



Update on Law & Guidance for Places of Worship

- COVID guidance for places of worship updated
- Principles for safer singing
- COVID guidance for performing arts
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England)
 Regulations 2020



Update on Law & Guidance for Places of Worship

gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-forthe-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemicfrom-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-ofplaces-of-worship-from-2-december

gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-suggestedprinciples-of-safer-singing/covid-19-suggestedprinciples-of-safer-singing

gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts

legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1374/contents/made/data.pdf



Law on Gatherings

- Indoor Gatherings
 - Tier 1 max 6 people
 - Tier 2 household group only
 - Tier 3 household group only
- Outdoor Gatherings
 - Tier 1 max 6 people
 - Tier 2 max 6 people
 - Tier 3 household group only
- Against law to mix (i.e. swap groups) and mingle (interact between groups)
- Social distancing 2m (or 1m with mitigations)



Travel Between Tiers

- If you travel to a lower tier you still have to keep the law on gathering that applies where you live
- "Avoid travel to or overnight stays in Tier 3 areas other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities."



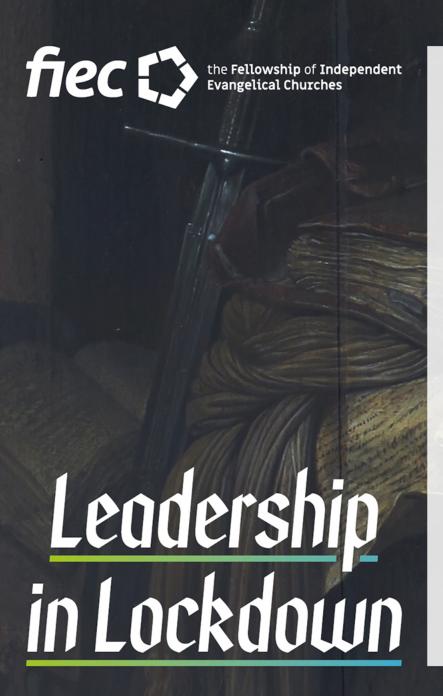
Implications for Churches

- Open for public worship
- Can use for study groups/prayer groups
- Support groups up to 15
- Weddings up to 15 & Funerals up to 30 (excluding anyone working)
- Organised parent and child groups up to 15 (children under 5 not included in limit)
- Venue managers should ensure social distancing maintained



Singing Indoors

- Congregation "should not participate in any activity that can create aerosols, including singing, shouting and chanting"
- Choir can perform indoors but must comply with law on gathering in groups appropriate to the relevant tier (i.e. Rule of 6 in tier 1 and household group in tier 2 & 3) and should observe social distancing (2m)
- Ensure gap at least 2m between performers and first row worshippers



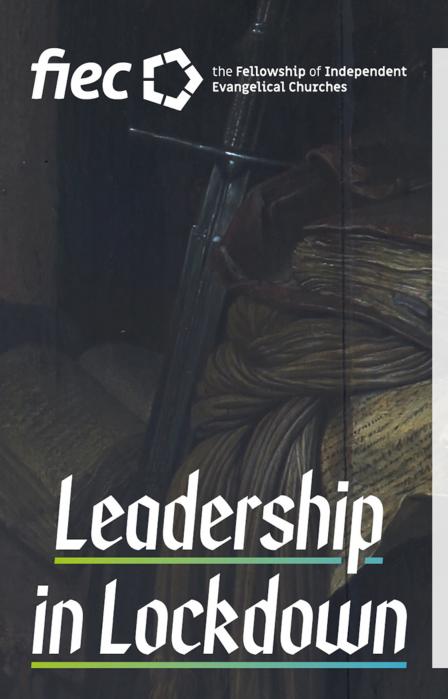
Singing Outdoors

- Choir can perform outdoors but must comply with law on gathering in groups appropriate to the relevant tier (i.e. Rule 6 in tier 1 & 2 and household group tier 3) and should observe social distancing (2m)
- Congregation can sing but should preferably be seated and 2m social distancing maintained at all times
- Can gather outdoors in grounds place worship but capacity determined by ability to maintain social distancing



Singing Outdoors (cont.)

- Should liaise with person responsible for public open space and speak to local authority about large events
- Must undertake risk assessment that considers security & should manage arrival and departure so social distancing can be maintained



Church Leaders' Liability

The required precautions:

- 7.—(1) The gathering organiser or (as the case may be) the manager in relation to a gathering takes the required precautions for the purposes of these Regulations by meeting both of the following requirements.
- (2) The first requirement is that the gathering organiser or manager has carried out a risk assessment that would satisfy the requirements of regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999(30) (whether or not the organiser or manager is subject to those Regulations).
- (3) The second requirement is that the gathering organiser or manager has taken all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of coronavirus, taking into account—
 - (a) the risk assessment carried out under paragraph (2), and
 - (b) any guidance issued by the government which is relevant to the gathering.



Implications for Church Leaders

- You will likely commit an offence if you organise a gathering which will ignore the guidance (e.g. on singing or social distancing)
- There may be issues of insurance cover if you fail to meet your duties under the Health & Safety legislation
- fiec.org.uk/resources/a-winter-riskassessment-review



Opportunities for Churches

- Carol services with choir "carol concert" events
- Outdoor carol services
- Door-to-door carol singing
- Street & community carol singing
- Hybrid service some congregational singing outside & part service inside
- Online for people who would not/cannot attend physically

