

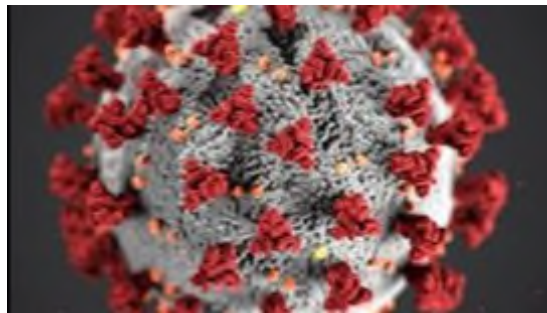
Coronavirus January 2021

To judith.edmonds@ntlworld.com

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January 2021



**EBA Trustees and Regional Team fully endorse the statement made by Baptist's
Together on their website and social media channels today.**

"In light of the Government's announcement on 4 January regarding the national lockdown in England, we strongly encourage churches not to open their buildings for in-person meeting if at all possible.

We recognise that the Government guidelines allow churches to remain open in England during this period; however, given the significant increase in numbers of Covid-19 infections and pressure on the NHS, we advise churches to stand with the wider community in making every effort to limit the spread of the virus.

We would still support churches to open their buildings, as you have done throughout the pandemic, to provide vital services to the local community, such as food banks.

We know that geographical contexts differ across England and we are aware that the decision lies with the local church. Nonetheless we are mindful of the pressure church leaders are under and the greater risk taken by all those involved in hosting open buildings for whom we have a duty of care.

This is a changing situation and we very much hope this will be our advice for only a short period.

Resources and sermons for inclusion in online services will continue to be shared through the national and regional team websites.

We stand together in the hope we have in Christ and we are praying for all at this difficult time."



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secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk

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