

## Pastoral Letter January 2021

Dear Friends

I am sure you will have all watched or listened to Boris Johnson on Monday evening, explaining in broad terms the new restrictions we now face due to the rapid growth in COVID-19. We have sadly seen a 76% growth of infections, over the last 7 days in Bromsgrove alone!!

Although public worship in church is still permitted, we have taken the decision to close our churches completely until February half-term when the situation will be reviewed. We must do all we can to protect ourselves, one another and our community.

Until further notice, Sunday worship will only be available online on our youtube channel. There are also services available (weekday morning prayer, night prayers on Sunday and Thursday at 9pm) on our facebook page.

It is hugely disappointing to write this, even though one can hardly be surprised by this news. The vaccines are coming though, which is fantastic and we thank God for the phenomenal work involved in their design and creation. All will be well – eventually.

For now, we have a duty of care for one another, our friends and families. On your behalf, sincere thanks to all involved in the production and distribution of our newsletters which I know are valued so much.

We will at St John's and St Andrew's be continuing to do our best to support and pray for each other. The team here at St. John's and St Andrew's will continue to be here for you. If you know of anyone in particular need then please let me know. I am investigating using Zoom for some bible studies and fellowship, so if you are interested then please ensure that you have the Zoom app on your phone or tablet.

If you know of any others in the congregation who do not have internet then please let me know

Your Friend *Ray*