



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

24th 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: 8th July 2020

The First Steps Back



Provost John Conway and MSP Ruth Davidson at the Re-opening of St Mary's Cathedral

DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS

THE COMMUNICANT

As you all know, the Events Section of The Communicant is pretty bare at the moment, for understandable reasons. However, we are striving to keep supplying new and relevant content to keep you updated, supported and connected. If you have any material which you think would be of interest or benefit to others, please send copy to David Lewis, our Administrative Assistant, at dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org by close of play on the Tuesday of the week we publish.

BECKY FLETCHER

Last September, when we suddenly found ourselves in a bit of an admin support crisis for the Mission & Ministry work, we were very fortunate to recruit Becky on a temporary basis, to provide some cover for us whilst we worked out what to do. Becky was a Choral Scholar in St Mary's Cathedral Choir, on a Gap Year, and looking for some supplementary part-time work. She kindly agreed to do a month for us, just to help out. With no practical solution immediately available, we then decided to ask her to stay on until Christmas 2019. By the New Year, we realised that we couldn't manage without her! After discussions, she agreed to stay on and help us until the end of June. This was simply invaluable, as it was compounded by also finding ourselves with no Admin Asst for the Finance & Management work, in January. Becky is now preparing to head off to start her degree at Durham University and we seem to have no choice but to let her leave! She has been an absolute star, just quietly and efficiently getting on with everything we have asked her to do - literally everything. She has been a wonderful work colleague to all of us in the office. If you have not been very aware of her work, then it shows how well she has just got on with it all. We are all immensely grateful to her, and we will really miss her. So, publicly - thank you Becky!



21A Grosvenor Crescent • Edinburgh • EH12 5EL • office@dioceseofedinburgh.org • 0131 538 7033
Charity Number: SC063214

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

10th 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: 24th June 2020



This cartoon is free to reuse online, in emails or in print. For the high-resolution file, see <http://www.cartoonchurch.com/content/circhurch-building-closed/>

Simon Filsell
Diocesan Administrator



NOTICES

COVID-19: UPDATED GUIDANCE

The most 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.

As we have now officially moved into Phase 2 of the Scottish Government's pandemic 'Route Map' the SEC's Phase 2 Guidance takes precedence. Please note that due to changes to the particulars of the 'Route Map' some of the SEC Guidance has altered since first published – it is therefore essential to consult the most up to date documents on the website directly (rather than using a version previously downloaded). A detailed explanation of these changes can be found in Donald Walker's article below (see page 5).

You can find some FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) about the Phase 2 Guidance answered at the end of this issue. (Also available as a separate document here: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Phase-2-Guidance-QA.pdf>)

HELPFUL LINKS

We have produced a **list of churches** in the Diocese offering online worship. This can be found at <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/coronavirus-resources/> ('Directory of Online Worship'). *If your SEC congregation in Edinburgh Diocese is not included in this list, or you would like to add further details to your church's listing, such as service times or Zoom details, please contact dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org.*

The Diocesan website also has a **list of online resources** that may be of use at this time. <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/coronavirus-resources/> ('Resources for Churches & Church Members').

Ecclesiastical Insurance has produced guidance on re-opening churches after lockdown. This advice could be invaluable during the coming months. It can be viewed here: <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/latest-news/opening-places-of-worship-after-lockdown/>

RESIGNATIONS

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

APPOINTMENTS

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE

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/>

DIARY

MEETINGS

Diocesan Finance & Management Committee
Next meeting **WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY, 5PM** (online)

ANNIVERSARIES

On **Monday 29th June** Bishop John celebrates 40 years of ordination to the Priesthood.
Congratulations +John!

*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.*

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

Reflections, Prayers and Games

Resources for families at home

[Home](#) [About Me](#) [Blog](#)
[Contact](#)

Welcome!

This was a resource that I started for my placement church. A short weekly reflection on the upcoming lectionary passage, some questions you can ask the whole family, a game, something creative, and a way to pray together. My hope for these resources is that they encourages us all to continue deepening our faith as we follow Jesus.

Feel free to use the content on here as much or as little as you like. Take the ideas that interest you and leave the ones that don't. Or, perhaps, simply allow these thoughts to spark your imagination!

Beki Cansdale

Beki Cansdale is a Mixed Mode student with the SEI who is based at St John's Princes St. During lockdown she has produced some great resources for the young people at St John's: they're ideal for helping families nurture faith at home during these socially-distanced times. Highly recommended! You'll find Lectionary-based reflections, prayers, craft activities, games and more on Beki's blog [here](#).

You can find more news about how churches are connecting with young people during COVID-19 in the latest [Youth and Children Newsletter](#). Discover new ideas and resources for bringing children, families and young people together while remaining socially-distanced! You will also find important information about the latest SEC safeguarding guidelines for online youth work. Read more [here](#).

Claire Benton-Evans

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



From the Diocese of Edinburgh

June 2020

Contact Claire Benton-Evans: youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org



IN THIS ISSUE

Safeguarding children and young people online

Churches connecting with children during COVID-19

Provincial Youth online



NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

It has been a busy couple of weeks from a Communications perspective! I was delighted to put together the Provincial service of online worship for the Sunday just past (21st), which put +John and our Cathedral front and centre in the province. The service received a lot of good feedback and was viewed live by over 700 people.



I am organising a series of informal conversations about Communications, to discuss any issues and ideas that people have been having. This is particularly important as we are heading towards a new middle ground where churches are starting to open, but services are still online. If you are interested in joining next week's discussion, which will be about how our congregations are using Zoom for their services, please email me at jparsons@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

Dependant on interest, the meeting will be next Wednesday (July 1st) at 2pm.

James Parsons

REVISIONS TO PHASE 2 GUIDANCE

In the light of the First Minister's announcement on 18 June 2020 regarding entry into Phase 2 of the Scottish Government's Route Map, some revisions have been made to the pastoral guidance from the College of Bishops and the guidance regarding the reopening of church buildings from the Advisory Group issued last week (12 June). Version 2 of each of the above guidance is now available as follows:

1. **Pastoral Guidelines for Phase 2, Version 2**

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Pastoral-Guidelines-for-Phase-2-Version-2-19.6.20.pdf>

2. **Emerging from Lockdown: Phase 2 Guidance, Version 2**

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Phase-2-Revised-Guidance-Version-2-19.6.20.pdf>

The alterations to the Bishops' Pastoral Guidance are to remove any reference to undertaking pastoral visiting in homes. When the Route Map was originally published, it was envisaged that Phase 2 would allow two households to meet together in homes but, in fact, the announcement from the First Minister yesterday indicated that any such meeting must for the time being remain outdoors.

The guidance from the Advisory Group regarding the reopening of church buildings has been revised to indicate that weddings in Phase 2 cannot be undertaken in church buildings and can only take place outside (subject to minimal attendees). Section G of the original version of our Phase 2 guidance indicated that members of up to two households could meet in church to undertake live streaming or recording of worship for broadcast. Contrary to our expectation in last night's direction, further investigation means that members of more than one household may meet in church to livestream worship or record worship for broadcast, provided 2m physical distancing is observed. There is no

change to our Phase 2 guidance on funerals in church which are permitted subject to restricted numbers as set out in our guidance.

No change is being made at this time to the Pro forma Phase 2 Plan for Vestries and so Version 1 remains current.

The Advisory Group guidance regarding the reopening of churches for individual prayer takes effect from 22 June 2020. Outdoor weddings are permitted under Government guidance only from 29 June 2020 and the Advisory Group's revised guidance regarding live-streaming/broadcasting from churches also takes effect from 29 June (when a variety of non-office workplaces are permitted to re-open). Similarly, the provisions in Section G regarding maintenance, repairs and organ practice should be regarded as taking effect from 29 June.

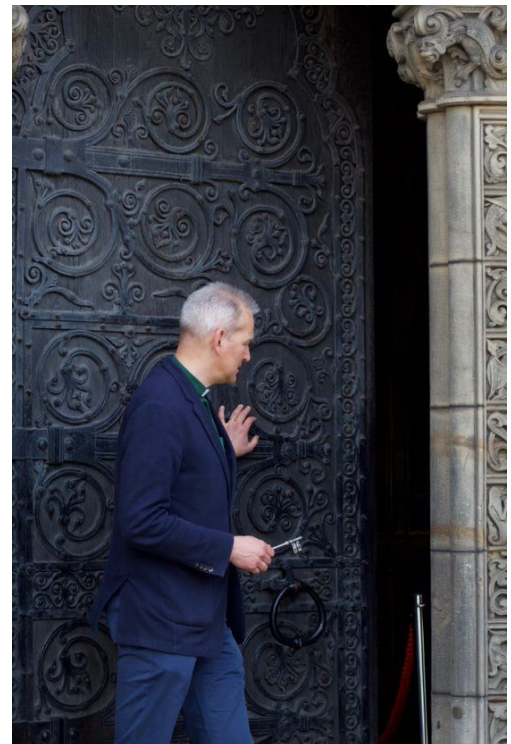
Donald Walker
SEC Director of Communications

AROUND THE DIOCESE

RESTRICTIONS BEGINNING TO EASE – PHASE 2 BEGINS

Nicola Sturgeon has announced that Scotland will now begin to enter Phase 2 of the guidelines for easing lockdown – this is news that will bring relief to many people, as places of worship can and will begin to open up gradually, for private prayer. While this will not simply happen overnight, for churches across Scotland, including our diocese, this will cause many discussions regarding the best ways to start opening up our churches again. St Mary's Cathedral, for example, opened its doors for private prayer today (the 24th June), with MSP Ruth Davidson on hand to help out at a simple, socially-distanced ceremony. You can find out more [on their website](#).

However, due to the risk still being too high to reintroduce services in church, Zoom and Facebook services will have to continue. Seeing how well we as a diocese have adapted to the current circumstances is heartwarming. There continue to be events online, with prayer groups meeting, coffee mornings taking place, services being broadcast live, and even activities like quizzes taking place to develop a sense of togetherness.

