

LOCKDOWN DIARY January 25th 2020 -

Jan 25- Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against all travel to China's Hubei province, where the city of Wuhan is battling to contain a new virus.

Jan 28- FCO: do not travel to China.

Jan 29- B.A. suspends all flights to and from China.

Jan 31- First two cases of covid-19 confirmed in the UK

Feb 28- First British death caused by covid-19

March 5- Flybe in Administration due to effect of virus.

March 8, Sunday: at church, 9.30 Holy Communion: No handshake at the Peace and no chalice if you don't want to.

March 9. Waitrose: no loo rolls, sanitizer, Ibuprofen, Paracetamol or kitchen rolls.

March 10. Cubbington Road Surgery in 'lockdown'. Consultations in future will be by phone unless 'absolutely necessary' to see a doctor.

March 12. Anyone with a new continuous cough or high fever should self-isolate for 7 days. Public Health England suspend contact tracing as widespread infections overwhelm capacity.

March 14. UK retailers release a joint letter urging the public NOT to panic buy every-day essentials... especially loo rolls...

March 15. Church, 6.30pm: Possibly our last Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene for a very long time, and we went out with one of the best we've ever sung - Rachael (Jefferies, choirmistress, vicar's sister) augmented our choir with a few other voices and we sang our hearts out. Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, Stanford in C: God be in my Head, Wilby: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Bach.

March 16. First 'Social Distancing' measures announced: public advised to stay 2 metres apart when outside the house. Theatres are closing. Shopping at Waitrose: no loo rolls, eggs, tissues, rice, flour, hardly any soap.

Government advise over 70's not to travel unless absolutely necessary. Kate is very anxious about going out at all now, Andrew's on immuno-suppressants. I cancelled my Oxfam shift. Our group leader, Anne, has cancelled our Tai Chi class at Dormer Place.

March 17. Bob had his hair cut at Logan's - maybe the next cut will be a long time away. He was only the second customer that day, late afternoon- the other one, in the morning, was 94....

From April 15, all non-urgent NHS operations will be postponed, freeing up approx. 30,000 beds if necessary.

March 18. Justin Welby has cancelled all church services (*C of E, ed.*). All schools in the UK will close on March 20th. Henry's driving test cancelled. Kate and Andrew's children in London self-isolating. Kinross Road and Hadrian Close WhatsApp group provided Paracetamol and Lucozade to an isolating family.

The pound falls to \$1.18, lowest since 1985.

March 20. Schools close, and all public venues from tomorrow. Government Furlough Scheme announced: 80% of employee wages to be covered, up to £2,500 per month, until October 31st.

March 21. Tesco's on Cubbington Road was manic. All fresh veg gone, and most tinned stuff too. All driving tests postponed. We are now beginning to order groceries from our milkman, Milk and More- orange juice, biscuits, butter, tea...

March 23. LOCKDOWN week 1.

Oxfam- Over 70's no longer allowed to volunteer in Oxfam shops. Later the same day- all Oxfam shops to close. Milk and More delivered... including loo rolls...out and about, joggers are a problem- many don't seem to get Social Distancing, passing far too near, breathing heavily...walkers like us,

on our permitted once-a-day exercise, shout conversations to each other across the street.. not permitted now to pop in for a cuppa. This is what is 'normal' now, topsy-turvy world- you greet your friends and neighbours by keeping your distance, and shouting at them....

Government slogan- Stay at Home. Protect the NHS Save lives.

Judy Cooke,

Lillington.