

Press release

St Stephen's prepares for Corona Epidemic

St Stephen's Canterbury Church Council met last Thursday and agreed plans to maintain services and pastoral work whilst also reducing the risk of transmitting infection. Fr Kevin Maddy, priest in charge, said "we have a lot of elderly and vulnerable people in our parish, and we want to protect them and also make sure they can still get the support and comfort the Church can provide".

Parishioners have already stopped shaking hands and sharing the cup at communion; other hygiene measures will include stopping handing round the collection plate, regularly disinfecting door knobs and light switches and briefing those welcoming worshippers to minimise the risk of cross infection from hymn books and service sheets.

We are experimenting with posting services on youtube for those who need to stay at home to avoid infection. The church will offer prayers for those affected by the epidemic at 10 am and 4 pm each day; all are invited to join these prayers at those times, wherever they are. The pastoral group will keep in touch with vulnerable people they know about who are staying in to protect themselves. Contacts will be by phone and include helping with shopping when it can safely be done. Anyone needing such support or knowing someone who does can contact them on pastoralcare@ststephenscanterbury.net.

Things are changing quickly; updates will be posted on the parish website: ststephenscanterbury.net.

End of Press release

