

The Coronavirus regulations effective from one minute past midnight Thursday 5th November 2020- impact on churches and church halls.

Churches

Churches must close, except:-

- (a) for funerals. No more than 30 persons may attend (including children but excluding the celebrant and stewards). All the precautions in place when churches were open must be in place, including face coverings, contact details being taken for test and trace and cleaning.
- (b) to broadcast an act of worship, whether over the internet or as part of a radio or television broadcast,
- (d) to provide essential voluntary services or urgent public support services (including the provision of food banks or other support for the homeless or vulnerable people, blood donation sessions or support in an emergency),
- (e) for childcare provided by a registered person, or
- (f) for individual prayer, which means prayer by individuals which does not form part of communal worship.

Church halls

Church halls must close, except where used:-

- (a) to provide essential voluntary activities or urgent public support services (including the provision of food banks or other support for the homeless or vulnerable people, blood donation sessions or support in an emergency),
- (b) for the purposes of education or training,
- (d) for the purposes of childcare provided by a registered person or supervised activities for children, or
- (c) for the purposes of a support group, when it is reasonably necessary for members of the group to physically meet. Any such support group must consist of no more than 15 people. The term “support group” includes group or one to one support organised by a business or charitable or benevolent organisation or a public body to give mutual aid, therapy or any other kind of support to members or those who attend its meeting. Examples given are those providing support:-
 - (a) to victims of crime (including domestic abuse);
 - (b) to those with, or recovering from, addictions (including alcohol, narcotics or other substance addictions) or addictive patterns of behaviour;
 - (c) to new parents;
 - (d) to those with, or caring for persons with, any long-term illness or terminal condition or who are vulnerable;
 - (e) to those facing issues related to their sexuality or identity including those living as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender;
 - (f) to those who have suffered bereavement;
 - (g) to vulnerable young people.