

## **DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY & IPSWICH 'FLU ACTION PLAN JULY 2009**

### **Introduction**

This leaflet is part of the Business Resilience plan for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich. It has been drawn up as a response to the current Swine 'flu pandemic. It is a sub section of the Diocesan Business Continuity Plan that was presented to the Diocesan Synod in 2007. The aim of this leaflet is to enable ministry to continue in the event of either clergy being ill or large numbers of the public succumbing to swine 'flu.

At its peak it is likely that there will be 1000s of people ill, recovering from illness or caring for relatives. Therefore there is potential for disruption to normal life, this could include food supplies, public utilities and almost certainly at some stage some public meetings may be cancelled. It is essential to plan for a worst case scenario while not panicking.

### **Communication**

The central point of communication is the diocesan website and the e bulletin. Other conduits of information will be the archdeacons, rural deans, and lay chairs. In the event of bishops, archdeacons or rural deans being taken ill there will be named contact people to assume their roles.

### **Preparation**

At this stage of the pandemic the archdeacons and rural deans should name 2 deputies who could take their place should they be ill.

### **Deaneries**

At this stage each rural dean and lay chair should work with the Standing Committee to develop a deanery contingency plan.

Where appropriate a list for either the deanery or a cluster of benefices containing the names and contact details of the following should be drawn up

- clergy
- church wardens
- readers
- elders

### **Parish / benefice**

The incumbent and wardens should prepare a continuity action plan that can be enacted if required.

- Compile a list containing the names and contact details of all those involved in leadership within the parish and back up people.
- An up to date list of church members based on but not exclusively the electoral roll
- Have access to up to date information on the pandemic (nhs website, direct gov website, leaflets)
- Build up stocks of essential supplies (alcohol wipes, alcohol based hand gel for visiting and use in the office)

- Advice on church activities, what to do at communion will be issued by the bishop on the advice of the nhs and Church House. The information will be communicated via the website and rural deans and lay chairs
- Prepare to suspend church activities if advised by the bishop

### **Pastoral care**

At all stages of the pandemic the clergy can offer reassurance through their presence. Visiting may become difficult and advice should be taken. When present at the point of death face masks may be appropriate.

The government has advised that 'flu friends' will be required to go to collection points to obtain Tamiflu for those patients requiring it. Churches should consider offering this service for parishioners.

### **Liturgical concerns**

- If congregations are able to gather it is vital to be aware of hygiene in accordance with government advice. Contact should be kept to a minimum.
- Consider not exchanging the peace.
- Communion may be offered in one kind. Distribution should be after using an alcohol hand gel.
- If anointing people for healing wash or wipe hands between each person

### **Useful websites**

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

[www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

[www.eoe.nhs.uk](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk)

[www.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.cofe.anglican.org)

### **Diocesan contacts for resilience planning**

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