



Watch the service

First online prison church service to be broadcast by Church of England

On Sunday 5 July, prisoners and their families will be able to worship together during the first-ever online prison church service broadcast by the Church of England.

The graphic is a promotional banner for a weekly online service. On the left, a dark blue vertical sidebar contains the Church of England logo (a white cross inside a circle) and the text "THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND" in white. Below this, in white text, it says: "Join us for our weekly service from 9am on Sunday on Facebook and YouTube". To the right of the sidebar is a grid of eight video thumbnails. The top row shows four people: a man in clerical attire, a woman in a white uniform, a man in a white uniform, and a woman in a blue lanyard. The bottom row shows four people: a man in a dark suit, a woman in a patterned top, a man in a dark suit, and a woman in a dark uniform. A large white play button is centered over the grid. In the top right corner of the grid, there are icons for "Watch later" (a clock) and "Share" (a share icon).

The service will be broadcast from 9am on prison television and radio, as well as on the Church of England's [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

This means that, for the first time, prisoners and their families will be able to attend the same church service, wherever they may be. Worshipers outside of the prison service are also welcome to attend.

Recorded at three sites - HMP Stocken in Rutland, HMP Low Newton in Durham and HMP Pentonville in London - the service will include contributions from prison staff and chaplains, along with prayers, reflections and artwork written and created by prisoners.

The service, with the theme of hope, will be led by Reverend Helen Dearnley, Anglican chaplaincy adviser for HM Prison and Probation Service.

Speaking from the chapel of HMP Stocken prison, Reverend Helen Dearnley said that the online service is “enabling us wherever we are to unite in hope and prayer and praise.”

She said: “Today for the first time, those in prison and their families will be able to worship virtually together, and all of us, separated from our communities by coronavirus, can share in this worship.”

Lucy Frazer QC MP, Prisons and Probation Minister at the Ministry of Justice said:

“To prevent outbreaks of coronavirus in our prisons, we have temporarily put in place a restricted regime and paused all social visits to help protect staff, prisoners and the public.”

It is great to see examples of how technology is allowing prisoners to connect remotely with their families, and I am delighted that we can continue to do that with our first-ever virtual prison church service.

“I would like to thank all of our prison staff who have made this possible - you truly are hidden heroes.”

All of the video content is manually subtitled. To turn these on, go to the bottom left of the video and click the filled-in box with two broken lines inside. The service is BSL-interpreted throughout.

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House of Bishops Statement on Government COVID-19 guidance

The House of Bishops has welcomed and commended the decision of the Government to open places of worship for public worship from 4th July at a virtual meeting held on June 24th.



Following the Prime Minister's statement to the Commons the previous day, the Bishops encouraged all concerned to work within the Government's guidance whilst ensuring proper care is given to those most vulnerable to the virus.

The House of Bishops endorsed a statement made by the Bishop of London on behalf of its Recovery Group, stressing this would not be an immediate return to normality, and that Government guidance is permissive not prescriptive. Churches that are not fully ready by July 4th should not feel any obligation to rush to restart public worship.

For clergy who have been shielding, the House agreed that personal safety should continue to be prioritised and that duties could still be performed remotely. Where churches may not be able to open for a long period, for this or other reasons, bishops stand ready to agree with the minister and parochial church council a dispensation from the legal requirement to hold services.

The House welcomed clarification from the Government that a limit of 30 people in total applied to weddings, and that numbers for worship would differ depending on the context.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said:

"It's wonderful that we will soon be able to gather again for worship in our churches. This is an important moment and I wanted to share some thoughts:

Over the coming weeks I'll be praying for clergy and congregations, especially those who for whom returning to church will not be straightforward, and for all those who we are called to love and serve.

During lockdown we've found new ways to walk together with Jesus and love our neighbours. As we give thanks to God that we will soon be able to gather again in churches, let's reflect deeply on what God has taught us over these months.

