



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

27 August 2021

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Holy Trinity, Melrose

DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS

STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to introduce Robert Guthrie, who is now our Interim Administrative Assistant (Finance & Management) for 10 hours per week, for a temporary period.

In what seems to be a slight tradition of us using members of the Cathedral Choir to help us, Robert has just started as a Layclerk at St Mary's Cathedral and, whilst he finds his feet here, is very kindly helping to keep us afloat. Robert was previously a Choral Scholar in Hereford Cathedral Choir, but grew up in Dumfries & Galloway, so can certainly be regarded as a native.



He has taken over the general duties from David Lewis, and his contact details can be found on our Diocesan Office Staff page - <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-staff/staff-based-at-the-diocesan-office/>

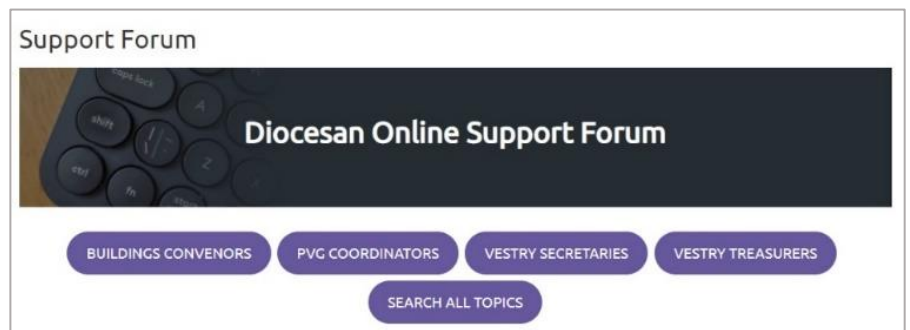
We are hoping to advertise very soon for both the administrative and communications posts, and those adverts will appear here in The Communicant and on our website. In the meantime, thank you for your continued patience as we move back towards full strength in the Diocesan Office.

Simon Filsell (Diocesan Administrator)

ONLINE VESTRY SUPPORT FORUM: 'TEST PILOTS' WANTED!

Over the last month or so the Diocesan Office team have been working hard at putting together our Online Vestry Support Forum.

The work is now in its final stages before it can be brought online for vestries to use (those of you familiar with software development might call this 'beta testing'!).



We are therefore looking for a few volunteers from vestries in the Diocese to put the system through its paces by signing up and posting a question (or answering someone else's question) on the forum.

We are still welcoming 'test pilot' enquiries from Vestry Treasurers, Vestry Secretaries, PVG Coordinators and Buildings Convenors.

If you would be willing to help out please contact us at office@edinburgh.anglican.org (or phone the office on 0131 538 7033)... you don't have to be a computer whizz; the system is meant to be there for everyone, regardless of online experience, so testers of all 'abilities' are actively encouraged!

Cover Image: Walter Baxter, Holy Trinity Church,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holy_Trinity_Church_-_geograph.org.uk_-_774949.jpg

DIARY

THE BISHOP'S DIARY

Sunday 29 August Presiding at the rededication of St John's Church, Selkirk

Tuesday 31 August Day in Residence at the Scottish Episcopal Institute Orientation Week

Sunday 12 September Preaching at the Cursillo Closing Eucharist

Monday 20 September Lay Reader Day

Thursday 23 September Installation of The Revd John Vincent, St Martin of Tours, Edinburgh

Sunday 26 September Ordinations to the Diaconate, St Mary's Cathedral

COMMITTEES

Thursday 9 September Finance & Management Committee

Thursday 16 September Standing Committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 20 September Diocesan Office closed (*public holiday*)

Thursday 21 October Diocesan Synod

Monday 8 – Thursday 11 November Clergy Conference

NOTICES

COVID-19: UPDATED SEC ADVISORY GROUP GUIDANCE

The SEC Advisory Group published this update on Friday 20 August. This information was sent by email to all clergy, lay readers, vestry secretaries and diocesan secretaries, and is accessible here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Version-10-25.08.21.pdf>.

"[The Advisory Group] had hoped that further clarity would by now have been available from Government in terms of revised guidance for Places of Worship, given that Scotland has been "beyond level 0" since 9 August. Such guidance is not yet available, but we are assured that it will be issued. We expect it to be considerably shorter than the Government's previous guidance because the level of restrictions applicable in "beyond level 0" is significantly reduced but the fact that it is not yet to hand has made it difficult for the Advisory Group to advance matters as quickly as it had hoped.

We understand that the current situation is frustrating for congregations as they navigate the way forward. It remains the Advisory Group's intention to revise its guidance, once the Government guidance has been issued

and it will initially do this by way of a revised set of Frequently Asked Questions to address the issues which are arising at present. These will be available in the early part of next week and will be posted to the coronavirus guidance page on the provincial website as usual.

In the meantime, the Advisory Group offers the following in the hope that it will be helpful:

Whilst we are now “beyond level 0”, and many of the legal restrictions previously in place have been removed, it remains the case that the pandemic is not yet behind us. The Delta variant remains highly transmissible, and care should continue to be taken.”

Below is a summary of the Advisory Group’s key guidance on:

- **Physical distancing and social gatherings**
- **Face coverings**
- **Hygiene**
- **Church choirs, worship bands and performers**
- **Offertory processions and servers**
- **The Common Cup**
- **Service refreshments**
- **Common use of printed resources**

Restrictions regarding **physical distancing** and the size of **social gatherings** have been removed. It is only a requirement to maintain 1m social distancing in some aspects of church services (see below).

The wearing of **face coverings** continues to be a legal requirement in indoor public places, including places of worship.

Churches should **ensure cleanliness**, good ventilation, the disinfection of “hand touch points” and engagement with NHS Test and Protect. Churches should assess the level of risk in their own context as some may wish to continue with restrictions. There is no requirement for a **minimum quarantine period** between the uses of buildings. **Shiny-surfaced materials** are more prone to retaining viral deposits and should be disinfected regularly.

“**Performers**” need not wear face coverings, provided there is a partition between each performer and others, or a distance of at least 1m is maintained between the performer and others. **Church choirs and worship bands** can sing without face coverings, as per the appropriate mitigation measures.

Offertory processions can resume, along with the **presence of servers**, if they wear face coverings, physically distance, and maintain good hand sanitising practice.

The **Common Cup** should not be reintroduced at this point.

Refreshments served before or after a service need no longer be on a “table-service” basis. However, when not consuming beverages and moving around in any refreshment area, face coverings should be worn.

There is no ban on the **reuse of liturgy books, hymn books, Bibles** and similar materials. Churches are reminded that some materials can be accessed electronically.

When open to the public during the day for private prayer, churches need not ensure a staffing presence if there is adequate signage indicating that individuals must sanitise their hands upon entering the church.

This guidance has been provided by the Province, and therefore the Diocesan Office is unable to provide specialist advice.

NOTICES (continued)

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday 31 August The Revd Canon Ruth Innes, Rector of St Fillan's, Edinburgh, will retire

Thursday 23 September The Revd John Vincent will be installed as
Priest-in-Charge of St Martin of Tours, Edinburgh

Sunday 26 September Lesley Penny and Claire Nicolson will be ordained to the
Diaconate at St Mary's Cathedral *Please hold them and their families in your prayers*

Tuesday 19 October The Revd Aaron Moffat-Jackman has been appointed and will
be installed as Priest-in-Charge of St Peter's, Musselburgh

CANON 35

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

- **Edinburgh St Cuthbert's Colinton** – Installation of Defibrillator
- **Edinburgh St Philip's and St James's** – Relocation of Furnishings

BISHOP PREACHES AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Following his recent sabbatical, The Bishop of Edinburgh, The Rt Revd Dr John Armes, resumed his Diocesan duties last Sunday 22 August by preaching at St Mary's Cathedral, writes Robert Guthrie.

For me, it's often during a delicate aria, an impassioned Shakespearean soliloquy, a side-splitting comedy sketch or an orchestra's acceleration into a symphony's finale that we gain perspective of the things which really matter in life.

In his sermon, The Bishop reminded us that the Edinburgh Festival tells us much about humanity and can provoke reflection not only upon ourselves, but also upon the most important Christian teachings.

The Bishop said: "An international event like this, its music and theatre, its laughter and conviviality, renews our appreciation of human



creativity and lifts us beyond the routines of everyday life, and our more mundane preoccupations, to remind us of the things that are of enduring, even eternal, value.”

“That very creativity works precisely because it faces head on the truth of the human condition: the joy and sorrow of our close companions, success and failure, too, celebration and lament, dignity and degradation, life and death,” The Bishop added.

“Even as we emerge from a theatre or a concert hall, we see played out in real time on screens all around us earthquake devastation in Haiti and political trauma in Afghanistan.”

Yet, whilst such grave suffering can overwhelm us, it can encourage us to search and work for goodness.

“We may feel helpless, only able to offer prayer and money, but we can’t be unmoved by the harrowing stories of desperation and dread, as the lives people have worked so hard to make for themselves, and the rights they have fought for, disintegrate in front of us.”

The Bishop continued: “Yet the extraordinary, uncomfortable, challenging paradox of Jesus’ teaching is that a willingness to face up to all that denies life is precisely the route to abundant life; that Jesus, by being himself the victim of brutality and cruelty, points us towards a way of living that need make a victim of no one.

“This is where the light shines, this is where our lives can be directed – for this is where we find the bread of life that truly nourishes the soul.”

Currently displayed upon the Cathedral’s High Altar is an art installation (pictured) by Silvy Weatherall, entitled *The Last Supper*. Her ceramic depictions of Jesus Christ and the Twelve Apostles are made from broken china and were mentioned by The Bishop.

The Bishop said: “Her point is that brokenness – and you’ll find that the broken bits are gilded – can become our place of greatest strength.”

It is worth remembering that the Edinburgh Festival has always promoted peace since its founding in the aftermath of the Second World War, as The Bishop highlighted.

“For the arts, and comedy, too, both have the capacity to take us beyond words, beyond categories, beyond the boundaries of self, tribe, nation, and to invite us to rediscover how we belong to one another, in respect of love,” The Bishop added.



YOUTH AND CHILDREN OFFICER

GLEN 21 BRINGS YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER

At the beginning of August, The Provincial Youth Week (Glen 21) successfully brought together young people from all over Scotland, both online and in person, for a week of fun, friendship, faith and fellowship.

It was a treat for Edinburgh delegates to gather in person for a day of Glen-style activities at St Mark's Portobello (pictured). Enjoy photos and a full report on Glen 21 in the [Provincial Youth Newsletter here](#).



Please share this good news with young people and families in your church! Glen 22 will be open to anyone of High School age. Any text in this newsletter may be shared in church publications and on websites and social media; for permission to use photographs, please contact the PYC's photo archive manager via [this form](#).

Claire Benton-Evans (Youth and Children Officer)

SEASON OF PILGRIMAGE 2021-22

Events are being organised to celebrate the SEC's Season of Pilgrimage, which will take place over the next few months and lead up to a 'Big Walk to the Cathedral' for Pentecost 2022.

Information is listed below. Further details are available from Rev Willie Shaw (stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com) and the Season of Pilgrimage website: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/season-of-pilgrimage/>.

BANNERS DAY, SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2021, WALPOLE HALL, ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

People of all abilities, including beginners, are invited to share ideas for the creation of banners for the Season of Pilgrimage. These banners will be displayed at events such as the 'Big Walk to the Cathedral'. Please register your interest with Christina.france@talk21.com.

A proposed programme for Saturday 18 September is as follows:

9:30 am to 10:00 am Welcome, tea & coffee

10:00 am to 10:45 am Sharing each other's work

11:00 am to 11:30 am Cathedral group shares work to date

11:30 am to 12:30 am Formation of area groups to discuss ideas for pilgrimage banners and a plan of action

12:30 am to 1:00 pm Share ideas. Lunch (soup provided, but please bring your own sandwich).

PILGRIMAGE TO COP26 (DUNBAR TO GLASGOW), SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER TO SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER 2021

A pilgrimage between Dunbar and Glasgow will provide the opportunity to reflect upon the climate crisis ahead of COP26 in November. Full details will be available at <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/season-of-pilgrimage/> and <https://artandecology.earth/pilgrimage-for-cop26>.

The pilgrimage includes a public engagement programme to accompany the walkers and encourage participation *en route*.

Participating organisations include the Deep Time Walk Project, Interfaith Edinburgh, Interfaith Glasgow, Interfaith Scotland, John Muir's Birthplace, North Light Arts and Scottish Dance Theatre.

The itinerary is as follows (please contact stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com if you are interested in walking any or all of this route):

- 17th Oct – Dunbar launch event from 2 pm
- 18th Oct – Dunbar to North Berwick
- 19th Oct – North Berwick to Aberlady Bay
- 20th Oct – Aberlady Bay to Portobello and Edinburgh
- 21st Oct to 24th Oct – Edinburgh Way Station (various events)
- 25th Oct – Edinburgh to South Queensferry
- 26th Oct – South Queensferry to Bo'ness
- 27th Oct – Bo'ness to Falkirk (via Grangemouth)
- 28th Oct – Falkirk to Kirkintilloch
- 29th Oct – Kirkintilloch to Glasgow
- 30th Oct to 31st Oct – Glasgow Welcome (various events)



Plans for two of the pilgrimage days have already been released:

Dunbar – Sunday 17 October & Monday 18 October

Afternoon of Sunday 17 October

- Eco-themed activities are to take place in Dunbar across the John Muir Birthplace, the Dunbar Battery and Lauderdale Park (outdoor venues) in collaboration with groups including Northern Light Arts and Sustaining Dunbar.
- Pilgrims will be welcomed as they gather in preparation for the Art and Ecology Pilgrimage, walking for which begins in Dunbar on Monday October 18. Walkers from the Youth Christian Climate Network (YCCN) relay will also be arriving *en route* from Cornwall, the location of the G7 Summit, before heading to Glasgow.
- Alasdair MacIntosh has been invited to speak at Belhaven Parish Church Hall in the evening.
- St Anne's Church will be a Spirituality Hub with climate-focused prayer stations created by local Christians. The World Community for Christian Meditation will offer guided silent meditation sessions and, outside the church, a public reading of key findings from

the recent IPCC report is being planned in order to draw attention to the scientific reality of global warming.

Monday 18 October

- Walkers are invited to gather in Dunbar at 9 am on Monday 18 October to walk the John Muir Way to North Berwick with others. If you are interested in joining the walk or participating in the event above, please contact Rev Diana Hall at rector.stannesdunbar@gmail.com.

Bo'ness to Falkirk – Wednesday, 26 October

- After spending the night at St Catharine's Church, pilgrims plan to gather at Bo'ness Foreshore before walking to the Kinneil Lagoons (an accidental, human-made habitat which is home to thousands of wintering birds).
- Pilgrims will then pray their way along the public road passing through Scotland's refinery at Grangemouth.
- Refreshments will be served at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Grangemouth, before continuing to the Kelpies. An interfaith gathering will take place at the Peace Pole in Helix Park. Christ Church, Falkirk, will offer a quiet place for evening reflection. Accommodation in Falkirk is being settled (**could you offer a pilgrim a bed for the night?**). Please contact Rev Willie Shaw if you are interested in walking/sharing with us at any point that day (stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com).

DAY PILGRIMAGES

Ideas for day pilgrimages are currently being sought – please contact Rev Willie Shaw (stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com). Current plans include:

Feast of St Margaret (Saturday 13 November 2021, the Feast Day being 16 November)

- Starting at North Queensferry station and heading to Dunfermline Abbey for an act of worship. The group intends to visit St Margaret's Hope, St Margaret's Stone and St Margaret's Cave. Participants could travel home by rail.

Wells of Edinburgh – Holy and Otherwise (June 2022)

- Starting at St James' Balm Well, Liberton and heading to St Triduana's Well, Restalrig, taking in several others on the way. The precise date depends on the reopening of St Triduana's.

PILGRIMAGE CONFERENCE, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2022

Zoom-based talks are planned for several evenings, ending in a day conference on Saturday 26 February. Talks will cover a range of historical, scriptural and spiritual themes. Details to be released.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO WALK, MAY 2022

This walk of the 73-mile (117km) Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela is being organised by Rev Nick Bowry, who is familiar with the route.

It is proposed that a group would depart on or around Monday 16 May, depending on flights from London Stansted to Santiago. There will be a 90-minute coach journey from Santiago to Ferrol completed on the day we arrive at Santiago airport.

The group would walk the route from Ferrol to Santiago over six days, with one night in Santiago at the end. The minimum duration would be eight days, but people could stay for longer if they wish not to be rushed when obtaining a certificate, which can involve long queues.

Accommodation would be in mixed hostel dormitories (c.€15 per night) as well as in low-cost hotels (c.€25-35 per night) *en route*. In Santiago, hotels are expensive (minimum €50 per night). Participants should allow €20 per day for food and drink, and they would have to walk with a rucksack. A forwarding service may be available (approx. €5 per day).

A briefing session is planned for October, with the making of firm commitments envisaged for the end of November 2021. Please register your interest with rector.pandwl@gmail.com.

THE BIG WALK, 28 MAY 2022

Save the date! Groups will walk from South Queensferry, Balerno, Roslin and Musselburgh to St Mary's Cathedral, carrying pre-made banners and picking up other pilgrims on the way. There will be prayers and celebrations at the Cathedral. The event is particularly appropriate for Pentecost; when the Spirit came at the birth of the Church, Christ's followers "were all together in one place."

LONGER WALKS

St Cuthbert's Way: Melrose to Lindisfarne, Holy Island, March 2022 (6 nights/7 days, 61.5 miles/99.5km)

- This walk will be organised by Shepherds Walks Holidays. It is a supported walk, involving accommodation in B&Bs and local inns, and luggage being transported daily.
- Cost: £619.00 without packed lunches or £689.00 with packed lunches. A single supplement costs £240.00. The minimum booking is six people.
- Commitment must be made by the end of October. Please register interest by contacting stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com. If anyone wishes to come but is put off by the cost, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Fife Pilgrim Way, August/September 2022

- It is hoped that local accommodation such as church floors and individual homes would be used for this pilgrimage, making it cheaper. Please register interest by contacting stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com.

LOCAL PILGRIMAGE EVENTS

Every church is encouraged to develop its own form of pilgrimage, whether by walking, driving, cycling or travelling on public transport.

For example, St Mary's, Grangemouth, and St Catharine's, Bo'ness, will spend a day this autumn visiting sites associated with their history. Congregants from St Mary's will visit the ruins of Dunmore Church; drop in to Christ Church, Falkirk; take a trip to the Rectory (built on the site of the first tin kirk); and finish at the church itself.

Additionally, congregants from Bo'ness will visit medieval ruins at Carriden and Kinneil; a church graveyard which has, at different times, been converted into a cinema, garage and house; travel to the Town Hall; and end at St Catharine's, which was built 100 years ago.



NEWS FROM FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE

STUDY TO SALUTE OLDER PEOPLE'S 'VOLUNTARY MINISTRY'

Faith in Older People (FiOP) is searching for individuals and congregations to share their experiences of how older people have contributed positively to faith communities.



FiOP was recently awarded funding from the TOR Christian Foundation to "identify and better understand the contribution made by older people in our faith communities to volunteering, community wellbeing and citizenship."

Preparations for the grant-funded project come after a [previous study](#) of the impact of COVID-19 upon congregations was commissioned by Scottish churches, Action of Churches Together in Scotland and the Scottish Church Leaders' Forum. One of its conclusions was that "further research into the social capital generated by the churches should be undertaken."

FiOP now hopes that the new study "will highlight the voluntary 'ministry' which lies at the heart of the Christian faith and is echoed in all faiths."

Maureen O'Neill, Director of FiOP, says that a survey will be circulated early next year.

Meanwhile, individuals and congregations interested in helping with the study are asked to contact Maureen O'Neill directly, using the email address director@fiop.org.uk.

The extraordinary role played by Scottish faith communities during the pandemic has already been acknowledged by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

In November 2020, Ms Sturgeon said: "Scotland's faith communities and interfaith groups make a massive contribution to our society. That's true at all times but it has been especially evident this year as we dealt with the challenge of Covid.

"Across the country faith communities and interfaith groups have delivered food and support to vulnerable people. You have reached out to those who are isolated, and you have provided people with solace, comfort, and spiritual guidance when they've needed it most.

"In doing so, you've helped to mitigate some of the worst impacts of this crisis. And you have demonstrated values of solidarity, compassion and love which are so important to our society overall."

ADVERTISEMENTS

OFFICE EQUIPMENT SEEKING NEW HOME

Staff at Faith in Older People are clearing out their office and would like to donate some surplus office supplies to a new home.

Contact info@fiop.org.uk if you would be interested in box files/other organisational files; easels (as good as new!); or a new wide-screen monitor.

DO YOU HAVE AN ELECTRIC ORGAN?

St Mark's, Portobello, would like to know if anyone has a Wyvern organ which needs to be repaired or serviced.

Staff from the repair company need several churches in Scotland before they head north.

The company offers a handful of different electric organs (see here:

<http://www.ormatronixorgans.co.uk/index.htm>), and St Mark's knows of three in need of some TLC.

If you would be interested, or if you simply wish to make yourself known, please contact Michael Graham, Director of Music at St Mark's Portobello (music@stmarksportobello.org).

PASTORAL COORDINATOR VACANCY

St Joseph's Services, an organisation which helps people with learning disabilities live life to the full, is searching for a Pastoral Coordinator.

More information is available at: <https://goodmoves.com/vacancy/a4s3z0000sfbo4aan-pastoral-coordinator>. Anyone interested should apply before Sunday 12 September.

OTHER NOTICES & EVENTS

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR GREENER CHURCHES

As the SEC aims for net zero carbon emissions by 2030, churches may be interested to know that they could secure Scottish Government funding for renewable and low-carbon building solutions.

The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) can provide churches with up to 100 per cent of funding in grants and loans for technologies including solar panels and heat pumps. Applications will be considered on a first-come-first-served basis, meaning that interested churches should act straight away. Visit <https://www.localenergy.scot/funding/lets-do-net-zero-community-buildings/>.

GOOD NEWS: WIN £7,500 FOR YOUR CHURCH

Churches throughout the Diocese of Edinburgh have shown themselves to be remarkably resilient over the last 18 months, with displays of extraordinary generosity and innovative online worship solutions.

Insurance company Ecclesiastical now wants you to share stories of your congregation's creativity and ingenuity in its Good News competition.

In 250 words, churches are invited to outline a moment, event or project which has recently brought joy to people, along with a headline and a video or photo.

If your story is selected, your church could win up to £7,500.

Each entry will automatically be entered into one of five regional competitions, with those winners taking home £1,500 each. Then, at the grand final, one of those five churches will be selected to win an additional £6,000.

Hopeful churches must enter by Friday 17 September using either the online form (https://ecclesiastical.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6FDYkyEpU8UsdrE) or a printed entry form (https://www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/church-competition-entry-form.pdf?utm_source=Communicator-email&utm_medium=Email+-+Church+Mailing+list&utm_content=Link214&utm_campaign=One+more+month+to+win+%c2%a37%2c500+for+your+church). Best of luck!

A PLAYLIST FOR LIFE

Over two decades of research has shown that listening to meaningful pieces of music helps people living with dementia recall fond memories and experience positive emotions.

Playlist for Life, a National Lottery-funded charity founded by broadcaster Sally Magnusson, is therefore encouraging those with dementia, their loved ones and their carers to create a mixtape of personally significant tunes.

Here is a video which introduces the concept and provides instructions for creating playlists: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMSaqD3ArHw>.

Churches are invited to spread the word and can request free resources including leaflets, booklets and starter sheets by clicking on this link: <https://www.playlistforlife.org.uk/apply-help-point/>. Training and webinars are also available from Playlist for Life.

More details are available from Peter Fairbrother, Playlist for Life Local Organiser for Edinburgh and South-East Scotland (07476 315785 or peter.fairbrother@playlistforlife.org.uk).

WORK PLACE CHAPLAINCY SCOTLAND TRAINING MODULES

After a successful training programme earlier in the year, Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland (WPCS) is offering a series of modules to those interested in providing an employment-oriented ministry.

Modules on offer this autumn include an 'Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy', 'Engaging in Organisational Cultures', 'Building Resilience in the Workplace', 'Active Listening', 'Trauma in the Workplace', 'Confidentiality and Safeguarding', 'Supporting People through Redundancy' and 'Bereavement'.

Anyone interested in finding out more about WPCS or becoming a volunteer chaplain is invited to visit <http://www.wpcscotland.co.uk/index.php/news/autumn-21-chaplaincy->



[training-programme](#) where online EventBrite booking forms are available.

WPCS' ecumenical team of chaplains has supported Edinburgh-based employees for ten years.

After completing training earlier in the year, WPCS added 23 new workplace chaplains to its roster.

Additionally, as part of the Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland initiative, 12 new Veterans Chaplains will complete their induction in early autumn, allowing them to support ex-services personnel and their families.

SCOTTISH CHURCHES CHINA GROUP AUTUMN PLENARY

The SCCG will hold its autumn plenary at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (25 Nicolson Square, EH8 9BX) on Thursday 16 September.

Wendy Alexander, Vice-Principal (International) at Dundee University, has agreed to speak at the plenary.

Ms Alexander and her family are linked to the SCCG and have a history of involvement with the former Christian Medical Missionary Hospital in Shenyang. Ms Alexander is currently involved with the creation of a permanent museum at the hospital in Shenyang.



The schedule for the SCCG plenary is as follows:

- 1100 – Arrival and Coffee
- 1115 – Welcome & summary update about SCCG work
- 1140 – Wendy Alexander: 'From Shenyang to Scotland and Back: Connections Old and New'
- 1220 – Q&A with Wendy
- 1230(1245) – Finish

Places can be reserved using Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sccg-autumn-plenary-tickets-166053188557>) or by contacting patriciajohnston185@gmail.com.



An ecumenical organisation formed in 1983, the SCCG works on health and education projects with partners in China. It is particularly involved in supporting people on the autism spectrum, school-age children with additional needs, those in dementia care and the elderly.

A CELEBRATION OF SCOTTISH CHURCH MUSIC

The Royal School of Church Music's (RSCM) Scotland contingent will help church musicians resume their warm-ups and dust down their instruments next month with an event to relaunch sung worship.



The Revd Helen Bent, Bishop's Advisor for Music and Worship in the Diocese of Sheffield, will lead 'A Celebration of the Best of Church Music Past and Present' at St Peter's Church, Edinburgh, on Thursday 2 September at 7.30 pm.

The event will draw upon a rich variety of liturgical music and channel the emotional tensions of both praise and lament.

Tickets for the Edinburgh event, which cost £8 for RSCM members and £10 for non-members, can be booked at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-celebration-of-the-best-of-church-music-past-and-present-tickets-167595535759?fbclid=IwAR0Xif8GdVyPL49zKHbAP8mrhk0UTG6H_GBh4FdruUorV30txGZYTZ20Wjc.

The same event will take place at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth on Wednesday 1 September at 7.30 pm, tickets for which can be booked at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-celebration-of-the-best-of-church-music-past-and-present-tickets-167595343183?fbclid=IwAR3tbQPrIldW_HRgjd-GvtO-7F-Of0nc5FCDlcB4rwE3oerUzt-q_nNrJwY.

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS: STUDY ON BEREAVEMENT AND COVID-19

NatCen is looking for churches to help source participants for a new study examining the impact of COVID-19 upon bereavement and grief.

The research organisation hopes its findings will broaden the mental health support available to bereaved individuals, improve funeral practices and reflect upon public-health messaging.

Recommendations will be presented to key stakeholders including government departments, bereavement organisations and funeral directors.

Participants would be invited to take part in two telephone or video interviews on their experiences. They would remain anonymous and any information given would be kept confidential. Participants would receive £15 for taking part in each interview.

Anyone who may be able to reach out to potential participants should contact alexander.martin@natcen.ac.uk or priya.khambhaita@natcen.ac.uk for a Participant Information Sheet. Potential participants would receive a non-committal call from an experienced researcher.

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY – A FUTURE FOR YOUR CHURCH

Heritage Trust Network and Historic Churches Scotland will host the third event of this series for any group contemplating the future of its church building. This event will continue the organisations'

informal discussion forum for communities working with their local church buildings. It will be held via Zoom at 10 am on Wednesday 1 September and

there is no need to have attended the previous events. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/at-the-heart-of-the-community-a-future-for-your-church-tickets-163495797331>.



Heritage
Trust
Network



New Groups run by Reflective Spaces

www.reflectivespaces.org.uk

Soul Care Conversation - meet others via Zoom in a facilitated space to drop down into a deeper kind of conversation around what is touching your heart and soul. Spiritual connection, resourcing and meaning-making in relationship. 6 sessions running fortnightly September to December for 90min each. We will find a regular day and time that works for those who are interested. Please note your interest by 23rd August. £20 per session with a commitment to 6 sessions. Group size 4 to 8.

Work Reflection Group - find support as work patterns shift and change, for anyone in any role who would like a space to discern, learn and grow in how you 'show up' at work, what gets you out of bed in the morning, what sustains you, where the edges are, how we experience other people in our work settings etc. Mondays on Zoom 7pm - 8.30pm 4 sessions: 13th Sept, 11th Oct, 8th Nov, 6th Dec. £25. Group size 3 to 6.

Six Ways Group - For those who have some experience leading groups who would like to learn about, and experiment with, six different ways to hold group space. Suitable for all who hold group conversations for others - team leaders, supervisors, church group leaders, management staff etc. We'll 'learn by doing', trying out six ways to engage together around your own personal or work stories, followed by time to reflect on what will be useful in your own setting. This group experience will be on Zoom but can be translated for in-person settings. Wednesdays 10am - 12noon, 15th Sept, 20th Oct, 17th Nov, 15th Dec plus two more dates TBC. £30 per session, with a commitment to 6 sessions. Group size 4 to 8.

Elizabeth is a spiritual director, trainer and senior accredited pastoral supervisor, who also holds a Graduate Certificate in Group work. Rooted in an evolving contemplative Christian tradition, Elizabeth is inspired by ongoing depth of journey in the whole of life, vocation and ministry. She has a particular interest in how we use power wisely and well in our roles, and in attachment, trauma and love. She also offers creative and resourcing confidential space to people who wish to reflect on life and work.

Please enquire to Elizabeth elizabeth@reflectivespaces.org.uk

God's invitation to relationship

An introduction to
Ways of Praying

EPIPHANY GROUP
rooted in the Ignatian tradition

A four week short prayer course
on Zoom to support people
into a deeper prayer life through
tutors' input
guided prayer experience
& sharing

7.30-9.00pm Wednesdays

1st, 8th Sept

22nd 29th Sept

Follow-ups 13th & 27th Oct

TO REGISTER:

invitation@epiphanygroup.org.uk

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE SEMINAR - Death, Dying and Bereavement: How do we develop compassionate support

THURSDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 2.30 (BY ZOOM)

This seminar will highlight important initiatives to support people experiencing grief, loss, and bereavement. There will be examples of local compassionate communities and an opportunity to share ideas.

About this event

This seminar will give examples of compassionate communities and provide ideas of what could be in place. We will hear about:

- Good Life; Good Death; Good Grief - a project developed by the Scottish Partnership on Palliative Care
- End of Life Aid Skills for Everyone (EASE) This is a free course run by Scottish Partnership on Palliative for people who want to be better equipped to help friends or family who are caring, dying, or grieving. EASE online is designed for members of the public and the course welcomes adults of all ages, experiences and walks of life. The course helps us to be confident in discussing end of life matters. listening and having difficult conversations.
- Two presentations describing the background and development of compassionate communities - North Berwick and Inverclyde.

It will be a stimulating and thought-provoking afternoon.

PLEASE CLICK [here](#) to book your place via Eventbrite

THE ANNA CHAPLAINCY - Tuesday September 28 at 2.30pm



The first Anna Chaplain, former broadcaster and Licensed Lay Minister Debbie Thrower, works for The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) as the founder and pioneer of this work, while remaining a part-time Anna Chaplain in Alton. BRF is responsible for the promotion and development of Anna Chaplaincy, which sits squarely within all that the charity does to inspire, equip and enable people in their churches and communities. Debbie Thrower invites greater participation in Scotland in Anna Chaplaincy for Older People. 'It is gaining traction in many parts of the UK', she writes, 'as an effective way of supporting people post retirement and benefitting from the gifts and skills of people in later life. It is time to see more such work in Scotland'.

What is Anna Chaplaincy?

We live in a world of accelerating demographic change. It is good news we are living longer but with longevity come challenges. Anna Chaplaincy for Older People is a tried-and-tested approach to ministry among people in their later years. More and more of those in the older age category themselves are sensing a calling to this ministry of offering spiritual care. Church leaders are finding out how Anna Chaplaincy can shape their support for this growing cohort of people in the 'third and fourth ages' of life. Anna Chaplains are good listeners showing how to be more responsive to people with complex needs as well as considerable gifts from a wealth of lived experience. We will give an

overview of the aims of the Anna Chaplaincy, with Debbie Thrower and the team, drawing together all sorts of people and groups who have expressed an interest in Scotland to highlight opportunities and plan the ways forward.

TO BOOK, CLICK [HERE](#)

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT DEATH AND DYING

A workshop designed specifically for clergy and people in authorised ministries

Rev Canon Dr Marion Chatterley, Vice-Provost, Cathedral Church of St Mary's Edinburgh (Scottish Episcopal Church) and Associate of Faith in Older People

Thursday 14 October 2021

This workshop will offer support and tools to enhance confidence in having pastoral conversations about death and dying. Using a model from the field of bereavement to explore emotional, psychological, and spiritual responses and building on the experiences of the participants, the day will resource those who attend to go deeper in their pastoral encounters with people who are actively addressing their own mortality.

The programme assumes a degree of personal sharing and therefore participation is restricted to clergy and others in authorised ministries within churches.

REGISTRATION IS VIA EVENTBRITE - COST £30.24

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CLICK [here](#)