

Dear all

I am very grateful for all the messages of support over our very difficult decision to go online for the Sunday Services. Hopefully now there will be no problem with the internet.

At the moment, in the absence of any other advice, we are continuing to be open for private prayer as before, with one additional requirement. We have supplied a small squirter of sanitiser, which is on the table by the lectern. We would be grateful, if you come in for private prayer, that you would squirt anything you might have touched, and the seat if you sat in the pews. Many thanks.

Other alternatives you might wish to tune into (occasionally!) are:

[Church online | The Church of England](#) This includes the Church of England's online service, plus other resources you might be interested in.

The Lincoln Diocese website at [Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance \(anglican.org\)](#) also has some links, which you might also be interested in. They have streamed services, but I can't find a permanent link for every week.

And some more links:

[Daily reflections - Bible Society](#) following a plan for reading the bible in one year.

The Bible Society also produce introductions and study guides to all the books of the bible.

[Bible Book Club - Bible Society](#)

Another link you might be interested in, to stretch your thinking about an important issue:

[Finding Jesus in the Storm: John Swinton and Paula Gooder in conversation](#)

[Tuesday 12 January, 7-7.45pm online](#)

Drawing on many years of experience of working with people with mental health challenges, **John Swinton** will be talking with **Paula Gooder** about his latest book, ***Finding Jesus in the Storm***. It's a fascinating and wide-ranging conversation about mental health and faith, from the importance of Christian friendship, what makes for rich spirituality, to how we can learn from people with serious mental health challenges.

Register, learn more and donate to the costs of our programme [here](#).

Or here: [Finding Jesus in the Storm Tickets, Tue 12 Jan 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Registration is via Eventbrite, and is fairly intuitive. The conversation is planned to last only 45 minutes.

Bible Study:

Our Zoom Advent Course has ended (actually, it ended yesterday, as the book went on to Epiphany). At the end, members expressed a wish to continue, as a Bible Study group. The suggestion was to study the passage from the Gospel from the previous Sunday.

This Sunday, which we will be celebrating as 'Plough Sunday', we will be looking at Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23. The Old Testament lesson will be Genesis 2: 4b-9a, 15.

You might also like to look at the normal readings for this Sunday, which is the feast of the Baptism of Christ. Genesis 1: 1-5; Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11.

The Zoom details are:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8109399155?pwd=STVVTU44RzJxTFFHbTY1Mnl0bjJZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 939 9155

Passcode: 1w2C9a

Nick Fawcett's latest prayer focuses our minds on the hope that the vaccines bring us, but also recognising the doubts and fears we might have.

We're pinning so much on it, Lord:
the prospect that vaccines will help to control,
and finally eradicate,
the scourge of coronavirus,
at last putting an end to the misery, fear and uncertainty
that this last year has brought to so many.
Yet, while we dare to hope,
we have our doubts also –
our worries and reservations,
for we cannot help but wonder,
given all that has transpired,
whether effective measures have been put in place
to make the most of the opportunity before us.
Can the vaccines be supplied in sufficient quantity,
and as quickly as we need them?
Will a single dose provide the protection we're promised,
and will delays in the booster jab reduce its efficacy?
Might scepticism lead many to refuse this option altogether,
potentially undermining the whole programme?
These,
and a host of other questions,
crowd in upon us,
leaving us hesitant to place our faith in the pledges made.
We have heard too much,
seen too much,
experienced too much
to trust blindly in the words of politicians
and to assume that our troubles may soon be over.
Yet we long to believe it –
need to do so –
for the sanity,
health,
wellbeing,
and very future of so many
depends upon it.
Grant, then, that the vaccines that have been approved,

and those that are still being developed,
 will make a real and lasting difference to our situation,
 bringing about a swift reduction in hospital admissions,
 a rapid decline in deaths
 and an end to the spread of this horrible disease –
 a time when we need no longer walk in fear,
 but can pick up again the broken threads of our lives
 and weave a bright new tapestry.
 Lord, we call to you,
 we cry to you,
 we plead with you:
 hear our prayer.
 Amen.

Something silly for you to think about...

You have probably heard the phrase “My body is a temple”. I wonder what sort of temple it might be. Here is a guide to help you!

"My Body Is A Temple"

<p>Hindu Temple</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well kept balance of needs - Careful well prepared grid design system - Found near water for good healthy hydration 	<p>Druidic Grove</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimalism & relaxation - Never 'works out', just goes for walks. Very long ones. - All of the hair, all the time 	<p>Synagogue</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basically exists for the books - Actual shape & style entirely negotiable as long as there's a reading desk - Books
<p>Aztec Pyramid</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Really tall, designed for being looked up at - Built to impress - Possibly maintained by sacrifices 	<p>Fire Temple</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything is constantly lit - Just keeps going and you're not honestly sure how - Definitely has a workout, vague on the details 	<p>Parish Church</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plain so your Ma likes it - Broad social acceptability maintained at all costs - Entirely runs on tea & home bakes
<p>Greek Temple</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classically sculpted perfection - Actually adapted for look more than function - Wine consumption at epic heroic levels 	<p>Mosque</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kind of chonky - But in a fancy elegant way - Makes loud noise several times a day in case you forgot about it 	<p>Mystery Ruin</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crumbling remnant - Unclear how it worked to begin with at this point - Oddly old-school romantic looks despite all that

Images by (1-9): Anshikvara, James Baillie, Michal Hurniewicz, Maunus, Diego Delso, James Baillie, Steve Swayne, Dennis Jarvis, James Baillie
 Made by James Baillie for Exilian

The other day I watched the film ‘The Boat that Rocked’ with Helen & Benedict. Although I have seen it before, I was stunned by the song ‘Stay with me’, which I didn’t remember from before. Here is a link if you are interested – for no reason other than it is a phenomenal performance. Real soul!

[Lorraine Ellison - Stay with me - YouTube](#)

And a little something from one of the nicest guys I have met – Bryn Haworth, with an almost seasonal Christmas Blues...

[Christmas Blues Bryn Haworth - YouTube](#)

Finally, something more traditional – the wonderful carol 3 Kings from Persian Lands afar, from King's.

[King's College Cambridge 2014 #16 The Three Kings Peter Cornelius - YouTube](#)



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark