

COVID-19 Support across our Diocese

From Devizes to Weymouth, and in the smallest settlements across our Diocese, people have been working out creative ways of supporting the most vulnerable and most isolated households during this time of crisis. Most support is being organised through parish and town councils, usually working in partnership with other community groups and churches. This approach is provided a timely and widespread network that offers telephone links and conversation, delivery of prescriptions and groceries, and even support with computer issues as people use new technology to link up with families and friends for the first time.

There's lots of support around and these links should provide information on what is available in your area as well as how to volunteer. We also have some information on funding that has been made available to help charities and community groups deliver extra support in their local areas.

Wiltshire

Online pack containing a list of key contacts, resources and information, and a map showing support groups across the county:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-coronavirus>

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Information for households and community groups:

<https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/News/News-Features/COVID19/Find-help-or-help-your-community/How-to-get-help/I-need-help-support-or-advice.aspx>

Dorset

Information for households and community groups:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>

List of community groups offering support across the Dorset Council area:

<https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/search/dorset/coronavirus>

Charity funding

There are now two types of Covid-19 crisis related funding streams. Funding for groups that are providing immediate community support through this crisis period, and funding for groups that are facing financial difficulty and may have to close due to their current inability to run services. A national appeal has been launched and funds from that will be distributed through the local community foundations.

Dorset, including Bournemouth and Poole

<https://www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org/news/dorset-coronavirus-community-fund-launches-to-support-local-community-groups/>

Bournemouth and Poole area – Talbot Village Trust has made funds available

<https://www.talbotvillagetrust.org/covid-19-support-fund>

Wiltshire

<https://www.wiltshirecf.org.uk/node/352>

National

National Lottery funding will prioritise groups that can provide support during the Covid crisis:

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

Support for Individuals

The Turn2Us website includes a searchable data-base of benefits and grants that may be available to individuals and families.

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk>

Salisbury Diocesan Social Welfare Fund and St Mary's Fund

These two charitable trusts distribute income from investments and can make grants to parishes. The Social Welfare Fund provides grants of up to £500 for work that addresses social need in our communities. Trustees will consider applications speedily if parishes are providing extra support at this time including work in partnership with others.

St Mary's Fund provides small grants for single-parent families in crisis. Applications need to be made by an agency such as health centre, social work team, or from a parish.

In both cases initial enquiries can be made to colin.brady@salisbury.anglican.org

Good Neighbours

If you are setting up a new scheme then this might not be the time to work through all of the policies associated with a longstanding project, but this link provides lots of information that may be helpful if you do need to think through some of the many issues involved in providing support.

<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/care-for-adults/support-at-home/good-neighbours-network-2>