

# *The Christmas* **Communicant**

News and Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh



## **Advent and Christmas 2016**

### **A Message from Bishop John**

There is loads happening in churches near you this Advent, offering opportunities to rediscover the joy and the challenge of the Christmas story. The shepherds of the Christmas story didn't just talk of going to see the newborn Jesus, they actually went. God's action spurred them to action, and they discovered something amazing as a result.

Christmas is full of words and good intentions, but its true wonder is found when the Christ child inspires us to go, to see and to respond in acts of loving service. I know how incredibly busy things are at this time of year and I'd like to say thank you for working so hard, for volunteering so much, for sharing and acting out God's love, now and throughout the year. I'll be praying for you all throughout Advent and the Christmas period.

Have a wonderfully blessed Christmas, and may you each be a blessing to others.

*+John*

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## ACTIVITY PLANNER

Here is the short form of the Activity Planner for Advent, listing all the different things we're aware of that are happening around the diocese this Advent. Some have passed (sorry about the timing of this!) but there are still lots of things to support, either through prayer or in body (or both!). Good luck with all your events, whether they feature here or not.

Liturgical period		Advent	
<b>Important dates</b>	Global	16 Days of Action, 25/11-10/12	
		World AIDS Day, 1	
		International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 2	
		International Volunteers Day, 5	
		Human Rights Day, 10	
		New Year's Eve, 31	
	Local	Fountainbridge Winter Festival	
	Religious -	Bodhi Day (Rohatsu), Buddhism, 8	
	for more information on any of the terms, go to: <a href="http://bit.ly/2bujvPi">http://bit.ly/2bujvPi</a>	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12	
		Mawlid an Nabe, Islam, 12	
		Posadas Navidenas, Hispanic Xian, 16-25	
		Mawlid an Nabi, Islam, 14	
		Solstice - Yule/Litha, Wicca/Pagan, 21	
		Feast of the Nativity, Orthodox, 25	
		Hanukkah, Jewish, 25/12-1/1	
		Zarathosht Diso (Death of the Prophet Zarathushtra) Zoroastrian, 26	
		Watch Night, 31	
		Info from: <a href="http://interfaithcalendar.org">interfaithcalendar.org</a>	
	Church - from the Lectionary	St Nicholas, 6	
		Immaculate Conception, 8	
		St Thomas, Apostle, 21	
		Christmas Day, 25	
		St Stephen, Martyr, 26	
		St John, Apostle, 27	
		Holy Innocents, 28	
		Holy Family, 30	
	<b>Cycle of Prayer</b>	Month	B
	<b>Key activities</b>	Primary	<b>Yarn Bomb Angels</b>
Secondary		<b>Hark the Herald Angels Sing</b>	
<b>Bishop's activity</b>		Retired Clergy Lunch, 6	
		Nine Lessons and Carols (Cathedral), 22	
		Nine Lessons and Carols (Cathedral), 24	

		Midnight Mass, 24
		<b>Christmas Eucharist, 25</b>
<b>Children and Youth</b>	Where is Play Church?	St Ninian's
<b>AiF</b>		Silence - Way of the Heart, 2/12
<b>CHARGES</b>		
<b>BATHGATE St Columba</b>		Advent Carol Service (Ecumenical), 27/11
		Community Christmas Lunch, 3/12
<b>EDINBURGH Christ Church Morningside</b>		Advent Angels
<b>EDINBURGH Good Shepherd, Murrayfield</b>		Murrayfield Churches Together: Joint Advent Service, 27/11
		Murrayfield Churches Together: Messy Church Christingle, 18/12
<b>EDINBURGH St James the Less, Leith</b>		AdventFest, 25-27/11
<b>EDINBURGH St John the Evangelist</b>		Theology Symposium, Jeremy Begbi, Of God & Sin & Music, 10/12
		Christmas in the City, 22/12
<b>EDINBURGH St Mark Portobello</b>		Advent Angels
		Bethany Christmas Trees Distribution Centre
<b>EDINBURGH St Martin of Tours</b>		Advent Angels
<b>EDINBURGH St Ninian</b>		Play church
		Advent Angels
		Taize Service, 27/11, 11/12, 18/12
		Carols Round the Piano, 16/12
<b>LINLITHGOW St Peter</b>		Advent Fayre, 26/11
		Advent Carol Service (Ecumenical), 27/11
<b>PENICUIK St James-the-Less</b>		Churches Working Together: The Christmas Mystery, 3/12
		9 Lessons and Carols, 18/12

<b>INCUMBENTS, TREASURERS &amp; VESTRY SECRETARIES</b>	<p><b>Annual Forms</b></p> <p>The first deadline for the <i>Congregational Statistics</i> return has passed. Thank you to those who have done the Diocesan Schedule using <i>Google Forms</i>– this is saving a huge amount of time and work in the office.</p> <p>Only about 20% of all the forms have been returned, however. <b>If you could encourage your Vestry to complete the outstanding ones</b>, that would be much appreciated. Praise goes to the vestries of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dalmahoy</b></li> <li>• <b>St Salvador’s, Edinburgh and</b></li> <li>• <b>St Mary’s Grangemouth</b></li> </ul> <p>who have already sent in <u>ALL</u> their forms. Well done indeed! Also, to the Rectors and Priests in Charge – 40% of the Congregational Returns are now in.</p> <p>Contact the Diocesan Office if you have any queries. <i>Thank you.</i></p>
<b>INCUMBENTS, TREASURERS &amp; VESTRY SECRETARIES</b>	<p><b>Hark The Herald Angel Sing</b></p> <p>Thanks to those of you who have submitted your church’s rendition of Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Due to technical difficulties, <b>we have extended the deadline for submissions until midnight tonight (9<sup>th</sup> December)</b>. Please ensure you’ve uploaded your files. Thank you!</p> <p>If you have any questions, contact Siân Harris: <a href="mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org">communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org</a> 07725 697 909.</p>
<b>ALL</b>	<p><b>Looking for last minute INSPIRATION for your Christmas services?</b></p> <p>Check out some websites offering ideas and resources online:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian Aid: <a href="https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas/church-resources">https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas/church-resources</a></li> <li>• Christingle Material: <a href="http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/fundraising-and-events/christingle-resources">http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/fundraising-and-events/christingle-resources</a></li> <li>• Embrace the Middle East: <a href="http://www.embraceme.org/christmas-resources">http://www.embraceme.org/christmas-resources</a></li> <li>• Free Christmas Story booklet for children: <a href="https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas/christmas2016-booklet/">https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas/christmas2016-booklet/</a></li> <li>• Free mini videos to download try ‘Go Chatter’: <a href="http://www.gochattervideos.com/">http://www.gochattervideos.com/</a></li> <li>• Lots of further links on the EA UK website: <a href="http://www.eauk.org/church/resources/christmas-resources.cfm">http://www.eauk.org/church/resources/christmas-resources.cfm</a></li> </ul> <p>Or contact Annie Naish for more ideas: <a href="mailto:mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org">mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org</a> 07800 866 494</p>
<b>ALL</b>	<p><b>Reaching out to the Lonely and Homeless</b></p> <p>Are you doing any event or activity for the lonely and homeless this Christmas? If so, then Premier Radio would love to have the details to promote on their website and on their afternoon show on National Radio. Please go online and fill in the form here: <a href="http://www.premierchristianradio.com/christmasalone">www.premierchristianradio.com/christmasalone</a>.</p> <p>Contact Annie Naish for more details: <a href="mailto:mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org">mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org</a> 07800 866 494</p>

<p><b>ALL</b></p>	<p><b>Church Profile Photos</b>          Many thanks to Alex at St Michael and All Saints, Tollcross for your photos of what worship is like at your church.          Please can everyone else send in 3 photos that sum up why you go to your church each week, so we can highlight your church on the Diocesan website from January.</p>
<p><b>WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER EDITORS</b></p>	<p><b>Networking and Resources Day</b>          We're holding a day of networking and sharing on <b>Saturday 21 January 2017</b>, at St Mark's, Portobello. Please now register your interest before Christmas, by emailing Siân Harris at <a href="mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org">communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org</a> and we will be in touch in the new year.</p>

CHRISTMAS EVENTS 


**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**



**AT FORT KINNAIRD**



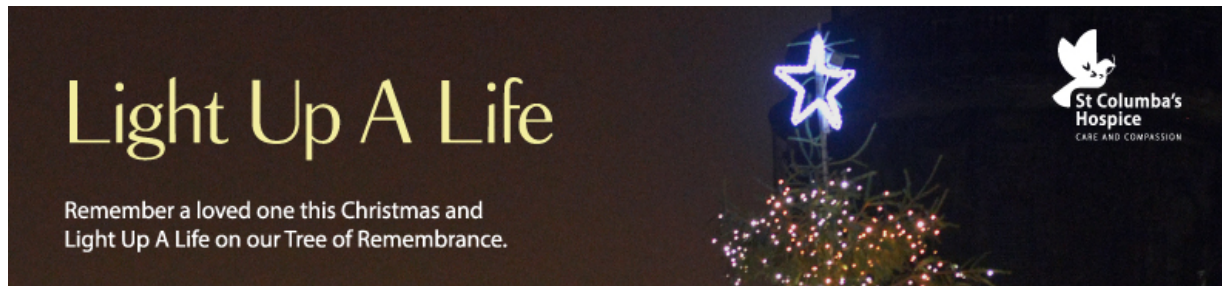
**PLEASE JOIN US IF YOU CAN!**


**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**


**OUTSIDE NEW LOOK at 2-3PM**



 (contact FK Chaplain Judith Wilkinson on 07940786935)
 



## Light Up A Life to Remember a Loved One this Christmas

This year's Light Up A Life event will take place on  
**Monday 12 December in Charlotte Square Gardens, Edinburgh.**  
The Gardens will be open from 5.30pm with refreshments available.  
Please wrap up warm!

This is followed by a Service of Remembrance at  
**7pm in St John's Church, Princes Street**

**St Columba's Hospice has launched its annual Light Up A Life appeal, where you can dedicate a light on the Tree of Remembrance in honour of someone you have loved and lost.**

Christmas at the Hospice starts with our annual [Light Up A Life appeal](#), when we ask you to dedicate a light on our Tree of Remembrance in memory of someone you have loved.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports our Light Up A Life appeal, which enables us to provide care and support to the Hospice's patients and their families throughout the festive period.

Our Tree of Remembrance stands proud in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square Gardens, covered in lights dedicated in memory of those we have loved and lost. We welcome you to join us at the lighting ceremony and see your lights shine bright. There's something really special about seeing the lights shining out against the dark sky and being together remembering the people they represent.

Please [Light Up A Life](#) this year and support us as we continue to support our local community.

<http://www.stcolumbahospice.org.uk/lightupalife/>