

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

1. Preface by the Dean

I have convened a Cathedral COVID-19 task group that is meeting and conferring regularly to make the necessary decisions relating to every aspect of our common life. This document sets out our advice to the Cathedral community, and will be continually updated as and when required. As you will see, we are drawing on national advice (both from the government and the Church of England) in setting out recommendations that relate to the specifics of Cathedral life, from worship to events to pastoral care.

We will continue to pray daily for all affected, and to do all we can to ensure the well-being of our staff, volunteers, worshipping community and visitors whilst seeking to maintain the Cathedral's work and mission at this critical time. Our particular concern is for the needs of the elderly, the vulnerable and the isolated.

Anthony Cane

2. General advice from the NHS

Symptoms of 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19)

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness.

The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

How 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19) is spread

Because it's a new illness, we do not know exactly how 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19) spreads from person to person.

Similar viruses are spread in cough droplets.

It's very unlikely it can be spread through things like packages or food.

How to avoid catching or spreading 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19)

Do

- ✓ wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- ✓ use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- ✓ cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- ✓ put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- ✓ try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- ✓ Greet other people using eye contact rather than physical contact

Don't

- × do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- × do not shake hands with other people

What to do if you think you might have 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19)

If you think you might have 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19) or you've been in close contact with someone who has it:

- stay at home and avoid close contact with other people
- do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
- use the NHS 111 online 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19) service to find out what to do next

The 111 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19) service will tell you if you need to continue to stay at home (self-isolate) or if you need medical help.

3. How the Cathedral may operate

The Cathedral

As noted in the Dean's summary <https://www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/downloads-index> the Cathedral will follow the Archbishop's advice to:

- Offer Communion in one kind only to all communicants i.e. the consecrated bread/wafer/host, with the priest alone taking the wine;
- suspend handshaking or other direct physical contact during the sharing of the peace;
- suspend direct physical contact as part of a blessing or 'laying on of hands'.

Further where practical worshippers should be spaced out in the pews. Government advice is to be at least 2 metres (7 feet) away from other people and sidespeople will be advised to not group individuals. An option to consider would be to use the Nave for services.

The Notices each week will now repeat the advice and update on any changes. The presiding priest at each service will announce any changes and re-enforce messages such as no physical contact during the Peace at appropriate part so each service.

Some services to be live streamed through Facebook and available through YouTube for those unable to attend services.

Pastoral Care If you have any concern especially for those who may feel particularly vulnerable at this time, you are encouraged to contact Canon Jo Spreadbury 023 9275 2335 jo.spreadbury@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk or Canon Kathryn Percival 023 9282 3300 extn 229 kathryn.percival@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk.

Possible future steps. These may include:

- reverting to the use prayer and hymn books and standard service sheets. Dependent on health advice
- live streaming of services on the website if as on the continent all public meetings are forbidden by government may be instituted
- cancelling planned foreign choir tours
- cancelling planned events and concerts in the Cathedral/Becket Hall

The Cathedral Office

Our first concern is for the health and wellbeing of all including staff and volunteers. Further we all need to be aware that any transmission of the disease would not only be to our colleagues but possibly to the people they live and interact with at home who may have underlying health conditions that put them at a great health risk if they contract 'Coronavirus' (COVID-19).

A number of steps will be taken including increased use of remote working and virtual or conference calls.

Possible future steps

- In the hopefully unlikely event that we have to close the offices there will be an update.

14.03.2020