

COVID-19 AND LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS July 2021

The coming couple of weeks will see a lot of changes as legally enforceable restrictions are likely to be lifted on the 19th. Government will announce tomorrow and C of E guidance will follow soon after.

For some, the lifting of legal restrictions is good news at last, for some it is worrying because the virus is still too prevalent, and for some – well, it's difficult to decide.

Last week Professor Chris Whitty gave three situations when he intends to continue to wear a face-covering; first wherever it is still required, second in more crowded indoor spaces, and third whenever he is with people who would prefer him to wear one, in other words out of courtesy to others. This seems good advice to follow.

We, Priest in Charge and Wardens, in discussion with PCCs will need to make decisions based on what we think is good and appropriate for us; it goes without saying we want to have all the freedoms we can have, but we also need to be aware of different viewpoints and the impact on other people of our actions, especially the more vulnerable and the more anxious. Christians do not exercise freedom of action at other people's expense. Our concern is always for our neighbour.

We are very aware that everyone has their own outlook - some are very concerned by the news of rising cases, some are anxious for loved ones currently ill or vulnerable. Some are finding the restrictions having a really negative effect on their mental health or well-being.

Please help us make good decisions at the right time: Let us know what you think - email me or a churchwarden.

Also be generous in understanding that no decisions will be made lightly, no one will be forced to do anything against their will, and that there will be a wide spread of opinion, as sincerely felt as our own.

What matters is that our churches are marked by a welcome to all, however they choose to respond and that we do what we can to make them safe and joyous places where the love of God, the peace of God and hope in God can be found.

With love and prayers at this this challenging time.

Alison

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