

Dear parents and families of Busbridge CofE Junior School,

These are challenging times but we are part of an amazing community. There are people of faith and none and everything in between all working together to bring the best we can out of a very dark place.

Things are moving at quite a pace nationally but we wanted to send you this note of assurance and reassurance no matter what happens over the coming days, weeks or even months. If any of this is relevant to you or to someone you know, then please feel free to keep it or follow up as below. We recognise that many in our area are already showing signs of love and care. We're working with lots of people, groups, organisations and the council in this area. It is great that people have already checked on neighbours and nearby people but we're aware that there may be some roads which are well cared for but others where this might not be the case. We are also aware that we're in this for the long haul.

Every road loved: road by road care We've had a 'Road Stewards' group across Busbridge for many years (at least 30 years!) and they are the people who deliver your Bridge magazine. They keep a very quiet friendly eye out for people who might be struggling, notice when someone has a baby and might want support (so we can in some situations offer a week of meals) and so on. Right now, we are asking the Road Stewards (or someone else) to be extra aware. This might be reassuring to some – especially if their road hasn't got others doing similar things. Check the church website and our other online pages as we get this up and running.

Find us online in the following places:

www.bhcgodalming.org | facebook: [Busbridge and Hambledon Church](#) | Instagram: [bhcgodalming](#) |
Twitter: [bhc Godalming](#) | You Tube channel: [BHC Godalming](#)

Helping in the long term This situation is not going to disappear in a week or a month. We're creating a wide-ranging sustainable 'offer of help' list of people. Others are doing something similar and we're co-ordinating with some groups over this. We're working with great local people to find a way to sustain those who are in isolation over days, weeks and months. It is amazing what so many people are doing! We'll put info out once we get things going. We'd rather take a bit of time to get it right so that it can last the course than rush it.

Financial support We are already getting reports of people whose family 'cash flow' is quite tight for all sorts of reasons. The church has run an independent charity called CFSF (Church Family Support Fund) for about 20 years. All its dealings are entirely confidential to the four trustees. It is audited by the Charity Commission. We haven't ever shouted about it because we've tried to keep the financial support it offers discrete so that people feel able to accept a bit of support. We don't have huge reserves, but we are willing to empty them in the current situation even if that means we close the charity down. We can't give huge amounts out and it is more about showing people that they are not left behind or forgotten. We've never done this before, but we are considering opening donations up to the whole community so that those with spare funds can ensure others can survive. In the past the donations have just come from regular church goers. We'll ensure that every penny given goes to people in genuine need. All money given goes to local people. We're looking at ways to do this and you'll find out more (including how to confidentially mention someone in need – we are very discrete) on the church website in coming days.

Prayer and peace We are opening Busbridge Church all day, every day with quiet music and short reflective video. You can go in and seek peace there. No-one will disturb you. The church centre toilets will be left open for hand washing. If you go in, please keep a good distance from others. Please see the church (and churchyard) as a safe, quiet space for you. You'll hear the church bell tolling daily. We'd like to suggest everyone prays or pauses to think for 1 minute as you hear it peeling across Busbridge. If we get to a point where we cannot go out, we will leave the church playing the music and prayers 24/7 to cover our community in love.

7pm March 22nd, you are invited to gather your loved ones in a room and join the nation in lighting a candle and spending 3 minutes in reflection, thought or prayer.

Church. We aren't closing up shop at Busbridge Church. We are just moving online. There will be chat rooms and activities (including for youth with a safe space/adult oversight), our youth groups will run virtually, and we're going to post talks, prayers, reflections and sermons. More info soon.

Fearful, lonely? We're setting up a way to chat to people that we can keep going for several months. You might want to offer to be part of it – we all need someone to chat to. We'll have info on the website quite soon.

No one left behind There is a verse in the Bible (1 Thessalonians 5:11) which can be translated 'we ensure that no one is left behind'. It is a beautiful verse. It is a verse for our time and our entire community.

With every blessing at this time,

Rev Simon Taylor (Rector of Busbridge Church, Vice Chair of BJS Governors)

Simon Taylor

Rector of Busbridge&Hambleton and Area Dean of Godalming

A Deanery Family Encouraging, Enthusing & Equipping one another in Christ

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