

6 May 2020

A statement from Bishop David regarding the recent national CofE announcement about church building access.

With regards to the national CofE announcement issued yesterday evening, please know that careful consideration is being given to all circumstances surrounding access to our church buildings during the COVID-19 crisis.

The country remains in lockdown and the government advice on social distancing and leaving your home remains the focus of national and CofE Birmingham guidance, in support of all medical and other carers and of vulnerable people and to save lives.

A further government statement on the level of restrictions is expected in the next few days.

Therefore, in immediate response to the CofE announcement, I urge you to continue to stay home, except for key work, exercise and supplies, to keep others, and yourself, safe.

Meanwhile, some clergy will be considering visits to the church building on their own for prayer and recording or streaming under the latest advice about a gradual and cautious return. There should be no pressure to do so if all COVID-19 conditions cannot be met.

I recommend making haste slowly and not feeling the need to rush to change for this coming Sunday. I know that you will be continuing with all the pastoral and other ministries that you are providing with such imagination and innovation.

Please contact your Area Dean or Archdeacon if in any doubt or for more background.

Further guidance for CofE Birmingham will be issued soon, alongside more government and national CofE detail, as it becomes available.

Please be assured of our continued prayers.

+David Birmingham