



Seeking to serve the community of Bramcote

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BRAMCOTE

These are extraordinary and unsettling times. The effects of the coronavirus are visible locally, nationally and internationally. Here at your local parish church, we want to look out not just for our church members but for all the people of Bramcote, the community that we serve. We're all caught up in this and we'd like to encourage everyone to love their neighbour and do all they can for the people who live here.

Here are some suggestions:

- **KEEP UP TO DATE.** If you have a computer, visit our website (<https://saintmichaelsbramcote.com>) for regular updates on what is happening in the community.
- **NEED HELP?** Let us know if you have any specific needs at this time that we or others can help you with, and let us know of other people you are particularly concerned about. (See overleaf for our email, phone number and postal address.)
- **OFFERS OF HELP?** Let us know if you can offer any help. We may be able to put you in touch with those who need it.
- **ANYTHING ELSE?** Let us know if there are other ways in which we can all help others at this difficult time.
- **PRAYER.** If you pray, please do pray for everyone in our community. You can do this at home. Also, although services at St Michael's are now suspended, the church lounge will be open for private prayer from 10am to noon every weekday. We simply ask you to remain at a distance from others attending at the same time. We are also going to provide daily reflections and Sunday on-line services via the parish website.
- **FOODBANK.** Do think of the most vulnerable people. As a church we send weekly donations of food and toiletries to a local foodbank. Donations can be left at St Michael's between 10am and noon every weekday. It is likely that large volumes of donated food and toiletries will be needed over the next weeks and months.

Please help us to respond appropriately to any kind of need at this time.

Thank you

Revd Paul Reynolds (Vicar)

Tom Clifford and Stan Heptinstall (Churchwardens)

An Easter Message

We are indeed experiencing extraordinary and unsettling times - as they were on that first Good Friday when Jesus was crucified. His death was marked by the dividing wall in the temple being torn in two, an earthquake and His terrified disciples hiding behind locked doors in fear of their lives. In so many ways the sun had stopped shining and darkness had come over the whole land.

Yet, astonishingly, three days later on that first Easter Day, Jesus, as He said He would, rose from the dead. In various Biblical accounts we hear that He broke bread with His disciples, twice appeared to them in the locked room where they were hiding, and had breakfast with them by the lakeside. St. Paul wrote that 500 people saw the risen Jesus. For Jesus was alive! And those previously fearful disciples, their lives transformed, spent the rest of their lives telling people the wonderful good news of Jesus throughout much of the then known world. They had had a fresh start, new beginnings to all their lives.

So does this not give us all hope that the love and power of the risen Jesus can turn our darkness into light, so that whatever life may throw at us, however apprehensive we may feel, whatever our circumstances, He is the same Lord who so dramatically changed the lives of those original disciples? We too can have a fresh start, new beginnings.

Undeniably, in the words of our Queen, this is a time of great concern and uncertainty. But what we can be certain of is that Jesus - the same yesterday, today and tomorrow - continues to love and care for us all and He has shown that anything, even death itself, can be overcome.

Contacting us

Walking the Way of the Cross

During the week before Easter which Christians call 'Holy Week', there will be a large white cross on the grass in front of the Church. A welcomer will be in attendance to help you to "Walk the Way of the Cross" which is an ancient tradition of the Christian Church. The welcomer will be there from 10am to noon each weekday, and will provide you and your family with all the information you need. We will of course ensure social distancing.

Website:

<https://saintmichaelsbramcote.com>

Email:

care@bramcoteparishchurch.com

Telephone:

0115 9430137 (Live 10am to noon, Mon-Fri. Leave a message at other times and we will get back to you.)

**St Michael and All Angels Church,
Church Street, Bramcote, NG9 3HD**