

This mailing is going to all Clergy (including PTO), Honorary Assistant Bishops, Former PTO, Licensed Lay Ministers, Churchwardens, Readers (including PTO), Deanery Lay Chairs, Deanery Synod Secretaries, Deanery Finance Officers, Lay Canon, PCC Secretaries, PCC Treasurers, Family and Community Missioners, Authorised Lay Ministers, Parish Safeguarding Advisers, Diocesan Director of Education, Assistant Director of Education, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Registrar and Deputy, Bishop's Council, Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, Church House staff.

Coronavirus COVID-19 – Diocese of Newcastle

Information round-up for week ending **8 January 2021 (Number 39)**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you find this email useful. It will be issued each week summarising much of the information circulated by the Diocese and the National Church over the previous days relating to COVID 19. Some information will be repeated from previous weeks as they remain relevant.

Covid 19: As you will know, England is now in national lockdown. The latest Government guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

READ BISHOP CHRISTINE'S MAILING ON 5 JANUARY 2020 ABOUT THE LOCKDOWN AND THE IMPACT ON PUBLIC WORSHIP [HERE](#)

AND THIS LETTER FROM OUR ARCHDEACONS TO LICENCED CLERGY AND ALL CHURCHWARDENS [HERE](#)

Please continue to check the Church of England website for regular COVID related updates relating to Places of Worship.

Updated documents:

- [Permitted activities during lockdown](#)
- [Guidance on suspending public worship](#)

Updated/New FAQ:

- What is permitted during lockdown?
- What do we need to do if we have decided to suspend public worship?
- Can churches be used as vaccination centres?
- Can funerals go ahead?
- Can weddings go ahead?
- Can we host children's groups?

Read a [response from the Bishop of London](#) to the Prime Minister's statement outlining [new restrictions in England](#)

Visit: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

NEW: STAYING IN TOUCH DIGITALLY DURING THIS LOCKDOWN

Please regularly check the Church of England website for advice and tutorials from the Digital Team helping churches keep in touch with their communities. Free online webinars are regularly offered, with more expected soon.

[Click here](#)

Please visit the following page if you require help with the livestreaming of services – it may be useful: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/guide-getting-started-live-streaming>

NEW: WATCH AGAIN - the Consecration of the new Bishop of Berwick

The Right Reverend Mark Wroe was consecrated at York Minster on Tuesday 5th January as the new Bishop of Berwick. Sadly, because of tight Covid restrictions, there was a strict limit on the number of people allowed to attend. You can watch the service again [here](#)

Bishop Mark features in this week's [Northumberland Gazette](#) and [Berwick Advertiser](#) and is scheduled to be on BBC Radio Newcastle this Sunday at 7.45am.

For a selection of photos from the consecration, click here:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmTw4Jak>

REMINDER: MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM – FINAL DATE FOR RECEIPT OF 2020 PARISH SHARE PAYMENTS

Thank you to Parishes for all the 2020 Parish share contributions received to date. Please note that **Monday 11 January 2021** is the final date for receipt of 2020 Parish Share contributions. Payments can be made online to the Diocesan Bank Account and the details are:

Account name: Newcastle Diocesan Board of Finance Limited

Account number: 40644056

Sort code: 20-60-03

Please can you add a narrative of your Parish name wherever possible as this helps us to identify your payment.

If you are paying by cheque please can you post that in to **Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6HS** to reach us by **Monday 11 January 2021**.

Philip Ambrose Finance Manager p.ambrose@newcastle.anglican.org 0191 270 4130

Gillian Green Finance Officer g.green@newcastle.anglican.org 0191 270 4131

Elaine Breen Finance Assistant e.breen@newcastle.anglican.org 0191 270 4132

GENEROUS GIVING UPDATE

NEW: UPCOMING WEBINARS AND TRAINING WITH BRAND NEW TOPICS

The National Giving Team have published their webinar series covering a range of topics to help churches encourage giving and grow generosity. In these webinars they will guide you through ways to encourage giving such as online, contactless and legacy giving, as well as **exploring discipleship materials to help grow**

generosity. To equip clergy the Revd Martha Weatherill will lead a set of webinars specifically for clergy.

Please book onto a session at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/webinars-and-training#na>

REMINDER: THE LOCAL CONNECTIONS FUND

This is a new £4 million fund to help charities and community groups in England that are working to reduce loneliness by helping them build connections across their communities. It is aimed at small local charities and grassroots groups working to tackle loneliness by helping people feel more connected within their communities. They are looking to fund hundreds of 'microgrants' between £300 and £2,500, so small, local organisations (with an annual income of £50,000 or less) can bring people and communities together. The funding will help to bring people together in safe and secure ways – **“including by covering the costs of technologies and equipment that will help people feel more connected within their communities.”** The first round is now open for applications until 26 January 2021. Click [here](#) to apply or contact the Generous Giving Team if you would like to discuss this further.

NEW: TOGETHER NEWCASTLE

Two's Company - Telephone Befriending

Information webinar: Thursday 21st January 2021 at 1pm - [Register here](#)

Isolation is a word we have heard a lot since the start of the pandemic, and we know that many people are feeling lonely and are not able to have regular contact with their families, neighbours, and churches. As churches, we have often had a crucial role in offering spaces of welcome, hospitality and company for those in our communities.

'Two's Company' was launched in April 2020 and is a telephone befriending tool for churches based on a framework already established for the 'Linking Lives' home visiting projects. Two's Company is designed to be a tool which churches can use to reach those people in their communities hardest hit by lockdown measures.

Linking Lives UK are inviting churches to partner with them to provide this vital service to their communities. Communities Together Durham. Together Newcastle and North East Churches Acting Together are partnering with them and are hosting an information webinar for churches who wish to find out more on Thursday 21 January at 1pm. More at: <https://newcastle.anglican.org/news/events/twos-company--telephone-befriending.php>

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Facebook

Please 'like' Newcastle Diocese's Young People Facebook page (@newcastledioceseyoungpeople) to find out about the huge amount happening to help people with children's and youth ministry in the COVID restrictions or new normal. Visit and 'like': <https://www.facebook.com/newcastledioceseyoungpeople/>

Please note this message from the Revd Rachel Scheffer from the Children and Youth Team:

"Hi everyone. I am not sure if I have said Happy New Year yet....so Happy New Year! Here is the link to the C of E's 'permitted activities' during lockdown:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/COVID%2019%20Permitted%20Activities%20v%203.0.pdf>

You will notice that "Youth Provisions - are not permitted". This is obviously for things that happen when we join together in person. The Guidance however is going to be updated to reflect the fact that provision to support vulnerable young people as permitted by the NYA Guidance is allowed - but nothing else. 'Service' means all youth provision - including youth worship services. <https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/national-lockdown-Readiness-Guidance-v1.pdf>

Family worship

Every weekend, Mina Munns posts a video for families wishing to worship from home. These can be found on the diocesan YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/NewcastleDiocese> or click here: <https://bit.ly/3eqZBF9>

NEW: UPDATED OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BISHOP'S HOUSE

Please note that in this national lockdown, Bishop's House will be open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm, with one member of staff present only, and others working from home. If there is a specific person at Bishop's House you would like to speak to, we suggest the best way to get in touch is by e-mail in the first instance.

Bishop Christine: bishop@newcastle.anglican.org

Revd Canon Pete Askew, Bishop's Chaplain: p.askew@newcastle.anglican.org

Lesley Towers, Bishop's PA: l.towers@newcastle.anglican.org

Elena Rose, Bishop's PA, temporary cover (including Bishop's visits and diary inquiries for Bishop Christine and for Bishop

Mark): pa.bishopofnewcastle@newcastle.anglican.org

Jackie Thompson (including Reader licenses, Clergy and Reader PTOs,

Confirmations): admin.bishopofnewcastle@newcastle.anglican.org

OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHURCH HOUSE, NORTH SHIELDS

To assist operations at this time the reception at Church House is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. All other staff are working from home. For contact details, click here: <https://bit.ly/3fDIOhp>

WELLBEING AND COUNSELLING

Patty Everitt is our Diocesan Counselling Service. See here: <https://bit.ly/2EINaV6>

SAFEGUARDING

National safeguarding and Covid-19 advice can be found here: <https://bit.ly/34HKXnc>

NORTH EAST RELIGIOUS LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

As a result of the national lockdown, the RRC has had to close each of its sites but its staff are working from home on reduced hours to support our members in any way they can. They are also continuing to run online events and training programmes.

There are a couple of places still available for the 'How to make a Hunger Cloth', an online workshop with Karenza (Wednesday 20/01/2021, 10:00 - 12:00) and a really exciting Conversation@theRRC with Steve Aisthorpe on his new book 'Rewilding the Church' (Thursday 11/02/2021 18:00 - 19:30)

To book a place on either of these contact us via email (enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk) or social media.

For up to date information on the status of the sites please visit: <https://bit.ly/35LgX9f>

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Message from Sheila Hamil:

APPEAL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

Hello everyone,

I'm appealing for photographs once more, in order to make more music videos for Zoom services and this time my theme is 'Easter'. If you're happy to share photos that you've taken yourself, from your daily walks, holidays, retreats, pilgrimages, or any that could be linked loosely to themes of love, forgiveness, isolation, betrayal, anger, crucifixion, resurrection and glory etc, then please send them to me at:-

sheilahamil@googlemail.com

All my videos go out free of charge to anyone who can use them, and credit is always given to the photographer.

To see my previous videos please go to:

LOCKDOWN LEGACY (72

videos) https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh_ZGnZNfUIV8HEyppRlv8FLBtyEY65

CHRISTMAS STORY: (18 videos)

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh_ZGnZNfVtZSUwuaK4OMZg4iX1mWoz

PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE: Parables (31 videos)

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh_ZGnZNfX6RDi4XU7o7MpzIPkdBxIV&pbjreload=102

KALEIDOSCOPE OF CHARACTERS: Bible Stories (48 videos)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0200C4ABFE5E08E5>

Music: The National Church releases up to five hymns and songs each week for use in virtual services. AChurchNearYou.com editors can access the music, recorded by singers from [St Martin-in-the-Fields](http://StMartin-in-the-Fields), to use in their livestreamed and pre-recorded Sunday services during the coronavirus pandemic. Find out more at cofe.io/Hymns

Free webinars: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/digital-labs/labs-learning-webinars>

MEDIA ENQUIRIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

If you receive any media approaches about the Church's response to the coronavirus situation, please let our Diocesan Head of Communications, Roderick Stuart know. This ensures a joined up and consistent response.

r.stuart@newcastle.anglican.org or Tel: 07825 777386

Please continue to send us your stories highlighting the important work you are doing in the communities you serve. Please send to communications@newcastle.anglican.org

ONGOING COVID-19 INFORMATION

Diocese: The Coronavirus pages of the Diocesan website are regularly updated to include links to video streams in parishes, local resources and downloads which may prove useful, local safeguarding updates and other information. Please continue to update us www.newcastle.anglican.org/coronavirus

Church of England: Please regularly check for the latest national guidance and updates on the Coronavirus pandemic: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Ends