

Dear Friends

As we become a bit more used to our rather reduced lifestyle, lots of us are discovering new ways to keep in touch and to grow our faith. Maybe our enforced retreat-time at home will provide new opportunities to spend time with God, developing our understanding of our faith, learning more about his word and praying for our needs and the needs of others, both those close to us and people in other lands where the Covid-19 virus is even more dangerous. I am especially concerned for the many millions living in refugee camps, forced to flee violence only to find an even more terrible foe.

To help us all in our daily walk with God we have published various suggested guides on our website. Some are to help every-day, we have also uploaded the complete Lent Course that was sadly curtailed when we could no longer meet together. We will also produce a Sunday service each week. Last week Janys, the Reader in Hambleton, created a lovely 'Visual Mothering Sunday' service and this week I will lead a Virtual Morning Prayer. The outline of the service will be available for you to download via the St Mary's, Hambleton website, and this will help you to participate in the service as it plays.

There is more information on our St. Mary's, Hambleton website about other resources to help us in these challenging times.

Our communities are discovering new ways of being community at time when we can't meet up and share meals, go for a drink, enjoy a cup of tea together. My colleague Rev Becky has been working hard with others in the Carlton and Drax Community to set up a Community Support Group for those and nearby villages. Hambleton Village has a new and enthusiastic team, almost ready, to support vulnerable members of our community with medicine collection, shopping or just a friendly phone call. More details will be available soon. If you are in a vulnerable group or know of someone in the village who is, please make sure you and they know what help is available, and do ask when you need it!

A prayer:

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.