

Latest News – 15th May 2022

Watch the service – Learning to cherish



All are welcome to join us on the Fifth Sunday of Easter from All Saints Kings Heath, South Birmingham.

Assistant Curate, Rev Tariro Matsveru, will be leading the service alongside Vicar of All Saints, Rev Canon David Warbrick, who will be preaching on 'Learning to cherish'.

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 15th May

10.30am Sibsey Family Service + Baptism

10.45am Holland Fen Morning Worship

3.00pm Carrington Sung Evensong

Relaxation of Covid Restrictions across the Benefice.

Dear all

Following the relaxation of Covid restrictions the current practices in church were amended from 10th April Palm Sunday.

Sunday Services will no longer be socially distanced, face masks will now be optional.

(Hand sanitiser will still be available.)

Singing will return to normal without the need for face masks.

Pastoral visiting of friends of the Church will be at your own discretion.

Holy Communion will still be restricted to receiving the bread only, however those who wish to receive will do so from the priest at the High Altar. Anyone who wishes to remain seated to receive will need to let the sides person aware and to sit in such a position that I would be able to administer to them.

Refreshments may now be served if desired without the need to remain in your seats.

There are now no restrictions for services such as baptisms, weddings, funerals or School Services.

Meetings held in Church or Church Halls will no longer be subject to social distancing and face masks will be optional.

Risk assessments have become good practice so these will continue to be expected for any new events.

With my prayers and best wishes

Reverend Clive

Church of England national funding to increase 30% to support and develop ministry especially with young people and disadvantaged communities

The Church of England today announced plans for a significant increase in funding for the next three years to support God's mission and ministry across the country, supporting local parishes and growing many more new worshipping communities to serve the whole nation.



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The Church Commissioners for England intend to distribute **£1.2 billion** between 2023 and 2025, up 30% from £930 million in the current three-year period, and plan to maintain this level of funding in the subsequent six years.

In total, this would mean the Church Commissioners plan to distribute **£3.6 billion** to frontline work of the Church of England between 2023 and 2031, making the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council among the largest grant givers in the country.

The Church Commissioners' distributions will account for approximately 20% of Church funding, whilst the biggest contribution comes from the faithful and generous giving of churchgoers across the country.

The core of the extra funding will be channelled into the revitalisation of parish and local ministry. The distributions will help fund dioceses' plans to serve the nation by reaching more young and disadvantaged people, addressing issues of racial justice, and radically cutting the Church's carbon footprint.

In line with the Church's Vision and Strategy for the 2020s, funds will also be used to support parish churches and dioceses. This will include:

- Continued funding for the Church in the poorest parts of the country, taking into account lessons from the recent independent review into Strategic Development (SDF) and Lowest Income Communities (LInC) funding.
- Increasing the number of clergy in front-line ministry in parishes and chaplaincies, with the intent that the Church's clergy better reflects the diversity of the nation that we serve.

In addition, the Church will lead by example in areas that are important not only to the Church but to wider society.

- Enable thriving local churches across the country, making significant contributions to their local communities and delivering even more social action work
- Support diocesan, parish and cathedral plans for the Church to become carbon net zero by 2030 – a target set by General Synod.
- Fund measures that will make the Church more diverse.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York made the announcement about funding for the Church of England while visiting **St John The Evangelist Church in Balby, Doncaster**. The parish, in the Diocese of Sheffield, runs an impressive social action ministry for the local community.

The **Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby**, said: "The Church of England is called to serve every community in the country, to be a presence that transforms lives and answers the call of God.

"This funding will help local parishes and chaplaincies live out that calling, providing support for mission so every person might hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

"I am especially pleased that the funding will support our aims to double the number of children and young disciples by 2030 and aid the parish system in doing what the Church does at its best: making the love of God known to every person."

The **Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell**, said: "The vision for the church is that we are Jesus Christ centred and Jesus Christ shaped and this funding is a huge boost as we work together towards our aim of being the church for everyone everywhere.

