

Dear all,

In this most difficult of weeks and circumstances our PCC met today to decide on the safety aspects of meeting in St. Mark's Church and have decided for the safety of all that the Church should be closed and reviewed in the following weeks in line with Government advice. The Archbishops of York and Canterbury along with Bishop Alison have agreed that this may well be necessary for some local Churches.

This will mean that very sadly we are unable to continue to live-stream Services which would necessitate a team being present at St. Mark's. **York Minster** live stream their weekly Sunday Service at 11am which you might like to attend virtually.

We will still be hosting our Zoom St Mark's cafe weekly every Sunday, slightly later at 12.15pm and we would be delighted if you were able to join us then. Here is the link for this Sunday:

Topic: Sunday Coffee and Chat

Time: Jan 10, 2021 12.15pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75781875486?pwd=RVgycG1FdzlBOHcySElvOUJDdWNGZz09>

Meeting ID: 757 8187 5486

Passcode: 9BDUc5

I would like to remind you that we have mid-week evening home groups by zoom on Tues and Thurs, the Wednesday morning Bible Study group on zoom is due to re-start in February -please do contact Hazel and Don Maclver if you would like to join any of these groups. We will continue to seek and pray what else we might be able to offer in the coming weeks.

As a team we will continue to pray and see if there are viable alternatives to live-streaming of Services that we can offer but will need a few days to see if this is possible for us.

We have a very good pastoral team and we would be happy to phone anyone feeling isolated or just wanting to be in contact with St. Mark's, please do get in touch if you would like to - no man (or woman!) is an island and being human means needing to connect with people.

Let's also remind ourselves that God promises to be with us no matter what our circumstances:

Romans 8:38 (The Passion Translation) 'So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God's love. I'm convinced that his love will triumph over death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love'

I would also personally recommend the Lectio 365 app (free) for smartphones which gives an excellent 10 minute daily guided quiet time which I have found a wonderful resource since Advent. I also recommend sea swimming which I've been enjoying since last June, but recognise it's not everyone's cup of tea - maybe the app is more appropriate?



Let's also pray for new positive ministries and communication opportunities locally to emerge like they did in the first lockdown.

I will continue with my weekly email keeping you all up to date with any developments or changes and St Mark's Facebook page continues to be updated quickly by our reader in training, Pauline, with relevant information if you can access it.

Prayer points for this week: (we continue to post national prayer initiatives on our Facebook page for St. Mark's)

Please pray.....

- that the person God has in mind as our Priest in charge will be open and responsive to God's leading-
- for the home groups, meeting on Zoom. Please contact Don or Hazel Maclver for more information and if you would like to join one of the three groups running at the moment.
- for our treasurer, James Giddings and for the finances of the church.
- for those in our Parish living in Briardene Avenue and Thornville Avenue

With love, peace and blessings to you all,

Shena

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Revd. Shena Moray
St. Mark's Scarborough