

Diocese of St Albans
Five actions we can all take to continue
Living God's Love
during the COVID-19 outbreak

With so much doom and gloom in the media, we need to think about the things we can do:

1. **Be creative:** Although we have had to suspend public worship for a time, we can still find new ways to pray, to worship and to serve with 'generosity and joy, imagination and courage'. It's great to hear how many people have already taken initiatives.
2. **Pray:** Across our diocese, we can pray for our families, our neighbours, our local health workers and for all those charged with making difficult decisions at this challenging time. The Lord's Prayer asks God to meet our daily needs and to protect us from evil. Why not pray it every time we wash our hands?
3. **Keep your churches unlocked and provide prayer materials:** Even if it is for a limited period each day, advertise that the church is open and encourage people to come and pray. Provide prayer materials that people can use and then take away with them.
4. **Clergy, Readers and Lay Leaders of Worship can still be in church at the usual time each Sunday so that the worship of God doesn't stop:** Each Sunday, though we are apart, everyone is encouraged to set aside the time they would usually be in church to join together to pray. We are asking clergy, Readers and Lay Leaders of Worship to lead worship in churches, even though it's not possible for others physically to be there. Churches are working on ways to enable those at home to join in local worship, including streaming via Facebook and other internet platforms. Service sheets are being put online so everyone can be included. This coming Sunday, churches of all denominations across the country will be joining remotely in a [national day of prayer and action](#) Everyone is encouraged to light a candle and place it in the front window of their house at 7.00pm this and every Sunday.
5. **Love your neighbour as yourself:** We are humbled by the extraordinary response of so many people and churches to love their neighbours at this time. Church members, along with people across the community, are contacting the isolated, picking up shopping and calming fears. Please tell us what you are doing so that we can share the stories and learn from each other. Send them to Arun Kataria, our Director of Communications: akataria@stalbans.anglican.org We remain ready to help with advice or support as and when needed. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

Bishops Alan, Richard and Michael, Dean Jeffrey, Archdeacons Janet, Dave and Jane and Canon Susan Pope

18 March 2020