

The Four Ways Mission Community

St James, Swimbridge | The Holy Name, Gunn | St Paul, Landkey | St Peter, West Buckland | St Michael, East Buckland

Revd Shaun O'Rourke, Priest-in-Charge
2nd April 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to our regular weekly message from the Four Ways Mission Community, which includes St Paul's Church.

Here we are approaching Easter and church doors are closed. Never in my lifetime have I seen anything like this. However, it's being done for all the right reasons as we need to be part of the government scheme to protect the public, to be part of the isolation which we are all facing together.

People have asked me why church is shut to everyone. The response is, as always, the church is not shut: the building is. Because the church building is not the church the people are, the building does not hold God confined, for God is everywhere and with every person, God resides in each of us always there to comfort us, to be part of our lives to build us up and give us strength.

As a priest we are trying to find new ways of sharing the church with others ever moving onward changing, developing to meet the changing world in which we live.

At the moment we are live-streaming services on Facebook on our new Facebook channel. It's called **Mission Prayer Programme** and you can join us every morning at 10am for a Celtic morning prayer or reflection and every Sunday at 10am for a full Sunday communion. Church is being done in a different way to meet people's needs. Our services are going well: 105 joined for our last Sunday service and an average of 30 view every day. You can inbox if you wish prayers to be said for anyone in your community, or loved ones anywhere in the country you can bob in and out or watch it later but it's church and you are part of it.

The link to Mission Prayer is <https://www.facebook.com/mission.prayerprogramme>

Together we will face challenges in our church life and our own personnel life, but together we can share the burdens we can be there for each other.

I am trying to put together teams of callers to get in touch with those in our communities who may be on their own and isolated and if you would like to be part of that please contact us through our website and leave us your phone number and email address and we can set up a virtual meeting or just a phone call to make arrangements to work out how it can work best in our parishes.

Always remember that we are family and should act like one, caring for each other. I am praying that when this is all over, we can hold a celebration at church that involves the whole community and our doors will be flung open, our building will be open and our church return to that place of tranquillity.

May God bless
You all

Fr Shaun