

**The Benefice & Team Ministry of Tettenhall Wood and Perton**  
**The Parish of Tettenhall Wood**

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To all members of Christ Church and Good Shepherd

Dear Friends,

We are all aware of the huge changes to our ways of living that have been caused by the outbreak of coronavirus Covid-19. In the same way we are having to make radical changes to the ways we operate as churches. As with everything else, the situation is fluid and what is said today may change by tomorrow, but I want to outline to you how we are responding as things stand.

- First, as you are probably aware, **all Sunday services and midweek gatherings are SUSPENDED** until further notice. But this does not mean the church has shut down!
- Christ Church remains **OPEN** for private prayer during the daytime on weekdays, and will now also be open on Saturdays and Sundays for individuals to come to pray. Good Shepherd will be open on Sunday mornings, and it may be possible to extend this if required. Please ensure that if other people are present when you come in that you keep the approved 'safe distance'.
- Contact: In most circumstances, normal person to person contact is not possible, but it's very important we keep in touch.
  - By Phone: Jane & Steph at GS and Veronica at CC are putting arrangements in place so everyone (especially those who have self-isolated) gets at least a weekly call. If you want to get in touch, the parish office remains a point of contact: 01902 238988
  - By email: If you use email, make sure the parish office has your up to date address so you can receive latest information ([info@christchurchtettenhallwood.co.uk](mailto:info@christchurchtettenhallwood.co.uk))
  - Using the Website: [www.christchurchtettenhallwood.co.uk](http://www.christchurchtettenhallwood.co.uk) is updated regularly with news and resources. Please keep an eye on this, as it's the easiest way to send out information. This is now a joint website for GS and CC.
  - By WhatsApp: the WhatsApp contact and support group really comes into its own when we can't meet in person. If you'd like to join, please contact Russell at CC (07527 591608) and Steph at GS (07815 764296)
- Prayer and Worship: We cannot meet together, but the voice of prayer is not silenced.
  - For Sundays, especially, I am sending out with this letter a form of Morning Prayer with readings and prayers covering the next three Sundays and a shortened sermon for this week. I hope you find this helpful to keep to the themes we have been thinking about this Lent in our parish.

**The Parish of Tettenhall Wood**

*Christ Church, Tettenhall Wood & The Church of the Good Shepherd, Castlecroft*

**The Parish of Perton**

*The Church At Perton (A Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Church of England and the United Reformed Church)*  
Parish Office Tel: 01902 238988 e-mail: [info@christchurchtettenhallwood.co.uk](mailto:info@christchurchtettenhallwood.co.uk)

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- Midweek, it's been suggested we all pause for at least a moment's prayer and reflection three times a day, at 9.00am, 12.00 and 6.00pm, creating a rhythm of shared prayer. More ideas will follow.
- This Sunday (22 March) we are all asked to put a candle in the window at 7.00pm as a sign of hope and solidarity with those who are suffering.
- Practical Support:
  - Some church members have already made offers of practical help (e.g. with shopping) and if there are others who can do this, please get in touch. If you need that sort of support, or know someone who does, do not hesitate to tell us. Although our human resources are limited, we can do what we can to help not only church members but our neighbourhoods too.
  - Don't forget those in greatest need: it's really important collections for GoodShepherd ministries ('Little Brothers') and Good Shepherd Relief in Need do not dry up, and the Mothers' Union support for the Haven is as vital as ever.
  - Finally, if at all possible, please do not stop your regular giving to the church. Very few of our costs are reduced, but we have lost hall-hire income for the time-being.

I want to thank everyone who is contributing to keeping the church going and supporting in many and various ways.

If you know someone in the church who hasn't received this letter, please pass it on. And if you're someone who's receiving it 'second hand', please don't be offended. Getting things to everyone in the church is hard enough in normal times, and these are far from normal times. If you would like to receive future letters and updates please get in touch with your e-mail address or home address.

We remain the body of Christ in this area and working together (even when apart) we represent Christ to those around us. The Christian message is one of hope, even (especially) in the darkest places and times. So let's keep hopeful, and keep offering hope to the wider world.

Wishing you every blessing in Christ Jesus,

Phil

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