As we prepare to gather together again, we do so knowing that many will be returning bearing new burdens of grief and anxiety. Others will be filled with hope and excitement.

But we do not gather just by ourselves. We are gathered in the embrace of God who holds our griefs, fears and hopes, and who walks with us into this new and uncertain future, lighting our path along the way.

So please pray, not just for our return to our beloved buildings - with all the safety precautions that we must get right - but also for our return to each other. As we meet again, pray that we do so in the knowledge that God is calling us anew to be communities that truly care for one another, support those in need, work for justice and the common good, and boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus.

And if you have been exploring faith with us online during lockdown, you will be so welcome to join us in church over the coming months if that's right for you."

Weddings in churches – an update

As we enter what would ordinarily be a peak time for weddings, we are conscious that for thousands of couples, the law preventing weddings from taking place in church at present has forced a postponement of their plans. We know how disappointing this has been for couples and their families.



We are encouraging the government to ease their restrictions to allow small weddings once it is safe to do so, and in the mean-time we are doing all that we can to help couples to rearrange their plans, and to refund fees in full or transfer them to a future date.

In all likelihood, when weddings are once again permitted by the Government to take place in church buildings, it will be with limited numbers present, and we recognise that this will present a difficult choice.

Whatever you decide to do, your vicar, Reverend Clive, will do his best to accommodate your wishes - whether to go ahead or to reschedule until a time when more people can be present. You are assured of our prayers as you prepare to make these decisions.

Statement on Individual Prayer in Our Local Churches



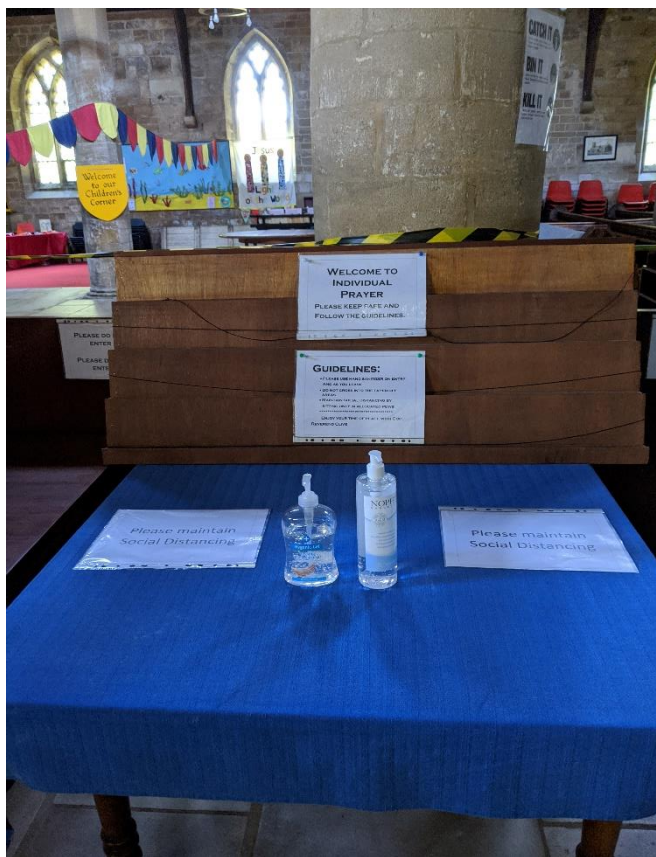
Reverend Clive Todd, Vicar of the Sibsey with Carrington Group and The Brothertoft Group announced last week that Sibsey Church will be opened for Private Prayer on Saturday and Sunday each weekend from 10am to 2pm. He continued, "this will help us to get used to the cleaning regime, the other churches all remain closed but we will review that as things develop in accordance with the Bishops' guidance."

Latest guidance has recommended the following steps are taken.

