



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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Charity Number: SC001214

The Communicant

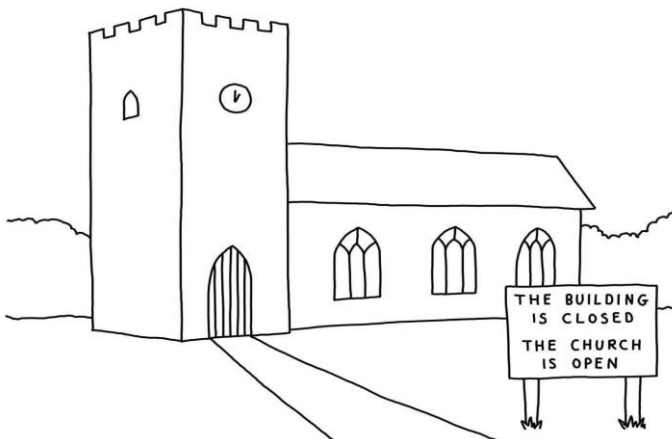
News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

29th 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: 13th May 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... IN ISOLATION!

Although all of us have been away from the office, working in our own homes, the work of the Diocesan Office continues, with Canon 35 applications being processed, the Standing Committee meeting via Zoom, preparation of risk assessments for working safely online with The Youth, Bishop's correspondence, monitoring the Dean's inbox whilst she is on sabbatical, assistance with the Provincial broadcasts – which had 16,500 viewers in Holy Week – and much more. As ever, **we are still 'here' to serve you and your congregations** as best we can, even though we don't have access to all of our physical office resources.



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

VESTRY MEETINGS



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.



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.

Further into this edition, you will find a list of useful resources put together by David Lewis, which we hope will assist you in continuing your worship and communication as a church.

The Church of England has issued comprehensive advice (which it is keeping updated) on Securing and caring for your church buildings during the Covid-19 pandemic. While some of it is obviously specific to the Church of England, it may also be of interest to SEC congregations. Here is the link:

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Caring for church buildings during the pandemic - advice for parishes v.3.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Caring%20for%20church%20buildings%20during%20the%20pandemic%20-%20advice%20for%20parishes%20v.3.pdf)

DIARY

Wed 29 April - **Standing Committee meets today 4pm**

Due to the current situation, we have had to postpone all Diocesan gatherings and events until further notice. We thank you for your patience, and will provide updates when possible on this matter.

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

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 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.

Please help the diocesan office and forward your donation directly to your church or treasurer and not to the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod account details below. This is because it hugely increases the accounting work at the office and, in addition, no Gift Aid can be claimed on donations from individuals

* **Notice for treasurers only-** 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:

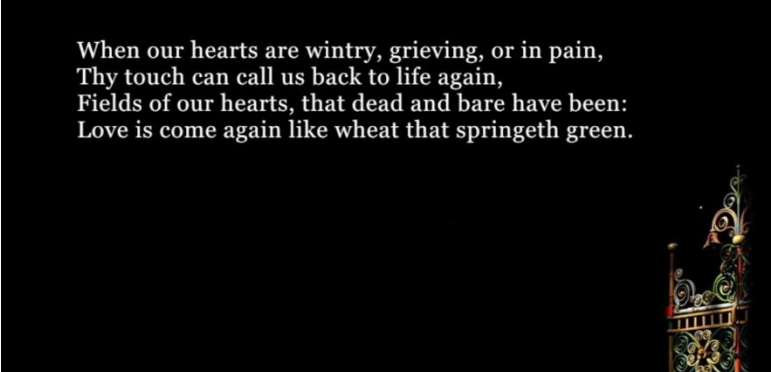
Reliance Bank Ltd
Sort Code: 60-01-73
Edinburgh Diocesan Synod
Account No: 00215170

STAYING CONNECTED

While currently we find ourselves exiled from our church buildings, various churches in our Diocese and further afield have been finding ways to take their worship and meetings online. In these unprecedented (there's that word again!) times we are all having to learn new ways of keeping our church communities united in prayer and fellowship. This learning curve can be steep, but by sharing our knowledge and experiences we can adapt our church for the better and, once this crisis is over, hopefully we can incorporate much of this into our post-covid church lives. Below I've provided a basic guide to the most commonly used ways of moving worship and other events online, and collated various resources that might be helpful in creating your own online offerings.

Broadly the ways of creating online worship content fall into four categories: pre-recorded videos, live-streamed videos, live video chats and combined musical recordings. Each has its own benefits and shortcomings, so I'd encourage any church wishing to increase the reach and impact of its continuing worship to experiment with different methods – bearing in mind

that some worshippers could respond better to a more formulaic or passive worship style and others a more spontaneous, involved one! These techniques are by no means restricted to being used for worship – they can also be used for announcements, meetings, discussion groups and lectures, and informal social media updates.



