

Dear all,

The news at present, even for someone like me, an enthusiastic consumer of news, is fatiguing. The headlines from home and abroad confirm the challenges through which we are living and it is easy to be burdened by them. Yesterday whilst on a short walk I saw a bunch of roadside daffodils in bloom, a reminder that better times are coming and even in the midst of these difficult times beauty is present. We all need that reminder especially at present.



Earlier this week I met with the churchwardens to discuss what response we should make to the challenges we face locally and nationally. In the spring and summer the virus seemed, largely, to be elsewhere, and the Cotswolds relatively unscathed. That is not the case as more people in our communities catch the virus and some, tragically, die. With regret and heavy hearts we took the collective decision to suspend church services for the time being. We will meet fortnightly to review that decision.

Online church continues on Sunday at 9.30am: details can be found via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81008957235?pwd=bmVKYnZUbWh0NTRYMGg2VDdlcG5Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 810 0895 7235 Password: VaCE

Or you can find the link via the Benefice website:

<https://www.vace.church/digital-church>

If you need help in setting up, please call Fr Kevin on 01789-778282 or email him at [kevin@grumball.com](mailto:kevin@grumball.com)

We are hoping to offer other forms of complementary worship via Facebook in the near future. Through Advent we shared J. John's booklet 'God with Us'. In order to help us through this time when we won't be meeting together we are going to distribute another daily prayer booklet to church households, 'Everyday Faith.' Everyday Faith is about where and how we encounter God as we go about our lives. Where is God during our daily lives? How do we find God in the fullness of everyday life? We hope we can all begin reading them on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, again Revd Jay and I with others will be supplementing the daily readings with regular social media posts. Using the hashtag #VACEeverydayfaith.

Yesterday was the feast of the Epiphany when the church remembers the coming of the magi; the wise men who paid homage to the infant Christ.

They noticed something strange in the night-sky – others would have been looking at the same sky and noticed nothing unusual.

They felt this strange thing was significant, a message from God – others noticed the strange thing but thought nothing about it.

They set off on a journey that led them to Jesus – others thought it might be a message from God but stayed at home.

Even in this strange time God is at work in the world, my prayer for myself, for you and the churches we belong to is that we would notice the divine in the ordinary, we would see the significance and the opportunity of everyday moments, and that we would gladly and joyfully allow the Holy Spirit to draw us away from the familiar so that we journey ever closer to Jesus and like the magi offer him our worship.

In the midst of our everyday lives we have the opportunity to share the love of God in simple ways. Yesterday, for example, I had the idea of delivering some boxes of chocolates to our local schools. I wanted to thank and affirm, on behalf of all the church family, our teachers and all school staff as they worked hard to adapt to the rapidly changing educational landscape. What things might you do? How might we support the community and one another? Please do let me know as it's always very encouraging to hear your stories of everyday faith and if using social media use #VACEeveryday.

During this lockdown and times of uncertainty and stress it is important to talk to others: to offer and to seek support from others. Please do contact your churchwardens, Jay or myself if you feel lonely or anxious.

Please do pray for each other, and continue to offer the support and encouragement to one another. I give thanks for you all in my prayers.

Every blessing  
Craig

**Digital Church** every Sunday at 9.30am

Log-on details <https://www.vace.church/digital-church>



**Coffee, Chat & Reflect** – Thursdays at 10am – a time to be with via zoom  
<https://zoom.us/j/9688425027?pwd=WEduXk3WTI4NU5tYkx2WVo5UDBwQT09>

Meeting ID: 968 842 5027

Passcode: 1662

## Social media

If you are on Facebook please do follow @Vale&CotswoldEdge which gathers together posts from across the VaCE.

	Craig	Jay
Twitter	@campdenvicar	@RevJayNiblett
Facebook	@campdenvicar	@campdencurate
Instagram	@campdenvic	@revjayniblett
YouTube	@campdenvicar	@jay niblett



**Christianity Explored** - we will be hosting a short course via ZOOM on Tuesday evenings beginning 12th January for people wanting to explore or deepen their faith– you can find more details via this link <https://forms.gle/BNxejaHm1ESavKL98>

## Useful links

Covid-19: Five ways to stay positive through the winter  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55264224>

Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London comments,  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/response-bishop-london-new-covid-19-restrictions>