



Update
The Feast of the Epiphany
Wednesday 6 January 2021

Fr Wayne writes,

At an extraordinary meeting of the Parochial Church Council last night (5th Jan 2021) a decision was made by a clear majority to suspend 'in person' worship in Church from next Sunday 10 January.

After this evening's 7pm Eucharist in Church, we will be 'Zooming' a simple Sunday Eucharist at 10am but suspending our Wednesday evening service. Wednesday Evening Prayer at 5pm on Zoom remains unaffected and the link can be obtained by [emailing the parish office](#). Please join us.

We will be sending out written material to those unable to access the weekly online Eucharist. We will continue to offer a variety of online and written worship and fellowship material in the weeks ahead and information about these will follow in due course.

It is important to stress that this situation will remain under review in the coming weeks and our response will be adjusted accordingly. Our aim will be to return to Church for more 'normal' Eucharists at the earliest opportunity.

There will be a further update next week following a scheduled PCC meeting on 14th January.

We are in a rapidly changing situation which requires us to act responsibly and flexibly. However, along with a number of other PCC's in this Diocese and elsewhere, we feel that the most appropriate response as things stand is to discourage an in-person gathering in a situation where almost every other kind of gathering or mingling is being actively discouraged by the Government. [You can read the Church of England/Diocesan guidance for yourselves here.](#)

It is important to state that although under the latest lockdown guidance 'Covid-safe' worship is permitted, the feeling of the PCC at this time is that it is increasingly unwise. There are a number of significant factors to be taken into consideration apart from the need to discourage gatherings wherever possible :

- rapid rise in daily cases
- many hospitals under strain
- a significantly more transmissible variant of Covid
- the fact that many of the most-vulnerable in our society are yet to be vaccinated
- the age-profile of our congregation (where those over 50 are at more risk of serious illness)
- the need to act quickly rather than waiting

We are making this decision with 'heavy hearts.' In acting quickly some may feel we are reacting hastily. We are, however, simply trying to make the best local decision in the circumstances before us.

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany when we recall that the Kings brought their best to Jesus. We are seeking to make the best decisions in these challenging times and hope that, even if you have reservations about our chosen course of action you will understand that we are seeking to keep people as safe as we can.

Please feel free to contact me at any time about this situation and rest assured that you are in my thoughts and prayers as we go forward together

God Bless you,

Father Wayne Plimmer