



Help during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Parish Council have like last time put all the information together about the help that is available in the Parish that it is aware of. The help is for the elderly, vulnerable, disabled or those who are isolated. Please feel free to pass this on to anyone you think may find this useful.

- The Government are not providing Food Parcels this time.
- Local authorities (i.e. TMBC) will not be providing food parcels, except in exceptional cases.
- Local authorities will not be offering befriending services or prescription delivery, but will signpost to local services offering this support.
- A medicine delivery programme is due to be triggered by Government, to enable prescriptions to be delivered

Aylesford

Councillor Trevor Walker is available to collect prescriptions for people, please contact the Parish Office on 01622 717084 between 9.30am and 3pm with your name, address, phone number and chemist the prescription needs collecting from and we will confirm with Councillor Walker that he can collect and let you know.

Councillor Andrew Kennedy is available to collect prescriptions and essential items, offer a friendly chat if you are feeling low and can help with accessing support services. Please call him direct on 07792 924820 or email andrewkennedy@tmbc.gov.uk

In Aylesford Andrew Kennedy covers the North Ward, (so anything North of the River i.e. the High Street etc)

The Magdalene ministry is an organisation willing to help with food delivery services to residents in Walderslade and Aylesford.

Food parcel requests can be sent to info@magdaleneministry.com

The Nigerian Community Association Kent & Medway are also offering free food delivery services. Please call 07792 185823

St. Peter's and St. Pauls Church Aylesford

The anxiety and sadness caused by Covid-19 will be with us for a long time. Since March a team of pastoral contacts has been in touch with over 100 isolating, lonely and vulnerable people. That service will continue. If you are lonely, worried or need some practical (non-contact) help and would like to talk with someone then please call Janet 01622 710083 (Authorised Pastoral Assistant) or Ruth 07803 902319 (the Vicar). This is for anyone; you do not need to be a Church member.

Eccles, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade

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The residents of Eccles have set up their own Facebook page called 'Eccles Coronavirus Help and Support Group' which is a private group that people need to join. Fellow residents request help from others to get their prescriptions, food and other essential items if they are self-isolating, elderly or vulnerable.

During the first lockdown the residents of Blue Bell Hill set up a volunteer help service very similar to what Eccles have done to help people with shopping and prescription collection which they manage street by street. Everyone in Blue Bell Hill would have received a letter with the contact details of the volunteer for their street who will help them get their essential items. People will need to contact them by phoning the number on their letter they would have received during the first lockdown or via their Facebook page 'Blue Bell Hill Village Community Connections'. Alternatively, if you do not have access to Facebook or have lost the letter please contact the Parish Office on 01622 717084 between 9.30am and 3pm as we have a point of contact and can pass your details on to ensure you get the help you need.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Have reactivated their dedicated Coronavirus Community Hub. Their community support helpline number is 01732 876152 and will be available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. This service is for those most at risk of Coronavirus, so those who are in the 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' (CEV) list. These people will have received a letter (or email) instructing them to register on the new National Shielding Service System (NSSS). This registration will allow them to access priority online shopping slots and will also identify any support needs they may have. Those on the CEV list will also be advised to contact their local Council if they need help to access support.

Kent County Council

The KCC "Kent Together" support line is also available (7 days a week) on 03000 41 92 92

This is a 24-hour helpline to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication and cannot get this through existing support networks in the community. You can also use this number to report your concerns about the welfare of someone else.

Other information you may find useful

Age UK have a lot of information on their website, which is www.ageuk.org.uk

TMBC - One You – 01732 876347, they are supporting vulnerable people in the Borough

Involve Kent – Support for vulnerable people across Malling 03000 810 005

In the **Medway Towns** the Kent Muslim Welfare Association has started a Volunteers Group. They are in contact with the local MVA - Medway Voluntary Action and IPAG -Independent Police Advisory Group and Food Bank etc.

The Rochester Gurdwara are offering free food to the needy. The taxi drivers from KMWA collect the food and deliver it since the Gurdwara do not have the taxi drivers.

There is a list of ladies who can drive /collect prescriptions and do shopping etc while following the social distancing rules. Most have a DBS and are highly qualified in their fields.

They can offer support on phone in Gujarati/Urdu/Punjabi/Syelheti and Bengali as well as English
Telephone numbers to call are:

Rizwana Shelley 01634 660363 or 07857 196560

Languages now include: Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and French

Replacement Hearing Aid Batteries

Hi-Kent are the people who run the clinics within the community which are run by volunteers

People can either collect batteries from their office in Brewer Street or they will post them out.

If collecting they need to take their brown book with them

If they want them posted they need to ring up

18 Brewer Street Maidstone, ME14 1RU

01622 691151 Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm