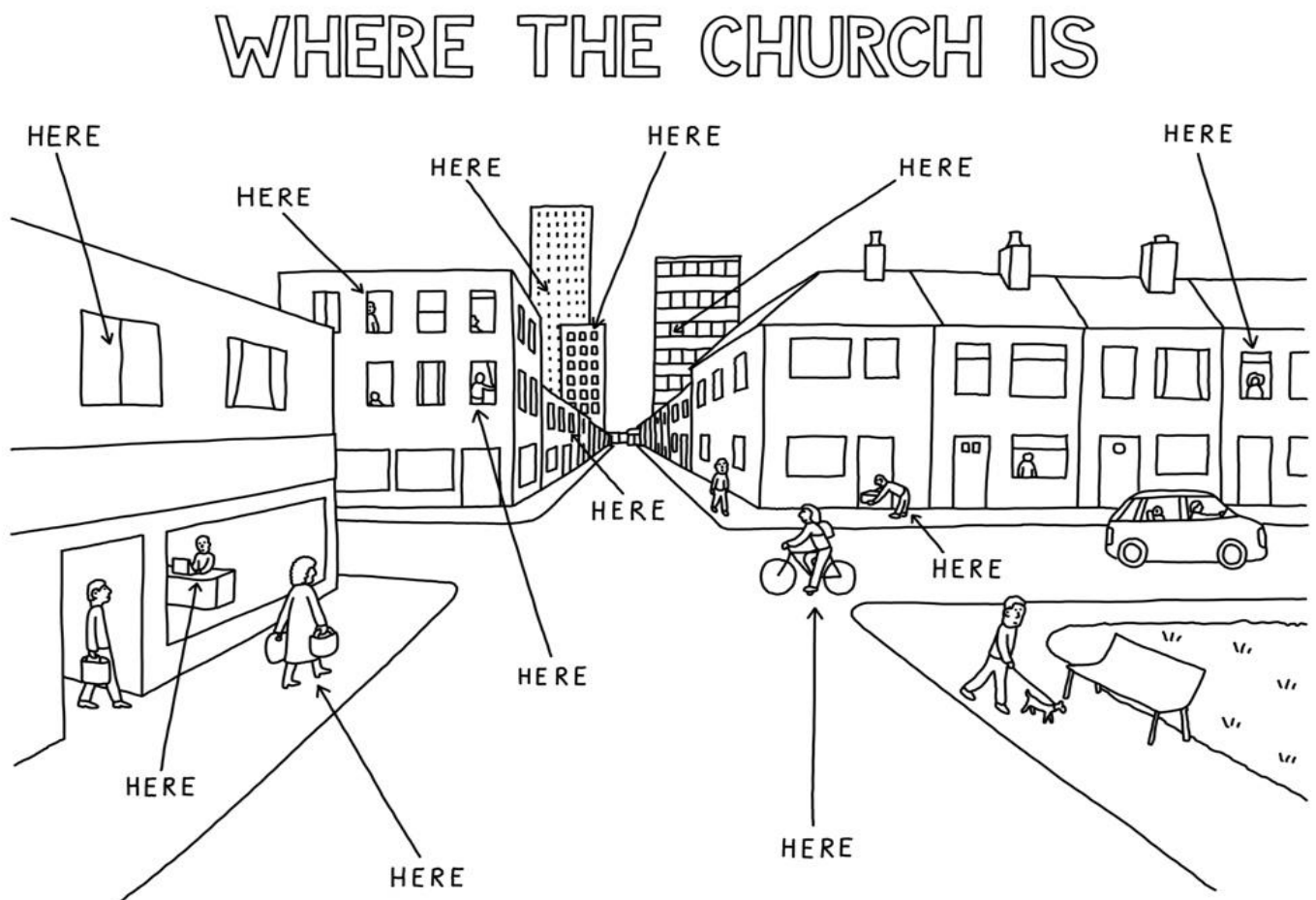


Dear Church,

I thought I would contact you via email as it's probably the safest and best way of doing so at the moment. I hope that you find this helpful and that you'll pass this on to local church friends. You won't be able to see who this has been sent to apart from yourself though. I want to start by saying that I know that you, like me, are processing and reeling from what has been an enormous shock to us all; the fast pace of change has thrown us all. Whatever state of emotional and mental turmoil you are in, I know that one thing is sure - God is in control. None of this is a surprise to Him and He has resources and provision for us all in this strange new landscape. He has not abandoned us, and His gifts of peace, hope and love are there for us whenever we ask Him. He says to us – as He said to the disciples many times – 'Do not be afraid, for I am with you.'