- Hand sanitiser is provided and anyone who attends the church should use it both on entering and leaving the church.
- Avoid touching and handling surfaces, books and other items as much as possible. Coronavirus can survive on surfaces. Most items have been put away or hidden to prevent handling.
- Avoid touching your face, mouth, nose, or eyes unless you have washed or sanitised your hands.
- Maintain social distancing from others not living in your household (or in your 'bubble'.)
- Read and follow the instructions given by the signs that have been put up.
- Only limited parts of the church are accessible. Do not enter areas that have been cordoned off.
- Meeting and talking with others should take place outside the church, not inside, to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus in the air between you and later visitors.
- Cleaning will take place after the church closes.
- If you become aware that you have attended the church while infected with coronavirus, with or without symptoms, please let Reverend Clive know as soon as you can.

If you visit Sibsey Church for individual prayer and there is any issue arise that you are concerned about please let Reverend Clive know as soon as you can.





Merciful God

Watch over all who come to pray

May your healing grace rest upon them.

May the power of your inner strength pour into them, so enabling them to face the future with hope and confidence.

May the power of their love for you, their families and loved ones and for all who are struggling at this time be channelled to you through and in the love of Christ Jesus, Our Lord and protector.

Let them find peace and may that peace bring them inner joy.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Update on church and cathedral monuments

The Church of England has more than 16,000 churches and 42 cathedrals, almost all of which are home to memorials and monuments to individuals from a period spanning more than a thousand years.

Monuments and memorials tell us a lot, not just about individuals, but about who and what was valued by the society that put them up. What we value and seek to memorialise now is not the same as it was in any other historical period. A prominent memorial in a church in some cases is a mark of the esteem in which the person was held in their community and beyond. In others, it will reflect a donation given to the church at the time by an individual or family – or a combination of the two. In addition to this there are millions of gravestones in churchyards.



The events of the past weeks in response to the tragic death of George Floyd have brought into focus the question of monuments to individuals who have participated in systemic and targeted discrimination or exploitation based on race.

The Church of England's Director of Church Buildings and Cathedrals, Becky Clark, said: "Action is being taken by parishes and cathedrals across England to consider monuments which have links to slave trading or the exploitation of people. Some churches have previously acknowledged and exposed this legacy, but many are just beginning this work in response to the spotlight shone on these questions by the Black Lives Matter movement.

“While it is not possible to provide a single answer which could apply to all circumstances and which would satisfy all legitimate viewpoints, we must be as one in acknowledging the real and justified anger of those who believe monuments in churches and elsewhere must be reviewed.

“Key to determining what should be done in each context is the creation of a dialogue within communities. This must be open and honest, and acknowledge that there are monuments in our churches and cathedrals to individuals and events whose destructive impact is still being felt by people living in the UK today.

“Meaningful dialogue needs to engage with this reality, recognise that these voices have often not been listened to in the past, and make decisions that allow these unjust experiences to form a recognised part of both the history and future of our churches.

“The local and national church should play a leading role by helping to lead and facilitate the conversation, not purely as a discussion around historical monuments, but also how we, as a broad and diverse society, value and represent people of all ethnicities and backgrounds.

“As the Archbishop of Canterbury has said, we can only forgive the actions of the past when we have justice in the present, and statues and memorials need to be seen in both the context of the past and the present.

“Dialogue alone is not sufficient. It must have real outcomes. These may include re-interpretation, or gaining permission for the alteration or removal of monuments. The outcome and possible follow-up action will be different in each case, and depend on the particulars of the monument or memorial itself, recognising the rights of descendants as well as the artefacts as heritage assets.

“Although these decisions will be taken locally, dioceses and national bodies like the Church Buildings Council have a part to play in facilitating those conversations and we have been offering advice and support to churches as they confront the complex challenges of the past and the reality of the present.

“In doing so, we must seek to confront and understand the past whilst recognising the reality of how it impacts people living today.”

