



At home issue 25 March 2020

It has been a week of many changes. Now that churches have been told to close for private prayer as well as public services, this means that our contact with families is now almost entirely virtual.

Some churches have gone to live-streaming their services – if you are doing this, you can let people know by including it on your A Church Near You page. If not, you can [direct families towards other churches who are live-streaming](#), including St Albans Cathedral. If you're not able to live-stream your services, you can still do Facebook live "check-ins" with your families, just to say hi, or set up WhatsApp groups with parents, or any number of other ways to keep in touch.

You can also make it easy for families to worship at home. We're providing weekly videos with the story from that week's lectionary (the image on the right is from my retelling of the story of the dry bones).



This week, we have two: the [reading from the Hebrew Scriptures](#) (as mentioned above), and the Gospel reading (this second video will be uploaded within the next 24 hours so look out for it [on our YouTube channel](#)).

Looking ahead to Holy Week, you can encourage families to make this easy, creative [Holy Week in a Box](#). Alternatively, one of you (or a single

household) could make them yourselves, ensuring you wash hands before touching any of the items) and post them out to families. Post Offices are considered essential services and are remaining open during lockdown, but official advice is to make sure you go out for essentials as infrequently as possible, so bear this in mind when deciding to post things.

Families can also engage in the power and mystery of the Easter Vigil through this [Easter Sunrise breakfast idea](#).

Tales From The Miracle Book have made their Easter videos free – [you can watch them here](#).

And don't forget I'm constantly adding ideas to my [Pinterest board, which can be found here](#). They include resources for home worship, and also ways to help children struggling with anxiety.

Sending you all prayers and love in this difficult time.

Margaret



Here are some thoughts from Rebecca Nye, that can help guide parents and children's leaders at this time:

It's exciting to see such energy poured into digital storytelling possibilities. As we wonder about how to accompany children and others at this time, let's reflect on how our new approaches help children find opportunities for:

- 1) space
- 2) processing
- 3) imagination
- 4) relationship
- 5) intimacy and
- 6) trust

(S.P.I.R.I.T)

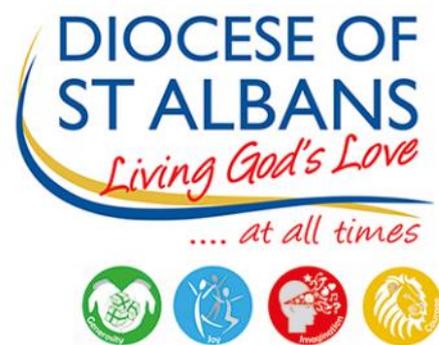
These are qualities of real environments which children will need now more than ever.

So, I wonder, ... how could you encourage children to give value and time to each of these 6 things?

And I wonder... how could you encourage their families to safeguard each of these too?

And I wonder how this can be a time to learn even more from children, ..to learn more about 'who they really are', and to learn more about the great gift of childhood that we are all called to grow into.

**A one-stop shop for
living with
generosity, joy,
imagination and
courage
in the Coronavirus crisis**



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Living God's Love at all times: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/living-gods-love-at-all-times/>

Youth & Children's pages: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/yac>

Safeguarding: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding>

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For the Children's Ministry Social Media accounts click on the links below.:

