

Dear friends

Good morning and I hope you are all well. As we know, these are difficult times, and my thoughts and prayers are especially with those who are having to rethink or cancel plans for family get togethers over Christmas in the light of the Prime Minister's announcement last night.

As far as churches are concerned, there is no direct change to the rules and places of worship can still be open, and here in the Kingsbury and Baxterley group we will continue with those services that we had planned. There will be services today at Merevale at 11am and Baxterley at 4.30pm, and the Christmas services this week as advertised. The seriousness of the situation is however a reminder that, firstly, no one should attend services unless they are confident that they are safe to do so, and, secondly, those who do attend will need to take extra care in keeping to the rules around social distancing, sanitising and face coverings. It goes against the grain for me to want to discourage anyone from coming to church, or for me to be discouraging the friendly conversations that we are used to having when we do come, but we are at a critical moment, and safety is a vital priority. Please make your own best decisions as to whether to worship in church or at home this Christmas.

For worshipping at home, you will see that there is not the usual link to a YouTube service for this Sunday. Instead, we have been recording a video Carol Service, which will be posted in the usual ways on Tuesday, and I will send a further email with the link to that when it goes live.

In whatever way you are celebrating Christmas, and whatever mixture of feelings may be around this year, I pray that you may all have a holy and blessed time, as we recall that our Lord took flesh and dwelt among us.

Every blessing

John

Revd Dr John White

Priest in Charge of Kingsbury, Baxterley with Hurley and Wood End and Merevale with Bentley

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