



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Leadership in Lockdown



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Psalm 61

For the director of music. With stringed instruments.
Of David.

- ¹ Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.
- ² From the ends of the earth I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
- ³ For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.
- ⁴ I long to dwell in your tent forever
and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

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- 5 For you, God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who
fear your name.
- 6 Increase the days of the king's life,
his years for many generations.
- 7 May he be enthroned in God's presence forever;
appoint your love and faithfulness to protect
him.
- 8 Then I will ever sing in praise of your name
and fulfill my vows day after day.



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Updated “Stay At Home” Guidance

gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/

No updates to “Safe Reopening of Places Of Worship” guidance expected before Tuesday March 23rd (so not all questions can be answered today)



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From Friday March 12th

- 4 adults from 2 households can meet outdoors (including in gardens)
- 15 adults can participate in organised outdoor exercise or non-contact sport
- But legal travel restrictions not yet lifted

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From Friday March 12th (continued)

- 4 teenagers (aged 12-17) from up to 4 households can meet outdoors (including in gardens)
- 15 teenagers can participate in on-contact sport or “other organised activities” (and legal travel restrictions lifted to attend)



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From Friday March 26th

(subject to confirmation on March 23rd)

- Communal worship services can resume with the numbers cap lifted from 20 to 50 (where social distancing allows)
- Unclear if travel restrictions for congregants will apply
- No change to advice against congregational singing



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Existing exemptions (until April 26th)

- Weddings (up to 5 people)
- Funerals (up to 20 people)

Where “necessary” and online would hinder the delivery of support:

- Support groups (e.g. young parents or addiction or counselling services)
- Food Banks
- Urgent pastoral care for vulnerable or to provide emergency help
- Hospital visitation

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Life beyond Lockdown – Global Trends

- Rise of authoritarianism
- Growing Nationalism
- Advance of individual surveillance
- Rise in religious extremism
- Conspiracy theories
- Increased economic disparities

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SOURCE: barnabasfund.org/news/the-post-covid-era-ten-challenges-facing-the-global-church/



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Life beyond Lockdown

– Lessons

1. God is Sovereign
2. The Gospel is needed more than ever
3. Church community is vital
4. Necessity of home & family discipleship
5. Technology has been a great friend
6. Pastors need to be generalists
7. Ministries need to be flexible
8. The value of good works

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Life beyond Lockdown – The Future

1. LOTS WE DON'T KNOW
 - how long? / who? / what?
2. The effects will linger
3. Erratic attendances: as people catch-up on a lost year
4. Expect highs followed by anti-climax
5. Your church will be different
6. Don't rush to restart everything



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Life beyond Lockdown – The Future

- WHAT WE DO KNOW...
 - people like getting together
 - they need encouragement
 - they forget quickly

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