



DIOCESE OF TRURO

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MEDIA RELEASE

PARISH INFORMATION

SWINE FLU - GUIDELINES

Clergy and parishes concerned about Swine Flu may like to consider The Department for Communities and Local Government's guidance document for faith communities, which was drawn up in conjunction with an ecumenical working group.

It is important to remember that swine flu has not as yet (1st May 2009) reached 'pandemic' level and so much of this advice, mirrors other Government documentation and is simply for information. The 28 page document is called *Faith Communities and Pandemic Flu: Guidance for faith communities and local influenza pandemic committees*:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/influenzapandemic>

There is not at present any suggestion within the above recommended advice that gathering for public worship should be suspended – though specific local circumstances may dictate otherwise

The advice we would suggest for parishes at present is that simple hygiene precautions are the most effective safeguard against spreading this type of virus. See the NHS Choices website for more details: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Pandemic-flu/Pages/Prevention.aspx>

Attention is also drawn to The House of Bishops' guidance on *Hygiene and the Chalice*
<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/houseofbishops/hygieneandthechalice.doc>

Whilst these guidelines were drawn up in 1987 in relation to AIDS, they remain current in terms of hygiene and good practice.

ENDS

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