

Sharing Best Practice – A Forum

London's new Tier Two status and what this means for our churches

Micky outlined expectations for all with regards to the tier levels and things to look out for.

Richard G shared some of the challenges faced by circuits when considering return to use Methodist premises by external hirers... e.g. pressure to reuse premises even when local congregation is still 'closed' for worship; inadequate risk-assessments; need for groups to take responsibility for cleaning and wiping down surfaces.

Richard C encouraged having a dedicated 'person or group' to liaise with external hirers on fulfilling requirements of the risk assessments (added the importance of that being agreed by trustees and acting on their behalf)

It was appreciated that in some instances these due diligence aspects can translate into further costs which the church funds cannot cope with. Emphasis should be on shared responsibility with hirers and even they cannot meet their financial obligation then the trustees would need to consider closing (that particular group or their church if the issue is widespread) so that they do not incur unmanageable costs.

Singing is not allowed at all and it was suggested to try playing a hymn or two which is not familiar to avoid the temptation on people's 'humming' gravitating towards singing. A singular voice/soloist may also serve to account for some music whilst the rest of the congregation is 'ministered to'.

Time limit of physical worship services must be considered in line with guidance.

A publicly visible 'protocol' (on do's and don't and expectations) for all users is important over and above the duly completed risk assessments.

Dawn Saunders, District Chair for the Chanel Islands joined us to share about well-being

- Reminder that there is only one Jesus, all needing to be mindful not to over exert their health and avoid the 'being Christ' to all syndrome
- Consideration of what it means to deal with own expectations, own vulnerability and those of others; for themselves and towards us
- 'A person to be rather than a job do' is an important consideration towards own well-being; quoted from the book, "Called or Collared" by Francis Dewar; another book, Jesus Wept by Vanessa Herrick & Ivan Mann;