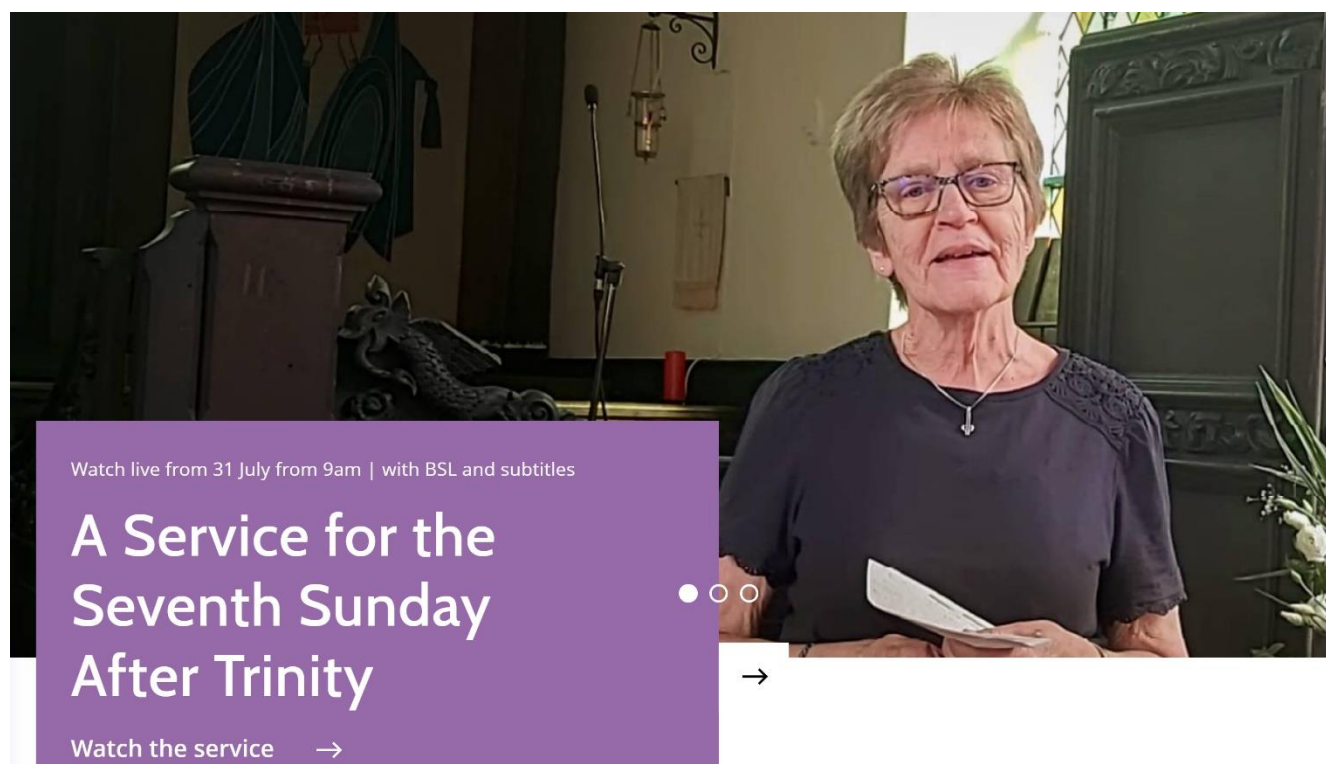


Watch the service – Sixth Sunday After Trinity



Join us for a service from Pontesbury & Stiperstones Benefices, Shropshire.

Rev Greg Smith will be presiding over the service, with Rev Richard Lonsdale preaching about God and wealth.

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

31st July 2022

10.45am Holy Communion Wildmore

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

Statement from Bishop Stephen Conway, Acting Bishop of Lincoln

21st July 2022 Re: Peter Burness

Peter Burness was sentenced today at Lincoln Crown Court to a custodial sentence of 6 years, and he will also be on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

The Diocese of Lincoln was shocked and saddened to hear about the heinous abuse of a former Cordeaux School pupil and chorister at St James' Church in Louth in the 1970s perpetrated by Peter Burness.

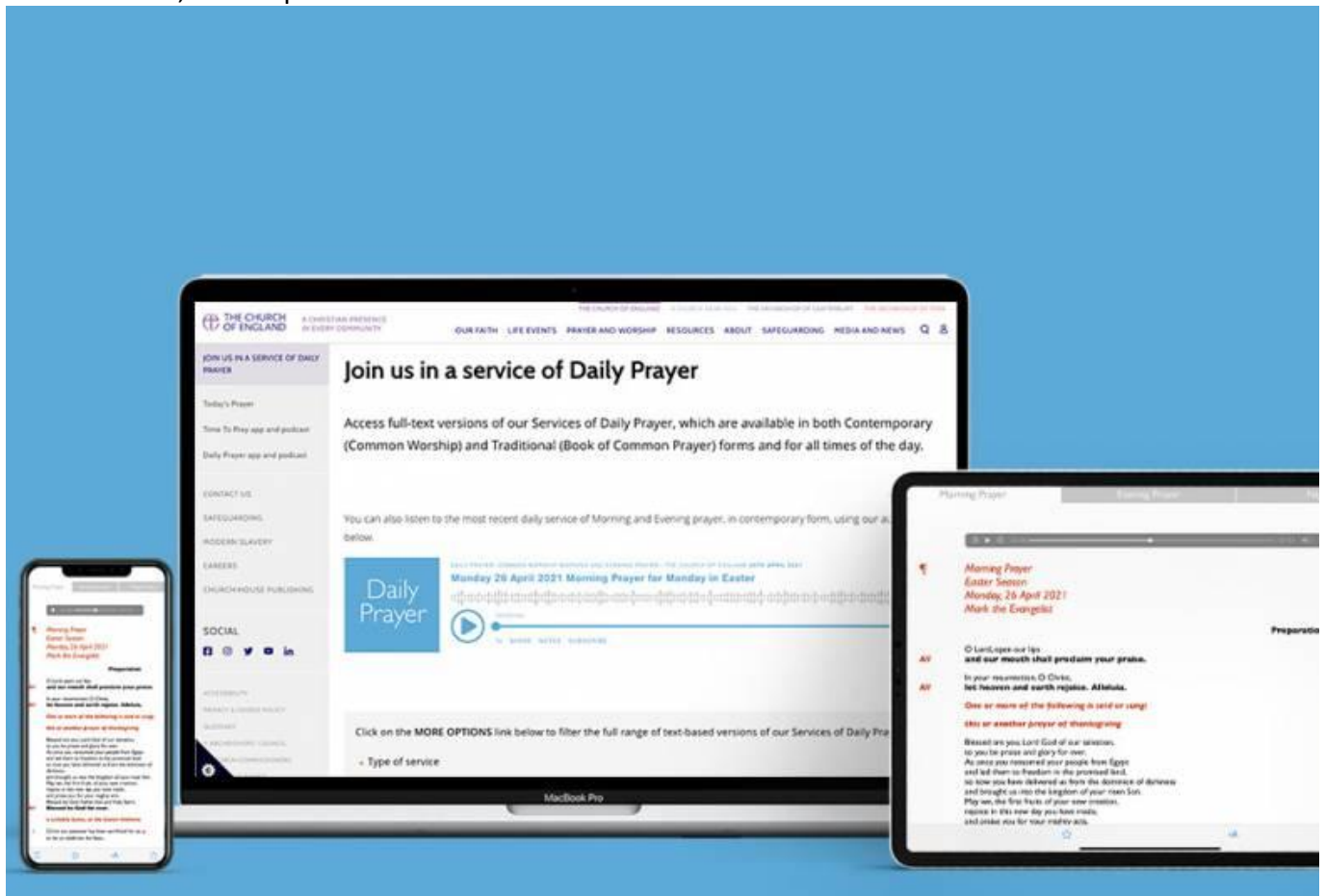
During this time Burness was joint Head of Music at St James' Church and King Edward VI Grammar School in Louth (from 1966 till 1996).

The safety of everyone who attends our churches is of paramount importance and the Diocese of Lincoln, along with the Diocese of York has worked closely with police and statutory authorities throughout this case.

I would like to encourage anyone to come forward who may have been affected by this, or any other case. Support is available, and the diocese is committed to listening and taking action.

Daily Prayer podcast celebrates 1,000th episode

A free service bringing the ancient monastic cycle of daily prayer to millions of modern listeners has broadcast its 1,000th episode.



The [Daily Prayer podcast](#), brings listeners together twice a day for the short traditional services of Morning and Evening.

The podcast, available both via the Daily Prayer app as well as all major podcasting platforms, was launched in March 2021. It has now been streamed more than four million times, with a monthly audience of 60,000 people.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: “Reaching 1000 episodes of Daily Prayer is an impressive milestone.

“Being able to participate in Daily Prayer through the app has been of great help and encouragement for many to begin, sustain or develop their life of prayer.

“I often hear of people who have found a rhythm of prayer by using it. I’d like to thank all those involved in bringing the services together each day.”

The services are usually led by the Revd Catherine Williams from Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, with readings recorded by people around the country and music from St Martin’s Voices in London.

The 1,000th service falls on the Feast of Mary Magdalene (22 July) with readings, psalms, and music to mark the day.



Canon Simon Wilkinson was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2013. In the years that followed his diagnosis he continued turning to Matins and evensong to keep him “on track spiritually” – a pattern he said he followed ever since starting at Cuddesdon Theological College in the 1970s.

“It was the bedrock of my spirituality along with the Eucharist for all those 40 or so years,” he said.

On discovering the Church of England’s online Daily Prayer podcast, Simon expressed his relief at “not needing to carry so many bits of paper or books at the same time”, as he explained:

“I have found the whole experience to be transformative for me and for many others whom I have recommended doing the same thing.

“When I am particularly unwell, I am now able simply to switch on the iPad and lie back and listen to the services.”

Dr Rob Mannion, retired medical lecturer and writer, described finding “much joy and peace” in listening to the Daily Prayer podcast while unable to attend his church due to a health condition,

“From the comfort of my special armchair, I’m able to share in the worship with all the wonderful music and voices” he explained.

“We may seem to be apart” he added, “but in fact, we’re brought much closer together through the online medium.”

Revd Laura Martin, Curate at St John’s and St Luke’s Harrogate (pictured) said the Daily Prayer podcast from the Church of England was “a revelation” amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

“At that time, finding the time and energy to retreat into prayer became more difficult” she explained.

“I found that my established rhythms of prayer went out of the window with the demands of home learning, home working and the general chaos of everything.

“I established a pattern of taking a walk whilst listening to the podcast and found much needed peace, connection with God, space to reflect and a deep sense of God’s presence as I walked.”

She added: “It made a significant difference to my spiritual and emotional wellbeing during the winter period of lockdown.”

Have you listened yet? Find out more about the [Church of England's Daily Prayer app and podcast](#).

‘Choir Churches’ to be funded as part of projects to spread the Christian faith

Children are to get a chance to learn music in the English choral tradition as part of plans by the Church of England to inspire young people to learn about the Christian faith, it was announced today.



A total of £249,530 has been awarded to The Church of England in Lancashire to invest in up to 24 ‘Choir Churches’ where children will be taught hymns and anthems from the English choral tradition, meeting as a new congregation of parents, teachers and the wider community.

The Choir Church initiative in the Diocese of Blackburn will include regular worship and will be formed following similar projects in east London parishes and schools, led by Tom Daggett of the Choir Church Foundation.

The Bishop of Burnley, Philip North said: “This is a fantastic initiative; we are delighted to be pioneering Choir Church in our Diocese on a scale never before attempted.

“With our Choir Church Project we aim to connect home, church and school in a fresh approach to outreach; providing opportunities in places where they may not be available otherwise.”

