

**Channel Islands District**

*Chair of District: The Rev'd Dawn Saunders*

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Dear Friends

I write after the second press conference this week held to outline the changes required of the people of Jersey to help prevent the spread of Covid 19.

I wish to thank you all for being so conscientious and thoughtful as well as caring for one another so far. I also commend you for your patience in often quite frustrating situations.

Each time there is, what appears, another set-back towards reaching some kind of normality, I try to remember the theme, for this year, of the President and Vice-President of Conference “**most of all God is with us**”! I truly believe this, but I do have days where it is harder to see. In those moments I try to remember that when my faith seems weak, someone somewhere is praying. Please continue to pray and, when you do, remember someone unknown to you who is finding it hard to pray that day.

The new rules, guidelines and my recommendations (in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Conference) are as follows.

* For Circuit ordained and lay staff, please work from home unless it is absolutely necessary to attend somewhere in person.
* Whilst mask wearing is compulsory in supermarkets and shops, etc I strongly recommend they are worn in our churches at all times. If you are leading a group meeting and need to speak, please do so from a distance with care.
* The 20 person limit has not changed at the moment.
* Social distancing at 2 metres is now required
* People over the age of 70 are advised to avoid spending time indoors with anyone outside their household. If you are over 70 please avoid group gatherings at our churches for a while until the situation begins to improve, even if it is a small group.

Please re-visit your risk assessments and make all necessary changes to keep one another safe. Close your churches for a short time or limit church gatherings to small groups and remember 20 is a limit not a target!

Above all if you know of someone in need or struggling tell one of your church pastoral team and your minister.

With my prayers for a blessed Christmas, a peaceful New Year and hope for a new way forward, where we can praise our Creator and Redeemer in full voice, in gathered community.

With peace and Love

Dawn

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