

Dear Clergy, Lay Readers, Vestry Secretaries and Diocesan Secretaries

The Advisory Group has met this week to take stock of the Scottish Government's two-weekly review of lockdown, on which the First Minister reported to Parliament on 2 February.

The First Minister confirmed that the existing lockdown is to continue "at least until the end of February", and so there is no change in the position. (All islands in Highland, with the exception of Skye, are now within the national lockdown restrictions. A list of the small number of islands which remain in level 3 is available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/pages/protection-level-3/>)

The next fortnightly review by Government is due on 16 February and the Advisory Group will meet again at the end of that week to assess any further news.

As lockdown continues, the Advisory Group is ever-conscious of the importance of people keeping connected within local church communities. It is encouraged by the many and varied ways in which such connection is being fostered and maintained within congregations. The provincial Sunday worship offerings continue on a weekly basis and many churches are also streaming their own services. A list of those that the SEC communications team is aware of is available [here](#) at the provincial website. (The list was last updated on 30 November 2020, and is in the course of being updated at present. Any additions or amendments required should be sent to [office@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:office@scotland.anglican.org))

The Group is equally aware that there are some who are unable to connect digitally and encourages congregations in their endeavours to keep connected generally and also to continue to be mindful of those who may be feeling particularly isolated at this time. Telephone connection to provincial worship remains possible and anyone who would like details of how to access the telephone line, in order to share them with someone who needs this service, should email [AidanS@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:AidanS@scotland.anglican.org).

Kind regards  
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