



St Giles' & St Eata's Shrewsbury



Reverend Andrew Knight,
St Giles Church,
Wenlock Road,
Shrewsbury,
SY2 6JP.
18th March 2020.

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter as a result of the Corona virus Covid-19 pandemic that we are all facing and to keep us all, as the families of St Giles and St Eata's, fully informed and aware of the implications that we all face.

Given the recent advice that has been given by the Government I am conscious that many people may be keen to limit their social contact at this time. That others may have chosen or choose to self-isolate for a number of reasons and that we are all facing a time of great uncertainty and unpredictability as we witness certain elements of society closing and ceasing whilst this pandemic increases and spreads.

In light of the government and national Church advice around 'non-essential contact' it has been stated that public services will be suspended until further notice. Which is a wise decision as we face the rising challenges of coronavirus over these next months.

Whilst there is rising concern and an element of anxiety and fear throughout wider society I would encourage us all, as the Christian Community, to remain positive and faithful whilst taking every precaution that you see fit for yourself.

It is vitally important that if members of our church family do self-isolate or do limit their social contact with others that we do everything, as a family, that we can to look after one another mentally, socially and spiritually.

The life of prayer

I would encourage us all to be people of prayer. This coming **Sunday 22nd March**, sees a national day of prayer and action, especially remembering those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in the health and emergency services. As a result, everyone is asked to light a candle in their window at 7pm as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished. Please take this opportunity to pray and join in.



For those wishing to and acknowledging guidelines on 'social distancing' there is to be a candle lighting act of prayer outside St Giles at 6.30pm this Sunday, 22nd March.

Both St Eata's and St. Giles will be open during the day for private prayer, but with no public worship taking place. Please remember to wash your hands once you've visited!

The suspension of public worship means that there is NO 10.00 Holy Communion on Wednesday's and NO 8.00 or 9.30 Holy Communion services at St Giles; and at St Eata's there is NO 11.00 Holy Communion. However, this does not mean that the Church is 'closed'! The Churches will be open for private prayer: St Giles will be open 9.30 -10.30 & St Eata's 11.00 - 12.00. There will be an opportunity to light candles, offer personal prayer and receive prayer cards. Throughout the pandemic the Eucharist will be said, on behalf of us all, on a regular basis.

Pastoral care one for another

As this virus continues to increase I hope that we can remain in regular contact with one another via social media and/or the phone. It is good to have regular conversations and keep the chat and care for one another alive!



Please ask one another if there is anything or anyone that you can be praying for. Self-isolation or limiting social contact does not mean we are off limits to God!

If anyone is self-isolating and is struggling in any way to get food or needs shopping fetching please do get in contact with myself or another member of the ministry team so that we can help. Details/phone numbers: Reverend Andrew- 01743 600691, Reverend Stuart 01743 383263, Reverend Judy 01743 357273, Roz Abbott 01743 242889, Gill Carding 01743 369325.

The wider community

We are being invited to be a "church for all, not just for ourselves." Whilst we witness shops having to ration supplies and seeing many in our society 'panic buying' I encourage us to be mindful of those most vulnerable in our society and to show care and respect for our neighbours and those who we live alongside or are known to us who live alone and may be anxious or fearful.



Please forgive me if much of this letter is only reinforcing what you have already heard. I want you to know that at this uncertain and rapidly changing time that as a ministry team we want to uphold and ensure, to the best of our ability, the well-being and physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of us all.

As I mentioned to a Clergy colleague earlier today, we must not lose sight of the fact that we worship a faithful God whose is Lord of all creation and who calls us to abide in his presence and to share his love, peace and grace one with another.

Please be assured of mine and my colleagues' prayers for us all as we go forward.

With best wishes,

Yours,

Andrew

Reverend Andrew Knight: Rector of St Giles with Sutton, Shrewsbury & St Eata's, Atcham and assistant area dean of Shrewsbury

St Giles & St Eata's Parish Office: St Giles Church, Wenlock Road, SY2 6JP

tel: 01743 355300

email: stgilesshrew@btconnect.com

Parish office is open: 11.45 – 14.45 Tuesday & Thursday