

ELLIOT COLBURN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

22 November 2020

Our Ref: EC9130

Dear Prime Minister,

**RE: Reopening of Churches**

I hope that this letter finds you well as you continue your self-isolation, and that your spirits remain high. On behalf of my constituents in Carshalton and Wallington, I would like to thank you for your ongoing herculean efforts to defeat the virus and keep our country safe.

I know that colleagues are writing to you on this issue as well, however I do not make a habit of signing joint letters and wanted to write to you directly.

Several hundred of my constituents, including many faith leaders as well as the Bishop of Southwark, have written to me in recent weeks to express their dismay at the closure of church services, and to make clear their unwavering view of the importance of coming together for communal worship.

Many have outlined the COVID-secure measures that their churches and other places of worship have put in place, and highlighted the lack of evidence of any significant contribution to community transmission through churches.

I know that you will be setting out what happens next after we come out of national measures, and what any future approach will mean for church services. However, on behalf of all those constituents who have contacted me, I would ask that we ensure that people across the country can attend services as we enter the Christmas period.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Colburn', written over a horizontal line.

**Elliot Colburn**

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