

*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 **18 June 2021 (Number 61)**

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, as well as some other important news. 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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@newcastle.anglican.org)

### **COVID 19**

The latest Government guidance on the safe use of places of worship, last updated on **16 June**. [Click here](#)

The latest general Government guidance on the current restrictions in place in England can be found here, last updated **17 June**  
<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 Thursday **June 17**:

Updates following concessions to numerical limits for weddings and commemorative events which come into effect on Monday 21 June.

Updated documents:

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

Read a [statement from the Bishop of London](#) following the Government announcement of the delay to stage 4.

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

**REMINDER: DIOCESAN SYNOD: election of new members**

It is time to elect a new Diocesan Synod for members to serve from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2024. The election process begins with nominations. Anyone wishing to be nominated to serve on the Diocesan Synod should have their nomination form submitted by noon on 21 June. Nomination forms for your deanery can be obtained from:

- our website at [www.newcastle.anglican.org/synod](http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/synod)
- by e-mail to [elections@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:elections@newcastle.anglican.org)
- by telephone to Church House Reception 0191 270 4100

If you have any questions about the election of the new Diocesan Synod please send these to [elections@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:elections@newcastle.anglican.org)

**REMINDER: UPDATED GUIDANCE ON FILMING IN CHURCHES – PLEASE READ**

Updated guidance on filming in churches has been issued by the National Church. It is important that all churches are aware of this guidance and act accordingly. We ask that you ensure you read the new guidance and that filming is done safely and in line with data protection and safeguarding considerations, particularly where children may be filmed. The guidance and updated privacy notice can be found here: [Filming and photography in churches – consent and GDPR | The Church of England](#)

**REMINDER: THE JUNE PRAYER DIARY IS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

**NEW: LESLEY TOWERS**

BBC Radio Newcastle recorded a very powerful and moving interview with Bishop Christine's much loved PA Lesley Towers about her journey over the last year after contracting COVID. As many of you will know, Lesley fell seriously ill just after lockdown in March 2020 and was admitted to hospital where there were real fears she may lose her life. This resulted in people across the Diocese praying for her survival.

Thankfully Lesley pulled through and is now back at work at Bishop's House, saying she owes her life to the NHS and the power of prayer.

Her interview was broadcast on BBC Radio Newcastle's Sunday Breakfast Show and you can listen to the interview with Lesley and Bishop Christine by clicking here.

LINK: <https://soundcloud.com/diocese-of-newcastle/lesleys-story>

**REMINDER: THE INSPECTION OF CHURCHES**

Diocesan Synod has approved a new scheme governing the inspection of churches (quinquennial inspections). The wording can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Burfield, DAC Secretary at [dac@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:dac@newcastle.anglican.org)

**GENEROUS GIVING UPDATE**

**NEW: CLERGY SESSION EARLIER THIS WEEK**

Thank you once again to all who attended the Generous Giving clergy session earlier this week. If you were unable to attend the session but would like a copy of the recording, please contact [Joanne Christie](#)

### **REMINDER: LOCAL CONNECTIONS FUND: ROUND 2**

This programme will open for a second round of applications from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June**. As before, it will be used to fund hundreds of “microgrants” between £300 and £2,500 so that small local organisations (with an annual income of £50k or less) can bring people and communities together. The fund will focus on specific areas including; “activities that physically bring people together in a safe and secure way.” Please visit [Local Connections Fund](#) for further details.

### **REMINDER: EVENT COMING UP!**

Peter Ryder has been studying the medieval churches of Northumberland for two decades or so, partly on behalf of the Diocese as historic buildings consultant. This substantial volume (Reading the Fabric: an investigative guide to the Medieval Churches of Northumberland) represents the fruit of his labours. It comprises a detailed analysis of each building, coupled with an explanation of how this was achieved, explaining how quoins and plinths and straight joints can be vital clues in reading a story that may span a thousand years. Every church is given a coloured phased plan, as well as copious photographs and a written description.

On Thursday 1 July at 7.30pm, on Zoom, Peter will discuss the book with John Grundy, and there will be a chance for questions and comments. If you wish to purchase a book in advance of the session, please send your address to [publications@broomlee.org](mailto:publications@broomlee.org) (Price £20 +£5 p&p, invoiced with the book).

Zoom meeting:

Introducing 'Reading the Fabric'. Peter Ryder and John Grundy

Time: Jul 1, 2021 19:30 (meeting will open at 19.20)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85793091241>

Meeting ID: 857 9309 1241

By phone: 0131 460 1196 plus ID

### **REMINDER: FREE COMMUNITY CREATIVE ARTS DAYS – JUST ACROSS THE TYNE IN GATESHEAD! 25, 26 AND 27 JUNE.**

[Click here to find out more.](#) No need to book - just come along on the day!

### **NATIONAL NEWS AND CAMPAIGNS**

[Church Commissioners report strong long-term investment performance](#) – 15 June 2021

[Covid-19 restrictions: reaction from the Bishop of London](#) – 14 June 2021

### **DIOCESAN VACANCIES**

[Project Manager, Rural Churches for Everyone – closing date 21 June 2021](#)

[Interim Minister, Breamish and Till](#)

## **OTHER VACANCIES**

[Director of Music, St George's and St Hilda's, Jesmond – closing date 28 June 2021](#)

## **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>

## **OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BISHOP'S HOUSE**

All staff at Bishop's House have now returned to the office and are available in the usual way. Phone 0191 285 2220.

Revd Canon Pete Askew  
Chaplain to the Bishop of Newcastle  
[p.askew@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:p.askew@newcastle.anglican.org)

Canon Lesley Towers  
PA to the Bishop of Newcastle  
[l.towers@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:l.towers@newcastle.anglican.org)

Elena Rose  
PA to the Bishop of Berwick  
[pa.bishopofberwick@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:pa.bishopofberwick@newcastle.anglican.org)

Kathryn Beale  
Administration Assistant  
[admin.bishopofnewcastle@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:admin.bishopofnewcastle@newcastle.anglican.org)

## **OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHURCH HOUSE, NORTH SHIELDS**

The Government has advised home working should continue wherever possible. To assist operations at this time the reception at Church House is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Other staff are continuing to work from home. For contact details, [click here](#).

## **WELLBEING AND COUNSELLING**

Patty Everitt is our Diocesan Counselling Service. See here: <https://bit.ly/2ElNaV6>

## **SAFEGUARDING**

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

## NORTH EAST RELIGIOUS LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

### The RRC is open!

You can find full details on our opening hours and safety measures in place [here](#)

### Upcoming events

Thursday 1 July 10am to 11.30am

#### **Do you want to be a parent-discipling Church?**

#### **Come and join us for this FREE session led by the Kitchen Table Project**

Is family ministry important to you? Would you like to be a parent-equipping church? Led by the experienced and gifted Kitchen Table Project team from [Care for the Family](#) (and some special guests!) this event will look at how you might move through this season of challenge, into a healthy, long-term plan for families' ministry.

There will be lots of ideas and resources, and opportunities to share ideas and learn from others, all while considering your own church's specific context. And - each participant will get a FREE GIFT: the booklet '*Becoming a parent-discipling church*', which we will use together at the event. 0191 270 4161

For more information please contact:

[enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk)  
0191 270 4161

Zoom Event: **'Woman symbol and women agents: Proverbs 31 and biblical womanhood'** – A Conversation@theRRC with Esther Zarifi – Thursday 1 July 2021, 6pm to 7.30pm

Today there is a rise in both Christian feminism and conservatism, with each appealing to scripture for support and inspiration. In this Conversation@theRRC Esther Zarifi, (winner of the Leonard Hassé Memorial Prize for her MA Dissertation on Proverbs 31) will be discussing how we might read and interpret Proverbs 31 in the light of these contemporary tensions. Is Psalm 31 allegory, metaphor or modelling? How might we understand woman as symbol and/or agent? And why does this matter for women (and men) today?

Book your place TODAY by emailing [enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk) or telephoning 0191 375 0586.

Please note bookings will close at 5.30pm the day before the event.

### DIGITAL RESOURCES

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

LOCKDOWN LEGACY (72 videos)

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh\\_ZGnZNfUIV8HEyppRlv8FLBtyEY65](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh_ZGnZNfUIV8HEyppRlv8FLBtyEY65)

*PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE: Parables (31 videos)*

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh\\_ZGnZNfX6RDj4XU7o7MpzlPkdBxIV&pbjreload=102](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnUh_ZGnZNfX6RDj4XU7o7MpzlPkdBxIV&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](http://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](http://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](http://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**