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Updated: Thursday 22 July, 16.35

- New Q&A added "*What is the Church of England's position on 'vaccine passports'?*"

Monday 19th July, 14.00

Following the lifting of the majority of legal restrictions, guidance and documentation have been updated and streamlined. Non-current documents are still available for reference.

Please also see a [statement from the Bishop of London](#)

The information and guidance below is produced to help churches navigate the current situation in relation to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. It reflects Government guidance as we move to step 4 of their roadmap as well as that from public health bodies and will be updated as that evolves.

The approach taken by the Government in this step is to remove most coronavirus legislation but to promote guidance that emphasises the personal and corporate responsibility of individuals and organisations to protect others and themselves.

As a body we now need to move forward without legal restrictions and as churches decide how best to manage the risk to ourselves and others, recognising we are many members within one body that are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering.

The circumstances in each parish will inform local decision-making and the aim of this guidance is to help with and support that process.

Latest information

[What is the guidance for opening and managing churches in stage 4?](#)

Please see our [guidance document](#)

[How can we complete a risk assessment for our church building?](#)

A [template risk assessment](#) is available.

[Should we use NHS test and trace?](#)

It is strongly encouraged that churches register for the NHS test and trace app and continue to encourage all who enter the building to check in. Where this is not possible, a local system may be used. Guidance for churches including using the NHS test and trace app and other methods of collecting data may be found in our [guidance document](#).

[What is the Church of England's position on 'vaccine passports'?](#)

The Church has adopted a clear policy of encouraging people to be vaccinated, but, other than in very exceptional circumstances, it would be difficult for it to justify limiting access to church services or organisations on the basis of vaccine passports. Such an approach would run contrary to the principle of the Church being a home and a refuge for all. Similarly, only in exceptional circumstances is the Church likely to utilise 'vaccine passports' should they become available in order to facilitate additional services to its members or to the wider community, preferring to continue to emphasise existing mitigations.

While the Church is, in principle, opposed to making use of 'vaccine passports', it should adopt a flexible approach to their limited wider use with the important caveats that such use ought to be demonstrably beneficial to society as a whole, protective of the vulnerable in particular, non-discriminatory in nature and proportionate in use.

For more information please see our [submission to the Government's consultation on vaccine certification](#).

[How can we contribute to vaccination equity campaigns?](#)

If you want to give thanks for receiving your vaccination, or to donate to charities who are helping to ensure that every community is supported, the following suggestions are among ways this can be done:

- The Church of England helped to bring about the [vaccinaid.org](#) campaign with Unicef and Crowdfunder, which is seeking to help provide more than 2.5 billion vaccines worldwide. Donations can be made directly, or communities can set up local fundraisers to contribute together.
- Christian Aid's [Give Thanks campaign](#) is focusing on humanitarian support including food, water and healthcare in areas where the vaccine is not currently available.
- In addition, the Church of England has worked with yourneighbour.org on the [Give Hope Campaign](#) which works to target misinformation and encourage everyone to take up the offer of a vaccination.

[How can I get a lateral flow test?](#)

Anyone in England who does not have symptoms can now get regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for coronavirus. Please [see here](#) for information about how to apply for these.

Is there guidance on live streaming from church buildings?

Yes, please see our guidance document [here](#).

Copyright details for live streaming

Read the Digital Labs guide for detailed advice on [how to live stream your church service](#).

When using copyrighted material including music in a live-streamed service, each church is required to have a licence. We have included some useful information here to give some guidance, however, please do contact CCLI, PRS and One Licence for more detailed advice for your church.

CCLI

Services with live music performances

CCLI introduced a [streaming licence](#) in mid-March 2020. It is available to any church which holds a CCLI Church Copyright Licence, which the majority of Church of England churches do. For many churches, this licence will cover them for their streaming activity:

- For churches who are streaming their services via YouTube or Facebook, the CCLI Streaming Licence will cover them for live worship music performed as part of that stream. (This would include services streamed or webcast via YouTube but embedded into the church's own website).
- You can check on the [CCLI website](#) as to whether permissions for a particular hymn or song are covered by them.
- If the church is hosting the stream/webcast on their own website, they will need the [PRS for Music Limited Online Music Licence \(LOML\)](#) in addition to the CCLI Streaming Licence.
- The [CCLI Streaming Licence](#) includes the right to show the words on screen.
- The [CCLI Streaming Licence](#) allows a church to make recordings of the services available on their website indefinitely provided you keep renewing your streaming licences.
- These licences cover 'live' music performances. If a church is using recorded music as part of the stream, additional rights come into play. Commercially available CDs or music recordings cannot be played unless specific permission is granted by the copyright holder.

Services using recorded music

CCLI now offers an additional licensing option for churches who are streaming their services and wish to use pre-recorded backing tracks or artists recordings.

- [The Streaming Plus Licence](#) option adds the right to play music recordings as part of the stream.

- This is ideal for many smaller churches who either don't have the musicians to play live every week, or it is technically difficult.
- For larger churches, it will enable them to incorporate multi-tracks (stems, loops, community tracks) in their worship.
- This licence will enable churches to play backing tracks or artist recordings from a large and growing number of authorised publishers.
- The Streaming Plus Licence can be purchased outright if the church holds the CCLI Church Copyright Licence, or churches with the standard Streaming Licence can upgrade on a pro-rata basis.

Do get in touch with CCLI for more information, or to answer any questions.

One Licence

- Another licence, One Licence is available and covers an additional range of church and choral music e.g. Taize, GIA Publications, Oxford University Press, Wild Goose Resource Group, Kevin Mayhew.
- The Church of England uses both a One Licence and CCLI Streaming Licence for the weekly online services to enable access to a broad range of Christian music.
- The same rules described above over seeking permission for 'recorded' performance still apply.

Rights-free music from the Church of England, St Martin in the Fields and the Royal School of Church Music

- The Church of England, working with St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Royal School of Church Music, is providing a resource of rights-free music for **Church of England churches** to use on streamed services, via the A Church Near You resource hub providing you have a CCLI Streaming Licence. Read the press release for more details.
- There are several other Christian organisations that provide apps or software that provide backing tracks for worship, some of which are giving churches permission to use their pre-recorded tracks as part of their streams. Please carefully check first before using this material.

Using other copyrighted material

- Permission should also be sought from the owner(s) of any other creative works included in the service. If reproducing bible verses, or liturgy, usually there will be copyright information in the front of the publication, and usually they will allow for a certain proportion to be reproduced.
- For any images etc. the same rules would apply as in normal circumstances. Never assume that you can take an image found on Google and use it in a church service or include it in a service sheet or similar without permission. Read our guidance on using images here.

- Regarding a Service Sheet, as long as there are appropriate licences/permissions in place, making that service sheet available online should be fine.

Using Zoom to stream services

- Churches using Zoom to stream services need both the CCLI Streaming Licence and the [PRS for Music LOML](#). This is because Zoom doesn't currently have an agreement with PRS for Music as YouTube and Facebook do.

What resources are available to support mental health and emotional well-being?

Please read [our latest guidance](#).

What advice is there for keeping the church clean?

Read our guidance document on [Keeping church buildings clean](#). This advice is based on the [Government guidance](#) on how to work safely during coronavirus, and guidance issued by Historic England.

Is there guidance on how we can hold our PCC meeting or APCM?

While Parochial church councils (PCCs) and APCMs may take place indoors PCCs can also, if they wish, continue to meet online.

However, care must be taken so that members of a PCC who are unable to participate in a meeting in that way are not excluded from the PCC's deliberations and decision making. The Chair should take steps to ensure that they are able to participate so far as possible, including where necessary by means of the procedure for conducting business by correspondence set out in rule M29 of the Church Representation Rules.

Following a virtual meeting, decisions such as the authorising of expenditure, entering into contracts or those that require a formal resolution of the PCC should be put in written form and circulated for formal approval under the correspondence procedure in rule M29 (which under Rule 76 can be conducted by email).

Documents

Current Guidance (from 19 July)

- [Opening and managing church buildings in step 4](#)
- [Test and Trace](#)
- [Live streaming Worship](#)

Current Resources

- [Risk assessment template for opening church buildings](#)
- [Test and Trace consent form template](#)
- [Test and Trace online privacy notice template](#)
- [Test and Trace privacy notice template](#)
- [Mental Health Support Charities](#)

The below *Marking our communities* resources have been prepared by The Liturgical Commission:

- [Prayers of lament, thanksgiving and restoration](#)
- [Re-entering our church buildings](#)
- [Remembering and Memorials](#)

Previous guidance (non-current or awaiting review)

The documents below are non-current as of 19 July but remain accessible for reference.