When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

A hymn from a pre-recorded service (St Mary's Cathedral)

on a video sharing website like YouTube or a social media website like Facebook. Links to these can be put on a church's website. Because it is not posted instantaneously it can be edited as much or as little as desired, including cuts between different videos and images, and video editing software (for example Hitfilm Express or ShortCut) will allow you to add captions to follow. A pre-recorded video is effectively 'disconnected' from the viewing worshippers, although it can be hosted at a specific time on Facebook as a 'watch party', to allow a bit more interaction between the church community. It is even possible to record live video chats (see below) and include them in such a video. Below I've put two examples of this – one in a worship context and one being used for notices to a church community.

'Ps & Gs Online' from Ps & Gs Church (St Paul's & St George's, Edinburgh)

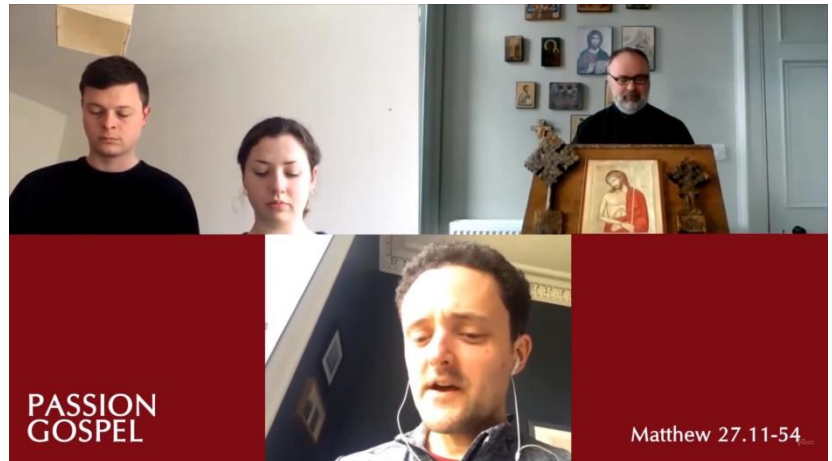
<https://www.facebook.com/psandgs/videos/218628586097288/>

An update from the Rector of Melrose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8lYquIjDlw&t=301s>

Live-streamed videos: This option allows video to be recorded and broadcast instantaneously, from a phone or (for better quality) a camera linked to a computer. Live streams can be hosted on both YouTube and Facebook, and have the advantage of immediacy with those watching at home, who can post comments as the video goes along. Advanced users might even include some pre-recorded material, such as music, readings or prayers. Streams can also be left online after the fact to be viewed by anyone who missed the live broadcast.

Mass for Palm Sunday, live-streamed from Old St Paul's, Edinburgh



A video chat incorporated into a live broadcast (Old St Paul's, Edinburgh)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvrTG6xaO-E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3VTjC-lk0ejr2eik_Qq6ECheilqGrGAZ5vnRxFb4TzpvASAS0PhYXwwFM

Live video chats: In this option everyone participating in the service or event – by presiding, hosting **or simply watching** – can be seen by each other. As such it is the only option that allows direct interaction between participants and is perhaps best used for smaller, more informal services or discussion groups. Examples of software that allow this are Skype and Zoom, with Zoom achieving considerable popularity as it is geared specifically towards conferences and group meetings (and is very simple to use).



A combined recording of the worship band in a Ps & Gs service

Combined musical recordings: this is probably the most labour-intensive option available, but allows for the creation of very convincing semi-live musical performances. It works by getting multiple singers or instrumentalists to record themselves singing or playing along to a pre-recorded backing track (that they listen to on headphones!), then combining the audio of their recordings on a program like Audacity or Logic to make a convincing 'ensemble' performance. If they have recorded themselves on video these can be combined using advanced video editing software. Contrary to popular belief, this is NOT possible using Zoom or other video chat software, as the latency (delay between speech and relay) is too

slow to keep the music in time. There's an example of this incorporated into the Ps & Gs video found above but another brilliant case of a combined recording being incorporated into worship can be found here, where the choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge have used these techniques to keep their chapel services running, despite the students now being scattered across the UK!

Example – a service of readings and music from Selwyn College, Cambridge University

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ilrjpEBoco>

Keeping a sense of community is important during these trying times, so here are some more examples of how you as a diocese have been continuing to communicate and work together.

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)

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)
- *"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)
- *"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 are experimenting with a Zoom Coffee and Chat group. It takes place every Monday at 3pm."* (Bathgate, St Columba's)
- *"Flowers knitted by various members of the congregation, some of whom were coming to our 'knit and natter' group."* (Edinburgh, St Phillip's & St James')



USEFUL RESOURCES

OFFICIAL GUIDELINES, ADVICE & RESOURCES

Scottish Episcopal Church Updates & Resources

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>

Diocese of Edinburgh Resources

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/coronavirus-resources/>

College of Bishops Reflection on Worship During Lockdown (Including proposed forms of Spiritual Communion)

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/college-of-bishops-reflection-on-worship-during-lockdown/>

'Everybody Welcome Online', a comprehensive guide to Online Worship (CoE)

https://www.cpas.org.uk/uploaded_media/web_upload/Everybody%20Welcome%20Online-1587722747.pdf

Digital Tools for Churches

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fYN5QWlQnA6ofCLNdUNeSMARi44anqTsEAoXu7mRwFE/preview>

HELP & HOW-TO RESOURCES

'How to live-stream your service in 4 easy steps'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhnR0hahkD0&feature=emb_logo

How to make and upload videos to YouTube from the Rector of Melrose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYLGe6aS6Zk>

Guidance on how to use Zoom safely and effectively (CoS)

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/covid-19-coronavirus-advice/using-zoom-in-the-current-climate>

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Scottish Episcopal Church Daily Prayer

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/>

Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Sunday Worship

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

Evening Prayer from Taizé

http://www.taize.fr/en_article27540.html

'Pray as you Go' – Ignatian (RC) Prayers (also available as an app)

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

BBC Daily Service

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wzfs/episodes/player>

Celtic Daily Prayer

<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/>

Church of England 'Daily Hope' phonenumber for those unable to join online worship

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/daily-hope-phone-line>

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

Edinburgh Diocese Resources for Children

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/youth-and-children/>

SUTV

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

WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

A useful guide from the charity *mind*

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/#collapse42115>

Some advice from *The Mental Health Foundation*

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

MUSIC

RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Hymn for the Day and 'Self-Service'

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/>

Hymnary.org Coronavirus Resources

[https://hymnary.org/topic/covid-](https://hymnary.org/topic/covid-19?src=banner&fbclid=IwARI GpsxpA7oXZX9fPDeqWcf0URqwHEGoyrtuUhEjEkYdYPMYVF-9VWsrwEs)

[19?src=banner&fbclid=IwARI GpsxpA7oXZX9fPDeqWcf0URqwHEGoyrtuUhEjEkYdYPMYVF-9VWsrwEs](https://hymnary.org/topic/covid-19?src=banner&fbclid=IwARI GpsxpA7oXZX9fPDeqWcf0URqwHEGoyrtuUhEjEkYdYPMYVF-9VWsrwEs)

Rudolfus Choir 'Virtual Evensong' Project

<https://www.therodolfusfoundation.org.uk/virtual-evensong>

Contemporary Psalm Settings

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzI oO0DWym8GJHIHmDEwDIg/videos>

I am gradually creating a directory of the various churches offering online worship in our diocese – if you would like to be included in this list please contact me at dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org. DL

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 that will have had to be cancelled. If you have any questions, please contact office@edinburgh.anglican.org – we thank you for your understanding at this time.

Building community in a crisis - Relational and Sustainable church during COVID19

10 April 2020

A huge felt need in COVID19 is for relationship and collective real time community. We're experiencing isolation, a lack of community and physical contact with friends and family. Through history church has been defined as the gathering of Christians. Our hope is that during COVID19 Christians can collectively meet their Comforter afresh and in turn offer comfort and hope to a dying and lonely world.

Some churches have closed their doors, unable to go online others are online but there is little or no relational aspect to church. With internet and video saturation at an all-time high and screen fatigue a genuine problem, Christians need more than a transmission of a message.

Community in a Crisis has been set up in response to COVID19. We are passionate about highly relational sustainable church online. Through *Community in a Crisis* we've been offering multi-platform online training to get churches online. The training includes - Live Streaming, Facebook Live, Zoom, pre-recorded videos or any combination. Over 350 churches have received our training and materials so far. We've run training on getting the church online by Zoom, multi-platform worship, communicating Christ through social media. For churches that need more help we have two drop-in tech sessions each week one specifically for Zoom, the second is in partnership with Church Service planner – a new website that helps you easily create online services.

We're gathering churches from all denominations across Europe to learn from each other. We the global church need to get clear on our ecclesiology and missiology of church in a pandemic that actually reflects our values not just convenience. This is a time to be united together across our continent. For in this unity – the world will know that the Father has sent his son.

Many churches across are sharing stories that God is opening a new door and have seen an increase in guests at their services. Giovanni from Italy says this "Who said that this virus was causing churches to close? By the grace of God, we're open more now than ever before" As you pause and look at the demographics of these guests. You see that the Lord is at work in beautiful, profound and moving ways. Those that were isolated BVC are now able to attend church. God is turning self-isolation on its head.

So in this mess we're in, it seems that God is at work afresh. It's no surprise really that he can turn self-isolation on its head. Jesus in his life chose self-isolation, rejection and death in exchange that we might enjoy community, acceptance and life.