Church Services

I think it's common knowledge by now that no churches are holding services open to the public. That might be a funny way of putting it but I don't want us to think that church is closed. We are the church, and as long as we can worship God in song and prayer, serve him by serving others and enjoy reading his word and hearing from him, then the church is open. Yes, in ordinary times, meeting together is a prerequisite for being church, unfortunately we can't do that just now, but, as Vera Lynn put it, *we'll meet again*.



What we can do together

Pray

In the meantime we can meet together by doing things at the same time together - as couples, in families or individually we can commit to all pray together at the same time – we are doing this at eight on Thursdays, am or pm. Please pray for our safety and protection, for the health service and all those who care for the weak and vulnerable, for those who are coordinating and providing vital services for the whole country. If you want to you can use the church building during the week for personal prayer and worship. It will be open all day every day and there are some very helpful resources in there to help us focus on what's important.

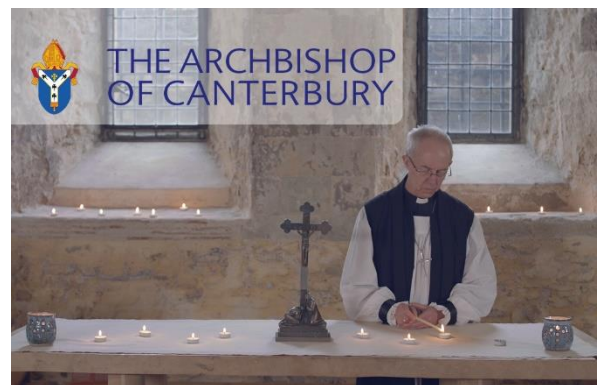
Worship

May I encourage you to set aside time on Sunday, either on your own or with your family, to worship Jesus through reading the Bible, prayer and listening to worship music (why not sing along too!) It's vital that in these times we remain strong and rooted in Jesus, seeking to live in faith and love rather than fear.

To help you, here are three ways that you can still connect to some sort of service of worship this Sunday, either via radio, TV or the internet.

Radio

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is to lead a service that will be broadcast nationally on Sunday morning on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship at 8:10 and all local BBC radio stations in England at 8am and will premier online at 9am on Sunday. Click [here](#) for more details.



TV

Songs of Praise will be showing a special Mothering Sunday episode on BBC 1 at 1:15pm.

More details here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gpq6>

Online

Holy Trinity Brompton Church, London, will be streaming their Sunday services online at 9:30; 11:00; 12:30; 14:00; 15:30; 17:00; 18:30; 20:00 and 21:30. Plenty of options to choose a time that works for you. Click [here](#) for more details.

There are many churches that are streaming services – we hope to as well, in time - so have a look online for a church that you particularly like and see if they are streaming this Sunday. [A Church Near You](#) has a handy resource to find one [here](#).



In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, Presidents of CTE are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer & Action On Sunday 22nd March

This Sunday

Churches together in the UK are calling for this Sunday (22nd) to be a day of shared prayer and action. Prayer about the current crisis and action by placing a lighted candle in your window at 7pm – to signify the Light of the World and his salvation for all. Please join us this Sunday in praying and shining a light in this dark hour. Click [here](#) for more details.

I've listed some links at the end to help you remain in contact with other Christians and be sustained by God's word and his love through this difficult time. Take the chance to have a look through them. We are also trying to update our church web site with daily scriptures, thoughts and information. If you think of it, take a look at it as often as you can. The church web site is at www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk.

Our prayer is that we can all find the cornerstone of our lives in Jesus. We are praying that the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God

With every blessing in him,

Anthony and Tessa

HELPFUL LINKS

Bishop Donald's message on the Coronavirus outbreak.



Help with prayer from the 24/7 Site.



Personal Prayer Tips

Praying about Coronavirus



General Coronavirus guidance from the Church of England.



Daily Tearfund Lent Mailings, very helpful guides



Church of England FAQ page



Daily Prayer from the CoE

