I'm guessing at 2-3 months in any case, possibly longer. We shall have to wait and see.

We have 5 cases of confirmed Covid-19 patients at the moment, and they are all in isolation. So if church members are concerned about anyone they know who is in hospital at the moment, there is no contact between these Covid-19 people and ordinary patients. The main risk to ordinary hospital patients is from visitors, which is why the hospital have requested they don't come in.

If local clergy would like us to visit any of their parishioners who are currently in hospital, of course we're more than happy to do so. Please just call us on 01553 613441 (direct line) and leave us their names, and we will do that for you. If any of us go down with the virus, I may be back in touch with you to ask for a bit of help, but we're ok for the moment.

In the meantime, the hospital is expected to come under a great deal of pressure as cases of Covid-19 increase, so please be mindful of any hospital staff you have in your congregations, and say a prayer for us.

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### **A plea for help from the King's Lynn Foodbank**

#### **Volunteers needed – a request from Helen – Centre Manager**

We are trying to keep the Foodbank provision going as well as we can to ensure that those who are in greatest need can get through the coming weeks and months.

As you know, we rely a great deal on our lovely team of volunteers to pack and hand out the food parcels. Unfortunately, the majority of our team are unable to come in as they are in the high risk category either by virtue of their age or their health. This means that we are VERY short of people to ensure that the Foodbank provision can continue, especially at a time when more people are likely to need the food we provide.

Therefore, I am emailing to ask if any of you who are not in the high-risk category would be able to come and help us, to please get in touch by email or phone and let us know which day or days you would be able to help: [info@kingslynn.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@kingslynn.foodbank.org.uk) 07582 558143 We normally open Monday - Friday 12:30-2:30pm

Please pray for the Foodbank - for protection of our health, and for strength and stamina to ensure that as many people as possible get the help they need.

### **Contact us at TCITW:**

**Rector:** James Nash  
Tel: 01553 673742:  
[james@churchinthewoottons.net](mailto:james@churchinthewoottons.net)  
The Rectory, 47 Castle Rising Road, South Wootton, PE30 3JA  
James' day off is Friday

**Curate:** Dan Tansey  
Tel: 01553 390615  
Email: [dan@churchinthewoottons.net](mailto:dan@churchinthewoottons.net)  
Dan's day off is Friday

**Office email:**  
[rectoryoffice@churchinthewoottons.net](mailto:rectoryoffice@churchinthewoottons.net)  
**Website:** [www.churchinthewoottons.net](http://www.churchinthewoottons.net)  
Facebook: [@churchinthewoottons](https://www.facebook.com/churchinthewoottons)

**All Saints Church, Manor Road, North Wootton**  
PE30 3PZ

**St Mary's Church, Church Lane, South Wootton,**  
PE30 3LJ