

Dear Clergy, Lay Readers, Vestry Secretaries and Diocesan Secretaries

A brief update from the Advisory Group.

The Scottish Government made a couple of revisions to its Places of Worship Guidance at the end of last week. The revised guidance appears at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/pages/overview/>

The changes principally relate to the holding of meetings but also include a minor alteration in relation to the use of communal resources, such as service books etc.

The Advisory Group is not reissuing its main guidance at this point but has updated its FAQs to take account of the change in relation to meetings, as well as including some new FAQ material. The revised FAQs are available on the provincial website at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-June-2021.pdf>

The principal change in relation to meetings is to allow resumption of in person vestry meetings on church premises in Levels 0-2.

In relation to the use of communal resources such as service books etc, the new Scottish Government guidance reads as follows: –

- where communal resources such as books, prayer mats and services sheets are required to be used as part of worship, you should follow good hygiene principles (careful hand washing/cleansing with soap and warm water/alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after handling books or similar objects/items of equipment and avoiding touching the face with unwashed hands)

Kind regards

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