



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

21A Grosvenor Crescent • Edinburgh • EH12 5EL • office@edinburgh.anglican.org • 0131 538 7033
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The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

23 March 2022

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St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh

STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Ceri Bareford has been appointed as the new **Assistant Diocesan Administrator**. We are negotiating a start date, but this should be within the next week or so. Ceri also works part-time for a charity in Edinburgh which works with homeless people, so will combine the 2 jobs within her week. We look forward to welcoming her to the office team.



Unfortunately, we did not take forward any of the applications for the **Communications Officer**, so that post remains vacant for the timebeing. We will try to keep some of the basic work going, but please continue to bear with us if we cannot cover everything we would like to just at the moment.

ONLINE SUPPORT FORUM

There are now **27 users** signed up to the various forums now. Questions already posted include:

- *Does anyone have tradespeople whom they would recommend?*
- *Church website: making it secure*
- *Thanking regular donors*
- *Renting out the Rectory (incl offering to refugees)*
- *Recovery and Resilience Fund*
- *Tax on trading income*



As well as fellow vestry office-holders answering questions, a few have been answered by diocesan staff/officers, such as Ian Lawson (Diocesan Treasurer). This may soon become an invaluable fount of knowledge! Here's the link: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/support-forum/>

Why not join up and subscribe?

DIOCESAN SYNOD



Bishop John's Address (text) is now available in the "Diocesan Synod" section of the Diocesan Office Resources webpage:

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

DIARY

THE BISHOP'S DIARY

Thursday 24th March – Attending Clergy/Lay Readers CMD Day

Sunday 27th March – Preaching at St Mary's Coldstream

Thursday 31st March – Attending the funeral of The Revd Canon Ruth Innes at St Mary's Cathedral

COMMITTEES

None

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 15th & Monday 18th April - Diocesan Office closed (Good Friday/Easter Monday)

NOTICES

LATEST SEC ADVISORY GROUP COVID-19 GUIDANCE

16th March – Sent to Clergy, Lay Readers, Vestry Secretaries & Diocesan Secretaries

The Advisory Group welcomes the First Minister's recent confirmation that most remaining Covid-related legal restrictions are to be lifted on 21 March. The legal requirement to wear face masks in various indoor locations, including Places of Worship, is to remain in place and will be reviewed again in a couple of weeks. However, the lifting of most of the restrictions from next week indicates confidence on the Government's part that, given the extent of vaccination take-up, the imposition of legal restrictions is no longer proportionate to the level of perceived risk, notwithstanding the relatively high level of cases at present. This change, and the removal of the requirement to wear face coverings (when that change is finally lifted), should provide a welcome opportunity for a fuller resumption of pre-pandemic church life. However, each congregation will need to consider carefully how it navigates the journey from its current arrangements to a less constrained future.

Changes from 21 March

From 21 March the legal regulations requiring those responsible for places of worship to take measures to minimise the spread of the virus on their premises will cease and are expected to be replaced with general guidance. At the present time the Government's Place of Worship guidance remains in place but has been reduced in scope: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-places-of-worship/> .

The Advisory Group considers that in the light of these changes it is now for each church to make its own decisions following its own assessment of risks taking account of its own circumstances, the make up of its congregation, the arrangements for communal worship it has adopted during the various phases of restriction over the last two years and a pastoral assessment of views locally.

Clergy and vestries will want to consider not only what pandemic-related measures they wish to phase out but also the period of time over which such changes might be made. The Group recommends a continuing emphasis on hand hygiene (including the availability of facilities for sanitising), adequate ventilation and regular cleaning. There may be a need to give reassurance as changes are introduced and to take account of the preferences of congregation members who are less ready to move at pace to resume pre-pandemic church life. For instance, some may prefer to continue to worship online, some may wish to continue to maintain a degree of social distancing while entering and leaving church and during worship. Once the requirement to wear face coverings is finally lifted, some may still wish to continue wearing them. While lateral flow tests remain available free of charge, the Group suggests that twice weekly testing should be undertaken (with one being shortly before attending church services or events). However, from the Easter weekend, 18 April, the Government is dropping its general advice to undertake twice weekly testing. For the period to the end of April, the Government advises that those visiting a care home or hospital should taking a lateral flow test beforehand. The Group also continues to encourage church members to receive the vaccination and booster, if they have not already done so.

Common Cup

In the light of the changing environment, the College of Bishops is also discontinuing its suspension of the Common Cup. The Advisory Group recognises that the possibility of resuming the Common Cup is a significant step and church members should not feel obliged to receive. It remains acceptable to receive in one kind only. If a church wished to re-introduce the Common Cup but felt there might be significant anxiety, there are options that could be adopted, such as making it very clear that communion in one kind is still acceptable or even that those administering it could wipe the chalice with a 70% alcohol-based disinfectant wipe instead of a purificator. This may provide an added degree of protection as well as reassurance to those receiving the Cup. The wipe should not contaminate the taste of the wine. Alcohol-based wipes are available from a variety of sources, such as:

https://www.medisupplies.co.uk/Wipes/Disinfectant-Wipes/Medipal-Alcohol-Wipes?utm_source=google&utm_medium=product_feed_or_listings&pl=STD&ccv=Y&gclid=EAlaQobChMluozjlq6l9gIVj9PtCh2ZMw5nEAQYASABEgJL4fD_BwE

Maundy Thursday

Clergy may be wondering about whether to resume foot washing on Maundy Thursday. The Advisory Group suggests that that similarly be a local decision, in the light of the general pace of change considered appropriate for each congregation.

Future guidance

The Scottish Government's Strategic Framework Update of 22 February....

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/>,

...while envisaging a sustainable return to a much more normal way of life, acknowledges that the threat of new variants that are potentially more harmful remains and gives indications of mitigating measures including the imposition of restrictions that might be considered in different circumstances. In the event of the reimposition of restrictions, the Advisory Group will be ready to resume its work in support of congregations where necessary. For the present, with the emphasis on decision-making on future practice in congregations being taken locally in the light of local circumstances and following local risk assessment the Advisory Group is archiving its former guidance on the provincial website. The Group encourages congregations who feel the need for support as they develop plans for a return to more normal church life to engage with their Diocesan Office or Bishop. While the

Advisory Group sees a diminishing role for itself, if the assumed progress to greater normality is maintained, it will continue to monitor developments and where appropriate and likely to be helpful will add to and update the FAQs on the provincial website. In the meantime, the most recent guidance document issued by the Advisory Group in November 2021 will remain on the provincial website but only as an archive resource rather than as a working document.

Donald Walker, Director of Communications, Scottish Episcopal Church

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>

FROM THE DIOCESAN CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP

“As many of you will be aware, the SEC has made a pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030. This means we are all embarking on an exciting, important, but daunting journey.

To help the diocese tackle this challenge, a Diocesan Carbon Neutral Group has been formed. This group met on January 18th and will continue to meet monthly as we seek to encourage and support the diocese.



To help this group communicate well with all charges within the diocese, please could a contact name and email for the eco rep within your congregation be sent to bethany@psandgs.org.uk. If you do not yet have an eco rep, we encourage you to seek out anyone on your vestry, or in your wider congregation, who might consider taking on this role.

The SEC is soon to release a toolkit, guiding churches as they reduce their carbon emissions and respond to the climate crisis. The Diocesan Carbon Neutral Group will support charges as we all follow this toolkit in the months and years ahead, communicating and sharing resources so that nobody is left attempting to reinvent the wheel.”

CANON 35

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

- **Edinburgh, St Cuthbert (Colinton)** – Replacement and Relocation of Speakers
- **Haddington, Holy Trinity** – Installation of Wi-Fi Camera
- **Edinburgh, St Mary’s Cathedral** – Renewal of Lighting
- **Dalmahoy** – installation of new heating
- **Edinburgh St Mark’s Portobello** – installation of bike racks and bin store
- **Edinburgh St James’ Leith** – installation of live-streaming cameras
- **Edinburgh St David’s Pilton** – replacement of external signage
- **Edinburgh St Columba’s** – installation of defibrillator on external stonework

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

- Are you wondering how to help children and young people in your church respond to the **news from Ukraine**? There is a growing collection of all-age resources on the Diocesan website [here](#).
- Are you looking for some **new ideas for Lent and Easter** for families in your church? Check out the Seasonal All-Age Resources collection [here](#). It grows every week, so watch this space!



If you would like to talk through any aspect of your ministry to children and young people, do get in touch with the Youth and Children Officer, Claire Benton-Evans on her direct office line (0131 346 9088) or work mobile (0747 372 8148). Claire works every week day except Wednesdays.

Claire Benton-Evans

PLAY CHURCH @HOLY CROSS CHURCH, EDINBURGH

In January and February we're hosting Play Church, a portable, child-sized altar with dressing-up clothes and robes to give children the opportunity to learn playfully about worship, liturgy and ministry. If you're with a children's organisation or a school and are interested, please get in touch.

Keep an eye on our Facebook @HolyCrossEdinburgh & church noticeboard for extra events & services. Please get in touch with any questions or ideas. Izzy Holmes, Children's Minister: families.hce@gmail.com

MISSION & MINISTRY: SEASON OF PILGRIMAGE

SAT 26 MAY – BIG WALK TO CARBON NEUTRAL

On Saturday 26 May, churches in the Diocese of Edinburgh are invited to 'pilgrim' to our Mother Church, St Mary's Cathedral.

There are several walks planned from South Queensferry, Roslin and Portobello, and down the Water of Leith. There will be a walk around the grounds of the Cathedral for those who can't manage a longer walk.

These walks will meet at the Cathedral in time for lunch and worship. The afternoon will include workshops and speakers to help us on our Big Walk to Carbon Neutral, as we share resources, ideas, frustrations and joys.

More details to come. More details from The Revd Willie Shaw: stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com.

SEASON OF PILGRIMAGE

THEMED RESOURCES AND COURSES FOR LENT

These resources are available for use in churches and as individuals as we continue to reflect on this Season of Pilgrimage:

- **A Lent Course for the Diocese of Edinburgh** – these six week sessions centre around a different place of pilgrimage in or near our diocese. We think about the place, and then use Scripture to reflect on our own pilgrimages – both physical and spiritual. **Available here from 11 February:** <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/season-of-pilgrimage/>.
- **A course from CTBI** which offers seven weeks of exploration and reflection on pilgrimage. **Available here:** <https://www.lentpilgrimage.org.uk/>.
- What about reading **Laurence Bunyon's Pilgrim's Progress** and discussing that in Lent? There are some good modern editions available – for example this [one edited by Rhona Pipe](#).



Or use films to open discussion, for example:

- **The Way:** Starring Martin Sheen and Directed by Emilio Estevez. A Filmax Production. 123 mins duration. A Hollywood production that gives a reasonably accurate picture of walking el camino, albeit with four main 'larger than life' characters. The blurb on the DVD cover says: "Martin Sheen plays Tom, an American doctor who comes to France to collect the remains of his adult son (played by his real-life son Emilio Estevez), killed in the Pyrenees while walking. The Camino de Santiago, or 'The Way of St James'. Driven by a profound sadness, and desire to understand his son better, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage, leaving his old life in California behind. Armed with his son's backpack and guidebook, Tom navigates his journey along the 800km pilgrimage, but soon meets others from around the world, all looking for greater meaning in their lives."
- **Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago.** An Umbrella Entertainment Production. Directed by Lydia Smith. 54 minutes duration. This is more a fly-on-the-wall documentary following six people walking el Camino Frances, so no big names stars in this film. The blurb on the DVD cover says, 'Walking the Camino' captures the trials and tribulations of six modern-day adventurers equipped with only a backpack, a pair of boot and an open mind on the epic 500-mile pilgrimage along Spain's 1200 year-old Camino de Santiago. A journey renowned for its enlightening, spiritually nourishing and physically challenging rewards, the six pilgrims must learn to cope with blisters, exhaustion, loneliness and self-doubt in order to triumph over the fears and prejudices that have become roadblocks in their own lives. Transcending corporeal concerns and celebrating the 'hero within', 'Walking the Camino' is a captivating insight into the human condition and explores what motivates people to step up and do extraordinary things." This [website](#) has a number of films to help people in advance of walking the Camino. You might find there a number that suit your situation, including [I'll Push You – A Wheelchair Camino](#), and [Phil's Camino](#) – a film about walking the camino without leaving your home.

WHAT IS YOUR CHURCH DOING FOR THE SEASON OF PILGRIMAGE?

Local Pilgrimage Events: Please let us know what you're planning in your own church and we can advertise and share resources.

- **St Mary's, Grangemouth and St Catharine's Bo'ness** – both these churches have a day this autumn where we will visit sites associated with their history. For St Mary's that means the ruins of Dunmore Church, a visit to Christ Church, Falkirk, a trip to the Rectory (built on the site of the first tin kirk), and finishing at the church itself. In Bo'ness that means visiting medieval ruins at Carriden and Kinneil, a graveyard around a church that's been converted into, first, a cinema, a garage, and then a house, then on to the Town Hall, and ending at St Catharine's built 100 years ago.
- **St Mark's, Portobello** – services of pilgrimage and monthly pilgrimages in the autumn.



SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE

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

LATEST DIOCESAN NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Scottish Episcopal Church @secsynod · Mar 18

Booking is now open for the Provincial Youth Week! This summer's out-of-the-ordinary event for teenagers will be held in person: full details and application form here: [@secpyc](https://yeek.scot)



**To view these posts in full, head
to our social media accounts!**



Twitter: @EdinDiocese



Facebook: Edinburgh Diocese



Instagram: @dioceseofedinburgh

AROUND OUR DIOCESE

VERGER VACANCY AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH

"We have a vacancy for a full time Verger position at St Mary's Cathedral. This job would suit somebody who would enjoy a variety of responsibilities and who may have experience in building maintenance. We're looking for someone who's flexible, willing to take on a range of tasks and is interested in supporting the liturgical and day-to-day life of the Cathedral. This role offers a 4-day working week on a rota basis with another Verger, including alternate weekends. For more details please contact office@cathedral.net."

St Mary's Cathedral

Choral Scholarships - Opportunities at St Ninian's Comely Bank

The Vestry of St Ninian's Episcopal Church, Comely Bank, Edinburgh is looking for some young talented singers to come and join our choir. We are looking for one or two sopranos, one alto and a bass from age 14 and above. A love of singing and good sight-reading skills would be helpful. For successful applicants the requirement would be 40 services per year, this would include evensongs and extra Christmas services. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6-7.30pm. The scholarship fund would pay £1000 annually to each successful applicant. If you, or any young adult you know of might be interested and would welcome this opportunity, please contact our Director of Music, Jane Ruuskanan. Jane would love to hear from you and can be contacted at music@stninians-edinburgh.org.uk

EXTERNAL NOTICES

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP WITH FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE

Faith in Older People and Anna Chaplaincy - Join us for a **FREE online seminar on 6th April 2022 4.30pm – 6.00pm**



The pandemic has shone a spotlight on the complex needs of older people. One organisation that's seen a rise in numbers of people wanting to help those in the older age category is Anna Chaplaincy.

Anna Chaplains - named after the faithful widow 'Anna' who appears in Luke's gospel - are community-based.

Independent research shows 'Anna Chaplains are present with older people, their families, and care staff in a multitude of ways: as friends, pastors, and ministers; sharing conversation, hopes, fears, prayers and laughter. They're in family homes, communities and clubs, church groups, care and nursing homes, through joy and loss, life to death. To those they serve, they are quite simply, essential.' (Impact Report 2021 <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/impact-report-2021>)

The Anna Chaplaincy network is now more than 200-strong and is now in Scotland, with network members in South Lanarkshire, Nairn and Orkney.

Anna Chaplains (male and female) often pursue a vocation to work in their own communities on reaching retirement-age themselves, finding renewed meaning and purpose in local ministry.

If you'd like to find out more, take part in a joint webinar on April 6 from 4.30pm – 6pm with Faith in Older People and the Anna Chaplaincy team, led by Pioneer of the movement and former broadcaster, Debbie Thrower.

Sign up for your free place via Eventbrite [HERE](#).

HOW WILL YOUR CHURCH MARK THE PLATINUM JUBILEE?



The following information may provide inspiration for churches planning to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: "Churches, Christian charities and youth organisations are working together to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a community challenge.

The challenge is to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by serving others. **In honour of the Queen's 70 years of service, HOPE Together has suggested 70 Acts of Service - drawing on [Stewardship's 40 Acts](#).** These are 70 simple ways to make a positive difference as individuals and as community groups.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director, says, 'To honour the Queen's 70 years of service, let's serve others and make a difference in our communities. Choose a handful of acts, or complete one a day for 70 days, it is up to you! Gather your friends, family, and community together to make a difference in your street, village, town or city, and let us know your plans.'

[Download the 70 Acts of Service ideas here.](#)

What and when?

The Platinum Jubilee 4-day Bank Holiday runs from 2-5 June 2022. Visit www.theplatinumjubilee.com for all the ideas and resources needed for communities to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service. Read what's planned - and PASS IT ON!

Who?

HOPE Together is working with a wide range of partners to help churches around the Commonwealth to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

Platinum Jubilee Highlights

Our Faithful Queen - a gift book using rarely seen prayers The Queen prayed as she prepared for the Coronation will be published by HOPE Together and Biblica in January 2022 to buy and to give away.

A **Happylands animation and book** 'The Girl Who Grew Up To Be Queen' for under 5s is to be published by HOPE Together in partnership with The Entertainer and Hope for Every Home.

A new anthem '**Rise Up and Serve**' has been commissioned by HOPE Together and written by contemporary hymn writers Graham Kendrick, Mal Pope and Rend Collective for choirs to sing as part of the celebrations, which was released on 10 January 2022.

A **competition for choirs** from around the Commonwealth to sing 'Rise Up and Serve'.

A **YouTube video** featuring choirs singing the new anthem, from the team that brought together 'The UK Blessing' during lockdown, with executive producer Les Moir. This will be available to share on social media and play at events as part of the celebrations.

[70 Acts of Service](#) – the invitation to communities to celebrate by serving others with 70 community service ideas drawing on Stewardship's 40 Acts

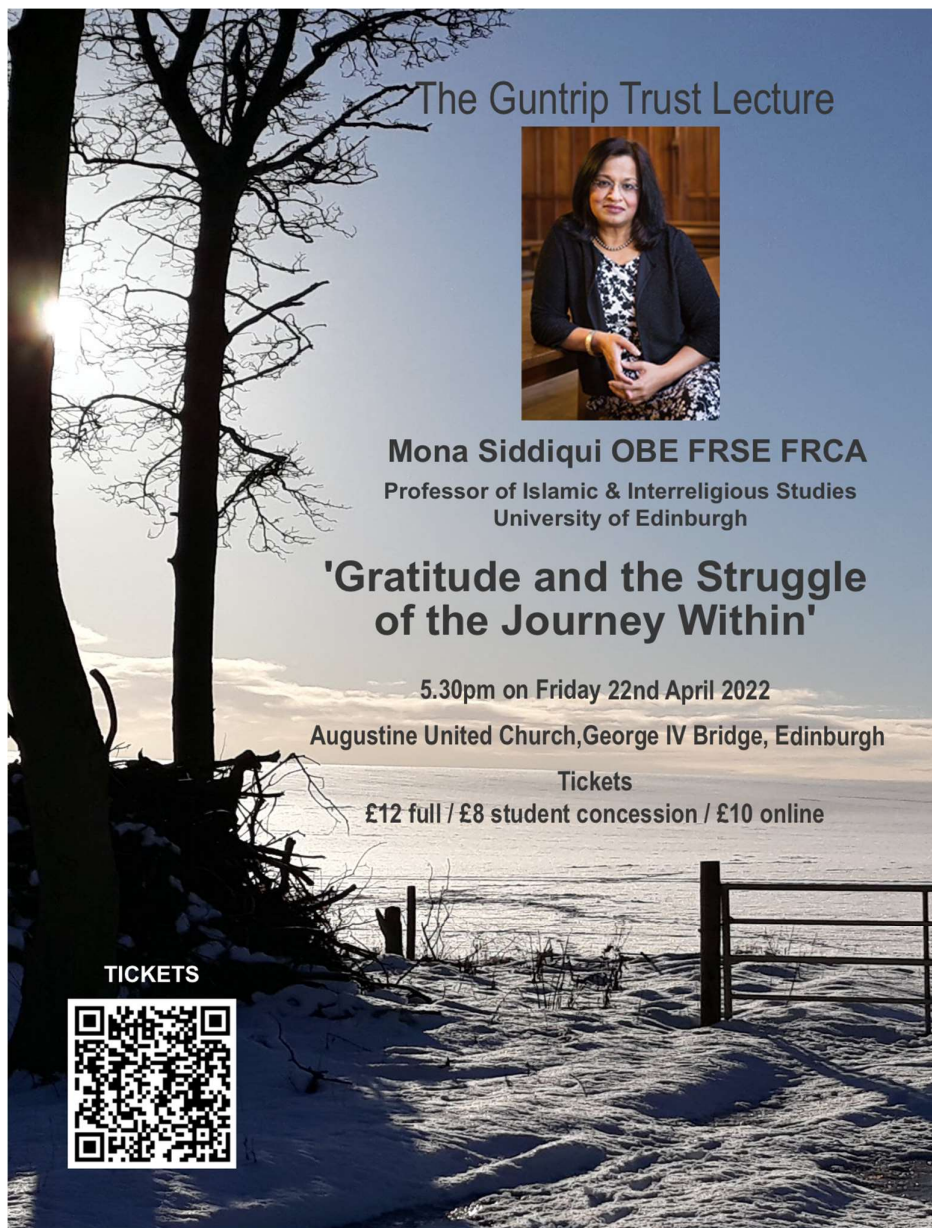
On Her Majesty's Service for 11-14s – youth organisations, schools and uniformed organisation are involved (Pais, CofE, Youth For Christ, YouthScape, The Message, Prayer Spaces In Schools. Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade). Resources include ideas for action and videos to use - available in January.

[Your Street Party Planner](#) – ideas and plans for fun-packed community events developed in collaboration with the Methodist Church.


www.theplatinumjubilee.com - a dedicated website with all the ideas and resources you'll need to bring your community together to celebrate.

Banners, posters and other Platinum Jubilee branded resources will be available from CPO
- www.cpo.org.uk/queen-platinum-jubilee

The Platinum Jubilee – Celebration of Faith & Service logos can be downloaded from www.theplatinumjubilee.com. As the 4-day Bank Holiday ends at Pentecost, our partners [Thy Kingdom Come](#) are also providing a Cheeky Pandas film, song and book for primary school children – with resource packs for home/church/school and community events."



The Guntrip Trust Lecture




Mona Siddiqui OBE FRSE FRCA
Professor of Islamic & Interreligious Studies
University of Edinburgh

**'Gratitude and the Struggle
of the Journey Within'**

5.30pm on Friday 22nd April 2022
Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Tickets
£12 full / £8 student concession / £10 online

TICKETS



The Guntrip Trust

... offers bursaries to those in religious vocations seeking psychotherapy, counselling or training. Founded in 1988, it maintains close ties with Human Development Scotland, the shared focus of whose raison d'être is to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing. For further information, please visit www.guntriptrust.com For tickets, please click on this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-guntrip-trust-annual-lecture-tickets-300090808687>

We are delighted that this year's Annual Lecture will be given by Prof Moa Siddiqui. Professor Siddiqui is well known internationally as a public intellectual and a speaker on issues around religion, ethics and public life. She is a regular commentator in the media, known especially for her appearances on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland's *Thought for the Day*.

In 2011, she was awarded an OBE for her interfaith work. She has spoken on religion and politics at the World Economic Forum in Davos and been listed in the Debrett's top 500 list of the most influential people in the UK. In April 2019, she received the Archbishop of Canterbury's Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation. In April 2019 she was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in December 2020, she was elected honorary member and first speaker of the Royal Scottish Academy. In October 2021, she was elected Vice – President International for the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Scotland's Questionable Past: Slavery, its impact home and abroad, then and now.

When & Where

Thursday, 7 April 2022 - 7:15pm to 8:30pm

Hosted by **Thinking Without Borders** Online

Event Details

In recent years the role of Scotland in the slave trade and running slave plantations has increasingly come to the fore. This is an appalling part of our past, with many local people involved. This session brings together three speakers, two with family backgrounds as descendants of slaves and one descended from a family of slave owners.

Professor Palmer, the Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University has examined the connections between Scotland's wealth and the Atlantic slave trade. He is leading two separate reviews into the city's and Edinburgh University's involvement in the slave trade.

Lisa Williams is an author, poet and founder of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association. She curates a range of arts events across Scotland to promote Caribbean culture. Lisa runs educational and anti-racist programmes and leads walking tours focusing on Edinburgh's Black History.

Alex Renton is a campaigning and award-winning journalist who knew that, like many other Scottish families, his had been involved in transatlantic slavery. It wasn't until he dug deeper that he learnt how bad it really was. Alex's research led him to write the very challenging book, 'Blood Legacy: Reckoning with a Family's Story of Slavery'.

For more information, please visit the book's website: www.bloodlegacybook.com (link is external)

Zoom access details via email: thinkingwb365@gmail.com