



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

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# *The Communicant*

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021**



**St Mary's Church, Dalmahoy**

## - FROM THE EDITOR -

Yesterday Scotland, along with the rest of the UK, marked the one-year anniversary of the first Covid-19 lockdown by reflecting on living amidst a pandemic for a year. We remembered those we have lost, not just to Covid but also those who have died as an indirect consequence of the pandemic and those who were not able to see their loved ones before they died due to lockdown restrictions; but also recognised everything that we have collectively given while fighting this lethal and overwhelming disease. It feels like another lifetime when, a year ago, we were barely coming to terms with having to curtail one year's Easter celebrations; as we journey through Lent towards our second Easter in a pandemic we do well to remind ourselves of all the progress that **has** been made, especially in the development and implementation of the vaccine, while yet repenting the ways in which we could have responded better to the pandemic's many challenges.

Thank you to all the Clergy and Lay Representatives who attended our Diocesan Synod on Zoom, just a week and a half ago, and to those others who tuned in to watch the Synod Eucharist and formal proceedings on the live stream. While moving the meeting online has an obvious impact on the social aspect of Synod, we hope this was at least a sufficient stop-gap measure while we were unable to meet in-person. We know such a lengthy, formal online meeting was unfamiliar ground to many of you, so thank you all for your patience, engagement and enthusiasm. Although it was only alluded to on the day, there was in fact a troop of Diocesan Staff working behind the scenes to ensure the meeting ran smoothly: admitting members, monitoring the discussion and raising your questions, setting up and working the equipment, and providing technical support to anyone who needed it. If you didn't realise we were there, then GOOD... it means we were doing our job! I can only commend my colleagues for making it such a success, especially considering none of us had organised such a large online call before.

As we look towards Holy Week and Easter I hope you have all had a refreshing Lent, and that you find something of the typical joy of Easter this year. DL

## 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.**

*With [the news](#) that the Scottish Government intends communal worship to be permitted for up to 50 people from 26 March, the SEC is working to produce further guidance on the re-opening of churches for worship. We encourage you to check the guidance webpage frequently to ensure you know what will change, and when.*

### 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/>

The latest Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) newsletter can be viewed [here](#).

# DIARY

## BISHOP'S DIARY

**30<sup>th</sup> March** Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral (see invitation on [page 9](#))

**4<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral

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*The Diocesan Office will be closed on Good Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> April) and Easter Monday (5<sup>th</sup> April).*

## CARBON NEUTRALITY AND CHURCH HEATING

In response to the discussion at Diocesan Synod on 13th March about church heating systems and the goal of being carbon neutral by 2030, I am advised that the Diocesan Standing Committee plans to discuss this at its next meeting. This will no doubt give rise to further detailed work to produce a coordinated Diocesan approach, and the establishment of a small group to carry things forward.



I spoke to several people after Synod who are interested in exploring church heating systems; some with a more pressing need to replace old boilers, whilst some have a less pressing need but wish to engage in discussions and options for the future. I was pleased to sense that many churches are taking the climate emergency and the Province's goal of being carbon neutral by 2030 seriously.

At St James the Less we have started gathering information on various systems. I have feedback from 3 churches that have installed infrared systems in the last few years (none in our diocese though), and other churches have started their own projects. At St James we are mindful that any carbon neutral replacement heating system, apart from keeping our congregation warm, needs to be kind to the fabric of the building.

With COP26 and the need for the church to be seen to be taking action in caring for God's creation, I am thankful that the Diocesan Standing Committee will be discussing this and are wishing to coordinate action. In the meantime, it would be useful to know who is interested; either looking to replace within the next three years, or those working to a longer time-frame, as well as those churches who have changed heating systems and can offer their experiences.

*Nick Bowry*

**Rector, St James the Less, Penicuik and St Mungo, West Linton**

## NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

- **The Provincial Youth Newsletter** is out now! Find out [here](#) how young people have been staying connected across the Province during lockdown.
- **Glen 21** will happen, no matter what – we just don't yet know quite what form it will take: online, in person or a blend of the two. Booking details and further information can be found on our new Provincial Youth Week page [here](#). **Closing date for applications is 11<sup>th</sup> April.**
- **The Lego Lent Challenge** is here! From Monday 15 March until Easter, there will be a daily Lego build challenge posted online, together with a Bible reading and a short reflection. The aim is to help children engage creatively with the story of Holy Week: for daily updates, like the [Edinburgh Diocese Youth & Children Facebook page](#).



