



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

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# *The Communicant*

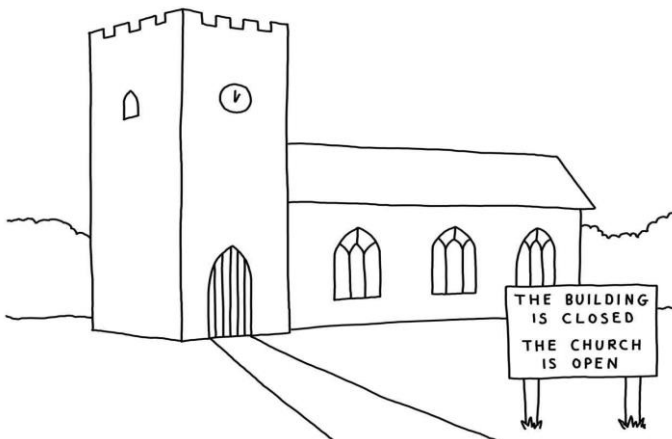
News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

15<sup>th</sup> 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:** 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

## NEWS FROM 21A...

As we continue the physical lockdown, those of us who would normally be in the office are still being kept busy with diocesan business. The Diocesan Buildings Committee 'met' to deal with a few property matters, Lent videos were produced, contact with Youth Workers continues to enable ideas to be exchanged about keeping our young people connected through the church communities and there has been quite an amount of re-working of Bishop John's diary to do. All of you in our congregations remain very much in our thoughts though and Ian Lawson, our Diocesan Treasurer, is keeping a close eye on financial matters so that any help and support that might be needed is known about.



## VESTRY MEETINGS

**OSCR**  
Scottish Charity Regulator

Some advice we have been notified of by OSCR:

*"where a charity's governing document does not give the trustees power to hold meetings over the phone or using digital solutions, they will be understanding about such a departure in the current circumstances, but **trustees should record their decision to hold a 'virtual' meeting** in order to demonstrate good governance."*

[Source: OSCR, 30 March]

## THE DEAN

.....is now on Sabbatical and will not be accessing emails until Monday 29 June 2020. Whilst she is away, any urgent matters can be directed via Sam Campbell, her PA, at [BishopsPA@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:BishopsPA@dioceseofedinburgh.org).



## A MESSAGE FROM +JOHN

Happy Easter to all readers of the Communicant. I know there is a lot of resourcefulness in the diocese and this means that the life of our churches continues even amongst isolation and distancing. I hope, therefore, that although this Easter has been different from any other yet you will have found ways of celebrating that Jesus Christ is risen indeed! Every day at the moment gives reasons for gratitude – and it's important to find ways of expressing that gratitude. So may I take this opportunity to thank you for all you are doing to keep the light of Christ shining in the darkness of fear, illness and loneliness. And although it seems the lock-down will continue for some time yet I look forward eagerly to the time when we shall see each other once again.

+John

## NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Canon John Armson**, Principal of Coates Hall from 1982-89 and a Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, died early on Easter Sunday morning. He was well known in the SEC and very influential on almost a decade of Scottish ordinands.

Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

**The Revd Hilary Naish's funeral** will take place at Mortonhall on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, at 4.30pm. Although we cannot be there I ask for your prayers both for Hilary and for her family – a distressing time anyway, all the more so in this time of isolation.

### 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.

## 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](mailto: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

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Digital communication has become more important than ever in this time of pandemic. Much of what we do has had to move into the digital sphere, with many of our churches live streaming and recording their services in a variety of different ways.

Over the past few weeks I have been working closely with Aidan Strange (Provincial Digital Communications Coordinator), Sandra Brindley (Provincial Communications Administrator) and Petko Marinov (Glasgow & Galloway Digital Missioner) to help produce the provincial broadcast services. The output from this work has been largely positive, with weekly services (and more during Holy Week!) being broadcast on a Sunday on the Provincial Facebook and YouTube pages. The current plan is that these weekly services will be continuing for the foreseeable future, although please keep an eye on our Social Media pages for updates.

I have also been working with Bishop John to set him up with a Facebook page. His page is now active, and he will be posting updates and reflections. I will be helping John run the page, which will include monitoring the page and helping upload and administer content. His page can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/bishopedin/>.

In addition to this work, I am here to help with any digital questions you may have. I have set up a resources page, which includes digital tips and resources for praying at home (<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/coronavirus-resources/>), however if you would like to arrange a call to discuss specific needs/questions please drop me an email at [jparsons@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:jparsons@dioceseofedinburgh.org) and we can arrange a time for a call.

 Edinburgh Diocese  
3 April at 18:58 · 🌐

The Rt Rev Andrew Swift, Bishop of Brechin, celebrates the Palm Sunday Eucharist from his home in Dundee with his family, Mary & Frances Swift. The service will begin at 11am on Sunday 5 April.  
Download the liturgy here: <https://bit.ly/palmsundayliturgy>



👍 8

4 shares

 Edinburgh Diocese  
12 April at 10:45 · 🌐

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Click below to watch Bishop John's Easter Day Sermon



631 Views

**Bishop John Armes**

Published by James Parsons [?] · 12 April at 10:43 · 🌐

👍 Like Page

"The risen Christ has not only walked by our side but his suffering with us, in intensive care unit and grieving home, gives us cause today and every day, to cry, with all those other isolated souls scattered around our nation, 'Hallelujah! Christ is risen!'"

# 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

Continuing from our last issue, here are a few promising examples of how our congregations have been staying connected – some Easter positivity in these trying times!

## 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)
- *"The website gives a weekly Pew Sheet containing the readings, and intercessions, together with a reflection on the week's text by our Rector Christine or our Curate Peter. This pew sheet is sent out by email. A paper copy is sent by snail mail to those not online. It is also available on Facebook and the website."* (Bathgate, St Columba's)

## WORSHIP

- *"The Berwickshire Group of Churches has used Zoom for people to join in Morning Prayer at 10am and Compline at 6pm. [...] Our Rector is Zooming a service every Sunday morning at 10.45am. [...] By 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 [and] the Rest & Return prayer group meet each Wednesday at 7.30pm using Zoom."* (Colinton, St Cuthbert's)
- *"We are holding joint Sunday services with St Peter's, Linlithgow via Zoom."* (Bathgate, St Columba'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)
- "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)
- "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)
- "Stephen is meeting the challenge extremely well with the help of modern technology. Our last Vestry meeting was carried out with the help of Zoom as teleconferencing platform, and he also posted 2 videos for Maundy Thursday on our Facebook page, amongst other things." (The Church of the Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains)
- "We have set up a WhatsApp group which is proving to be a very popular way of keeping in touch with each other." (Bathgate, St Columba's)

**Do you know of any success stories or lockdown 'heroes' we haven't mentioned yet?  
Please do let us know at [administration@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:administration@dioceseofedinburgh.org).**

Equally if you're inspired by something you've seen here and you'd like some help setting it up with your own congregation don't hesitate to be in touch!



# EVENTS

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to the current circumstances, we have decided to omit the flyers we had previously been featuring which advertised events around our diocese. If you have any questions, please contact [office@edinburgh.anglican.org](mailto:office@edinburgh.anglican.org) – we thank you for your understanding at this time.