



## **Watch the service – Third Sunday of Lent**

From the Crypt Chapel in Lambeth Palace, watch this exclusive clip from Rev Canon Chris Russell.

Filmed as part of our weekly worship, the full online service marks the Third Sunday of Lent with the theme 'Overturning the Tables'. #LiveLent.



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.*

## **Message from the Bishop of Lincoln to his diocese – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The letter issued by the Bishop of Lincoln to his diocese on 5<sup>th</sup> March setting out his plans on his return to ministry has been added to your local church website to read.

## **Response to the Budget from the Church of England's bishops in Parliament**

03/03/2021

Following the Budget speech, the Bishop of Birmingham, David Urquhart, Convenor of the Bishops in the House of Lords, said:

“This is a time of great uncertainty, and while the Chancellor has rightly focussed on steps to get the economy moving, I’m concerned he has missed the chance to give certainty to those people and families who rely on Universal Credit, by not making the £20 uplift permanent.

“I’ll look at the details of the Budget closely for measures that will help the poorest and most vulnerable, especially access to sustainable jobs. The £19m for Domestic Abuse programmes is welcome as is support for schools to help get children back on the road of educational discovery. The lack of detail on social care is, however, a worry.

“The £300m additional funding for the Culture Recovery Fund is very welcome and will support the many small businesses and independent contractors our churches employ and support. I also note that the Levelling Up Fund prospectus specifically mentions cultural and heritage assets, including churches, and we look forward to churches and cathedrals particularly in areas of high deprivation taking part in this programme.”

## **Please hold the diocese in prayer**

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The bishops are inviting the diocese to hold in prayer the next step in Resourcing Sustainable Church in the diocese of Lincoln that includes the release of a draft full working plan today and a series of consultation meetings from next week.

The draft full working plan is being distributed to all licensed clergy, readers, deanery lay chairs, members of diocesan synod and diocesan trustees. The plan is also being sent to each benefice's selected lay representatives who will take part in the upcoming consultation meetings.

The release of the plan outlines thinking so far from the work that began in 2019 by Bishop David under the title "Resourcing Sustainable Church" to ensure ministry for the diocese that is sustainable for years to come. Bishop David says the draft full working plan reflects consultation so far and provides information for future consultation rather than being information that will surprise or is finalised. "We give thanks for the consultation so far with more than 500 people across the diocese and present these proposals to be considered carefully and prayerfully".

The following prayer is from the draft full working plan:

Almighty God,  
source of our hope and all good things;  
you call us in love to share in the work of creation in making all things new.  
Bless our diocese:  
may we be faithful in our worship; confident in our discipleship;  
and joyful in our service;  
that, through us,  
the world may catch a glimpse of the love  
you have for each one of us, made known to us in your son,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

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## **Coronavirus reopening roadmap: comment from the Bishop of London**

22/02/2021

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Coronavirus Recovery Group, has responded following the Prime Minister's statement to Parliament.

She said: "I am grateful to the Prime Minister for sharing these proposals to ease the current restrictions in a way which gives us all some clarity and enables people to begin to plan.



"We will study the details and, working with Government Departments, refine our own advice for local churches in the weeks ahead. We all look forward to being able to meet in larger groups again later this year and today's announcement will be especially encouraging for couples planning weddings, among others.

"When the first lockdown was introduced last year, we were – as we are now – in the midst of Lent, a time of preparation and self-reflection for Christians as we look forward with hope to Easter and its promise of new life in Jesus Christ. This has been an incredibly testing time for the whole world – most of all the loved ones of those who have died. The financial cost of the pandemic has been enormous, and we will never truly know the cost of separation and loneliness on individuals and society. But we have also seen remarkable signs of hope. The rapid development and distribution of vaccines has been a phenomenal achievement and I want to thank everyone involved in the process. The way in which people have reached out to others has been inspirational.

"Our churches have loved and served their neighbours perhaps like never before and found ways to meet and worship God together we would not have imagined just a year ago. As we look ahead to the prospect of easing of restrictions we know it is still a long road. Yet Easter reminds us we always have hope."

Church of England advice will be updated in accordance to the guidance at each stage.





# **Lincoln Cathedral**

## **Chapter Letter – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **Being human; being children of God**

The desert is “where God happens”, Rowan Williams tells us, and this is why the story of Jesus in the desert is not to be dismissed with a trite exposition of how terribly hard it is to be good. It is so much more powerful. This story enables us to see the world through the eyes of God but also to truly understand what it is to be human. At the beginning of Lent, we are reminded of Jesus’ temptation in the desert which illustrates that our Lenten journey is not just about being a good person and trying our best to give up chocolate, although these are both worthwhile disciplines: Lent is a season about ownership of who we are as human beings and who God is for us.

Dostoyevsky’s Inquisitor calls Satan “The terrible and wise spirit” and this description is incredibly apt, the wisdom of the voice of the tempter can never be dismissed, for we disregard this wisdom at our peril. This is why the story of Jesus and Satan’s interaction is never as simple as good versus evil, it is not so clear-cut. This story is Christ acknowledging his own temptations and denying them but also of Jesus acknowledging who he is, the power he has and the complexity, pain and dissonance that he alone faces in order to bring about our salvation.

Faced with hunger, Jesus does not give in to grumbling, nor use his powers to satisfy himself. He is more than just the body. This season of Lent reminds us that we are not just a body, and our hunger is not just that of the body. No one knows what really happened to Jesus in the wilderness. This is not a story written by anyone who was there, but all of these stories illustrate who Jesus is, who God is and fundamentally, who we are. Jesus is tempted three times and to deny himself, to go against who he is and what he is called to be and do. The voice of the tempter can take many different guises and forms, and none of us is free from hearing it. This voice is a part of being human on this earth and we have to acknowledge that sometimes we are tempted and make the wrong choices in order to fully understand ourselves. In the desert, God happened, and Jesus knew his power but denied temptation.

In Lent we too are called to deny temptation in our lives, to become part of the story of Jesus in the desert, so that we can learn more about who we are while penitently meeting with God. The season of Lent in many ways focuses on us, the “dust that dreams of glory,”-Lent is oh so human. We are invited to consider, dwell upon and live fully that we are human with all the limitations and temptations that come from being born in this sometimes maddening world. Lent is all about being human; being wholly who we are made to be, children of God. We do not live by bread alone, but by the sustaining power of God who defines us and builds us in his image so that we may be closer to his incarnate life.

RACHEL REVELY, CURATE

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

## 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.

## Lent 2021

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

## Holy Week

Although the exact format of services during Holy Week depends on the government guidance in place at the time, our current plans for services are as follows:

### 28 March: PALM SUNDAY

7.45am Litany

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Sung Eucharist with blessing of palms and reading or singing of the passion

3.45pm EVENSONG\*

### 29 March: Monday in Holy Week

8am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.30pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm Address and Compline

### 30 March: Tuesday in Holy Week

8am Morning Prayer

8.30am Holy Communion

5.30pm EVENSONG\*

7.30pm Address and Compline

**31 March: Wednesday in Holy Week**

8am Morning Prayer

12.30pm Eucharist

5.30pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm Tenebrae: An evening service for Holy Week

**1 April: MAUNDY THURSDAY**

8am Morning Prayer

8.30am Holy Communion

5.30pm Evening Prayer

7.30pm EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER

**2 April: GOOD FRIDAY**

9.30am LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

12noon Three Hours Service

5.30pm Evening Prayer

**3 April: EASTER EVE**

9am Morning Prayer

4.30pm Evening Prayer

8pm EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER\*

**4 April: EASTER DAY**

7.45am Litany

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am SUNG EUCHARIST with Blessing of the Easter Garden and Renewal of Baptismal Promises

3.45pm EVENSONG\*

Please note: \* if government guidance remains unchanged, then these services (which involve the choir singing) will be online only.

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## Archbishops' message: Don't be unkind to the Church or each other



THE Archbishops of Canterbury and York have once again decried a slew of recent criticism of the Church of England, and insist: there is no plan to abolish the parish system.

Speaking during their presidential “reflection” at an informal online meeting of General Synod members on Saturday morning, Archbishop Welby said that one of the key tasks for the Church in responding to the pandemic was to remain in the national debate, and “not to lose our nerve”.

Of all the negative press coverage, what had hurt the most was the suggestion the parish system would be dismantled, the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, said. “We need to expand and reimagine and revitalise the parish system, not dismantle it,” he told the Synod. “I want to pledge myself again to trying to ensure that we can have a viable, sustainable, flourishing Christian presence in every community in this land, with a much greater bias to the poor.”

The remarks came after a joint article in *The Spectator* earlier this month, in which the Archbishops said that there were “rascally voices around who want to undermine the Church” — a pointed reference to several pieces from the same magazine which had attacked the C of E’s leadership over its response to the coronavirus crisis.

Contrary to speculation that a collapse in the Church’s income would lead to huge numbers of clergy being fired, and the dismantling of the parish system, parochial priesthood was “precious and central to the Church of England”, Archbishop Cottrell said: a historic vocation to serve every inch of the nation and every person in it.

Archbishop Welby said: “We’ve both been parish priests, for goodness sake. We’ve spent years of our lives serving in the parish system, so the idea we’d want to ditch it. . . It’s just rubbish!”

As well as vigorously pushing back against critical voices outside the Church, the Archbishops also bemoaned the tenor of much of the debate within the Church, especially when conducted online.

“I do worry about our discourse with each other, and I do wonder what other people think when they see that,” Archbishop Cottrell said. Assume everyone is speaking with the best of intentions, and be kind to each other, he urged.

Archbishop Welby concurred, lamenting the “cruelty and savagery” of how Christians spoke to each other online. He reminded the hundreds of Synod members watching on Zoom that, when they wrote anything on Twitter, “you’re not speaking to a person but to the whole blinking world.”

Forgiveness must become an everyday part of Christian debate, he concluded. He, like all Christians, would continue regularly to “mess up. . . We’re a bunch of sinners who need the grace of God, so let’s be merciful and forgiving to one another. Let’s love one another.”

Archbishop Cottrell ended the session by quoting a prayer attributed to Mother Theresa: “People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centred. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.”

The session included archiepiscopal interviews with Dr Gary Bell, a psychiatrist specialising in treating mental ill-health in the clergy, and Kersten England, chief executive of Bradford Council and a canon of the city’s cathedral.

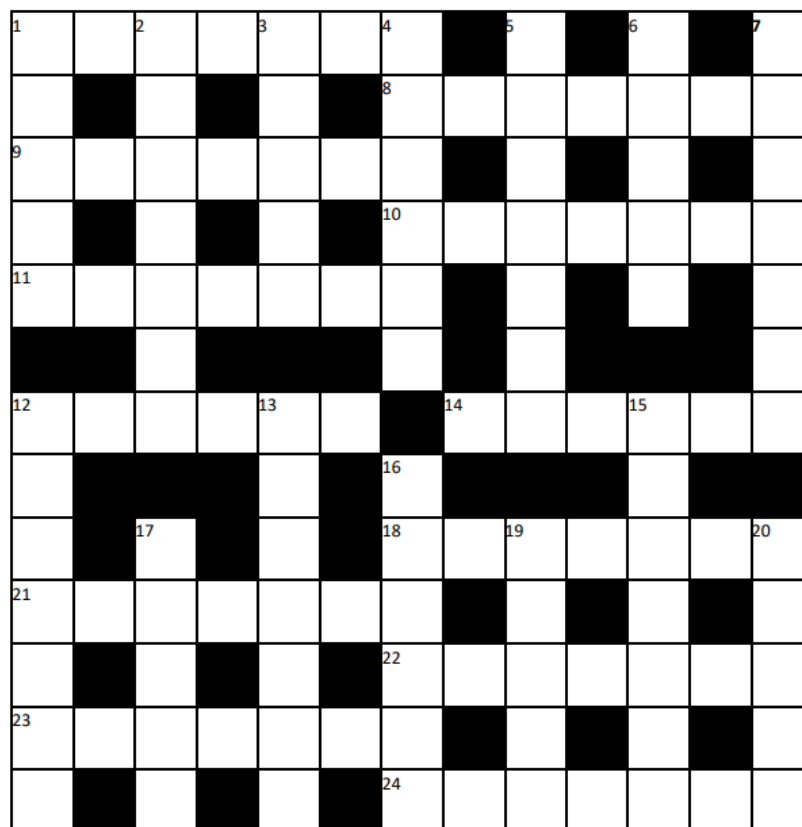
Dr Bell spoke with Archbishop Welby — who said that he was one of the psychiatrist’s patients — about the way that the pandemic had prompted an explosion in anxiety and depression, especially among the clergy. St Luke’s Healthcare for the Clergy, with whom Dr Bell often worked, had seen referrals go up two or three times compared to normal, but this was still only the “tip of the iceberg”, he warned.

