



Norcliffe Chapel

Altrincham Road

Styal, Cheshire, SK9 4LH

## RESPONSE TO COVID19 VIRUS - suspension of Sunday services and activities

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

It is with deep regret that Norcliffe Chapel has decided to suspend all Sunday services, non-essential services in the chapel and social activities with immediate effect; this includes the Chapel's AGM planned for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

We have not set a date on which to re-commence Sunday services but it is unlikely to be before Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We will be keeping the situation under review, based on whatever the Government's advice and legislation is at the time. Please regularly check the Chapel's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NorcliffeChapelStyal/>) or website (<https://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/styal/>) for up-to-date information.

Christenings, weddings and funerals already booked may still go ahead, subject to any legislation relating to "large gatherings" the Government may implement; our Minister or Weddings Secretary will be in touch directly with anyone who has such a service already arranged.

We have not taken this decision lightly, as we feel that places of worship should be a place of comfort and sanctuary, especially in difficult times. However, given the current advice from Public Health England \* we would be most upset if attendance at one of our services or events resulted in the transmission of the virus to even one person.

*\* For more information see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>*

These are going to be difficult times for all of us, but while we are unable to meet in person, there are still many ways of reaching out to support those around us who may be less able to cope, whether practically or emotionally.

Our Minister, Rev. Alex Bradley, will be available to speak to if you need to talk, but obviously he will keep face-to-face contact down to an absolute minimum. Rev. Alex will also be creating weekly "alternative services" by way of email and letter as well as posts on Facebook; please let him have your email address or "like" the Chapel's Facebook page if you wish to receive these.

For non-pastoral enquiries or if Rev. Alex is unavailable, please contact the Chapel Secretary, preferably by email.

While we appear to be entering a period of time that is worrying and strange, remember, it will eventually pass, though the world may not look quite the same as it did. Let us take every opportunity to help others where we can, whether by phone calls, letters, emails or even just our prayers, and hold each other in love.

Ian M. Bradbury

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