

Happy New Year everyone

It is fair to say that 2021 is not starting in the way that any of us would have hoped, with the alarming upward curve of covid infections, and all the implications that that has for everyone in our communities. In consultation with the church wardens and others, we have taken the decision not to open the church buildings in the Kingsbury and Baxterley group for worship for the next few weeks. This is with immediate effect, so there will be no services at Merevale and Baxterley today, as originally planned. Instead, we worship at home, with the following service for Epiphany:

<https://youtu.be/1m5wtQ757Vo>



[Worship for Epiphany](#)

A Short act of Worship for Epiphany from the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Churches, with a reflection by Revd Carole Young on Matthew 2.1-12.

[youtu.be](#)

The decision to close is not one that has been made lightly. We know how much gathering for worship, even in small numbers, means to people. There has been a high level of compliance with the measures that have been put in place to ensure that the buildings are as covid-secure as possible, and I am grateful for that. But with the alarmingly high rates of infection and hospitalisation that have been occurring, we have agreed that the responsible and Christian course of action is to support the "Stay at home" message that applies in Tier 4 areas.

The suspension of services in church will apply up to and including Wednesday 27 January. It is my hope that we will then be able to hold a service in Kingsbury Church on Sunday 31 January to celebrate Candlemas, but we will be keeping the situation under review.

I am sorry for any disappointment that this decision may cause, but I hope that you will understand the reasons why we feel it to be necessary. Online services will of course continue to be posted here, and a weekly reflection can be listened to by dialing 01827 211 125.

I look forward to us being able to resume normal services as the wider situation in the country and region improves. In the meantime, keep safe, keep praying, and know that the Lord is with you.

With every blessing

John

Revd Dr John White

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