

## Messages from Alison.

**24/03/20**

Dear Friends

I think we have all been expecting the Prime Minister's announcement that we must stay at home, but still it comes as another shock.

Our beautiful church will now be closed until further notice. This morning I brought the reserved sacrament (bread blessed at our final Eucharist) home to the Rectory. I will continue to say Morning and Evening Prayer from home. However, Adel Church and its worshipping community have been here for about 1000 years...a reminder of God's steadfast love for us. We are still the church in Adel and Eccup; prayer and worship are more important than ever in these challenging times.

Jesus commanded us to love one another. The best way we can do this at the moment is to follow the instruction to stay at home unless our travel is absolutely necessary.

Jesus also taught us to pray...always and everywhere. We will find new ways to share prayer and worship, please look out for these on here and our Facebook page. If you have ideas, please share them.

Our Bishops are working hard to respond to national events and I will receive more guidance in due course.

In the meantime you are all in my prayers – please keep me in yours.

Alison

**23/3/20**

All public worship in churches is suspended until further notice, so we will not be able to meet in person in St John's.

For the moment we are keeping the church open as much as possible for private prayer – if you wish to make use of the space, please follow guidelines on hand washing and physical distancing.

Morning and Evening prayer will still be said in church Monday to Thursday, and a Eucharist celebrated on Sunday on behalf of the parish. If you hear the bells – this is to let you know worship is happening on your behalf and calling you to join in from home.

It may be that be soon the church is closed altogether. However, whatever happens and for however long, we remain the church, the body of Christ in Adel and Eccup. We will just have to find new ways of being church.

We are putting as much material as possible on here and on our Facebook pages. If you are able, please join these and join in! We are hoping to live stream a service at 10am on Sunday where possible, and also to offer videos of services so that you can join in at home. The words for these services will be available on here, or can be emailed or delivered to you.

Most importantly keep praying: for our world, our nation, our community and one another. And be assured that we are praying for you.

Alison Battye (Rector)

**20/3/20**

I hope you are all keeping safe and well during these strange times we are living through. Please be assured of my prayers and be in touch if there is any way I can help, even if it is just for a chat.

Apologies for the length of this letter – please do read to the end and answer the questions there.

I am sure you are aware by now that churches cannot hold public worship until further notice. This does not however mean that we are closed. As things stand, I am still saying Morning and Evening Prayer at the usual times and others are helping me keep the church open at other times.

This coming week (from Saturday 21st March) the church will be open:

8am – 9am and 12pm – 1pm Monday to Friday;

5pm – 6pm Monday to Thursday;

6.30 – 7.30pm Friday;

2 - 4.30pm Monday;

12pm – 2pm Saturday.

Whilst these are not public services, please feel free during these times to drop in for private prayer, to leave prayer requests, or just to leave contact details if you would like someone to contact you. There are also paper resources available in church for a service of Morning Prayer to be used on Sunday when we cannot celebrate the Eucharist together, a version of this suitable for families, and Compline or night prayer. I can email electronic copies of these or deliver them to anyone who wishes.

The important thing is that we are still church whilst this goes on. We are practising physical distancing, not social or spiritual distancing. As someone said today – Adel church has been here through the Black Death and the Plague! Having such an ancient building reminds us of the constancy of God's love for us. It is vital that we keep worshipping and praying during these difficult times and stay aware of God's love. Our God is not a distant God – he became human and shared our suffering – he shares our suffering today. I will be celebrating the Eucharist on behalf of the Parish this Sunday and hoping to live stream it on our Facebook page – you partake spiritually, even if not physically.

We are working on producing video resources of other services, and will post details on Facebook and the website. We will also post the Lectionary readings for the day so that you can share them at home.

Our electronic presence will increase as we work out how to be church in this new situation. I know our Junior Churchleaders are looking at ways to keep their work going. Please share anything you do with the rest of us.

I am being supported by the Diocese – here are some words from Bishop Nick's letter to all clergy:

Christians need no reminder of our common human mortality, nor of the fragility of life in a contingent material world. We preach this stuff in the good times; now we are given an opportunity to live it out when the pressure is upon us all. We are drawn by hope, not driven by fear. Our trust is in the God who raised Jesus, and we walk with grace-filled and hope-fuelled hearts, following this same Jesus who gave his life for us. Our scriptures also call us to keep joy alive when the desert threatens to dry us out – looking for the songs of hope and singing them for all to hear.

We are the body of Christ here in Adel and Eccup, we have something important to offer. This is a time for our faith to grow and spread to those around us.

Please answer these questions to help us in the coming weeks (please email replies to [alison.battye@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:alison.battye@leeds.anglican.org)):

1. Name:

Best contact information

Next of kin information (if you would like us to hold this)

2. Would you like to help us keep the church open as much as possible – if so please state days/times you are available. Please do not offer this help if you are vulnerable or caring for someone who is.

Finally – if you have avoided social media in the past, can I suggest that you consider at least joining Facebook. Adel Parish Church has a page and we will be sharing our faith and resources on there. You have to request to become a member – but this will be granted very quickly.

I will be praying for all of you – I ask that you pray for me.

With love and prayers

Alison

## **17/03/2020**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have just announced that public worship is suspended until further notice. This means there will be no services at St Johns, Adel.

This is a difficult time, when worship is more important than ever - but we will just have to worship as a dispersed community.

I will continue to say Morning Prayer at 8am and Evening Prayer at 5pm daily in church. We will also open the church at other times for prayer, and the chance to leave prayer requests. Times will be advised as soon as possible.

I will produce paper resources for prayer at home which will be available in church as soon as possible, or can be delivered/posted to anyone who wishes.

I have had many offers of help for anyone who needs it - so if that is you, please get in touch.

Keep yourselves safe, take government advice and pray for each other and the community.

With love and prayers

Alison