

A statement from Bishop David in regard to the continued national lockdown situation - 26 May 2020

Dear Co-Workers in Christ,

As the COVID-19 Crisis develops and Government continues to identify processes for the Stages of lockdown, we look to the next week together, in our continuing journey as the Church.

During the coming days, national CofE teams will provide guidance to assist with our careful planning as various changes are made by Government to the restrictions we live, worship and serve under.

Further Property guidance, issued in today's Update, will also be available on the CofE website from tomorrow. Please consult these documents and amend your own procedures for accessing your church buildings, keeping uppermost in your minds the clear Government policy to save lives and protect the NHS.

Over this week, as our high streets make preparations to reopen in selected ways and other businesses are re-starting, I expect to write about further guidance covering Funerals, Weddings and Individual Prayer. All our guidance, procedures and policies must continue to be founded in social distancing measures. Let us also be wise in our judgement of the Press and Media habit of grabbing at dates and short phrases out of context.

In circumstances requiring clarification, please continue to consult the Archdeacons or your Area Dean, prior to making any significant changes.

As Government defines our next steps for a nation in lockdown, continue to go prayerfully, step by step, alongside all who will be affected by our actions.

Be assured too of my continued prayers.