Archbishop Cottrell then interviewed Ms England, who said that the past 12 months had been a “sober and shocking moment for our nation”. Despite being the sixth-richest country on earth, the UK had seen one of the highest death rates anywhere, as well as a highly disproportionate impact among poorer communities and ethnic minorities. Youth unemployment had doubled to 15 per cent in the district of Bradford, the second-highest in the country, Ms England said. “We have to stop and think: what kind of country are we now?”

Churches had played a fantastic role in combating this; but too many of the deprived estates had no Christian presence at all, she said; she challenged the C of E to recommit itself to these poorest communities.



## February 2021 crossword follows below

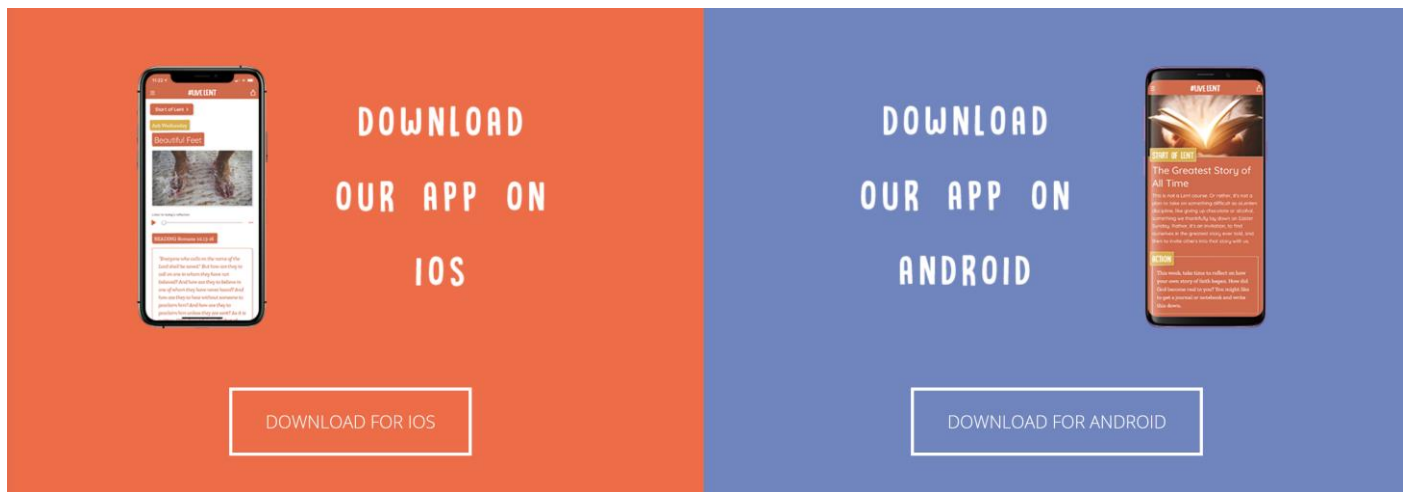


Across		Down	
1	Entrance (7)	1	Stadium (5)
8	Avoider (7)	2	Portray (7)
9	Ceaseless (7)	3	Meeting place (5)
10	Reading stand (7)	4	Sprawled (6)
11	A university (7)	5	Shelf filler (7)
12	Season (6)	6	Sea duck (5)
14	Victorian engineer (6)	7	Direct (7)
18	Green (7)	12	Advocate (7)
21	Assuage (7)	13	Gangster (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)

The answers can be found [here](#)

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

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



**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.

## **The Bridge – March 2021 edition published**

The latest edition of the parish magazine for The Sibsey with Frithville Group and The Brothertoft Group has been published online on the nine church websites.

# **Report on housing crisis 'challenge to the soul' of the Church of England – Archbishop of Canterbury**

27/02/2021

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned of the 'challenge to the soul' of the Church of England posed by a landmark report calling on the Church to lead by example in solving the housing crisis.

Archbishop Justin Welby told General Synod members that the recommendations of the Archbishops' Commission report *Coming Home* presented a 'profound challenge' to the Church of England along with other groups, including the Government and developers, to tackle the housing crisis.

Speaking at an informal online gathering of the General Synod, the Archbishop outlined the seriousness of the crisis, saying that an estimated eight million people are living in unaffordable, sub-standard or overcrowded accommodation.

He said *Coming Home* was 'not the end of the process, it is only the end of the very beginning of the process' of tackling the housing crisis. "We have a long way to go," he said.

He said that at "the heart of the Church's message" was that that "our mission to the country is that we carry the good news of a God who intervenes who comes and is part of our life and there is the complete change in us that is caused by meeting with God.

"If we take that seriously, then we listen to what Jesus says when he says 'your heart will be where your treasure is'.

"Is our treasure where it should be? I think this report constitutes the most wonderful challenge to the soul of the Church of England and it calls us to rise to the challenge that God sets before us."

Speaking earlier, he said: "This report is a radical, theologically profound challenge to Government, individual builders, developers, individuals and the Church of England in all its different forms."

Chair of the Commission, Charlie Arbuthnot told the meeting: "The Commission sees housing as an issue of social justice. The tragic outcomes of Covid have shown us that that is the case. It is not a 'nice' to have – it is a moral imperative."

He added that the widespread warm welcome given to the report was an indication that there was a 'window of opportunity' for the Church to lead by example and encourage others to follow.

Vice Chair of the Commission, the Bishop of Kensington, Graham Tomlin, told the online meeting: "At the heart of this report is a real spiritual challenge for the Church as to whether we really believe Jesus when he says 'give and it will be given to you' and he says that, and it asks us whether we are really only interested in the survival of our institution, or whether we really believe that the church will thrive when it gives itself riskily to the mission that God gives us to bear witness to the Kingdom of God."

The new Bishop of Housing, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, who will lead the work on implementation of the report recommendations for the Church, told the meeting: “The Commission has spent nearly two years developing a broad range of actions and recommendations to tackle the housing crisis starting with what the Church of England can do with its own land and resources but also looking at what Government and others can do.

“One of the key messages coming from the report is that the Church of England needs to lead by example.”

The 10-strong Commission report has called on the Church of England to help deliver more truly affordable homes on its own land, to help solve the housing crisis.

It says that a collective effort at all levels of society including Government, local authorities, landowners and property developers as well as the Church is needed to help tackle an acute shortage of truly affordable homes.

The report can be read here <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/church-must-play-key-role-national-effort-solve-housing-crisis-says>



**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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**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/>

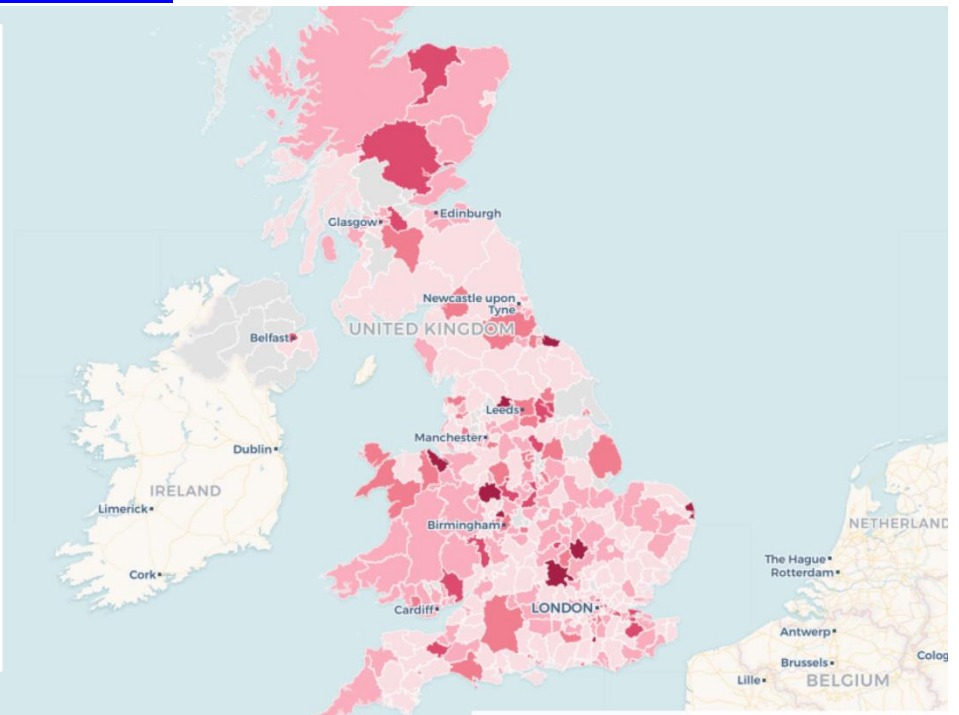
**129,187**

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: 6 of March, 5:00am GMT

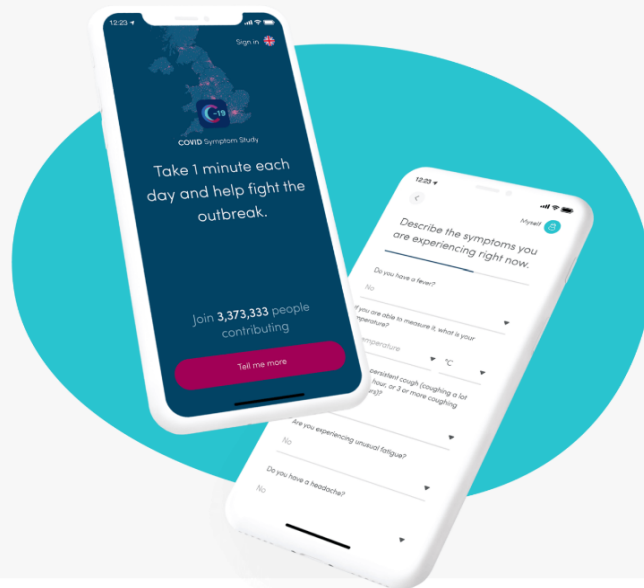


**4,342,924**

#### 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.

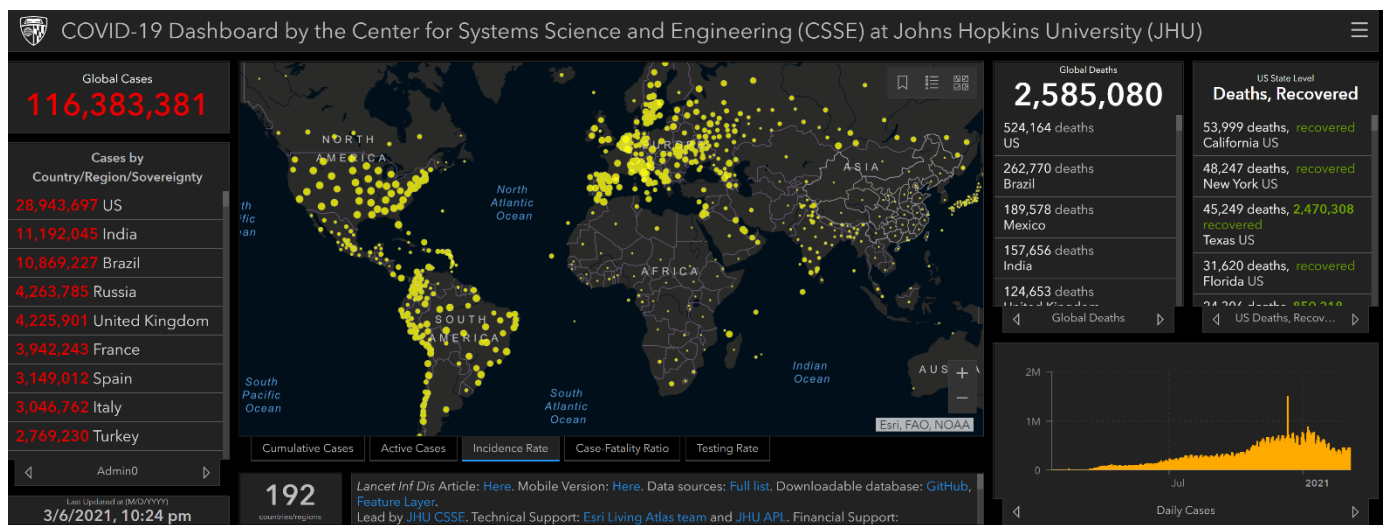
**Take 1-min to report your health daily, even if you are well.**





