



March 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear

I hope and pray that you are keeping well in these strange and difficult times.

As, I'm sure you are aware, the coronavirus outbreak has escalated and the latest government guidance has directed churches to close altogether. This is not easy, particularly in such troubling times, however Smethwick Old Church, like all churches, is not the building but the people. We are brothers and sisters in Christ; we are 'one body' and nothing can separate us from the love of God and of one another.

With this in mind, I would like to invite you to join me in some acts of worship. For this purpose, I have enclosed an order of service for the rest of Lent and for the Easter season along with the readings and collects. I will be leading these services from home at 10:15am on Sundays and invite you all from your own homes, in solidarity with one another, to join me so that, although we cannot see each other, we will be connected through a common act of prayer and worship.

I hope you will find the routine of praying and worshipping together through this difficult time helpful.

For those who have internet access, I will be posting some resources for Holy Week and Good Friday on our website [www.smethwickoldchurch.org.uk](http://www.smethwickoldchurch.org.uk) You will also find links to other prayer and worship resources which can be found on the Church of England Birmingham website.

May God bless you and keep you,

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