
[Test] Coronavirus update

EFCC Trust Board <steve.horton@efcc.org.uk>
Reply-To: us12-45a58dd14e-d32d2ec0e6@inbound.mailchimp.com
To: "<< Test First Name >>" <steviehorton@gmail.com>

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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 05 January 2021

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.

As of today the English Government has, once more, felt the need to declare a national lockdown.

However, join us in praising God that churches will remain open for public worship. The official guidance says:

"You can attend places of worship for a service. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. You should maintain strict social distancing at all times." **H M Gov**

This means that the 'rule of six' no longer applies and that our people should once again be encouraged not to stay and chat outside with their friends.

The guidance also requires those who are 'vulnerable' to resume shielding and this will mean that many of us will have people missing when we next meet.

Let us pray for all those who have to stay indoors for the next five or six weeks; isolation can be very hard to cope with. Let us also pray for the families in our churches who are having to rethink their schedules to support their own children who are unable to attend school. Please also join us in praying for believers across the country, that differences in attitude to lockdown and worship will not cause division. EFCC is committed to supporting churches to open; but we recognise that not all churches will be able to open safely nor will all churches have sufficient numbers who are not required to shield.

As in the last English lockdown, our Ministry Director will keep in touch via weekly e-mails, each including a sermon designed to encourage pastors in today's tough times. The first of these should be with you before Monday morning.

We are mindful that it was the approaching plague that brought John Wycliffe to his senses and caused him to turn to Christ. We continue to cry out to God that he will, by His Spirit, open the eyes of many during this present pandemic.

Wales in Tier 4

Northern Ireland restrictions

Lockdown guidance in England January 2021

English guidance on re-opening places of worship

Welsh guidance on re-opening places of worship

We are here to help. As things develop we will do our best to alert you swiftly, but do please keep a wary eye on your national guidance - it can change without notice. But please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way - contact **Matt Rees**, **Tom Brand** or **Steve Horton**.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches is a registered charity no. 262802.

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