



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

11th November 2020

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The Lorimer Rood in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

Christ crucified amid a field of red poppies

Photo c/o James Parsons

FROM THE EDITOR

I'm sure plenty of you will, like me, still be reeling from the shock of seemingly going backwards in our progress with Covid-19 as Summer turned to Autumn. No doubt this has been magnified by the fact that November contains a number of key moments in the church calendar – All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance – all of which have been severely curtailed by the latest restrictions. Now we begin to move towards Advent and the beginning of the new Church Year (keep looking out for those annual forms!) and, although we are no doubt better prepared for the severity of the Covid restrictions than we were earlier in the year, many of us have simply become fatigued by the whole situation. Discussion within the church has moved away from the optimism and 'can-do spirit' of the summer towards acknowledging people's very real feelings of anxiety and hurt – particularly those who have lost their freedoms, work and means of supporting themselves in order to protect the most vulnerable. The more introspective church festivals and commemorations of November have given us chance to reflect on those and that which we have lost, and Claire has produced a number of resources for churches wishing to build on this sense of lament during Advent and the Christmas season (see page 4). In these trying times we do well to remind ourselves **'it is ok to not feel ok'**.



But there are some morsels of good news coming our way, too. The astonishing news that significant headway has been made in developing a vaccine against Covid-19 will come as a considerable relief to many. Although it is not yet clear just how effective a targeted vaccine will be at eliminating the virus, a successful vaccine might at least mean we can return to some level of normality and, more importantly, will afford greater protection to those for whom Covid is not just an inconvenience but a very real and constant danger. For now it seems the best we can do as a church is to sit tight and continue to offer all the spiritual and social support we can.

David Lewis

DIARY

Wednesday 18th November, 5pm Diocesan Finance & Management Committee

Thursday 26th November, 6pm Standing Committee

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 2nd November the Phase 3 Guidance has been updated again** (version 6) as have the Pastoral Guidelines, 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/>

APPOINTMENTS

The Revd Jane MacLaren will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Philips and St James, Goldenacre in January, and has been appointed as the Ministry Coordinator for the Diocese. We wish her well!

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

Would your work with children, young people and families benefit from extra funds this Christmas? Lockdown has led to fewer applications in 2020, so I have nearly £700 to award to churches by the end of the year. You can download an application form from the Diocesan website [here](#) or contact Claire Benton-Evans youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org Deadline for applications is 30th November. *Claire Benton-Evans*

RESOURCES FOR LAMENT THIS ADVENT

We know that every year, some people struggle with Christmas. Financial hardship, family stress, isolation, loss and bereavement can all be felt more acutely during the Christmas period. This year, many more will be struggling because of the pandemic. The Church has a tradition of lament which we can draw on now: people of all ages need a safe space to mourn this year's losses and bring our difficult feelings to God.

The [Covid Christmas Resources page](#) on the Diocesan website now includes ideas and resources for lament, including:

- Blue Christmas or Longest Night service – a quiet, reflective service that makes room for our grief and pain to sit alongside the joy of Christmas
- Creative, visual and active worship ideas which would work well with all ages
- A Very Different Christmas – good resources for families to use together at home.

If you have any resources to suggest, please share them with Claire Benton-Evans (youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org) who will be regularly updating this page over the coming weeks.



NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



This year the Diocese will be participating in Advent Word, which is a global online advent calendar, which offers prayers and reflections during Advent. We are looking for members from the Diocese to participate and contribute to the project.

Each day of the calendar is assigned a word to do with Advent, and your task would be to find an image (which can be of anything) that is a visual reflection of the word for the day.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in participating, please email jparsons@dioceseofedinburgh.org (with the subject line: Advent word).

For more information about the project, click here: <https://adventword.org/en/home/>

James Parsons

VIDEO PUBLICITY TIPS FROM ALLCHURCHES TRUST

Would you like to create publicity videos for a project at your church but wouldn't know where to start? Alice Morris, Communications Officer for Allchurches Trust, has put together a helpful article on how to make your own publicity videos, including how to plan them, what to include, how to make them look appealing and lots more. The article has useful tips for anyone wanting to create



content like this, from the most well-versed social media guru to someone making a video for the very first time: "Many think that video would be beyond their reach or capability. It's not! It doesn't have to be a Steven Spielberg production, just something simple, clear and engaging."

