

On 4 January 2021 the Prime Minister announced a new national lockdown for England.

The guidance published to support the announcement - [National lockdown: Stay at Home](#) - confirms that places of worship can remain open.

Communal worship and life events:

You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony.

You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship.

Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone's death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances.

In response to the announcement the Church of England issued the following statement:

“The Government has chosen not to suspend public worship in England at this time and we will continue to follow the guidance and ensure that churches remain as safe as possible. The Government guidance on the safe use of places of worship makes clear that those attending a place of worship must not mingle with anyone outside their household or support bubble.

“However, some may feel that it is currently better not to attend in person, and there will be parishes which decide to offer only digital services for the time-being. Clergy who have concerns, and others who are shielding, should take particular care and stay at home.”

Bishop David and members of Bishop's Leadership Team fully endorse the Church of England statement and strongly encourage parishes and clergy who have particular, specific concerns, to reach out for support.