

## Latest News – 14th February 2021



### Watch the service – Sunday next before Lent

Rev Helen Shannon leads a service to mark the Sunday next before Lent. This online church service comes from Church@Five.



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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

#### **Gilbert of Sempringham: an example of a life transformed and potential realised, warts and all!**

What I find particularly inspiring about the story of St Gilbert is the way he transformed from being what his father described as “a sad and desolate child, physically maimed, lazy and dull, poor at his studies, reticent and sullen and a disappointment to his father” into someone who is commemorated as a saint. It is said that his body was disfigured with warts.

Gilbert of Sempringham was the founder of the only medieval English monastic order. His feast day is celebrated on 4 February and within the cathedral, this famous Lincolnshire saint is remembered at the St Katherine’s shrine where the Gilbert pots are located.

The turning point in Gilbert’s life seems to have been the result of a family row when his parents vented their frustration and disappointment over his apathy towards learning and failure to tap into his advantaged upbringing. The youthful Gilbert runs off to France, turns his life around and finally comes to greatly value study and education. In the writings about his life, this moment of reckoning is described as: “like the oak when torn and buffeted by the wind strikes its root deeper into the soil, so the storms of life strengthened his mind and character.”

Gilbert developed a growing desire to lead by example and a focus of his attention was the young, the poor and the disadvantaged, drawing perhaps on his own experience of a difficult start and sense of marginalisation. Initially he established a local school at Sempringham open to all the village children regardless of their means or gender. Later, we see this spirit of inclusiveness again, when he founded a religious order open to men and women. Gilbert discovered that it was the local peasant women who had the greatest spiritual potential. He invested in their potential and nurtured their gift. This was something quite radical and beyond the times.

We see in the life of Gilbert an ability to respond to the challenges that confronted him. As he opened himself to God and discovered his own unique meaning and potential he then applied it to nurture spirituality and wisdom amongst those whom society ranked as of no consequence. It is interesting to note how the flourishing of the Gilbertine Order was founded on that decision to give dignity and worth to those from whom no great achievement was expected. The grace that led to the transformation of his own life inspired him to lead others along the same path.

I like to sit and contemplate the story of St Gilbert at the Gilbert pots next to St Hugh’s shrine. But rather than seeing the depiction of the tall thin pots as the men and the short stubby ones as the women, with the very rough surfaced one in the centre representing the disfigured Gilbert, I prefer to ponder the clay that is formed anew through the hands of the potter. It speaks of the imagination and delight of God for all Creation. It reminds me of the beautiful latent qualities and yet-to-be-discovered potential that by grace and our openness to God can be formed and developed in each of us.

*Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64 v 8*

DEAN CHRISTINE

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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/>

## Resuming public worship

With local and national rates of transmission and infection dropping, we are hopeful that we can begin a staged return to public worship as we enter Lent.

At the moment, we are planning to begin the resumption of public worship with a service to mark the beginning of Lent at 7.30pm on Ash Wednesday. This is planned as a Sung Eucharist with organ and cantor. Details of the routine for other services will be made available on the cathedral website next week, and publicised in next week's Sunday order of service and on the weekly service lists that are posted by the west door to the cathedral.

## Lent 2021

Lent this year will begin with a Sung Eucharist for the beginning of Lent at 7 30pm on Ash Wednesday (17 February). The preacher at this service will be The Revd Alan Moses, Diocesan Warden for Spirituality, and the service will be streamed on the cathedral's Facebook page for those not able to be present in person.

Alongside a resumed pattern of public worship, we are planning the following opportunities for reflection: – **Friday Lent Addresses**

At the 12.30pm Eucharist on Fridays there will be a series of short addresses considering some of the key texts from the bible that have traditionally been used as people explore The Way of Christ. These will be streamed via the cathedral's Facebook page for those unable to attend in person. If anyone would be interested in meeting for a short online follow-up discussion on Zoom please e-mail the Precentor ([nick.brown@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:nick.brown@lincolncathedral.com)). This online discussion would happen after a short pause to give people time to have a little lunch!

## – Clewer Initiative

There will also be an opportunity to reflect on the issues of social justice that arise for those forced to work in exploitative ways in our own society. These will be led by the Dean; see right-hand column for more details.



## 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.



### **Statement on resolution of disciplinary process regarding Bishop of Lincoln**

01/02/2021

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Lincoln have met together to pray and discuss next steps following the conclusion of the clergy disciplinary process instigated after the Bishop's suspension in May 2019 and subsequent investigation.

