

COVID-19 Update on Sunday 9th January.

On Monday evening, 4 January, the Prime Minister addressed the nation and announced a further lockdown for England, requiring people to stay at home except for legally permitted reasons.

The good news for church is that attending worship is this time, a legally permitted reason, and thus, following consultation with the Churchwardens, which included an update to our risk assessment, and the advice from the Diocesan Coronavirus Taskgroup, I have made the decision that at St George's, we will continue with our pattern of Sunday and mid-week communion.

As previously under Tier 4, social interaction is not permitted either within or outside of Church. Please be careful to abide by these rules, by going straight to your pew on entry, and leaving church promptly after the service, and to ensure proper hand hygiene (using the sanitiser provided both on entry and when receiving Communion) when attending services. Mingling before and after services has been the central concern of Lancashire County Council and behind their recent letter asking us to consider whether it is safe to meet. Let us ensure that we do not abuse the privilege of public worship by ensuring that we do not mingle with those outside our bubbles at any point. To help keep mingling to a minimum I won't stand at the back of church after the service. If you'd like to speak to me, please stay in your pew and inform a marshal, and I will then come to you.

As always, the policy is being reviewed weekly, both by ourselves and by the diocese, and should any decisions change, we will make this public on social media.

Let us all do our best to follow the rules to help prevent the spread of the virus, to allow our congregation to continue to feel safe whilst attending church, and to help ensure that these restrictions can be lifted as soon as possible.

In addition, we will continue to provide materials for family worship at home, to be delivered bi-weekly, and indeed there is a new one available today, on our YouTube channel.

If you are aware of anyone who is housebound and would appreciate reflections delivered, please let me know.

The Revd Michael Print, Vicar, St George's, Chorley