St Lawrence Church Skelllingthorpe – Risk Assessment

**ACTIVITY\_**Evening Carol Singing around the village **DATE** various in Dec 2020 **LOCATION** Village streets

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| **Risk** | **Likelihood (1 to 5 with 1 being low)** | **Severity if it happens (1 to 5 with 1 being low)** | **Risk Score (Likelihood x Severity)** | **Steps to be taken to reduce risk** |
| * Moving as a distanced group along dark footpaths, trip/slip hazards
* Cold temperatures, slight health hazard
* Road traffic esp when crossing roads
* Covid–19 infection amongst choir through touch or projecting voices
* Covid-19 infection between choir and people listening
* Covid-19 infection through delivery of invitations
 | 211111 | 324555 | 624555 | Wear appropriate footwear, use torch to illuminate footpath, maintain vigilance foruneven paths.Wear suitably warm clothing. Gloves etc., sturdy shoes.Be aware. Stay safe on pavements. If crossing road for any reason, be aware of kerbs, stop, look both ways and listen before stepping out.* Do not take part if tested positive/have symptoms/particularly vulnerable
* Groups of no more than 6.
* Each group to maintain 2 metre distance from one another.
* Masks when walking
* For singing, arrange the choir facing outwards on a slight arc.
* Each person to collect carol sheet from ‘quarantine box’ and return at the end.
* Carol sheets not to be passed around – each person to hold onto their own.
* No passing around of torches or other equipment.
* If anyone comes out to interact, leader to politely remind people to stay indoors or maintain 2 metre distance and stand off to side.
* Invitations to be kept separate until each evening. Those delivering to wash hands/bring sanitiser and to use their own pack of invites and not share.
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Risk assessed by Brian Donner and Sam Durant on 24th November 2020

Signatures of others involved to say they have read and taken note:

COVID-19 Advice on the Conduct of Public Worship Issue Date Version Issued by 16th October 2020 2.6 The House of Bishops Recovery Group

**17. 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. 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.

**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. The number of performers should be limited and if there are more than 6 singers only rehearse and perform in separate sub-groups of no more than 6 people in a way that ensures that there is no mingling between sub-groups at any time. If a non-professional group is unable to ensure that mingling does not take place between these sub-groups (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then the activity should not take place. 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. The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has produced more detailed resources on singing and music, which can be found here.

**Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19)**

From: [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy)

Published: 11 May 2020 Updated: 9 November 2020

**4.1 General guidance during rehearsals, training, pre-production and performance**

Objective: To maintain social distancing between individuals during training, rehearsals, pre-production and performance.

Steps that will usually be needed:

1. Providing space for performers and other attendees to be socially distanced from each other and from any audience, production team members or other individuals, wherever possible during training, rehearsal, pre-production, performance and any other form of performing arts activity.
2. Working outdoors where possible. Where this is not possible, ensuring all rehearsal, training and performance areas, with particular regard to indoor and covered areas, have maximum ventilation whenever staff or audiences are present.
3. Organising and designing repertoire, rehearsals, training and performance to avoid situations where performers cannot socially distance, wherever feasible.
4. Reducing as far as possible any time that individuals are not able to maintain social distancing.
5. Reducing group and cast sizes where possible to maintain social distancing. Conducting rehearsals and training in smaller fixed teams wherever possible.
6. Adapting live performing arts to ensure they are safe. If that is not possible, consider the use of technology solutions to reduce interactions and ensure social distancing (for example for castings, rehearsals, training and performance).
7. Removing non-essential common areas such as waiting rooms.
8. Using floor tape or paint to mark areas to help people maintain social distance, where possible.
9. Positioning side-to-side or back-to-back and avoiding working face-to-face wherever possible.
10. Screening of anyone prior to entry into venues, which may include, but not be limited to, a COVID-19 symptom questionnaire.
11. Ensuring there is a clear policy in place for managing a COVID-19 positive individual, and abiding by government and PHE guidelines and reporting requirements.
12. Considering using booths, barriers or screens between performers and any audience, noting that:

– The effectiveness of the booth, barrier or screen varies substantially depending on the type of booth, barrier or screen used
– Only some types of booth, barrier or screen will be effective enough to be viable for use in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained
– Comprehensive risk assessments will be needed whenever using booths, barriers or screens to ensure that transmission risk is appropriately contained and that other health and safety risks such as noise exposure are managed, particularly when using booths, barriers or screens in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained

Published 23 November 2020

From:

[**Department of Health and Social Care**](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care)

**Tier 3: Very High alert**

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you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in some other outdoor public spaces, including parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, a public garden, grounds of a heritage site or castle, or a sports facility – this is called the ‘rule of 6’

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