

Emergency Bulletin 20 March 2020

Action Stations!

The Vicar writes:

We are in the midst of an unprecedented emergency, so I hope you'll forgive my use of navy jargon. "**Action Stations!**" is the order to bring a warship to the highest state of readiness in the face of an imminent attack. But once the ship's company have rushed to their stations, there is often much watching and waiting. Will the attack come from apparently empty skies, the horizon of the sea, or from beneath the waves? Is it a false alarm?

We too are fighting an invisible foe- the Coronavirus: is it on our hands, our face, the doorknob? The whole situation feels both scary and unreal.

In this emergency bulletin, I outline how we can take action by caring for the needy and praying, and I hope that you will respond to these requests quickly.

First we must **care for one another**, in particular those who are over 70 or vulnerable, who are trying to observe government advice to self-isolate. Bovey is blessed with a good community spirit. If you are in need, please graciously accept help from people you know and trust, but exercise due caution with offers of help from strangers. Our first duty is to care for family, neighbours and friends, and I hope that the existing relationships within church small groups and congregations will help us to care.



If you are offering help, please don't promise what you may not be able to sustain for the long haul we face.

For those who are isolated and do not have family living locally, we are setting up an **Emergency Care Team** of church members vouched for by the Parish Church, who you can trust. Some may be isolated themselves, but will be able to phone regularly for a chat, encouragement and a prayer. Others who are not in isolation will be able to fetch and carry groceries, medication, or take your dog for a walk.

We are also involved in the plans of Bovey Parish Coronavirus Action Group.

They are aiming to deliver cooked food and set up a community hotline for those needing practical help. Things should become active by the middle of next week.

No ship can remain at action stations for the duration of a war, so once the immediate danger has passed, a new routine called **Defence Watches** is established. Half the crew rests while the other half stays vigilant.

We have been warned that this emergency may last for months, so we would be wise to develop our own routines: not watching every news bulletin or reading every alarming article on Facebook- ration yourself to once a day! We should develop a routine of checking on family, friends and neighbours.

As Vicar, I am in this for the long haul, but my family and I are self-isolating at the moment. I've never known things so busy, and the phone rarely stops. So please be patient with unanswered emails, and try to make non-urgent calls to the Vicarage between 9am and noon each day so that I can make calls out and prepare things properly! I will be trying to keep Tuesday as a day off.

The Prime Minister hopes that we can 'send Coronavirus packing' with good hygiene and a scientific breakthrough, but I believe we also **need to pray**.

This is a time to develop a routine or **Habit of Prayer**. You now have time as never before to pray, and read your bible in a systematic way. This bulletin contains a simple form of daily prayer for personal use, and small group leaders, care team and staff members will gladly advise you on other resources. The next bulletin will focus on helping families with children cooped up at home!

If you find prayer on your own difficult, there are many ways of joining with others, which I've listed on p.3. even though we cannot meet together in church or small groups.

- Bovey Baptist church and PPT are live-streaming a special service this Sunday - details are on p.4
- I will be leading a short act of prayer via the **Zoom** app on Monday and Fridays at 9am, and Wednesday at 10am: see details on p.3
- The Church buildings of PPT and St Mary's Hennock will be open for private prayer daily from 9am to 5pm. Please observe physical distancing from others you may find in there. We cannot provide hand gel at present, so be careful with hygiene.

This is a call to **Actions Stations!**

We need you to care and to pray.

Have you joined the Family Roll yet?

We need volunteers for the

Emergency Care Team

- Could you call, chat and pray?
- Could you fetch and deliver to the doorstep (but not go in)?

We need volunteers to **clean the church** while it remains open, taking care to protect themselves.

This emergency will test the quality of every person and social institution - the family, local and national government, business, the NHS and of course the Church. While some are filled with fear, and panic-buying, others are rising to the challenge. Let us remember who we follow - a risen Lord and Saviour. If this life is all, then perhaps we should look after ourselves at all costs. But if Christ is risen, then "He has given us and has won the victory. Therefore, beloved, be steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain!" (1 Cor 15.56)

yours in Christ

Graham

A national call to prayer

The GAFCON movement also calls us to join in prayer and fasting to remember the Coronavirus pandemic, and a plague of locusts, devastating the nations of East Africa.

