

# Statement from the Church in Wales:

Last checked: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>

## Update: 19 October 2020

The First Minister has announced a Coronavirus Circuit Break 'lockdown' commencing on Friday 23rd October at 6.00pm and ending at the start of Monday 9th November.

This will mean that our churches and church halls must be closed during that period (with some very limited exceptions, such as continuation of food bank provision and to broadcast, without a congregation, an act of worship or funeral, whether over the internet or as part of a radio or television broadcast).

For more details of the Government's plans, please see

- <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-circuit-break-frequently-asked-questions#section-53253>

You will note that funeral and wedding services can continue in our churches under current arrangements but any related celebration or social gathering is not permitted. We are seeking urgent clarity on the permissible arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

We will be preparing updated guidance for this period during the course of this week. We are informed by Welsh Government that the legal regulations themselves are unlikely to be published until Thursday; we will be posting our updated guidance as soon as possible after the revised regulations and associated Government guidance has been published.

Whilst this will be disappointing news to many, the Bishops are supportive of this new approach to reducing the transmission rate of Coronavirus. We urge all our church communities to do all they can to comply with these new restrictions but, importantly, to continue their vital support to the most vulnerable in our communities.