



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

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The Church of the Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh
Photographed last Saturday

DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS

FROM THE EDITOR

Later this month we come to the point where, in Scotland, we have had some form of lockdown restrictions in place for half a year. Perhaps many of us (myself included) hoped by this point Covid-19 would be consigned to memory; or at least we wouldn't still be experiencing lockdown restrictions on work, recreation and worship.

Yet as we move into autumn we face the uncomfortable reality of the restrictions being tightened once again. Initially we in the Diocesan Office had hoped we could be at least allowed to work from the office itself by now, but the Scottish Government's announcement earlier this month that only the most essential offices ought to re-open has meant this is quite impractical and for now the vast majority of our work will continue to be done from home. I'm sure I speak for all the office staff when I say we are incredibly disappointed to still not be able to provide the service we might 'normally', but we will continue to do **everything possible** to meet your needs.

Lockdown has had a colossal impact on the church. It is easy to focus on the financial challenges it has caused – and there's more in this issue of *The Communicant* on how churches can address these (see page 4) – but it has also challenged our practices and fellowship in ways we could never have imagined. It is heartening to see that the way we have faced these challenges has often given far deeper meaning to what we do, and reassuring to know that 21st-century Christians can still find incredible strength in time of adversity.

David Lewis

DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Standing Committee met last night (Tuesday 15th) and has decided that it is not in a position to successfully stage a meeting of the Autumn Diocesan Synod by Zoom. However, a comprehensive series of consultation meetings are being planned to give all Synod members the opportunity to discuss the 2021 budget and give feedback to the committee for a final decision.



The details of those meetings are being put together as a matter of urgency, and we hope to announce those to you as soon as we are able. The Standing Committee will meet again on 29 October, in order to give the opportunity for all of those meetings to take place across the Diocese.

Last year's Diocesan Synod, held at "P's and G's", St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh

Simon Filsell

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.

The pandemic situation is constantly changing, and the SEC guidelines continue to evolve in response to it. We encourage you to check the guidance webpage frequently, to ensure you are up to date with the latest guidelines and developments of the situation. The changes affect a number of areas and it is important to read this thoroughly, using the link above.

The most recent changes also affect the Pastoral Advice from the College of Bishops, the latest version of which is available at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Revised-Pastoral-Guidelines-for-Phase-3-Version-3-14.8.2020.pdf>.

The Province Office has produced an updated document of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) for the guidance, available at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-for-Phase-3-Version-3-14.8.2020.pdf>.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE

The latest edition of the newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Institute is now available and may be viewed from the SEI webpage, using this link:

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

HELPFUL LINKS

The Diocesan website has a **list of online resources** that may be of use at this time, and a **list of churches** in the Diocese offering online worship. These can be viewed at

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Revd Lynn Davidson has been appointed as Rector at Christ Church Morningside.

Revd Malcolm Round, Rector of St Mungo's, Balerno, will retire in February 2021.



DIARY

Tuesday 22nd September Ordination of Peter Woodfield to the Priesthood

Sunday 4th October Ordinations to the Diaconate, St Mary's Cathedral

CANON 35 CONSENTS

Edinburgh **St Cuthbert's, Colinton** – Replacement and re-siting of external noticeboard

Edinburgh **St Mark's, Portobello** – Removal of two pews

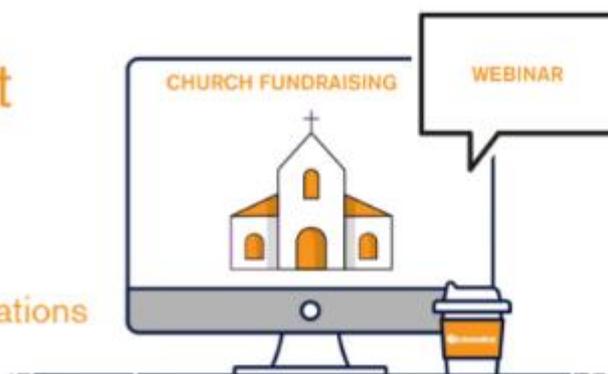
CHURCH BUILDINGS: FUNDING & MAINTENANCE

We continue to receive information about funding schemes and help available to churches – here are some of the latest:

ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE

Fundraising support
during COVID-19
and beyond

Webinar - successful grant applications



Ecclesiastical Insurance is offering a webinar (online seminar) giving advice on how churches can make successful applications for funding. With churches feeling under increased financial pressure at the moment I'm sure the webinar will be incredibly useful in securing funding – particularly for clergy or vestry members at churches considering applying for funding at the moment. *From Ecclesiastical:*



Webinar: Successful grant applications for your church during COVID-19 and beyond

Date: Wednesday 23 September, 4pm

Length: 45 minutes in total; 30 minute presentation followed by 15 minutes Q&A

Speaker: Caroline Underwood OBE, CEO Philanthropy Company, in collaboration with Ecclesiastical

Preparation: No advance preparation is needed; however, you can submit your questions in advance if you wish.

“Giving top tips, practical advice and useful examples, the key questions answered in this webinar will include:

- What do grant funders support?
- How do I create a strong grant application?
- Where do I look for funding and how do I organise my research?
- How do I organise the timing of my project and grant application?
- Who should I involve in the process of writing a grant application?

Simply register online (<https://live.asset.tv/successful-grant-applications-your-church-during-covid-19-and-beyond>) and the details for the webinar will be sent directly to you via email.

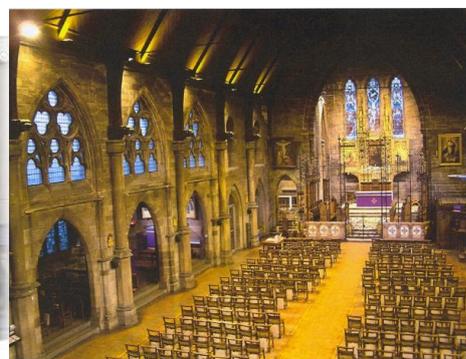
If you would like help with registering for our webinar or with any of our online fundraising resources please request a call back via the dedicated fundraising helpline on 0345 601 9959 or by using the online form (<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/church-fundraising/>). You will receive a call back from one of our Church Insurance Consultants.

We hope that the webinar and fundraising hub will be useful for you and your church in these challenging times.”

NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

The National Churches Trust has been in touch again to draw churches’ attention to their grants and funding application resources. They offer three main types of grants, covering repairs to church buildings, improvements to enhance church facilities (such as building new church toilets), and maintenance costs, at everything from below £10,000 to over £100,000 – as well as smaller ‘micro-grants’ to cover small maintenance costs at less than £500. Full details of the grants, as well as some helpful and straightforward FAQs can be found here <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>. The trust has previously helped churches in Edinburgh Diocese, including St James the Less, Penicuik, St Peter’s, Linlithgow, and Old St Paul’s, Edinburgh.

NCT has also created an incredibly helpful guide to both how the pandemic has affected grant applications and how to look after church buildings during this period, which can be found here: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/grants-and-looking-after-your-church>



Three churches in our Diocese to have received funding from the National Churches Trust: (Left to Right) St James the Less, Penicuik; St Peter’s, Linlithgow; Old St Paul’s, Edinburgh

AROUND THE DIOCESE

EV CHARGING POINTS



Scottish Power is looking for churches in Edinburgh city/other central locations who would be willing to lease land for the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points and/or a small network substation. This could, for example, be surplus parking spaces not used during the week for EV points and small sections of grass land around the perimeter of the church that could sit a 25m sq substation.

Any churches interested should contact Gillian Macwhirter, Senior Estates Surveyor for Scottish Power at g.macwhirter@scottishpower.com. Please do bear in mind that any such alterations within a church's boundary would require a Canon 35 application to the Diocesan Buildings Committee.

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