



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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Charity Number: SC001214

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

5th May 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: 19th May 2021



St Ninian's Church, Comely Bank, Edinburgh

NOTICES

COVID-19: UPDATED GUIDANCE

As all parts of Scotland have now moved into Level 3, the Scottish Government has issued new guidance for places of worship, which can be found [here](#). All places of worship must have regard to the Government guidance and this remains the fundamental policy for all SEC churches.

The SEC General Synod Office does not intend to continue to issue full guidance with every change to the Government guidelines. Instead they will send out targeted guidance by email, clarifying the principal changes in the Church context to those who need it – if you think you should have received this and haven't, or have any queries about the changes, please contact the [General Synod Office](#).

The most significant changes to be aware of are:

As of moving into level 3, places of worship are no longer subject to a cap of 50 attendees. However, 2m social distancing must continue to be observed. The maximum number able to attend a service in church is determined by the physical capacity of the building, ensuring the necessary 2m distancing between individual worshippers or household groups. Children under 5 are not counted towards the capacity for this purpose.

The new guidance permits more than one room or hall to be used for worship at the same time. Care will need to be taken to manage movement within any common circulation areas and facilities such as toilets. If children enter the main worship space with the rest of the congregation at any time, they must be included within the maximum capacity figures (except children under 5). However, if the children use a separate self-contained space with its own entrance and exit and do not join the main service then the relevant maximum capacity would be that for that self-contained space.

The maximum number permitted to attend funerals and weddings has increased from a cap of 20 to a cap of 50, increasing again when we reach level 1 (cap of 100) and level 0 (cap of 200). See also the Scottish Government guidance for [weddings](#) and [funerals](#).

Subject to 2m physical distancing, indoor hospitality will now be permitted in places of worship so that, for example, food or drink may be offered after (or before) a service. People must be seated, continue to wear face coverings when not seated, and [guidance for the hospitality sector](#) must be complied with (but the 2m distancing requirement will override the 1m distancing requirement applicable in some hospitality premises).

PLEASE NOTE that this is all subject to change, and that this guidance covers only areas in LEVEL 3 (which happens to currently be all of Scotland). When part or all of Scotland enters a different level the guidance will implicitly be different. Please ensure you keep up to date with the latest guidance on the [Scottish Government website](#).



DIARY

BISHOP'S DIARY

Thursday 6th May Revd Iain Lothian will be instituted as Rector of St James', Leith
You can view the service from 7.30pm [here](#)

Sunday 16th May Bishop John presides and preaches at St Cuthbert's, Colinton

COMMITTEES

Thursday 13th May Finance & Management Committee

Thursday 20th May Standing Committee

CANON 35

The Diocesan Buildings Committee has granted consent to the following projects:

- **Bathgate St Columba's** – Installation of solar panels
- **Edinburgh Old St Paul's** – Installation of external CCTV system
- **Edinburgh Old St Paul's** – Refurbishment of Memorial Wall
- **Edinburgh St Mark's Portobello** – Refurbishment of main church building

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER



YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS 

From the Diocese of Edinburgh

Easteride 2021 Contact Claire Benton-Evans: youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org

IN THIS ISSUE

- Around the Diocese: celebrating Easter
- Taking children's work outside
- New resources and campaigns
- GLEN21** Provincial Youth Week news

The latest [Youth and Children Newsletter](#) is out now! This edition features Easter celebrations, new resources, Children's Chapel and Provincial Youth news: you can read all this and more [here](#).

Nothing can stop the Provincial Youth Week! Glen 21 has now been confirmed for 1-7 August. It will be a 'blended' week of online interactivity, offline things to do and some in-person meet-ups in regional hubs around the Province. Places are filling up fast! Booking is still open, so if there are teenagers connected to your church who need something to look forward to this summer, direct them to [Glen21.online](#) for full information, FAQs and booking details.

Claire Benton-Evans

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

https://www.give.net/Together_In_Unity/oneoff

N.B – We have received a few donations for this at the Diocesan Office, which we are, unfortunately, unable to process. Please use the details above for all donations. Thank you

EVENTS

To reserve your free place, visit
tinyurl.com/ruleoflawconference



Balfour Project

ONLINE CONFERENCE

Israel/Palestine:
in search of the rule of law

25 & 26 May 2021

BST 15.45 - 18.45 on the 25th (17.45 - 20.45 Israel/Palestine)
BST 14.00 - 18.00 on the 26th (16.00 - 20.00 Israel/Palestine)

**Measuring the distance between
international law which Britain has
pledged to uphold -
and the lived reality in the
Occupied Palestinian Territory.**

Rt.Hon.Baroness Hale of Richmond,
former President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

Rt. Hon. Jack Straw,
former Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs and Home Secretary

Rt. Hon. Dominic Grieve Q.C.,
former Attorney-General for England and Wales

Rt. Hon. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi,
co-Chairwoman of the Conservative Party from 2010 to 2012.

Rt. Hon. Lord John Alderdice,
former Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Philippe Sands Q.C.,
barrister, Director of the Centre for International
Courts and Tribunals, University College, London

Zaha Hassan,
human rights lawyer, visiting fellow,
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington

Michael Sfard,
human rights lawyer, political activist and author, Jerusalem

Prof. Michael Lynk,
UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the
Palestinian Territory, Professor of Law, Western University, Canada

Sahar Francis,
General Director of human rights organisation Addameer, Ramallah

Issam Younis,
human rights lawyer, Director, Al Mezan Centre for
Human Rights, Gaza

Nada Kiswanson,
counsel before the International Criminal Court.

Layla Moran MP,
Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Foreign Affairs

Wayne David MP,
Shadow Minister for the Middle East and North Africa

Joanna Cherry QC MP,
SNP, deputy chair of Committee on Human Rights, Westminster

Our conference is free, but please consider
a donation to support our work.

www.tinyurl.com/donatetoBP

Balfour Project is a Scottish Registered Charity (SC 047090)

VACANCIES

None at present

See our [website](#) for any future vacancies

