

## Administrator

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**From:** Ethne <ethne.whitlock@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 25 March 2020 12:07  
**To:** admin@stjohnsnewport.org  
**Subject:** [Test] St John's midweek email March 25th



## St John's Church Midweek email 25th March 2020



Hello everyone and welcome to the midweek email from St John's.

I hope you are keeping well. As I write I can hear robins in our cherry tree singing, a cheerful sound in these difficult times. The picture is from the bedroom where I work looking over Newport. St John's is behind the tree and I can see rather more of the town than the picture shows. The view is a good reminder to pray for our church and town.

Please remember if you need help to contact one of the Ministry team. We're doing our best to keep in contact with people by phone, email and online. Below is some news about St John's members and some ideas of things you can do for yourself and others without breaking the current restrictions. Hello everyone and welcome to the midweek email from St John's.

I hope you are keeping well. As I write I can hear goldfinches in our cherry tree singing, a cheerful sound in these difficult times. The picture is from the bedroom where I work looking over Newport. St John's is behind the tree and I can see rather more detail than the picture shows. Each morning as I start up the church laptop I look out and pray for our town and church.

Please remember if you need help to contact one of the Ministry team. We're doing our best to keep in contact with people by phone, email and online. Below is some news about St John's members and ideas of things you can do for yourself and others without breaking the current restrictions.



# News

On Monday we heard the sad news that **Joy Lacey** passed away in the Hospice. Please pray for her family and friends especially as only the close family will be able to attend her funeral. There will be a memorial service in the future once we can all meet again.

Some of you will know **David and Heather Sharland** who are missionaries with CMS in north west Uganda. They have sent a new prayer letter which you can [download here](#). Please read it and pray for them and all others in countries with far fewer medical resources than we have.

Around 5 million people watched or listened to the **service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury** on Sunday morning, the largest 'congregation' ever! If you didn't you can still watch it here - <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/church-england-attracts-largest-congregation-ever-first-virtual-service>. I would encourage you to if you can as it is very encouraging. We hope to send links to more online services in future as these are a good way of connecting with the wider church to worship and remind ourselves that we not alone, individually or as a church, but part of God's people in the world.

A good number of people have joined the **Closed Facebook Group for St John's**. This is for personal contact between members of the congregation so please keep it to that. More general information will go on the St John's Facebook Page. If you would like to join the Group you will need to be on Facebook and either like the St John's page or be a friend of Claire or Ethne. Then contact us by Facebook, email or some other way to ask us to send you an invitation to the group.

**Bishop Christopher will be streaming a service of Holy Communion** on Sunday. We will let you have details when we know. it.

# Prayer



The current restrictions give many, but not all, of more time to pray. Here are some specific prayer requests for the St John's family.

- The family and friends of Joy Lacey.
- Tony Hayman who is in St Mary's Hospital.
- Dot Lawrence who has had a stroke.

The Diocese has published this prayer which you may like to use more generally -

**Loving heavenly Father,  
we pray to you in this time of distress,  
as we see a world struggling to cope with the coronavirus and all the suffering it's caused.  
We pray for peace and not panic.  
We pray for faith and not fear.  
We pray for hope in the face of despair.  
We ask that you would protect those on the frontline, the doctors, nurses and paramedics who help those who are sick.  
We long, Lord, to see your love surround those who are anxious, isolated or alone  
and for you to help us to work together to meet their needs.  
Help us all to make wise decisions and take sensible precautions so that people stay well and we get through this quickly.  
Lord, look down with mercy, guard us and guide us, and heal our world.  
Amen.**

# Resources to help you worship at home



A number of people have asked about resources to help them worship at home so here are some suggestions from the Church of England.

- For prayers for the outbreak including intercessions, prayers with children, personal prayers and a simple form of morning prayer and night prayer to use at home follow this link - <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>. All these resources can be downloaded and printed.
- The **#LiveLent app** has the content from the adult and children's booklets which we gave out at St John's. Download it here - <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livent-care-gods-creation>.
- There are various other apps which can be downloaded here - <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps>
  - The **Time to Pray app** is now free. It contains a short service of Daily Prayer and Night Prayer.
  - **Daily Prayer** contains daily services for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer.
  - **Reflections for Daily Prayer** has the readings set for Morning Prayer each day and a short reflection on one of them. There is the option for using this within Morning Prayer or not.
- If you prefer to read the text a service each day online go to - <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>. You will find links there to display the texts of Morning Prayer, Prayer during the Day, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer.
- If you have smart speakers you can daily prayer and #LiveLent audio content. Instructions for using them are here - <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/our-smart-speaker-apps>.

If you come across anything else which you find helpful please let me know so we can tell others. I hope to send out some ideas I have found for families to those involved in Junior Church soon.

While we are all staying at home it's important that we look after ourselves and the Church of England have issued a helpful guide on mental health and wellbeing. [You can download it here.](#) Finally, let us know what you're doing to keep occupied at home and don't forget to ask for help if you need it.  
*Ethne*





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[admin@stjohnsnewport.org](mailto:admin@stjohnsnewport.org)

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