



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

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Charity Number: SC001214

# *The Communicant*

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

25th November 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:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020



East Window and Reredos in St Andrew's Church, Kelso

# DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS

## FROM THE (SUB!) EDITOR

David Lewis is away on leave at the moment, so I am back in the seat, as it were.

### CONTACTING US

Within the next 2 weeks, we should have our new telephone system set up, which means that our office numbers will be routed through to us in our homes, via our computers. We are planning an 'Auto Attendant' system on our main office number, to help you get through to the right person. Whilst these are not the ideal way to handle calls, we currently only have one part-time Admin Assistant in the office team, so answering the main number as well as our own individual ones is not feasible at the moment. Once this is up and running, we will add all our direct numbers to the contact page on the website. We will all have our own voicemail as well, so we hope that will help when you need to call to us. More news in due course.....

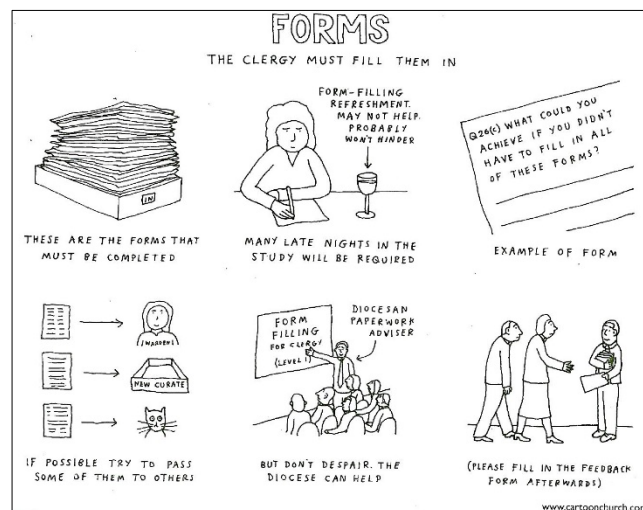


### ANNUAL FORMS

There has been a delay in getting these setup this year for a variety of reasons, but the Congregational Statistics and the Diocesan Schedule are both ready now, on the diocesan website:

- <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-vestry-resources/resources-diocesan-office-forms/>

There have been quite a few recent changes agreed for the PVG Checklist, so we're just getting those into the Google Form, and that will be ready to go. We'll contact PVG Coordinators directly about that. We will be contacting the relevant clergy and the Vestry Secretaries direct, sending the letter and the links by email. A special thank you to those people who have actually contacted me direct to ask where they all were.....without me needing to prompt!



**Any content you have – examples of good practice, innovation or other resources which you think others would appreciate, do let us know, and we'll add it to the next edition.**

Simon Filsell

## DIARY

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November** Standing Committee

**29th November** Bishop attends the Blessing of the Edinburgh City Nativity

**Saturday 5th December** 'Virtual' General Synod

**6th December** Bishop will be Presiding at St James the Less, Leith

**20th December** Bishop will be Presiding at St Ninian's, Comely Bank

**24<sup>th</sup> December** Diocesan Office closes until 9am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

**25th December** Bishop attends Christmas Day Eucharist at St Mary's, Cathedral

## 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/>. The Pastoral Guidelines, along with a set of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) 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.*

### 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.

**The Revd Iain Lothian** has been appointed as the Rector of St James the Less, Leith. He will be instituted in April 2021

# NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

## NEWSLETTER

The latest Youth & Children newsletter is out now. Issue includes:

- Ideas for a COVID Christmas
- Seasonal inspiration from around the diocese

[Click here](#) for the latest issue



## GRANTS

**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](mailto:youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org) Deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> November.

*Claire Benton-Evans*

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:philipblackledge@gmail.com) or 07977330074.

*Revd Philip Blackledge*  
**Rector of Holy Trinity, Melrose**

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*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!*

A box of FREE church fundraising help!



In testing times, we all need a little help preserving the things that are important to us; and as the heart of your community, it's imperative that your church gets the fundraising it so vitally needs - with that in mind we created 'Fundraising in a Box'<sup>1</sup>



'Fundraising in a Box' is designed as a toolkit to aid your fundraising from conception to completion and as no two fundraising campaigns are the same, the principles and tools found inside this toolkit can be used across a variety of types of fundraising.

In each box you'll find;

- Step-by-step guides to help you navigate the uniquely complex world of church fundraising
- Clear guidance and steps to make your churches fundraising journey easier and more successful
- Support for you and your church volunteers whether experienced in fundraising or learning on the go.

**Pre-order your box**

Unfortunately, the challenges of this year didn't come with handy instructions, but luckily your fundraising efforts do; place an order and your fundraising toolkit will be posted to your church within the next **couple of months**.

<sup>1</sup> Fundraising in a Box is an exclusive resource for Ecclesiastical customers. The toolkit will be sent following a review of the details provided.



# SURPLUS SURPLICE SALE

The Robin Chapel Edinburgh has 22 Cathedral Surplices purchased from Watts of London for sale:

- 1@40 inch
- 6@42"
- 5@44"
- 6@46"
- 4@48"

They have seldom been used but all have been laundered pre-sale. The offer price for each is **£45** but in the event of an interested party wishing them all, that can be negotiated.

Please contact Janette Harvey - email [JanetteHarvey@thistle.org.uk](mailto:JanetteHarvey@thistle.org.uk)

They would be available for collection from the Thistle Foundation, 13 Queen's Walk, Edinburgh EH16 4EA at a mutually convenient time agreed with Ms Harvey



## *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](mailto: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.

# RESTRAINING CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF FAITH COMMUNITIES?



Climate emergency, along with Coronavirus and Brexit! At such an important flex point in human history, how can we as faith communities work with others to build a just and green future? These are moments of great opportunity--but also of significant challenge. Join us as we discuss these and other issues with Dr Murdo Macdonald, Policy Officer of the Church of Scotland Society, Religion and Technology (SRT) Project.

Tuesday 1 December 2020, 7.30pm

Registration: <https://www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk/learn/change-in-a-time-of-chaos/>

## CHANGE IN A TIME OF CHAOS

A St Columba's-by-the-Castle Science and Faith Series Webinar Event

For questions and concerns, call 0131 622 2277 or email  
[church.admin@stcs.org.uk](mailto:church.admin@stcs.org.uk)

St Columba's by the Castle Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, SC016571



# ♦ CREATION PAST THE TIPPING POINT ♦



Postdoctoral Fellow in  
Science & Religion at  
Oxford University

We think about God's creation as something that happened a long time ago. We live in a "created" world, past tense. Yet, as human actions re-shape global ecosystems past the point of no-return, what happens to the concept of "creation"? Is God still creating? And where do human actions and decisions coincide with the ongoing creation of God? In this talk, Bethany Sollereder will begin to explore a theology of creation in a world "past the tipping point".

Wednesday 27 January 2021, 7.30pm

Registration: <https://www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk/learn/change-in-a-time-of-chaos/>

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