

Media release

Immediate: 23 January 2020

Covid-19 infection: response from the Guernsey church leaders



The Guernsey church leaders met by Zoom on Saturday afternoon (23 January), following the briefing by the States of Guernsey on the discovery of possible community seeding of Covid-19.

The life and worship of our churches will continue in private prayer, in live-streamed services, and in other ways in which we can serve our community safely.

In our care and concern for the whole community of these islands, we have made the following decisions on behalf of our churches:

- All public worship in all our churches will be suspended with immediate effect and until we are advised that it is safe to resume public worship;
- Most church buildings will remain closed, except for access by those preparing for, or officiating at, live-streamed services; and
- Anyone entering a church building will be asked to record their names and contact details, to assist the States' staff in 'track and trace'.

We are grateful for the decision that churches may be used for funeral services, subject to the detailed guidance to be issued by the States of Guernsey.

We encourage everybody who is invited to receive a vaccination to take up the offer, so that the community as a whole can be protected from further infection. We do, however, recognise that some have reservations about the vaccine; we encourage them to talk to their medical practitioner and consult bona-fide resources rather than some of the mis-information being spread on social media.

Finally, we express our warmest thanks to the staff of the States of Guernsey and our political leaders for their prompt response and their unambiguous message today. We offer our prayers for them and for all the people of Guernsey, that, by working together, our islands can once again enjoy the freedom and security that we have valued so much.

Note

The Guernsey church leaders are

The Very Revd Tim Barker	Dean of Guernsey
The Revd Dr David Coulter	Church of Scotland
Major Jamie Hill	Salvation Army
The Revd Nicole Le Goupillot	Elim Channel Islands Regional Leader
Pastor John Ogier	Baptist churches
Fr Chris Rutledge	Catholic Dean of Guernsey
The Revd Howard Stringer	Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church in Guernsey

For more information

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