



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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Charity Number: SC001214

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

15 December 2021

Published by the Diocesan Office fortnightly, and circulated to all Clergy, Lay Readers, Treasurers & Vestry Secretaries, and Diocesan Synod Lay & Alternate Lay Representatives

NEXT EDITION: 12 January 2022



The Christmas Tree at St Peter's Church, Lutton Place, Edinburgh

DIOCESAN OFFICE NEWS

MARCH 2022 DIOCESAN SYNOD

Please keep Saturday, 12 March, free in your diaries for the next Diocesan Synod. Exact timings and venue arrangements will be released in due course.

NEW MISSION & MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

The DMMC is delighted to announce two new roles to support the mission and ministry hopes of our Diocese:

Joanna Morris has been appointed as administrative assistant (Mission and Ministry) and started work on Wednesday, 1 December 2021.

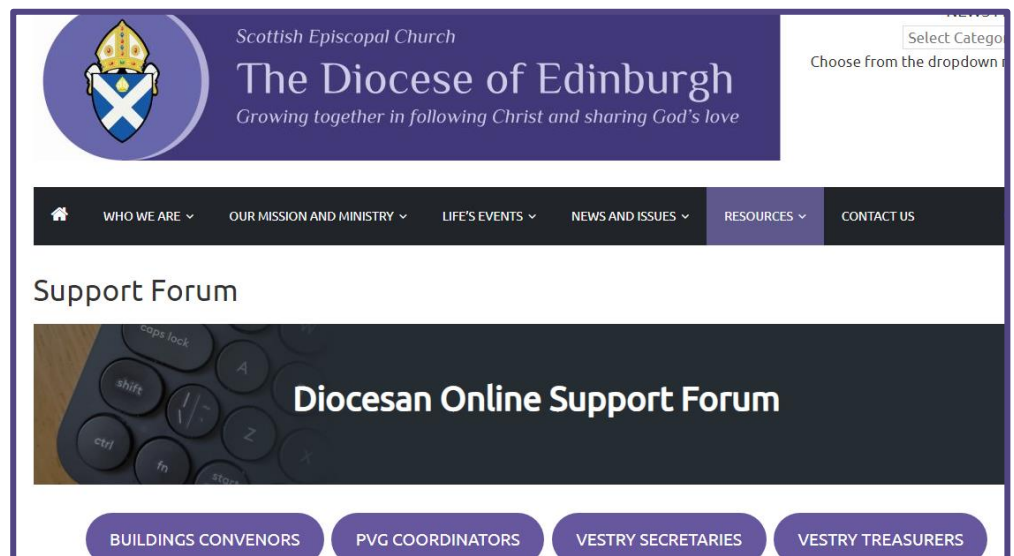
The Revd Jane MacLaren has been appointed to the new role of Ministry Development Officer starting on Saturday, 1 January 2022.

The Revd Dr Sophia Marriage (Convenor, Mission & Ministry Committee)

DIOCESAN ONLINE SUPPORT FORUM TO LAUNCH IN JANUARY

Over the past few weeks, the Diocesan Office has been trialling its brand-new online help and discussion portal for vestries, which will launch in January.

After receiving useful feedback from several willing test pilots, links for the Diocesan Online Support Forum will be published in the next edition of *The Communicant*.