"It will help us reach more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, enabling us establish what we hope will be 10,000 new Christian communities.

“Working through our parishes, most of these will be in neighbourhoods, schools and places of work and leisure.

“Some will be online. At least 2,000 will be in the poorest and most deprived parts of the country.

“This is very good news indeed.

“We strive to be a younger and more diverse Church. We must become a church where everyone is confident in living as disciple of Jesus Christ and in sharing their faith with others.

“This funding will help the Church of England raise its game in its service to the nation.”

Alan Smith, First Church Estates Commissioner, and the **Bishop of Manchester, David Walker**, Deputy Chair of the Church Commissioners, said: “The Church Commissioners are here to support the mission and ministry of the Church.

“Thanks to our strong investment returns, we can now plan to expand our financial support.

“We want to enable churches, supported by their diocese, to be places and communities where people discover faith and grow as followers of Jesus Christ.”

The 2023-25 spending plans have been supported by the Assets Committee, and the Boards of the Church Commissioners and Archbishops’ Council and are subject to formal approval at the Church Commissioners’ Annual General Meeting on 23 June 2022.

Funding plans for 2026-31 remain subject to investment performance, market fluctuations and future approval by the Church Commissioners.

The distributions from the Church Commissioners are dependent upon long-term investment returns. Separately, the Church Commissioners today announced that in 2021 they generated returns of 13.3% on its investment of the Church’s endowment.

Up to 500,000 children's storybooks on faithfulness distributed for Platinum Jubilee

Up to half a million story books will be given to primary school-aged children ahead of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by the Church of England and Thy Kingdom Come, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's global prayer movement.



The book, 'Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle', is the latest development from the Cheeky Pandas, a children's online cartoon series created by Swell Revolution, led by Pete and Nicola James which has featured contributions from people including Archbishop Justin Welby, Nicky Gumbel, and CBeebies' Gemma Hunt previously.

The free storybook, based on the theme of faithfulness, helps children understand the faithfulness of the God – in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 70 years of faithful service.

The book's creation and distribution is part of plans for this year's Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which unites Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost. It is also an official Church of England schools resource for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Alongside the book, similar in size to Mr Men and Little Miss books, there will be a brand new five-part online TV series of the Cheeky Pandas, based on the Fruit of the Spirit and inspired by the Bible.

There are also Platinum Jubilee music videos for toddlers and young children, and a special 'Royal' episode to accompany the story book, created by the makers of CBBC's 'Andy and the Band' and CBeebies' 'The Baby Club', with voiceovers from Gemma Hunt.



Other free resources will include activity packs, assembly plans, TV episodes online and music videos of original songs created especially for the series. These can be used in homes, churches and schools, who are encouraged to order bulk copies of the free book to give out as they choose. They have been generously funded by a range of external funders.

More than a quarter(135,000) of the half a million books have already been ordered.

Nigel Genders, Church of England's Chief Education Officer, said: "We are really excited to be a part of Thy Kingdom Come again this year.

"It continues to offer a fantastic opportunity for schools to engage children and young people in thinking creatively about prayer, faith and offers the opportunity to put this into practice both within school and through serving their local communities."

Pete James, the creator of the Cheeky Pandas said: "It is an honour to partner with Thy Kingdom Come and the Church of England this year to create these resources to nurture young children's faith in a fun way, in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

"The new series of online TV cartoons and the book are based on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians. With new songs to dance along to, and activity packs to enjoy, we hope these fun resources will help children grow deeper in their faith during this year's Thy Kingdom Come."

'With the sporting groups, we started to see growth'

When Revd Danny Driver became the parish vicar at Christ the Redeemer, Barnwell, he used sport ministry to build new bridges between the church and the community – creating links with local schools and finding innovative ways to serve the community through sports.



Danny believes sports ministry helps improve people's lives – physically, socially, and spiritually – as well as being an effective way for the church to make new connections with young people.

"Sport can bring people together from all sorts of backgrounds and unite them," Danny explained.

"As a church, it was a glaringly obvious opportunity for us to use sport to connect with new people, to form community, and to share the good news of Jesus with them."

The sporting activities at the church include a Friday night Youth Group, multi-sports activities and an after-school club providing sports alongside crafts to teach the Bible to children.

"There are 16 kids attending the after-school club, 10 have never had church contact before," said Danny.

"These young people had no idea that being in a church could be like this, their perceptions of church have changed.

"Part of our vision is to see young people's lives transformed through the power of the Gospel."

A multi-sport camp is also offered to the entire community for one week during the summer holidays. Alongside sports, games and a BBQ, attendees are encouraged to learn about Jesus.

Danny says that last year more than 40 children took part, and three new families began attending the church as a direct result of being invited to the event.

Danny reflected: "Whilst setting up new sporting groups, we have started to see growth in the number of children and young people that we are regularly in contact with, it's wonderful."

Webinars for Festival Churches



As part of A Time To Change Together, the Diocese of Lincoln Church Buildings Team are hosting a series of webinars. Although primarily aimed towards those who have opted for or are considering categorising themselves as a Type 4 – Festival Church, booking is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Topics will include: Open and Welcome, Maintenance, Quick Wins with the DAC, Options for other uses including working with schools, Community Engagement and Mission Potential

To book a place at any of the webinars, please register using the relevant links below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join.

23rd February 2022 at 11am Festival Church Webinar: **Open and Welcome.** [Click here to book.](#)

23rd March 2022 at 11am Festival Church Webinar: **Maintenance.** [Click here to book.](#)

25th May 2022 at 11am Festival Church Webinar: **Other uses including working with schools.** [Click here to book.](#)

29th June 2022 at 11am Festival Church Webinar: **Quick Wins with the DAC.** [Click here to book.](#)

27th July 2022 at 11am Festival Church Webinar: **Community Engagement.** [Click here to book.](#)

28th September 2022 at 11am Festival Church Webinar: **Mission Potential.** [Click here to book.](#)

For any queries, please email Fran Bell, Church Development Officer (fran.bell@lincoln.anglican.org)

Lincoln Cathedral – Chapter Letter – 15th May 2022

*Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority;
and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace;
that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.*

From Common Worship (2000: p.281)

This bidding above, from a form of intercessions in Common Worship, has an established history of use in earlier prayer books (Alternative Service, Second Series (1966: p.4); Third Series (1971: p.15; 1973: p.11); Alternative Service Book, Rite A (1980: p.125, #21)). But the reference to the Common Good is ancient, found in the writings of Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero. For Aristotle, the good life involved living well together; a society in which citizens were living virtuously and were flourishing together.

In early Christian writings, references to the common good have the intended meaning of shared advantage and mutual benefit (1 Corinthians 12:7, Epistle of Barnabas 4.10). But later Christian writers, like Augustine of Hippo (d.430) and Thomas Aquinas (d.1274), drew on that ancient understanding of the good life of society, while affirming the social nature and interdependence of all persons.

The common good for Christianity refers to the well-being of society, and wider global community, in which all members may flourish as persons, i.e., as relational beings. This involves fulfilling everyone's material needs (of sustenance, shelter, security), but also our social and environmental needs as persons (such as loving relationships; dignity and a say in decisions that affect us; peace and justice; purpose and fulfilment; and the enjoyment and appreciation of cultural life and the natural world). We cannot flourish in a context of civil unrest and political conflict, but society cannot flourish without the wellbeing of all its members. The common good entails an integral ecology that is attentive to the cry of earth and the cry of the poor.

Between 2010 and 2015, the common good was a quinquennial goal of the Church of England, so shaping the engagement of the church and its members in civic and political life. But this social mission continues.

Lincoln Cathedral has long been involved in civic life and engaged with public issues. We will continue to do so, under the banner of 'Lincoln Cathedral Common Good Project'. A series of keynote lectures, to which I hope many will come, will help to shape our social engagement by exploring Anglican Social Theology and Catholic Social Teaching. The first lecture is on 7th June – “Just Responsibility?” – How can social theology help us play our part in spiritual and civic renewal? Following Choral Evensong, in St Hugh's Choir, it will be an introductory lecture exploring the purpose of the series, by Jenny Sinclair, director of 'Together for the Common Good'.

PAUL OVEREND, CHANCELLOR

Archbishop of Canterbury launches reconciliation course for prisons

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry team have launched a “transformative” course for prisons that explores conflict, forgiveness and reconciliation.

The course is based on *Difference*, a five-session course that explores following Jesus in a complex and divided world, navigating disagreement, practising forgiveness, and crossing divides through everyday encounters.

The new course is being launched this week at a national training event for Anglican prison chaplains.

The *Difference* team have worked closely with prison chaplains who have run the course and leaders in prison ministry, ensuring that both those who run it and those who participate are able to get the most out of it. The course has been piloted in a prisons context and has had a transformative impact on the lives of those who have taken part, enabling prison chaplaincy groups to consider new possibilities for forgiveness and reconciliation in relationships that had previously felt like a lost cause. One participant commented that the course felt like the closest thing to rehabilitation that he had experienced in prison.

Each session includes films, scripture reading, prayer, discussion, and interactive exercises that guide participants on a journey towards better connections and healed relationships.

The course is based on three habits – being curious, being present, and reimagining – which, if practised, help participants encounter others well and see society transformed.

Training for running the *Difference* course in prisons is being offered to attendees at an Anglican prison chaplaincy training event this week, with over 100 chaplains in attendance. Prison chaplains of any denomination can also get trained online through the *Difference* website.

Speaking about the new resource, Archbishop Justin Welby said: “I am delighted to have launched this new version of the *Difference* course for prisons. Prison chaplains play a crucial role in the life of our Church and the rehabilitation and discipleship of prisoners. It is a privilege to serve their ministry through the *Difference* course.

The way we treat people in prisons is a key measure of our civilisation as a society. In providing the *Difference* course, we want to say wholeheartedly 'you matter'. It is our hope that the course equips prisoners with new habits that enable the reconciliation made available through Jesus Christ to flow out of them into their wider relationships. Having visited a prison whilst the course is being run, I have seen first-hand its potential for creating new possibilities of forgiveness, dialogue and reconciliation.”

The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester and Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons in England and Wales, has added her support for the *Difference* course: “Reconciliation is at the heart of God's love,

and followers of Jesus Christ are called to join in with God's mission of reconciliation. The Difference course provides an opportunity to explore what it means to live reconciliation amid the struggles and joys of our everyday lives, and this contextualised course for prisons will enable people to explore new possibilities for transformation in relationships with other people, God and Self amid the messiness of life."

A prison chaplain who ran the Difference course said: "For us as hosts, it's very exciting when you see things start to click with people as the course goes on. Recently a participant spoke about a person in his life who he fought with every time he saw him, often leading to violence. He wanted to do things differently but he just didn't know how.

"As the course went on he started to put into practice the habit of being curious, asking questions that would allow him to find out more about this other person's life and why the situation was the way that it was. It was beautiful to see him think about this stuff and process it between the sessions, and we're really hopeful that he'll be able to have a different relationship with this person going forward."

Your dream wedding



As COVID restrictions lift, 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 have 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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Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days 2022

Churches across the diocese are being encouraged to take part in the annual Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days, taking place this year between Friday 9th September and Sunday 18th September.

Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days is part of the National and European Heritage Open Days initiative. In Lincolnshire (including North and North East Lincolnshire), the programme of events has been co-ordinated by Heritage Lincolnshire for over twenty-five years.

