



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

21A Grosvenor Crescent • Edinburgh • EH12 5EL • office@edinburgh.anglican.org • 0131 538 7033
Charity Number: SC001214

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

18th March 2020

Published by the Diocesan Office fortnightly, and circulated to all Clergy, Lay Readers, Treasurers & Vestry Secretaries, and Diocesan Synod Lay & Alternate Lay Representatives

NEXT EDITION: 1st April 2020

DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS



News from 21A...

Needless to say, we have had some discussions here today about how we handle the current state of uncertainty, whilst trying to keep you all supported through your own challenges. You will see 2 papers elsewhere in this edition which give the Diocesan Office's position, and then the SEC guidance from the College of Bishops. This is a huge challenge for all of us, but sharing online resources, experiences and ideas will help us through it. We will be working on how we can help you, online, over the next week or so, and James (our Communications Coordinator) is looking at how to provide audio/video resources that your congregations can access and keep everyone feeling connected. These might be archives of services recorded in the past, the Prayer Cycle or how to record and broadcast sermons etc. that would have featured in your services.

With best wishes from all of us in the office here.

NOTICES

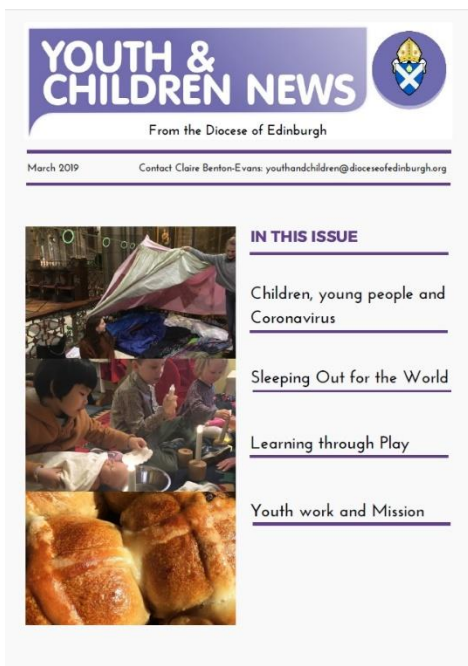
COVID-19: UPDATED GUIDANCE + HELPFUL LINKS

New, up-to-date guidance regarding the Coronavirus (COVID 19) for the Scottish Episcopal Church can be found at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>, **or in this newsletter, below our notices section.** Please familiarise yourself with this guidance to minimise risk to yourself and others. We encourage you to check this webpage frequently, to ensure you are up to date with the latest guidelines and developments of the situation.

We know that for many, a lack of contact with your church community during this time will be difficult. To help you cope with this, there are many useful websites providing advice for self-isolation and social distancing, such as [this useful guide from the mental health charity mind](#), or [this one from the Mental Health Foundation](#). We urge you to stay connected remotely to loved ones, and to continue praying for the health and wellbeing of your church community, family, and friends over the coming weeks.

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

The latest Youth & Children Newsletter is out now, featuring the latest news plus key information about how to support children and young people emotionally and spiritually in these uncertain times - you can find it [here](#).



PLEASE NOTE that I will be working from home for the foreseeable future, following new Diocesan Office guidelines. I can be contacted as usual via email or on my work mobile: 0747 372 8148

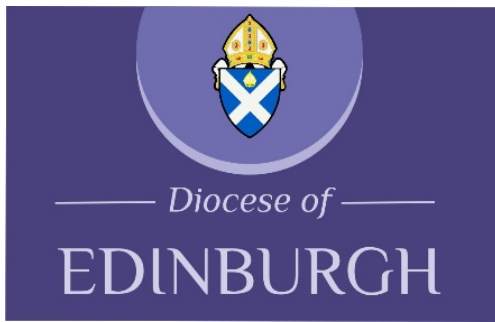
DIOCESAN SYNOD

We know that many of you were unable to attend last Saturday, so we have uploaded the presentations and videos which were shown, onto the website. There is the Bishop's Address and, under the "Agendas" section, a link to a page with all those presentations on:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-vestry-resources/resources-diocesan-office-synod/>



We will upload further materials there, which will help to continue the discussions around Future Finances.



Coronavirus - Diocesan Events & Staffing

At present there is no guidance or directive to suggest that we should close the Diocesan Office. However, we need to take steps to keep safe, so the following is how we want to proceed, to maintain as much diocesan work as we can, but to keep everyone safe.

STAFFING THE OFFICE



We want to ensure there is at least one person 'covering' the physical office each working day, at least between 10am-4pm. We will answer the phone, when the office is staffed, but we will **NOT** be answering the front door to visitors, and all appointments are being cleared from our diaries.

Some officers and staff will be working from home to a greater or lesser degree. Therefore, email is the best form of contacting us. Here is the link to the contacts page:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-staff/staff-based-at-the-diocesan-office/>

We are investigating how to remotely access our voicemail on our individual phones, so that any remote working can include checking for voice messages.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

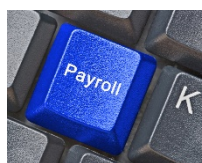


ALL committee and other meetings in the office are **CANCELLED** until the end of June, when the position will be reviewed. In addition, there are diocesan-led events which are cancelled as well. The full list is:

- 30 March Buildings Committee
- 6 April Chrism Mass, St Mary's Cathedral
- 28 April Personnel Committee
- 28 April Service of Institution for Revd Nick Wills (St Peter's, Lutton Place)
- 2 May Safeguarding Training
- 4 May Buildings Committee
- 5 May Service of Institution for Revd Andrew Taylor-Cook (Peebles & Innerleithen)

- 6 May CMD Day at St Mark's, Portobello
- 7 May Finance & Management Committee
- 13 May Monthly clergy meeting
- 14 May Standing Committee
- 1 June Buildings Committee
- 1 June Pre-Synod Dinner, The Good Shepherd
- 10 June Monthly clergy meeting
- 11-13 June General Synod
- 16 June Mission & Ministry Committee
- 30 June Finance & Management Committee

PAYROLL



Employees of all those charges which are part of the diocesan payroll service will be paid as normal, and there are backup plans in case Simon Filsell is unable to do the processing. Please make sure that you have backup plans in place to pay your clergy and employees if you are not part of this service.

SEC CORONAVIRUS ADVICE



Most of you should have seen the advice from the SEC, compiled and agreed by the College of Bishops but, in case you have not, this advice is included elsewhere in this edition of *The Communicant*. The advice covers church services, funeral arrangements, clergy & lay reader practice, online worship and financial issues.

We hope we can return to a more normal service to you before too long, but thank you for your forbearance during this extraordinary time.

SEC - CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE

To: all Clergy, Lay Readers, Vestry Secretaries and Treasurers

Coronavirus – Cessation of Church Services

The College of Bishops continues to follow closely the developing situation in relation to coronavirus. The rapidly changing picture brings about changes on an almost daily basis. The College continues to hold in its prayers the clergy and laity of the Scottish Episcopal Church and the people of Scotland and the United Kingdom as a whole.

The College expresses its thanks to everyone in the Scottish Episcopal Church for all that they are doing to adapt to current circumstances and continue in the provision of care and pastoral support. Clergy and lay readers are encouraged to be in touch with their Diocesan Bishop in connection with any matters of difficulty or concern.

At this time, the College offers further guidance as follows. It should also be emphasised that in a rapidly changing situation, the guidance that follows must be regarded as subject to any public health guidance or direction, which must take precedence.

1. Advice issued last night by the Scottish Government is to the effect that church services should cease. Consequently, the Bishops ask that all gatherings for worship, including small gatherings such as house groups, should be discontinued until further notice.
2. Church buildings can be kept open as a place for people to come and pray. However, if a church is open for private prayer, notices should be clearly displayed asking that visitors wash their hands on entry to the church.
3. The province is working on plans to make worship available online. The bishops encourage participation in the broader Eucharistic life of the church in this way and emphasise the such online involvement is a form of participation in the Eucharistic community, even though participants cannot physically partake of the bread or wine.
4. Clergy and lay leaders must feel free to self-isolate themselves when that is appropriate either to safeguard their own health or the health of others. Again, however, any member of clergy or lay leader needing to self-isolate is asked to discuss the matter with the diocesan Bishop. Where a decision to self-isolate is taken, the bishops expect congregations to be understanding and supportive. Self-isolation, except in the case of illness, does not mean that ministry and pastoral care must cease. Contact and communication can still be maintained over the telephone, by email or other electronic means.
5. The taking of funerals may give rise to specific concerns. It may simply not be possible for family relatives or friends of the deceased's to be able to attend a funeral service as usual. However, clergy can still take a funeral at the graveside or crematorium, even if those present are limited to clergy and funeral directors. Again, in cases of difficulty, bishops encourage clergy to discuss such matters with them.
6. In the light of the public health recommendation that non-essential travel should not be undertaken, it is clearly inappropriate to continue with meetings which would draw people from a wider area – such as regional gatherings. Institutions, licensings etc will need to be dealt with differently from normal, and, again, such matters should be discussed with the diocesan Bishop.
7. In some cases, where local income is dependent on regular giving through the weekly collection or giving envelopes, it is possible that congregations might encounter difficulties with cash flow. Churches are encouraged to consider alerting congregations to such potential difficulties and encouraging alternative ways of giving, for example by standing order. In cases where it is thought difficulty might arise, treasurers are encouraged to

contact their diocesan office at an early stage to discuss whether any form of support can be made available.

8. Consideration should be given to resilience planning in current circumstances. As a bare minimum, churches are asked to ensure that they have clear records for detailing those who hold keys for access to churches and halls and of the names of bank signatories and payroll officers, as well as plans on how to deal with circumstances if such individuals become ill or have to self-isolate.

The Most Rev Mark Strange
Primus

CANON 35

The approvals recently were:

- Edinburgh Christ Church – Consent to replace guttering with larger sections around the Ambulatory
- Edinburgh St Cuthbert's – Temporary Consent (Experimental) to remove pews to create a Children's Area
- Edinburgh St Fillan's – Consent to replace heating radiators in the Church Hall

For information on the Canon 35 process and other buildings resources, please visit:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-vestry-resources/resources-diocesan-office-buildings/>

EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the current circumstances, the Diocese of Edinburgh cannot guarantee that any of the events advertised in this edition of *The Communicant* will take place. It is likely that the majority will be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic, however we have not been informed of any cancellations of the following events – if you have questions, or are interested in any events, please contact the event organiser directly. We apologise for any inconvenience.



Due to retirement, WPCS is looking to recruit a National Director who will have an exciting opportunity to build on the organisation's transformative and transitional journey which ensures the continuation of its vital and relevant work in supporting and encouraging the wellbeing of our Scottish workplaces.

Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland currently provides chaplaincy services to some 2000 workplaces across Scotland. It is a Christian organisation working with all denominations and with excellent relations with most other faith groups. Every day our dedicated team of Chaplains provide spiritual and pastoral support to workers regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity or political ideology. We work with Churches, charities, emergency services, local authorities and businesses large and small. We offer an independent caring presence as well as training and guidance to build wellbeing within individuals and organisations.

This person will have a diverse range of business skills including income generation, strategic planning and ability to engage with a diverse range of workplaces and organisations to build partnerships and a sustainable future. An active Christian faith (this is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010) is required.

If you possess this right mix of skills and experience coupled with high levels of drive and enthusiasm, we look forward to receiving an application from you. For a job description and person specification please contact: info@wpcscotland.co.uk.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 20th March 2020

Bishop of Edinburgh Lent Appeal 2020

Thank you for all the nominations received.

The home charity chosen for the 2020 Lent Appeal is The Open Door and the overseas charity is Project Embabazi.



The Open Door aims to reduce isolation and loneliness by providing care, love, friendship, support, inclusion and a sense of community.

Done through social clubs and support services for older people, the community café for everyone, volunteer placements for people of varying ages and abilities, and their ever changing social groups that include; art, poetry, music and books.

Project Embabazi

Supporting Communities in Uganda

Project Embabazi is a small charity that works in SW Uganda. Funding enables development in several rural communities and makes a life-changing difference to the local people. Project Embabazi is founded on grass-roots, sustainable development for the local people and communities.



BOOK SALE

at Nicolson Square

BOOKS NEEDED!

Please donate your good-quality
2nd-hand books

*The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church,
25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh*

Our main book collections are on:

- **Friday 13 March** 1pm - 3pm
- **Sat 14 March** 10.30am - 2pm
Also a fundraising COFFEE MORNING
on this day!
- **Friday 17 April** 1pm - 3pm
- **Sat 18 April** 10am - 12 noon

The Book Sale will run from Sat 9 - Fri 15 May

The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Sq, Edinburgh, EH8 9BX
0131 662 8635 | cemc.office@gmail.com

THE EDINBURGH PASSION

"LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS"

Do you want to see churches across the city open their doors, welcoming the city in?

Cutting Edge Theatre is producing a large scale community wide project, telling the Easter story in "real time" over the Easter weekend. It aims to be 63 continuous hours of artistic expression of the story. We need your help! Here are some ways you can be involved:

1. Sign up to be one of the places of worship that opens their door for an hour of silence on the Saturday 6pm. April 11th. We are encouraging churches simply to open their doors so that people can come in and just quietly sit without worrying if they will have to do anything. It's not a service. You could put on tea/coffee. Could be for people who have been bereaved or simply for those who just want 5 minutes peace. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER - 28th February.**

2. We need people to be part of the community cast - no experience needed. Just turn up to rehearsals which are every Thursday evening, 7pm at Edinburgh Elim Church, 18 Morningside Road. EH10 4DB. **We desperately need people for this.**

3. We need volunteers to help steward at different events. People can sign up/express interest by emailing hello@edinburghpassion.com

4. There will be a number of informal walks:

- the walk to the cross on the Friday [venue to be confirmed]
- the walk to Easter Road Stadium on the Sunday

These cannot be city wide walks so we are simply encouraging groups and churches to walk to these venues.

5. VOLUNTEERS

We will need all the help we can get! People can volunteer to be part of the co-ordinating team which works on the logistics, fundraising, practical help.

6. PRAY

We really need your prayers. It is getting increasingly challenging to be able to tell the Christian story publicly. We want this to be an amazing event that is for EVERYONE!

The website is www.edinburghpassion.com

If you need more information, contact Suzanne through hello@edinburghpassion.com

STRATHALLAN AND PERTSHIRE

Strathallan School is an independent boarding and day school for boys and girls in Scotland's scenic Perthshire. Its premises are available for hire during the holidays. The school has a 150-acre campus, which includes beautiful wooded grounds and a lake.

Sir Walter Scott is said to have described Perthshire as "the fairest portion" of Scotland. You are never far away from beautiful rivers, moors, mountains and lochs. Nearby visitor attractions include Scone Palace where Macbeth and Robert the Bruce were crowned and Loch Leven and its island where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned. Loch Leven's Larder has a great view of the Loch as well as a gift shop and restaurant, while just along the road in Bridge of Earn, there's the Roost Restaurant and coffee shop.

ACCOMMODATION

We will have sole occupancy of Thornbank Boarding House, as well as rooms in other buildings for group meetings and workshops. The dance on the last night will be held in the wood-panelled Music Hall. There is ample parking in the school grounds.



In the Boarding House there are toilet and shower facilities on each floor, and washbasins in all the bedrooms, some of which are on the ground floor. While bedding is provided, **please bring your own towel**. There is a common room and kitchens where tea, coffee and biscuits will be freely available. **NB There is a side entrance to the House which is on the flat, though some steps inside. We would make every effort to accommodate any mobility needs you may have. Please discuss these with us beforehand (see contact details below.)**

TRANSPORT

Strathallan is situated about 7 miles south of the city of Perth. Directions for travelling by road can be found on the School's website: www.strathallan.co.uk There are regular buses and trains to Perth from Edinburgh, Glasgow and the North and a very limited bus service from Perth city centre to Forgandenny. There are taxis for hire at the bus or train station.

THE COST

The cost which includes the Gathering Fee, Accommodation and Full Board is **£470** for BPF members and those currently attending BPF seminars or courses, and **£490** for non-members.

£30 REDUCTION IN FEE FOR ALL BOOKINGS RECEIVED BY 1ST MAY 2020

Please see Booking Form for details. Early booking is advisable and the FULL FEE MUST BE PAID BY 12TH JUNE 2020.

In special circumstances **Bursaries** may be available. Please contact Committee members James Wilson (07885618659) or Helen Alexander (0131 346 0685) for a confidential discussion. We invite donations to our Bursary Fund.

Further details about BPF can be
found on the website www.bridgepastoral.org.uk
Scottish Committee Chairperson's details: Helen Alexander
Tel: 0131 346 0685 E-mail: hjr.alexander7@gmail.com



Bridge Pastoral Foundation

Formerly The Clinical Theology Association

Scottish Residential Gathering 2020

**THE COURAGE TO BE
Becoming Real
Becoming Aware
Becoming Creative**

with

JIM COGLEY

Psychotherapist, writer, wood-turner

**Strathallan School
Forgandenny Perthshire PH2 9EG**

3pm Monday 13th – Lunchtime Friday 17th July 2020



Discovering Medieval monastical rhythm over 52 hours in Hungary



(Through CEU & UofG student social media collaboration) PG-Student, Masters Adult Education project is coming to Hungary for a 52 hour event.

Step back in time to partake in a living history residential weekend, discover through an immersive experience Medieval monastic life.

<https://event.gg/14293>



Discovering Medieval monastical rhythm over 61 hours in Yorkshire



Step back in time to partake in a Christian living history residential weekend, discover through an immersive experience Medieval monastic life.

Living Faith - Living Communities - Living Creatively - Living History

<https://event.gg/14338>

SPEND 3 MONTHS IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS



**NO PREVIOUS
MONITORING
EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**


**FULL TRAINING
GIVEN**

**EXPENSES
COVERED**

**LIVING
ALLOWANCE**

EAPPI provides protection by presence, monitors human rights abuses, supports local peace activists and advocates for an end to the military occupation of Palestine.

For more information visit:
www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi
Closing date: 24th April

 **EAPPI|UK & Ireland**



Haydn: Te Deum
Beethoven: Choral Fantasy
Mozart: C Minor Mass

Saturday 21st March, 7.30pm
at St Cuthbert's Church,
5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2EP

Sunday 22nd March, 7.30pm
at St Mary's Parish Church,
Haddington

Emma Morwood - *Soprano*
Ellen Mawhinney - *Soprano*
Matthew James McKinney - *Tenor*
Peter Silver - *Bass*
Richard Beauchamp - *Piano*

Stephen Doughty - *Conductor*

Tickets available from:
Choir members; Kesley's Bookshop,
Haddington; Garleton Singers website,
or at the door
adults £14, students £8,
school children £3

www.garletonsingers.co.uk

Scottish Registered Charity SC002500

Saturday

The Edinburgh Easter Play 2020

"The
quintessential
one-off theatre
event"

The Scotsman

Free &
unticketed

Saturday
11th April, 2pm

Princes St Gardens West

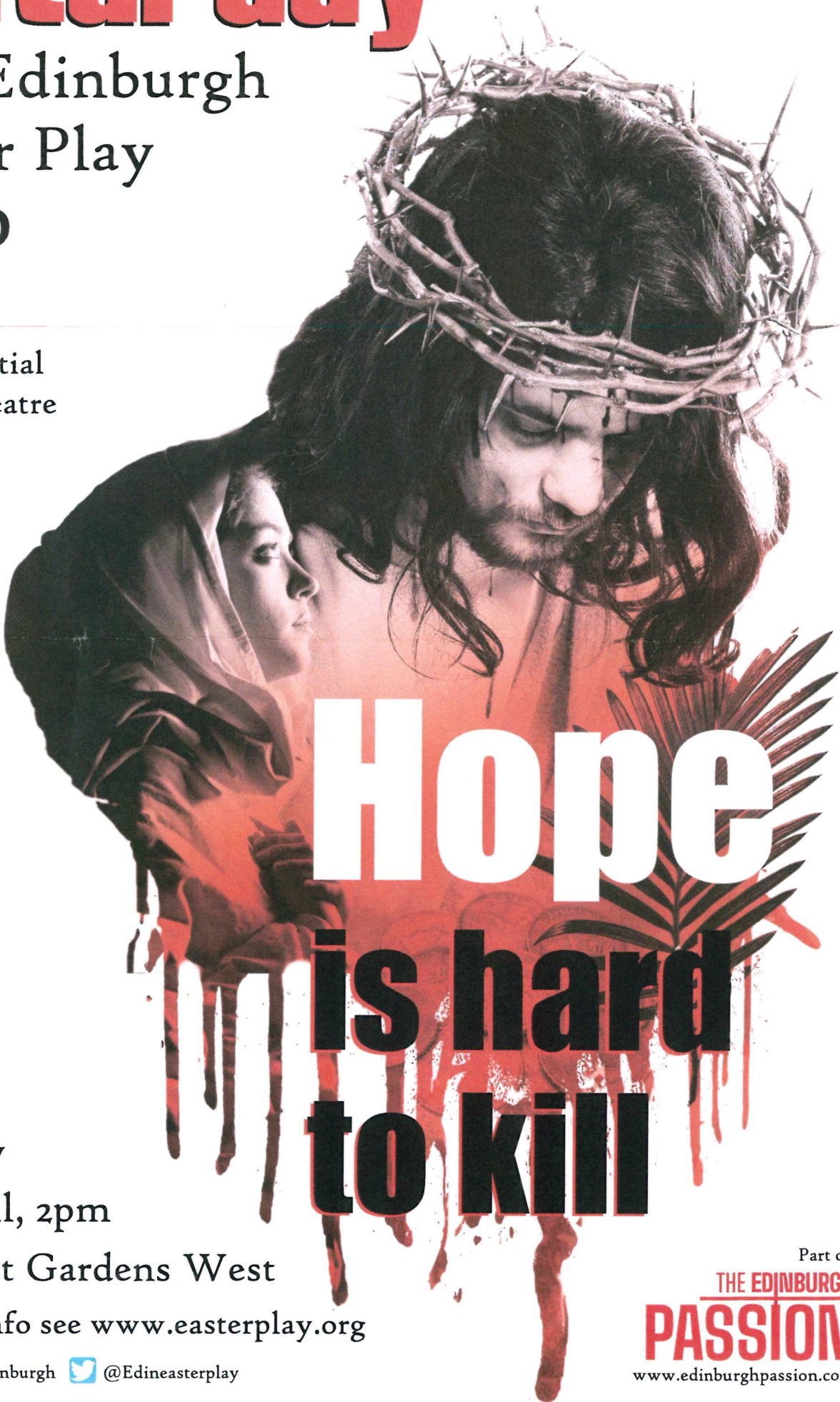
For more info see www.easterplay.org



Easter Play Edinburgh



@Edineasterplay



Hope is hard to kill

Princes Street Easter Play Trust Reg Charity SC 035933

Part of

THE EDINBURGH
PASSION

www.edinburghpassion.com

St Margaret's Church, Easter Road



The Bible and History - a five-week Lent course

Mondays at 7pm from March 2nd

Revd Colin Hodgetts MBE

To what extent is the Bible a historical document?

If people and events are not historical what are they?

The **historicity of the Bible** is the question of the Bible's "acceptability as a history". Is the Christian New Testament an accurate record of the historical Jesus and the Apostolic Age?

We will examine the importance ascribed to events by the authors, and the contrast between the descriptions of these events and other historical evidence.

"Archaeological discoveries since the 19th century are open to interpretation, but largely do not lend any support for the Old Testament's narratives as history, and offer evidence that some stories are mythical." (Wikipedia)

In the 1970s Colin Hodgetts was chaplain/warden of the Othona Community, Essex, where he led an exploration of forms of worship that resulted in *Exploring Worship – a group study guide* (Mowbrays)

Since the 1980s he has run many Lent and Advent courses in the diocese of Exeter.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

Mental health awareness, what it is and how important it is

Understanding depression, being able to spot the signs and symptoms and how to support someone

Understanding anxiety disorders, how to help someone having a panic attack

How to spot the signs in someone's speech, mood and behaviour that may indicate someone may be suicidal and how to approach them

How to help someone who is self-harming

How to have positive mental health

Facilitated by Mark Fleming

Mark is a fully qualified NHS Scotland trainer in Mental Health First Aid. He is an official supplier of this training to NHS Scotland, the SPFL Trust and Scottish Rugby Union.

He has also delivered mental health awareness training to many church groups, drawing on his 26 years experience as a church minister.

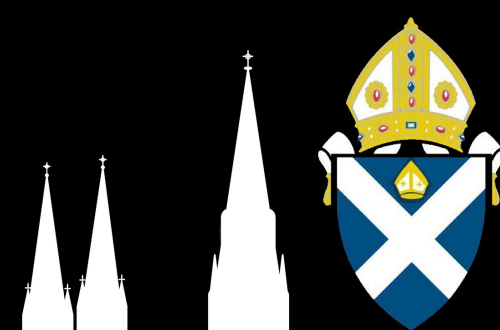
**Tuesday 9 June,
10am-4pm**

St Mary's Cathedral, Walpole Hall

Lunch will be provided – please let us know of any dietary needs.

Booking essential
rosemary@cathedral.net

Jointly sponsored by St Mary's Cathedral
and the Diocese of Edinburgh





Foundation Grants for Maintenance

The Foundation Grant Programme is open. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis commencing at the end of January 2020. The final opportunity to submit an application will be 30 October 2020.

The Foundation Grant Programme will offer grants of between £500 and £5,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection or Survey Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should be up to £10,000 excl. VAT and awards will never exceed 50% of the costs. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis from the start of 2020.

Please do watch our video about our Foundation Grant Programme:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/foundationgrants>

On that page you will also find a link to review the full eligibility criteria, guidance notes and the online application form.



Ways of Praying Course

21st May to 18th June 2020

This short course explores prayer for anyone seeking a prayer life that touches the inner core based on an awareness of self in relationship with God

We meet weekly 7.30pm until 9.30pm at St Salvador's, 61 Saughton Mains Street, Edinburgh, EH11 3QX (see website for directions) from Thursday 21st May to 18th June. Come to one or all the sessions

There is no charge for the course but there will be an opportunity to donate.

Numbers are limited so please sign up as soon as you can.
Facilitated by Sharon Laidlaw and Duncan Hughes of the Epiphany Group.

For further details and to book: dghughesssc@gmail.com

Help us to secure our future



The Mission to Seafarers provides help and support to the 1.5 million crewmen and women who face danger every day to keep our global economy afloat and provide all of us with goods which we use in our everyday lives, often not understanding the journey they took to arrive.

The Mission to Seafarers Scotland works throughout Scotland, caring for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs, through one full-time Chaplain and a band of ship-visiting

volunteers, providing them with practical, emotional and spiritual support.

We rely almost entirely on individual donations and periodic grants to carry out this support to our seafarers, but the reliance on this means it is very difficult to plan our work, from year to year. This is why we have launched the “**R U 1 in a 1000?**” campaign.

We are looking to build up 1,000 supporters, pledging just £10 per month. If we can achieve that, the future of our work will be both secure and sustainable for years to come. We know that many people have limited incomes but, **next time you buy a banana from a supermarket, or a shirt from a clothes shop, pause and think of the crewmen and women who helped to bring them across the seas to our shores.** Your £10 will bring them a supportive chaplain to talk to, who is not from their employer, it will help them call their loved ones back home, it will give them time off ship in our Seafarer’s Centre or a taxi ride into the nearest town. Welcome relief when you have been in the middle of the ocean for weeks at a time.

For more information, visit: <http://www.mtss.scot>



REFRESH FAMILY RETREAT

SAT 1ST AUGUST
—
WEDS 5TH AUGUST

Our all-inclusive four-night break with activities for whole family! Disconnect from technology, connect with each other and meet like-minded families.

What's included?

- 4 nights accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Space to unwind
- Age-specific devotional times
- Family-friendly activity programme

For more information visit
rockuk.org/centres/whithaugh-park/refresh-family-retreat/



From **£50** pp - **£149** pp,
depending on age.

Prices are based on shared lodges. Private lodges are available, please get in touch for a price.

HOW TO BOOK

Simply call us on **013873 75394** or email whithaugh@rockuk.org or make a booking enquiry online.





Responding to the Sacred: Gender & Liturgy in Conversation

A two day conference bringing together liturgists and theologians, activists and academics to discuss directions for liturgical revision.

Speakers include Dr Bridget Nichols, Professor Lisa Isherwood, Dr Bill Paterson and Dr Armand Léon Van Ommen.

12pm Friday 29th - 4pm Saturday
30th May

Iris Murdoch Suite
University of Stirling

For more information and to
purchase tickets visit:

[www.genderandliturgyconference.
eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.genderandliturgyconference.eventbrite.co.uk)



For various reasons, *The Scottish Association of Retired Anglican Clergy* (SARAC) is not as widely known as it might be and the purpose of this article is to highlight some of the aims of SARAC. SARAC is open to all retired clergy, stipendiary and non-stipendiary. Promoting fellowship among retired clergy has been a primary aim of SARAC since its foundation in 2009. This has proved to be a much-valued feature of our life as a welcoming association. Prayer is our beating heart.

- SARAC offers prayerful fellowship
- SARAC offers support and encouragement
- SARAC offers intellectual and spiritual stimulus
- SARAC offers social interaction and activity
- SARAC offers resources to the Church at large

SARAC *Occasional Papers*, which are published to the membership regularly, provide the intellectual stimulus and enlightenment that can inform our preaching and pastoral ministry. A recent example was written specially for SARAC by Bishop Anne, with the benefit of her considerable knowledge of art and well-known paintings.

For spiritual support, our annual Residential Retreat at Kinnoull Monastery in Perth, with its beautiful surroundings and space for quiet meditation, offers a haven of renewal and refreshment within a liturgical framework. And, the pleasant accommodation is superbly complemented by the wonderful and plentiful food!

Social activity does not play a huge part in the life of SARAC, but such outings as have been enjoyed have taken us to Pitlochry for some old favourites of theatrical comedy and a hearty meal together at the Festival Theatre.

As can no doubt be imagined, within the fellowship of SARAC there is a wealth of knowledge and experience across the membership. This represents a true cornucopia of resources for a wide range of projects within the SEC which is there for the asking throughout the Province. Our President is the Primus (Most Rev Mark Strange) and he has recently undertaken to share within the College of Bishops his appreciation of the value and potential of this “human resource”.

I will gladly send a copy of our *Introductory Leaflet* to anyone who would like to know more, and will reply to any comments, enquiries or requests sent to me.

Kenneth D. Gordon

Chairman of SARAC

Email: canon.kennethgordon@gmail.com

Tel: 01330 810260

Mob: 07715 169548

Local contact Bill Elliot

BillE157@aol.com

0131 663 1369

To all Scottish church leaders.

We appreciate the interest many folk have taken in Street Pastors. To keep you up to speed this is an update and an invitation.



Update on developments

Areas : there are now over 650 Street Pastors operating in many towns and all cities except Dundee. The latest groups being set up this year are in Forres and Caithness with several other areas actively considering the possibility. Currently there are more requests from local authorities and police than we are able to fulfil.

Safe Spaces : some areas now work in partnership with other agencies to provide safe spaces, particularly at the office party season

Schools : some schools have school pastors operating, while other secondary schools have Street Pastors speaking to senior pupils about safety on the streets, tying in with schools' increasingly important health and wellbeing programme.

Rail : currently rail pastors operate in 4 lines

Major incidents : some 70 Street Pastors have had additional training to be available to be called out by emergency services as has happened at Grenfell Tower, Manchester arena, etc.

CEO : Chris Jewell has been appointed to succeed Sandy Scrimgeour who retires on 31 March.



We hear that some people think that Street Pastors drain resources from local congregations. Far from detracting from local congregations, Street Pastors work in partnership with them, providing training and experience which is of great value in the ongoing life and work of congregations. It is infectious operational in-service, teaching us to listen, help and care, and depend on God in prayer. The people we meet are the same shop assistants, tradesmen, professionals with whom Christians have contact 24x7 ! It helps praying folk realise that while mission is global it is also local!

And an INVITATION from Street Pastors



SC041912

Caring
Listening
Helping

We wish to invite members of your church to come out as observers - just contact your local Street Pastor group direct or "admin@ascensiontrustscotland.co.uk". Even if they do not wish to become Street Pastors it will help folk to pray for us.

With prayerful good wishes

Sandy

Sandy Gunn
Director, Street Pastors Scotland
12 Cornhill Road, Perth PH1 1LR
sandygunn@btinternet.com