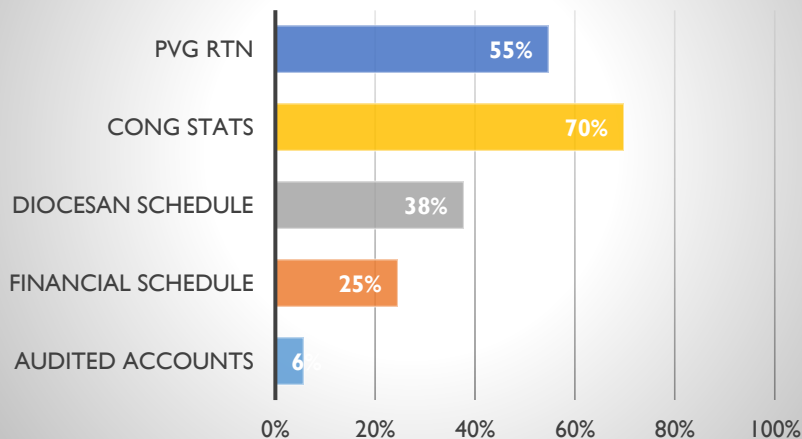


The message boards will enable all office bearers throughout the Diocese to discuss many kinds of matters with their counterparts in other charges. It is hoped that this will simplify problem-solving and enable the sharing of advice.

Making an account will be a simple process, and there will be special forums for buildings convenors, PVG coordinators, vestry secretaries and vestry treasurers.

FAST-APPROACHING ANNUAL FORM DEADLINES

Accounts and Annual Schedules Received



Incumbents, priests-in-charge and vestry secretaries are reminded that Annual Forms must be handed in imminently.

Details are outlined in an email and attached letter from the Diocesan Administrator (Simon Filsell) and me, dated Thursday, 11 November.

Congregational statistics were due on **Tuesday, 7 December 2021.**

Diocesan Schedules and PVG Checklists must be returned by **Friday, 31 December.**

Please refer to the email and letter for completion instructions. Please note that *PVG coordinators* must fill in the 'Safeguarding Checklist' form.

Charges should also see an email from the Diocesan Treasurer, Ian Lawson, concerning finance schedules and signed accounts.

Robert Guthrie (Assistant Diocesan Administrator)

DIARY

THE BISHOP'S DIARY

Sunday 19 December Presiding at Centenary Service at St Ninian's, Comely Bank, Edinburgh

