

The Bishop of Carlisle
The Right Reverend James Newcome
Bishop's House, Ambleside Road,
Keswick CA12 4DD

Dear colleague,

[Latest COVID Guidance, Livestream Webinars and New Year Message](#)

Whilst mindful of the need not to bombard you with emails, I do feel it important that you are kept abreast of the very latest details we have on guidance issued around the coronavirus, as the country entered a further lockdown early yesterday morning.

So I'm writing to you today to alert you to the fact that content on the [Church of England's COVID website page](#) has now been streamlined. In particular may I point you to:

Updated documents:

- [Permitted activities during lockdown](#)
- [Guidance on suspending public worship](#)

Updated/New FAQ:

- What is permitted during lockdown?
- What do we need to do if we have decided to suspend public worship?
- Can churches be used as vaccination centres?
- Can funerals go ahead?
- Can weddings go ahead?

I know there will some clergy who also have questions around the matters of music and singing. Please be assured that the church, centrally, is working closely with Government departments on these issues and as soon as guidance is updated I will let you know.

May I also reiterate my request that rigorous risk assessments be completed if the intention is for your church to remain open at this time. Again, I would point you to the Parish Risk Assessment Template (as attached and which can also be accessed via the C of E's coronavirus website page) and which details all that needs to be done in this regard. However, if you have any further questions on this matter please do contact your Archdeacon.

For those churches who are taking their services back online, I would also highlight a series of webinars which the national church's digital team is to host over the coming weeks. The first of these additional webinars is scheduled to take place tomorrow (Friday 8 January, 2021) to support those who may not yet be using live video, or who would like more ideas on how to keep in touch with their communities. Links can be found below, as well as from the CV of E's [main webinar page](#).

- **Five ways to keep your church connected**
- **Date:** Friday, January 8, 10.30am [Register here](#)

- **Basics of livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube**
- **Date:** Friday, January 8, 12.30pm [Register here](#)

Understandably this situation once again creates heightened feelings of stress and anxiety for many. If you are feeling pressured please do not hesitate to make contact with either your Archdeacon, myself or Bishop Emma. Both she and I will also be making personal contact with all clergy over the coming days.

Meanwhile, may I draw your attention to a New Year's filmed message from Bishop Emma which has just been published on our Diocesan YouTube channel and social media platforms (please do share as widely as possible). The message is also available for you to download in three formats – MP4, WMV and an MP3 audio file. May I encourage you to download this filmed message for use in your forthcoming services. The files are available at:

https://carlisle-diocese-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/communications_carlisle-diocese_org_uk/Emv5sjcp1IJQxXmi7k8lLUBK1HyllfmG2vezczxVPu9Mw?e=aSFDGK

Finally, be assured of my continued prayers for you, your family and all you are doing at such a difficult time,

Bishop James