



Dear Fellow Resident,

As we face the prospect of at least another three weeks in lockdown, we would like to remind you of the help available for you locally. As well as individual residents doing their bit, support is being coordinated by the Godmanchester Aid Group comprising the Town Council, the Godmanchester Timebank, the Food Bank and the Godmanchester Covid 19 Mutual Aid Group, who have volunteers and street coordinators in your area. All these efforts are also supported by your District and County Councils. We thank them all.

Below is a useful list that you might want to keep to hand.

### Help and Support

If you need help and support (e.g. essential shopping, prescriptions collected, or a friendly phone call) contact either of the two Godmanchester-based groups:

- Godmanchester Timebank [godmanchestercommunitytimebank@yahoo.com](mailto:godmanchestercommunitytimebank@yahoo.com) or **01480 417648**
- Godmanchester Covid 19 Mutual Aid Group [godmanchester.aid@gmail.com](mailto:godmanchester.aid@gmail.com) or **07918 165450**

Both are working with the Town Council (<https://gmccouncil.com/help-support-and-advice/>) or **01480 388870 or 07872 925770**.

There is a Street Coordinator for your area who you can contact via the Mutual Aid group.

### Vulnerable Persons

If you have had a letter from the NHS indicating that you should be shielding you must still register on NHS website (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>). Please check if you know anyone to whom this applies.

### Housing Concerns

The Government have asked landlords, mortgage companies and banks to give people a three month 'payment holiday' and they have banned evictions – you can find out more on the Government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/complete-ban-on-evictions-and-additional-protection-for-renters>

You can also call / email HDC for help and advice <https://www.wearehuntingdonshire.org/> or **01480 388388**.

If you are in a housing association property, talk to them about what help they can provide.

If you are concerned about anyone who you think needs help but won't ask please make contact with the District Council, who can check on their safety and well-being

- <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Yr5uzntVNkShnHZ-yizUUQ03freVzNtGhL1qIUzh5hVUNzIJMkk2OVZHNUJXNU42N0dSUFdDWIM0Wi4u>

## Domestic and other forms of abuse

If you or someone you know is at risk of domestic abuse call Refuge **07787 255821**, or the National Domestic Abuse Helpline **0802 000 247**, or Men's Advice **0808 801 0327** or LGBT Helpline **0800 999 5428**. If it's an emergency, then call **999**. You can find more information on [www.cambsdasv.org.uk](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

If you are worried for the well-being or safety of a child, then you must let someone know so they can help. Telephone: **0345 045 5203** (8-6pm Monday to Friday) or **01733 234 724**

## Bereavement

One of your family members or close friends may have died and you may need help and support. You can get practical advice here: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/death> and counselling support here: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief> **0808 808 1677**.

Residents requiring spiritual advice and support can contact: Revd David Busk, Vicar of Godmanchester, [dwbusk@hotmail.com](mailto:dwbusk@hotmail.com) or **01480 436400**; and Daniel Beckett, Acting Senior Pastor, Godmanchester Baptist Church **01480 458565**.

## Mental Health

If your mental health is suffering contact your GP.

If you are in crisis the **111**, option 2 is available or call the Samaritans on **116 123**.

Or for self-help try [www.everymindmatters.co.uk](http://www.everymindmatters.co.uk) This resource has been set up by Public Health England as they realise the situation we are in is stressful for everyone.

## Financial Support

Should you need personal financial support, you can find information on issues ranging from benefits to council tax from the District Council on their website at:

<https://www.wearehuntingdonshire.org> or speak directly on **01480 388388**.

In addition, the GMC Aid Organisation has a small sum available to help to help alleviate short-term financial hardship within the Town. The Organisation can be reached at:

[godmanchester.aid@gmail.com](mailto:godmanchester.aid@gmail.com) or **07918165450**

If feeding yourself or your family is a problem, the Food Bank might be able to help, and this can be reached through the Godmanchester Time Bank on **01480 417648**

Debt issues can be helped by the following organisations, who may also negotiate with creditors on your behalf:

Citizens Advice at [www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk) ,

StepChange Debt Charity at [www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org)

The National Debt Line at [nationaldebtline.org](http://nationaldebtline.org).

## Business Support

HDC has information about rates relief and aid packages available both locally and centrally.

[www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or speak directly on **01480 388388**.

In addition, Money Saving Expert offers free independent advice and help.

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-self-employed-and-employment-help/>

Turn2 Us also has details about other grants and help available  
<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

The Business Debt Line can be reached via:  
[www.businessdebtline.org](http://www.businessdebtline.org).

#### Godmanchester Town Council

The Godmanchester Town Council website - <http://gmccouncil.com> - has a wide range of information on how to access its own potential financial support resources.

In addition, specific information on the Government Covid-19 support packages for individuals, charities and businesses can be found at:

<https://gmccouncil.com/help-support-and-advice/> or **01480 388870**

**To contact the Town Council directly:**

[townclerk@gmccouncil.com](mailto:townclerk@gmccouncil.com) or **01480 388870** or **07872 925770**

Would you like to help?

Contact Godmanchester Mutual Aid [godmanchester.aid@gmail.com](mailto:godmanchester.aid@gmail.com) **07918165450**

or

Godmanchester Community Timebank: **01480 417648**.

And finally,

**Remember to trust your usual instincts as there are criminals taking advantage of the crisis - if you have people at your door or calling you, take care not to pass on any personal data or valuables! Always ask for identification and phone the organisation if you have any doubts.**

We are not delivering this information through a newsletter to limit the risk of infection. Please make sure that anyone you know who has not got to access to the internet and needs this printed can request it from the Town Council – **01480 388870** or email us on their behalf [townclerk@gmccouncil.com](mailto:townclerk@gmccouncil.com).

Godmanchester Town Council would like to thank everyone for playing their part in keeping Godmanchester's residents safe, whether you've been staying at home, delivering our key services, keeping two metres apart, or volunteering and helping out. We know it's a challenging time and we greatly appreciate the amazing community spirit shown as people support each other.

Stay safe, keep well and look after your neighbours.

Godmanchester Town Council