

Dear Clergy, Lay Readers, Vestry Secretaries and Diocesan Secretaries

As many of you will be aware, the Scottish Government's decision to close churches during lockdown has in recent weeks been subject to legal challenge brought in the Court of Session by a number of church leaders (the Scottish Episcopal Church distanced itself from that court action). A preliminary ruling was given yesterday by the court to the effect that the Government had acted unlawfully.

In the light of this, the Government, late last night, accepted that churches were to be permitted to reopen not from midnight tonight (as had previously been indicated) but as from midnight last night. All of the other usual restrictions (cap of 50 people, social distancing etc) remain unchanged.

The Government has also now updated its own guidance for Places of Worship which is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

Kind regards

Donald Walker
Director of Communications
Scottish Episcopal Church
07736 042 850