The theme of this year's event is Inside Out: Lincolnshire's Landscape of Industry, Design and Innovation, which focusses on the idea of exploring elements of heritage which have left their mark on the historic, cultural and physical landscape of Lincolnshire. This gives lots of scope for events linked to the magnificent architecture of our churches as well as showcasing the variety to be found in churchyards amongst many other topics contained in the unique stories of church life in Lincolnshire. Events can be on-line or in person and Heritage Lincolnshire are planning lots of support sessions to help create a unique event which works for you.

Registration of Lincolnshire Heritage Open Day events is open until 31st March and is being co-ordinated by Heritage Lincolnshire.

The first weekend of the Heritage Open Days festival overlaps with the Ride and Stride event on Saturday 10th September with the Lincolnshire Churches Trust and the second weekend of the Lincolnshire Wolds and Coast Churches Festival on 10th and 11th September for Louthesk and Calcewaite and Candleshoe Deaneries, giving even more opportunities to share the innovative heritage of church buildings and their place in the landscape.

The main criteria for a Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days event are:

- Events must be free of charge and take place during between 9th September and 18th September
- Events and activities should celebrate the heritage, history or archaeology of Lincolnshire and, where possible, highlight this year's theme
- Open a site/part of a site that is not usually open to the public, waive the usual entry fee, or put on a special event
- Events and activities can be on one or more of the ten days, and at times to suit the organisers

Further information about the festival, including an on-line registration form and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days pages on the Heritage Lincolnshire website: <https://www.heritagelincs.org/heritage-open-days/organisers>

Historical Theatrical Experience

Presented by a community of local actors under professional direction. With links to Medieval tradition, this once-every-four-years revival has become a much-anticipated highlight of the county's arts calendar, drawing audiences from around the world.

