

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

6th May 2021

To: All Clergy and Chaplains

Dear Colleague,

COVID Latest

I am sure you will join me in welcoming the continued reductions we are seeing in the number of deaths, hospitalisations, incidences of illness and transmission rates as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. It is, indeed, an answer to prayer.

As we continue to follow the Government roadmap for the easing of Covid restrictions, may I bring to your attention the following, as set out in the Church of England's latest guidance.

Funerals

As from May 17, the limit of 30 people in attendance at a funeral will be lifted. **However the number attending a funeral will continue to be determined by the 'Covid-secure' limit of the building.**

Please may I refer you to the specific [funerals guidance](#) for more information and also the Government's [places of worship guidance](#).

Weddings

As from May 17, weddings will be permitted for up to 30 people in **Covid-secure places of worship**. Please see the Church of England's [guidance on conducting weddings](#).

Updated FAQs

- *Can we host children and youth groups?*
Yes, please see guidance provided by the [NYA](#) and Government guidance for [Out of School Settings](#) and [community facilities](#) to see what can now go ahead safely.
- *How should we complete a risk assessment for our church building?*
Please see the attached template risk assessment.
- *What guidance is in place for clergy, church workers and volunteers who are deemed to be at additional risk?*
The Government is advising people to work from home where possible but if you cannot work from home your workplace should be a Covid-secure environment. Measures taken to ensure this should be explained to you. For more information please see:
 - [Government Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#)
 - [Church of England guidance on personal risk factors](#)

New FAQs

- *What resources are available to support mental health and emotional well-being?*
May I point you to this [new resource](#) which lists relevant organisations and support structures and has been issued by the Church of England.

I would like to thank you once more for the way in which you have adhered to all the many restrictions which have been in place for so many months, whilst also continuing to provide such valuable ministry. As we approach what we hope will be the final few weeks of our journey along the roadmap, as churches we need to continue to do all we can to meet the Government's guidelines.

Please be assured that I will update you as necessary with any further revised guidance.

As ever this comes with my warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, personal style.