

St James's Church Piccadilly

197 Piccadilly

London W1J 9LL

To the St James's congregation and community, supporters, friends and parishioners

An important update Friday 8th January 2021

Further to our statement earlier in the week, in which we outlined arrangements for limited opening for public worship on Sundays, the situation changed this afternoon when the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, declared a major incident.

This has involved a request to the Prime Minister to close places of worship specifically as part of the drive to reduce contacts and travel. Given that our congregation is a gathered one, we have taken the decision that we should now not wait to be asked to close, but will suspend public worship from today Friday 8th January, until we are able to offer public worship safely.

We will continue to offer pastoral support to all our congregation, community, supporters and visitors online and offer our liturgies during the week and on Sundays on our Youtube channel.

We are so sorry that this is the situation we find ourselves in, and our hearts go out to everyone affected by the covid 19 pandemic in any way. We continue to pray for all who are suffering physically, mentally, economically and spiritually and we will do all we can to support and uphold you.

Please stay in touch with one another and with St James's Church. Together, we continue to pledge ourselves to being a community of hope, comfort and light in these tough times, trusting in God who is with us yesterday, today and for ever.

The Revd Lucy Winkett (Rector), Deborah Colvin (church warden), Trevor Lines (church warden), The Revd John Russell, (Associate Rector)