



“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbour needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”

Martin Luther. (1527. Volume 43, Pg. 132: Whether One Should Flee From A Deadly Plague – To Rev. Dr. John Hess)

The hustle and bustle of every day life has changed drastically since the last newsletter; all events have been cancelled, most of us are working remotely and yet the work of faith communities remains more important than ever. From providing online services, bereavement support, tele-friending, dog walks, delivering food packs and aid to those most vulnerable or self isolating and much more.

If you belong to a faith organisation and are doing something to help your local community during the Coronavirus outbreak please do let me know by email at the address below.

This issue of the SFL newsletter mostly provides resources, information and guidance, which I hope you will find beneficial. If you can sew or know anyone who can sew, please look on page 7 for a request on help with PPE.

Thank you for all you are doing; we can all do something to help each other during this difficult time.

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Main Faith Festivals in April 2020

- 9-16: Passover (Jewish)
- 10: Good Friday (Christian)
- 12: Easter Day (Christian)
- 13-15: Songkran (Buddhist)
- 13: Vaisakhi (Sikh)
- 20-1May: Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 21: Yom Ha-Shoah (Jewish)
- 21: Adar Mah Parab (Zoroastrian)
- 24 April-23 May Ramadan (Muslim)
- 29: Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Jewish)

For a description of the festivals please visit: [Religious Festivals](#)

An Imagined Letter from Covid-19 to Humans - by Kristin Flyntz (edited)

Stop. Just stop.

It is no longer a request. It is a mandate.

We will help you.

We will bring the supersonic, high speed merry-go-round to a halt

We will stop the planes, the trains,

the schools, the malls, the meetings

the frenetic, furied rush of illusions and "obligations"

that keep you from hearing our

single and shared beating heart,

the way we breathe together, in unison....

We will interrupt this...

endless cacophonous broadcast of divisions and distractions,

to bring you this long-breaking news:

We are not well.

None of us; all of us are suffering.

Last year, the firestorms that scorched the lungs of the earth
did not give you pause.

Nor the typhoons in Africa, China, Japan.

Nor the fevered climates in Japan and India.

You have not been listening.

It is hard to listen when you are so busy all the time,

hustling to uphold the comforts and conveniences that scaffold your lives.

But the foundation is giving way,

buckling under the weight of your needs and desires.

We will help you....

Despite what you might think or feel, we are not the enemy.

We are Messenger...We are a balancing force.

We are asking you: To stop, to be still, to listen;

To move beyond your individual concerns and consider the concerns of all;

To be with your ignorance, to find your humility, to relinquish your thinking minds

and travel deep into the mind of the heart;

To look up into the sky, streaked with fewer planes, and see it,

to notice its condition: clear, smoky, smoggy, rainy?

...To look at a tree, and see it, to notice its condition:

how does its health contribute to the health of the sky,

to the air you need to be healthy?

To visit a river, and see it, to notice its condition: clear, clean, murky, polluted?

...How does its health contribute to the health of the tree,

who contributes to the health of the sky, so that you may also be healthy?

Many are afraid now.

Do not demonize your fear...and do not let it rule you.

Instead, let it speak to you—in your stillness, listen for its wisdom.

What might it be telling you about what is at work, at issue, at risk,

beyond the threats of personal inconvenience and illness?

As the health of a tree, a river, the sky tells you about the quality of your own health, what might the quality of your health tell you about the health of the rivers, the trees, the sky, and all of us who share this planet with you?

Stop....

We're all in this Together

The coronavirus pandemic is something which has affected all areas of society and individual life. FaithAction have a page dedicated to providing you with the most up to date advice about the pandemic, alongside specific advice for your faith group. You can visit this page by [clicking here](#).

Sadly, one area of focus at the moment has to be how it has changed the way that funerals and burials are carried out in the UK. [Click here](#) for a brief summary of the current recommendations for major faith groups.



Share your experiences of life during the Coronavirus Shutdown

These are challenging and exceptional times. Few, if any of us will have experienced such a seismic shift in our daily lives in so short a time.

Surrey History Centre will of course preserve the official record of how Surrey County Council, Districts, Boroughs and parish authorities have mobilised to manage throughout the pandemic, but what about you? How is the present crisis impacting upon your daily life? What are your thoughts, feelings and concerns at this time of uncertainty and lockdown? How are you coping mentally and physically, how are you reacting to the increasing restrictions upon your daily and familiar routines? Has illness affected you or your family and friends?

We would like to invite you to keep a diary of your thoughts, experiences and challenges during these exceptional times and to deposit them for historical preservation with Surrey History Centre when the pandemic has passed and daily life has returned to some normality.

