

# From your Parish Support Team

## Outdoor worship

### In the grounds of a place of worship

- More than 30 people can pray in a place of worship or its grounds. The law allows for multiple groups of 6 people to participate, provided that these groups do not mingle.
- A risk assessment must be conducted and COVID-19 Secure measures implemented. The number of people who are able to gather will therefore be dependent on the size of the space available.
- A risk assessment should also consider the security of worshippers. This may require involving local partners such as the police.

### Public outdoor spaces

- For acts of worship taking place away from the place of worship and surrounding grounds please follow the relevant guidance on the number of people permitted to gather in those spaces.
- If anyone is considering arranging an event for more than 6 people in a public outdoor space they should liaise with those responsible for the open space in question to ensure that the event can be staged in a safe and legal way, which includes undertaking a risk assessment that considers security (see Annex A).
- Local authorities will make decisions on applications for prayers in public places, **including those on private land which are not attached to a place of worship.**

### Private outdoor spaces

- It is illegal for groups larger than 6 to meet in a private outdoor space, including private gardens unless the group consists solely of a single household or support bubble.
- Religious activity is not exempt from this rule.

Please keep checking for the latest guidance on the [Church of England website](#).