

# COVID Guidance 2021 for Religious Festivals

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This document collates the national guidance around places of worship and religious festivals occurring in the spring of 2021. This will support religious leaders with access to the guidance for themselves and their congregations to assist them in celebrating these festivals in a meaningful way but also ensuring adherence to the national COVID-19 guidance to minimise the risk of transmission. This guidance was developed together with faith leaders across denominations in Luton.

The links below aim to answer the majority of the questions surrounding the celebrating of religious festivals in the current COVID climate.

## Important dates:

Religious Festival	Dates
<a href="#">Easter:</a>	
Palm Sunday	28 March
Maundy	1 April
Good Friday	2 April
Easter Sunday	4 April
Bank Holiday Monday	5 April
<a href="#">Passover:</a>	28 March to 4 April
<a href="#">Ramadan:</a>	12 April (approx) to 12 May (approx)
<a href="#">Eid:</a>	13 May (approx.)

## Guidance on managing festivals:

- [National guidance on places of worship](#)
- [Church of England: COVID-19 Advice for Services during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter](#)
- [Catholic Church: Guidance for Holy Week 2021](#)
- [United Synagogue: coronavirus update](#)
- [Muslim Council of Great Britain – Ramadan guidance](#)
- [Luton Council](#) have produced specific Guidance for Mosques

## General guidance for places of worship

- Places of worship should adapt religious services, especially where ceremonies would otherwise have taken place over a number of hours or days, to ensure the safety of those present and minimise spread of infection.

- It is advised that the ceremonies and services should be concluded in the shortest reasonable time.
- It is recommended that, where possible, places of worship continue to stream worship or other events to avoid large gatherings and to continue to reach those individuals who are self-isolating or particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Communal worship or prayer can be attended by as many people as the place of worship can safely accommodate, in a way which complies with COVID-19 secure guidance and the law.
- People from different households (or support bubbles) must not mix when participating in communal worship.
- Remove communal resources such as prayer mats or prayer books. Single use alternatives should be removed after use and disposed of by the worshipper.
- Speak into a microphone to lead devotions or sermons to avoid shouting. Avoid sharing microphones between different speakers.
- Singing should be limited to one person wherever possible. Exceptionally, where it is essential to the service, up to three individuals should be permitted to do so. Strict social distancing should be observed and the use of Plexi-glass screens should be considered to protect worshippers, and each other.
- Avoid congregational singing or audience participation in line with guidance for the performing arts.