If you prefer, you can anonymise your diary to maintain your privacy, but it would be helpful to know gender, age and the name of your town or village or even simply the first part of your postcode. You can express your wishes about this when you decide the time is right to share your diary with us.

You can deliver your diary to us in person (when we reopen), post it to us, or submit it by [email](#) or image transfer software. If you have any questions, please contact us at: shs@surreycc.gov.uk. Or write to us at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND.



COVID 19 Chronicles

How do faith communities stay connected while in isolation? How does religious practice carry on when people are so far apart? What will the long term impact of coronavirus be on faith?

To address these and other questions, the Woolf Institute presents the new series [COVID-19 Chronicles](#). In this series, Dr Ed Kessler interviews religious leaders across the Abrahamic faiths about how they and their communities are adapting to this new landscape.

Dealing with the impact of Coronavirus on your organisation – advice for charities and voluntary organisations

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound impact on all aspects of life in Britain and around the world, and this includes charities and voluntary organisations.

This document draws together advice and information on dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 on charities and voluntary organisations. It does not include advice, information or guidance that is aimed specifically at the faith-based or inter faith sectors. Rather, it links to materials relevant to all kinds of charity and other voluntary organisations. The focus is therefore on organisational issues, such as business continuity, governance, serious incident reporting, HR, volunteering safely etc.

The Charity Commission has issued guidance for charities on running charities during the COVID-19 pandemic <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector> This includes information on holding virtual meetings, using designated and restricted funds and reporting to the Commission, including Serious Incidents.

The **National Council for Voluntary Organisations** website has a dedicated section containing guidance for charities and voluntary organisations <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus>. This includes information on protecting staff and volunteers, contingency planning and finances, risk management, and volunteering safely. NCVO is also working with other umbrella bodies to advocate for the needs of the sector, including seeking financial support from Government.

The **NCVO KnowHow** website <https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/> has been made free to all during the COVID-19 pandemic. The website holds a wealth of information about all aspects of running charities and voluntary organisations, and includes templates for many kinds of policy document, as well as business plans and risk assessments.

Bates Wells, a City law firm with a specialism in charity and social enterprise, is publishing a range of resources on its website https://bateswells.co.uk/?s=coronavirus&post_type%5B0%5D= These mainly focus on the legal issues facing charities, such as holding Board meetings and AGMs virtually; governance and solvency; contractual obligations; and immigration schemes.

Volunteering Matters has a number of resources aimed at volunteers and spontaneous voluntary groups, some of which will also be useful for existing charities and voluntary organisations .

<https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/volunteer-safely/> Materials include a guide on volunteering safely, a risk assessment template, and the Government's updated fact sheet on DBS checks.

The **National Association for Voluntary and Community Action website** has a search tool which enables you to find member voluntary and community organisations in your locality <https://navca.org.uk/find-a-member-1> This can be useful if you are looking for other organisations in your area with whom you might work collaboratively in the current crisis.

The **National Cyber Security Centre** has produced guidance on working remotely and spotting scam emails <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working>

The **Institute of Fundraising** has produced guidance for fundraisers about COVID-19

<https://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/news/information-for-fundraisers-about-coronavirus/>

ACAS, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, has issued guidance for employers and employees <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus> which includes information on working from home

Charity Digital has created a page on its website bringing together all of its guidance relevant to the impact of Coronavirus <https://charitydigital.org.uk/topics/coronavirus-all-of-our-relevant-content-in-one-place-7211> This includes information on remote working, virtual meetings, free or discounted digital tools, cyber crimes, and onboarding volunteers digitally. You can read 3 articles before you need to register for a free account.

CharityComms has compiled a list of its resources relevant to the impact of COVID-19 on charities <https://www.charitycomms.org.uk/about/charity-communicator-coronavirus-resources> this includes crisis communications, remote working tools, tips for parents working at home with children, and links to other sector resources

Resources for Community and Faith-Based Leaders

[Surrey County Council](#)—essential coronavirus public information and resources which are regularly updated

[The NHS](#) – overview of coronavirus, including risks, prevention, and what to do if you suspect you're infected

[GOV.UK](#) – general guidance on coronavirus, including daily updated information on identified cases)

Important information and faith focussed advise:

<https://www.faithaction.net/coronavirus/>

Guidance from Faith Communities:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/faith-communities-and-coronavirus>

Information, guidance and advice from National Council for Voluntary Organisations:

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus>

All Party Parliamentary Group on Loneliness Inquiry

Throughout 2020, the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Loneliness is running a major independent inquiry into loneliness.