Innovation Funding is aimed at helping parishes explore new ways of sharing the Christian message alongside tried and tested approaches.

Dioceses are encouraged to apply for funding for projects lasting up to three years that could act as blueprints for future mission and growth across the country,

A total of £1.7 million been awarded in Innovation Funding round for the following projects:

- Birmingham, Safe Spaces– helping churches in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, particularly inner city and outer estates, to nurture the faith and ensure they can welcome young people who have had no previous contact with Christianity - £239,775
- Blackburn – Choir Church, up to 24 Choir Churches working with schools in parishes across the diocese - £249,530
- Bristol – Swindon New Town for a project to adapt successful outreach approach, into a traditional Catholic parish - £249,690
- London – Youth Ministry in Communion, to expand on a youth network in the Anglo Catholic tradition, started last year (currently involving nine parishes in London) - £250,000
- Royal School of Church Music – Hymnpact – to help fund a programme to nurture faith through singing and appreciation of hymns and spiritual songs in schools in partnership with a range of churches - £230,000
- Southwark – Bubble Church- funding to expand Sunday worship that is friendly for parents and children with no previous contact with the church - £250,000
- St Hild College – Seedbed - training for lay people to evangelise and plant churches - £223,666

How ‘Messy Church’ helped start a new worshipping community

St Leonard’s Church, Scawsby, in Doncaster launched ‘Messy Church’ before lockdown and within six months, a new church community was established – which continues to thrive today. The vast majority, more than 80 percent of those attending, did not previously come to church on Sunday.



Father David D’Silva, Priest-in-Charge at St Leonard’s Scawsby (with St Luke’s Scawthorpe) explained how the new church community was first started:

"With any new venture, what we try to do at St Leonard's, is to begin by creating a community.

"We brought a group of people together who didn't really know anything about church, and we created a place where people could feel accepted and loved.

"We stick to the Messy Church formula – gathering, activities, worship, and a meal – while still being firmly rooted within the Catholic tradition of the Church of England."

Father David explained that the existing Sunday congregation also played a crucial role in helping to form the new Messy Church community.

"We had people in the existing congregation who were able to help with Messy Church and who were also willing and able to be natural evangelisers for it.

"There are also five primary schools in the parish, who aren't church schools.

"We are blessed that so many took up the invitation, seeing new people come to discover Messy Church, has been really joyful."

Father David said the feedback has been very positive from those taking part and that there is an expressed desire for the Messy Church sessions to continue:

"Parents have told us that their children know Wednesday from the different days of the week, because Wednesday is Messy Church Day!

"We only do Messy Church during term-time, but the kids keep asking when it's coming back.

"It's been a real joy to see it start from nothing and then take on a life of its own," he reflected.

Diocese of Lincoln Confirms Fossil-free Divestment

After a review of assets, we are pleased to announce that our financial investments are free from fossil fuel extraction.

Bishop David Court, Bishop of Grimsby and Chair of the Environment Advisory Panel, said:

"We are delighted to find that after careful research we can confirm our financial investments are divested from fossil-fuel extraction. Reducing our carbon emissions and moving towards a low-carbon world is an urgent justice issue. Embedding the Church of England's Net Zero commitment into all aspects of our life as a diocese is both a challenging and essential expression of our discipleship in caring for God's amazing world and each other.

"Having examined how financial assets are invested, the Diocese of Lincoln's Asset Committee will be updating the Ethical Investment policy this autumn to reflect the divestment from fossil fuel extraction companies and will commit to remain divested in the future."

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 – 24th July 2022

There is a version of Christianity we sometimes encounter, which portrays faith in Christ as some sort of protection against the trials and sufferings of life. The sort of view that says if you turn to Christ life will be full of blessings and all your troubles will be over.

