

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

The round-up is being circulated early this week. Next week, it will be distributed on Friday as normal

Information round-up – Number 51

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

Please note the latest updated Government guidance on the safe use of places of worship, including updates to guidance on singing from 28 March. This was last updated on 26 March [Click here](#)

The latest general Government guidance on the current restrictions in place in England can be found here:

<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: Wednesday 31 March

New Documents:

- [Mental Health Support Charities](#)

Updated Documents:

- [Conducting public worship](#)
- [Weddings](#)
- [Outdoor worship and churchyards](#)
- [Test and Trace](#)

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

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

We are taking some time during the Easter Season to offer our Next Steps to God in prayer. This will be 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](#)

REMINDER: Maundy Thursday Chrism Mass, a renewal of commitment to service

Bishop Christine warmly invites you to join her and Bishop Mark online at 11am for the Maundy Thursday Chrism Mass. [Read more 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>

REMINDER: Our April edition of Link is available online now! [Click here](#)

REMINDER: The April Prayer Diary can be [accessed here](#)

GENEROUS GIVING UPDATE

NEW: Online Giving

Newly published data shows that over 40% of parishes in our diocese are now using online giving. If you are amongst the 60% who are not, please take a look at our newly updated [Online Giving](#) web page. Here you can access lots of information including easy to follow instructions and videos to help you get started. It's possible to be up and running with online giving in around half an hour!

NEW: Discussing Giving and Generosity as a PCC

A number of new resources are now available to facilitate conversations at PCC level around giving and generosity - a useful exercise ahead of any formal review or giving week. This downloadable [discussion document](#) provides a simple way to get

started, either as a whole group or in smaller break-out groups. Please see our [Giving Reviews](#) webpage for more detailed information.

TRUSTEES REQUIRED: Tynedale Hospice at Home is a Northumberland-based charity providing nursing care in the home, Hospital Transport and Family Support Services to people living in the areas of West Northumberland, Tynedale and Ponteland. They are looking for those with a background in healthcare management, finance or those with medical backgrounds, but they will warmly welcome applications from those offering other skills and experience. As the Hospice is based in Hexham, Northumberland, the charity is interested in hearing from those in the Tynedale, Ponteland or West Northumberland area. To request an information pack and application form, please e-mail Mandy Perrie mandy@tynedalehospice.com or call 01434 600 388. **Deadline: 6.4.21**

CHURCH PROJECT FUNDING: The Laing Family Trusts. Their main funding priorities cover: *To support Christian organisations offering practical services to those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable. *To support new church building, extension or redevelopment projects. **Theological education and training. **Nurturing Christian faith in teens to 30s age group. (Grant range: * £2k-£10k, ** £2k-£20k). Visit: www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk

EVENT: Community Organising in the North East: An ecumenical conversation - Wednesday 5 May 2021 18.30 – 20.30hrs

Over the last five years Christians have been working alongside people of other faiths, and none, to challenge the injustices that shape our communities in the North East. During this online event we want to share some of the stories of how together we have empowered people to tackle low wages, mental health provisions, hate crime, free-school meal access and climate change. Along with the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, and the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, Robert Byrne, we will be asking how community organising is part of our faith journeys.

Storytelling is at the heart of challenging injustice and we hope our stories will engage and inspire you.

Please sign up here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/147983904843> and login details will be sent out the week before the event.

REMINDER: Bake and Reflect!

Join Newcastle West Deanery as they take time out to BAKE AND REFLECT on our journey through Holy Week. Watch a taster film ([click here](#)) for daily videos to be posted from Sunday 28th March (Palm Sunday) to Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday) on their YouTube channel, which can be accessed here: [Click here](#)

NATIONAL NEWS AND CAMPAIGNS

[Publication of detailed response to IICSA report](#) – 29 March 2021

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

REMINDER: RESURRECTION TRAIL! DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE

The Resurrection Trail is a great way to share the story of Easter with families whether they are churched or not. It is a fun and engaging five location Treasure Hunt around a church/churchyard or community. At each location, families have to find an object, listen to a story, and are given a question and a challenge to explore at home. Find out more [here](#).

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

[Archdeacon of Northumberland](#) – deadline 12 April 2021

[Nominations are open for two lay members to join the Vacancy in See Committee](#) – deadline 7 April 2021

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL VACANCY

[Fundraising and Development Officer Vacancy](#) – deadline 6 April 2021

NEW: No longer required - we have been asked to advertise some clerical outfits being offered to a good home. Click [here for pictures](#) and contact communications@newcastle.anglican.org for more information

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: <https://bit.ly/35JCAYj>

Church House will be closed on Thursday 1 April and re-opens on Wednesday 7 April.

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>

NEW: NORTH EAST RELIGIOUS LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

We are open!

We are delighted to let you know that the RRC has reopened. 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

Please note that the RRC will be closed for Easter from to the 1st - 13th April (inclusive) so any communications with the RRC will not be answered until the 14th April but anyone who books to attend the Being Interrupted Book Group (see below) using the online form will receive an invitation to attend.

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: Making every RE lesson count - a Conversation@theRRC with Louise Hutton and Dawn Cox.
Thursday 15th April 18:00 - 19:15

A 75-minute professional shot in the arm for new and experienced practitioners working in Key Stages 3 & 4

If you would like to improve your students' conceptual and contextual understanding of your curriculum come and join us. And it's FREE!

We will be discussing:

- the six principles that underpin a good RE lesson.
- what 'disciplinary lenses' are
- how you can ensure good feedback from your pupils

But, ultimately, in this interactive session, how the conversation goes will be up to you!

Participants can get a generous 30% off the book till the end of April using the code RELESSON30 here: <https://www.crownhouse.co.uk/publications/making-every-re-lesson-count>.

Book your place TODAY by emailing enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk or telephoning 0191 375 0586

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_ZGnZNfX6RDi4XU7o7MpzlPkdBxIV&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>

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