



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

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# *The Communicant*

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

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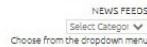


**St Michael and All Saints' Episcopal Church, Edinburgh**

## STAFF NEWS

In a few weeks' time we will, unfortunately, have 3x vacant staff posts ... out of 6 office staff! Sam (Bishop's & Dean's PA) is taking the opportunity for some holiday whilst +John is on his short Sabbatical, so do bear with us whilst we work through this period. We will do our very best to keep you supported.

The **Communications Coordinator** post has been vacant since April, and we are working hard to realign some of that work, so that we can reappoint to a more effective role profile. The **Admin Assistant (Mission & Ministry)** post has been vacant since June 2020, whilst the future of the main officer role is defined for the longer-term. Finally, David Lewis (*right*) will leave his **Admin Assistant (Finance & Management)** role in mid-August to commence his Doctorate to research the Music of the Royal Chapels of Scotland. David joined us very soon after Lockdown in 2020, so has had no experience of collaborative working in the Diocesan Office itself, but has been just invaluable during both the Lockdown and the vacancy in the other Admin Asst post. We are deeply indebted to him, not only for his extra work during that period, but for the very professional way he has done it. He has not been blessed with meeting many of you face to face, and has been somewhat 'anonymous', but his unseen work has enabled so much more visible work to be done. A big 'thank you' indeed.



## WEBSITE - DIOCESAN RESOURCES

We are increasingly aware, from the queries that arrive in the virtual-office, that many of you are not aware of the **Diocesan Resources pages**. These were created back in 2017 and filled with a large amount of information we are regularly asked for. As well as Diocesan Synod agendas and minutes, there are resources for Buildings, Safeguarding, Finances and more. Do have a look and browse what is there, as it may save you some time, whilst waiting for one of us to respond to your queries:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-office-resources/>

### Diocesan Office Resources



DIOCESAN OFFICE



FINANCE



BUILDINGS



DIOCESAN SYNOD



SAFEGUARDING



BISHOP'S OFFICE

## ONLINE SUPPORT FOR VESTRIES

We are very pleased to let you know about a brand-new initiative. We have been aware for a long time that individual vestries carry some very valuable experience about specific projects and work, where a new 'wheel is invented', as it were. However, this knowledge often remains local. At the Diocesan Office, we frequently get asked for advice about an incredibly wide range of subjects. Many times, we just don't have the required range of knowledge, sadly. Only this week, we were asked for advice on where to obtain a portable ramp for the infirm members of a congregation to get up the steps of their porch.

Therefore, we are in the process of setting up an **ONLINE FORUM PAGE** on the diocesan website.

This will have sections for:

- Treasurers
- Vestry Secretaries
- PVG Coordinators
- Buildings Convenors

The aim is for as many of those vestry personnel to register in the forum, both to post questions they have and to provide answers for their colleagues around the diocese. As has been said many times, there seems little point in being a body of congregations in a diocese if we don't share things between us. We hope this will become a practical example of this, and prove an invaluable tool. If you would like other 'departments', we are very happy to set those up too.



## DIOCESAN OFFICE

As yet, we still have no date for when the office can formally re-open, and the Scottish Government advises that whilst limited/phased reopening should be planned “*home working will continue to be an important mitigation for controlling the virus and we would ask that businesses still support employees to do this, where possible*”. We are discussing physical ventilation work with the General Synod Office (our landlords), as some of our offices have no natural ventilation, so cannot be safely used. Even at the point of reopening, it will need to be almost wholly staff-only, but we will discuss safe ways to accept appointments where face-to-face meeting is essential. Again, please bear with us therefore. SF

## DIARY

### BISHOP'S DIARY

~ The Bishop is currently on holiday and sabbatical leave ~

**Mon August 9<sup>th</sup>** Bishop presides at the Mary Sumner Day service at Good Shepherd, Murrayfield

**Thu 19<sup>th</sup> August** Just Festival: Conversation with the Revd Jarel Robinson-Brown

### COMMITTEES

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> August** Diocesan Buildings Committee

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> October** Diocesan Synod

**8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November** Clergy Conference



# NOTICES

## COVID-19: UPDATED GUIDANCE

**As ever, churches' first port-of-call for updates to Covid safety regulations should be the Scottish Government's '[guidance for the safe use of places of worship](#)'.** In addition to the Government guidance, the General Synod Office continues to send out targeted guidance by email, clarifying the principal changes in the Church context to those who need it – if you think you should have received this and haven't, or have any queries about the changes, please contact the [General Synod Office](#).

