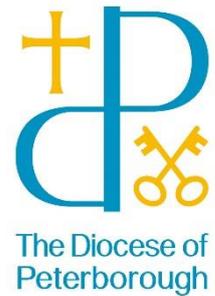


BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 21

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

5 August 2020



Dear friends

Just when you thought it was safe ...

I have two more items for you.

Face coverings update

I indicated on Monday that this was again under discussion with the government. I am glad to say that it has now been agreed to extend the exemptions. This will appear on the Church of England and government websites in the next few days, but I am giving you notice now. The new rules, effective from Saturday 8 August, will be as follows.

Face coverings will be required by law to be worn in places of worship. However, those who are leading services or events, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer) will not always need to wear a face covering, but should do so if physical distancing cannot be maintained (eg at the distribution of Communion). Other worshippers should wear face coverings throughout, with only the exceptions I outlined in the last bulletin.

The exemption will also cover the bride and groom at a wedding, and those officiating at the wedding service, but not those attending the wedding, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space.

Deliverance Ministry

A number of clergy have been asking recently about our arrangements for “deliverance ministry”. This is the C of E language for the way we deal with everything from serious occult practices or phenomena to vague feelings of an uncomfortable presence or “things that go bump in the night”. It can be extremely serious or quite low-key. It can very occasionally be a matter of dealing with real evil, or much more often of reassurance and pastoral care.

In many cases, the right thing is for the local parish priest to pray normally with those involved: to pray for Christ's presence and peace. If something more than that is needed, each diocese has a team of trained people to help. In our case this includes experienced clergy trained in this area, a psychologist, and access to other specialisms. We don't think it helpful to give this too much publicity, or to name those involved.

If you are concerned about any unusual, puzzling, or troubling incidents please contact my office on 01733 562492, or my chaplain [by email](#), and an experienced priest will respond sensitively and confidentially.

Happy holidays!

With love in Christ

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