

News Update 3rd January 2021

For those unable to join us on Zoom, this is the notice given out at this morning's service.

Update on the Use of the Church Building.

At the beginning of December, we, as Elders, updated the Church on the return to using the church building. As we begin the New Year, we want to update you on the latest plans for using the church building. On a practical level, the carpet is fitted and the PA improvements installed. Work on testing and using the new equipment continues. There has also been a clear out of unused furniture and other items.

As you will have seen during December, the building has been used for recording parts of services, including the Carols by Candlelight Service, and some services have been broadcast live from the building on a Sunday. This will continue over the next 3 months. For those who enter the building to do this, can we please remind you to follow the guidance on social distancing, hygiene, cleaning and track and trace.

However, two major changes have taken place with the coronavirus. Firstly, a more infectious variant was identified in Kent and this is quickly becoming the dominant form in England as it spreads out from Kent and London.

As a result, large parts of England are now at the new Level 4 which seriously restricts social interaction. As a Church, we need to do all we can to minimise the risk of people being exposed to the virus unnecessarily. As a result, we do not plan for people to attend services or other events in the building until the level of risk reduces. This is likely to be after Easter.

The second change is the approval of the two vaccines. We thank God for the vaccines being researched, tested and approved so quickly. As the opportunity arises, we encourage everyone who is offered the vaccine to accept, to protect themselves and those around them.

On a final note, we are aware that there is mis-information being circulated on social media, including in Christian circles, on remedies, precautions and raising fears about the risks of the vaccine. Please be wise in information you pass on. If in doubt, please contact one of the Elders.

Thank you.

May 2021 be a blessed year.

Theo, on behalf of the Elders.