The latest change to the restrictions – moving the entirety of Scotland to 'Level 0' – has a significant effect on churches and worship in particular. In their latest update, the SEC Advisory Group summed up the changes like so (*re-printed directly from latest Advisory Group guidance*):

- The physical distancing requirement for indoor public places (including churches) is reduced from 2m to 1m. Churches may alter their current practice to reflect that but must ensure a minimum of 1m distancing between households.
- That will entail recalculation by churches of their capacity, including the maximum Physical Distancing Based Capacity figure which needs to be publicly displayed.
- Congregational singing, subject to the wearing of face masks, is permitted in level 0. There is no change to the existing position requiring the wearing of face coverings in places of worship.
- The limit on those attending weddings and funerals is increased to 200.
- Organised outdoor gatherings will remain subject to Government guidance for events.
- The Government had previously indicated that a gradual return to office working would be possible in level 0. However, the Government is now postponing that until Scotland moves beyond level 0.
- The current expectation remains that Scotland will be able to move beyond level 0 from 9 August. However that is dependent on the Government's assessment of data available nearer the time and a further Government update will be provided in the week before 9 August.

The Advisory Group also offered this advice on going forward during this time of 're-opening':

“Whilst the Government is implementing its programme for relaxing restrictions, it is doing so cautiously and is keen to protect the position of those who remain vulnerable. The Advisory Group itself endorses that approach and encourages clergy and congregations similarly to bear in mind that, whilst an easing of restrictions will be welcomed by some, there will be those who are concerned at the increased level of exposure. In that regard the Advisory Group reminds the Church of the exhortations contained in the Bishops' Pastoral Guidance:

*Please continue to be careful in all you do as you continue to resume the pastoral activities in the life of our churches and take advantage of the easing of restriction on our shared pastoral life. In Province, Diocese and Charges: please do all you can to protect all those in your care. We must support and encourage those who wish to move quickly as restrictions ease. We must support and care for those who remain anxious and wish to be even more careful than the Government guidance might allow. The pandemic has changed life for more than a year now: it will take a long time for life to return to a way of being together that is life-giving and in which all can be comfortable. Please take to heart the key message to be kind to yourselves and each other in the hard ongoing work to support and help our church life to grow and develop as, God-willing, the pandemic eases.*

The Advisory Group has revised its FAQs to take account of the reduced physical distancing requirement and also to reiterate the pastoral guidance quoted above. The new edition is available at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Version-9-July-2021-14.07.21.pdf> ”

## NOTICES (continued)

### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE

The latest Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) newsletter can be viewed [here](#).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Revd Canon Ruth Innes, Rector of St Fillan's, Buckstone, will retire as of August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Revd John Vincent will be installed as Priest in Charge, St Martin of Tours, Dalry, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

The Revd Aaron Moffat-Jackman has been appointed and will be installed as Priest in Charge, St Peter's, Musselburgh in October.

## CANON 35

*The Diocesan Buildings Committee has granted consent to the following project:*

- **St Anne's, Dunbar** – Installation of Hard Standing and Bike Racks

## CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK

*From the Poverty Alliance:* Challenge Poverty Week is now 10 weeks away and we would like to share some resources that may be of interest to faith groups in Scotland. You can find all the Challenge Poverty Week Activity Toolkits, graphics, school and college lesson plans and other resources in our [google drive folder](#). The **Faith Groups Activity Toolkit** will hopefully prove useful to churches taking part when planning activities for the week.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss the week further please do not hesitate get in touch with Suzi Murning ([suzi.murning@povertyalliance.org](mailto:suzi.murning@povertyalliance.org)), and please do let us know if you plan to get involved.

*Suzi Murning (edited)*  
**Campaigns Officer**  
**The Poverty Alliance**

# ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE CHURCH COMPETITION

*A reminder about Ecclesiastical Insurance's 'Good News' Competition 2021:*

I am writing to advise you of Ecclesiastical's competition, where one Anglican church in a region will win a prize of £1,500 and also be in with a chance of winning a further £6,000!

There are 5 regions involved, which represent the regional areas of England – Central, North and South plus Scotland and Wales. We have regionalised the Dioceses as per page 2 of the [Terms & Conditions](#).

