



14th April 2020

HEARING YOU A local response to the Coronavirus crisis

The Diocese of Chichester with Together in Sussex are launching **Hearing You**, a new pastoral phone line to enable the people of Sussex to feel connected and supported.

It is a phonenumber that will provide pastoral support and a listening ear to the recently bereaved and people directly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. It will be staffed by volunteers who are trained in pastoral care and listening skills: clergy and licensed lay ministers.

All volunteer listeners will

- have an active DBS and have completed safeguarding training with the Diocese of Chichester
- be able to point callers to their parish clergy
- direct callers to other organisations offering specialist support if appropriate and also.
- offer to pray for the caller or for their concerns.

NB This is not a substitute for the emergency services (111 or 999) or a counselling service. It is a human, Christian response to anyone who turns to the Church in this time of need.

Hospital chaplains within the diocese will also be able to direct people to the service. The phonenumber will be open to anyone living in Sussex whether they currently attend a church or not.

The service will initially run from today to the end of May, Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 7.00pm.

The **Hearing You** number is: 01273 425047

For details about volunteering, please contact: Luci Fievet on 01273 421021 or email Luci at [Hearing You volunteering](#)

ALSO

We are launching a simple statement for people to take into hospital with them. Some people will need it printed by a friend, neighbour or parish priest.

We advise that every household should have one of these statements ready for use.

This statement will explicitly declare a person's Christian faith, and request access to a Church of England a chaplain while in hospital.

A template for this statement is available on the Diocesan website and is attached to this Ad clerum.
[Here](#)