- [Four step government roadmap](#)
- [Permitted Activities under national 'step' regulations](#)
- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Individual private prayer](#)
- [Face coverings](#)
- [Weddings](#)
- [Holy Communion](#)
- [Baptisms](#)
- [Funerals](#)
- [Ordinations and Consecrations](#)

- [Confirmation services](#)
- [Pastoral encounters](#)
- [Outdoor worship and churchyards](#)
- [Keeping church buildings clean](#)
- [Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public](#)
- [Opening church buildings for works to the building and interior](#)
- [Permissions for temporary works in churches and cathedrals](#)
- [Pastoral support in the community including care homes](#)
- [Mental health and wellbeing](#)
- [Personal risk factors to clergy, church workers and volunteers](#)
- [Safeguarding FAQs](#)
- [Church Heating](#)
- [Receiving Holy Communion by simultaneous administration](#)

Previous resources/awaiting update

- [Risk assessment template for contractors and construction workers](#)
- [Risk assessment Template for Outdoor Worship](#)

Digital resources

Father Andrew taking Holy Communion.

Image not found or type unknown

Access our digital resources including our weekly services

[Church online](#)

Prayer and worship resources

[A page has been created](#) containing prayers and intercessions for personal or group use, special prayers for use if it isn't possible to meet in church and a simple form of prayer for the morning and evening, which can be downloaded, printed and shared with those remaining at home or who are unable to access the Internet.

A new [Daily Hope phone line](#) is now available, **free of charge, to those unable to access online resources.**

These resources are offered to help those who are struggling to find words at this difficult and stressful time and to enable Christians to worship in solidarity with one another even if it is not possible to gather in a church building.

Coronavirus poster thumbnail

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[Download our printable banners and posters for use in and around church buildings](#)

Version log

[View previous updates to this page](#)

View any updates made to the page, with the most recent listed first.

Monday 19th July, 8.20am

Following the lifting of the majority of legal restrictions today, please see the document below 'Opening and managing church buildings in step 4' for up-to-date guidance.

The Q&A on this page are under review and out-of-date information will be removed shortly.

Friday 16th July, 16.52pm

The following documents have been published and updated to help churches to prepare for stage 4 of the Government's roadmap coming into effect on Monday 19 July. Please note that the guidance within them will come into effect on that date, and will be updated to reflect any additional Government guidance.

New documents:

- [Opening and managing church buildings in step 4](#)

Updated documents:

- [Test and Trace](#)
- [Risk assessment template for opening church buildings](#)

Please also see a [statement from the Bishop of London](#)

Wednesday July 07, 15:48:

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group, commented following the Prime Minister's press conference outlining plans to lift most restrictions from July 19.

[Read her statement here](#)

Updated document:

- [Risk assessment template for opening church buildings](#)

Thursday June 24, 14:50:

- FAQ on APCM and PCC meetings updated to reflect current stage of roadmap.

Thursday June 17, 16:58:

Updates following concessions to numerical limits for weddings and commemorative events which come into effect on Monday 21 June.

Updated documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Weddings](#)
- [Funerals](#)

Read a [statement from the Bishop of London](#) following the Government announcement of the delay to stage 4.

Wednesday May 19, 16:16:

Updated documents:

- [Weddings](#)
- [Conducting public worship](#)

Updated FAQ:

- *Is singing permitted?* in the Prayer and worship section

Monday May 17, 16:46:

Updated documents:

- [Weddings](#)
- [Baptisms](#)
- [Funerals](#)
- [Individual private prayer](#)
- [Permitted Activities under national 'step' regulations](#)
- [Conducting public worship](#)

Updated FAQ:

- *Is singing permitted?* in the Prayer and worship section

Friday May 14, 15:27

From Monday May 17, England moves to Stage Three of the Government's 'reopening' roadmap. For places of worship this will involve some changes - notably a rise in the numbers permitted at funerals, up to the Covid-safe capacity of the building, and a maximum of 30 attendees at weddings.

Government guidance on Places of Worship is being updated and we will update our guidance accordingly on May 17.

Tuesday 4 May, 00:15

Updated FAQs:

- *Can we host children and youth groups?* in the Community support section
- *How should we complete a risk assessment for our church building?* in the Safety, safeguarding and wellbeing section
- *What guidance is in place for clergy, church workers and volunteers who are deemed to be at additional risk?* in the Safety, safeguarding and wellbeing section

New FAQs

- *What resources are available to support mental health and emotional well-being?* in the Community support section

Monday 19 April, 15:27

Updated FAQs:

- *Is there any guidance concerning our APCM meeting?* in the Finance and governance section

Friday 16 April, 14:07

Updated documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Funerals](#)

Wednesday 14 April, 16:30

Updated FAQs:

- *How can I get a lateral flow test?* in the General section
- *Is singing permitted?* in the Prayer and Worship section

Monday 12 April, 13:37

Following the announcement from Buckingham Palace about the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, advice on the current Government guidance on condolence books has been added as well as details of an online book of condolence which is now open.