The Gospel begins with the incarnation: God coming into the messiness of our world and sharing in the experience of humanity. It proclaims the God who is with us in the joys and the sorrows as one who knows what it is to suffer, to be misunderstood, rejected, ridiculed and plunged into the depths of intense torment and trial in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was recorded to have uttered the words of the psalmist from the Cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Darkness and despair, confusion and anxiety are part of the human condition, and wrestling with the question “where is God?” is an important part of our spiritual journey. St John of the Cross spoke of the dark night of the soul, the psalms resonate with cries of abandonment and angry appeals to God from the depths of desolation. The book of Job catalogues the dreadful calamities that befall a devout man of God and his struggle to comprehend God’s meaning in it all.

To witness to the power of love breaking in to the intense heartbreaks and tragedies of life is to encounter the profound reality of the God who is with us. It can be lonely and confusing when life becomes unbearable or hope is lost. The distress of a suffering individual will naturally cause an impact those who witness it. We may feel helpless to know how to respond or feel we have failed.

In the midst of life’s struggles, little shafts of light can pierce the darkness. The unexpected note shoved through the door, a gesture of compassion, a conversation resounding with empathy, or simply accompanying someone in their darkest moment.

These are the times when a situation is transfigured by the undeniable presence of love.

This week the cathedral community responded to a shocking and tragic situation. Our prayers go out to the young man who fell from the central tower for his recovery and restoration to well-being.

It is not appropriate to speculate about what caused him to climb the tower. What we can do is enfold him in Christ's healing embrace through our prayers.

As a cathedral community, it has been encouraging to see how much care and concern was shown both for the man who fell and for those staff and volunteers who found themselves caught up in the immediacy of events. We have been flooded with kind and compassionate words from numerous people across our networks, both from other cathedrals and here in the city.

All of us live with struggles, doubts and messiness at some time in our lives. The events of this week reinforce our commitment at Lincoln Cathedral to be a place where God's love is made known. To be channels of peace and a conduit that guides anyone in need to professional services and support across the city. A safe space.

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTINE WILSON, DEAN OF LINCOLN

Your dream wedding



With COVID restrictions 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.

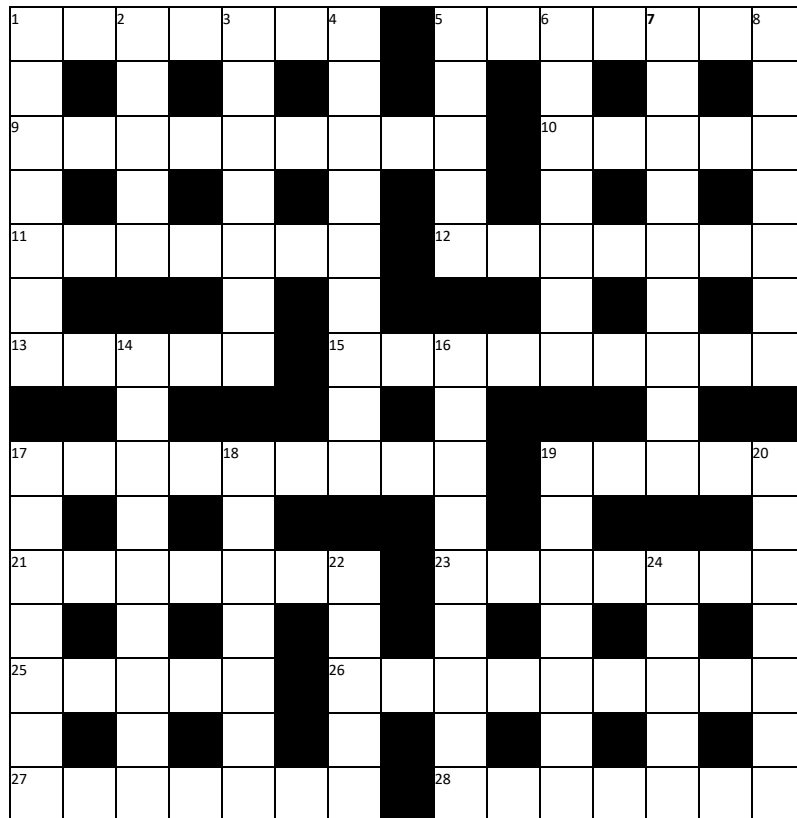
Wherever you have the celebration afterwards you could hold the ceremony itself in a beautiful church in the parish where you live, in a church to which you have a family connection or you can make your own by attending that church's usual services for six months. Many people think they're not allowed 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 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.