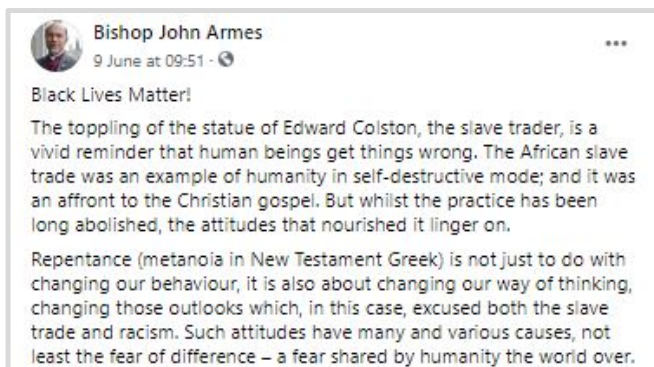


CONTINUING ECO-CONGREGATION WORK

It is especially nice to see the continuation of the work churches have been doing on how they can be more eco-friendly. For example, St Mary's Dalkeith have recently had an eco-congregation meeting via Zoom, and are making plans and thinking ahead to later in the year, when they can put their plans into action!

HYMNS ON OFFER

A member of St Mary's and St Leonard's has developed a catalogue of popular hymns recorded for services, which is kindly being offered to other churches around the diocese for use in their online services. Please contact mitchonline16@gmail.com – it's wonderful to see members of our diocese working together in these trying times!



BLACK LIVES MATTER

Across the UK and many other countries over the last month, there has been a surge in support and eagerness to help in the Black Lives Matter movement, following the death of George Floyd last month. Bishop John shared some thoughts on this on his Facebook page – find more [here](#).

Becky Fletcher

RECTOR AND VESTRY EXPRESS DELIGHT AS CHURCH RE-OPENS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Moving into Phase 2 of our battle with the COVID-19 pandemic sees the first opportunity since March for some of our churches to re-open to the public – although currently only for private prayer. Bob King, Rector of St Andrew's, Kelso, sent us a letter he's written to his congregation expressing the (cautious) relief that comes with seeing our church buildings once again used as houses of prayer.

"I am so excited to be able to tell you that at long last we can open the church for short periods for private prayer. The Bishop of Edinburgh has given his permission after a request from the Vestry that the church be re-opened. This has been made possible by the announcement on Thursday by the First Minister on behalf of the Scottish Government.



So, to cut to the chase. The church will be open during the following times.

Sunday Afternoons (from 28th June) 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Thursday Mornings (from 25th June) 10.00 am to Noon.

There will of course be restrictions and firstly we would like you to bring your own mask. Sadly, all hugging, kissing, singing and handholding will need to be virtual as we maintain social distancing. We won't be able to have any public prayers as that would contravene the gathering restrictions and there will not be an opportunity for coffee, bacon rolls or any other refreshments.

There will be a one-way system entering through the main door and leaving via the back door (passing the loos which will be closed).

The GOOD NEWS is that you will be able to enjoy being back in the building, light a candle, pray, smile, reflect, dream and remember why this building is truly a place of inclusivity and prayer. Grace and I will be there to assist as you drop in for a short period of time with God.

That's it! The rest we will sort out as it arises but please be assured that our main concern is the safety and well-being of everyone and so we ask you to play your part in enabling us all to stay safe.

With my love and prayers,

Bob

'Socially Distant, Spiritually Close' ”

And here's a prayer written by Bob, that you might like to use as our churches tentatively re-open:

Loving God, we thank you that we are able to meet in your name after all these weeks. We remember those who cannot be with us for any reason and we pray that together we may grow stronger in life and faith. Amen.

There are, of course, different circumstances in each of our churches and what is possible for one might not be feasible for another. Please remember that while we all want to get back to serving our communities the primary concern must be public health, and not all churches will be able to safely re-open for the time being.

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. If it's already included in your church newsletter you can simply send that over!



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

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



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

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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot





COVID-19 Latest Advice

The latest advice from the SEC is available on the [Province website](#). The recent advice (12 June) contains a lot of detail for you, but we've produced this 'FAQ' paper to help you with some of the main points:

Q: *Once Phase 2 starts, who makes the decisions about re-opening?*

A: A decision whether or not to restart any activities should be considered initially by the vestry, as the charity trustees for the charge. If the vestry wishes to proceed to restart any activities, it should first approach the Diocesan Bishop for consent. A pro forma has sent by the Province to all vestries.

Q: *Do we have to reopen straight away?*

A: Different congregations will move at different speeds as they emerge from lockdown and just because one congregation is in a position to undertake some resumption of activity in their church building does not mean that others should feel any pressure to do likewise.

Q: *Can we leave the church open for Private Prayer?*

A: Yes, but it is required that there should be a designated presence in the building at all times while it is open.

Q: *How do we ensure social distancing for services etc.?*

A: It may require cordoning off of pews or areas of seating to ensure the necessary distancing. Also, within a single pew, indication should be given as to where people may sit, so as to ensure appropriate distancing.

Q: *Can we use the church's toilets?*

A: It is recommended that visitors should not have access to church toilets, unless procedures have been put in place locally to ensure that toilets can safely be operated in the current environment, in which case use of toilets should be for emergencies only.