

Dear Local Resident / Retailer,

As you will no doubt be aware, we have been told by the government to expect a large-scale Covid-19 vaccination programme to begin in the UK.

A few weeks ago, the Parish was approached by the local Clinical Commissioning Group, on behalf of the NHS, to ask if we might be able to host a vaccination centre in Haslemere. Since that call, we have been working with the CCG to identify the best way we can support this vital programme.

The result is that, from Monday 14 December, St Christopher's Church will become a vaccination centre. This is no small undertaking, operating seven days-a-week with twelve hours of appointments (sent out to individual patients by their GP) each day and it may be in operation until April. To make St Christopher's available to the NHS requires us to suspend the church as a place of regular worship.

We are writing to you with this news as we appreciate that this initiative may have an impact on those who live and work in the area around St Christopher's.

As nothing on this scale has been attempted before, it is hard to anticipate what that impact will be. However, it seems reasonable to expect that there will be an increase in traffic, parking and footfall around the Weyhill area. Please be assured that this has been recognised and discussions between CCG and local councillors/Surrey/Waverley are taking place to identify ways to minimise the impact. We understand that some parking bays around the Church will be suspended for use by those attending the vaccination centre. Anyone who is displaced by this will be able to park in the fairground car park.

We did consider these implications, as well as the sacrifice that our Parish is making in losing the church as a place of worship, when making this decision. We believe that, at this time of national need, this was the best way for our Parish to make a contribution alongside all those others who have given, and continue to give, so much.

We plan to provide updates on our Parish Website as we get more details from the NHS, and you can contact us via the website if you have specific questions. (Community tab on website or www.haslemereparish.org/caring/st-christophers-vaccination-centre/)

Vaccinations are by appointment only, and are coordinated through the local GP surgeries, in accordance with national priority guidelines.

Many thanks for your support

Haslemere Parochial Church Council

Together in Christ, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love