



## **The Benefice of Holy Innocents, Gt Barton and St Peter's Thurston**

### **Corona Virus Update**

Following the rapid spread of the Corona virus we introduced special measures in our benefice of Holy Innocents Gt Barton and St Peter's Thurston last week.

The following advice has now been issued by our Diocesan Bishop Martin:

These are basic practices I would now strongly advise we should all be adopting, particularly in relation to worship.

- We should all be more attentive to our normal hygiene routine of washing our hands thoroughly and often with soap and water or hand sanitiser (60% alcohol).
- At communion the priest and those who assist should wash with hand sanitiser before and after distribution.
- Communion should be only in one kind. I realise this is not yet the national guidance, but I would rather us take this step now and become used to it than regret that we did not take it sooner.
- The practice of intinction, dipping the bread into the wine, is not an option.
- No receiving the host on the tongue since there is a greater danger of passing on infection by this means.
- The peace should be passed without contact. I realise this will seem difficult to many and urge you to develop local practices where you convey the sense of the unity of the body through other gestures.

Since information is changing rapidly please check our website

<https://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk>

or either of our Facebook pages for any updates.

These are precautionary measures that will be removed once the Government gives the all clear. In the meantime, we also need to make a special effort to look out for those who may be isolated, lonely or fearful at this present time, and we continue to pray for all who are caught up in the coronavirus situation, for those who are sick and for those who care for them.

Thank you all for your cooperation.

Rev'd Manette Crossman