The Bishop of Lincoln, Christopher Lawson, has accepted a penalty for misconduct in relation to the management of one safeguarding issue. At their meeting the Archbishop apologised to the Bishop for the long process that he has endured. The Archbishop expressed his full support for the Bishop as he now begins the process of returning to ministry as the Bishop of Lincoln.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "I am very sorry that Bishop Christopher and his wife Susan have had to endure such an ordeal over the last 20 months. I have expressed my regret to Christopher and am very grateful to him for the gracious way he has responded. I want to make it clear that I am fully supportive of Christopher returning to ministry as the Bishop of Lincoln. We have both agreed that there are many lessons we and the Church need to learn from this very difficult season, as we also continue to learn lessons from the scrutiny of IICSA which highlighted our poor response to survivors.

"I also want to express my thanks to all in the Diocese of Lincoln and especially Bishop David and Bishop Nicholas for their hard work in taking forward the life of the diocese in particular in responding to the extraordinary demands of the pandemic and working to shape the church for mission in the coming generations.

"I look forward to visiting Lincoln, once the pandemic allows, to pray with Bishop Christopher and his colleagues. Given the length of his absence from the diocese, Bishop Christopher will now need to take time to renew his relationships with colleagues in Lincoln and this is where his focus will be over the

coming weeks. I welcome his return to ministry and have asked him to pray for me as I also pray for him.”

The Bishop of Lincoln said: “I offer an unreserved apology for my error of judgement in the way I handled a disclosure about a member of clergy in the Lincoln diocese in early 2019. I regret the way I handled the matter, not least because I have always sought to take safeguarding matters extremely seriously.

“Throughout the disciplinary process I have sought to cooperate fully, conscious of the importance of ensuring a thorough investigation for all involved. However, the length of the process has not benefited anyone. I hope that some constructive reflection on this experience might help to improve the Church's safeguarding and disciplinary procedures.

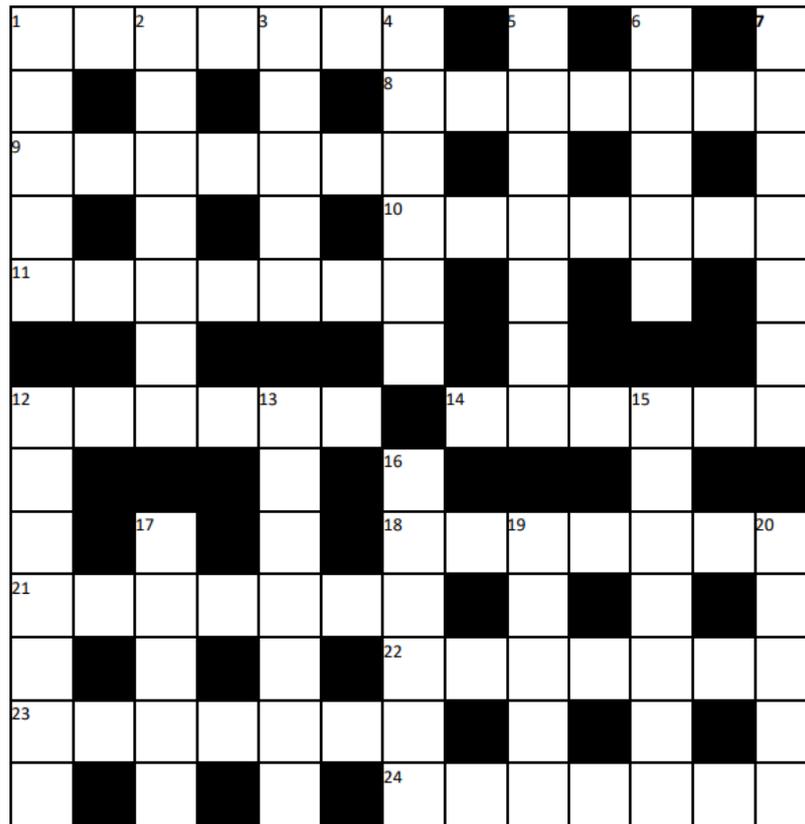
“I am enormously grateful to Bishop David Court, the Bishop of Grimsby, who has led the Diocese of Lincoln during my absence, and to those who have supported him through what has been a very challenging period for all. The churches, clergy and people of Lincolnshire have remained in my thoughts and prayers over the last 20 months and I look forward to returning to serve the Diocese as soon as practicable.”