Wednesday 22 December Nine Lessons and Carols, St Mary's Cathedral

Friday 24 December Nine Lessons and Carols/Midnight Mass, St Mary's Cathedral

Saturday 25 December Christmas Eucharist, St Mary's Cathedral

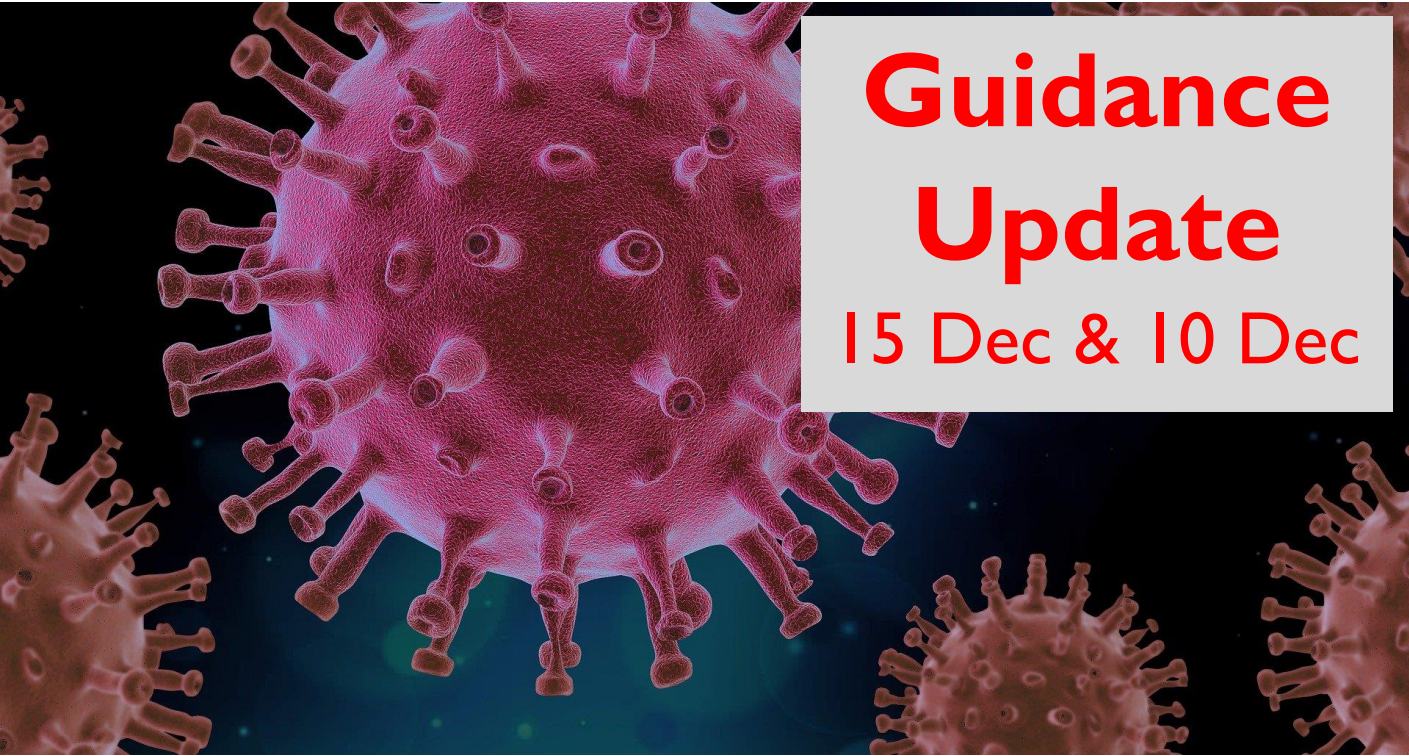
COMMITTEES

Monday 10 January Buildings Committee

Thursday 27 January Mission & Ministry Committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 3 & Tuesday 4 January Bank Holiday – Diocesan Office closed



Guidance Update

15 Dec & 10 Dec

NEW SEC ADVISORY GROUP COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Below is the SEC AG's **latest guidance message**, which was sent by email to all clergy, lay readers, vestry secretaries and diocesan secretaries on **Wednesday, 15 December**.

"The Advisory Group has noted the announcement made yesterday by the First Minister following concerns over the Omicron variant.

We have been pressing the Scottish Government for clarity on the full implications for Places of Worship arising from the updating of measures aimed at reducing virus transmission. For confirmation, the new Government guidance will not ask Places of Worship to close.

We understand from the Scottish Government that they will re-issue their Places of Worship guidance during the course of tomorrow and the Advisory Group itself will issue a further update as soon as possible after that information becomes available."

Below is the SEC AG's **second-last guidance message**, which was sent by email to all clergy, lay readers, vestry secretaries and diocesan secretaries on **Friday, 10 December**.

"The Advisory Group met recently and provides the following update. There are no significant changes being made at this time but we draw the following to your attention:

I. As yet, while data on the Omicron variant are collected and assessed, the implications of the variant remain uncertain. Government is not tightening restrictions at this point but is strengthening its emphasis on compliance with the basic measures we are all already familiar with:

- the importance of being vaccinated and receiving the booster dose as soon as one is eligible
- following the "baseline" measures (the wearing of face coverings, encouraging good ventilation and good hygiene)

- the taking of lateral flow tests when meeting others, in whatever context. The Advisory Group has previously endorsed earlier Government guidance to take lateral flow tests twice weekly. Given the Government's recent request to take lateral flow tests more frequently, the Advisory Group encourages people to take such tests before attending church services and, if testing positive, not to attend.

2. The Government has made some minor changes to its own Places of Worship guidance including some FAQs about Christmas. That revised guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

3. During Advent and Christmastide many churches will be holding services with little interval in between - perhaps particularly over Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Churches are reminded of the need to clean/sanitise between services including regular cleaning of touch points such as light switches, pews, toilets, door handles etc.

4. Face coverings remain mandatory for those aged 12 and over, unless an exemption applies. The Advisory Group has received some anecdotal evidence of occasional difficulty being experienced in ensuring that those attending weddings wear face coverings. It therefore re-emphasises that the wearing of face coverings is a legal requirement for all services in church, including weddings and funerals. There is a specific exemption in relation to weddings but it is limited to the parties being married (where there is at least one metre, or a partition, between those parties and anyone else), to the person leading the service (again, provided there is at least one metre distance or a partition) and to any person accompanying one of the prospective spouses as part of the ceremony (e.g. to walk down the aisle).

5. Some minor updating has been made to the FAQs appearing on our website at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Version-11-9.12.21.pdf>

Since preparing the above update the First Minister has today reported on the Government's concerns about the Omicron variant. No new measures for places of worship are being introduced at present, albeit Christmas work parties are being discouraged and the rules on self-isolation for household contacts are being made more stringent, but if the situation changes in the coming days and new restrictions are introduced, we will issue a further update.

NOTICES (continued)

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CANON 35

The Diocesan Buildings Committee has granted consent for the following projects:

- **Haddington, Holy Trinity** – Installation of Wi-Fi Camera
- **Edinburgh, St Mary's Cathedral** – Renewal of Lighting

NEWS FROM THE BISHOP OF EDINBURGH

Bishop John Armes @BishopEdinburgh · 19h

A delight to join other civic (@joan_griffiths), faith and belief (@DerekBrowning2, @leocushley) leaders for this reflective carol event in St Andrew Square, #Edinburgh.

May justice and generosity, courage and compassion, respect and resilience be the marks of our character.

Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · 19h

#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 14

"May our city be a place where justice and generosity, courage and compassion, respect and resilience are the marks of our character".

Watch @BishopEdinburgh leading prayers at the recent St Andrew Square Nativity Carol Concert in #Edinburgh.

[Show this thread](#)



The Rt Revd Dr John Armes
Bishop of Edinburgh

126 views

0:00 / 2:19

Bishop John Armes @BishopEdinburgh · Dec 10

#HumanRightsDay today - "All Human, All Equal"

Praying especially for victims of discrimination, those campaigning to end inequalities and for the treatment of all humans with dignity.

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" (UDHR)

#StandUp4HumanRights

1 2 7

Bishop John Armes Retweeted

Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 10

Prayers from across the Diocese of Edinburgh for Bishop Anne and Roger Dyer on the day of the funeral of their beloved daughter, Millie. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

@secsynod @aodiocese

1 3 11

Bishop John Armes @BishopEdinburgh · Dec 1

World AIDS Day today. I'm @StMarysCathEdin to see the AIDS quilt and share in remembering. #WorldAidsDay2021

1 2 14



TWITTER:
@BISHOPEDINBURGH



**FACEBOOK: BISHOP
JOHN ARMES**

DIOCESAN NEWS

ALASTAIR HAGGART BURSARY 2022

Applications for next year's Alastair Haggart Bursary have opened. The annual Bursary is dedicated to the memory of Bishop Haggart, who was the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church between 1977 and 1985. The successful applicant will receive up to £1,300 to finance a sabbatical or another similar leave of absence that will significantly enhance their development. The outcomes of their funded project should also be of benefit to the wider Church. Lay readers and clergy ministering in the Scottish Episcopal Church may apply. A committee will convene in February 2022 to make the next award. To apply for the Bursary, please request an application form from Mrs Linda Harrison institute@scotland.anglican.org and return it to her by Monday, 10 January 2022.

FOLLOW THE DIOCESE ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & TWITTER


Send your images/text to rguthrie@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 13
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 13

Spot the hidden symbols in Lotto's 'The Annunciation'.

Here, Gabriel tells Mary that she will bear Jesus.

Townhouse = Mary's ordinariness
Garden = Adam and Eve's disobedience in Eden
Lily = Purity and innocence
Cat = Resurrection (9 lives)
[@secsynod](#)



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 12
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 12

Today we're lighting our third Advent candle, marking one Sunday until Christmas!

"O Dawn of the East, Brightness of the Light Eternal and Sun of Justice, come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

[@secsynod](#)



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 10
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 10

Christmas is coming to [@StMarysCathEdin](#), the Mother Church of [@EdinDiocese](#)

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil; It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil crushed"

Gerard Manley Hopkins



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 11
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 11

Start feeling festive with this uplifting and catchy arrangement of 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' from [@PsandGs Church](#), #Edinburgh!

[youtube.com/watch?v=Novw1D...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Novw1D...)

For more, join [@PsandGs](#) for Alt. Carols on Sun 19 Nov at 5.30 pm or 8pm! Pre-book via website.



youtube.com
7. O Come O Come Emmanuel - Ps & Gs Alt.Carols
O Come O Come Emmanuel from Alt.Carols at Ps & GsHear this song on Alt.Carols: Live 2020, our ne...

Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 10

Prayers from across the Diocese of Edinburgh for Bishop Anne and Roger Dyer on the day of the funeral of their beloved daughter, Millie. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

[@secsynod](#) [@aodiocese](#)

Promote

1 3 11



Twitter: [@EdinDiocese](#)



Facebook: [Edinburgh Diocese](#)



Instagram: [@dioceseofedinburgh](#)



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 9
A lovely day for a wintry walk around Edinburgh!

Some wonderful pictures of @StMarysCathEdin, @StJohnPrincesSt and St Peter's Church, Lutton Place.

#Edinburgh #EdinburghChurches @ECCCTogether @EdinInterfaith @secsynod @EdinburghWH @HistEnvScot @SChurchesTrust @Edinburgh_CC



Peps @PGMarinov · Dec 9

Flying visit to Edinburgh has inadvertently turned into a pisky pilgrimage.



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 9

Every week @SoulFoodEdin and @MustardSeedEd help out anyone dealing with homelessness, poverty or loneliness

Tonight they're providing hot, delicious and freshly prepared meals, as well as some respite and support, at St Margaret's Church, Easter Road, #Edinburgh, at 5.30pm



Mustard Seed Ed @MustardSeedEd · Dec 9

We have our @SoulFoodEdin meal this evening at St Margaret's Church, Easter Road at 5:30pm. On the menu, we have Chicken Balti with Rice and Poppadum // Spiced Almond Risotto followed by Chocolate Bread and Butter Pudding.

[Show this thread](#)



Thursday Meal - 5:30pm



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 9
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 9

Candlelight, incense and ethereal choral music fill @OldSaintPauls Church, Jeffrey St, Edinburgh, every week during the darker months of winter.

Experience the beauty and calm of 'OSP' on Sundays at 6.30 pm during Lucernarium, Evensong and Benediction.



Old Saint Paul's and 9 others



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 8

What if #Christmas #carols came with a hog roast, beer and wine?

@PsandGs Church, Edinburgh, are doing exactly that on 15 and 16 December at 7 pm!

Book now (18+ only) to join in with some of the festive fun... and to sing for your supper! [psandgs.churchcenter.com/registrations/...](https://psandgs.churchcenter.com/registrations/)



Ps & Gs Edinburgh and 5 others



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 7
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 7

Step back, slow down and let things be.

For Aaron Moffat-Jackman (@tokennolonger) from St Peter's Church in #Musselburgh, #Advent is a time to #wait and #reflect in #peace.

Tune in to his #AdventCalendar #offering (today's #AdventWord).

@secsynod



Rev Aaron Moffat-Jackman
Priest in Charge, St Peter's Church,
Musselburgh
2:18 114 views



You Retweeted
Historic Environment Scotland @HistEnvScot · Dec 8
'Tis the season for cute churches in the snow!

This one happens to be cute AND category B listed ow.ly/k13h30s3jb5



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 8
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 8

What an ethereal photo of St James-the-Less Church, #Penicuik, #Midlothian.

