

Guidelines from the Government and the Church of England are rapidly changing for us all due to the Coronavirus.

The situation is:

All church services are suspended. St Mary's will be open for private prayer at the times of our usual advertised service and prayer gatherings. People must sit at a distance with no physical contact or handshaking. No one of an age or physical conditions who should be self-isolating or with any symptoms of illness should come to church, but we can drop off prayer cards and recommend prayer and reading including online or phone app resources. Please contact us and we'll help you.

The prayer cards we're producing will be available for people to use in church, but once handled must then be taken away. No bibles, hymn books or pencils and paper will be available to limit any cross contamination. Hand sanitisers and tissues are available as well as soap from dispensers in the toilets, as we follow the hygiene recommendations.

Any booked weddings can only go ahead with 5 people present ie the couple, priest and two witnesses. No organist or music through any equipment and no other people may be present. Any booked baptisms/christenings can only go ahead with the minimum of people present ie the person being baptised, their parents/guardians/carers, godparents/sponsors, the minister and no others. This can only take place outside of a usual timed service, because all church services are suspended.

Anyone who wishes to postpone these special occasions in the light of these guidelines, must please speak to the Vicar, Revd Gerry Foster, who has already been trying to contact everyone. Any monies already paid out for weddings will be fully reimbursed.

Unfortunately no further bookings of weddings and baptisms will be taken, until the situation is clearer / current restrictions are lifted.

We are so sorry and continue to support you in prayer and any other ways open to us. We are all in this together and, together, will make a positive difference. Take every care.

In prayer and care: Revd Gerry Foster, Vicar St Mary's Watton