

West Dartmoor Mission Community

Covid 19: Newsletter 3

Many of you will have seen suggestions from Bishop Robert in his notes about Covid 19 suggesting things which we can do. This newsletter explains how we are responding to some of these suggestions.

Contingency plans

We have to develop a contingency plan. The Diocesan guidance for an outline of this has been sent to members of the Mission Community Council. Some of this needs to operate at local, parish, level and we are asking churchwardens to take the lead in developing the material for this. But in line with our normal way of working we want to overlay this with some light touch coordination at Mission Community level. And some things will require decision and action by the Mission Community as a whole.

Until the arrival of Rev Andrew Thomas, Rev Di Caine will be the lead for this activity with Kathy Howard as her nominated deputy and Richard Bayly as the third name, as requested by the Diocese.

Richard and Kathy will be liaising with churchwardens to collect the necessary information to complete the contingency plan and submit it to the diocese. Some, relating to managing worship, has already been overtake. The completed plan will be placed on the website.

Worship and prayer

Bishop Robert has suggested the development of a range of online and other virtual opportunities for worship and prayer. The Church of England will be providing a lot of opportunities for this which will be publicised nationally and which we will try to draw attention to on the website. Anne de Looy is taking the lead in considering what might be additionally of value locally in the Mission Community, and some material has already been posted on the website. More news will follow on this.

Mutual aid

It will be very important for us to ensure that those who self isolate and those who become ill are not left short of material needs or social interaction.

We are therefore asking churchwardens to take the lead, church by church, in developing a list of all members and others in the community who may become in need. We will explore whether we can arrange shopping for those who cannot get out, delivered to a safe place, and the opportunities to chat with friends online or on the telephone. Of course most of this will happen anyway through good friendship groups. But we want to ensure that it is there for everyone.

May God speed and comfort be with us all through this difficult time.

Rev Di Caine, Kathy Howard, Simon Hill, Richard Bayly