



PLANNING AHEAD

It will be possible for worship services to recommence from Monday 29th June 2020 in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Please note that this is **not** an instruction for all churches to open. It is to advise that, from 29th June, individual congregations may re-open for worship at their own discretion – provided that they are able to meet the criteria set out in the resumption of congregational activities checklist. **Do not re-open** from 29th June until you can guarantee that the requisite criteria will be met.

A FIRST WORD, NOT THE LAST WORD

Expect the situation to evolve, so be prepared to pay attention to further advice and instruction from government, the denomination and insurance companies. Do not act against their advice or regulations as this puts the congregation at significant risk in terms of liability. Nothing in this summary can be taken to supersede official advice and policy.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Many of the practical issues outlined in this document can and should be delegated to congregational committees and other key leaders. However, it remains the responsibility of the kirk session/church committee to take the decisions; exercising due diligence and utilizing the best, up-to-date guidance available from government, statutory agencies, insurers and the denomination in the process.

Be sure to inform your insurer of your intention to recommence activities and take cognisance of any advice or instruction provided by them.

The circumstances of each congregation will be different and they will come to a variety of decisions about what activities to recommence and how quickly.