Letter from the Dean of Christ Church
April 2020
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings to you. In this Easter Season, may you continue to know the transforming power and radiant love of Christ, as churches across the world continue to worship and witness in the light of the resurrection.

The Dean and Chapter are fully committed to protecting the welfare of all our staff, and all who join us for worship, education, pilgrimage and visits. Since the outbreak of Coronavirus in the UK, we have been following Government, advice and closely monitoring updates and developments. Following the recommendations from the Archbishops, we have, as you know, suspended public worship and general visiting. So at present, and for our collective wellbeing, there can be no further access to Christ Church until further notice. Our Cathedral Choir School has also closed for the moment, and the choristers are with their families.

We must do this to protect all of the people we care for. Whilst we are saddened by this decision, the Chapter and Clergy at Christ Church continue to sustain the worship of a praying community that has been a witness to God’s grace and glory throughout the ages. Daily, we pray for our Queen and her Government; for all whose courage and commitment; keep us safe and well; and for all who are sick, or anxious. We are a community of hope, and we continue to pray for the time to come when we welcome you here again.

So, whilst we may not be able to welcome you to the Cathedral at the moment, that does not mean we cannot pray together regularly. Since the lockdown, and especially since Holy Week, our life of prayer has continued to evolve, as we have moved forward with the live-streamed and recorded services, which have gained a large and growing following. In this season of resurrection, there is new life. And as at Pentecost, new kinds of outreach: with many more, far and wide, drawn to the ministry and mission of the Mother Church of the Diocese.

Marking this, the light of the Aumbry in the sanctuary still burns, as it always does, reminding us of the presence of Christ in our midst. Please continue to send in your prayer requests to us – we shall offer the needs and names we have each day. We continue to care for and cherish your Cathedral for our congregations, city and counties of the Diocese today – and for future generations. Our Cathedral continues to be a sacred space, and it needs TLC whether it is empty or full. TLC here does not just mean Tender-Loving-Care. It also means Time-Labour-Cash. It also means Tremendous-Loyal-Congregations. It is your Cathedral. We all hope and pray that it will not be long before our Cathedral restored to full use one more.

Be assured, when this is past, we will mark the day with prayer and praise. We will give thanks for all who have kept us safe and well; remember loved ones lost; care for those who mourn; and look to the future with faith and fortitude. But for now, we watch, wait hope and pray.

God bless you. May you all know the comfort and presence of the Risen Christ.

Martyn