The inquiry will seek to:

- Hold government to account and secure a renewed cross-Government commitment to tackling loneliness and its underlying causes
- Build on progress made to date, by recommending tangible and ambitious next steps for government, at the end of the inquiry in December 2020
- Explore solutions to crucial but complex policy areas identified by the Loneliness Action Group as outlined within the Shadow report, A connected Society? Assessing progress in tackling loneliness
- To form the basis of the inquiry, the APPG has launched a consultation to gather views and evidence on how to better tackle loneliness.

To take part in the inquiry, please [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Coronavirus Response Funding

The Coronavirus Response Fund has launched to support local charities and voluntary organisations that are assisting some of Surrey's most vulnerable people.

Donations raised through the Community Foundation's own local Coronavirus Response Fund, as well as funds made available for distribution in Surrey from the National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus Appeal will support community and voluntary organisations providing vital support to people and communities in response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Fund Aim and Priorities

To support community and voluntary groups assisting in the relief effort, in easing the immediate difficulties communities are facing and to support their recovery over the coming weeks and months.

Priority will be given to voluntary organisations providing support to the most vulnerable and isolated, including:

- Older people
- People with disabilities
- People with mental health needs
- People on low incomes; and
- Families with young children

For more information please visit: <https://www.cfsurrey.org.uk/surreycoronavirusresponsefund/>

PCC coronavirus fund supports vulnerable in Surrey

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey has offered a lifeline for partner organisations facing unprecedented challenges during the coronavirus outbreak.

The PCC's Coronavirus Support Fund has made £500,000 available to help these organisations provide support some of the most vulnerable residents in Surrey, including for victims at greater risk due to isolation measures.

In less than a week, 15 organisations have been allocated funding of over £50,000 to continue support for those affected by domestic abuse, homelessness and substance misuse.

Remaining funds will be allocated on a rolling basis to existing partners through the Coronavirus Support Fund. Decisions on funding are being made in real time, to ensure support is provided as soon as possible.

For more information about the Coronavirus Support Fund, please contact pccfunding@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Charities Aid Foundation: Coronavirus Emergency Fund

In this time of national crisis, CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) has launched this rapid response Fund to help smaller charitable organisations affected by the impact of Covid-19. Grants of up to £10,000 will help them to continue to deliver much needed support to our communities across the UK. For more information:

<https://www.faithaction.net/news/2020/04/02/charities-aid-foundation-coronavirus-emergency-fund/>

Surrey Coalition of Disabled People

Surrey virtual café - Join us every Monday for a good catch-up! 11.00 am – 12.00 noon

Who can join? Anyone over 18 can join for free, you just come along when you want to for some light-hearted discussion over a cup of tea or coffee.

Surrey virtual walk & talk - Join us for our virtual walk and talk. Every weekday 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm from Monday 30 March 2020 onwards!

How do I join?

Join by Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3106670662> | Join by Skype for Business: <https://zoom.us/skype/3106670662>

Join by phone: 0800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free | Meeting ID: 310 667 0662

Join by SMS text: 07780 933 053

If you are joining by zoom for the first time, please download the (free) app here: <https://zoom.us/download>

Join Wat Phra Dhammakaya Buddhist Temple in daily meditation

Daily meditation and talks on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DMCtvLondon/>

For more information please email: dhammakayawoking@gmail.com | T: 01483 475757

Live Streaming of Religious Services:

A Church Near you: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: <https://www.dabnet.org/>

Surrey Muslim Association: <http://www.surreymuslims.org/Resources/>

Free Online Learning

How to teach online, free course: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/teach-online>

National Emergency Library: <https://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary>

Free online courses from top Universities: <https://www.classcentral.com/>

Free learning from the Open University: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

Harvard University currently have 64 courses free online: <https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog>

Please click on 'price' and then 'free' to find all free courses.

Urgent help needed for Surrey's frontline workers – can you produce PPE?

Following the government announcement that there is a global shortage of PPE, Surrey County Council is urgently appealing for volunteers to help supply items for Surrey's frontline workers.

Social workers, care home staff, volunteers and others across #Surrey are fast running out of vital PPE supplies such as gowns, aprons and masks and we are calling on our amazing army of community groups and volunteers to help.

If you have skills to produce PPE items please contact : ppe.donations@surreycc.gov.uk

All items will need to be made to a specification outlined by Public Health England. Please get in touch to discuss how you can help and we will then provide this ASAP.

Surrey Libraries

Surrey Libraries may be closed but all of the following resources are free to use and you can even join the library [online](#). Surrey Libraries have also published a list of online services, activities and fun things for both [children](#) and [adults](#) to do whilst at home.

