
[Test] Coronavirus update

1 message

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**EFCC**

exalting Christ in growing
healthy churches

The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches is a group of over 100 evangelical churches in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.



CORONVIRUS UPDATE 31 December 2020

This e-mail is primarily for those churches where EFCC acts as the all-purpose trustee. However, we circulate it to all our churches for information and as a way of sharing best practice.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any

comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2: 1-4

Since our last update, we have celebrated Christmas as best we are able with many of us agonising over whether or not to meet and, if we do, what part will singing play in our service. For certain, all of us have churches with divided views over everything COVID-related. However, often the essential importance of gathered worship is made to play second fiddle to fears that have been stoked by our secularist media.

But we are able to praise God that present government restrictions allow churches to remain open for worship. This is a genuine occasion for praise but also an occasion for petition ... that God will move the respective powers to not make a u-turn and withdraw our right to worship the God we profess. May we also suggest that we continue to pray that our churches might be united in the face of so many different viewpoints. We seek to exalt Christ, but if we are divided within our churches our witness will be tarnished.

As many of our churches now find themselves in Tiers 3 & 4, there is a need for each church to review their risk assessment in light of the increased risks and to ensure that any additional regulations for these tiers are included and put into practise. As a society, we have moved on a long way since first lockdown and if your risk assessment has not been changed since July or August, then it will almost certainly be out of date.

We are here to help - if you are in any doubt about any aspect of your risk assessment, contact **Matt Rees**, **Tom Brand** or **Steve Horton** who will do their very best to help.

Details of Tier restrictions can be found through the usual weblinks:

Churches in Wales

Churches in Northern Ireland

Churches in England

Check which tier you are in

We look forward to an end to these COVID updates - let us pray that God will be gracious to our nation and that, as he moves us away from pandemic fears, He will turn our eyes to the Saviour who deals with our sins as well as our

fears.

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