

## What the Archbishops say:

Since 17<sup>th</sup> March, when the Archbishops of Canterbury and York had to put the public worship of the Church of England on hold, they have called on Christians to become “a radically different kind of church, rooted in prayer and serving others.”

They have also urged congregations to be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor, and the most vulnerable, during the crisis.

“We may not be able to pray *with* people, but we can certainly pray *for* people.

“And please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure also that the night shelters, wherever possible, are kept open.

“Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.”

They add: “This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves?”

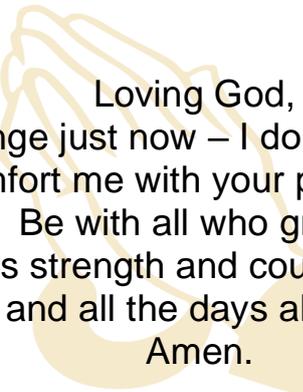
## What we should do in this crisis

Crises bring out the best in people. What has become immediately apparent over the last few weeks is that the reserves of kindness, generosity and love for each other are often far deeper than we could have imagined.

One of the challenges of this specific crisis is how inactive and intangible our help and selflessness must be. We can't lean in, lend a hand and be present in the ways we would normally try to. Distance is a form of kindness and yet feels very unnatural. We have huge admiration for those in the NHS or other critical services who are on the physical frontline treating patients and at greater risk of exposure to the virus, but for most of us there is a sense of helplessness as the most beneficial thing we can do is wash our hands and sit on the sofa.

And we must pray. Pray for medical professionals, and government decision makers. Pray for those who are already isolated and concerned about cutting off vital connections. Pray for people who are at greater risk of more significant consequences of becoming infected. Pray for miracles. And pray for the witness of the church of Jesus Christ.

This is from the EA website at: <https://www.eauk.org>



Loving God,  
Life is so strange just now – I don't know what to do.  
Comfort me with your presence,  
Be with all who grieve  
And give us strength and courage to face this  
and all the days ahead.  
Amen.

Source: Parish Pump

### **Quote of the week:**

Cherish those moments you get to spend with those you love.  
Time is fleeting, life changes, but love remains

### **Everywhere**

Thank you..  
You are the hand that picks me up when I stumble  
You are the shoulder to cry on when times are tough  
You are the light that guides me  
You are the gentle breeze that rocks my boat to the shore  
You are the signpost that shows me where to go  
You are in the trees, the water, the sky  
You are in the smiles of everyone I know  
You are everywhere, right behind me, ready to catch me when I fall –  
So thank you...