[eMagazines](#) - Surrey Libraries have subscribed to over 3500 popular magazines: The New Scientist, Hello, Amateur Gardening, Radio Times, Amateur Photographer, Good Food, Auto Express, Philosophy Now, Lonely Planet, Good Housekeeping to name but a few..

[eAudio Books](#) - Over 22,000 titles - the most popular from RB Digital this month is Hilary Mantel's 'The Mirror and the Light' with David Walliams being the most popular children's author.

[eBooks](#) - Thousands of titles are available through RB Digital.

[Press Reader](#) - Thousands of eNewspapers and eMagazines in a variety of languages.

[eComics](#) - 79 titles currently on offer - Captain America, Spiderman, Loki, as well as a few for children - Disney Princess, My Little Pony, Treasure Island.

[Online Reference Shelf](#) - Oxford Biographies and Dictionary, Naxos Music Library (online streaming music resource), The Great Courses (popular courses taught by the world's top professors).

Other Useful Information and Contact Information

Information on Coronavirus in different languages:

<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/news/coronavirus-information/>

Big Leaf Foundation has made translations of the NHS guidance on COVID-19 available for download directly from: <https://www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/covid-19-advice.html>

(These are languages specifically common to the refugee community)

People escaping domestic violence:

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 200 0247 (24hr) or Your Sanctuary: 01483 776822

Citizen's Advice: Benefits, Emergency Aid, Food Vouchers, Housing, Debt, Consumer and Legal Issues

Surrey Heath: 03444 111 444 or e: client@camberley.cabnet.org.uk

Mole Valley: 03444 111 444 or online form: <https://citizensadvicemolevalley.org.uk/get-advice/forms/>

Dorking, email: dorking@camv.org.uk

Leatherhead, email: leatherhead@camv.org.uk

Esher: 01372 464770 or send a message via online form: www.eshercab.org.uk.

Elmbridge: 0300 330 1179 or e: advice@caew.org.uk

Guildford: 0300 330 9013 or message using online form: <https://www.guildfordcab.org.uk/get-advice/forms/>

Reigate & Banstead: 03444 111 444 or online form: <https://www.carbs.org.uk/get-advice/forms/>

Epsom & Ewell, 0300 330 1164 or email: office@caee.org.uk

Oxted, 03444 111 444 or e: advisers@oxted.cabnet.org.uk

Waverley: 0344 848 7969 or please visit: <https://waverleycab.org.uk/> to send an email via the online form.

Woking: 03444 111 444 or send a message online: <https://www.wokingcab.org/get-advice/>

Caterham: 03444 111 444 or email: office@caterham.cabnet.org.uk

Runnymede and Spelthorne: 01932 827187 or e: adviser@randscab.org.uk

Volunteering opportunities:

For information on how you can volunteer and help in different ways:

Surrey County Council and local volunteering centres:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/community-support/offer-help>

NHS Volunteer Responders: NHS Volunteer Responders has been set up to support the NHS during the COVID-19 outbreak. To do this we need an 'army' of volunteers who can support the 1.5m people in England who are at most risk from the virus to stay well. Our doctors, nurses and other professionals will be able to refer people in to NHS Volunteer Responders and be confident that they have been matched with a reliable, named volunteer.

For more information please visit: <https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHS>

Covid-19 Mutual Aid: focus on providing resources and connecting people to their nearest local groups, willing volunteers and those in need. For more information please visit: <https://covidmutualaid.org/>

Nextdoor neighbourhood hub -Nextdoor is the best way to stay informed about what's going on in your neighbourhood: <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

Guidance for volunteers: Protecting yourself and preventing the spread of Covid-19

This [easy to read guide](#) is to ensure that volunteers are informed and re-assured about how they can safely go about volunteering and ensure that they are not putting themselves, or others, at risk of Covid-19.

The guide is based on national guidance from Public Health England, and NHS England, and also draws on work from other areas including London and Scotland.

Putting on and removing PPE

Whilst most volunteering duties won't require PPE, it is needed when entering the home of extremely vulnerable person and I have included some links relating to putting on PPE correctly etc. The other situations are usually when providing direct/personal care to a person or when in close contact with someone who has COVID symptoms, which is usually only for volunteers who are volunteering through organisations registered for these activities.

Poster for putting on and removing PPE https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877658/

[Quick_guide_to_donning_doffing_standard_PPE_health_and_social_care_poster__.pdf](#)

Video demonstrating putting on and removing PPE (although video is for health and care staff it is also suitable for volunteers as the procedure to follow is the same for anyone wearing PPE.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GncQ_ed-9w&feature=youtu.be

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- Charity Registration
- Gift Aid
- Legal matters
- counseling support
- Safeguarding children online
- Health and well-being
- Volunteer opportunities
- technical and financial support for online engagement

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