

Dear all

The guidelines for COVID are changing constantly and I aim to update you when they are relevant

The rules for singing have changed in England (sorry but in Wales and Scotland still one person only can sing). There is still no congregation singing but singing can now happen by worship groups rather than just individuals.

See below and the link for further information for England and links to Scotland and Wales are accessible here too

Hope all is well with you and please share your experiences of church at this time - I'd love to encourage you

God bless

Yvonne

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

Singing, chanting and the use of musical instruments

Led devotions

- There should be no group singing by worshippers. Places of worship should take account of the [Performing Arts guidance](#).
- Small groups of professional or non-professional singers will be able to sing in front of worshippers both outdoors and indoors from 15 August. Singing in groups should be limited to a small set group of people and should not include audience participation
- Where music plays a big part in worship, and recordings are available, we suggest you consider using these as an alternative to live singing.
- Any instrument played during worship should be cleaned thoroughly before and after use.

Congregational activity

- Except for the limited circumstances outlined above, people should avoid singing, shouting, raising voices and/or playing music at a volume that makes normal conversation difficult or that may encourage shouting. This is because of the potential for increased risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets.
- Therefore, spoken responses during worship should also not be in a raised voice.
- Activities such as singing, chanting, shouting and/or playing of instruments that are blown into should be specifically avoided in worship or devotions. This is because there is a possible additional risk of transmission in environments where individuals are singing or chanting as a group, and this applies even if social distancing is being observed or face coverings are used.

Dear all

As you know the Government brought guidelines for face masks to be worn in places of worship in England & Scotland from 8th August

Here is the link for the guidelines

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



However there are some exemptions which are listed here which includes anyone leading worship as previously anticipated

This includes (but is not limited to):

- children under the age of 11 (Public Health England do not recommended face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- employees of indoor settings (or people acting on their behalf, such as someone leading part of a prayer service) or transport workers (see section 6) - although employers may consider their use where appropriate and where other mitigations are not in place, in line with COVID-19 Secure guidelines
- police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public
- where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate
- to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others - including if it would negatively impact on your ability to exercise or participate in a strenuous activity

There are also scenarios when you are permitted to remove a face covering:

- if asked to do so in a bank, building society, or post office for identification
- if asked to do so by shop staff or relevant employees for identification, for assessing health recommendations (e.g. by a pharmacist), or for age identification purposes including when buying age restricted products such as alcohol
- if required in order to receive treatment or services, for example when getting a haircut
- in order to take medication
- **if you are delivering a sermon or prayer in a place or worship**
- if you are the persons getting married in a relevant place
- if you are undertaking exercise or an activity and it would negatively impact your ability to do so

I have also had these posters commissioned for you to use in your church buildings if they are helpful

They cover the changes to guidelines in England and Scotland

I have some printed colour copies too if you do not have access to a colour printer and would like some just get in touch

God bless

Yvonne