**

July Crossword



Across

- 1 Out of date craic? Ha! No way. (7)
 5 Strict domain, ester.au, needs update. (7)
 9 Lucky brief thanks are returned in tidy sum. (9)
 10 Grip when kettle stand loses temperature. (5)
 Requests you send tin mix. (7)
 11 Being a craftsman, in part, is an excellent aim. (7)
 12 (7)
 On returning I realised it
 13 revealed trends. (5)
 15 Shire required orchestra orchestration. (9)
 17 Will golfers use this when they play after dark? (9)
 19 To pass by without direction will lead to drop in standards. (5)
 21 How else is Mick, losing deer, severely shaken? (7)
 23 Left roundabout agitated. (7)
 25 I did it, obviously, terribly. I was a fool to start. (5)
 26 Brace is iron construction in hand luggage. (9)
 Put by book. (7)
 27

- 28 Pupils lose plate to become breadwinners. (7)

Down

- Act about, following lively introduction initially,
 1 leads to trouble. (7)
 Took out centre in disco redevelopment. (5)
 2 Old boy concerned with Alan shortly expressing
 3 doubt before dawn. (7)
 Traditional Greek heritage. (9)
 4 Theatre area holding unknown number. (5)
 5 Scrub mark. (7)
 6 In what way does Vera quietly listen in. (9)
 7 Understanding that I will go in twice without the
 8 queen to the east. (7)
 Honours signified reform. (9)
 14 To coat eraser is, to start with, easily done. (9)
 16 After change retains worse demeanour. (7)
 Devil, 19 down perhaps, in rage about time. (7)
 17 Match for the devil. (7)
 18 Interminable finale with fewer add on. (7)
 Wire a telegram overseas. (5)
 19 Track back in horse cart. (5)
 20
 22
 24

