



Portway and Danebury Team
Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

Team Rector

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Thursday 24th March 2020

An open letter to our parishioners

Dear Friends,

What a difference a day makes!

We are now officially in 'Lock Down' mode, which means no going out except for essentials: food and medicines. I am still awaiting full briefing from the Church of England which is working so hard in this unsettled time, as are all our bishops, archdeacons, communications teams and other diocesan staff, and we need to hold them in our prayers rather than getting frustrated.

*Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you
long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you,
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this
journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony*

Richard Gillard



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Weddings

Despite what I wrote yesterday, all weddings are now cancelled for the foreseeable future. My heart goes out to all those who have made such wonderful plans, and whose dreams now feel battered and bruised. Once we have more news we can reschedule.

Baptisms (Christenings)

These too need to be postponed, except in an emergency, in which case phone me.

Church Doors

This really breaks my heart. When I arrived in The Wallops and discovered that St Peter's Church Door was kept locked, I vowed that it would be open within a year, and it has been now for a decade. Today I will not be unlocking the church doors.

All our churches now have to be kept locked. I hope wherever you are, you will be able at least to glimpse part of the church building and know that God is not closed, and that your prayers are still heard.

Stay in Touch

Please use your phone! We need to remain in human contact, and a voice will bring so much more comfort than a text or email (as good as they are).

Look for the Good

Following yesterday's bulletin, I know that Rainbows are beginning to appear in windows. Please look for them as you take your safe distance exercise.

Keep safe everyone, keep home,

With love and blessings,

Vanessa