

Rudgwick

Magazine



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From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

I have no idea what the situation will be in Rudgwick or the UK when you read this, but at the time of writing Coronavirus (or Covid-19) is starting to take hold in Europe. Northern Italy in lock down and Pope Francis today delivered his weekly sermon by a videolink to avoid large crowds gathering at the Vatican. Supermarkets in the UK are rationing some items as people panic and stock up on food and toilet paper and it seems everywhere has sold out of hand sanitisers.

Sadly, it is reported there have been several deaths in the UK from the virus in addition to the many thousands around the world. So, how do you feel? Not just physically, but emotionally? Are you worried? Are you not bothered? Or are you somewhere in between? No one really knows what will happen – news outlets talk about predictions and estimates, giving us best case and worse case scenarios, but there are so many factors it is difficult to know. I think what is certain is that it will spread further and if you are suffering from Coronavirus, please be assured of my prayers for you. But what does God have to say to us about such a situation?

I know that some people think that following Jesus means everything will be fine – as if Christians' lives are blessed and no harm will come to them. But that is *not* what Jesus promises. In fact, he tells his disciples that it will be the opposite – not with Coronavirus, but generally – they will be persecuted and hated because of Him. What God does assure us, is that His Spirit will be with us ... whatever we go through. Why not ask Him to make His presence known to you?

Every blessing

Martin King