

Dear all

We continue to move on in faith and hope, despite the continuing COVID situation and ongoing restrictions.

A particular concern that is being expressed is that we are getting out of some of the habits that sustained our normal way of life – one being church attendance. All churches are experiencing smaller congregations at present. Some are still shielding, quite understandably. Others have perhaps lost the habit. I was chatting to someone earlier today who talked about the delight of experiencing a range of services from afar field – what a lovely and positive practice. But, in just the same way that we are encouraged to visit and use our local shops and businesses, the same is true for churches. There will be more pressure than ever on the continued viability of our historic local churches.

And, of course, while Zoom etc. have been invaluable, nothing beats meeting with people and interacting face-to-face.

We are currently looking at increasing our provision here – dependent upon new guidelines of course. We are hoping to get our choir up and running again for a limited contribution to services in the near future – watch this space! Sadly, there is not likelihood of a return to congregational singing in the near future.

I would be interested to know whether you would like to have hymns sung in church (whether by choir or small group/soloist)? Would you be glad to hear them again, or would it be too painful not to be able to join in? We would still keep the congregational parts of the service (Gloria, Sanctus etc.) as spoken, so as not to exclude people.

Churches Together in All Lincolnshire is putting on an online service to reflect on the pandemic, and to remember.



Lincolnshire Remembers - COVID, Grief and Hope

You are invited to join an

ONLINE SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, September 20th, 2020 at 7pm

link to: [Live.livechurch.org.uk](http://live.livechurch.org.uk)

An invitation is being extended for people across Lincolnshire to remember the human impact of Covid-19 and to look to the future with a sense of hope.

An online church service: Lincoln Remembers - Covid, Grief and Hope, will recognise the human toll the virus has taken in so many ways and will be online Sunday September 20th at 7pm. The invitation is for anyone to attend regardless of belief and for people to light a candle in a window on the Sunday evening of the gathering as a communal way of remembering both our loss and our hope.

The service is being organised by Churches Together in All Lincolnshire and can be accessed through the link above.

Further information: <http://www.ctal.org.uk/remember.html>



Organised by **Churches Together in All Lincolnshire** representing : Diocese of Lincoln – Lincolnshire Methodist District - Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham—East Midland Baptist Association - East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church - East Midlands Division of the Salvation Army - Ground Level Network of Churches – Lincolnshire Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

I have mentioned Nick Fawcett's work before, and that he is running a series of discounts for books he has published. This is from his latest post:

This week's promotional discount is on my 2014 book [Complete Collected Intercessions](#), a compilation of the numerous prayers of intercession I'd written for various books up to and including that year. Normally priced at £24.99, this week, until 13 September, you can purchase it at a 10 per cent discount – a saving of £2.50 – using the code INTERCESSIONS10 when ordering the book from the [Kevin Mayhew website](#). Just type the code into the relevant box at the checkout between the dates given.

Meanwhile, here's the third of seven extracts I'll be posting this week from the book, to run alongside this promotion. It's theme is disaster and tragedy, and how we struggle to make sense of it.

Disaster and tragedy

Almighty God, why do you let people suffer? Why have you created a world in which so many have to endure pain, brokenness, heartache and despair?

In your mercy, Lord,
hear our cry.

We look for answers but find none, strive to make sense of it all, but are left clutching at straws, confused and troubled.

In your mercy, Lord,
hear our cry.

Help us to understand that somehow, in ways we don't understand, you share with us in whatever we go through; that, though it often may not seem like it, you are moved by our pain, seeking to heal, comfort, support and strengthen.

In your mercy, Lord,
hear our cry.

Enfold all who suffer in your loving arms until that time when we enter your kingdom, and hurt and pain will finally be no more. Amen.

Stay safe



Blessings and love

Mark