

Latest News –10th October 2021



Watch the service – Black History Month



A Service of Holy Communion for Black History Month.

Fr Richard Springer leads the service from St George in the East, London this Safeguarding Sunday.

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

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.

Local Services

Sunday 10th October 9.00am New Bolingbroke Morning Worship, 10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship and 10.45am Kirton Holme Morning Worship.



We are looking for the new Bishop of Lincoln

Your opinion matters.

We want to know what matters to you and your local area as this will help us identify the qualities needed in the next Bishop.

Please help us

Below is a link to a short survey.

[Short Survey](#)

Diocesan Prayer for Discernment

A prayer for the Diocese

Almighty God,

who is known to us in mighty acts of love and peace

at this time let us seek your will as we strive to discern your will;

be with those who have the responsibility of leading the diocese during a time of change

be with those who have the responsibility of seeking a shepherd for this, your flock, and

be with those who remain faithful in worship,

strive to be confident in their discipleship, and

who seek to be joyful in the service

of the one God known to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



Almost 20,000 calls every month are made to the service which was launched during the Covid-19 lockdown, with more than 7.15 million minutes spent on more than 550,000 calls..

The phone line originally launched in April 2020, only to continue in response to ongoing demand once restrictions were eased. Daily Hope set up by the Church of England nationally, has also been supported by Connections, a Missional Programme to older people based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

In his message Archbishop Justin says: "Life for many of us continues to feel uncertain in the light of the pandemic, even though restrictions have eased. Some of us have got used to spending more time alone at home, for a variety of reasons – it's been a tough, tough year and a half. We're thrilled that the Daily Hope is here for you still, and you can call this free number every day – multiple times each day if you'd like! For some of us getting out to church is still tricky, so I like to think of the Daily Hope as being church brought to you at home."

Additional content from Andrew Wilman, Assistant Director of Older Peoples Ministries at the Salvation Army, is also being launched which explores the history of well-known hymns. Over the year and a half of service, Daily Hope has continued to encourage people across the country and beyond including Australia, Japan, and the United States.

Since the phonenumber launched, users have been able to listen to a range of audio, including the Church of England's national weekly service, hymns and daily prayer. Many have messaged Lambeth Palace to express their thanks for the introduction of the phone line, particularly for elderly people.

Lincoln Cathedral - The Chapter Letter – 3rd October 2021

September has been eventful! In this past month we have had the privilege of hosting a vast range of activities at the cathedral. There have been some significant additional acts of worship for Battle of Britain Sunday, the inaugural diocesan synod Eucharist and the National Police Memorial day at which we were honoured to welcome Dame Cressida Dick and the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, as we remembered police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

BBC songs of Praise recorded music with us this week for a number of their future broadcasts, much to the delight of the congregation and choir. There was even a brief appearance of Christmas trees for a day! The new choir year has brought a fresh cohort of choral scholars as well as some new probationers and two new voluntary choirs in the diocesan clergy choir and our youth choir. The Cathedral Consort is also back in full swing. All of which, enables us to extend our mission through music and worship and provide opportunities to build community. It has been encouraging to see the demographic of our worshipping communities expanding. Sunday school provision is now very much on the agenda and the new learning and education centre is also taking shape as various local schools begin to test the spaces and provide feedback in readiness for opening.

Chapter has identified a priority to explore more intentional ways of enabling people to encounter faith and spirituality. Sacred Space is providing expression for more reflective encounter and we are currently preparing to launch some partnership work with Bishop Grosseteste University on the study of implicit religion. From the days of St Hugh, theology has always been an important feature and as we begin to re-establish our more normal patterns of work this year we are delighted to be welcoming The Very Reverend Professor Martyn Percy to lead a keynote address on implicit religion and preach at our college of canons eucharist on St Hugh's day. Only last Friday we held a well-attended book launch for the newly published work on Bishop Edward King written by Bishop Michael Marshall. Not forgetting also the celebration of the heritage skills of our Works department at the installation of Michael Sheppard as Clericus Fabricae earlier in the month.

We are delighted that the cathedral visitor centre has so quickly become such a hive of community activity with the conference rooms in regular use and the café and shop busy with visitors alongside the many pilgrims in the cathedral. As part of our commitment to diversity and accessibility new tours are being developed including a tactile tour for the visually impaired and a virtual tour so that those unable to access the building can still take a view.

It is rare for the cathedral to blow its own trumpet but it has been a great month and both staff and volunteers have all gone the extra mile to make it happen. THANK YOU to you all. I hope you will join me in expressing gratitude to all the dedicated teams who serve us so well. There are so many opportunities to join in and belong here at Lincoln Cathedral as together we strive to make this a place a visible sign of God's love where all are valued and welcomed.

DEAN CHRISTINE

Speaker Nancy Pelosi gives US flag to Lancashire parish

A church in Lancashire has been presented with an American flag by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi.



The flag, which flew on the US Capitol during the inauguration of President Biden in January 2021 joins one given to the church by US servicemen in the Second World War at St Laurence's Church in Chorley.

Speaker Pelosi was joined by the Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the local MP, and the chairs or speakers from other legislatures in G7 countries. The service, which highlighted the importance of freedom of religion and belief, took place alongside the G7 Speakers conference, which Sir Lindsay hosted in Chorley.

In his sermon the rector Fr Neil Kelley said: "This very special gift of a new American Flag to hang in this church is a symbol of friendship and unity. For us here in St Laurence's it is a gift beyond price and we are truly indebted to Speaker Pelosi."

The parish has another American connection – through Myles Standish, one of the original Pilgrim who is thought to have attended services there as a boy. Both the story of Standish and the two US flags are explained in a new documentary available on YouTube.

The Bishop of Blackburn, Julian Henderson, said: "For our Diocese to be involved at this level in an international event is important and is also another mark of the work we are doing (in partnership with others) as we seek to make our churches here in Lancashire healthy and so transform the wider community."

A walk on the wild side down Stoke Rochford way

Church communities across the country are responsible for many old and historic buildings and with this responsibility often comes responsibility for a churchyard or burial ground. This is true in rural Lincolnshire, where many churches have ancient lands that have seen the burial of the dead for many hundreds of years. The undisturbed soil also contains a time capsule seedbanks of local Lincolnshire meadow flowers from bygone eras.

Church communities across the country are being encouraged to look after these spaces in a better and more eco-friendly manner, a way that better helps the environment. In order to do this, a team of volunteers at Stoke Rochford near Grantham are enabling areas of the church yard to become wilder and less manicured. Rev Neil Griffiths says 'We hope this will lead to increases in bees and other wildlife, which are all important to all our health and wellbeing.'

Neil continues, 'Because churchyards and burial grounds are important to many people, especially the relatives of those buried there, the areas we've chosen are those that are less often visited, in out of the way spots and where the burials are much older. We are also ensuring that there are signs letting visitors know what is happening, so that everyone knows that we are actively caring for this space and why we are doing it.'

The small church community in Stoke Rochford including residents, school children, PCC and local farmer, have chosen to embark on this journey and spent time on Saturday 11th September, planting 700 wildflowers, of 5 different species, in parts of the churchyard. The plants came from a local wildflower firm, who know the local soil conditions and provided locally grown specimens of Knapweed, Scabious, Birds-foot trefoil, Oxeye daisy, Kidney vetch, Yellow rattle, Goats beard, Self-heal and Sainfoin. These will be a colourful spring and summer addition to the Aconites and Snowdrops that carpet the churchyard in the winter months.

Next summer the flowers will be in full bloom, and the increase in bee and wildlife activity will be much in evidence. There are also excellent examples of God's Acre projects nearby at Carlton Scroop and Long Bennington. Mark a date in the diary for June next year and pay a visit, you might be surprised by what you find.

For more information on caring for churchyards with environmental integrity there are excellent resources at [Caring for God's Acre](#).

A church reopens its doors for worship – after 13 years

A church reopens its doors for worship – after 13 years

13 years ago, St George's, Gainsborough closed its doors to worship. Last Sunday, 3rd October, it opened them again, and 22 people came and joined in!



“People were incredibly excited,” says Revd Liz Johnson, Curate of Gainsborough and Morton parish, “some were from the congregation of 13 years ago, some who left the area had come back specially - and there were several new people too. We are really encouraged by this, and people have said they’ll be back – and bring their friends next time.”

During the afternoon, there was a baptism for a family who live in that area of Gainsborough. The family have a long connection with the St George’s, including grandparents who were married there.

Over the past 13 years, both Church and the Church hall have been used by community groups, but the Team Parish felt the Church needed to have a stronger presence in uphill Gainsborough. A few months ago the Team Parish launched “Simple Lunches” with the support of a grant from Hope Beyond (All Churches Trust) and over the next couple of months is planning to do more for children and families through starting a Messy Church.

More photos are on the ‘Team Parish of Gainsborough and Morton Facebook page - <https://business.facebook.com/gainsboroughchurches/>

Here are some quotes people have left:

“these pictures have brought happiness to us and hopefully one day we can join you”.

Great to see our little Church alive again, a few faces we recognise from 13 years ago. We were married there 13 years ago. We will come along as soon as we feel things are safer”

“some new and some not so new faces. A community that will forever be in my heart”

“May it go from strength to strength”.

Your dream wedding

As COVID restrictions are lifted, many couples will be thinking about their dream wedding and 'setting the date'.

Estimates of the average cost of a wedding today range between £16,000 and £30,000, depending on what you include. This is beyond the budget of many people. But you could get married in church for less than £1,000 including music and bells in a ceremony that is personal and meaningful.

Wherever you have the celebration afterwards you could hold the ceremony itself in a beautiful church in the parish where you live, in a church to which you have a family connection or you can make your own by attending that church's usual services for six months. Many people think they're not allowed to be married in church, but you don't have to have attended church regularly for years and you don't have to be 'religious'. However, it is a religious ceremony in that you will take your vows in the name of God. To many people, the spiritual element is very powerful.

Revd Andrew Roberts, Diocesan lead for promoting weddings said: "I love doing weddings and a church wedding is very special. It's wonderful for families to come together to celebrate, but the really meaningful part of the day is that the two people have come together and made promises to each other to last their lifetime. You can do this very simply and still have a beautiful day. I have many weddings booked for this year and 2022 and I hope as restrictions are lifted that I welcome more couples into the church as they take this next step on their journey together."

To see what a Church wedding can offer go to <https://www.yourchurchwedding.org/> And to find the contact details why not wander down to your local church and look at the Notice Board, or simply go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> and search for where you live or the church where your family are.

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Thousands of churches offered remote worship during lockdown, new report finds

Thousands of churches adapted 'at a moment's notice' to providing worship at home from the start of the first lockdown, according to a new report just published.



More than 9,000 churches (78%) offered 'Church at Home' online, via email, post and telephone during the March to July 2020 lockdown when collective worship was suspended because of the coronavirus restrictions.

More than 8,000, or 69%, offered livestreamed or pre-recorded services, while more than 5,000, or 44%, offered services downloadable from a website or emailed. More than 4,000, or 33%, offered printed and posted services and more than 2,000, or 21%, provided telephone or dial-in services. The majority were continuing to offer these services in October last year even though most were also open for in-person collective worship.

The findings, from data gathered from 12,700 Church of England churches, show that rural churches were as successful as urban churches in providing remote worship once the size of parishes' pre-pandemic congregations was taken into account. The rise in 'Church at Home' services and remote worship came as the Church of England stepped up its programme of training in digital communication for congregations and clergy over 2020 to help churches provide remote worship during the pandemic.

A total of 7,000 people were trained in digital communications, live streaming and running online communities, seven times the figure for the previous year. Hymns were downloaded more than a million times as part of resource provided by St Martin-in-the-Fields church, working with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and the Church of England. The facility was launched during the lockdown through the A Church Near You Resource Hub website.

Writing in the report, Dr Ken Eames, from the Church of England's Research and Statistics Unit, said: "It would have been fascinating to have asked people early in 2020 whether they thought the Church of England would be able to switch at a moment's notice to worshipping online and in other innovative ways; my guess is that the Church of England massively exceeded expectations."

