

Latest News – 14th November 2020



Watch the service - Celebrating friendships that cross continents

Join us in celebrating friendships that cross continents, with this online service from the Anglican Communion.

Led by Bishop Anthony Poggo, the service includes a sermon from Sheran Harper, President of the Mother's Union, and reflects on how communities in different parts of the world support one another in both good and hard times.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Join us for our weekly service from 9am on Sunday on Facebook and YouTube

The service will be broadcast on the Church of England's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) accounts at 9am on Sunday.

The service is to be broadcast from 9am on Sunday on the [Church of England's website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

An order of service is available to [download online](#).

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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LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

Living in Love and Faith resources published as bishops issue appeal to Church to 'listen and learn together'

09/11/2020

The Church of England has published a landmark set of resources drawing together the Bible, theology, science and history with powerful real-life stories as it embarks on a new process of discernment and decision-making on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

The product of three years' work by more than 40 people, led by the Bishop of Coventry, [Living in Love and Faith includes a 480-page book](#), a series of films and podcasts, a course and an online library of other publications, in what is thought to be the most extensive work in this area by any faith group in the world. It comes as the House of Bishops issues an appeal to the whole Church of England to participate in learning together, using the resources for open, honest and gracious discussion, listening and learning.

A group of bishops, chaired by the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, will lead the process of discernment and decision-making about a way forward for the church in relation to human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. It is anticipated that the period of church-wide learning and engagement would take place **during 2021**. The House of Bishops would then bring the discernment and decision-making to a timely conclusion **in 2022** which would then be put before Synod.

In a foreword to the Living in Love and Faith resources, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, acknowledge and apologise for the "huge damage and hurt" that has been caused particularly to LGBTI+ people within the Church.

"At the heart of our failure is the absence of a genuine love for those whom God loves in Christ, knowing as God does every aspect of all of our lives," they write.

But addressing the future, they add: "Our prayer for the Church through this work is that collectively we demonstrate the same love to one another that we have experienced from God."

The book opens with an account of how Jesus invited people to sit down together as he fed the 5,000. It notes how Jesus often sat down with people with radically different lives and views. In their invitation to the church, the bishops say: "Our prayer is that as all of us, the people of God, take time to listen and learn together, our love for one another will be deepened and our faith in Jesus Christ strengthened so that His joy will be made complete in us."



The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, who oversaw the Living in Love and Faith project, said: "These learning resources are the fruit of an extraordinary collaborative process.

"This has involved intense and prayerful study and reflection as well as listening to as wide a range of voices and experiences as possible. Our hope is that through them people will be inspired by the Bible's glorious and joyful vision of God's intention for human life. Questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage are deeply personal with real life consequences. Engaging with these resources will be enriching and, at different points for different people, deeply challenging and uncomfortable. They ask us to examine afresh what it means for Christians to live in love and faith.

We offer them in the hope that the whole of the Church of England will embrace this opportunity to learn and reflect together across difference for the sake of our unity in Christ."



The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who will lead the 'Next Steps Group,' said: "The challenges of the pandemic have underlined how we need each other more than ever. At the same time, we can see how deeply divided the Church is over these questions, and we must seek God's will by learning together, listening to each other and to God. We will encourage and support churches to do this in ways appropriate to their local contexts over the coming year, inviting people to reflect on their learning, both as groups and individually. This must be a meaningful process with a clear way forward. However, it will not succeed without love, grace, kindness and compassion."

Find out more on the [Living in Love and Faith](#) website.

The Bishop of Grantham has recorded a message in this video <https://youtu.be/15SOCxaShDY>



Curate takes worship into whole new dimension - with children's services in *Minecraft*

As churches rose to the challenge of moving services online amid Covid-19 restrictions this year, one curate has gone step further in efforts to engage with young members of her congregation – by taking worship inside a video game.

The Revd Jo Burden, who recently joined West Hereford Team Ministry, in the Diocese of Hereford, came up with the idea of reaching out to children on a platform they were familiar with – *Minecraft*.

Minecraft, a Swedish videogame is the most popular game of its type in history and involves players exploring in square-shaped avatars a world which requires discovery and the extraction of raw materials.

New to the West Hereford Team Ministry, a benefice of All Saints', Holy Trinity, St Michael's, and St Nicholas' churches, Revd Burden began by asking young people to create something in *Minecraft's* world which reflected the theme of the Sunday service.

Seeing the success of the engagement with the material, Revd Burden even ran a holiday club.

She said: "The format for Minecraft church was similar to any normal church service. We explored how we pray, how we say sorry to God, how we worship and we looked at a passage from the Bible.

"The holiday club created a space for children to have ownership of church.



More than 17,000 online services and events provided by Church of England parishes

More than 17,000 online services and events are being provided by Church of England churches following the introduction of the lockdown and restrictions on public worship earlier this year, according to a new report published today.

Figures from the Church of England's [A Church Near You website](#), which allows people to search for church services and events, show that more than 17,000 online services or events are now listed, including Sunday Communion services, Bible studies and morning or night prayer. Many of these services take place regularly and this figure represents a snapshot of the likely total number.



The statistics do not include the [Church of England's national online weekly services](#) broadcast on Sundays and shared on Facebook and YouTube.

There have been nearly three million views of the national online services and posts about the weekly broadcasts have been seen 23.6 million times. Contributors have included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Duke of Cambridge and Pope Francis.

The national online services are being watched by a wide range of ages and around one in five people viewing go to church infrequently or not at all.

Other figures in the report show that official Church of England apps from Church House Publishing – the most popular being Daily Prayer, or the Daily Office of morning, evening and night prayer - have been used more than seven million times so far this year, up from five million in 2019. Church of England social media posts have been seen 86 million times so far, nearly double the total for last year.

The growth in online services has been helped by the Church of England stepping up its digital training programme for congregations. More than 4,200 vicars and local church leaders have taken part in remote digital training courses so far this year, four times the number as in 2019.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: “At a time when many have felt isolated and fearful, Church of England parishes and clergy have broadcast thousands of online church services and events, seeking to bring comfort and hope to their communities. We know that tens of thousands of those tuning in will never have had contact with their local Church of England parish before and may never have heard the Christian message. Their welcome presence is a sign of the great hunger we all have for spiritual meaning in our lives.”

The 2020 digital figures are published alongside the Mission Statistics for 2019 showing social action and church attendance until December. The figures show that parishes were already running or supporting 35,000 social action projects before the pandemic, serving communities across the country from lunch clubs for older people to parent and toddler groups and food banks.

More than 4,000 parent/carer toddler groups are run or supported by Church of England churches, while more than 5,000 churches run or support lunch clubs, coffee mornings or similar hospitality for older people.

The figures show the extent of church support for people living in food poverty with nearly 8,000 food banks run or supported by Church of England churches.

Nearly 60% of churches are involved in food bank provision while nearly one in three reported either running, hosting or supporting a parent/toddler group. Other figures showed 2,700 churches involved in community cafes, 2,400 in night shelters and 2,300 in holiday or breakfast clubs.

The findings show Church of England churches were involved in 35,000 social action projects, compared to 33,000 recorded in 2017.

The figures for social action have been released alongside statistics showing that the number of regular worshippers attending church once a month or more decreased by 1% in 2019 to 1.11 million.

On average, 854,000 people attended Church of England services and acts of worship each week in October 2019, a decline of 2.1% compared to the year before. The additional number of people attending services for schools in Church of England churches rose by 3% to 182,000. Usual Sunday attendance fell by 2% to 690,000 in 2019.

There were nearly eight million attendances at Christmas and Advent services and more than a million people attended Church of England church services at Easter.

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A new series of the Channel 4 programme *Britain's Most Historic Towns*, began on Saturday 7 November. This can also be seen on All4 – Channel 4's catch-up service.

Presented by Dr Alice Roberts, the first episode is medieval Lincoln which features Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle among others.

You can watch Britain's Most Historic Towns on Saturday evenings at 8pm on Channel 4.

The full series includes:

Medieval Lincoln – 7 November
Restoration London – 14 November
Portsmouth Age of Empire – 21 November
Elizabethan Plymouth – 28 November
Glasgow Age of Steam – 5 December
Georgian Edinburgh – 12 December
Industrial Revolution Manchester – 19 December



Churches to hold month of prayer as second lockdown begins

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and a number of senior church leaders are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in the month of prayer as a second lockdown in England comes into force.

Throughout the month, Christians will be encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

Christians will be encouraged to follow a simple seven-day prayer cycle, praying for a specific area each day including the NHS and frontline workers, the bereaved, and those struggling with physical and mental ill-health, and for children and young people.

Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation and on this [webpage](#).

New Community of Prayer for cathedral's soaring online congregation

It is more than 900 years since a travelling community of monks settled on the site that is now Durham Cathedral. Now, amid the momentous events of 2020, the Cathedral has founded an online Community of Prayer to serve its growing digital congregation around the world.



A core group of 200 people have been engaging proactively with digital services put out by the cathedral, a World Heritage Site. A further 1,300 people are then returning later in the day to an online service. The Community of Prayer has been launched online to engage with the new internet worshippers. Free to join, the [Community takes place on Facebook](#) with monthly Zoom meetings. Quiet days held twice monthly, are also on offer.

Canon Chancellor, Canon Charlie Allen, said: "I am overjoyed to be launching our new online Community of Prayer. Lockdown showed us just how many people across the globe have a real connection to Durham Cathedral and we want to build on this sense of community in a positive and meaningful way by forming this shared space of prayer. I am hopeful that our new online community will become a useful resource for those who would like to deepen their sense of belonging to Durham Cathedral and explore their faith, while also combatting some of the loneliness felt by many at this time."

Congregational worship has returned to Durham Cathedral, which was built in 1093, but the online Community will serve those who are unable to visit in person. You can find out more on Durham Cathedral's website [here](#).

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Lincoln Cathedral

The Chapter Letter 8th November 2020: A Time to Remember

From the Sub-Dean:

There is no doubt that the year 2020 is, for better or for worse, going to be remembered! Pandemic, lockdowns, American presidential elections, Brexit and with our own personal traumas and ordeals the list goes on and on.

With the coming of November, we're in the season of remembering. We have just had All Saints and All Souls and now we have Remembrance Sunday, when we remember those who gave their lives in war and we promise during the service that 'we will remember them'.

To remember is to have a sense of identity, to know who we are and where we have come from, the good bits as well as the bad. Without the ability to remember we would all be stuck forever in the present and we all know how distressing it is to have a loved one whose memory is failing. The challenge we have is to make sure that our memories do not become too selective: that as individuals, groups and society we don't cancel out what is perceived to be inconvenient,

objectionable or unworthy. If we let our identity today be shaped by a remembering which is partial, limited or distorted, then we ourselves will become limited or distorted.

In the Eucharist we hear Jesus' words, "Do this in memory of me"; we do indeed remember but we also, by the grace of God, open ourselves to something wider and deeper, more profound and truer than just our immediate surroundings and ourselves. The self-giving love of Jesus is not simply something that happens once in the past: it is present with us as we share together in the bread and the wine, and it feeds us and prepares us – however bleak the present – for an exciting future.

JOHN PATRICK, SUBDEAN

As England entered its second national lockdown from Thursday 5 November, Lincoln Cathedral is once again open for individual private prayer only.

As part of the new government measures which have been introduced, public services are temporarily suspended, events are cancelled and tourist visits can no longer take place, however, live services from the Cathedral will be shared online to allow worship to continue.

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Roof Alarm Grants available



(Pictured is the Revd Neil Knox and colleague laying a temporary covering after their lead was stolen in 2019).

Allchurches Trust has given a generous grant to the Lincoln Diocese to assist with the installation of roof alarms to protect vulnerable lead roofs. This will pay for up to 50% of the cost of installing a roof alarm system, capped at a maximum of £2,500 per church, excluding VAT. The grant is being administered through

the Diocese of Lincoln.

As many of you know, there was a major spate of lead theft across the Diocese in 2018, 2019 and at the beginning of this year. In response to this we have been working closely with Lincolnshire Police to identify which remaining lead roofs are most vulnerable to metal theft. Experience through this and earlier periods of metal theft shows that having a roof alarm will act as a deterrent and if the worst happens and a theft does occur, having an alarm gives parishes the reassurance of far greater insurance cover and payout. Depending on the scale of the building, one aisle can cost around £60,000 to recover in terne coated stainless steel, and we recognise this is a crippling amount for a parish to find if they are under insured and without an alarm.

The grant criteria are:

- The type of alarm and the supplier must be approved by your insurer.
- The PCC must agree to pay for the annual maintenance of the alarm for at least five years.
- You have not already had a grant from Allchurches Trust for this purpose.

If your PCC is interested in applying for a grant, please contact Fran Bell, Church Development Officer in the first instance at: fran.bell@lincoln.anglican.org



LRSN is a volunteer-led organisation that provides pastoral and practical support to farming and rural people during periods of anxiety, stress and problems relating to their families and businesses.

LRSN is open for business and ready, willing and able to help you, whatever your problem, wherever you are in Lincolnshire. If you or someone you know needs to talk through an issue, please contact us using our helpline number, 0800 138 1710. Visit www.lrsn.co.uk

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RoadHoG November 2020 newsletter published



RoadHoG bus visits to Sibsey have been suspended for the lockdown period.

The November newsletter has been published <http://roadhogbus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/112-November-2020.pdf>

If you have ever considered joining one of our RoadHoG Teams and would like to attend a training session, please do get in touch with us. Attending the training will not mean that you will automatically have to regularly join a Team at a Stop, but you will get a taste of what we do and, whether you ultimately decide to work within the Project or not, you will be made extremely welcome. To arrange to join the training sessions, you can contact us through the website www.roadhogbus.org.uk or just type RoadHoG Boston into your browser and leave a message along with your contact details.

Take 1 minute a day to report your health daily on the COVID-19 Symptom Study app even if you are well. Help science beat the virus.

Find out more at <https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

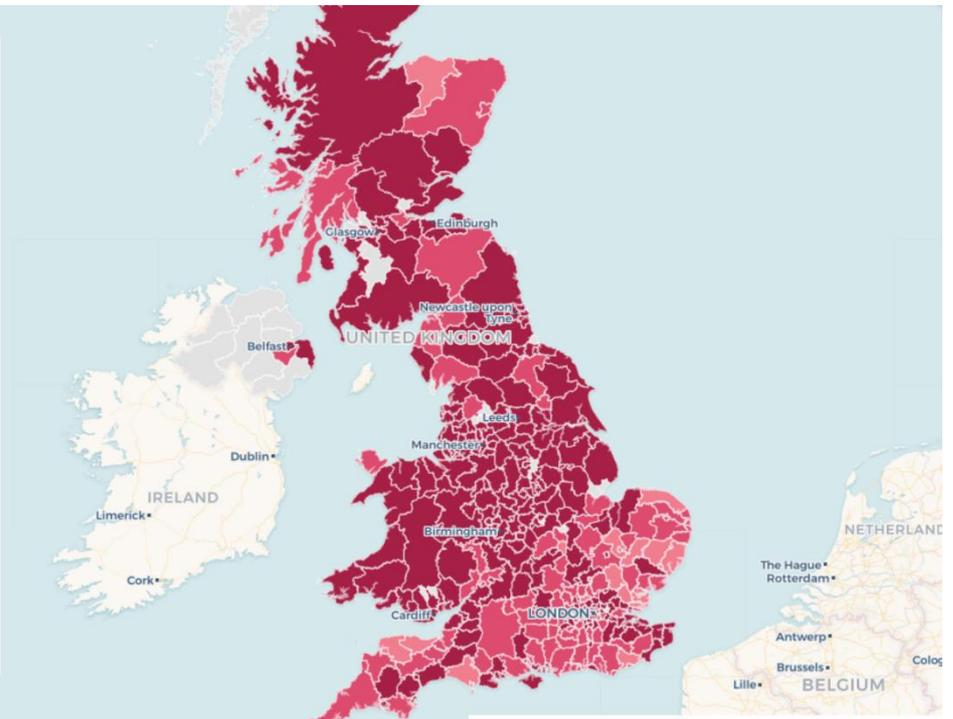
568,413

people are currently predicted to have symptomatic COVID in the UK

Estimated cases per million

- Not enough data
- 0 - 1000 cases pm
- 1000 - 2000 cases pm
- 2000 - 3000 cases pm
- 3000 - 5000 cases pm
- 5000 + cases pm

Last update: 14 of November, 5:00am BST

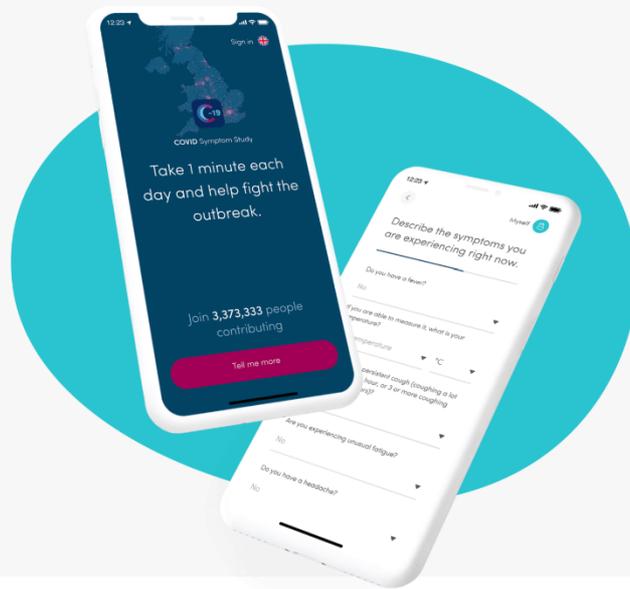


4,342,924

CONTRIBUTORS

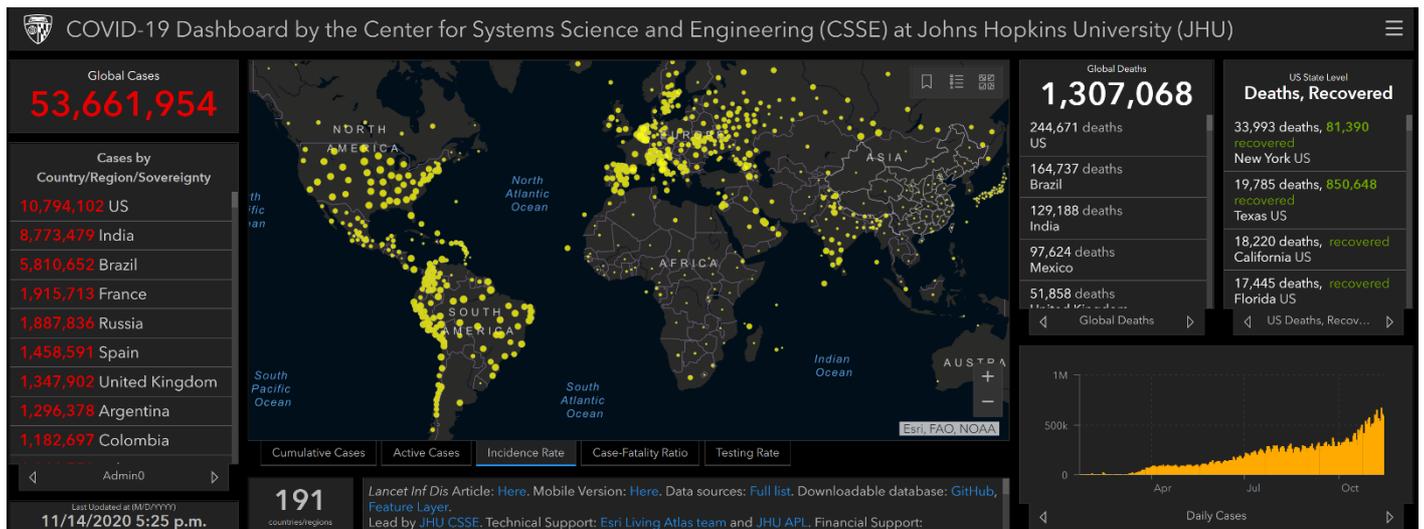
People of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID. Support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

Take 1-min to report your health daily, even if you are well.



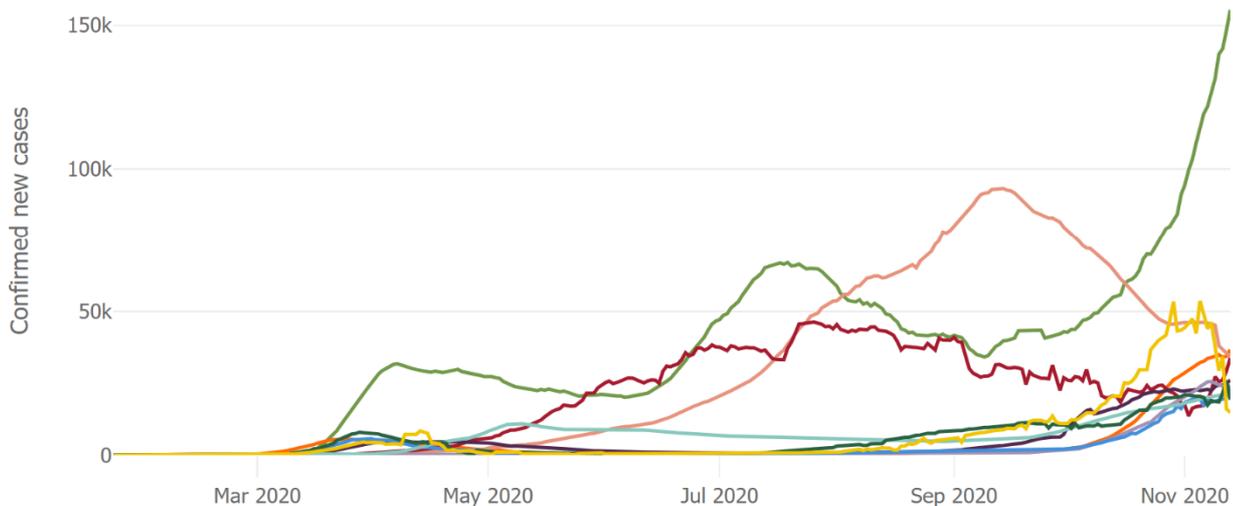
Latest figures

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 (7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE)

Outbreak evolution for the current 10 most affected countries



Click any country below to hide/show from the graph:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> US | <input type="checkbox"/> Italy | <input type="checkbox"/> India | <input type="checkbox"/> Brazil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom | <input type="checkbox"/> Poland | <input type="checkbox"/> Germany | <input type="checkbox"/> Russia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spain | <input type="checkbox"/> France | | |

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#>

Further links to mental health charities can be found on the NHS webpages at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>

Topical Prayers

The Church of England website offers words you can use in your prayers for all kinds of situations ranging from the everyday to personal situations, family events and prayers for others. If you need some help finding the right words, please go to the Church of England website here

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers>

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

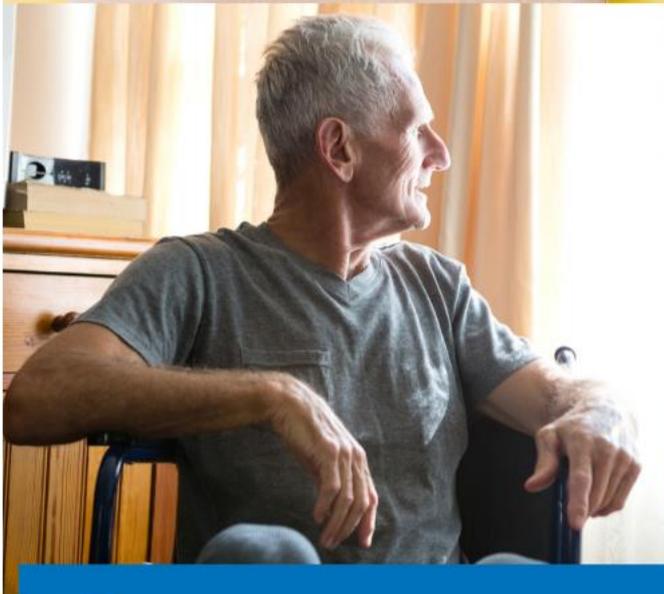
To learn more about different types of scams, visit: www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

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