

Dear friends

I hope you are keeping well, I know many of us are increasingly worried as the Corona Virus crisis spreads further through our communities.

By now many in our congregations will have been forced to self-isolate. I know this was really difficult over the weekend when we had to restrict visits to our families and especially our mothers. I'm grateful to David and Janys for facilitating a visual Mothering Sunday/Mothers' Day service.

It looks as though we are in this for the long haul, so it is important for us all to work out ways to support and encourage each other. There are lots of ways we can do this. A quick telephone call, or WhatsApp message. Maybe a FaceTime or Skype call. How about praying for each other, or sending each other Bible verses or hymns or songs we are finding helpful.

Christine Gillespie and I will publish our notes for the Lent Course and I will ask David Brown to put them on the St Mary's Website. (St Mary's Church Hambleton Selby).

The BBC Daily service 9.45 each day on Radio 4 and Choral Evensong 3.30 Radio 3 are good ways of keeping a special time each day. The Church of England Website has many helpful links to help us stay in touch with God and maybe even find new ways of growing our faith and hope, even though we can't meet together for worship as we would normally do.

Over the weekend while we were working in our garden, we felt the growing warmth of the spring sunshine and were delighted to see so many signs of new growth. We were surrounded by wonderful birdsong, all serving to remind us that God is faithful and we will get through this crisis.

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**