



Christ Church, Ipswich

Statement on the Coronavirus outbreak

We are mindful that whilst the number of cases in the UK is relatively small at present, we are in the early stages of an epidemic which is likely to cause widespread illness in the weeks to come. Therefore, we urge that the following protocols be implemented. They are likely to be updated in future weeks. We stand ready to respond and to serve the Church as best we can should the situation or Government advice significantly change.

- In accordance with current Government advice we request that people wash their hands, with soap and warm water, for at least 20 seconds several times a day and in particular after coughing or sneezing, or before preparing food and drinks (including communion).
- Anyone with a new, continuous cough or high temperature is advised to self-isolate for seven days.
- If you feel unwell, please stay at home.
- Please cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze, and put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards.
- We strongly recommend that we restrict physical contact until the outbreak has passed. In particular, those who greet on entry and exit from church, such as the Stewards, Duty Deacon and Minister will not shake hands or offer hugs until further notice.
- Those who have travelled back from a high-risk area (as defined by the UK Government at that time) should self-isolate. We urge members of the church family who self-isolate to let us know this, so that we can find ways of offering appropriate pastoral care during this time.
- In addition to our normal cleaning and hygiene procedures, Jayne will wipe all door handles with disinfectant regularly.
- Holy Communion will be served with individual cups as usual, and cubes of bread, in order to avoid handling by multiple people. There will be still be a single loaf broken but we will only eat the cubes.
- We will endeavour to have alcohol gel and tissues available in all the public rooms. (This is subject to supplies being available.)

How can we respond to this outbreak in a loving, Christ-like way? We should bear in mind that taking sensible precautions is not principally an act of self-protection, but primarily an action designed to protect others who are at risk in our congregation and our community. And we should continue to be open-hearted and attentive to the lonely, the vulnerable and the anxious, both within the church and beyond. Above all, we will face the future (which is always uncertain) with courage and faith in God.

Clean hands, open hearts!

The Minister and Deacons

13th March 2020