

Dear Friends,

A quick update to bring to your attention two important changes that HM Government has just introduced with regard to singing. The new guidance states:

From 28 March

- Indoors: - small groups of singers will be allowed to perform, or rehearse for performance, only where essential to an act of communal worship. This should be limited to as few singers as possible, with social distancing being maintained at all times. Communal singing should not take place.
- Outdoors, in the grounds or the outside space of a place of worship: When communal worship takes place outdoors, the congregation may join in with singing, and should follow the principles set out in the performing arts guidance. This includes ensuring that congregation members follow social distancing rules. Social contact limits apply, meaning that households, support bubbles or groups of 2 must not mingle. Communal singing in other public open spaces should not take place.

So two things to note. First the rigid restriction on singing indoors which was limited to one singer (or three where essential) is now relaxed to be 'as few singers as possible.'

Second, outdoor congregational singing is permitted from this Sunday as long as social distancing is observed.

The full guidance can be seen [here](#).

Please do continue to be mindful of how this can be done as safely as possible, and we must also recognise the Church's role in modelling best practice; the sound of congregational singing is sure to turn a few heads!

Coronavirus Email Address

If you have questions or problems please email: coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Yours,

Coronavirus Task Group