Our competition launched in June, and we've asked churches to send us just a headline story – one headline, a short story of no more than 250 words and a photo or video to shine a light on the bright ideas, success stories and community heroes in their church in the face of adversity.



We hope to engage as many churches as possible from across the UK to show just how wonderful and irreplaceable each and every church and congregation is. The competition will be judged in two stages, the first of which will be on a regional basis and involve regional judges, and the second will involve a public vote and national judging panel to choose the overall winner from each of the five regional winners.

All the regional winners will be invited to send representatives from their church to a celebratory event in May 2022 where we will announce the overall winner.

## **How churches can get involved**

All the information about the competition, including the online entry form, terms & conditions, privacy notice and posters, are available on our website at [www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp). We will be communicating the competition to as many churches as we can via Facebook and Twitter, etc.

*Michael Angell*  
**Church Operations Director**  
**Ecclesiastical Insurance**

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## *The Communicant*

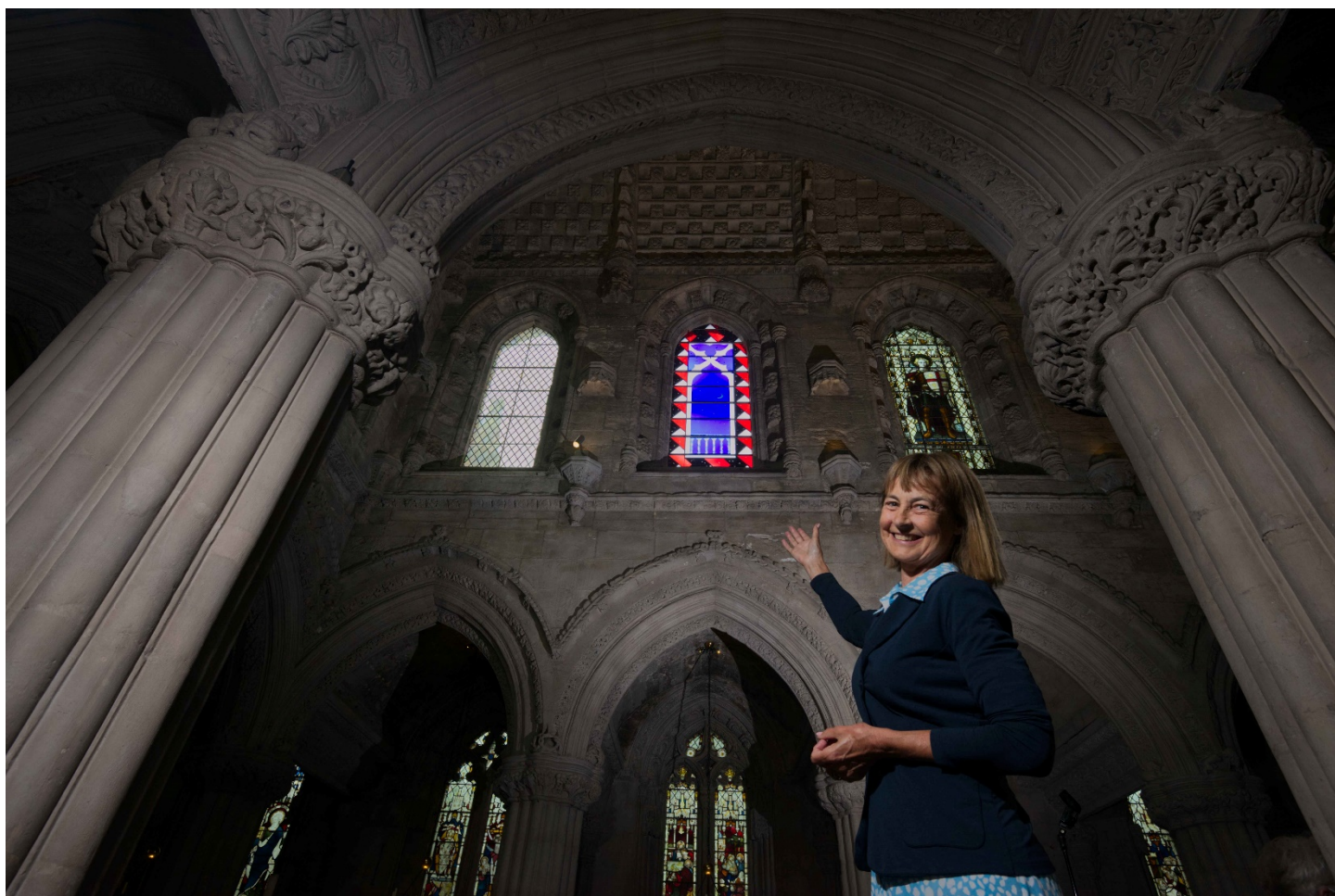
News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh



## NEW WINDOW UNVEILED AT ROSSLYN CHAPEL

A new stained-glass window has been unveiled in Rosslyn Chapel, in Midlothian, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, the charity founded in 1995 to oversee its conservation. The window – the first to be installed in 50 years – is the work of renowned artist Joe Tilson, RA.

Joe Tilson is one of the leading figures associated with the British Pop Art movement in the 1960s. He studied at St. Martin's School of Art and at the Royal College of Art in the 1950s alongside Peter Blake and David Hockney. In 1955 the Royal College awarded Tilson the Rome Prize, taking him to live in Italy for a year, a country from which he has drawn a lifetime of inspiration. Exhibiting globally since the 1960s, Tilson's work is held in collections including the Tate, London, Museum of Modern Art, New York and Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome.



*The Countess of Rosslyn with the new stained-glass window (picture: Rob McDougall)*

The new window marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, a charity founded in December 1995 to oversee the conservation and public opening of the Chapel. It is now also responsible for the care and conservation of nearby Rosslyn Castle, Collegehill House and a stretch of Roslin Glen. Since its foundation, it has overseen a major 17-year conservation programme at the Chapel, the construction of an award-winning Visitor Centre and has undertaken a conservation programme at Collegehill House. It is now working to secure the long-term future of Rosslyn Castle. Since 1995, the Trust has seen Chapel visitor numbers increase twentyfold from 9,000 in 1995 to 180,000 in 2019.

The Countess of Rosslyn said: 'This anniversary is a significant milestone for Rosslyn Chapel Trust and a chance both to reflect on its achievements during this time and to record our thanks to staff, past

and present, our expert team of specialists and all who have contributed to its work. As a charity, the Trust relies on income from visitors and so I am also very grateful to everyone who has visited the Chapel in the past 25 years. I hope that this wonderful new window will attract many more to visit and enjoy this unique building in the months and years to come’.

Rosslyn Chapel is open to visitors daily and tickets should be booked in advance on the website [www.rosslynchapel.com](http://www.rosslynchapel.com). The Chapel was founded in 1446 by Sir William St Clair and was incomplete when the founder died in 1484. The beauty of its setting, at the foot of the Pentland Hills in rural Midlothian, and the mysterious symbolism in the ornately carved stonework have inspired, attracted and intrigued visitors, artists and writers for generations, from JMW Turner to David Roberts, Sir Walter Scott to Dan Brown. The Chapel is a Category A Listed building and designated as a 5-star attraction by VisitScotland.

*Ian Gardner*  
**Director**  
**Rosslyn Chapel Trust**

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## A FINAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Further to Simon's note, I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Diocesan Office for the very warm welcome I received to the team, particularly at a time when we couldn't meet face to face, and an especially big thank-you to Simon, whose guidance and support has been invaluable during this year of great upheaval and uncertainty.

Thanks also to you, *Communicant* readers, for putting up with my writing for more than a year now (if for some bizarre reason you'd like to see more of it I occasionally write for the Edinburgh Reporter!). I hope it has in some way made you feel more 'connected' with the Diocesan Office and indeed the wider Diocese amid the isolation of the pandemic.

I am incredibly excited for my return to academia – my chosen subject is both close to my own heart and relates greatly to the history of music and the church in Scotland. If anyone would like to find out more about my project or offer their support please do let me know! Although I am sad to leave the office team, I hope to stay involved in the Diocese as much as possible, and especially its musical life.  
*With gratitude, DL*



## EVENTS



The Just Festival is back again! Festival time in Edinburgh embodies our right to freedom of expression and through this joyful multitude of wonderment makes another world seem possible. This year's programme is even bigger and better than before - it's well worth a look, not least because almost all of the events are free of charge! You can find out more about what's on here. <https://www.just-festival.org/just-festival-2021-events/>

