

Dear Friends,

A speedy update addressing just two matters which have arisen in the past couple of days:

Outdoor Carol Services

Government regulations are quite clear that even in a Tier 3 area, outdoor carol services can go ahead as long as:

- A risk assessment has been conducted
- Social distancing is observed and people do not interact across household groups
- The maximum number of people present should take into account the area of the outdoor space and the requirement to maintain social distancing of 2 metres
- Particular attention should be paid to how participants arrive and leave the site safely

We also recommend that event organisers inform Lancashire Police.

Whilst there is no stated maximum attendance number, certain sections of Lancashire Police are interpreting the regulations differently and a small number of parishes have been informed that there is a maximum number of 30, and indeed in one case of 6.

We are in touch with Lancashire Police to correct this misunderstanding. If you meet with problems, please very politely make the relevant PCSO or Police Office aware of the legislation which [can be found here](#) and the Church of England advice [which can be found here](#).

Having a paper copy of your risk assessment and the government advice immediately relevant to the event at any service may be useful also, in the unlikely event that you should be challenged.

It would also be helpful if you informed us of any such issues on the Coronavirus email address.

HSE Spot Checks

One Parish in our Diocese has informed us that the Health and Safety Executive is going to make a spot check of their Coronavirus safety arrangements. This demonstrates the need to stay on top of the guidance and keep safety measures in place. Again it would be helpful if you emailed us if you hear anything similar.

Coronavirus Email Address

Don't forget that if you have questions or problems you can get in touch with the Task Group by emailing: coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org. It is important that clergy who are self-isolating send us a note to this address.

Loving God,
at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.

Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
our people hope.

Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen