

A Message from the Reverend Sean Semple



What sudden and significant changes to our way of life we are encountering?

It goes without saying that as a church our first concern is for all God's people: those sick, those caring for others and for all those who are finding isolation and a disruption to the rhythm of life unsettling and uncomfortable. I am mindful of the stress that your personal circumstances must be bearing upon many of you. For those suffering financially, organisations such as Christians Against Poverty offer free advice on all aspects of money management and debt.

St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye and St Michaels and All Angels, Walford will be open during the day to provide a quiet space for prayer for those who would find this of benefit in their daily lives.

Within these very troubling and uncertain times I, along with all my fellow clergy, have a leading role to play in providing support in the community. We are so very aware of the

financial strain this crisis places on many people – but equally, I would like to ask you to remember your church and its ministry. With church services suspended until further notice, we are not receiving our usual income through the collection – and this of course has serious financial implications for us.

The most effective way of offering your support is through the **Parish Giving Scheme**. The administration of this is provided free of charge to us at St Mary's and to the other two churches in the Benefice. Regular donations are collected by direct debit and income tax reclaimed under Gift Aid before being passed on to us after only a matter of days each month. It is a simple matter to join the scheme and if you would like someone to guide you through this process please contact [Peter Raddenbury](#) on 01989 218295. Please refer to the 'Giving' section on the [website](#) for more information about how you can obtain the relevant forms.

At the moment, as we have had to curtail our fundraising activity for the foreseeable future to ensure that social contact is minimised, your regular contributions are even more important to us.

I wish you all well and offer you my blessing.

The Rev'd Sean Semple

Rector