

The Bishop of Exeter has announced that Anglican churches across Devon are to close with immediate effect following the Prime Minister's call for people to stay in their homes in a bid to tackle the spread of coronavirus.

There will also be no church weddings or baptisms.

Funerals at the graveside or in crematoriums can still take place, but only in line with the Prime Minister's statement.

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to follow the instructions given by the Prime Minister but they called on the Church to "continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable". In a joint statement the bishops said: "In the light of the Government's measures, announced by the Prime Minister, we urge everyone to follow the instructions given. "We will give a fuller statement of advice as soon as possible. Let us continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities, even while separated."

Online church services took place across Devon on Mothering Sunday and online worship and prayer and community will continue to be developed.

More information will be available on this website.

Dated 24/3/2020