

Dear Friends,

This is another short briefing to bring to your attention important new guidance on managing the pandemic in parishes which has just been published by the Church of England.

### **New Guidance from the Church of England**

The new guidance can be seen [here](#). It replaces almost all previous guidance.

The key headlines are:

- The guidance is all about how to make 'locally appropriate decisions' and so is light on directive advice
- The common cup may now be shared, though this a decision to made locally and there is detailed advice on mitigation steps that can be taken around celebrating Holy Communion
- There is no longer a need to continue with test and trace measures
- There are no restrictions around singing or bellringing, though there is advice about precautions that could be taken
- Parishes are advised to continue with risk assessments
- Advice on good ventilation and hygiene remains in place
- There is advice on how to help with the anxiety that may be associated with returning to church

The advice is quite lengthy but it is important that church leaders take the time to read it in full.

### **Letter from Bishop Sarah**

The Bishop of London has been chairing the Recovery Group for the Church of England throughout the pandemic. She has written a letter thanking parishes and the public for their response which can be seen [here](#).

### **Clergy who have tested Positive or are Isolating**

A reminder of the request that any clergy who have tested positive or who need to isolate drop a line to the coronavirus email address below.

### **Coronavirus Email Address**

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

***A prayer***

Father,

We thank you for your loving care and providence, although we are unworthy.

We thank you for sending your dear Son Jesus to live among us, to share in our lot and to die for all that all might live.

We ask you to look with mercy on all people throughout the world who are fearful of the threats of pestilence, war and famine in these uncertain times.

Give us the courage to overcome fear trusting in your loving plan for all people which gives us hope for the future even in the face of present adversity.

Watch over us and protect us from all harm.

We ask this in the name of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever.

Amen.

Regards,

**Coronavirus Task Group**