VIEW THE ARTICLE HERE:

<https://www.allchurches.co.uk/advice-and-resources/publicise-your-project-with-video/>.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

DIOCESAN SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

As we look forward to Christmas many of us will be wondering about how we can provide spiritually for our congregation and beyond at this time. As a way of praying with each other and seeking to engage in some form of Mission, I'd like to suggest a Diocesan service of lessons and carols.

Does your church have a choir, organist or band that is leading worship during these Covid times? Do you have a soloist who could lead a carol, or readers who could record a reading or a prayer? It would be great to have as many churches contributing as possible. If you are able to get your church involved, please contact me on philipblackledge@gmail.com or 07977330074.

Revd Philip Blackledge
Rector of Holy Trinity, Melrose

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!

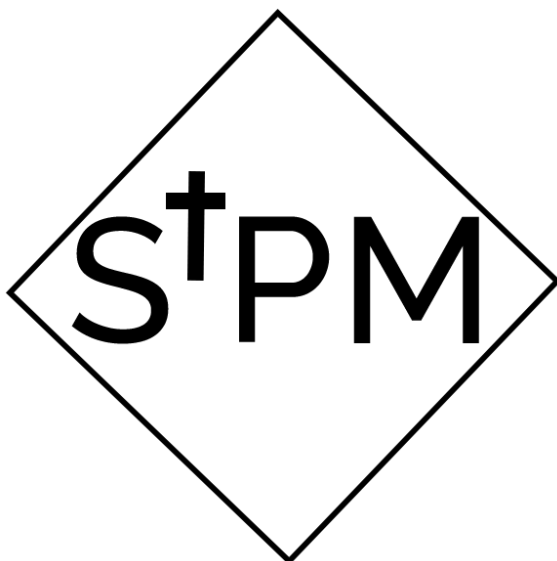
VACANCIES

Priest-in-Charge St Peter's Church Musselburgh

www.stpeters.scot

A full time position, initially for 3 years

Remuneration: Scottish Episcopal Church Clergy Standard Stipend



Musselburgh is a seaside town 8 miles east of Edinburgh, within easy reach of all that the capital of Scotland has to offer. It is in East Lothian which extends from rolling hills in the south through rich fertile farmland before reaching the many attractive villages and beaches along the coast of the Firth of Forth, Scotland's golf coast.

We are a faithful and welcoming congregation. We trust in God's transforming message revealed in the Bible and seek to honour His will as we grow in faith together and share the gospel with those around us.

We are seeking a Priest-in-Charge who has:

- an aptitude for preaching and teaching

- the ability to lead, develop and empower a hard-working Vestry and Congregation, encouraging every member ministry
- a gift for developing disciples and who will enable us to do the same
- a constructive leadership style with good communication and delegation skills
- an interest in developing the young church, encouraging the involvement of families.

If you feel called by God to serve in our church and community, we would love to hear from you and look forward to welcoming you.

For more information or an informal discussion please contact The Very Reverend Frances Burberry (Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh) on: 0131 315 0404 or e-mail: dean@dioceseofedinburgh.org .

Congregational profile, person specification and application form are on the St Peter's website (www.stpeters.scot).

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory PVG Scheme Record Disclosure (Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007).

Closing date: Monday 16 November 2020

First interview by Zoom: Week beginning 23 November 2020

Face-to-face interviews in Musselburgh: 12 December 2020

Registered Charity Number SC003445



Arrivals & Invitations

REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT

Advent is a time of arrivals – angels bringing news, shepherds overwhelmed with joy, magi bearing gifts. And, at the heart of it all, the arrival of the Christ child, Immanuel, God With Us, arriving again this year into a very broken world.

Can we welcome these visitors, offer them hospitality in our hearts, hear the invitations they offer us? And, as weary travellers ourselves through this year, can we also make room for ourselves, find a place of rest, hope and encouragement?

This series includes a guided audio reflection for each week in Advent to listen to in your own time. This will also be sent to you in written form each week, along with additional material which can be used in times of reflection through the rest of the week.

For more information, or to register, contact Susan Mansfield on wordsmansfield@gmail.com or 07803 620038. Please register by Thursday 26th November. Suggested donation £20, or pay what you can. Any additional donations received will help make this material available to those who would find it hard to pay.