



## **Singing in churches – a lockdown guide**

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The guidance for the latest lockdown has left some churches and church musicians confused with exactly what is possible over the course of the next few weeks/months. The message of the lockdown is to stay at home and only carry out essential activities so in the spirit of this, a church needs to establish what is essential to its liturgy.

At present, one singer is allowed to sing as part of an act of worship, but if it is deemed essential up to three singers may be used (with the usual mitigations and social distancing measures in place). This can be a live act of worship with a small, socially distanced congregation or it can be a closed, live streamed act of worship. These singers can be amateur or professional.

Under the performing arts guidance a group of professional singers can meet to rehearse, record and live stream worship, but only from behind closed doors with no congregation present. This is possible as it constitutes a workplace for those singers. More than three professional singers can be used for this, but again, the usual mitigations and social distancing measures must be adhered to.

Two case studies:

X Parish Church has a strong music tradition with a congregation who attend because they value high quality music and liturgy as part of their faith. X Parish Church employs four singers each Sunday and pays them £30 per service. Their options are:

- Live stream/record with the four singers to a completely virtual congregation
- Use three or fewer singers to sing live to a present congregation

Y Parish Church has a small choir of ten amateur singers who enjoy singing in the church choir as they enjoy music and the social side of the choir. Many people come to the church because of the community that it provides. Their options are:

- Use three (if essential) or fewer singers to sing live to a present congregation
- Use three (if essential) or fewer singers to pre-record or live stream to a virtual congregation

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