Tickets available from : <https://www.lincolnmysteries.co.uk/>

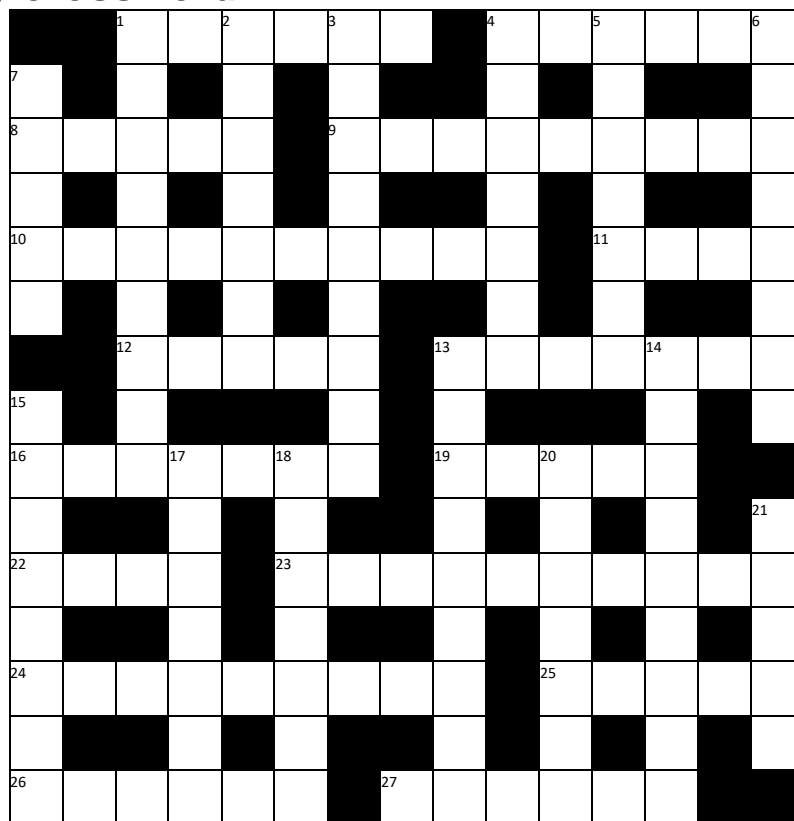
When

Start: 25th July, 2022 at 12:00am

End: 6th August, 2022 at 12:00am



May crossword



Across

- 1 Bemused Pharisee that's missed messenger (6)
- 4 Wheel can turn to supply drink (6)
- 8 To work is a sound requirement (5)
- 9 Flexible cane under pressure shows durability (9)
- 10 Armed vessel? Just part of the club (10)
- 11 Backspace lacks energy and tops all else (4)
- 12 Selective biography draft proved a Herculean task (5)
- 13 His secretary's accessory is used for dates he arranged (7)
- 16 Though Dan lost out on ballroom a small download put him on top (7)
- 19 Worldly wise? It's not applicable. I have put briefly (5)
- 22 Gamble one only takes in search of letter (4)
- 23 Bold or no, do give freely to Dracula's appeal (5,5)
- 24 Virtuosity authority has view on citric tar derivative (3,6)
- 25 Favour or flavour (5)
- 26 A child returns twice looking for deer (3-3)

- 27 Sailor employed, but taken advantage of (6)

Down

- 1 Will Bess be disembarking to free boat (9)
- 2 Adhered to task in search for identifying feature (7)
- 3 The news team? (5,4)
- 4 Collapse forces Prime Minister into cruel arrangement (7)
- 5 Looked at a finely played shot (7)
- 6 Tar derivative from island with headless iffy resident (8)
- 7 Cut corners using a container holding a thousand (5)
- 13 Victorian ride sounds good (6,3)
- 14 Getting angry at roadworks hold-up? (6,3)
- 15 70s group in scrambled walkout held Dirk (8)
- 17 Moved caper down shortly with springing steps (7)
- 18 Apply small amount to sharp point of old iron (7)
- 20 Indicates at lost exponents (7)
- 21 Picture produced by unknowns including artist (1-4)