Welcoming the findings, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "I thank God for the work of the churches over the pandemic including the huge effort that was made to provide worship at home. This has been a source of comfort and strength to so many people during a very difficult and challenging time. It has also meant that many have been able to discover the Christian faith and hear the good news of Jesus Christ for the first time. Online services and videos have become part of a toolkit for how churches can offer worship. It is inspiring to see the life of our parishes sustained and revitalised in this way."

Those providing worship at home include the benefice of Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt in Wiltshire, which attracted thousands of viewers to YouTube explanatory 'Faith in the Village' videos on Christianity during the lockdown. Online services broadcast by the group had an 'attendance' of up to 400 viewers compared to a maximum congregation size in person of around 120 before the pandemic. Rector Revd Canon Andrew Evans said: "We had never thought of broadcasting online before the pandemic. We have been thrilled by the results."



Providing a listening ear for Lincolnshire's farming and rural communities.

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The logo for Irsn consists of a stylized yellow ear icon above the letters 'Irsn' in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Report your daily status on the Covid Symptom Tracker app even if you are well. Help science beat the virus.

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

933,891

people are currently predicted to have symptomatic COVID in the UK.

Estimated cases per million

- Not enough data
- 0 - 2,500 cases pm
- 2,500 - 5,000 cases pm
- 5,000 - 7,500 cases pm
- 7,500 - 10,000 cases pm
- 10,000 + cases pm

Updated 9 October, 5:00am

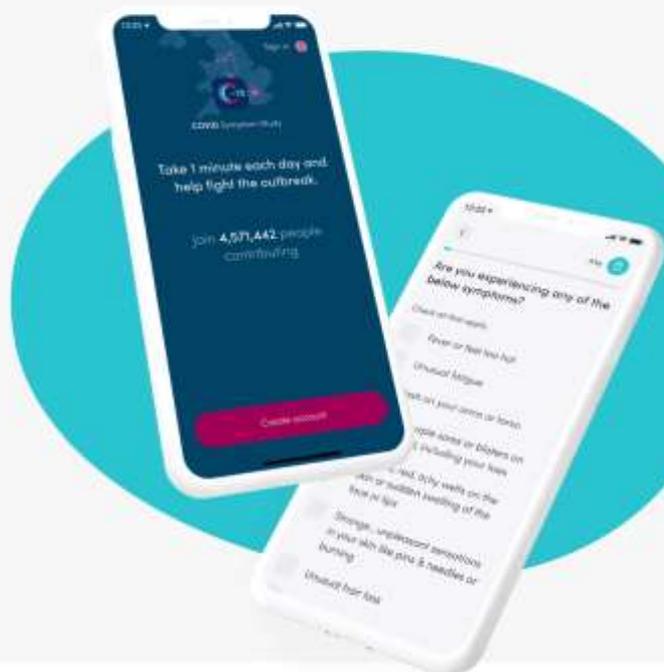


4,719,161

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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



