

Website: yarmchurch.org.uk

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Coronavirus - COVID-19

I hope that you are all taking sensible precautions and are keeping well during this pandemic. My reason for contacting you is to assure you of my prayers and support should you need it and to send you a resource and some internet links which may be of use for your private devotions.

During this difficult time for the whole of our country the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued the following statement:

“As the challenge of the coronavirus grips the world, and as the Government asks every individual and every organisation to rethink its life, we are now asking the Church of England in all its parishes, chaplaincies and ministries to serve all people in a new way. Public worship will have to stop for a season. Our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold.”

This means that all church services and events will be suspended until advice is received that they can start again. However, this does not mean that the Church stops working! You can be assured that you will all be remembered in my prayers each day and I would ask you to continue with your rule of life. If you have access to the internet, you may wish to use some of the online resources which can be found on the Church of England website at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Additionally there are prayers and liturgies for use at home on the website at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

I have also produced a short service which is attached and you may wish to use at home during the day during Lent. Also attached is a copy of the notice from the Church Doors which includes some links to online resources.

The most important thing is that we all follow the Government guidelines during this difficult time to ensure as far as possible that you keep yourself and one another safe. If you have any concerns or want to speak with me please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or email.

Finally, be assured of my love and prayers and remember always the encouragement to us all from 1 Peter 5.7:

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you”.

Yours in Christ

Reverend Canon John Ford