

Dear Friends,

Our main briefing will come out later in the week but we wanted to send a few words to highlight some key points from the Prime Minister announcement (and thus head off a mighty rush to the Coronavirus Email address!)

### **Weddings**

This bit is complicated, and the dates below are the earliest by which the indicated change will happen:

- **Currently** marriage may only take place in emergency.
- **From March 8**, 6 people can attend a wedding and it does not need to be an emergency.
- **From April 12**, 15 people can attend a wedding and also attend a reception afterwards.
- **From May 17**, up to 30 people can attend a wedding and also the reception afterwards.
- **From June 21**, HOPEFULLY all attendance restrictions will be lifted.

There is currently no change in the requirement for those attending a wedding to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing.

Banns can be called in the 3 clear weeks before the wedding and a Common Licence should only be issued if this is not possible. Please contact [chaplain@bishopofblackburn.org.uk](mailto:chaplain@bishopofblackburn.org.uk) if you have any questions.

### **Funerals**

Attendance will continue to be limited to 30 until June 21. Wakes are limited to 6 people in Step 1, to 15 people in Step 2 and (we think) 30 people in step 3. Again, hopefully restrictions will be lifted after the 21 June.

### **Baptisms**

There is no change. Baptisms constitute an act of public worship and so the maximum number is that of the risk assessment of your church building. This is also true for confirmations and if you have a confirmation booked please contact the relevant Bishop's PA.

### **Public Worship**

Those offering Public worship must continue to follow the same guidelines, so that means face coverings, careful social distancing, good hygiene and no singing. Please remember to maintain these routines.

### **Youth and Childrens Work**

Provision for children and young people which happens away from parents can recommence as part of Step 2, which means no earlier than the 12 April.

We will hope to have more information about these and other aspects of public worship later in the week.

### **Coronavirus Email Address**

If you have questions or problems please email: [coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org).

Gracious God,  
as we remember before you the thousands  
who have died,  
surround us and all who mourn with your  
strong compassion.

Be gentle with us in our grief,  
protect us from despair,  
and give us grace to persevere  
and face the future with hope  
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

Yours,

Coronavirus Task Group