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/>

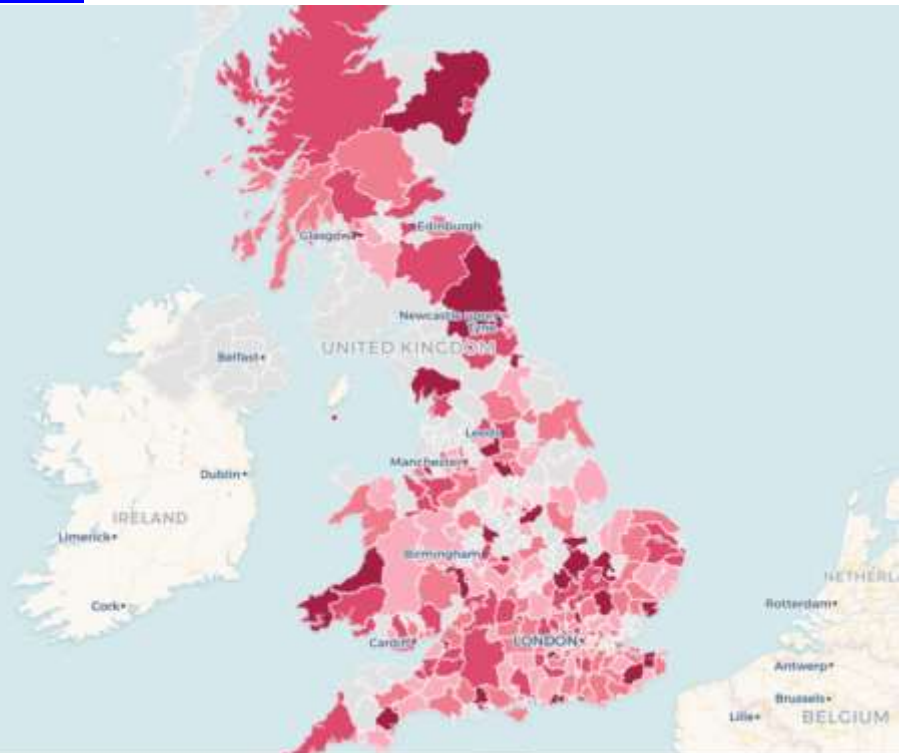
1,794,575

people are currently predicted to have symptomatic COVID in the UK

Estimated cases per million

- Not enough data
- 0 - 10,000 cases pm
- 10,000 - 20,000 cases pm
- 20,000 - 30,000 cases pm
- 30,000 - 40,000 cases pm
- 40,000 + cases pm

Updated 14 May, 5:00am

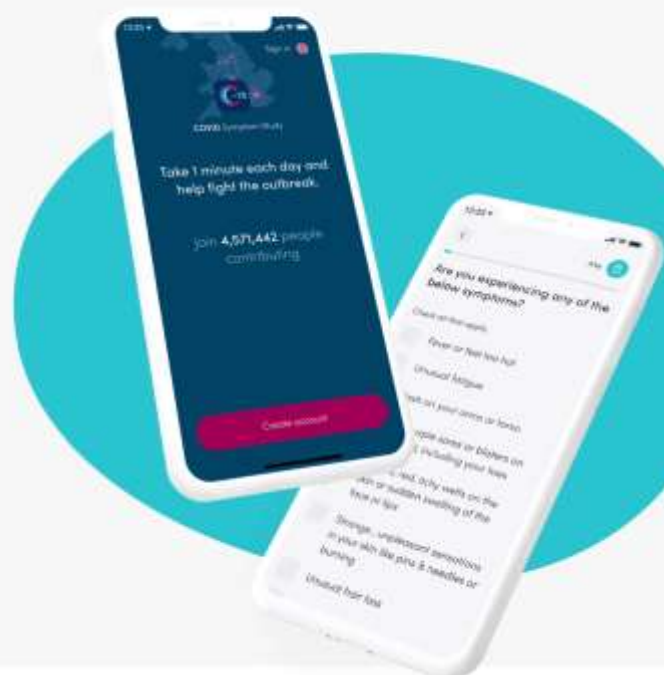


4,719,161

CONTRIBUTORS

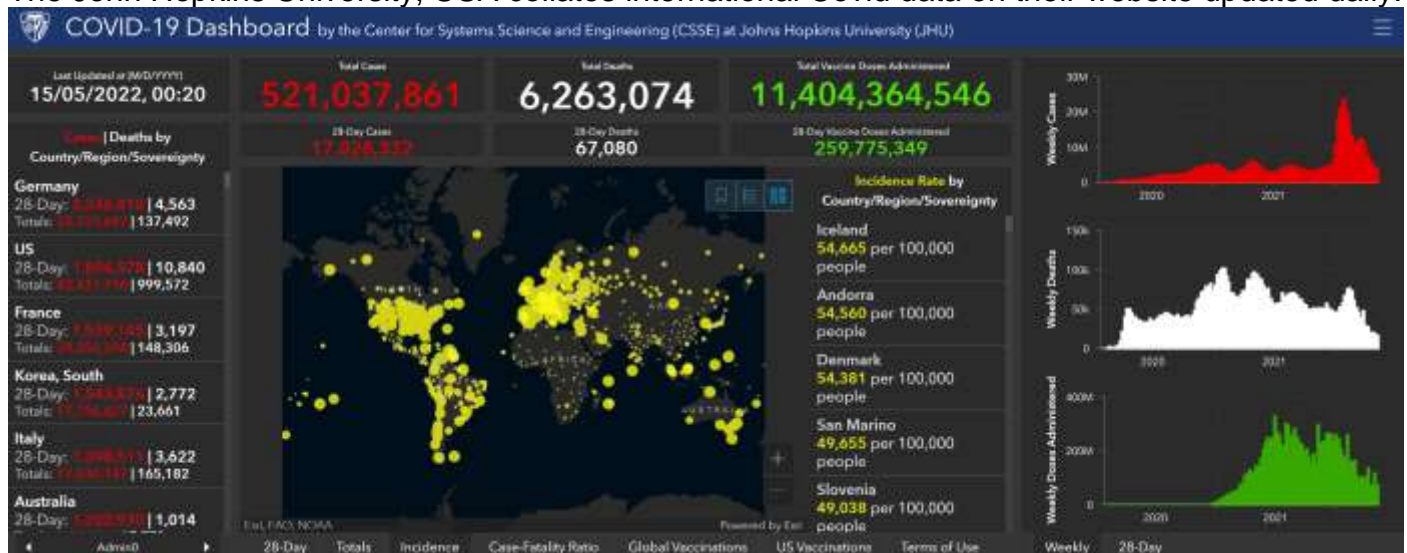
People of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID. Support the NHS, help scientific research and help us get out of this pandemic safely.