[A statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

[A statement from the Archbishop of York](#)

New FAQ:

- [How can we remember the Duke of Edinburgh in our services?](#) in the Prayer and Worship section

Friday 9 April, 14:17

Following the announcement from Buckingham Palace about the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, advice on the current Government guidance on condolence books has been added as well as details of an online book of condolence which is now open.

[A statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

[A statement from the Archbishop of York](#)

New FAQ:

- [What is the guidance for churches wishing to offer condolence books for HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh?](#)

Wednesday 31 March, 17:25

New Documents:

- [Mental Health Support Charities](#)

Updated Documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Weddings](#)
- [Outdoor worship and churchyards](#)
- [Test and Trace](#)

Update FAQs:

- *Is singing permitted?* in the Prayer and Worship section
- *Is there any guidance concerning our APCM meeting?* in Finance and governance section

Last updated: Friday 26 March, 15:11

Updated Documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Weddings](#)

Update FAQs:

- *Is singing permitted?* in the Prayer and Worship section
- *Can weddings go ahead?* in Life Events section

Thursday 25 March, 13:37

Updated Documents:

- [Permitted Activities under national 'step' regulations](#)
- [Advice for Services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter](#)
- [Risk assessment template for opening church buildings](#)
- [Risk assessment Template for Outdoor Worship](#)

[Read about VaccinAid](#), a campaign launched by Unicef and Crowdfunder, which aims to deliver 2.5 billion vaccines globally and which the Church of England helped to bring about

Monday 22 March, 14:55

New FAQ:

- *How can we contribute to vaccination equity campaigns?*
- *How can I get a lateral flow test?*

Tuesday 19 January, 10:11

New FAQ:

- [What advice is available for services during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter?](#)

New documents:

- [Advice for Services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter](#)

Read a [response from the Bishop of London](#) to the Prime Minister's statement outlining [new restrictions in England](#)

We will continue to review and update advice documents in light of Government guidance. Monday

Thursday 14 January, 11:52

Updated documents:

- [Risk assessment template for opening church buildings](#)
- [Risk assessment Template for Outdoor Worship](#)

Tuesday 12 January, 17:44

Updated documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Individual private prayer](#)
- [Holy Communion](#)
- [Baptisms](#)
- [Funerals](#)
- [Ordinations and Consecrations](#)
- [Confirmation services](#)
- [Outdoor worship and churchyards](#)
- [Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public](#)
- [Pastoral support in the community including care homes](#)

- [Receiving Holy Communion by simultaneous administration](#)
- [Access to church buildings for construction or professional contractors](#)
- [Personal risk factors to clergy, church workers and volunteers](#)

Updated/New FAQ:

- Is singing permitted? (in *Prayer and worship*) - further update in light of amended Government Guidance.

Monday 11 January, 14.50

Updated/New FAQ:

- Is singing permitted? (in *Prayer and worship*) - further update in light of amended Government Guidance.

Monday 11 January, 13.45

The Government has today updated its [guidance for places of worship](#)

Updated/New FAQ:

- Is singing permitted? (in *Prayer and worship*)
- Should I work if I'm clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)? (in *Safety, safeguarding & wellbeing*)

Friday 8 January at 11:49

Updated documents:

- [Permitted activities during lockdown](#)

Updated/New FAQ:

- *Can we host children's group?* in Community support section
- Can weddings go ahead?

We have streamlined the advice on this page, and will continue to review advice documents in light of Government guidance.

Monday 4 January at 21:25

Read a [response from the Bishop of London](#) to the Prime Minister's statement outlining [new restrictions in England](#).

The advice on this page will be reviewed in the coming days in line with Government guidance.

Wednesday 30 December at 15:47

The Government has announced a [formal tiering review](#), whereby more areas have been elevated to tiers 4 and 3. The guidance for places of worship within tiers has not changed at this time, and public worship may continue in all tiers, in line with the Government guidance and the advice below.

We are also conscious of those who will not wish to attend a church building in light of increased numbers of cases, as well as churches who for different reasons cannot currently safely accommodate public worship.

Many churches continue to offer [local streamed worship](#), together with [national online weekly worship](#) and daily audio prayer services via the [Time to Pray app](#) and podcast, and the [Daily Hope telephone line](#) for any who are unable to access the internet.

See [church online](#) for more details.

Tuesday 22 December at 16:59

Read updated Government guidance:

- [COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship](#)
- [COVID-19: Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships](#)

Updated FAQs:

- [Can carol singing or carol services take place this Christmas?](#) in the Singing, Carol Services & key Christmas considerations section
- [What is permitted in my tier?](#) in the Singing, Carol Services & key Christmas considerations section
- [Who can attend church as part of a Christmas bubble \(25 December\)](#) in the Singing, Carol Services & key Christmas considerations section

- [Can weddings and funerals go ahead?](#) in the Life Events section

Monday 21 December at 16:02

Updated documents:

- [Permitted Activities under the Tier System](#)

Thursday 17 December at 16:36

Updated documents:

- [Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public](#)
- [Permitted Activities under the 3 Tier System](#)
- [Mission and Ministry with Children, Young People & Families](#)

Wednesday 09 December at 17:54

Updated Documents:

- [Holy Communion](#)
- [Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public](#)

Tuesday 08 December at 14:13

Following the publication of the **Government's guidance for Places of Worship**, we are updating all our documentation to ensure it is in line with current guidance. The following updates have recently been made. The top box in each document details any changes:

New Documents:

- [Vaccines update](#)
- [Churches as vaccination centres](#)

Updated Documents:

- [Church Heating](#)

- [Opening church buildings for works to the building and interior](#)
- [Permissions for temporary works in churches and cathedrals](#)
- [Holy Communion](#)
- [Ordinations and Consecrations](#)
- [Legal questions on conducting public worship](#)
- [Personal risk factors to clergy, church workers and volunteers](#)
- [Permitted Activities under the 3 Tier System](#)
- [Test and Trace](#)
- [Live streaming Worship](#)
- [Individual private prayer](#)
- [Face coverings](#)
- [Funerals](#)
- [Confirmation services](#)
- [Weddings](#)
- [Baptisms](#)
- [Pastoral support in the community including care homes](#)

Wednesday 02 December at 18:45

Following the publication of the [Government's guidance for Places of Worship](#), the following updates have been made:

New/updated Q&A

- Can carol singing or carol services take place this Christmas?
- What is permitted in my tier?
- Who can attend church as part of a Christmas Bubble?
- Can churches hold services of worship?
- What guidance is available for Holy Communion?
- Can weddings and funerals go ahead?

New Documents:

- [Christmas bubbles](#)
- [Risk assessment Template for Outdoor Worship](#)
- [Receiving Holy Communion by simultaneous administration](#)

Updated Documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Keeping church buildings clean](#)
- [Outdoor worship and churchyards](#)
- [Risk assessment template for opening church buildings](#)
- [Permitted Activities under the 3 Tier System](#)

Sunday 29 November

New FAQs added following the publication of [Government guidance](#):

- *Can carol singing or carol services take place this Christmas?*
- *Are nativity plays possible in church?*

Thursday 12 November at 16:29

New FAQs:

- *Can I still undertake pastoral visiting under the new restrictions?* in the Community support section

Friday 06 November at 17:38

New Documents:

- [New Lockdown Guidance](#)
- [Live streaming Worship](#)

Updated Documents:

- [Risk assessment template for opening church buildings](#)

Updated FAQs:

- *Is there guidance on live streaming from church buildings?* in the Prayer and worship section

13:05

New FAQs:

- *What youth and children's activities can take place during the new national lockdown?* in the Schools, nurseries and youth provision section

Updated FAQs:

- *Can we still hold a Remembrance Sunday service?* in the Prayer and worship section

Thursday 05 November at 14:34

Updated FAQs:

- *Can the building still be used for a night shelter?* in the Community Support section

Tuesday 03 November at 14:12

Updated FAQs:

- *Can we still hold a remembrance Sunday service?* in the Prayer and worship section

Monday 19 October at 14:21

Updated Documents:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Ordinations and Consecrations](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Conducting Public Worship](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Conducting Funerals](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice for the Conduct of a Confirmation Service](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice for Clergy Conducting Baptisms](#)

Friday 16 October at 16:40

Since Wednesday 14 October, a new three-tier risk alert system for COVID-19 has been in place in England. [View our at-a-glance guide to the restrictions for churches](#). We will study Government detailed Government guidance when it is available and amend our advice as necessary.

New FAQs:

- *Who can attend a wedding?* in the Life events section
- *What should I do if a member of my congregation tests positive for COVID-19?* in the General section

Updated Documents:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Conducting Weddings](#)

Thursday 15 October at 15:40

Updated FAQs:

- *Can we still hold a Remembrance Sunday service?* in the Prayer and worship section

Updated documents:

- [COVID-19 Advice for clergy conducting weddings](#)

Monday 12 October at 10:37

Updated FAQs:

- *Advice on NHS Test and Trace* in the What to do in the event of a local outbreak section
- *What are the first steps in the event of a local outbreak?* in the What to do in the event of a local outbreak section

Friday 2 October at 11:07

New FAQs:

- *Can we turn our heating on?* in the Fabric and building maintenance section

Updated Documents:

- [Outdoor Worship and Churchyards](#)
- [Mission and ministry with children and young people](#)

New Documents:

- [Church Heating](#)

Friday 25 September at 16:00

New FAQs:

- *Can we still hold a Remembrance Sunday service?* in the Prayer and worship section
- *Can confirmations still go ahead?* in the Life events section

Updated FAQs:

- *Can funerals still go ahead?* in the Life events section
- *Can weddings still go ahead?* in the Life events section
- *Can baptisms still go ahead?* in the Life events section
- *Can ordinations still go ahead?* in the Life events section

Updated Documents:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Ordinations and Consecrations](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on the Conduct of Public Worship](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Conducting Funerals](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice for the conduct of a Confirmation service](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public advice](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Conducting Weddings](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Conducting Baptisms](#)

Thursday 24 September at 15:50

New FAQs:

- *What guidance is there for Fresh Expressions?* under Prayer and worship section
- *If a life cycle event does not traditionally happen during communal worship does that mean it is limited to 6 people attending?* under Life events section

- [How can parishes plan ahead?](#) under General section

New Documents:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Fresh Expressions of Church](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on Parish Continuity Plans](#)

Updated FAQs:

- [Can ordinations still go ahead?](#) under Life events section

Wednesday 23 September at 13:30

Updated FAQs:

- [Can baptisms still go ahead?](#) in the Life Events section
- [Can ordinations still go ahead?](#) in the Life Events section
- [Advice on NHS Test & Trace](#) in the General section (previously *Is there advice on how to collect NHS Test and Trace data?*)

Updated documents:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) NHS Test and Trace](#)

Updated Tuesday September 22 at 14.25

Following the [announcement by the Prime Minister of new measures to limit the spread of coronavirus](#), the Church of England is continuing to engage with Government departments to review advice to churches.

The Prime Minister emphasised that we can draw comfort from the fact that places of worship as well as schools and businesses are staying open.

We note the change from a maximum of 30 attending weddings to a maximum of 15 from Monday September 28 and will study any detailed documents when they are available and amend advice to churches accordingly.

We anticipate further updates in the next few days with further additions to the FAQs and we also continue to review the downloadable guidance papers which will be updated accordingly. All updates will be notified at the top of this page.

Friday September 18 at 16:45

Updated Document:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Advice on the Conduct of Public Worship](#)

Updated FAQ:

- *How does the 'rule of six' apply to choirs?* in the Prayer and worship section (previously *Can a choir sing during worship if there are more than six members?* and *Can a choir rehearse?*)

Thursday September 17 at 14:40

New FAQs:

- *How does the new 'rule of six' affect regular church services?* in The rule of six section
- *Are places of worship exempt from the 'rule of six'?* in The rule of six section
- *Can Bible study groups or home groups now meet in person?* in Prayer and worship section
- *Can a choir sing during worship if there are more than six members?* in Prayer and worship section
- *Can a choir rehearse?* in Prayer and worship section

Updated FAQs:

- *Can churches open for individual prayer?* in Prayer and worship section
- *Can churches hold services of worship?* in Prayer and worship section
- *Can we have worship outside?* in Prayer and worship section
- *Can funerals still go ahead?* in Life events section
- *Can weddings still go ahead?* in Life events section
- *Can baptisms still go ahead?* in Life events section
- *Can ordinations still go ahead?* in Life events section

Thursday 03 September at 12:05

- Updated FAQ *Should we still deliver printed communication?* in General section

Tuesday 25 August at 9:10

- Updated FAQ *Can church bells be rung?* in Prayer and worship section

Thursday 20 August at 9:20

- Updated [Conducting public worship](#) document
- Updated FAQ *Can a choir sing during worship?* in Prayer and worship section

Tuesday 18 August at 12:57

- Updated [Conducting public worship](#) document

Monday 17 August at 14:32

- Updated [Baptisms](#) document
- Updated [Weddings](#) document
- Updated [Funerals](#) document
- Updated [Holy Communion](#) document
- Updated [Confirmation services](#) document
- Updated [Ordinations and Consecrations](#) document
- Updated [Pastoral support in the community including care homes](#) document
- New FAQ *Can a choir sing during worship?* in Prayer and worship section

Friday 14 August at 14:00

- Updated FAQ *Can we have worship outside?* in Prayer and Worship section

Wednesday 12 August at 15:49:

- Updated FAQ *Can a visor be worn in a place of worship?* in Prayer and Worship section
- Updated FAQ *Is there advice on how to collect NHS Test and Trace data?* in General section
- New FAQ *Can churches, halls and other buildings hold non-worship events?* in General section

Monday 10 August at 15:59:

The following advice documents have now been published in finalised form. This advice had previously been issued as **draft**, pending confirmation of government guidance. This has now been published. Documents will continue to be updated to reflect future developments.

- Updated [Face coverings](#) document
- Updated [Baptisms](#) document
- Updated [Weddings](#) document
- Updated [Funerals](#) document
- Updated [Holy Communion](#) document
- Updated [Confirmation services](#) document
- Updated [Ordinations and Consecrations](#) document
- Updated [Conducting public worship](#) document
- Updated [Individual private prayer](#) document
- Updated [Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public](#) document

Friday 7 August at 10:21

- Updated [Face coverings](#) document
- Updated [Baptisms](#) document
- Updated [Weddings](#) document
- Updated [Funerals](#) document
- Updated [Holy Communion](#) document
- Updated [Confirmation services](#) document
- Updated [Ordinations and Consecrations](#) document
- Updated [Conducting public worship](#) document
- Updated [Individual private prayer](#) document
- Updated [Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public](#) document
- Updated [Test and Trace](#) document
- Updated [Risk assessment template for reopening church buildings](#) document

Wednesday 5 August at 17:38

- Updated FAQ *Who needs to wear a face covering during services?* in Prayer and Worship section
- Updated FAQ *Who needs to wear a face covering during weddings?* in Life Events section

Friday 31 July at 15:35

- Updated FAQ *What guidance is in place for clergy, church workers and volunteers who are deemed to be at additional risk?* in General section
- Updated Document [Personal Risk Factors for Clergy, Church Workers and Volunteers](#)

Friday 31 July at 11:04

- New FAQ *What are the first steps to take if we believe there has been a local outbreak?* in General section

Monday 27 July at 12:15

- New FAQ *Should we wear a visor for presiding and preaching?* in Prayer and worship section
- New FAQ *What can we do about our annual parish meetings?* in Finance and governance section

Thursday 23 July at 15:18

- Updated [Outdoor worship and churchyards](#) document **(19:32)**
- New [Face coverings](#) document
- New [Safer Churches – Helping public places to reopen safely](#) document
- Updated [Baptisms](#) document
- Updated [Weddings](#) document
- Updated [Funerals](#) document
- Updated [Holy Communion](#) document
- Updated [Confirmation services](#) document
- Updated [Ordinations and Consecrations](#) document
- Updated [Conducting public worship](#) document
- Updated [Individual private prayer](#) document
- Updated [Opening cathedral and church buildings to the public](#) document
- Updated [Mission and ministry with children and young people](#) document
- Updated [Test and Trace](#) document

- New [Holy Communion and the distribution of the elements](#) document

Relevant FAQs have been added and updated to reflect these documents

Thursday 16 July at 10:40

- New FAQ *Is there any guidance on pastoral encounters for welcome teams at churches and cathedrals?* in General section
- New FAQ *What resources are there to help with resuming children, young people and families work?* in Schools, nurseries and youth provision section
- New [Pastoral encounters](#) document
- New [Mission and ministry with children and young people](#) document

Tuesday 14 July at 12:18

- New FAQ *What is the guidance on face coverings?* in Prayer and worship section

Monday 13 July at 16:03

- New FAQ *Is there advice on how to collect NHS Test and Trace data?* in General section
- New FAQ *What advice is there for activities in church halls?* in General section
- New [Test and Trace](#) document
- New [Test and Trace consent form template](#) document
- New [Test and Trace online privacy notice template](#) document
- New [Test and Trace privacy notice template](#) document

Friday 10 July at 16:50

- Updated [Conducting public worship](#) document

Thursday 9 July at 10:34

- Updated FAQ *Can ordinations still go ahead?* in Life events section
- Updated [ordinations and consecrations](#) document
- Updated [Individual private prayer](#) document

Tuesday 7 July at 15:04

- New FAQ *Can children and young people's activities start again?* in School, nurseries and youth provision section
- Updated FAQ *Can churches hold services of worship?* in Prayer and Worship section
- Updated [Conducting public worship](#) document

Thursday 2 July at 16:02

- New FAQ *Can we have worship outside?* in Prayer and worship section
- Updated [Churchyards](#) document

Wednesday 1 July at 16:47

- Weddings
- Funerals
- Baptisms
- Holy Communion
- Confirmations
- Individual Private Prayer

Tuesday 30 June at 20:53

- New advice on the [conduct of public worship](#) added following the publication of Government guidance, with updated [risk assessment](#), [legal considerations](#) and [advice on opening church buildings to the public](#).
- Read a [press release](#) from the House of Bishops following the announcement from the Prime Minister that public worship in church buildings can resume from July 4th.

Tuesday 30 June at 9:00

- Following the publication of Government guidance, we are updating our advice, and will publish this shortly.

Thursday 25 June at 17:58

- Following the Prime Minister's statement on 23 June, we are awaiting publication of the detail of the Government's guidance before updating our advice.

Wednesday 17 June at 09:00

- Updated FAQ *Can construction work be carried out?* in Fabric and building maintenance section
- Updated [Keeping church buildings clean](#) document
- New [Risk assessment template for contractors and construction workers](#) document

Tuesday 16 June at 14:30

- New FAQ *What guidance is in place for clergy, church workers and volunteers who are deemed to be at additional risk?* in Prayer and worship section and [advice document](#)
- Updated FAQ *What guidance is available for Holy Communion?* in Prayer and worship section

Monday 15 June at 10:45:

- New [Q&A on individual prayer by members of the public in church buildings](#) document

Friday 12 June at 17:15:

- Updated [Risk assessment](#) document for opening church buildings
- New [Using church buildings for individual prayer and funerals](#) document (combines previous *Access to church buildings during lockdown: advice for incumbents* and *Access to church buildings during lockdown: general advice for incumbents, churchwardens and PCC members* into a single guidance document)
- New FAQ *Can organists enter church buildings for organ practice and maintenance?* in Prayer and worship section

Wednesday 10 June at 11:30

- New FAQ *Can clergy, staff and volunteers enter church buildings to prepare for re-opening?* in Fabric and building maintenance section
- New FAQ *Do we need to get permission to put social distancing or hygiene measures into a church building?* in Fabric and building maintenance section

Tuesday 9 June at 16:15.

[Read the House of Bishops' statement](#) accompanying the below updates:

- Updated [risk assessment](#) document for opening church buildings
- New [opening church buildings for works to the building and interior during](#) document (combines previous *Access to church buildings for building maintenance* and *Church and cathedral building access for construction work* into a single guidance document)

- New [permissions for temporary works in churches and cathedrals](#) document
- New FAQ *Can ordinations still go ahead?* and [advice document](#)
- New FAQ *What guidance is available for Holy Communion?* and [advice document](#)
- Updated FAQ *Can funerals still go ahead?* and [advice document](#)
- Updated FAQ *Can churches open for individual and private prayer?*

Friday 5 June at 10:45:

- New *Prayer and worship* FAQ section
 - New FAQ *What liturgical resources are available?* and accompanying documents
 - New FAQ *Can churches open for individual and private prayer?* and accompanying document
- New FAQ *How can parishes prepare to re-open buildings?* and updated risk assessment in Word format
- Updated FAQ *Can Weddings still go ahead?* and accompanying document
- Updated FAQ *Can Funerals still go ahead?* and accompanying document
- Updated FAQ *Can Baptisms still go ahead?* and accompanying document

Monday 1 June at 13:00:

- Updated FAQs on schools and nurseries to include information about reopening of nurseries in church buildings and other church-owned property.

Thursday 28 May at 15:35:

- New *Schools and nurseries* section including:
 - New FAQ *Can members of clergy and foundation school governors enter a school building?*
 - New FAQ *When schools re-open can church buildings be used by schools as a place of worship or gathering?*
- Updated *Should we still deliver printed communication?* FAQ

Wednesday 27 May at 10:40:

- New FAQ and guidance on *What guidance is there for pastoral support in the community, including care homes*

- Updated *Fabric and building maintenance* section including:
 - [Access to church buildings during lockdown guidance checklist](#)
 - [Parish risk assessment template](#)
 - New FAQ and guidance on *What advice is there for access to buildings during lockdown?*
 - New FAQ and guidance on *What advice is there for keeping the church clean?*
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Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance>