



DIOCESE of  
**WINCHESTER**

Dear Friends,

The new Hampshire County Council Hub to support the community through the crisis has now been established. If you are able to offer support and would like to be involved, please contact them on 0333 370 4000. Your call will then be triaged and you will be passed to whichever organisation or local contact would be most appropriate.

Earlier this week, the Government published new guidance regarding funerals, available [here](#). Although the Government guidance does not specify the limit on the number of mourners, the national Church of England guidance (also updated this week) states that “Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) – that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way (this is true also for burial of ashes).” We are already hearing of the anguish of those who can only grieve at a distance because they cannot attend a funeral, or because they themselves are ill or self-isolating, and we remember them in our prayers. Clergy and lay ministers are offering support for those mourning in these difficult circumstances.

Thank you for all that you are doing to continue the ministry of the Church.

With our prayers for you all,  
Bishop Tim, Bishop David and Bishop Debbie

*And the Bishop’s Staff Team:*

Andrew Robinson, Diocesan Chief Executive

Catherine Ogle, Dean of Winchester

Peter Rouch, Archdeacon of Bournemouth

Richard Brand, Archdeacon of Winchester

Mat Phipps, Bishop’s Chaplain

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