



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

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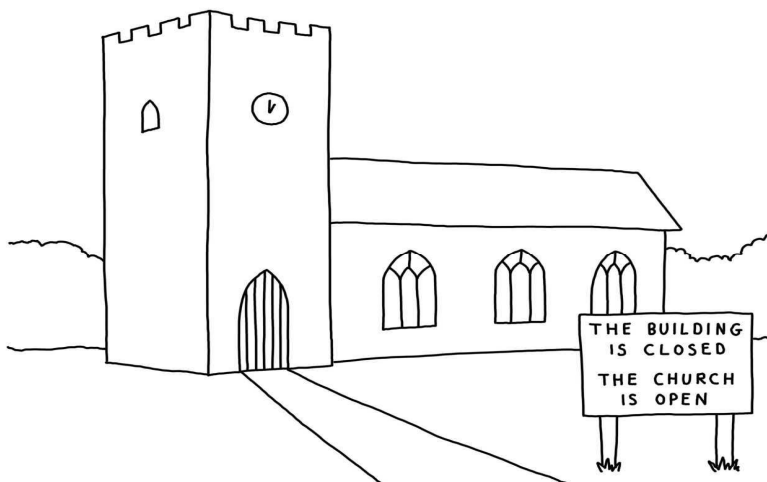
# *The Communicant*

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

10<sup>th</sup> June 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:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020



CartoonChurch.com

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# DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS

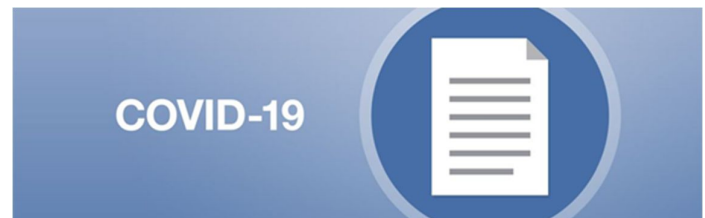
## NEWS FROM 21A

Although the time when we can re-open the office to staff is still a way off, we are working on a thorough Risk Assessment of how we would do it safely. Some close family members of 3 of our staff members work in hospital/hospice environments, so we need to be very careful. We do want to get back to 21A though, so that we have access to all the resources we need to serve you. In the meantime, we are working from our homes, but still available to help you with advice, support and resources as best we can.

The Buildings Committee, Finance & Management Committee and the Standing Committee have all met recently, successfully using Zoom Video Conferencing. A slightly surreal environment, when we have been used to face-to-face meetings, but it shows that good business can still be transacted. The Standing Committee signed off the audited 2019 Annual Diocesan Accounts, which will now be sent to OSCR. If you would like to see a copy, go to the 'Finance' page of the Diocesan Office Resources section of the website - [click here](#).

## COVID-19 VESTRY QUESTIONS

Two recent queries were received and responses given, so I thought I should publish them here for you as well, in case you have the same things in mind:



*Q: Can we let out our Church Hall yet, as the group we used to let it to are starting up again?*

A: The reopening of such facilities would be part of Phase 3. The General Synod Office will be working on guidance for phases 3 and 4 in due course and that should include the question of hall lettings etc. On the basis that schools are supposed to be reopening in August, if churches have provided premises for e.g. nurseries, then provided the nursery itself is able to operate properly in terms of all necessary conditions and restrictions, then it would be possible for churches to allow resumption of those kinds of activities during phase 3.

*Q: What records should we be keeping in our Church Register, as there are no Communion celebrations to record?*

A: Keep a separate note, somewhere (Vestry Minutes?), of the approach you took, and the online services/worship that you setup. While churches are closed, no entries are required in the Register of Services, but you could include the following suggested wording, or compose your own:

"The coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19, was an infectious disease first identified in China. Infections were reported around the world with symptoms including fever, coughing and breathing difficulties. As a consequence, the Scottish Parliament advised many changes to everyday life for a time, which was endorsed by the College of Bishops. Church buildings were closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities. The last service in this Church was on XXXXXXXXXX and worship was able to resume [in a limited way] on YYYYYYYYYY. In the intervening time we became the Church in different ways, specifically ... INSERT ACTIVITY"



## PARISH PIXELS PHOTO COMPETITION

Ecclesiastical Insurance has been running a UK-wide photographic competition for churches, asking entrants "to capture the essence of their church in a single snapshot". There were 8 regions, with the regional winners being awarded £1,500. The last stage has been reached, and the judging is taking place for the overall winner - which will receive a £5,000 prize. I am delighted to say that a church in Edinburgh Diocese won the Scottish Region - St Cuthbert's in Colinton, Edinburgh, with this icy image. **They now need your vote** to give them a chance of winning the overall prize. If you like the image and would like to support them, here is the link to vote - [click here](#). **Voting is open until Friday 26 June 2020.**

Simon Filsell

**Diocesan Administrator**

## 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** that may be of use to you at this time – we are still adding to this list, so do take a look.

