

Coronavirus Virus – Should we pass *The Peace*?

In the light of the risk connected to Coronavirus virus we have been asked: “Should we refrain from sharing The Peace?”

Whilst we are not offering any new advice at this time, it should be noted that in the service of Holy Communion for Lent and Passiontide (Methodist Worship Book, page 153) *The Peace* is introduced by an appropriate seasonal sentence, but there is no suggestion (as there is in every other Communion Service) that the people should greet one another.

As Neil Dixon notes in his book *Wonder Love and Praise – a Companion to the Methodist Worship Book*:

“The omission is quite deliberate. Whilst at other times of the year, even in Advent, it may be desirable for this sign of Christian fellowship to be shared among the congregation; it is more fitting, during the solemn and penitential Lenten days, to refrain from it.”

It looks like the liturgists have offered us some help – at least for a few weeks!