

Choirs and worship bands are back!

We can now have singing in church but not from the congregation.

It is essential that the government guidelines are followed in bringing back the choir or worship band and risk assessments completed.

Excerpts from the Church of England Guidelines:

Can we sing?

- ✓ It is now permissible for both professional and non-professional singers and musicians to perform in **small** groups to people inside and outside of buildings in line with the recommendations for physical distancing and hygiene set out by the Government in their [performing arts guidance](#).

NB: This includes those who regularly volunteer to do music and singing, as part of a choir for example, to perform as a part of worship, but **congregations are still at this time not permitted to sing as part of worship**. Wherever possible people should continue to physically distance from those they do not live with, venues, performers and audiences should be matched to ensure 2m distancing applies, and the number of performers should be limited. Those assisting with worship through music or singing do not always need to wear a face covering, but face coverings or screens should be used if physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Can our worship band play?

- ✓ Yes, please see the guidance on singing above and the Government guidance on performing arts. Players need to be appropriately physically distanced, and the music should not be so loud that it encourages people to shout above it.

Can we use microphones/ PA systems?

- ✓ Yes, if you have one then you should make use of it. Ideally individual lapel microphones or static (fixed) microphones should be used rather than hand-held, and those using them should not touch the microphone to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus, especially if it is a fixed microphone – for example on a lectern - that will be used by multiple people through a service. Lapel microphones should only be touched by the person using them and should be cleaned (for example with alcohol wipes) or left untouched for 72 hours between uses.

The RSCM website is also an excellent source of guidance, as it is regularly updated.

[FAQs](#)

[Models for playing and singing music in church](#)

[Introduction to risk assessment](#)

[Risk assessment template](#)