

PARISH OF MOTTINGHAM ST ANDREW WITH ST ALBAN
STRATEGIC REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC &
MISSION & MINISTRY, MARCH-JULY, 2020.

Phase 1 – Pre-Lockdown – March 1st – March 23rd, 2020

1. **Parish Contingency plan drawn up, and sent to Diocese, Area Dean and PCC, following Government guidance to observe distancing, prevent the spread of the virus and save lives.**
2. Guidance sent by Archbishop's Office and Diocese duly noted
3. Worship seating arrangements – chairs more spaced out; distanced sharing of the Peace; Communion in one kind only; no coffee following services.
4. New safety measures for Funerals & Weddings put in place; initially only 10 people to attend; subsequently reduced to 4, including the priest.
5. Clergy Chapter Meeting to prepare for parish worship provision in the event of a Lockdown.
6. Meetings in the Church Hall and Lent Groups cancelled/postponed.
7. Contingency plan drawn up BY IW and circulated to PCC.

Phase 2 Lockdown – March 23rd – June 15th, 2020

1. **National and diocesan Church sent out guidance following the overall Government strategy to "Stay at home, Save Lives and Protect the NHS",** with each parish called to find new ways of providing for worship and pastoral care and new ways of effectively being church while the church buildings were closed & lockdown observed.
2. Suspension of worship notices publicly posted, announcing the closure of churches.
3. New email lists created, and pastoral letter sent out either by email, post or hand delivery, along with Palm Crosses to mark Palm Sunday.
4. Prayers for private use at home for Morning, Noon and Evening/Night sent to all, along with a format for observing Agape Communion at home, for those not on-line – hand delivered, or sent by post, and made available on the website.
5. **Pastoral Care and Outreach:** Support for the homeless and unemployed maintained at the Rectory door and through support for the Foodbanks in Eltham and at St Edwards. Elderly and vulnerable members of the congregation called by telephone to check on well-being (ongoing), and continue to receive weekly service sheets.
6. Stations of the Cross, Passion Narrative, Holy week services, Easter services, recorded on You-tube, for those unable to link with live-streaming via Zoom, & a talk on the

Pre-Raphaelites and reading of T.S. Eliot's 'The Wasteland' recorded. Youtube recordings have attracted over 750 viewers.

7. Two-weekly Chapter meetings established on-line for mutual advice, and to support worship at St John's, Eltham, during their vacancy with streamed and recorded services, supported by St John's Churchwardens.
8. Two new Whats App groups established to keep congregation and friends of our churches linked by phone, where possible.
9. Pastoral Letters sent out for Easter, Pentecost and Trinity, and posted on the parish website.
10. Sunday Eucharists with singing live-streamed on Zoom from Easter Sunday, with links sent out in advance, along with service sheets and hymn sheets.
11. IW upgraded from the free Zoom package to that accommodating 100 people, to ensure enough time to worship without the meeting ending after 40 minutes.
12. Children's ministry sustained through recording 3 stories on Youtube, sending out activities via Whats App (shared in Sunday notices) and sending out diocesan CYP ministry suggestions by email.
13. 'Keep Connected' established, posted on the parish website and sent out/delivered to the congregation to maintain contact with all, and much valued by those shielding: warm thanks to Bob & Alison Lawrie for all their hard work!
14. Fund-raising for Christian Aid streamed on-line (Quiz and Read and Sing-in) & I-beanies and Kay's Quizzes advertised on Website. With gift aid c,£3,400 raised.

Phase 3: Partial Easing of Lockdown, from late May/Early June

Advice to stay alert and stay at home if possible. Bubbles of up to 3 households permitted, allowing more lee-way for contact. Private prayer in church permitted from mid-June.

1. St Andrew's and St Alban's opened for private Morning and Noon prayer.
2. Laminated or take-away prayer sheets provided, along with hand gel and wipes.
3. St Andrews aired during the spell of good weather to clear the residual dust.
4. IW has grass cut in parish portion of the Rectory Garden, to facilitate socially distanced outdoor activities, when deemed safe.
5. Farewell service for Revd Tim, Carol and Gad, with presentations made.
6. Story of St Alban recorded on Youtube to mark St Alban's-tide.
7. Contact made with Publicity and Fund-raising officers at the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice to arrange a fundraising Showcase on their behalf.
8. Contact made with singers, actors and dancers to perform in the Showcase.

9. St Andrew's Church Facebook page employed for posts about the wider church. 363 people reached in the last 28 days, up 725%, with 186 post engagements.

Phase 4: Lockdown Ends (Saturday 4th July): permission given to re-open Churches.

1. New guidance sent out by the Church of England. Diocese of Southwark follows paper on the Administration of Holy Communion prepared by the House of Bishops Recovery Group, issued on 1st July.
2. This paper discussed by Eltham & Mottingham Clergy Chapter on 1st July. Clergy review new safety guidance, and the future shape of public worship.
3. IW calls an Emergency PCC to discuss the implications of the COVID-19 Advice in our parish context.
4. Abbreviated safety measures based on this guidance sent out to PCC for consideration.
5. Publicity for Showcase on 11th July continues apace, along with liaison with artists. Potential for synthesising Heartedge's "4 C's", viz:

Commerce – raising money on a virtual platform.

Compassion – offering support to the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice

Culture - Performances by 20 artists.

Congregation - Inviting to the congregation to virtually attend and enjoy an entertaining evening.

6. Contingency Plan based on PCC discussion to be prepared by IW following the meeting on 8/7/20.
7. Opening of churches for private prayer and live-streaming of the Eucharist continues.

Revd Ian Welch

Rector, Mottingham St Andrew with St Alban

8/7/2020