Beauty, light and peace can always be found amidst winter's coldness and darkness.

@secsynod @VisitScotland @HistEnvScot @SChurchesTrust @TheCCT #Advent #AdventCalendar @midgov





Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 6
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 6

#Advent is often about looking for light in the darkness and for beauty amidst simplicity.

Here is St Mungo's Church, West Linton, in last week's snow.

When were you last struck by our world's beauty?

@secsynod #WestLinton #churches #AdventCalendar



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 2
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 2

Looking for fun #Christmas activities for children and young people?

See below for ideas collated by @EdinDioYouth or click here:
edinburgh.anglican.org/covid-resource...

Externally linked content not @EdinDiocese's.

#Advent #AdventCalendar @secsynod #Edinburgh

Fun Christmas Activities
for Children and Young People

Keeping it local

1. Bless your community with an Advent Lights window display
2. Create a '25 Ways to be Thankful in Advent' calendar
3. Make some DIY Nativity Story Stones with some pebbles and some chalk paints, and then scatter them around your local area
4. Attend your community's carol service
5. Make some paper prayer star decorations for your Christmas tree

THINGS TO DO ONLINE

6. Follow the Diocese of Edinburgh's virtual Advent Calendar
7. Make a Christingle with a video tutorial
8. Retell the Christmas story as a slideshow of photos taken in your local area
9. Watch a video about the history of Christmas

The personal touch

11. Doorstep drops of Christmas treats
12. Make/write some Christmas cards

EdinburghSECYouth and 5 others



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 4
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 4

"December stillness, teach me through your trees
That loom along the west, one with the land,
The veiled evangel of your mysteries."
-- Siegfried Sassoon

📷 #ChristmasTree, St Peter's Church, Lutton Place, #Edinburgh

#AdventCalendar #Advent @secsynod



Diocese of Edinburgh @EdinDiocese · Dec 3
#EdinAdventCalendar DAY 3

#Advent is all about looking, waiting and reflecting. **

Today, Alan Baker (St Ninian's, Comely Bank, #Edinburgh) deciphers
#PieterAertsen's #painting 'A Meat Stall with the Holy Family Giving Alms'.

What can you see today? @secsynod #AdventCalendar



You Retweeted

Church of Scotland @churchscotland · Nov 30

Beautiful pictures from today's special St Andrew's Day service held jointly with the @secsynod which included the signing of the St Andrew Declaration.



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14

36



LIVINGSTONE INITIATIVE EIGHT YEARS ON

The Diocesan Office received this message from The Livingstone Initiative, regarding one of the charity's projects that was supported in the 2013 Diocesan Lent Appeal. Anyone interested in following up this communication or in making a further donation should contact Belinda Hodge directly, using the details at the bottom of this page.



"As you may recall the Diocese of Edinburgh very kindly supported The Livingstone Initiative when we were marking the Bicentenary of the birth of David Livingstone back in 2013. We are now pleased to report substantial progress on the school, which is being built by the community in Chama, and with a variety of other projects, as set out on the accompanying document.

We also attach a short drone video of the new school roof and we have updated the main video about the vision for the school. Links to both these videos are attached below and within the document.

As you will see from the document, we are close to being able to open St Mary's Anglican Secondary School for Girls in Chama, north-eastern Zambia. The construction of the school is taking time, but this is because the community themselves are building it and because of the annual rains, they are restricted to six months dry season a year. The Pandemic, too, has hindered work, but we are getting there.

We are now launching a new appeal - Fitting Out the Classroom Block - as we need to raise some further funds to finish the initial works. We calculate we need to raise a further £21,000 to fund the following:

Installation of 17 Door frames + doors; 41 window frames + windows, burglar bars and door gate grills, hard-wearing flooring, ceilings and interior decoration for the classroom block, desks and chairs.

Funding for expert advice on practicalities and agriculture at the school

Administrative expenses for securing partners and funding, project management and administration.

Some additional funding is being raised in Zambia and the Zambian Government will be supplying all the teachers and paying their salaries and accommodation and supplying textbooks.

We remain very grateful to you and the Diocese for the generous support you have given, but I am wondering if there is a chance that the Diocese might consider further help, so that we can get the school open.

I would be very happy to answer any questions you may have and I hope to hear back from you."

Belinda Hodge

Chief Executive Officer

The Livingstone Initiative

Livingstone Zambia • London England • Edinburgh Scotland

Telephone: UK: +44 (0)207 193 2011 | UK mobile: +44 (0)7939 26 88 59

Skype: peppercorn-design

Website: www.livingstoneinitiative.org

Email: belinda@livingstoneinitiative.org | belinda@livingstone2013.com

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN OFFICER

CREATIVE COVID CHRISTMAS RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

Churches are planning for Advent and Christmas as the pandemic continues to affect our lives and worship, so the [Covid Christmas Resource Page](#) has been refreshed and renewed on the diocesan website.

There are exciting online resources and ways for families to explore faith at home, plus ideas for practical outreach and sharing the Christmas message with your local community. Everything listed is suitable for children, young people and families, and much will be appropriate for congregations of any age. There is also a section called 'When Christmas Hurts', with resources to help people of all ages lament together at what can be a difficult time, especially during a pandemic. You can find the full page of resources [here](#).



Claire Benton-Evans

EXTERNAL NOTICES

Quiet Advent

20 minutes of quiet reflection
by candlelight

On 29 November &
6, 13, 20 December

All Mondays at 3pm

All are welcome

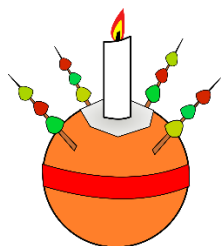
*St Columba's by the Castle Scottish Episcopal Church
14 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2PW*

Registered Charity SC016571



Holy Cross Children's Ministry

What's on...



Christingle

3pm, Christmas Eve 2021

Hear the Christmas story and sing carols. Children welcome to dress up! Booking required via Eventbrite (see QR code). Tickets available from 10th December.



Buggy Services

Fridays in January at 10:30

Short, informal services for toddlers and their grown ups. Songs, stories and activities. Time to play afterwards (with hot drinks and cake for the grown ups). Every Friday in January.



Story Time

Fridays in February, 10am-12noon

For toddlers/pre-schoolers and their grown ups. Come and relax in the church, read our books, do some crafts and play. Hot drinks and cake for grown ups. Some quiet time in the winter – every Friday in February.



Family Services

Sundays at 4pm (see dates below)

Half an hour of stories and songs followed by refreshments.

30th January: Candlemas

27th March: Mothering Sunday

12th June: Pentecost

Every Sunday

You're always welcome to join us for our regular 10:30 service on a Sunday morning. We have a children's area with books and toys, and you won't be told off for being joyful or grumpy or needing to move around or eat some snack. Tea/coffee, juice and biscuits are served in the hall afterwards.

Play Church

In January and February we're hosting Play Church, a portable, child-sized altar with dressing-up clothes and robes to give children the opportunity to learn playfully about worship, liturgy and ministry. If you're with a children's organisation or a school and are interested, please get in touch.

Keep an eye on our Facebook @HolyCrossEdinburgh & church noticeboard for extra events & services. Please get in touch with any questions or ideas. Izzy Holmes, Children's Minister: families.hce@gmail.com



CAPTIVATE THEATRE AND PERFECT
FORTH PRESENT

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

7:30 PM ON 17TH & 18TH DECEMBER

ST MARY'S DALMAHOY

A NEW ADAPTATION OF DICKENS' TRADITIONAL TALE WITH
A CAPPELLA CHRISTMAS CAROLS

DOORS OPEN AT 7 FOR MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE!

