

## **Extract from the Welsh Government guidance (link below) with regard to music in worship:**

Last checked: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

<https://gov.wales/guidance-reopening-places-worship-coronavirus-html>

### **Singing, chanting and the use of musical instruments**

We recognise the importance of music and singing in worship, religious and belief ceremonies. However, activities such as singing, chanting, shouting should be specifically avoided. This is because there is a possible additional risk of infection in environments where individuals are singing or chanting as a group, and this applies even if social distancing is being observed or face coverings are used. This applies equally for indoor and outdoor worship and ceremonies.

Wind instruments should not be played indoors. The decision whether to play an organ that requires air to be pushed through the mechanism should be based on a risk assessment and adherence with hand hygiene and [cleaning guidance](#) and physical distancing, for example from the remainder of the congregation and avoiding use of a registrant.

It is advised that you use alternative instruments such as a piano, electronic instruments or recordings. Music should not be played at levels that make normal conversations difficult. This is because raised voices or shouting increase the potential risk of transmission through aerosol and droplets. Therefore spoken responses during worship or ceremonies should also be made in a lowered voice.

Where it is an essential part of the worship or ceremony, only one individual should be permitted to sing or chant, and the use of plexi-glass screens and physical distancing should be considered to protect others. This will further prevent transmission and the screen can be easily cleaned. It is possible for more than one individual to sing or chant over the course of a ceremony but not at the same time. Each individual should make separate arrangements to protect from transmission of the virus, for example separate plexi-screens or cleaning between each individuals use.

Playing non-wind instruments may be done indoors as part of worship, a ceremony or to accompany a singer if the musicians remain physically distanced between households and the congregation. Where a band or recorded music is playing it is advisable to stress, to those in attendance, the importance of avoiding singing and organisers should consider the impact of the volume or sustained length of music on the likelihood that people will converse with raised voices.

Ringling of bells, or similar, may again be done. However, people attending to peal bells should be included in the risk assessment process and subsequent protocols for attendance at the event. Specific provisions should be made where circumstances allow, such as separate entrances, and physical distancing measures between bell ringers and hand hygiene while pealing the bells and between them and the other attendees.