Claire Benton-Evans

## FAIR TRADE IN EDINBURGH

*The Diocesan Office received this from Russell Salton:*

I am the chair of the [Edinburgh Fair Trade City Steering Group](#), which consists of the Lord Provost and a number of Councillors; representatives from major institutions such as Edinburgh University and Napier; Scotmid; small businesses such as One World Shop and Hadeel, and individual volunteers. Our Group is responsible for maintaining Edinburgh's status as a Fairtrade City and promoting fair trade to all organisations within the city and beyond.



Although we are aware anecdotally that a number of Scottish Episcopal Church congregations in Edinburgh are already registered with Fairtrade status and/or use fair trade products, there is no central record of them and none participates actively in our Edinburgh Fair Trade City Steering Group. It would greatly help to coordinate fair trade activities in Edinburgh if congregations would sign up to be part of our network, so if yours is a Fairtrade congregation or interested in the movement can I please ask you to respond to this email and we will add you to our network. Being part of our Group requires no commitment but would allow us to keep you informed of any fair trade activities and/or events during Fairtrade Fortnight, World Fairtrade Day and other times. Of course if a member of your congregation wished to participate more actively in our Group, they would be very welcome.

At the same time [The Scottish Fair Trade Forum](#) has launched a national campaign to ask places of worship to [commit/recommit to Fairtrade status](#) and suggesting that, if they are not already a member of the Forum, to [join it](#) and help promote fair trade within Scotland.



**Scottish  
Fair Trade  
Forum**

If you need any support to revive or refresh your status as a Fairtrade church, or have any questions regarding fair trade, we will be glad to help.

*Russell Salton*

**Chair, Edinburgh Fair Trade City Steering Group**

# EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY

## “EASTER ISN'T CANCELLED!”

### Edinburgh's Easter Play team create new online productions for 2021

The team behind the Edinburgh Easter Play and the Edinburgh Passion are creating an ambitious programme of online work for Easter 2021 after this year's live productions were cancelled due to coronavirus.

It had been hoped that the city-wide real-time production, The Edinburgh Passion, which was originally planned for 2020, could go ahead this year, along with the Easter Play which is staged annually in the Princes Street Gardens.



However, as it became clear that government coronavirus restrictions would be in place throughout the spring, the team decided to create an ambitious programme of new work to be released online for this Easter, ahead of live productions of the Easter Play and Edinburgh Passion in 2022.

A series of short films, Scenes From The Passion, and an audio play, 'Saturday', are currently being made for release on Easter weekend (April 1st-4th) on [www.easterplay.org](http://www.easterplay.org) and [www.edinburghpassion.com](http://www.edinburghpassion.com).

The films, which are currently being made at locations throughout the city, feature characters from the Easter story reimagined in a contemporary context. A leper who is healed by Jesus, for example, is reimagined as a person suffering from coronavirus.

The Easter Play cast is also recording an audio version of 'Saturday', a new telling of the Easter story by Kamala Santos, which will be available to download or listen to online.

*Susan Mansfield*  
**Edinburgh Easter Play**



For more information, interviews or images, contact Susan Mansfield on 07803 620038 or [wordsmansfield@gmail.com](mailto:wordsmansfield@gmail.com). Please feel free to share information about the performances with others in your church or follow the project at [@EasterPlayEdinburgh](https://twitter.com/EasterPlayEdinburgh) and [@theedinburghpassion](https://twitter.com/theedinburghpassion).

# LENT APPEAL

## BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2021

Like so much else, our Lent Appeal this year must take account of the pandemic.

Many congregations are responding generously to local need, such as foodbanks and support services for the lonely and the anxious and I hope this will continue into Lent and beyond. My concern is that this focus on the local and personal, on simply getting through the crisis, takes our attention away from pressing needs in other parts of the world, where there is no NHS, no benefits safety-net and where life is constrained by poverty. Hence my proposal that this year we support a single, outward-looking cause.

The ***Together in Unity Appeal*** was set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury to support virus prevention and emergency relief for vulnerable communities across the Anglican Communion. At a time when the UK government has, disappointingly, decided to cut international aid this provides an opportunity for us to reach out in solidarity to our sisters and brothers, our neighbours in this small world, whom Jesus calls us to love as we love ourselves.

I know there is less money around this year but I would ask you to be generous. Perhaps we might see our giving as an expression of gratitude for the blessings that we so easily take for granted.

