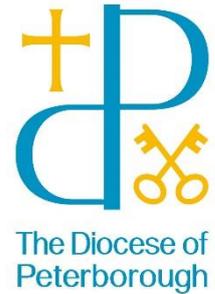


BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 13

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

26 May 2020



Dear friends

Greetings, for a change, on a Tuesday morning. I hope you were able to take a bit more time off over the bank holiday weekend. This week's bulletin may look more like a bulletin board; part of the purpose is to share with you some good initiatives and opportunities when I become aware of them.

Bishop John

John is making a slow recovery from the virus, but certainly won't be back at work until next month. Please continue to pray for him and Elizabeth.

Relaxing the Lockdown

I'm afraid there are few simple answers to the many questions as to when we can reintroduce baptisms, weddings, funerals, public worship, or private prayer, in our church buildings – or as to what conditions may be imposed. It is likely that some prohibitions will be lifted on Monday 1 June, but we won't know the details until a day or so before. There will probably be a further opening-up in the first week of 4 July.

The [Church of England Coronavirus web page](#) includes an ever-expanding set of documents giving helpful and up-to-date guidance. Most of these matters are for the local diocese or parish to decide, but this national guidance has been checked with both Ecclesiastical Insurance and the Church's National Legal Office.

Ecclesiastical Bursaries

The Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) have been running for more than 30 years, providing financial support for sabbatical breaks and projects. They are open to members of the clergy who have been ordained for at least ten years, and haven't had a sabbatical in the last seven years. Applications for an award for 2021 should be submitted by 30 September this year. Even if you are thinking of a sabbatical further ahead, it might be useful to see how these grants work. You can find full details and an application form at www.ecclesiastical.com/mba

Homelessness

You may remember my charity of the year a few years ago, **Hope into Action**. This is a Peterborough-based national body. It helps philanthropic investors buy houses, which are then used to provide long-term supported accommodation - usually for up to 2 years - to formerly homeless people (including ex-prisoners). Support and mentoring are provided by partner churches.

They currently have 70 partner churches across England and are keen to increase this. If you or your parish might be interested, you are invited to one of two "Zoominars", hosted by Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, to find out more. Hope into Action are not asking for money, but for church partners, who are willing to recruit a small team of committed volunteers to mentor the residents.

The "Zoominars" will be at 3pm and 6pm on Wednesday 3 June. More details at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/archbishop-canterburys-commission-housing-church-and-15>

Hospital Chaplaincy

Our hospital chaplaincy teams have been "differently busy" in recent weeks. I want to put on record my thanks to all those involved.

It seems a good idea to make sure that we all have the contact details for hospital chaplaincies in the diocese. The chaplains are always glad to hear from parish clergy about church members or contacts who might appreciate a visit, or more specific ministry. At the foot of this bulletin is my list (any corrections or omissions will appear in a later edition).

Sermons

There has been quite a bit of demand for my Sunday sermons. A reminder that these are available to any who want an episcopal "visit" in these strange times. They last between 10 and 15 minutes, are usually based on the gospel for the day, and will be sent out early the week before on the sole condition that they are not used until the relevant Sunday itself. Please [email your request](#) at any time, specifying which Sunday you want a sermon for, and whether you want audio only or audio-visual.

With love in Christ

+ Donald

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