As mentioned in the last edition, we are looking to put together a **directory of all online worship** happening around the diocese. If your church is broadcasting services online, send a link to David at [dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

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)

### RESIGNATIONS

w.e.f. 31<sup>st</sup> July - Revd Steve Butler, St James-the-Less, Leith

### APPOINTMENTS

w.e.f. 15<sup>th</sup> June - Revd Andrew Taylor-Cook, St Peter's, Peebles and St Andrew's, Innerleithen

# DIARY

*Due to the current situation we have had to postpone all Diocesan gatherings and events until further notice.  
Thank you for your patience; we will provide updates on this matter whenever possible.*



## BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

### FROM THE BISHOP

I have had a number of enquiries about the Lent Appeal. The short answer is that 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

## 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](#).

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### MEET THE RECTOR

*We are delighted to welcome Andrew Taylor-Cook to the Diocese to become Rector of Peebles and Innerleithen. Here Andrew tells us a little about himself and his background in England:*



"I was born in Gateshead, but raised in a mining village in County Durham. Although my parents were very thoughtful and hard-working throughout their lives they were certainly not church goers, and so as a family, we never darkened the doors of a church, except for the usual hatch, match and dispatch of course. In fact I didn't start attending Church until I was 30 years of age. Which came as a bit of shock to me, and to my family!

I've had a varied career over the years, to include: Felt Roofer, Milkman, Storeman, Handyman, Civil Servant and voluntary worker. I have unfortunately spent a considerable amount of time unemployed too, and know what it is like to try and bring up a family on Social Security Benefits.

I first trained for ministry with the Church Army in Sheffield. As a Commissioned Church Army Evangelist I served as a half-time Parish Evangelist and half-time Chaplain amongst Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in the St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese. It was during my time with St Eds and Ips that I trained for ordination with ERM (Eastern Regional Ministry Course) at Cambridge.

I served my curacy with a team of 10 rural churches in the Diocese of Derby, before taking up a joint venture between the Diocese of Peterborough and the Diocese of Oxford, as a Chaplain amongst Deaf

and Hard of Hearing People (half-time in each). At the closure of this joint venture, I remained with the Diocese of Peterborough as a half time Chaplain, taking up a further half-time post as an Associate Priest with a group of 8 rural churches, before becoming the Acting Vicar of the Group, due to the incumbent's unfortunate resignation. I then served as Priest-in-Charge of a group of 5 rural churches back in the Diocese of Derby, before becoming their Vicar.

During this madcap journey in life, I met, and then subsequently married my lovely wife, Margaret, in 1981 when we were just 19-years of age! Since then, we have become the proud parents of 3 grown-up children (two boys and a girl) and now have the good fortune of being the proud grandparents to 6 wonderful grandchildren ... to date! Margaret and our 3 children were all born in County Durham, whereas our grandchildren are a mixture of South Yorkshire, Suffolk and Derbyshire.

Margaret and I are no strangers to Scotland having ventured over the border many times over the past 9-years, mainly on the west side to be honest, given that one of Margaret's sister's lives near Oban. Having said that, we have visited many places further in-land too, alongside visiting Edinburgh about 3-years ago.

Margaret and I are very much looking forward to meeting you all ...eventually! We are also looking forward to living, and working, within the beautiful Scottish Borders, and being a part of the Peebles and Innerleithen communities."

*Do you have any notable stories from your church or area that you'd like to see included here? Contact me at [dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org). If it's already included in your church newsletter you can simply send that over!*

## USEFUL RESOURCES

### OFFICIAL GUIDELINES, ADVICE & RESOURCES

Scottish Episcopal Church Updates & Resources

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

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](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](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>

Useful guidelines on how to look after your church building whilst it is temporarily closed or unoccupied

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/unoccupied-properties-during-covid-19/church/>

The Charity Excellence website has a new, free database of funders supporting charities during the crisis

<https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/>

Heritage £50 million Emergency Fund launched to help the Sector, to address immediate pressures over the next three-six months for organisations most in need. Applications can be accessed until 30th June as short-term funding to stabilise operations and manage unforeseen risks. Grants of £3,000 - £50,000 will be available to i) address immediate pressures over the next 3-6 months for those most in need, and ii) increase investment in essential digital skills across the sector, providing expertise in critical areas such as digital fundraising, use of social media and communications, and running online events and activities.

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/heritage-emergency-fund>

## **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](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 MORALE

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>

Stories of how churches are helping local people and boosting morale during the Coronavirus crisis

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/churches-helping-during-cornavirus-crisis>

National Churches Trust's church tourism website, is bringing stories and photographs so you can explore the UK's sacred heritage without leaving home

<https://www.explorechurches.org/>

## 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-19?src=banner&fbclid=IwARlGpsxpA7oXZX9fPDeqWcf0URqwHEGoyrtuUhEjEkYdYPMYVF-9VWsrwEs>

Rudolfus Choir 'Virtual Evensong' Project

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

Contemporary Psalm Settings

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzIoO0DWym8GJHIHmDEwDIg/videos>



## EVENTS

### PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the current circumstances, we have decided to omit the flyers we had previously been featuring which advertised events taking place in person around our diocese. If there is an event you wish to advertise that is still taking place (i.e. something organised online), do send it over to [office@edinburgh.anglican.org](mailto:office@edinburgh.anglican.org)



# ONLINE GROWTH IN PRAYER AND REFLECTIVE LIVING

October 2020 - May 2021



## **GROWTH IN PRAYER AND REFLECTIVE LIVING**

Applications are now being considered for GPRL. The course aims to help participants develop and deepen their experience of prayer and live more reflectively. It offers opportunity to explore faith, discover meaning and come to a deeper, closer relationship with God. In doing so, it provides space to examine hopes and desires and to move towards the fullness of life we long for in ourselves, in those around us and in the global community to which we all belong.

The course is open to those of any denomination and none. No particular experience of prayer is required, only a desire for God. Participants should be prepared to share some of their experience of prayer with others. Because of the participatory nature of the course, it is important that there is a commitment to attend regularly.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Website: <http://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk>

Email: [ignatius.epiphany1@gmail.com](mailto:ignatius.epiphany1@gmail.com)

# 'TIME TO TALK'

## COVID 19 Listening Service available for relatives and residents in care homes

An Edinburgh - Glasgow project of EIFA <https://www.edinburghinterfaith.com/>

*A message from Claire Garabedian:*

"I am writing to you on behalf of EIFA - Edinburgh Interfaith Organisation (a multifaith organisation which seeks to enable understanding and mutual respect within communities). The Scottish government has provided seed money to launch a service that will seek to be supportive to care home residents and their families during this time of Covid-19. As we all know, these unprecedented times have hit the care home sector especially hard, with families often unable to visit their loved ones living in care homes.

We will offer a seven day a week (11am – 7pm) opportunity for care home residents and their family members to be listened to by volunteers via the telephone. The volunteers will be vetted for their experience and training as listeners. We hope that care home residents (who are able) and their family members will gain some solace and peace from this and that it will be a support for staff who are under pressure. Additionally, as this service is being offered through a multi-faith organisation, callers wishing to speak directly to someone of their faith will be connected through our service. It is important to note that although EIFA is a multi-faith-based organisation, *all* care home residents and their family members are welcomed to make use of this listening service – be they of a particular faith or none. Also, it is important to stress that this service will offer an understanding and empathic listening service; there will be no advice or counselling offered.

All calls will be held in the strictest confidence; only very basic background details will be noted as a record of who is making use of this service, to inform future and ongoing offering of this service.

As the manager of this listening service, I am asking if you would be willing to help to get the word out to any care home residents and their families about this service, so that they may perhaps find a measure of comfort during this most difficult time. I have attached a flyer that can be printed-off and posted/made available to residents and their families. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have, as well as your suggestions as to additional ways we can let care home residents and families (at present only within Edinburgh and Glasgow) to make use of our service.

Many thanks for reading this letter. We hope that this service affords a measure of support for all involved. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you and best wishes,

**Dr Claire Garabedian**

Project Manager - Time to Talk

[claireattimetotalk@gmail.com](mailto:claireattimetotalk@gmail.com)

07519 418451"



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)



Time to Talk is a COVID-19 Listening Service for care home residents and their families. No advice will be offered - only kindness, empathy and a willingness to listen.

**AVAILABLE EVERY DAY**  
**from 11am to 7pm**

**CONTACT**

**ClaireAtTimeToTalk@gmail.com**

**07519 418451**

An Edinburgh - Glasgow project of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA): a multi-faith organisation which seeks to enable understanding and mutual respect within communities.

Find out more at: [www.edinburghinterfaith.com](http://www.edinburghinterfaith.com)

This project is funded by the Scottish government COVID-19 IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FUND.



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[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