The Bishop of Grimsby, David Court, said: “Both Bishop Nicholas and I would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the support and encouragement we have been given by so many in the diocese over the last twenty months. We continue to be absolutely committed to good safeguarding in the diocese and we now look forward to welcoming Bishop Christopher back and working again closely with him as we seek together to serve the people and church here in Greater Lincolnshire.”

#### **Statement from National Safeguarding Team (NST)**

Following the conclusion of the clergy discipline process the NST will now, according to House of Bishops guidance, consider how best to identify and learn lessons from this case. While we are aware the process has taken far too long and apologise for the effect this has had on all involved, when safeguarding matters are raised with the Church it is absolutely right that we respond. The concerns raised about Bishop Christopher have now been fully dealt with but we are continuing to look at separate issues raised during the course of this process, which to be clear do not relate to Bishop Christopher and predate his time in the diocese. This has been a difficult period for all in the diocese and support is being offered as we continue to work towards making the Church a safer place for all.

## February 2021 crossword follows below



- | Across |                        | Down |                      |
|--------|------------------------|------|----------------------|
| 1      | Entrance (7)           | 1    | Stadium (5)          |
| 8      | Avoider (7)            | 2    | Portray (7)          |
| 9      | Ceaseless (7)          | 3    | Meeting place (5)    |
| 10     | Reading stand (7)      | 4    | Sprawled (6)         |
| 11     | A university (7)       | 5    | Shelf filler (7)     |
| 12     | Season (6)             | 6    | Sea duck (5)         |
| 14     | Victorian engineer (6) | 7    | Direct (7)           |
| 18     | Green (7)              | 12   | Advocate (7)         |
| 21     | Assuage (7)            | 13   | Gangster (7)         |
| 22     | Visual (7)             | 15   | Subtly different (7) |
| 23     | Light source (7)       | 16   | Out of reach (6)     |
| 24     | Misled (7)             | 17   | Stall (5)            |
|        |                        | 19   | Acclaim (5)          |
|        |                        | 20   | Apportioned (5)      |

# Flooding and heatwaves now endanger 12m UK lives, say climate campaigners

BY REBECCA PAVELEY

05 FEBRUARY 2021

Climate change is threatening the lives of more than 12 million people in the UK, as temperatures soar and severe flooding events become more frequent, a new report says. The elderly and those with conditions such as diabetes are most at risk.

*This Report Comes with a Health Warning: The impacts of climate change on public health*, released by the Climate Coalition and the Priestley International Centre for Climate on Friday, says that at least 1.8 million people are living in areas at high risk of flooding, and 12 million people are considered to be vulnerable to future summer heatwaves.

For those living with the risk of flooding, there is a high risk of mental-health problems: one in three victims suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Flood victims are four times more likely than those who have been unaffected by flooding to suffer from poor mental health, including depression, anxiety, or PTSD.

The rising elderly population in Britain is particularly at risk from heatwaves: heat-related deaths among the over-65s have risen 21 per cent between 2004 and 2018.

Last year was the joint hottest year globally, and the third hottest year in the UK. There were 16 so-called “tropical nights” in 2020 when the temperature was above 20°C, which is particularly harmful to health. If global emissions continue to rise, average temperatures in UK cities could increase from between 0.45° and 0.81°C per decade for the next 60 years. And, as the UK population ages, more and more people will be vulnerable to the effects of soaring temperatures.

Higher temperatures have also led to a rising incidence of diseases such as Lyme disease, as well as Dengue fever and West Nile fever, already present in some European countries, and an increase in cholera infections from warming seawaters.

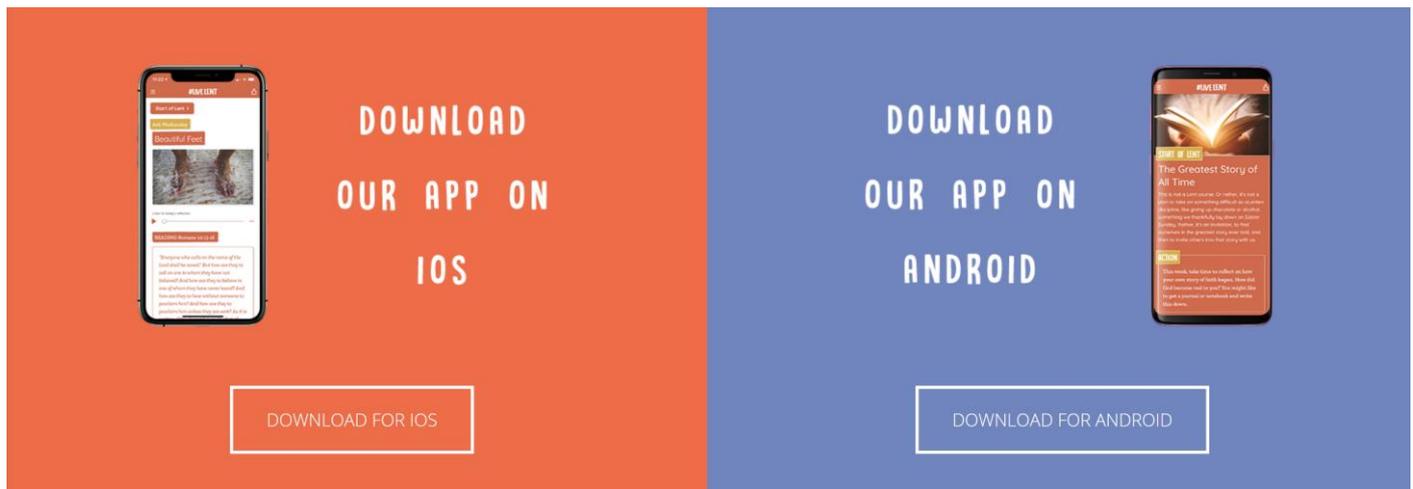
Clara Goldsmith, the campaigns director at the Climate Coalition, whose members include more than 140 organisations, including church-related charities such as Christian Aid, CAFOD, A Rocha, and Tearfund, said: “Failure to address with speed and scale the climate and ecological crises will spell disaster not only for our natural world, but for public health.”

The report speaks of health benefits from doing more to tackle climate change, including cleaner air, improved well-being, and a reduction in the pressure on the NHS. If just a quarter of the population in England cycled regularly, and there was widespread use of electric bikes, total deaths could fall by 11 per cent, it suggests.

A consultant orthopaedic surgeon and council member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, Scarlett McNally, said: “Exercise is a miracle cure for health, and it should be recognised as the same for the climate. Active travel, like walking and cycling, is a ready-made — and essential — climate- and health-improvement solution.”

# #LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story - our Lent reflections

Download our free app to follow this year's #LiveLent journey



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OUR APP ON  
IOS

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**Sign up to receive our free reflections by email. [Click here.](#)**

## **Daily lent reflections from Ash Wednesday (17 February) - Easter Day (4 April).**

From Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April), there will be six reflections for each week. Each reflection will include a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week will have a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

The daily reflections are available through a booklet [available to buy from Church House Publishing](#), as well as a free app, emails, smart speakers, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts.



**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](http://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/>

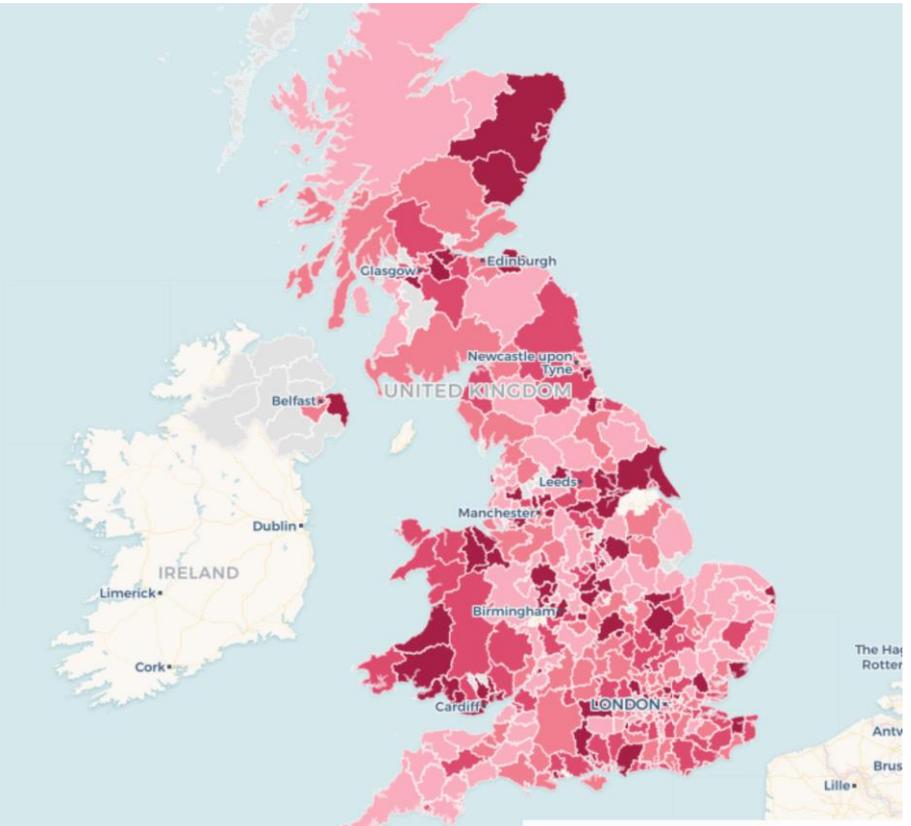
## 259,215

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: 13 of February, 5:00am GMT

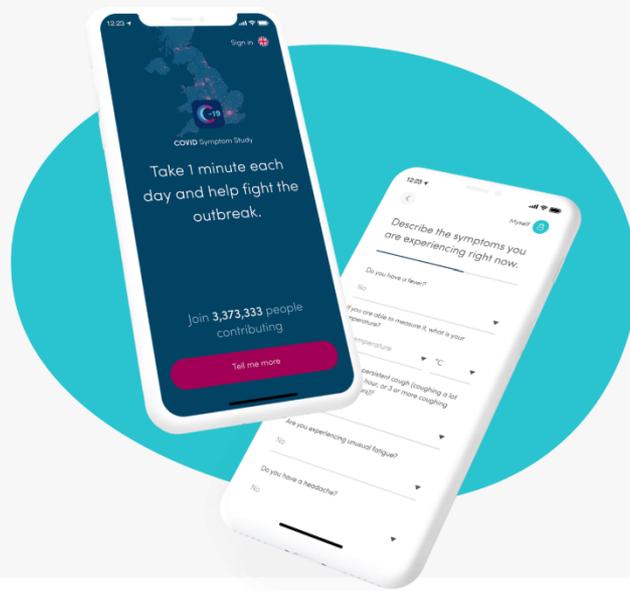


## 4,342,924

### CONTRIBUTORS

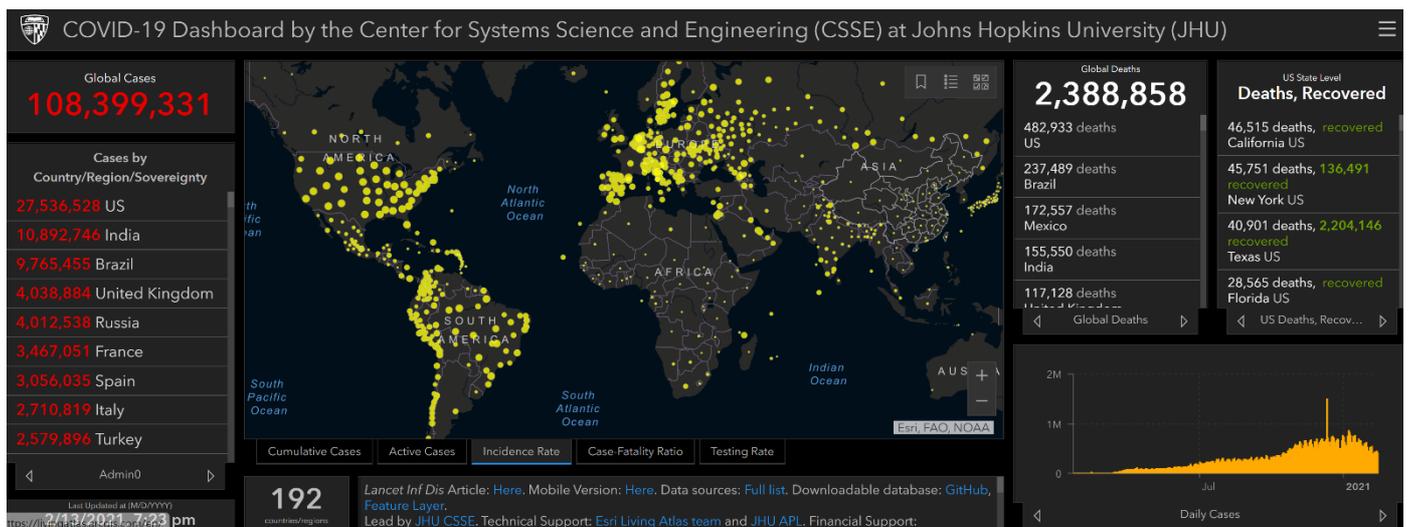
People of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID. Support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

