

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 **16 April 2021 (Number 53)**

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 if it remains relevant.

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

REMEMBERING HRH PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

To leave a message on the Church of England's online book of condolence, [click here](#).

This page includes prayer and liturgical resources and collective worship that can be used in schools.

[Read about the arrangements following The Duke of Edinburgh's death, including details of the minute's silence tomorrow](#)

[Watch a reflection by Bishop Christine on the life of Prince Philip](#)

WATCH AGAIN: A service of commemoration and thanksgiving for the life of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh took place at Newcastle Cathedral. The Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, the Bishop of Newcastle, and the Dean of Newcastle paid tribute to the late Duke, with readings, prayers and music that reflect his life and passions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYs0romAcZA&t=2s>

HEXHAM ABBEY: A Service of Commemoration for the Duke of Edinburgh takes place tonight in Hexham Abbey at 6pm. The service will be attended by the Vice Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff and will be an opportunity to thank God for his life and to pray for the Queen and her family. All are welcome.

COVID 19

The latest Government guidance on the safe use of places of worship, last updated on 12 April. [Click here](#)

The latest general Government guidance on the current restrictions in place in England can be found here, last updated 14 April
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

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

Last updated: Friday 16 April, 14:07

Updated documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Funerals](#)

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

**REMINDER: Growing Church Bringing Hope: Next Steps
Praying for 'Next Steps' on the Emmaus Road - Easter 2021**

We have been taking some time during the Easter Season to offer our Next Steps to God in prayer. This is a particularly focused time of listening and waiting on God as we pray together. [Click here for more](#) and video from Bishop Mark with Zoom links to weekly and monthly prayers or details on how you can pray individually.

The work of 'growing church bringing hope: next steps' is about helping to create new space for God's transformation. We create this space by changing the way we think about, organise and resource the mission and ministry of all our parishes.

[Find out more here.](#)

REMINDER: Diocese partners Christian Aid to give thanks for our vaccines

We're delighted to have partnered with Christian Aid to raise funds for the charity's Covid 19 response work in some of the world's poorest countries. As you give thanks that you or a family member is protected, please give to help protect those who don't have access to vaccines. To find out more, read a message from Bishop Mark, and donate, [click here](#)

A video message from Bishop Mark can be [watched here](#)

THE REVEREND FRANK WALTON RIP

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of the Reverend Frank Walton, who served the Parish of Woodhorn with Newbiggin for many years. [Click here](#) to read a message from the Reverend Anthony O'Grady.

NEW: CHANGES IN COMMUNICATIONS

See the mailing issued at the start of this week outlining important changes to our Diocesan Communications Team. [Click here.](#)

REMINDER: Thy Kingdom Come – 13 to 23 May 2021

This year's Thy Kingdom Come will happen from 13th - 23rd May. Watch a webinar about this year's plans including new resources and lots of ways churches, families and individuals can be involved. [Click here](#)

REMINDER: The Parochial Fees Return Form is available on our website for treasurers:

<https://newcastle.anglican.org/mission/statisticsandfinanceformission/supporting-treasurers-toolkit/supporting-treasurers-toolkit.php>

NEW: ENVIRONMENT: ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL NOW OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS – FIND OUT YOUR CHURCH'S CARBON FOOTPRINT!

Calculate your church's carbon footprint using this tool on [Parish Returns Online](#), all you need is your church's 2020 energy bills. The Energy Footprint Tool was introduced last year to help churches effectively reduce their carbon emissions and energy usage. This year's tool will take into account periods of lockdown and lower utility bills due to COVID restrictions, [find out more here](#). The deadline for submissions is the end of August.

GENEROUS GIVING UPDATE

NEW: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Allen Lane Foundation: Older People - The aim of this grant stream is to reduce loneliness and isolation, to improve physical and mental wellbeing, and to help maintain the independence and a quality of life for older people. Grants range from £500-£5000 for projects meeting their criteria.

See: <https://allenlane.org.uk/older-people/>

NEW: Online series: Church Buildings in the Post Covid World

The Dioceses of the West Midlands are running a series of online sessions, over three consecutive weeks, the theme is Church Buildings in the Post Covid World. As it is online they are happy for churches from further afield to take part. Topics include; sustaining and developing our churches, adapting to new technology, how we secure our buildings whilst remaining open to the community and the best ways to fundraise, now and for the future. Free to join using this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/church-buildings-the-post-covid-world-tickets-145243056893>

- Thursday 22nd April 2021. 9:45am - 12pm. The Post Covid Church
- Thursday 29th April 2021. 9:45am - 12pm. The Post Covid Church Heritage & Tourism
- Thursday 6th May 2021. 9:45am - 12pm. The Post Covid Church & Funding

NEW: Upcoming Webinars

Monday 19th April at 2.30pm:

[An introduction to The Generosity Toolkit](#)

Wednesday 21st April at 2.30pm:

[Getting Started With Contactless Giving](#)

NEW: There is an event coming up called "Caring for Cumbria's Churches Conference". Although it is Cumbria, some of the issues may be of interest to PCCs in this Diocese.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/4616179101403/WN_ZB98wVIBSrSuHr_HfMWDNg

NATIONAL NEWS AND CAMPAIGNS

[HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh: Tributes from Church of England Bishops](#) – 9 April 2021

[Condolence book for HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, opens online](#) – 9 April 2019

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/>

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/3egZBF9>

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES

[Communications Officers](#) – closing date 21 April 2021

[Digital Media Officer](#) – closing date 21 April 2021

OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BISHOP'S HOUSE

Please see the recent mailing from Bishop Christine with the latest up-to-date contact information. [Click here.](#)

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.](#)

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

We are open!

We are welcoming members to browse, borrow and return resources from 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-5:30pm Monday to Friday.

We still have social distancing measures in place and safety measures to protect you and our team. These include:

- Sanitising facilities at each site on entry and exit

- Social distancing – around the issue desk and the resource areas
- Protective PPE – staff will have masks and visors, all members and visitors are asked to wear a mask or visor in the RRC
- Restricted numbers at any one time which may lead to a small delay at some times
- The temporary closure of study areas at both sites
- A quarantine period for all returned stock

Upcoming events

Join the Being Interrupted Book Group organised by Communities Together Durham in partnership with the Religious Resources Centre.

During a year when traditional church life has been disrupted by Covid, racial injustice and Brexit (to name but a few!), many churches have been doing mission in one form or another, but some deep questions are arising about the next steps.

How do we engage with our communities? How might we reimagine the Mission of the church in the light of its local context and its global responsibilities?

'Being Interrupted, Reimagining the Church's Mission from the Outside, In' by Al Barrett and Ruth Harley is a practical resource addressing these questions.

The Being Interrupted Book Group is an online opportunity to join together and digest this important book in six manageable 90-minute chunks beginning on the 13th April*. We will be doing this in an enjoyable, ecumenical and safe Zoom space.

All are welcome and you can register below to come to one or all of the sessions as you like - you do not have to attend them all!

For more information, bookings, or recordings of these webinars, please complete [this form](#)

If you have a friend or family member who would like to attend, please share the form. Once you receive the links to the webinars please do not share these with anyone as only people who have booked will be admitted to the webinars. Bookings will close 24 hours before the session and the Zoom link will be sent out after this. For security reasons there will be no opportunity for late entry.

Zoom Event: "Young People and Covid - From Isolation to Community" an online Conversation@theRRC with Jenni Osborn Wednesday 28th April 18:00 - 19:30

How has Covid affected your youth work? How did you address the needs of young people during the Lockdowns?

If you would like to hear more about the impact of Covid-19 on youth work in different contexts around the UK - and think about what the next steps might be - join us for this Conversation@theRRC with Jenni Osborn.

Jenni will tell us some of the stories she has gathered about how young people have been cared and provided for during the pandemic. She will be asking some questions about where we might go from here as many youth orientated groups struggle to consider how best to provide and support their young people. Tackling a blend of online and outdoor activity - and demonstrating that ultimately it is themes of hope community and sanctuary that will prevail. Jenni would like to encourage and inspire you to share your experiences and share good practice.

You can register to join the conversation by emailing: enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk. ALL WELCOME!

Jenni Osborn has been working with young people and children for more than 25 years, with a wealth of experience in both working with young people and also supporting those who support young people. She has worked in a variety of contexts including youth worker, teacher, school's worker, school governor, trainer and mentor as well as currently hosting The Jenni Talks Podcast. For more information look at her website www.jenniosborn.org

You can buy a copy of the book here;
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08VNCSK4Z>

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Sheila Hamil continues to offer 'free to use' videos for use on Zoom and online services:

EASTER STORY: (21 videos when complete)
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh_ZGnZNfV0gzPFfGe7SE1sfsTqieSP

LOCKDOWN LEGACY (72 videos)
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh_ZGnZNfUIV8HEyppRlv8FLBtyEY65

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, 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>

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