



## CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE

Current Government advice is that individuals should follow good hygiene practices including:

- carrying tissues and using them to catch coughs and sneezes, and binning the tissue
- washing hands with soap and water (for 20 seconds) or using sanitiser gel to kill germs.

### What should Churches do at this stage?

1. Ensure **everyone maintains good hygiene** (we should be doing this already as part of normal good practice) at all gatherings, whether services or other occasions. This includes those who prepare or serve food, those handing out books etc or having other direct physical contact with numbers of people, as well as those assisting with communion (see below for more guidance):
  - Provide hand gel at entrances and ensure there is a good supply of soap or hand gel in cloakrooms and kitchens and any other appropriate areas
  - The best way of protecting us from spread is for everyone to use **universal good hygiene**, - this means everyone, all the time, which will effectively disrupt spread of the virus. Follow the advice on the NHS posters, i.e.
  - **Catch it** - sneeze into a tissue
  - **Bin it** - bin the tissue
  - **Kill it** - wash your hands with soap and water
  - **Do not touch your face** unless you've washed your hands
  - Follow the good hand washing and gel use technique from the NHS website. You can also download a poster version.
2. Ensure **good regular cleaning of surfaces people touch regularly**, including such things as door handles, light switches etc.
3. Ask **those attending services to sanitise their hands** as they come into church, using sanitized gel dispensers (make these available in porches or entrances).
4. Ensure **those serving Holy Communion sanitise their hands** before and after distributing communion. This can be done by using good quality hand gel. Churches should use the traditional small glasses for communion to reduce the chances of infection. Communion bread should be prepared in advance and not served in the 'tear and share' method. Communion Stewards are reminded that communion wine once poured out should never be returned to the bottle to be reused later. Any remaining elements should be reverently consumed or *put to ground*.
5. For the moment, the advice is to offer **the peace** verbally only and avoid handshakes, hugs and kissing!
6. **No pastoral visits should be undertaken to people who are self-isolating** until isolation ends. However, do offer phone support. **Visits to people in care homes or Hospitals** should follow advice from the staff on infection control.

**FURTHER UPDATES WILL FOLLOW AS THE SITUATION CHANGES.**