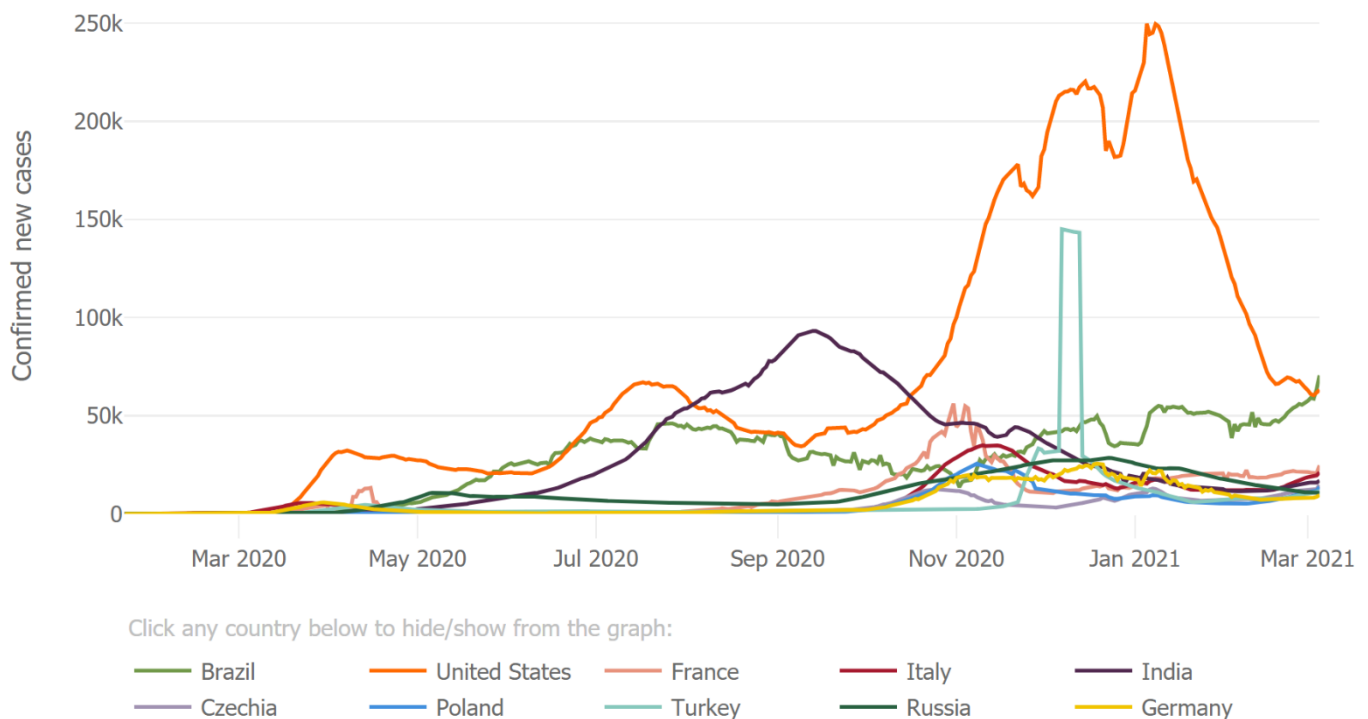
## Latest figures

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](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**



## **Lincolnshire vaccination programme moves on to cohorts five and six**

News – 22 February 2021

**We are making excellent progress with the covid vaccination programme across Lincolnshire.**



We are making excellent progress with the covid vaccination programme across Lincolnshire. Following the successful completion of vaccinations for people aged 70 and over (the first four cohorts), we are now vaccinating people in cohorts five and six.

If you are in either cohort five or six you may already have received a letter inviting you to book your vaccination. As with the previous cohorts, you have the choice to either:

- Have your vaccination at a Local Vaccination Site via your local GP services, who will contact you directly if they haven't already done so, or;
- Book an appointment at a Large Vaccination Centre, either via online [Book a coronavirus vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or the national telephone number 119;

If you receive the letter but have already booked your vaccination, you do not need to do anything else – you can ignore the letter and attend for your vaccination as per your appointment.

Please do not contact your GP practice unless they have specifically asked you to (by writing, texting or emailing you). Your practice will contact you when it is your turn to be vaccinated, and is busy dealing with people who require care for clinical issues.

You should only attend for vaccination if you have an appointment booked – you will not be vaccinated without an appointment. In addition, if you are experiencing covid symptoms of any kind, or self-isolating, please do not attend for vaccination. You will be rebooked when it is safe for you to attend.

We are committed to vaccinating everyone as quickly as possible. We know that there has been some reporting nationally about practices focusing on people in cohort six, however, we would like to reassure people in Lincolnshire that everyone in cohorts five and six will receive their vaccination.

If you have been identified as one of the additional 1.7 million people required to shield until the end of March, the NHS will contact you to arrange your vaccination if you have not already had your first dose.

There have been some patients who have requested their second vaccination date is moved, however, your date is linked to when you had your first vaccination, so we would ask you to keep the date you have been given. If you have not been given a date, please be assured the NHS will be in touch with you to arrange this.

Finally, please be kind to our staff - they are there to help you and are doing an amazing job. We are aware of reports of staff, both in practices and at vaccination sites, being verbally abused. Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately.





# 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)**