+John

### **'How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!' Psalm 133.1**

The Anglican Communion Fund has already begun responding to COVID related needs, allocating over £180,000 across 21 provinces of the Communion. We are supporting the Church in its ministry, providing food relief to the vulnerable, communicating ways of staying safe from the virus, and providing handwashing facilities and PPE. In the South Sudanese Diocese of Maridi, an ACF grant provided food items, soaps and seeds to over 200 pastors and lay-readers and provided bicycles and hand microphones for pastors to carry prevention messages into remote areas. Speaking of the support, Bishop Moses Zungo said, "You held our hand during our most trying moments."



## [DONATE HERE\\*](#)

*Please use the reference DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH*

*To donate via BACS please give to: Friends of ACF / Account no. 00030397 / Sort code 40-52-40*

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\* [https://www.give.net/Together\\_In\\_Unity/oneoff](https://www.give.net/Together_In_Unity/oneoff)

## EVENTS

### “AM I GOOD ENOUGH?”: Resilience and wellbeing in work and ministry

The Guntrip Trust Annual Lecture in association with York St John University.

A free Zoom Webinar with The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis and The Revd Professor Andrew Village.

#### **Date and Time**

Friday, 30 April 2021

17:30 – 18:30 BST

Eventbrite ticket registration link [here](#).

Guntrip Trust website link [here](#).



Leslie Francis and Andrew Village work both as Christian theologians and as social scientists. Their research focuses on how theology and social sciences (particularly psychology) can work together to promote resilience and wellbeing among Christians in the workplace and among ministers in the Church. In this presentation they draw on two of their recent studies to illuminate how the theology of individual differences rooted in scripture, psychological type theory rooted in the work of Carl Jung, and the balanced affect approach to wellbeing can collectively promote personal and professional resilience. Their two recent studies concern the Resilience in Ministry Survey conducted among over 500 Church of Scotland ministers, and the Coronavirus, Church & You Survey completed by over 10,000 participants.

You will receive your joining link closer to the date of the event.

If you have any questions regarding this event please contact [A.Village@yorksja.ac.uk](mailto:A.Village@yorksja.ac.uk).

## OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS

*Going FREE (or a donation if you're feeling generous)!*

### 84 wooden seated and backed stacking chairs and 5 Round Tables



The Taoist Tai Chi Society in Edinburgh have 84 wooden seated and backed stacking chairs and 5 round tables diameter 100cm height 74cm, originally bought from Sainsbury's, to dispose of. Collection is from their Meadowbank/Marionville Road centre. You will need to arrange your own transport (van) and uplift (people power). This is time sensitive, so a swift response is requested to avoid disappointment.

Contact Fr Martin Robson on 0131 623 1179 or [martinrobson42@gmail.com](mailto:martinrobson42@gmail.com)

# VACANCIES



**St Michael and all Saints' Church  
28 Brougham Street, Tollcross  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9JH**

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND CHOIR DIRECTOR St Michael and all Saints' Church**

- We are seeking a new Director of Music to direct our choir, and work with our team of organists, to maintain and develop the music in our church
- The 11.00am High Mass on Sundays is the focus of our worship, with choir rehearsal at 9.30am. The choir has a wide range of Mass settings and anthems in its repertoire
- The voluntary choir varies in size from around 6 to 18 singers on normal Sundays, and more when orchestral and festival masses are celebrated
- St Michael and All Saints is in the high Anglo-Catholic tradition with rich liturgy and music. There are additional services (Holy Week and at Advent and Christmas). Our Festival Masses in August form part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The ethos is devout, flamboyant and inclusive.
- We invite indications of interest and conversation prior to interview after the present Covid restrictions.

**For a job description and further details contact Fr Martin Robson.  
[martinrobson42@gmail.com](mailto:martinrobson42@gmail.com) 0131 623 1179**

**The church's website is: [www.stmichaelandallsaints.org](http://www.stmichaelandallsaints.org)**



## **CHRISM EUCHARIST 2021**

**St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 11.30 am**

The service can be viewed [here](#)

At this service, ordination vows are reaffirmed and  
the oils of healing and Chrism are blessed.

As attendance is strictly limited to 50 people, please register for the Mass [here](#)

If after registering you are no longer able to attend, please email  
[bishopspa@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:bishopspa@dioceseofedinburgh.org) so your place may be offered to someone else.

