

## GUIDE FOR FUNERALS

Version 1	10/07/2020	Simplification of previous guidance; changes to who can attend
Version 2	18/8/2020	Updates on face coverings, singing and added links for Wales and Scotland

### 1. Introduction

This Guide is part of STEP 5: Safety First in the process for reopening and managing your church building. It provides specific guidance for Funeral services, but should be read in conjunction with the **Guide to Using Your Worship Space**.

### 2. Specific Considerations for Funerals

- The Government has produced additional supporting COVID-19: Guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>1</sup>
- Funeral ceremonies should have no more than the capacity below in attendance, and social distancing should be strictly adhered to following a risk assessment.
  - In England – 30 people
  - In Scotland – 20 people
  - In Wales – from 21 August, 30 people
- Note that the **maximum** number (listed above) as a guide and that Managing Trustees have an obligation to assess if this is a safe number to accommodate. If after risk assessment it is found that a chapel can only accommodate a lower number safely, then this would be the maximum for this particular chapel.
- The guidance suggests the following can attend, in addition to the Funeral Director and staff, church steward and minister:
  - Members of the person’s household;
  - close family members;
  - close friends if family members.
- It should be considered how those who fall within a vulnerable group are able to attend safely as it is important that those who wish to attend are able to safely.
- All spoken voices should use a PA system where possible or practical. Specifically projecting or raising voices should be avoided.
- Music and Singing:
  - England
    - The use of music is allowed and all musical instruments, including wind instruments (England only).<sup>2</sup>
    - Inside and outside - Singing as a congregation is **not** allowed.
    - Inside - Individual or a choir<sup>2</sup> singing is allowed, as long as it can be accommodated safely, ensuring that others are protected from potential virus transfer through increased social distancing, screens or other solutions. This must be assessed for risk.

<sup>1</sup>England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Scotland - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-services/>

Wales - <https://gov.wales/worship-funerals-bereavement-coronavirus>

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to Guidance on Performing Arts (in England) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>.

- Inside – it is possible for a groups of professional or non-professional singers<sup>2</sup> to perform to worshippers, but this should be assessed for safety and the number of singers limited to suit the space available, while achieving safe social distances.
- Outside – Groups of professional and non-professional singers<sup>2</sup> can perform to worshippers, but this should be assessed for safety and the number of singers limited to a number suitable for the space available, while achieving safe social distances.
- Scotland and Wales
  - The use of music is allowed and all musical instruments, except wind instruments.
  - Inside and outside - singing as a congregation is **not** allowed.
  - Inside – An individual is allowed to sing, as long as it can be accommodated safely, ensuring that others are protected from potential virus transfer through increased social distancing, screens or other solutions. This must be assessed for risk.
- It is important to liaise and communicate with the parties involved in advance. This will ensure that controls and expectations on the day are managed sensitively. The Funeral Director may be able to facilitate many of these communications and arrangements so that they minimise the additional responsibility for organisation on the bereaved. Such arrangements and communications could include:
  - Communication of agreed arrangements in the chapel.
  - Basic arrangement for cleaning and hygiene.
  - Knowledge of numbers attending and potential seating plan.
  - Ability to assess if there are parties who are clinically vulnerable and therefore being able to make additional arrangements and advise others to be aware and sympathetic to this.
- For those who cannot attend, it might be considered that live-streaming could be used.