

Dear Friends,

The extreme pressures on those working in health and social care have become more and more apparent in recent days with the NHS and care systems under almost unprecedented levels of strain. Pressures normally associated with winter have been a way of life for 20 months now, and staffing shortages are compounding the problem. Please do all you can to go on supporting health and social care staff in your churches and communities, and of course keep them in your prayers.

All-New Church of England Guidance

The Church of England's Coronavirus guidance has been renewed, although not much has changed. Much of it now comes in one lengthy document which can be found [here](#).

The main document is titled 'Opening and Managing church buildings' but it contains advice on much else, including work with young people, celebrating Holy Communion and advice on what to do if you have a Covid outbreak in your congregation.

The document emphasises the importance of **risk assessments**. These remain a key document for keeping our buildings open safely, so please ensure that yours is kept up to date.

It also highlights the importance of **good ventilation** in our church buildings, something which is a particular challenge in the winter months but which is critical to reducing the spread of the virus.

Please do take time to have a look through this updated guidance.

The helpful Q and As also remain and are [here](#).

Important - Ministry to Care Homes

The new legislation around vaccination for care home staff has an impact for all who exercise a ministry in such homes. The legislation (which can be seen in full [here](#)) states that all who visit homes need to be ready to provide evidence of double vaccination.

Clergy and others ministering in homes are therefore advised to carry that evidence with them. The small card given when vaccinations are administered is not sufficient. You will need to go to [this website](#) to download a Covid pass that lasts for 30 days.

Booster Vaccines for Clergy

You should have received a mailing last week with details of the date set aside at Ribble House, Bamber Bridge for booster vaccines for clergy under 50. This is on November 22nd from 8.30am until 3.30pm. You are able to attend at any time on the day and do not need to book a slot. We are grateful to clergy for the excellent response to this letter. If you have not yet been in touch and would like to take advantage of this opportunity:

- Please email chaplain@bishopofblackburn.org.uk **TODAY**. You do not need to email to decline.
- Put 'Booster Vaccination' as email subject to make sure it does not get lost.
- Include:
 - First and last name (as registered with GP);
 - DOB as follows dd.mm.yyyy
 - NHS number
 - Contact telephone number
 - Date of first and second doses
 - Email address (the one previous used when booking vaccination preferred)

Coronavirus Email Address

If you have questions or problems and can't find answers on the [advice compendium](#) on the diocesan website. Please email: coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org.

A prayer

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Amen.

Regards,

Coronavirus Task Group