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Opening Times

St Botolph's Church

Monday - Friday

9am - 12noon

Please note that our toilets, Gift Shop, Coffee Shop & Lego build at temporarily closed until further notice.

Did you know our Gift Shop is online? Visit www.bostonstumpgiftshop.com



THE PARISH OF BOSTON

A Place of Hospitality • A Place to Belong • A Place to Believe



Lincoln Cathedral has announced that it will be resuming shared worship from 5th July.

We are delighted to announce that from this Sunday 5 July, we are once again able to come together in shared worship at Lincoln Cathedral. We will be offering a reduced number of services to begin with and hope to gradually increase these over the coming weeks.

Sunday 5 July – Holy Communion

Our first service back in the building will be Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Nave.

This week the service will include the lighting of the

Paschal Candle, which we were not able to do on Easter Sunday. There will also be a special liturgy to mark the return of gathered worship.

Worship will observe social distancing rules and be held in the Nave. Download the Order of Service before attending if you can. If you receive one on arrival please take it home with you. There will be music by a cantor and organ but no communal singing. Use hand sanitiser provided. Communion will take place - follow the directions given by stewards.

Live streaming

We understand that not everyone will be able, or wish to join us in the Cathedral for services at the moment. We will stream our 9.30am Sunday Eucharist live on our Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/Lincoln.Cathedral>

Daily worship

From Monday 6 July, our daily pattern of worship will be as follows:

Morning Prayer will take place daily at 8am in St Hugh's Shrine. If you are attending this service, please enter through the Judgement Door.

Evening Prayer will take place at 5.30pm Monday to Saturday and at 3.45pm on Sundays in St Hugh's Shrine. For this service you may enter either through the Judgement Door, or the North West door and follow the one way system to St Hugh's Shrine.

Holy Communion will take place every Sunday at 9.30am in the Nave. Please enter through the North West door.

Coronavirus, Church & You Survey

The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had a profound effect on churches. The lockdown has severely restricted ministry in areas such as pastoral care, fellowship groups, and serving the community. On the other hand, for those with online access, worship has taken on new and creative forms over the last few weeks. Many clergy and ministry teams have risen to the challenge of operating in the virtual environment.

As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience, and what they think the future might hold. *How well have people coped with the pandemic? Has it strengthened or weakened their faith? How has it been for clergy and ministry teams trying to work in this new environment? How have those receiving ministry found this novel experience? Will virtual ministry become part of the post-pandemic landscape, and will this be a good move for your church?*

We have developed a survey over the last few weeks in discussion with bishops, clergy and lay people which we hope will enable you to record your experience of the pandemic, the ministry you have given or received, and what you think will happen to churches in a post-pandemic world. In an article to launch the survey in the *Church Times*, the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, wrote: "This survey is an attempt to go beyond anecdote... It will capture evidence of both excitement and fears for the future, of where stress levels have changed, and whether personal faith has weakened or grown."

This is an online survey, which we estimate it will take you about 20-30 minutes to complete. Most of the questions simply require you to tick boxes, though there are options to specify your particular circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to tell us your views in your own words. Alongside questions about the pandemic and ministry there are sections which ask about you: these are important because they will allow us to see how the lockdown is affecting different sorts of people in different contexts.

The survey can be completed on mobile phones, though it is more quickly completed on devices with larger screens such as tablets or computers.

You can access using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yqsq9fy2>

Please forward this link to any churches or churchgoers you feel might want to take part in the survey and support this research. We should have some initial results within a few weeks and will make these available as widely as we can.

The Revd Professor Andrew Village, York St John University a.village@yorks.ac.uk

The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis, Visiting Professor York St John University

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We have had some pictures of absolutely wonderful knitted flowers sent to us. We will always need more, so please do keep going! We will let you know when the cut off for sending them is, but you still have time. Thank you to all those who have contributed so far, it will be an amazing display. We can now accept your knitted flowers in St Botolph's Church, Monday - Friday, 9am - 12noon. Alternatively, you can post them to us! The address you need is: Flowers of Hope, Rectory Offices, Wormgate, Boston. PE21 6NP

BOSTON CONNECTED: FLOWERS *of* HOPE

As a world, nation and community we are facing another challenge, a silent enemy which is destroying lives, businesses and hopes. Yet there will be an end to it, and when that happens, we will plan to reopen St Botolph's Church and commemorate all we have been through and celebrate the future ahead. As part of this we are asking you all to pick up your knitting needles!

This time we want you to raid your scrap boxes and get knitting flowers! We will then display them on panels representing the four seasons of the year, to make a colourful and inspiring image of hope.

It doesn't matter what pattern you use, or what colour. The only guidance is that your flower heads should be no more than 12.5cm (5inches) please.

Make as many as you want to or can and keep hold of them until we are able to re-open. As soon as this happens, we will be in touch with details about how to get them to us!

Happy knitting!



Daily Hope, the free dial-in worship phone line is available during the coronavirus lockdown

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services in mind.

The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Callers to the line hear a short greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



Options available include materials also made available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as [Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer](#), updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England [weekly national online service](#).

A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group.

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Other News

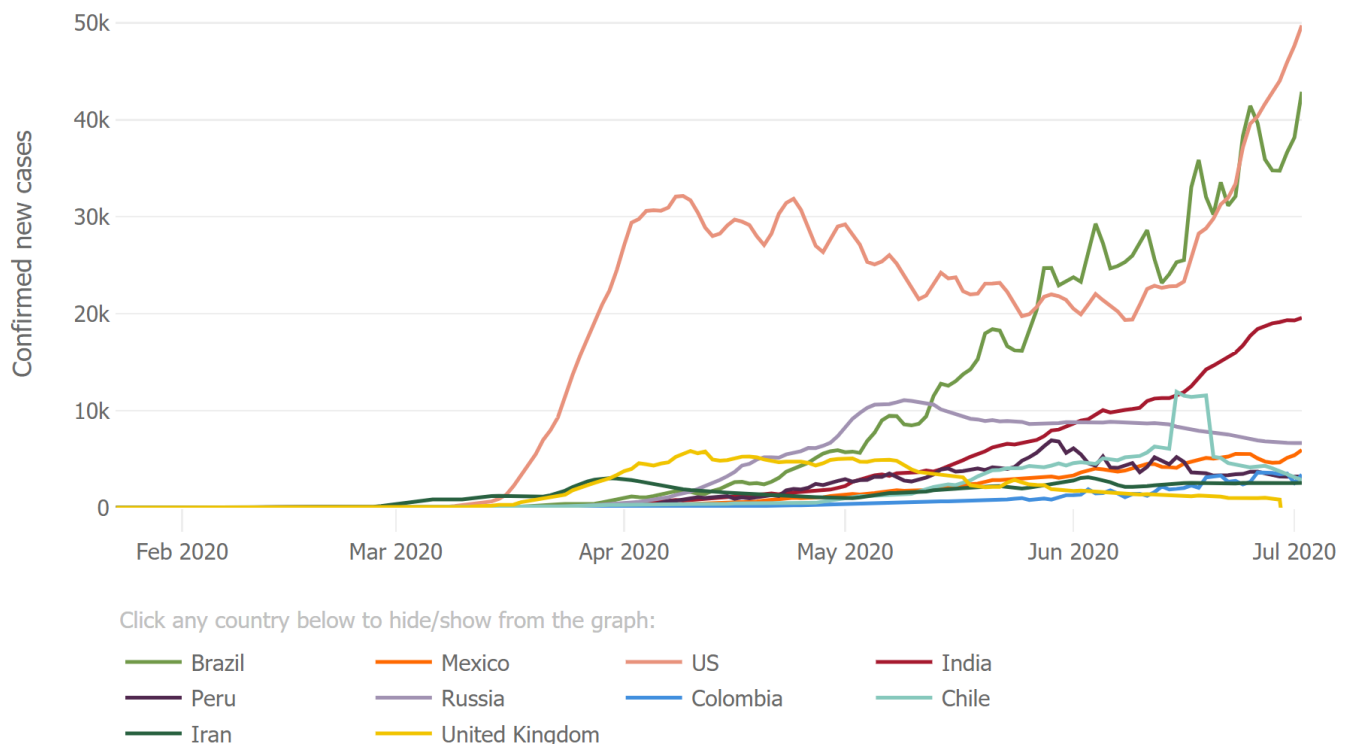
Latest figures

The Johns Hopkins [Covid-19 Dashboard](#) appears to be one of the best source for statistics on the spread of the virus. It is possible to see statistics and graphs for 188 countries with the latest known information.



Daily confirmed new cases (5-day moving average)

Outbreak evolution for the current 10 most affected countries



Mental health

- The Church of England has produced some mental health reflections to help you in this time of uncertainty. You can access them at: cofe.io/MentalHealth.
- The Mental Health Foundation has also produced some useful resources, which can be found at: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus>
- You can find a host of other [mental health resources](#) from a variety of different organisations and charities. <https://www.mentalhealthatwork.org.uk/toolkit/coronavirus-and-isolation-supporting-yourself-and-your-colleagues/>
<https://www.mind.org.uk>
- Some helpful books and resources are also available from [Sacristy Press](#) at <https://www.sacristy.co.uk/books/coronavirus-church-resources#>

Faith leaders make call for environment-focused economic recovery

UK faith leaders have called on the Government to ensure its economic recovery plan does not bypass care for the Environment. Marking the end of the first half of London Climate Action Week, representatives from UK faith groups have signed an open letter to the UK Government urging it to ensure that its economic recovery strategy is centred on the urgent need to reduce the impact of climate change.

In the letter, the signatories, some of whom are members of the 'Faith for the Climate' network, also commit to the goals of the *Laudato Si* encyclical – an initiative of Pope Francis – to advocate for and model positive initiatives to continue to tackle the Climate Emergency. *The open letter includes:*

"COVID-19 has unexpectedly taught us a great deal. Amidst the fear and the grief for loved ones lost, ... We have rediscovered our sense of how interconnected the world is. The very health and future of humanity depends on our ability to act together not only with respect to pandemics but also in protecting our global eco-system..."

"Many people have discovered a deeper sense of spirituality. We have seen the possibility of creating a more sustainable and generous society in which we care more deeply for each other and the world..."

"This unique moment calls us to develop a shared new vision for our future which we cannot afford to miss. As faith leaders we are committed to working alongside the people and governments of this nation and the world to formulate and live by such a vision."

Those signed the letter include:

Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and Church of England lead Bishop on Environmental Affairs

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Rabbi, New North London Synagogue and Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism

Bishop John Arnold, RC Bishop of Salford and lead on Environment for the Catholic Bishop's' Conference of England and Wales

Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London

Qari Muhammad Asim MBE, Chair, Mosques & Imams National Advisory Board

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

STOP. Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits
- Vaccines or miracle cures – there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home decontamination services.

CHALLENGE. Question communications and encourage others to do the same.

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you. If in doubt, speak to someone you trust.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good Friend,
help to protect
your family,
friends and
neighbours from
scams.

**Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.**

#ScamAware
#Coronavirus



PROTECT. Contact:

If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank first.
For advice on scams, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on

0808 223 11 33.

To report a scam, call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040.**

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

To learn more about different types of scams, visit: www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

IT'S A SCAM

FRAUDSTERS WANT YOUR MONEY



**Beware of criminals posing as police officers,
bank staff, inland revenue or PPI companies**



Do you need some help while self-isolating?

If you need a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just want someone to talk to, our NHS Volunteer Responders are here to help.

Call **0808 196 3646** or visit **nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk**