

Latest News – 23rd January 2021



Watch the service – Living with Difference

Rev Dr Paul Goodliff speaks of living with difference. The full service marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, featuring contributions from Chemin Neuf and led by Rev Charles Hadley.

A video player interface for a service trailer. On the left, a dark blue vertical banner contains the Church of England logo and the text: "Join us for our weekly service from 9am on Sunday on Facebook and YouTube". The main video area is a collage of six smaller video thumbnails. The top row shows a priest in white, a man in clerical attire, a woman in a white top, and an older man in a sweater. The bottom row shows two women in white robes, a young boy, and a man in a grey sweater. A play button icon is centered over the collage. In the top right corner of the video player, there are icons for "Watch later" and "Share".

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

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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Research

Coronavirus, Church and You Survey

Key findings from a survey to find the impact of lockdown on churchgoers.

[START THE COVID-19 AND CHURCH-21 SURVEY →](#)



Covid-19 & Church-21: What now and what next?

Our new survey is now ready!

If we have learnt anything since last March it is that, with COVID-19, nothing stands still. Just when you think you have worked out what's going on, another twist in the saga seems to plunge you back to square one. Has Lockdown 2021 simply returned us full circle, or are we in a different place now from last March? Since then, a lot has changed, and we have also learnt great deal. What is different this time is that vaccines offer a genuine hope that there will be a better future somewhere down the road. So now seems a good time to take stock and look ahead.

We would like to get a sense of how clergy and lay people are coping with the current lockdown. The blossoming of different forms of online and socially-distanced worship has shown the creativity of local churches, but also the variations in how much can be achieved. We'd like to make a detailed audit of what has been done, and what those who produce or access services make of them now. Lockdown church life has become more familiar, but have we grown to like it any better?

Our work with personality helped to bust the myth that introverts would love lockdown and extroverts would wither away. Not so, but the picture is complicated, and we would like to gather more data to test out some new ideas.

Finally, we want to know what people think about the future of the church post pandemic. We would like to see if opinions have shifted on things like the fragility of the church and the future of virtual church, as well as asking about some more general theological issues. Lockdown has made us re-evaluate the role of Holy Communion in worship, and some have also wondered about how we can understand the role of God in the pandemic.

The Covid-19 & Church-21 survey is your opportunity to be part of this crucial research project. It will take about 20 minutes of your time, which will enable you to give a thorough picture of your experiences and opinions. Thank you if you took part last time, and we look forward to seeing what emerges now.

Use the link below to start the survey.

[Click here to go to the survey](#)

Lincoln Cathedral

The Chapter Letter 24th January 2021

Generosity of love will help heal the tears

The last couple of weeks have been among the most painful in my recent memory. The continued gathering of dozens of people together, and the inevitable interaction between people meant that the difficult decision was taken to maintain the Cathedral's daily round of prayer for the diocese and its communities – but to do this without a wider congregation present. It is a decision I own, and one I support – but in many ways one that goes against almost everything I would instinctually want to do.

The experience of being locked out of church in the first lockdown was, I know, intensely painful for many – and the inability of parish priests to pray in the church of the parish for its people was a pain that was difficult for many. Things that seemed certain were revealed to be fragile.

However, after the comfort of obediently praying from a chapel in my home, the return to praying on my own in the church building – without the normal company of voices to join mine and those of the saints – was a far more challenging place to be. There was a tangible gap, and a deeply felt absence in gathering with so many missing.

As we travel through lockdown number three, that feeling of an absence, a tear, or a gash between us is just as present; as members of the cathedral foundation continue to maintain a regular rhythm of prayer and worship on behalf of all, but without everyone present, there is a gash of absence in our midst.

There are plenty of other 'gashes' evident in our world today; within our communities, among our nation (or nations), and in the wider family of nations. All of these speak of absence in some way – a distancing that puts people apart and, in being apart, exposes people to the temptation to draw ever further away. Another tear of which we might be aware this week is the tear that prevents those who perceive the love of God from seeing that love to its perfect fulfilment in the unity of the Church. Our human failings have led to centuries of division as those who acknowledge Christ struggle to perceive the truth that flows from knowing this light – and the truth that should bind us together, becomes a source of division.

In this week's gospel we see an example of the generosity of God that is revealed to us by Christ in our midst – when absence seems to threaten (in this case of wine), we find Christ revealing a new (and better) reality beyond the sense of loss. At a time when so many are feeling loss, it is generosity of love that is shown to be the necessary antidote to heal the tears in the fabric of not only the Church but communities and nations.

Amidst what can seem a time of sadness there are, for each of us, glints of light that may shine into the darkness; it is this sense of light shining in darkness that is one of the central images of the Epiphany season. Many of these glints of light will, perforce, be fragmentary at the present time, but it is important to remember that there are such fragments which can bind us together.

In the life of the cathedral community there are continuing fragments of our normal life in the ability for people to join worship online, the continuance of the cathedral as a place where people can participate in the sacredness of place through private prayer even if they cannot join together in worship, and there are the individual gestures of friendship and fellowship that I know many members of our community continue to share in whatever way they can.

In the same way, there are things that bind us together in wider society. Just like our church life at the moment, they may not be complete – they may indeed be fragile or fragmentary – but there are nonetheless things that can be sources of coming together in our world. Just as we may struggle with the present partial nature of our spiritual life as a community but hope for better things, likewise we can long for better things in the wider world – and work toward that vision of a world that, if not healed, is seeking healing by grasping those things that we can and building on them in love.

None of this is perfect, none of it is desirable (and some of it may be wrong), but all we can do is to do our best to imitate the generosity of love that we see revealed through Christ – a gift that is unbounded grace. It is through our openness to the work of grace in our lives that the fragile can be pieced back together, the broken made whole. And it is through grace that we can know the abundance of love that transforms all in hope.

NICK BROWN, PRECENTOR

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Lincoln Cathedral suspends in-person worship and will continue to be streamed online.

Worship & Mission

On Tuesday 12 January 2020, Lincoln Cathedral announced that services will be available online only and that worship attended by the public will be suspended until further notice due to the increasing local and national prevalence of COVID-19.

The decision has been taken with a very heavy heart, but that public safety and preventing the spread of the virus remains our primary concern

Online services

For the duration of the lockdown services broadcast online will include:

- Eucharist on Sunday mornings at 10am
- Morning Prayer – 8am Monday to Friday, 9am Saturdays
- Evensong Tuesdays and Fridays at 5.30pm
- Evening Prayer – 5.30pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 4.30pm Saturdays, and 3.45pm Sundays.

Private Prayer

The Retro-Choir at the Cathedral will remain open for individual private prayer and reflection between 10am and 1pm Monday to Saturday and 11.30am-1pm on Sundays.

Access for private prayer will be through the Judgement Porch on the South side of the Cathedral. The Dean's Green will remain open between 10am and 4pm daily as a place of quiet reflection.

Online Prayer Wall

Lincoln Cathedral also offers an online prayer wall where prayers can be left from the comfort and safety of your home and a virtual candle lit. Visit <https://lincolncathedral.com/prayers/>

RoadHoG bus service



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

To read the RoadHoG January 2021 Newsletter click [here](#).

Updated – 6/1/21 – The Prime Minister announced further restrictions due to the increasing number of infections of the Covid-19 virus with a national lock-down. This means the project will remain off the road and our only contact with you will continue through our online prayer room and the online “Distance Dilemma” activities. We call it “Distance Dilemmas” because, although we don’t like the distance the virus causes, we understand that as a community we need to play our part in protecting the most vulnerable, and at risk until the new vaccines kick in.

WE WILL BE BACK SOON. As soon as the vaccine kicks in, the brighter weather comes when we can get outside and when it is safe, we can’t wait to get back on the road. We will keep you posted,

but we really hope to open and meet young people to provide them with a dry place to serve a hot drink, some socially distanced games, a listening ear and take-away sheets. It has been good to see young people make use of our prayer room and have a try winning a roadHoG Goody Bag. Keep them coming. As soon as we can, and in consultation with the Lincolnshire Police, we will be back to visit in 8 different communities.

Our schools work has been hit very hard by the Covid-19 restrictions. However, we remain very positive as the vaccinations are distributed, in time, our need to distance will reduce. Social Distancing is the greatest challenge to the bus opening. We are very thankful to the **Slavanka Trust** who have provided us with a grant to sustain our schools work and stay in contact with local schools. This grant has enabled us to start booking dates from February to July with primary and secondary schools. Currently 50% of our available dates are booked. We will in close contact with schools as to whether these bookings go ahead.

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'The Blessing' for Lincolnshire

Singers from parishes across the Diocese joined with those of many other churches to create Lincolnshire's own version of 'The Blessing' which became a national hit earlier in the year.



From Scunthorpe (St Hugh, Old Brumby) to Market Deeping (St Guthlac) via Horncastle (St Mary) singers have contributed to this powerful song which also shows some of the work churches do to serve their communities, such as Foodbanks and Street Pastors.

One of these is Stepping Stones, a regular 'pop up' community charity shop based at St George's, Swallowbeck.

The song is inspired by the famous blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 - "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." In the Bible this blessing was for the Aaron and the priests to say over Israel. The Lincolnshire Blessing is a prayer for all the people in the communities we serve, as churches working together.

The video is on [You Tube](#).



Christian Aid online conference in February

Christian Aid is hosting an online conference between Monday 22nd and Friday 26th February that has been designed to help engage, equip and inspire supporters. The theme of the conference is 'Changemakers: Real People, Real Change'.

The conference is for people new to Christian Aid as well as those who've been supporters for a long time. Come and hear what we're doing in some of the poorest communities round the world and how you can play your part in bringing God's love, hope and justice.

Here is a flavour of some of the seminars that will take place:

- The Kingdom of God and the Power and Meaning of the Prophetic Gesture
- How telling your story well can inspire others
- Getting the most out of digital fundraising
- Exploring the intersections of climate justice and racial justice
- Doing good, feeling good
- Christian Aid Week innovators

Click this link to see the [**whole programme**](#) which also contains links so you can book your place.

Alternatively, the sessions are also outlined on the Christian Aid website here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/changemakers-conference-programme>.

Click on the Green "Register" button and follow the steps to secure your place.



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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Covid rules for Lent and Easter ceremonies issued



PUBLISHED IN CHURCH TIMES

BY [HATTIE WILLIAMS](#)

19 JANUARY 2021

[Imposition of ashes permitted during Ash Wednesday services](#)

THE imposition of ashes will be permitted during Ash Wednesday services next month, with precautions, for Church of England churches that are open for public worship during the current lockdown, new guidance states.

While government guidance permits places of worship in England to remain open under the current restrictions, many churches have chosen to close anyway to mitigate the risk of coronavirus infection. Churches may choose to reopen for Lent services, by which time the lockdown will have been reviewed by the Government.

In normal times, to mark the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, the priest would mark a cross on the forehead of each recipient and recite the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

New C of E guidance for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, published on Tuesday, however, states that priests should sanitise their hands immediately before the imposition of ashes begins, stand at "arm's length" from



the recipient, and “sprinkle” the ashes on each recipient’s head “without touching them or speaking any words”. The use of oil may, therefore, be unnecessary.

“If the minister accidentally touches the recipient, they must sanitize hands again. The temptation should be resisted to use a single-use implement to apply ash to the forehead. If ash is being produced locally, this should be done in a hygienic manner.”

The practice is recommended only in a church or churchyard, but worshippers are invited to impose ashes on one another at home. “Ministers may wish to encourage the imposition of ash within households, especially if public worship is not taking place. Instructions for making ash (whether from palm crosses or something else) can be shared with congregations.”

Under government jurisdiction, however, no small groups may meet in public buildings or private homes (including vicarages) unless they are support groups. Recitals of poetry and music are also banned for this reason. The Passion narrative, however, may be said or sung by up to three people during worship, the C of E says, though government guidance states that any singing “should be limited to one person wherever possible”.

Many other Easter traditions are also permitted in the church guidance. This includes Stations of the Cross in a church building, though people are advised not to gather around one Station, remaining socially distanced. Sharing pictures of the Stations online or in a handout is recommended.

Palm crosses can be distributed hygienically — “in sandwich bags or envelopes” — if they are made locally, the guidance says, and people are encouraged to make their own to display in their windows. Touching or kissing of the cross in church is not permitted.

The watch — silent prayer from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday — is permitted under the rules of private prayer in places of worship, as is the three-hour devotion. The Paschal candle can be carried, fires lit, and flowers arranged for services as long as social distancing is maintained.

The Chrism eucharist with the distribution of oils is also permitted as long as government guidance is followed. “Bishops and cathedrals may wish to find alternative means of renewing commitments and distributing oils, in addition to a service or other gathering online. If oils are distributed, they should be hygienically bottled in advance and handled a minimum number of times.”

Outdoor services or walks of witness except for within churchyards are no longer permitted, and processions within church are not recommended. The Maundy Thursday tradition of foot-washing is also not permitted. Prostration before the altar is permitted provided surfaces are cleaned before and afterwards.

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church’s Recovery Group, said: “This remains a very difficult time with numbers of cases of Covid-19 and deaths of those with the disease remaining very high.

“This guidance is to help churches plan locally in the knowledge that many churches have suspended public worship in buildings at this time while offering worship, comfort and spiritual support in other ways. As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, we do so in the sure Easter hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we prepare to walk with him my prayer is that all will find the strength to continue to support and care for one another.”

The Vatican has also issued guidance for the imposition of ashes at the start of Lent. A note from the Congregation for Divine Worship last week advised that ashes, once blessed and sprinkled with holy water by the priest, could be sprinkled on each person in silence. Before this, the formula found in the Roman Missal — “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” — should be announced to all those present.

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/>

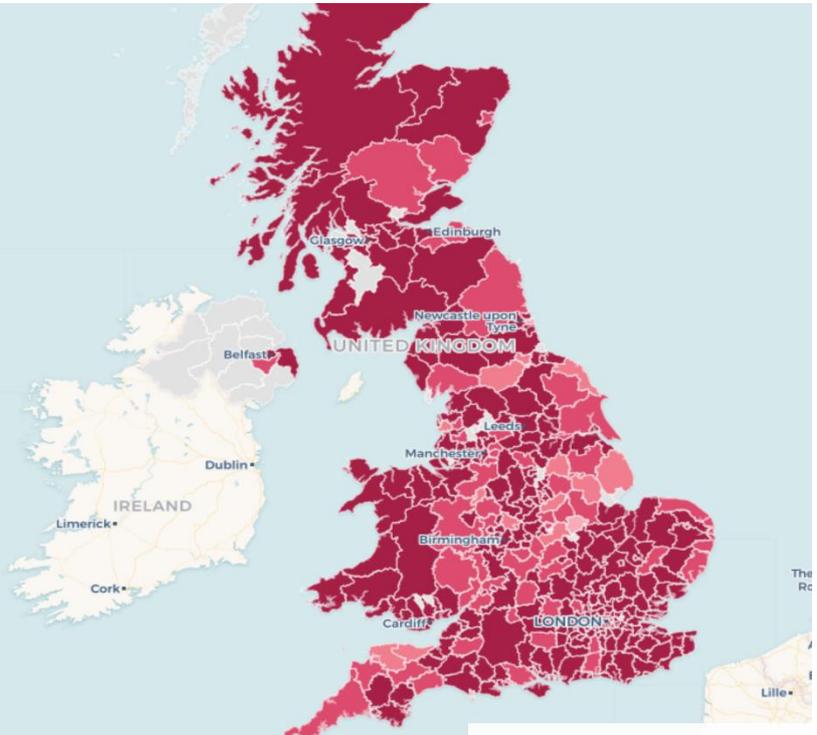
605,136

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: 23 of January, 5:00am GMT

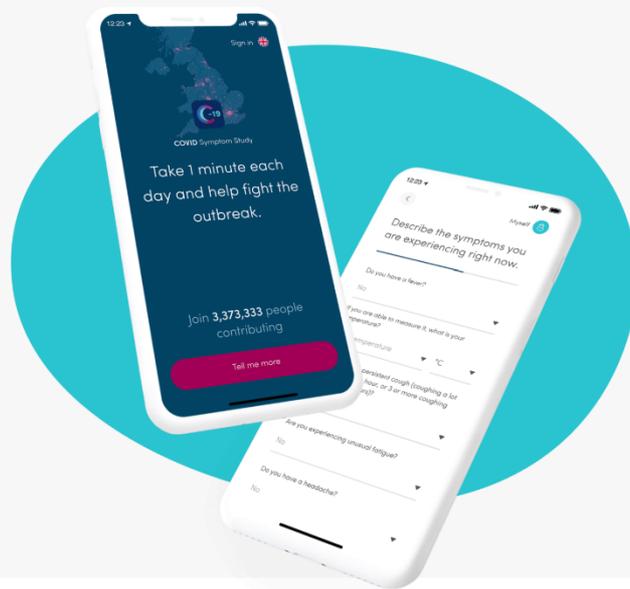


4,342,924

CONTRIBUTORS

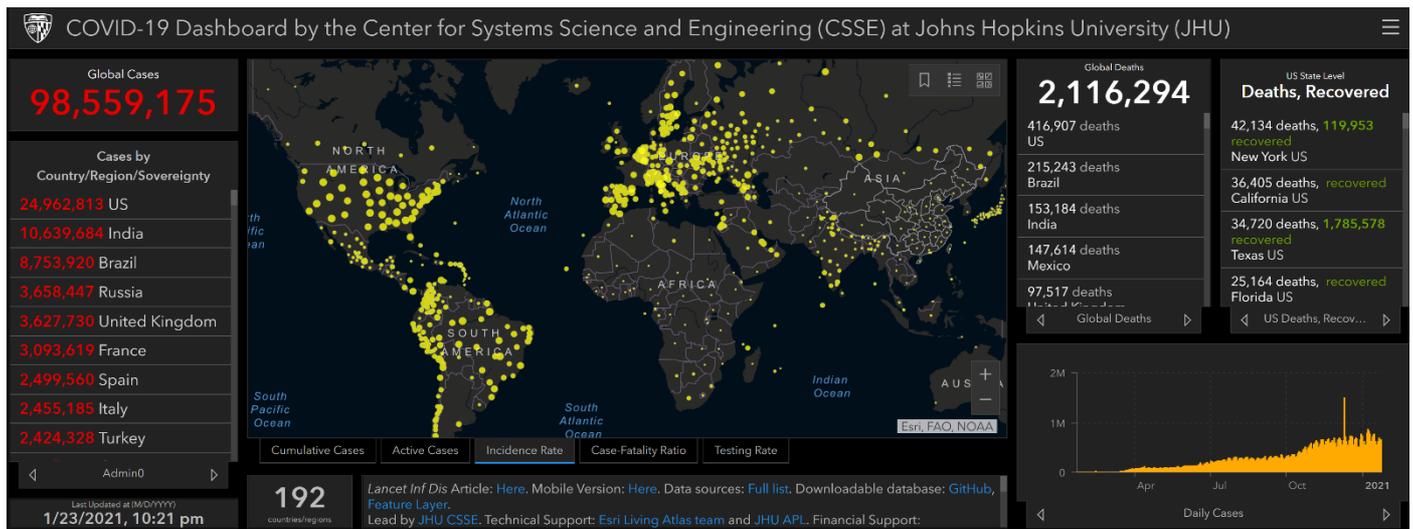
People of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID. Support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

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



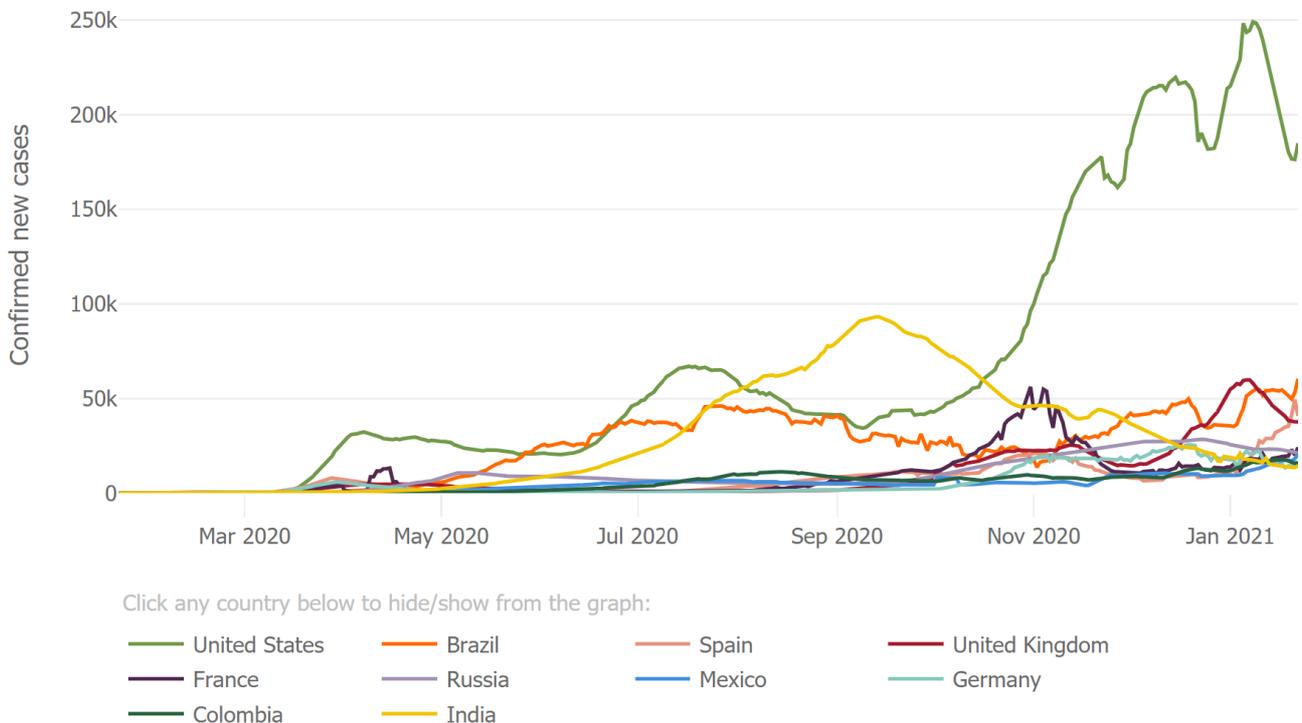
Latest figures

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 191 countries with the latest known information.



DAILY CONFIRMED NEW CASES (7-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#>

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>

Daily Hope

Daily Hope is a free phone number (0800 804 8044) offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. This will enable as many people as possible to access the content we are developing.

St Botolph's Church – Boston Stump



Service Times

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our service times have temporarily changed to the following. Our services are available via Zoom, to join us please email admin@parishofboston.co.uk or call (01205) 310929 to obtain the login details.

Sunday Services

Sung Eucharist – 11.00am

Mid-week Service

Said Eucharist – Wednesday at 10:30am

IT'S A SCAM

FRAUDSTERS WANT YOUR MONEY



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

Good News for Lincolnshire – Covid-19 vaccination Programme has begun in earnest

News – 14 January 2021

Healthwatch Lincolnshire is pleased to confirm the positive news that with the opening of more vaccination sites this week, it will mean there are 15 local sites available in Lincolnshire for residents to access their Covid-19 vaccination.

A blue-tinted collage of images showing healthcare workers and people wearing masks. The collage is composed of several smaller images arranged in a grid. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'HM Government'. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'NHS'. The main text is overlaid on the collage in white and yellow boxes. The text reads: 'Covid-19 vaccine' in a yellow box, 'The NHS will get in touch when it's your turn to be vaccinated' in a white box, and 'Find out about the roll-out at nhs.uk/CovidVaccine' in a yellow box at the bottom.

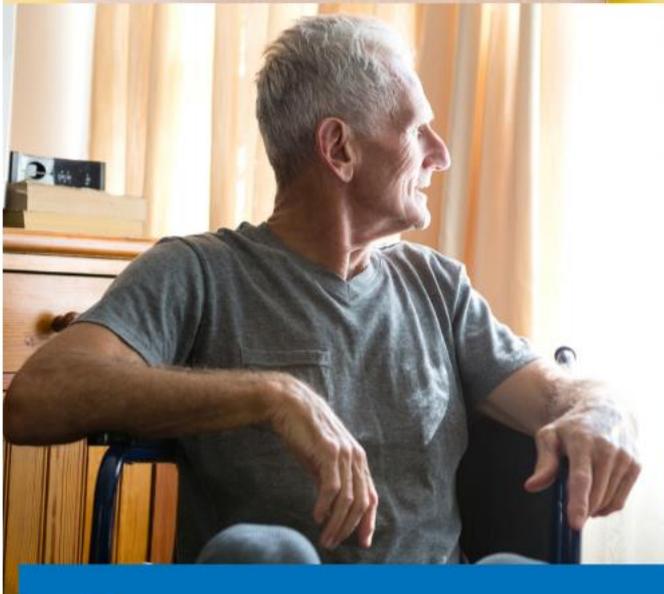
HM Government

NHS

Covid-19 vaccine

The NHS will get in touch when it's your turn to be vaccinated

Find out about the roll-out at nhs.uk/CovidVaccine



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**