



The Diocese of Southwark

The Venerable Simon Gates
Archdeacon of Lambeth

The Ven John Kiddle
Archdeacon of Wandsworth

The Ven Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Archdeacon of Croydon

The Ven Moira Astin
Archdeacon of Reigate

The Venerable Dr Jane Steen
Archdeacon of Southwark

The Ven Alastair Cutting
Archdeacon of Lewisham &
Greenwich

To the Clergy of the Archdeaconries

Parish Halls, Associated Activities and Coronavirus (March 24th 2020)

Many of you have asked us about this. After consultation with other dioceses and locally, we suggest:

- 1) Projects run by groups hiring your hall or other premises are cancelled. This includes uniformed organisations, counselling, 12 step programmes, similar programmes such as NA, AA and so on.

It may be that some of these can continue on Zoom which allows free access for meetings of up to forty minutes involving multiple people. Skype is another option.

- 2) Projects which the church itself runs should also to be cancelled with certain exceptions.
 - a. Night shelters are coming to an end, but if you need to remain open for a few nights while alternative accommodation is sourced, do so. Wash thoroughly with hot water and soap; use bleach and bleach-based cleaning fluids to clean the premises. Washing done in a machine should be fine but wash at as hot a temperature as possible.
 - b. Foodbanks should be continued especially where you are seeing a surge in local demand. If you can run the food bank from a hall or similar rather than the church, do so. If you can maintain social distancing by receiving requests and bagging food, do so. If you can wear gloves, again, do so (the virus can last for 48 hrs on cardboard). If you can avoid clients entering the building, by leaving bags in an agreed place, do so. Please ensure that you maintain spatial distancing (2m) between volunteers. If you are running a Trussell Trust foodbank, communicate with the relevant manager.
 - c. Other projects which mean that people who could be hungry are fed such as lunch clubs should not go ahead but do whatever you can to ensure that food is taken to those who would come. Do please liaise within the deanery here since some supermarkets may be offering food and you may be able to help ensure that this is distributed.

As always, do check the Church of England, Diocesan and Government websites for updates and expect advice to change as things move on.

Thank you for all that you are doing. This comes, as ever, with our prayers.

The Archdeacons of the Diocese.