

**St Augustine's Skirlaugh, St Lawrence's Sigglesthorne, St Margaret's Long Riston, All Saints' Rise, St Michael's Catwick, St John the Baptist Bewholme, St Mary's Swine with St James' Old Ellerby**

**Coronavirus Statement – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

As I am sure you are aware from the news, there have been changes to the way we need to live and worship in light of the government's Coronavirus guidelines. Whilst the situation is changing every day, I wanted to inform you of the steps we will be taking at this difficult and challenging time.

Our first priority must be to protect one another and to reduce the pressure on the NHS and other services at this time.

So, following the advice issued by the NHS, The UK Gov and the Church of England, as your Church:

- a. We will encourage those classed as vulnerable to self-isolate and support them as best we can.
- b. All Public Acts of Worship, events and meetings are to be suspended until further notice (this does not include Weddings and Funerals at this time)
- c. We will offer home communion packs and I will conduct a short communion service over the phone for those who wish, please let me have phone numbers and addresses of those who would like this. Communion packs will be available for collection from St Augustine's church from Friday.
- d. We will look to "live feed" some services – please find me on Facebook and hopefully other platforms.
- e. St Augustine's Skirlaugh will remain open during day light hours for private prayer and for people to light a candle (please bring your own hand gel and observe general handwashing and physical distancing guidelines).
- f. We will endeavour to be available to anyone who needs assistance, especially those who are self-isolating, regarding the delivery of shopping etc.
- g. We will provide a food bank drop off in St Augustine's Church again (There will be increased pressure on Foodbanks!)
- h. Those who wish to be contacted regularly by telephone will receive a call from me or one of our volunteers – please do make yourself known to us!

I would encourage you all to follow the government advice as it is issued, be aware of your neighbours' needs – perhaps using the slip below, refrain from using supermarket delivery services if you are not self - isolating, use local businesses where possible, consider how you might continue to support your church financially, and continue to pray...

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.

**Amen.**

And finally, please do not feel lonely, afraid or isolated – Jesus said that He “is with us always” - please do ring me 01964 564634 or message me. If I'm not there I will get back to you. For more information see our website, your own local civic parish council website and the links below.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Andy Simpson

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/>

<https://www.skirlaughchurch.org.uk/>

**HELLO!** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is .....

I live locally at .....

My phone number is .....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. **#ViralKindness**

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