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/>

Where & When

St Mary's, Horncastle – 2nd August 7.30pm

St Denys, Sleaford – 3rd August 7.30pm

St James, Louth – 4th August 7.30pm

All Saints, Gainsborough – 5th & 6th August 7.30pm



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/>

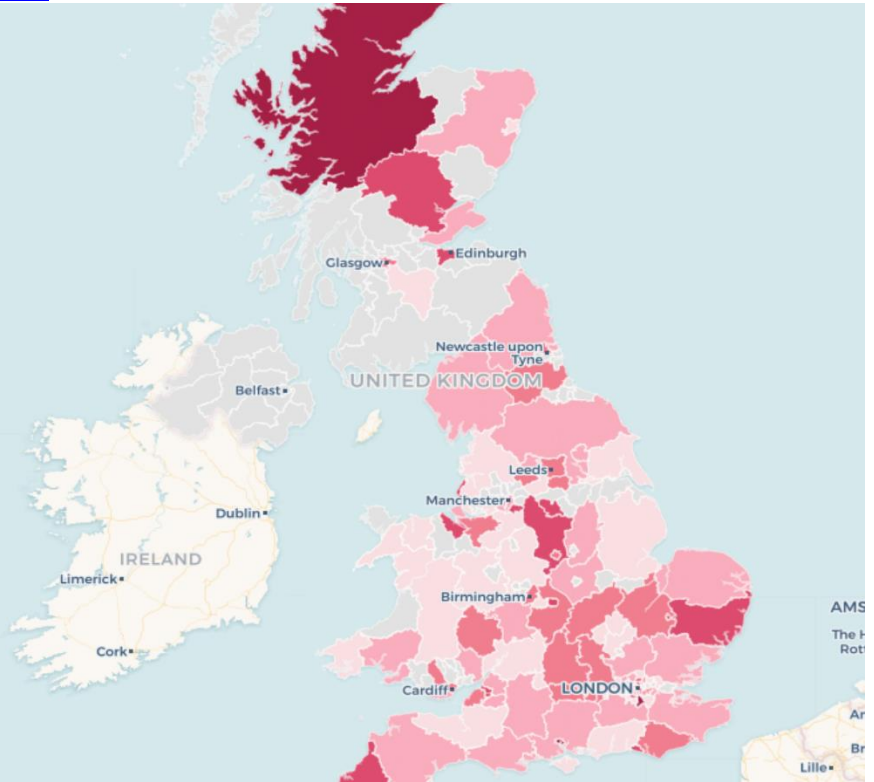
3,744,277

people are currently predicted to have symptomatic COVID in the UK

Estimated cases per million

- Not enough data
- 0 - 50,000 cases pm
- 50,000 - 70,000 cases pm
- 70,000 - 90,000 cases pm
- 90,000 - 110,000 cases pm
- 110,000 + cases pm

Updated 30 July, 5:00am

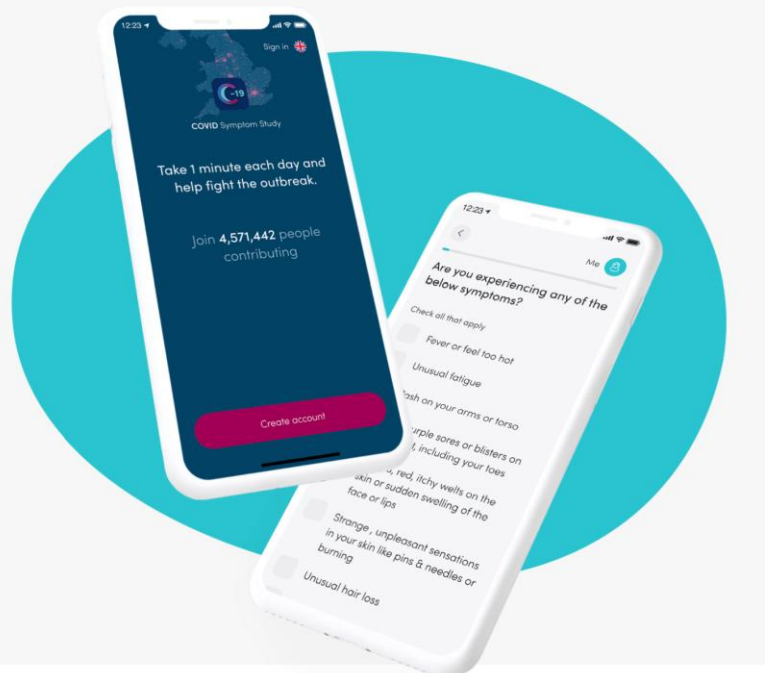


4,719,161

CONTRIBUTORS

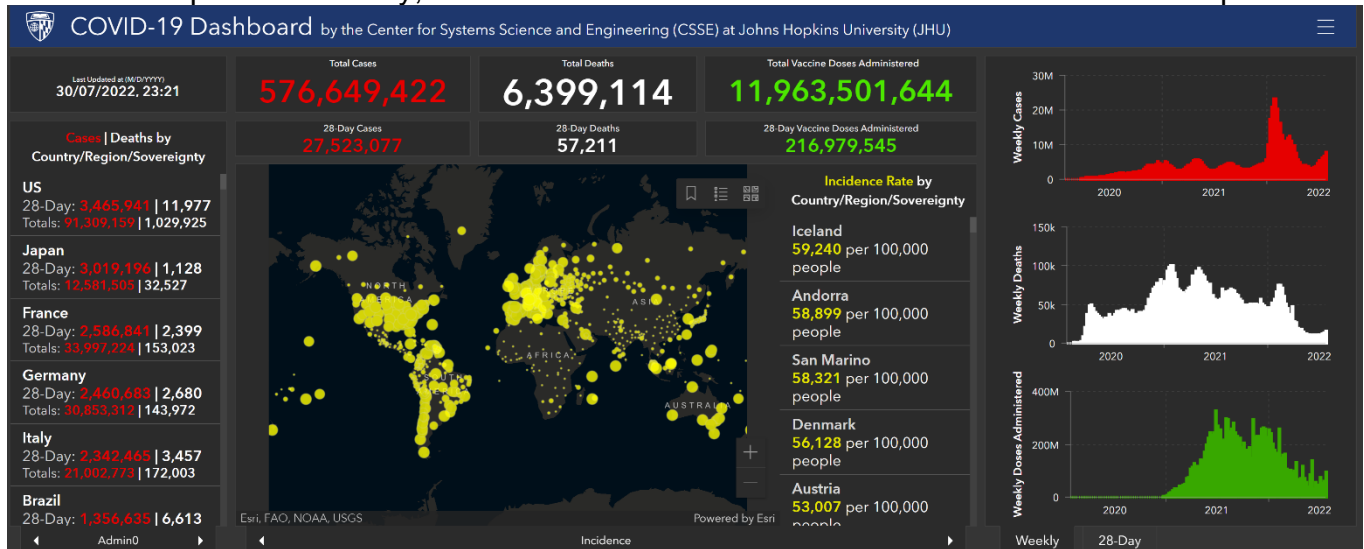
People of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID. Support the NHS, help scientific research and help us get out of this pandemic safely.

