

**To Ministers, Ordained Local Ministers and Auxiliary Ministers, Deacons, MDS, Presbytery Clerks and CSC Staff**

Dear colleague

The Moderators of the Ministers’ Discussion Forum have been working with the Chief Officer’s Webinar Project Group to establish a cohesive strategy for online training and webinars within the Church. As part of the discussion the Ministers’ Discussion Forum agreed to organise a series of webinars to help address some of the concerns and opportunities that exist around reopening our church buildings and entering into a period of continuing uncertainty as we emerge from the pandemic.

To that end we are delighted to be able to share with you our series of lunchtime webinars based around the theme ‘Going Forward as Church …’. There will be five in total and each will address and aid thinking about an aspect of congregational life. Each webinar will be held on Zoom and will be held from 12noon – 1pm.Going Forward as Church …

... Technologically. Thursday 18th March with Rev Bryan Kerr (Lanark: Greyfriars), Neil MacLennan (Sanctus Media) and Rev Jeremy Parsons (Rector, St Edmund Way Benefice, Church of England)

... Spiritually. Monday 22nd March with Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair and Carol Marples

... Worshipfully. Wednesday 24th March with Rev Shuna Dicks (Aberdeen: Cults) and Jo Love DCS (Iona Community)

... Intergenerationally. Wednesday 7th April with Darren Philip (Youthworker, Livingstone United) and Jen Robertson (Scottish Bible Society)

... Missionally. Tuesday 13th April with Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth (Edinburgh: Mayfield Salisbury) Rev Barry Hughes (Stirling: St Marks), Rev Helen Jamieson (Carluke: St Andrews) and Rev Elisabeth Spence (Pioneer Minister, Hopefield Connections)

We recognise that some of these are relatively short notice but we felt it was important to offer these webinars as one method of supporting each other in this period of uncertainty and stress. Can I particularly highlight the webinar on Spirituality where the Moderator will take time to lead us in a guided meditation to help focus our mind and seek God’s presence at the beginning of a week when our buildings can begin to reopen.

These webinars will be open to anyone and are not limited to members of the Ministers’ Discussion Forum, so please join us if you are able. Please also forward these details to others you feel may be interested. The group is a supportive one and everyone is welcome.

To join the meetings you can click [this link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88364736331?pwd=TEdPQ1dPUXVLbnAxVzg5c28rdXdBUT09" \t "_blank) or enter the Meeting ID 883 6473 6331 and Passcode 355857 into your Zoom app.

If you would like to join the forum then you can request access at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/cofsministers/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cofsministers/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Please note that there are three very simple questions you need to answer to be granted access, so please look out for them when you press the button to send your request! We only accept personal Facebook Accounts (and no pseudonyms) and membership is open to ministers, paid or non-stipendiary (category O, E, R or I) or Deacon (E, R or I) within the Church of Scotland.

With all best wishes and prayerful support as you journey towards Easter

If you have any questions please get in touch with any of us.

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Ministers’ Discussion Forum Moderators