

Statement on the Coronavirus Outbreak

Whilst the number of confirmed cases in Wales is small we discussed at our last Trustee's meeting what we, as a Church, could do in practical terms to support one another and adhere to best practice procedures issued by the UK Chief Medical officer.

Although we are in the very early stages of this epidemic, the virus is likely to cause widespread illness before peaking in late Spring or the early Summer months. Until then we would urge that the following protocols be implemented:

Wash hands, with soap and warm water, for at least 20 seconds several times a day and in particular after coughing or sneezing, or before preparing food (including communion).

Please cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze, and put used tissues in the bin straightaway and wash your hands afterwards.

Those who have travelled back from a high-risk area (as defined by the UK Government at that time) should self-isolate. We urge members of the church family who self-isolate to let us know this, so that we can find ways of offering appropriate pastoral care during this time. If you feel unwell let someone know but stay at home.

We recommend restricting physical contact. In particular, those who are on door duty should not pre-offer their hands or instigate hugs as a form of greeting and this restriction can apply to the wider congregation. In the light of the current situation, we are sure that regular Church goers and visitors will fully appreciate and understand the reason for this caution and the lack of physical contact should not, in any way, detract from the warm welcome we give to visitors. If you choose to accept an invitation to shake hands or hug we recommend you avoid touching your face before using a hand sanitiser.

In addition to our normal cleaning procedures, we will instruct our cleaners to wipe all door handles and light switches with a disinfectant wipe. We would also ask leaders of all activities within the Church to do likewise after each session.

Communion will be operated with individual cups as usual, and bread will be pre-cut, in order to avoid handling by multiple people.

We will endeavour to have hand sanitizers, tissues and disinfectant surface wipes strategically placed at locations throughout the Church, subject to supplies being available. How can we respond to this outbreak in a Christ-like way? We should bear in mind that taking sensible precautions is not principally an act of self-protection, but primarily an action designed to protect others, particularly the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions, who may be at risk in our congregation and our community. We should continue to be open-hearted and attentive to the lonely, the vulnerable, those in crisis and the anxious, both within the church and beyond with faith in God.

We will update this statement as the situation progresses.

On behalf of the Pastor and Trustees