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



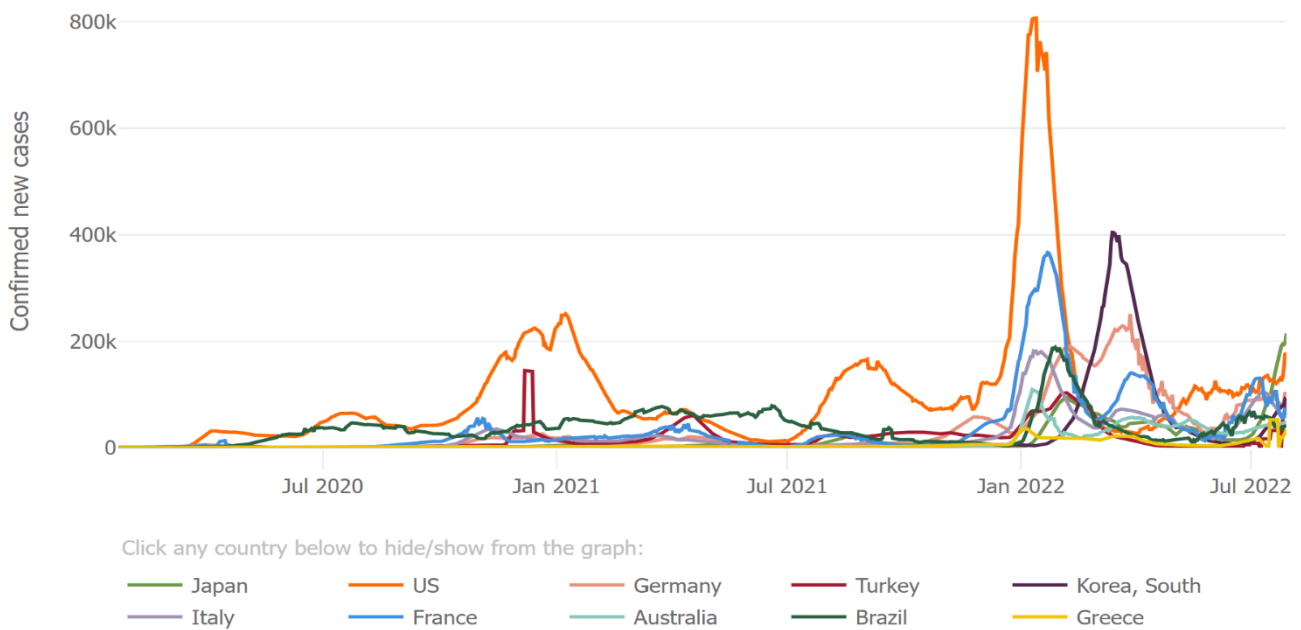
Latest figures

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)