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



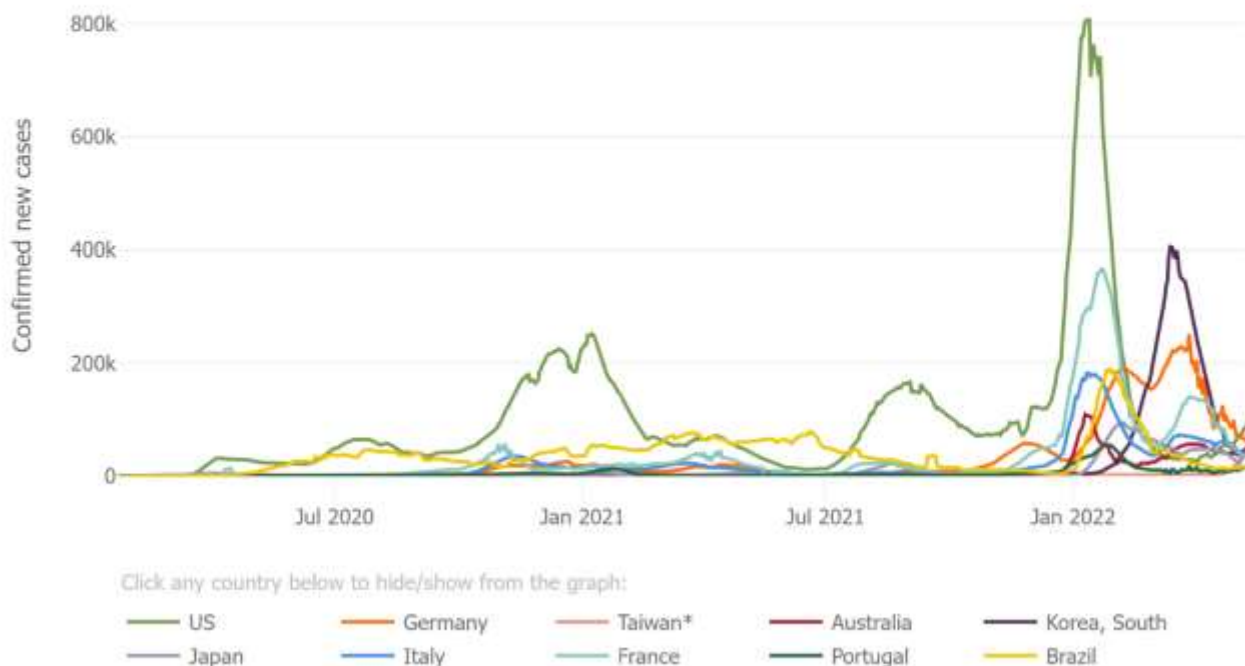
Latest figures

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.

Weekly News is published in Pilgrim Progress at <https://parish-of-boston.org.uk/news/>

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)