



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

30th September 2020

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NEXT EDITION: 14th October 2020



The face of the Church during Lockdown
Bishop John and newly ordained priest Peter Woodifield

DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS

FROM THE EDITOR

Last week I had the privilege of attending the Diocesan Service of Ordination to the Presbyterate – it was a delight to see Peter Woodfield ordained as priest, and Peter has very kindly written a few words about the service and his curacy during lockdown which can be found on page 4.



In many ways I felt the service itself was a startling allegory for the church's experience during lockdown. Somehow it felt both alien and familiar at once, caught between the bewilderment of navigating through a service while adhering to the precautions and best practice Covid-19 makes necessary, and the comfort of liturgy with its intimate connection with God. Although the offering of worship was perhaps more humble than 'normal', the severity of the pandemic situation made it feel far more meaningful than I could have ever imagined, and that is something that comes across in Peter's report too.

In the last edition we announced that, regrettably, we have decided it would not be practical to hold a full Autumn meeting of the Diocesan Synod via Zoom. The intention is that consultation meetings with smaller groups will be a far more viable alternative, given the technological limitations, and will still allow the Synod members to have a comprehensive discussion. The arrangements for these will be announced as soon as possible.

Aside from that, things have remained fairly constant in the Diocesan Office – well, not technically 'in', given we are still working from home! The latest restrictions announced by the Scottish Government have meant that the church's advice has also been updated (details overleaf). Both the Diocesan Office and the General Synod Office continue to be on hand to field questions about how the changes affect your church in particular.

David Lewis

DIARY

Ordination of **Russell Duncan** and **David Todd** to the Diaconate
St Mary's Cathedral, 4th October

CANON 35 CONSENTS

Edinburgh **St Cuthbert's, Colinton** – Replacement and re-siting of external noticeboard
Edinburgh **St Mark's, Portobello** – Removal of two pews

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/>. **As of 24th September the Phase 3 Guidance has been updated again** (version 5) as has the Pastoral Advice, along with a new set of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) – all of which can be found on that page.

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.

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/>

ORDINATIONS

Revd Peter Woodfield was ordained Priest at St Mary's Cathedral on 22nd September

APPOINTMENTS

Revd Lynn Davidson will be instituted as Rector of Christ Church, Morningside in January 2021

RETIREMENTS

Revd Colin Reed, Priest at St Margaret's, Easter Road will retire 30th September

Revd Canon Allan MacLean, Rector of St Vincent's, Stockbridge will retire 22nd October

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

FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER



MICROSOFT SCREAMS

Edinburgh University's Chaplaincy shared a very helpful letter this week: [Microsoft Screams: When Information Overloads](#) was written by Dr Kitty Wheater, who is the new Mindfulness Chaplain. She is a mindfulness practitioner and social and medical anthropologist: her letter is aimed at university students but is helpful for all of us who have felt "Zoomed out" or overloaded by web-based information during these socially-distanced times.

Claire Benton-Evans

AROUND THE DIOCESE

LOCKDOWN STORIES: ORDINATION

Peter Woodifield writes about his experience of ordination and curacy during the pandemic:

"I felt very fortunate to be able to be ordained in St Mary's Cathedral on September 22 as it enabled me to have the maximum number of people allowed under COVID-19 regulations to witness the event and support me, including family, friends as well as members of my curacy and sending congregations. I am deeply indebted to Bishop John, the Provost, John Conway, and his colleagues for all they did to make the occasion so memorable. I was very moved by the responses to the Psalm and the Litany sung so beautifully by David, one of the Cathedral Lay Clerks – and also our administrative assistant responsible for producing this issue of the Communicant.

Because we were all spread out because of social distancing, the service felt surprisingly intimate, and the moment when just three priests laid hands on me felt especially holy.

The pandemic of course has made my curacy very different from what I or anyone else could have anticipated a year ago. I'd never heard of Zoom a year ago, and I'm not sure I realised what I was letting myself in for when I volunteered to host our Sunday services on Zoom to enable our two congregations at St Peter's Linlithgow and St Columba's Bathgate to worship together virtually throughout lockdown. But the steep learning curve was well worth it for the joy it gave people.

