



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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Charity Number: SC001214

The Communicant

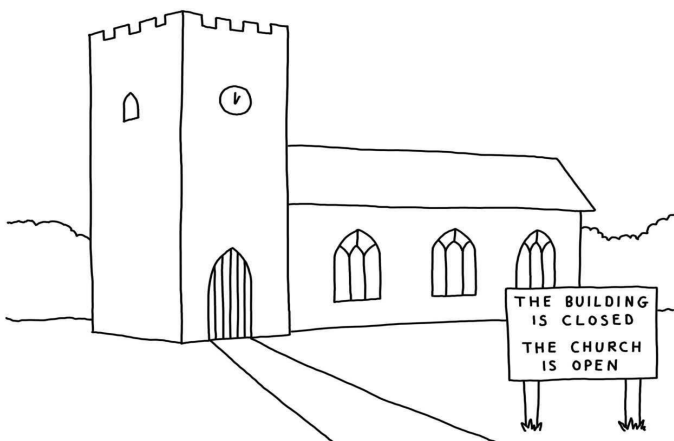
News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

1st April 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: 15th April 2020

DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS



CartoonChurch.com

This cartoon is free to reuse online, in emails or in print. See <http://cartoonchurch.com/content/cc/church-building-closed/> for the high-resolution file.

The title of this publication seems more pertinent at the moment than ever. As we all try to find ways of keeping connected whilst physically remote, we hope that this edition provides you with both a sense of wider connection, but also some thoughts on how to keep our individual communities connected. Those of us who work at the Diocesan Office are working remotely, in our own homes, but keeping very much connected with our work and with each other. Voicemail is set up on the main office number, and is being checked remotely, but only periodically. The best way to contact us is by email, and you can find all those contact details here:

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

Although the meetings/visits cannot happen at the moment, all other work is carrying on as best we can. Later in this issue you will see some of the ways congregations in the diocese are trying to keep their work going, and staying connected as a community. A number of them are not using technology, either. Becky has kindly collated these, and you may see some ideas you can use yourself. All our congregations are still very much in our thoughts and we remain, as always, here to help and support you.

STAFFING

We are very pleased to let you know that **David Lewis** started on Monday as our new Admin Assistant (Finance & Management), replacing Rhiannon Spiers. This was all agreed before our lockdown, so he starts in very strange times. However, instead of starting at the planned 15 hours per week, he will be helping us with 7 hours per week until things return to some degree of normality, and thank you to David for being understanding. His contact details are now on the website via the link above. Welcome David!



GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND



Last night, I had a video conference with my opposite number in our Partner Diocese of Dunedin, Andrew Metcalfe, plus Bishop Stephen's PA, Nicola Wong, and John Graveston their Child Youth & Family Educator. They are facing exactly the same challenges as we are with the Coronavirus and there was a genuine

feeling of connection, even across the other side of the world. They specifically asked me to let everyone in Edinburgh Diocese know that Bishop Stephen, Andrew, Nicola and John are all holding us in their thoughts and prayers.

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/>. 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.

The next edition of the newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Institute is now available and may be viewed from the SEI webpage. Here is the link:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-newsletter/>

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

I have been reviewing and selecting some of the best ideas out there for this time of crisis: to help you connect with children and young people from your church, and nurture faith at home with the family. I encourage you to check the [Youth & Children page](#) of the Diocesan website regularly, featuring:

- A guide to protecting young people's mental health
- Advice about safeguarding online
- Creative ideas for praying and exploring the Bible with children at home
- Music resources from Fischy Music
- Things to do outdoors, for fun and faith
- Fun activities

I will also be updating a list of innovative things churches are doing to stay in touch with their children and young people at this time. Let's inspire each other! Please send your bright ideas to youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org

The latest Youth & Children Newsletter, featuring the latest news plus key information about how to support children and young people emotionally and spiritually in these uncertain times, can be found [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

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

FROM THE BISHOP

I have had a number of enquiries about the Lent Appeal. The short answer is that it will continue until Easter and I would ask you to send any money gathered to the Diocesan Office as usual*. The harsh reality, of course, is that present circumstances mean many people will not be able to give as generously as usual and that gathering and sending the contributions will be challenging.

Charities are suffering at the moment and the two charities we are supporting this year desperately need money to continue their work. In both cases, although in different ways, this work is vital for the post-pandemic world. So I would ask you to do all you can to encourage members to give as generously as possible. I propose that we set a payment deadline for the end of August by which time, let us hope, many of the present restrictions will have been relaxed.

That will mark the end of this year's appeal. I do not believe it is helpful simply to postpone it until 2021. Next year will bring new challenges.

** - It would help greatly, whilst the Diocesan Office is not staffed, if you could pay online rather than posting cheques to the office - though we realise this may not be feasible for some. If you can pay by BACS with your online banking, please use the reference "BLA2020". Here are our bank details:*

*Reliance Bank Ltd
Sort Code: 60-01-73
Edinburgh Diocesan Synod
Account No: 00215170*

STAYING CONNECTED

During these challenging times, we've put together some things we've been told by some of our congregations - we hope you might pick up a few ideas from others, but do let Becky (administration@dioceseofedinburgh.org) know if there are any successes we've not been told about. It is hugely inspiring and heartwarming to read about how you've all been dealing with the current situation! Here's what we have so far:

CHURCH MAGAZINES AND NOTICES

- *"Those that can be reached by email are welcoming our Newsletter that way and Dean and I have managed to drop in a paper copy to those that are not tech savvy."* (Edinburgh, Good Shepherd)
- *"I circulate our weekly pew sheet by email & encourage people to give copies to others."* (Caroline Douglas-Home, Coldstream St Mary and All Souls)
- *"The Vestry Secretary is converting the Christ Church website into one that can be useful to the three BECG churches. Helen Page has produced an excellent double-size Newsletter too."* (Duns, Christ Church)

WORSHIP

- *"The Berwickshire Group of Churches has used Zoom for people to join in Morning Prayer at 10am and Compline at 6pm. And last week's service from Christ Church, Duns was 'Zoomed' all thanks to Peter Estibeiro." "Our Rector is Zooming a service every Sunday morning at 10.45am. All those online have the joining ID." "By the Sunday 22 March the first BECG Zoom church service took place and by Sunday 29 March its virtual congregation had risen to thirty-two complete with music."* (Berwickshire Charges Eyemouth, Coldstream, and Duns)
- *"Nicki produced and arranged for every member of the congregation to receive a letter with a prayer card to use at noon each day and notes to give their neighbours offering practical/ spiritual help, also with a prayer on it. Our usual service sheet complete with words of hymns, intercessions and reflection is sent out using email or post each week. Morning Prayer is going to be said by Nicki at 9am daily using Zoom. The Rest & Return prayer group meet each Wednesday at 7.30pm using Zoom."* (Colinton, St Cuthbert's)

GENERAL

- *"A member of our congregation is a curator at the Modern Gallery and she has been conducting some online Gallery talks which many have found really interesting and something to take our minds off things for a brief while."* (Edinburgh, Good Shepherd)
- *"Dean himself has been taking pictures of the church and other local vistas to add to our website and other members have been posting pictures of the church garden as they have been passing to get shopping"* (Edinburgh, Good Shepherd)
- *"the CofS Minister uses Zoom for our ecumenical Lent Study Group on a Wednesday morning."* (Eyemouth, St Ebba's)
- *"There is a considerable amount of 'buddying' happening..."* (Coldstream, St Mary and All Souls)
- *"Telephone ministry - a team has been set up and is calling every member of the congregation, checking up on their situation. If needed, calls are repeated weekly."* (Colinton, St Cuthbert's)
- *"Megan and her team delivered flowers to members of the congregation on Mothering Sunday."* (Colinton, St Cuthbert's)
- *"The Shalom Group is sending out resources and reflections for their usual monthly meetings."* (Colinton, St Cuthbert's)
- *"Plans are in place for virtual coffee mornings." "The organist Paul Starkey is developing online music and YouTube resources."* (Duns, Christ Church)
- *"All Vestry members had embraced Zoom and held their first Vestry virtual meeting on 23 March."* (Duns, Christ Church)

YOUR EVENTS AND NEWS

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the current circumstances, we have decided to omit the flyers we had previously been featuring which advertised any event up until June. We have made the assumption that, following government regulations, gatherings planned for within the next three months will have been postponed. We have opted to continue featuring advertisements for events after this time.

We trust that you will understand this. If you have any questions, do visit the event website or get in touch with the organiser directly.



Support for Faith Communities

William Grant Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund and ourselves in Faith in Community Scotland have created a rapid response fund so that Scotland's faith group network can support people to maintain safe connections with loved ones during covid19. Please share as appropriate – info and application form on our website, and on our FB/Twitter feeds (@ficscotland)

<https://www.faithincommunity.scot/covid19info>

Let our care homes know we are thinking of them

It is important to keep the residents and staff in our care homes in our thoughts as well as our NHS staff. They provide so much great care and particularly in the current circumstances. Many residents will be confined to their rooms so do not see other residents and neither will they be able to have visitors who will also be feeling isolated from their family member or friend.

Could you send a card to your local care home so they know they are being thought about?

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.

Dear All

We invite you on the 2nd of April to join us live on the Edinburgh Interfaith Facebook page from 7pm as we ask for people to pray collectively across the country and nations of the world for Protection from Covid 19.

Location: Wherever you are, or whatever your beliefs or tradition we invite you to recite your prayers at the same time.

We will be going live from 6.50pm.

Please forward to all of your contacts so that we can maximise the amount of people joining as part of this collective prayer.

<https://www.facebook.com/ElFA.page/>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1259576404248675/>

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



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.

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**

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>

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



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