



The Rectory
Church Square
Melbourne
DE73 8JH

Wednesday 17th March 2020

Dear friends,

On Tuesday 17th March, the Archbishops of York and Canterbury issued a statement that all public worship in the Church of England is suspended 'for a season.' This forms part of the national strategy to cope with the coronavirus.

Melbourne Parish Church will remain open during daylight hours for anyone who would like to pray or reflect in a building where so many have sought and found comfort for almost 900 years.

Whether we are gathered together in an ancient building or at home or in the street, we remain part of the family of the church 'gathered or dispersed'.

These are undoubtedly strange times where some of us may feel anxious or afraid or lonely. Our faith in Jesus Christ inspires us to be people of hope even in the darkest times. It also inspires us to be people who love without counting the cost. So 'love one another' in the form a phone call, being kind to one another or why not write someone in self-isolation a postcard or a letter? Texting and emails also may work wonders.

Along with our pastoral care, we will be exploring ways of helping people to worship at home including livestreaming worship and booklets to download, collect from church (where possible) or have delivered. Please do 'like' our Facebook page (Melbourne Parish Church) to get the latest news as well as our website www.melbourneparishchurch.org.uk. We will also be in regular contact through the parish bulletin that will be emailed out as usual, copies left in church or to be downloaded from the website.

Please do get in touch if you would like to using the information below. We are here to serve and look out for one another especially in these coming days and months.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it
John 1.5

May God bless you,

The Revd Steve Short
Rector of Melbourne, Smisby, Stanton-By-Bridge and Ticknall

rector@melbourneparishchurch.org.uk
01332 864741