

Dear Friends,

This is a very brief additional update to ensure that you have received the news that Lancashire has been moved up to Tier 3. This takes effect tomorrow (Saturday 17 October) and means that:

- You are not allowed to meet socially with anybody who is not part of your household or your support bubble indoors or in certain outdoor locations.
- You cannot meet in private gardens or pub gardens, but can meet in parks, beaches, countryside or forests, as long as you are not in a group of more than six.
- Pubs and bars must close unless they are serving substantial meals - alcohol can only be served as part of a meal.
- People are being advised not to travel into or out of Tier 3 areas, other than for work, education, youth services or because of caring responsibilities.

Please also note:

- There are **no** restrictions on public worship which can continue as long as the social distancing/Covid-secure guidelines are closely followed.
- The Church of England considers activities such as Bible Study Groups, Alpha, House-groups etc to be social activities and our advice is that these should be moved online.
- If you have not yet held your APCM, this is considered as a meeting necessary for a charity to function so it can go ahead but please move it online if possible. If you need to meet in person, please keep it short and ensure that social distancing measures are in place

It is clear that the situation in our region remains one of the most serious in the country and there is increasing demand on hospitals. At the same time there remains a great deal of confusion about what the different tiers mean and what people are and are not allowed to do. Please do all you can to communicate these new regulations to your communities.

These are difficult days, but we draw strength from the God who is always faithful and whose light dazzles most brilliantly when the darkness seems all around. Keep praying, keep trusting, keep worshipping, keep witnessing, and if you need anything, get in touch...

The Coronavirus Email Address

If you have questions or problems, please get in touch: coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org

Please email if you are off work or shielding.

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Yours,
The Coronavirus Task Group