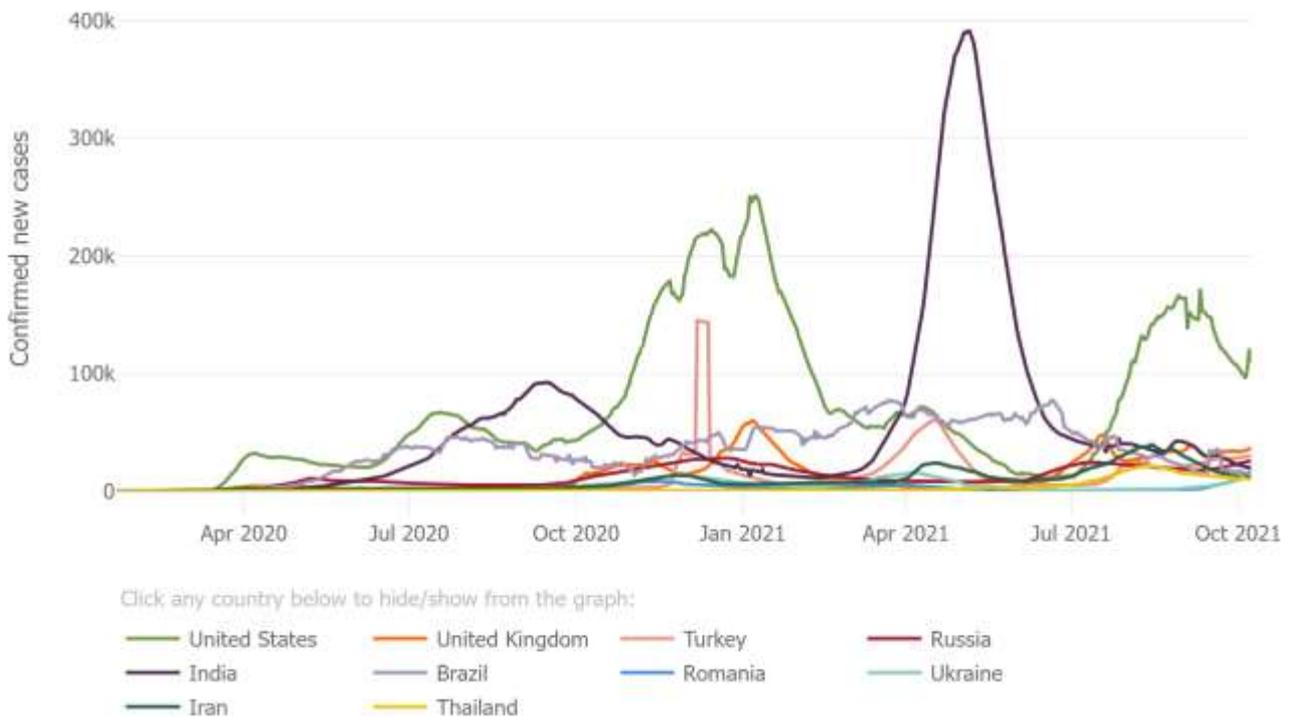
Latest figures

The John Hopkins University, USA collates international Covid data on their website updated daily.



DAILY CONFIRMED NEW CASES (7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE)

Outbreak evolution for the current most affected countries



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

Services are available in-person and some are available online, via Zoom. To obtain the login details for our online service, please email admin@parishofboston.co.uk or call (01205) 310929. You are most welcome to join us. Please note that COVID-19 safety measures are in operation.

Sunday services

First Sunday of the Month

8am – Said BCP Eucharist

11am – Sung Eucharist (also available online)

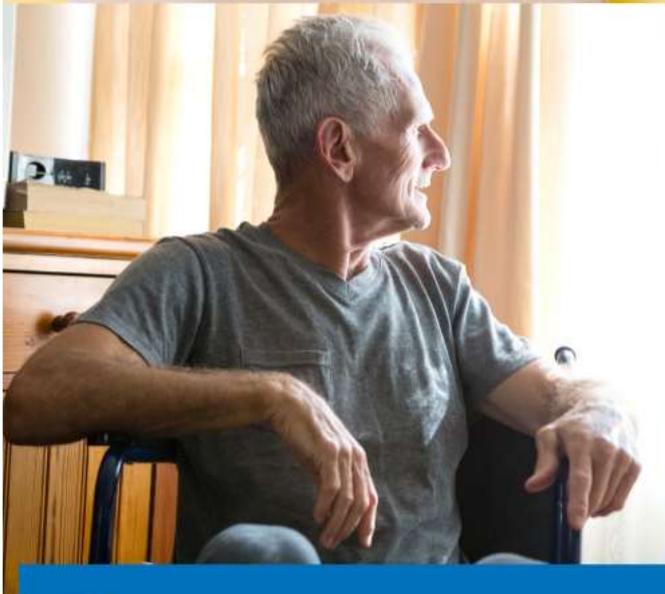
5pm – Choral Evensong (also available online)

All other Sunday's in the month

11.00am – Sung Eucharist (also available online)

Wednesday mid-week service

10.30am – Said Eucharist (also available online)



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