



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Frustrations

- General breakdown of observance
- Football stadiums, pubs, Download Festival
- Singing guidance changed in Scotland and Wales

Leadership
in Lockdown



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Removal of COVID Restrictions

- England – 19th July
- Scotland – 9th August
- 'all restrictions' – but still require facemasks some settings (e.g. shops)

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Singing

SCOTLAND

- Congregational singing in levels 0-1
- Advised to wear face coverings & 2m social distancing

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Singing

WALES

- Risk manageable if community transmission rate <50 in 100,000
- Risk assessment undertaken
- Face coverings should be worn
- At least 2m social distancing should be observed between congregation members
- Length of singing should be limited

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Singing

ENGLAND

- Congregation should not participate in communal singing, shouting & chanting indoors
- Guidance not law – but health and safety and insurance issues

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What can we do about singing?

- Church groups are lobbying government
- Do we want to settle for Scottish/Welsh solution?
- Choose to ignore the guidance
 - Risk assessment
 - Insurance coverage
 - Ecclesiastical Insurance

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What can we do about singing?

- May 2021 statement: 'However, we would expect the individual churches to follow Public Health England (or equivalent body)/government guidance at all times and observe any precautions stipulated by those bodies, until such time as all restrictions are lifted by Government. There will be no additional premium in respect of these activities.'
- Parish Plus policy contains a specific term that: 'You must advise as soon as is reasonably possible of any alteration of risk which increases the risk of damage, injury or liability'.

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What can we do about singing?

- Engage your MP about the issue
- Understand Government concerns
- Sing outdoors as much as you can
- Remain patient – the guidance is also unsustainable for amateur choirs, nightclubs, etc.

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Planning for Autumn/Winter 2021-22

- No promises that restrictions will not be reintroduced
- Plan with contingency options in mind

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