It almost felt strange going back into church at the end of July! But, of course, it felt very special celebrating my first Eucharists this Sunday."



Revd Peter Woodifield

PARISH PIXELS: ST CUTHBERT'S, COLINTON

Marie Neil, church administrator at St Cuthbert's, was in touch to update us on their entry to Ecclesiastical Insurance's 'Parish Pixels' photograph competition:



“Thank you to all who voted for our photograph entry in Ecclesiastical's 2019/2020 'Parish Pixels' Competition!

We were absolutely delighted to win the Regional (Scottish) prize for our photograph, taken by our Rector, Revd Nicki McNelly:

Like the ice appears to break the window, we are a beautiful church in a broken world doing our best to live as Jesus commanded.

The 'Virtual Ceremony' for the UK Winner will take place online at 3pm on Thursday 8 October, and a video link will be sent to us on the day. If you would like to join us online, please email stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com by Tuesday 6 October, to request a copy of the link.

To read about the nine regional finalists, and to view the photographs, please use the link <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/latest-news/parish-pixels/>”

St Cuthbert's, Colinton

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.

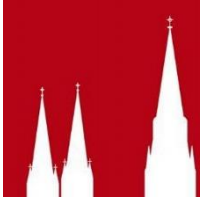


Do you have any notable stories from your church or area that you'd like to see included here? Contact me at dlewis@dioceseofedinburgh.org. If it's already included in your church newsletter you can simply send that over!

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



St MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AW

Provost: The Very Revd John Conway

Administrator – 15 hours per week (to be worked over at least 3 days).

Salary: £7800 (FTE £19500).

Flexible working hours. 6 weeks holiday per year.

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, is seeking to appoint an office administrator. The person appointed will offer administrative support to the clergy team and music department. They will be responsible for administering the use of Cathedral properties, for managing the bookings diary, for maintaining chorister and adult choir records, for overseeing contacts with visiting choirs and for ensuring that pastoral enquiries are passed on in a timely manner.

Person specification:

- Competent to use Microsoft Office tools – Word; Access; Excel; Publisher; Teams.
- Approachable and unflappable.
- An understanding of the church year and its particular pressures.
- Self-motivated and able to take initiative under supervision.

Main tasks:

- Act as a first point of contact for both congregational and external enquiries, forwarding to clergy/music staff/treasurer where appropriate.
- Deal with all bookings for the Cathedral, Walpole Hall, and Song School including invoicing.
- Maintain oversight of car park including invoicing and ensuring that payment has been made.
- Offer administrative support to the Master of the Music, particularly with reference to communications with chorister parents, keeping contact records for choristers and managing the relevant paperwork for lay clerks and choral scholars.
- Work in collaboration with the music department to manage the diary for concerts and Edinburgh festival events.
- In collaboration with the Communications Officer, ensure that visiting choirs have the information they need.
- Complete and file PRS returns and Church copyright licence on a quarterly basis.
- Manage administration for wedding and baptism bookings.
- Take notes at weekly team meetings and other meetings as required.

Additional tasks:

- Make orders to suppliers as required and advised by colleagues (eg stationery; sacristy supplies etc).

- Arrange piano tuning and moving as required.
- Support Communications officer to ensure that orders of service, flyers and other information are produced as required.
- Take and distribute minutes at Cathedral Board meetings (usually quarterly).
- Support clergy team to maintain Cathedral Roll, produce and distribute materials for AGM, stewardship, Christmas services etc.
- Work alongside the Cathedral treasurer to develop efficient book-keeping systems, and track income and expenditure

Applications: Applications should be made in writing and include a CV. Please email to: viceprovost@cathedral.net

Closing Date: Friday 16th October at 1200.

Church membership is not a requirement, but the successful candidate will be in sympathy with the aims and objectives of St Mary's Cathedral.

Informal enquiries to the Vice Provost, Marion Chatterley
viceprovost@cathedral.net 07771 982163