Let us pray and fast for our nations:

- repenting of our sins and asking God's forgiveness
- asking God's intervention
- to stop the spread of this virus
- to stop the locusts
- for healing for those who are sick
- for miraculous provision for the hungry
- to use us, his people, as agents of love and compassion
- to draw people to himself through the saving power of Jesus on the cross.

“Return to Me with all your heart,” says the Lord, “with fasting, weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts, not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him. Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast.” - Joel 2.12-15

Other Resources:

The BBC offers a daily service at 0635 on Radio Devon, and 0945 Radio 4 Long wave, and Sunday services. I hope they will radically improve this offering!

Some churches are ‘live-streaming’ Sunday or daily services through Facebook, YouTube or their websites. The digital version of this bulletin will have some links.

Zoom into Action!

Need help to pray? Why not join others in the Zoom Prayer Meeting for 30 minutes on Monday (9am), Wednesday (10am) or Friday (9am) from the comfort of your own home? You can join from a web browser, or download the Zoom app onto a laptop, desktop, tablet or smartphone. You’ll need to start your own account - basic is free.

Either click on the Zoom Link <https://zoom.us/j/102163519> or enter the meeting ID.

Meeting ID: 102 163 519

To call in by phone, call

[0203 481 5240](tel:02034815240), [102 163 519](tel:102163519)

Light a candle of hope:

The Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a call for all churches and people of prayer to join on Mothering Sunday, 22nd March in a National Day of Prayer and Action. At a time when many are fearful and uncertain, let us turn to our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Pray for the sick and those bereaved:

Vera Rodgers (Janet Bishop’s mother), Frances Swan, Dami Tanimowo, (husband of Rieta and Richard Murray’s granddaughter), Jane Bailey, Frank White (Roy’s son), Rob Martin, Eric and Marion Lodge, Christine and Graham Downing, Lawrence Hall, Nancy Adams, Rose Maina, Mark Saralis, Jonathan Duff. The families of Brian Marnham & John Perry.

Mothering Sunday United Service

**“So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.”** Isaiah 41 v 10

How amazing it is to know that we have a great God. He is always with us! In this spirit churches together in Bovey Tracey are Livestreaming a collective act of worship on Sunday morning. Although all churches will be closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak we can still worship our great God together. We would love you to engage with the service. Below are the details, joining instructions and ways to contribute.

Date of next service: Sunday 22nd March

Time of service: 10:30am to 11:45am

Location: livestream: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3xnfTeZBF1YGLeRyf_4flg

Livestream e-mail: abi@boveybaptist.org.uk

Text or WhatsApp: 07971422431

Children: As well as having a children’s talk, parents can request a children’s resources from one of the Children & Family Workers. Contact abi@boveybaptist.co.uk

Contributions: We would love to hear from you with any notices, news, thoughts or prayer requests that you would like to be shared during the service. Please e-mail these to abi@boveybaptist.org.uk ideally before 6pm on Saturday.

During the service there will be an interactive platform for comments and questions. You can text or WhatApp 07971422431

Welcome & notices	Jon Evans
Children's Talk	Abi Evans
Children's Song	Tom Hayes
Bible reading	Naomi Greenwood
Ministry	Rev Graham Hamilton
Questions & Answer	Panel
Song	Tom Hayes
Prayers	Naomi Greenwood
Song	Tom Hayes
Closing Thoughts	Rev Mark Godbeer

Monday 23 March: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (Life in the light)
Pray for the Government to act with wisdom and resolution to protect the peace, health and prosperity of the nation

Tuesday 24 March: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 (Pray for us)
Give thanks for the work of the NHS, and pray for God to give strength to hard pressed doctors, nurses, paramedics, administrators cooks and cleaners.

Wednesday 25 March: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 (God of justice)
Pray for the shops, transport and suppliers to keep essential goods available to all.

Thursday 26 March: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 (God of power)
Pray for all who are sick for whatever cause, for those self-isolating and afraid

Friday 27 March: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (God of love)
Pray for those who draw near to death, for those who mourn but cannot attend funerals

Saturday 28 March: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18 (God of peace)
Give thanks for Bovey Coronavirus Action and pray that help may reach those in greatest need.

Sunday 29 March: Psalm 96 (Worship and witness)
Pray for the church to grow closer to God in prayer, and serve in the grace and strength which he supplies.

Contacts

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The Church Room is now closed for all bookings until further notice

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pptbovey>