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



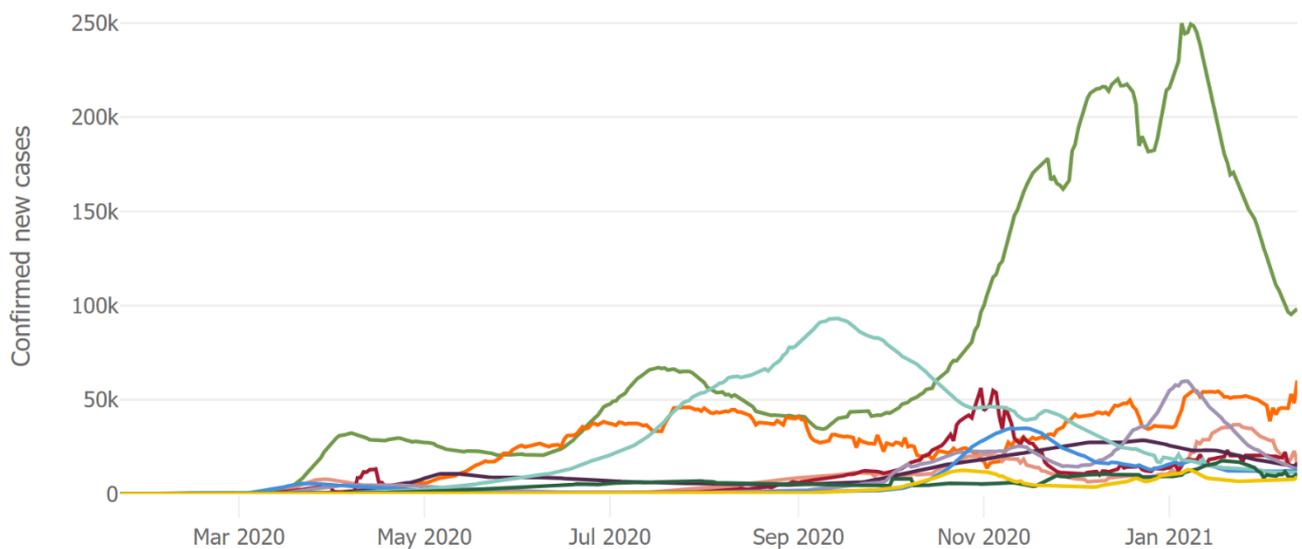
## Latest figures

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



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

- |               |                |       |        |
|---------------|----------------|-------|--------|
| United States | Brazil         | Spain | France |
| Russia        | United Kingdom | Italy | India  |
| Mexico        | Czechia        |       |        |

## 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](https://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](mailto: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.

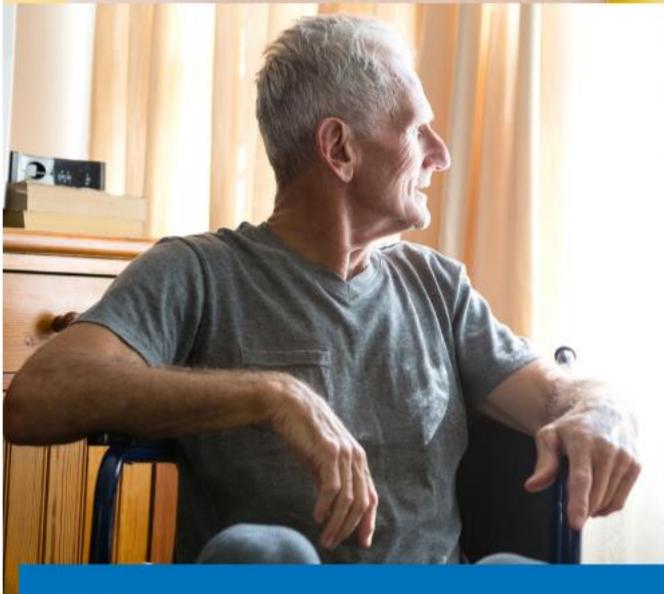
HM Government

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](https://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](https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk)