



Trinity Issue

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Continuing Ministerial Development of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane



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Issue 11, 3rd June 2020

Diocesan CMD Mini Conference: Covid 19: Enduring Lent or Promise of Pentecost for the Church?

On 29th May, 43 people from across the Diocese met for our first online CMD Diocesan Mini Conference. The conference centred on the Four Hallmarks of Ministry in Luke 24 (Jesus and the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus) given by **the Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson**, CMD Coordinator in which he explored the Lucan text in the context of the current pandemic. You can download a copy of the text or watch a film of a slightly earlier version of the presentation on the Diocesan website: <https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>

The Conference was enriched by the presence and contribution of **Rev Liz Crumlish**, Path of Renewal Co-ordinator. Liz writes:

'My role for the last 5 years has been working with clergy and congregations, helping them to imagine how they are called to be church in each of their differing contexts. The question has been not so much "What should we do?" but "what can we stop doing to make space to listen for God?"

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated that work – we've been forced to stop so much – yet we haven't necessarily made space to listen for what God wants of us in this season.

Michael's Emmaus Road presentation raised these questions in me:

As people of the word, how might we embody the word – and enable others to do that too – in the opportunistic moments?

In the midst of fluctuating emotions and "in the dark" – how might we realise the potential for Sabbath during lockdown – taking time to re-root ourselves and reconnect with God AND our community in order to listen?

How might we ensure that the "new normal" is not just the old normal slightly tweaked – but, rather, how might we interpret the "signs of the times"?

What happens to "the least of these" once lockdown is over?

How can we expend our energy not simply on working out how we can safely get everyone back in the building but go forward being church that impacts our community?

In this exile, how might we recall and live into the ancient stories of God's people in exile, learning how to be: Seek the welfare of the city where you are called (**Jer 29:7**)



Around the Diocese

Thanks to everyone who sent in material. There has been so much that some of it has been carried over for future editions. If there is something which you have brought to the attention of your congregation which you think might speak to others in the diocese, please think of sending it in. 'Freely we have received, freely let us give'.

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Alison Peden, St Modoc's Doune writes: 'Looking ahead to church being open for private prayer: this might be the time to get local children to create pictures, cards, other displays to welcome and inspire community coming in; create prayer/reflection cards for people to take away; also to organise a rota for stewards when the church is open.' Alison also picks up on **Joan Lyon's** suggestion in last week's Resources in which Joan recommended the Lord's Prayer for meditation. St Modoc's did this as a congregation, emailing reflections in, which were combined into a single piece that is now on our website at <http://www.stmodocsdoune.co.uk/p/congregations-reflections-on-lord-prayer.html>





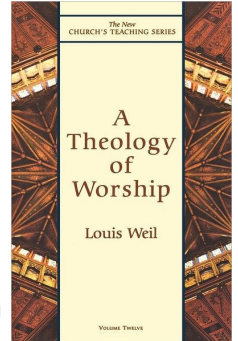
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Around the Diocese cont..

The Rev'd Canon Dr Carrie Applegath, Transitional Priest St Columba's Stanley writes: 'Not long before Lockdown I set up a theology reading group - just four of us who wanted to read theology and talk about it together. We'd chosen our first book, Louis Weil, *A Theology of Worship* and put a date in our diaries for the first meeting. Then Lockdown began so we arranged to meet online instead of in person. We've kept meeting online and we're now on our second book, Frances Young, *God's Presence*. We meet for an hour and half one evening a month, and after catching up with each other we share our responses to the text and our questions. Our discussions are challenging at times, encouraging, and most of all enjoyable. We have realised how important it is to connect with each other, to check in on how each of us is managing life and work during Lockdown, and also to talk about something else that stretches our understanding, our faith, and our vision.



The Rev'd David Mackenzie Mills, St Paul's Kinross writes: 'I've been thinking about how the Church might learn something from the weekly 'Clap for Carers' that has taken place on Thursdays at 8pm during these past weeks. Although I in no way support the unseemly shenanigans at 10 Downing Street, I am dismayed by the move to start a weekly 'Boo for Boris' which will only compound our country's negative malaise and further intrench the Prime Minister's supports and critics. I'd like to offer the short liturgy below as a weekly event that people in every church might like to take part in, despite us all being dispersed at present. I hope it might be both enjoyable and a gentle nod to our common call to mission.

Creator God of new beginnings,
inspire our political leaders who govern our country.

Forgiving God, refreshing by your Word,
help us be signs of your love poured out on our country.

Breath of God,
shelter all those who are hurting and mourning
under your healing wings.

God who gives when we will not ask,
God who forgives when we refuse to say sorry,
God who brings comfort
as we wander through this present darkness,
hear us who can pray to you now
and bless everyone who cannot.

Our Father...

Finish by lighting tealights in jars on the doorstep or perhaps enjoy a sparkler?!

Ian Scott, Reader, Leven put together a series of reflections for Thy Kingdom Come using the stained glass windows from St Margaret's Church. You can find them on Facebook for inspiration.

The Rev'd James Bryson, East Perthshire Group of Churches recommends Christian Art and the Gospel which helps us reflect on the daily lectionary texts through engaging with a work of art. <https://christian.art>

The Very Rev'd Kenny Rathband, Dean of the Diocese, invites us to ponder the words of the French Priest Michel Quoist: 'If we knew how to look at life through God's eyes, all of life would become a sign. If we knew how to listen to God, all of life would become a prayer.'

Lis Burke, Warden of Readers writes: 'The plants in these trays are ones I have grown from seed. The nasturtium and sunflower seeds were presents from my family and I want to see them flourishing in my garden later this summer. But spring in Scotland doesn't provide the right environment for them to grow outside. I sowed the seeds indoors where they were fully sheltered and now it's time for the seedlings to become accustomed to the outdoor climate, whilst still being protected from the risks posed by colder night-time temperatures. Every day they are growing sturdier and feeling the sun, rain and breeze on their leaves. Every night I bring them under cover because there is still a small risk of frost at this time. As we start to think about the "new normal" in our community and church life we must exercise the same care in planning the transition for ourselves, those around us and particularly those who are most vulnerable.'





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Reflecting on the Trinity

Keen to get away from talking of Shamrocks on Trinity Sunday or of God as a mathematical puzzle to be solved, we offer the following theological contributions from different perspectives:

If you want to brush up on your theological study, the **BBC** – yes the BBC – revision notes for secondary school students on Augustine and De Trinitate which would be a good place to start.

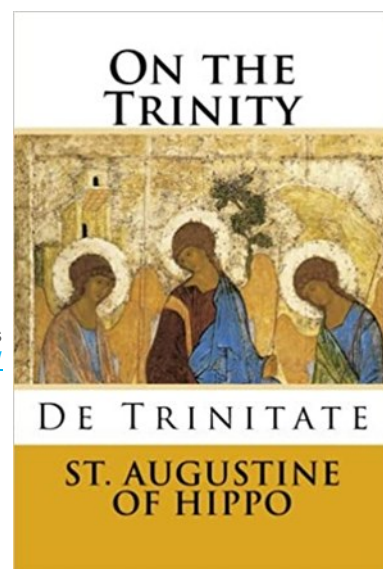
'The Trinity does not work indivisibly, but the Father does some things, the Son other things, and the Holy Spirit yet others: or else, if they do some things together, some severally, then the Trinity is not indivisible.' **De Trinitate 8:1**
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztm24qt/revision/6>

From the **Orthodox** tradition, Bishop Kallistos Ware, shares thoughts on the Trinity and a Trinitarian life <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/a-circle-of-shared-love>

From the **Reformed** tradition, German theologian Jürgen Moltmann addresses the theme 'The Trinity and the Kingdom' <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/the-kingdom-and-the-trinity>

From the **Roman Catholic** tradition, Richard Rohr offers God has to be Three <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/god-has-to-be-three>

In addition to these video resources, Hannah Bacon's article 'Thinking The Trinity as a resource for **Feminist Theology** Today' from the Journal CrossCurrents is posted on the Diocesan Website. <https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>



Trinity Worship Resources



The **Iona Community** offers [Draw Us into the Dance: A liturgy for Trinity Sunday](#) by Thom M Shuman, a lyrical, uplifting celebration for Trinity Sunday available as a digital download.

Spill the Beans offers worship resources by Scots with a Scottish flavour for worship in Scotland. It takes us through the Revised Common Lectionary readings from Trinity Sunday to Pentecost 12. Normally only available upon subscription, the current edition is offered as free gift in recognition of the difficult circumstances many of us are in at this time. <http://spillbeans.org.uk/>



In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us and within.

You can hear Malcolm Guite recite this here <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2012/06/02/trinity-sunday-a-sonnet/>

You can watch a video of him here <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/the-triune-poet>





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Prayer & Spirituality

The Clapping for Carers may have come to an end, but our prayers for them does not. [Pray as you go](#) has introduced **Healing Hands**, a new prayer guide created by and for healthcare workers. Two sessions are offered: one for preparation before a shift and another as a reflective prayer to look back over a day or shift. <https://soundcloud.com/pray-as-you-go/sets/healing-hands>

The **Jesuits** have introduced **Imagine** a weekly live zoom space for imaginative contemplation. Inspired by meditative practices that engage with story, image, scripture, imagination, desire, affect, body and silence, these sessions will involve a variety of guided meditations with some opportunity for sharing. Open to the first hundred to turn up on Zoom, 8pm-9pm every Wednesday evening. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83997700895> Meeting ID: 839 9770 0895

The Rev'd Gerry Dillon, Priest Evangelist, Central Fife Centre of Mission draws our attention to **Daily Hope** a freephone number with hymns, reflections and prayers provided by the Church of England 0800 804 8044



Commentary

The **Tragedies and Christian Congregations Project** have updated their guidance for ministers and offer a three part framework for processing the questions that Covid19 is presenting and for shaping our responses as pastors and church leaders. 1. Earthing allows us to name the enormity of what we are living through; 2. Mapping helps us to know where we are in the typical phases of trauma (heroic or busy phase of adjustment; the tired and weary phase of disillusionment; the re-evaluative phase of rebuilding) 3. Anchoring is about staying rooted in the enduring wisdom traditions that have held us in the past. www.tragedyandcongregations.org.uk

Rebecca Solnit writes: "This is an extraordinary time full of vital, transformative movements that could not be foreseen. It's also a nightmarish time. Full engagement requires the ability to perceive both." https://www.brainpickings.org/2016/03/16/rebecca-solnit-hope-in-the-dark-2/?mc_cid=370478f8e0&mc_eid=e6942ba7d2

Clergy Reflection Group



This group is open to all priests in the Diocese. You don't have to have been before to log in. Nor does one visit commit you to having to come back. The group's purpose is to reflect on presbyterial ministry and although it is indeed supportive its purpose is not to be a support group or a place to do diocesan business. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 1030-1130 on Zoom. Log in details from bishopsec@standrews.anglican.org.

On 27th May, prompted by a view of Angus on her morning walk, **the Rev'd Elaine Garman**, St John's Forfar & St Margaret's Lunanhead led a reflection on Truth.

On 3rd June **the Rev'd Gerry Dillon**, Priest Evangelist of the Central Fife Centre of Mission will lead us in a reflection on discernment in mission from the recent Church Army Centre of Missions Conference.

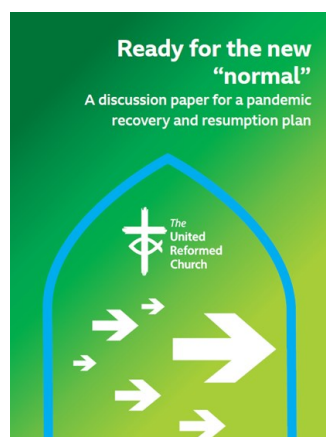
Preparing for Life Post Lockdown

The Scottish Government has indicated four phases in coming out of lockdown with the opening of Churches for public worship being some way down the line. Governance and guidance is currently in preparation across the denominations.

The SEC College of Bishops has established an Advisory Group to carefully consider all relevant guidance issued by the Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland and, in the light of the phased route map, to offer guidance on a phase by phase basis. Rev'd Elaine Garman, Rector St John's Forfar is on that group. Please pray for Elaine and the team as they guide us onwards.

The United Reformed Church have produced a booklet to help churches and ministers move forward once the Covid-19 lockdown eases. Although written out of a Reformed Church polity which differs from our own, the booklet, **Ready for the new "normal": A discussion paper for a pandemic recovery and resumption plan**, will be of interest to many of us. <https://urc.org.uk/new-normal.html>

If you want a bottom up approach in which to consult your people about their hopes and fears about starting up again post lockdown including whether they feel safe enough or even want to come back to our buildings, then take a look at this congregational survey from **La Sierra University Church**, California. <https://lasirrachurch.wufoo.com/forms/congregational-survey/>





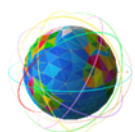
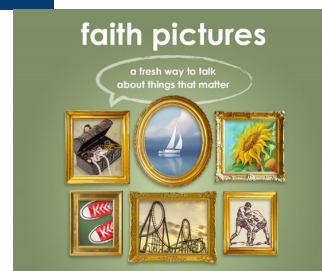
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Doing Mission Digitally

The Church Army has developed Faith Pictures, a six session course designed to help Christians talk naturally about what they believe. Based on evidence that people's attention is captured most by what they see rather than what they hear, the course uses imagery and aims to be jargon free. The course is free. https://www.churcharmy.org.uk/Groups/266913/Church_Army/ms/Faith_Pictures/Faith_Pictures.aspx?fbclid=IwAR29xDXs8TLink6y2EYS4nMOH4xXNrqpGNwsUbOxLGtJPxDQS6bROPv



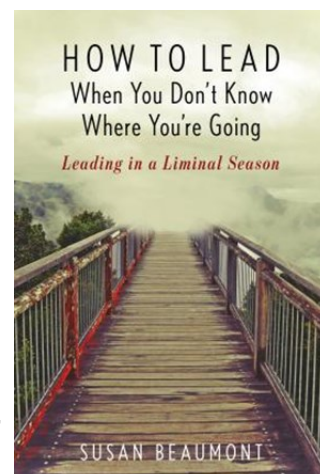
One World in Dialogue

This free workshop is offered for those who realize that we can't just do online what we used to do when we could meet in person and that it takes a different awareness to create trust, connection and shared depth together. <https://oneworldindialogue.com/online-aliveness/>

Suggested Reading

This book, commended to the diocese by **Rev'd Liz Crumlish**, Path of Renewal Coordinator, picks up on some of the key areas we were exploring in our Diocesan CMD Conference. How do you lead an organization stuck between what Church has grown used to doing and what a world in crisis might be calling us to do - when the old way of doing things might not work for the unchurched but a way forward is not yet clear? Beaumont calls such in-between times liminal seasons--threshold times when the continuity of tradition disintegrates and uncertainty about the future fuels doubt and chaos. In a liminal season it simply is not helpful to pretend we understand what needs to happen next. But leaders can still lead.

How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going is a practical book of hope for tired and weary leaders who risk defining this era of ministry in terms of failure or loss. It helps leaders stand firm in a disoriented state, learning from their mistakes and leading despite the confusion. Packed with rich stories and real-world examples, Beaumont guides the reader through practices that connect the soul of the leader with the soul of the institution.



Last Laugh



These Resources are compiled & edited weekly by **the Rev'd Dr Michael Paterson**, CMD Coordinator and published by **the Rev'd Gerry Dillon**, Priest Evangelist, Central Fife Centre of Mission.

Contributions are invited from across the Diocese to CMDCoordinator@gmail.com

Back copies of these Resources can be found on the Diocesan Website

<https://standrews.anglican.org/clergy-development-resources/>