



Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P

3AZ

T: 020 7222 1265 E: [info@clas.org.uk](mailto:info@clas.org.uk)

[www.clas.org.uk](http://www.clas.org.uk)

**Chairman:** The Rt Revd Christopher Lowson, Bishop of Lincoln

**Secretary:** Frank Cranmer

## CLAS CIRCULAR 2020/7 (11 March 2020)

### Disclaimer

CLAS is not qualified to advise on the legal and technical problems of members and does not undertake to do so. Though we take every care to provide a service of high quality, neither CLAS, the Secretary nor the Governors undertakes any liability for any error or omission in the information supplied.

It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

### Contents

Disclaimer .....	1
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) .....	2
Church of England .....	2

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

For information

### Church of England

The Church of England updated its [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance for churches](#) on 10 March at 17:40, as follows:

'It is our view, in light of the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in the United Kingdom, that it is now necessary to suspend the administration of the chalice as well as physical contact during the sharing of the peace, blessing or "laying on of hands". We therefore advise that all priests should:

- Offer Communion in one kind only to all communicants i.e. the consecrated bread/wafer/host, with the priest alone taking the wine;
- suspend handshaking or other direct physical contact during the sharing of the peace;
- suspend direct physical contact as part of a blessing or 'laying on of hands'.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have [written to clergy](#) to update on this guidance.'

The Archbishops' advice replicates the new guidance and states:

'From today, when we preside at the Eucharist at Lambeth Palace and at Bishopthorpe Palace, we are going to give communion in one kind only (the bread) and will not share the peace nor lay on hands for blessings.'

[Source: Church of England, 10 March]