



Covid 19 Circuit update

What an interesting week. Life has certainly been turned upside down hasn't it?!

This update is for all Churches, Local Preachers, Ministers and Supernumeraries.

- With a heavy heart I announce that the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit is to suspend the current Preaching Plan. This means that there will be no gatherings, whatsoever, including any form of collective worship, prayer or fellowship in any of our Churches until June 2020 at the earliest. When there is a lifting of restriction for public meeting, we will review our local response, but for clarity, at this point, we are not to fulfil any of the appointments on our current plan.
- We will send out for plan dates for the June-August plan in hope.
- We are working on a filmed Service for Easter Sunday be sent out to as many as possible in the Circuit, and there may be some streamed Services. This is a work in progress. All help and suggestions gratefully received and please do pass these onto your Minister and/or myself. *Please note that if you intend to stream (live or recorded) services on the internet from your church website, or any other platform, you will need a 'Streaming Licence' from CCLI. The cost is between £30-60 dependent on the congregation size. You will need to log on to your CCLI account and order in the normal way.*

This update is for Church Stewards:

There will be no activities where people gather to taking place on our premises until further notice. This is on the advice of the government, the Methodist Church and with Methodist Insurance who state:

To reiterate the insurance position when it comes to continuing church services:

Methodist Insurance's position is that church's need to comply with government's and the Church's advice regarding Covid-19 in this situation. Going against this is not compliant with the following Methodist Church Shield Policy. This policy is likely to be similar to all other such policies held by Churches.

It is a condition precedent to liability that you must take all reasonable steps to protect and maintain the property, prevent damage or injury and comply with laws, by-laws or regulations.

Going against official guidance is a deliberate act (rather than accidental) and therefore the church's Public Liability cover would not respond in the event that a claim was made against the church or minister as it excludes deliberate acts. Ministers should therefore think of alternative ways of delivering worship during this time.

This update is for Church Treasurers

Please find attached a document from Roger Langford, Circuit Treasurer.

This has been a rapidly changing situation. We have a daily service being distributed electronically and a weekly service that is posted out to some who don't have access to the internet. We are mindful of the present and of the future and we strive to listen to God, as well as the government, in seeking to do the right thing.

This clarifies our position as regards worship in Church for now and we will be doing our best to allow us all to continue to be fed spiritually and to worship the Living God in these weeks ahead, and, as a CLT, we will be working alongside Churches to discern the most practical ways forward too.

Gordon

Revd Gordon Gresswell, Superintendent Minister, Newport and Lower Wye Circuit.