



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

21A Grosvenor Crescent • Edinburgh • EH12 5EL • [office@edinburgh.anglican.org](mailto:office@edinburgh.anglican.org) • 0131 538 7033  
Charity Number: SC001214

# *The Communicant*

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

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:** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022



*Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh*

## PVG COORDINATORS – BISHOP’S APPROVAL

Thank you to all those coordinators already submitting the Annual Checklist – very much appreciated. However, a note about Bishop’s Approval. We have had a few cases recently where we are notified about the appointment of a new Coordinator, but no approval has been sought from Bishop John before they start work. The SEC Policy is:

***“When the Vestry has identified a suitable candidate, the Vestry Secretary should seek references (which should be sent to the Bishop) and ask the Bishop to approve the appointment.”***

Simon Filsell will then send, if approved, a letter to the Rector/Priest in Charge. A Coordinator does not need to be PVG-checked themselves, as they are not necessarily working directly with vulnerable people, so this is a very important part of the safeguarding process. The PVG Coordinator has to make sure that PVG checks are done on all relevant staff/volunteers so the Bishop’s approval is a process to verify suitability for this crucial role.

## MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

At the recent Mission & Ministry Committee meeting it was confirmed that The Revd Jane MacLaren will not be returning to her MDO role after an extended period of absence since contracting Covid back in March. She continues her work as Priest in Charge of St Philip’s & St James’ in Edinburgh. The Committee will now look at the options for recruitment.

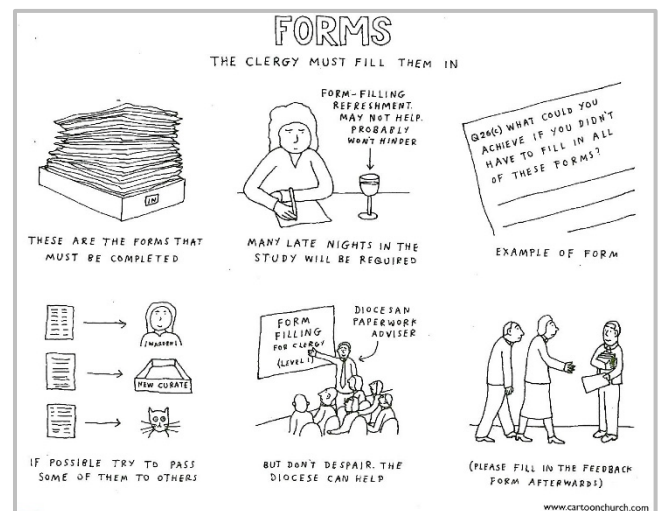
## ANNUAL FORMS

Vestry Secretaries and Rectors/Priests in Charge will be thrilled to learn that it is time for these forms to be submitted once more. In an effort to further ease the process and reduce the time, we have sent out the database printout sheet for each individual congregation to the respective Vestry Secretary in the post. That can either be returned “no changes” or an online form can be used to confirm any new details.

**Please let us know** if your Vestry Secretary has not received theirs.

The Rectors/Priests in Charge are being asked to complete the Congregational Statistics which, again, is via an online form: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-vestry-resources/resources-diocesan-office-forms/> This year, we have added the list of questions as a separate document, to help you get the numbers ready before you start!

**For PVG Coordinators** – we have just (*in the last few days*) received the 2022 PVG Checklist from the General Synod Office, so we will get the new questions revised in the Google Form and let you know when that’s ready to go.



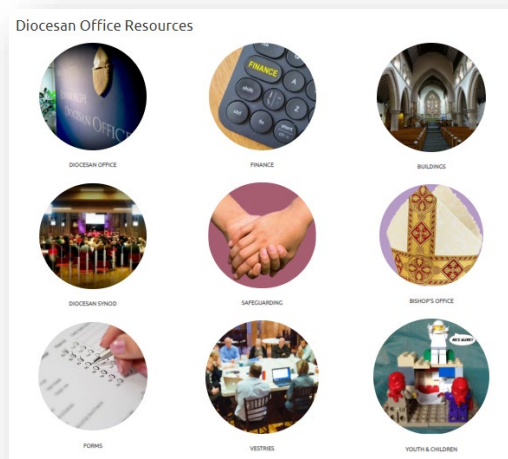
## DIOCESAN OFFICE RESOURCES

In case you are new to the diocese, you may like to know that we have a website page with resources and answers to many of your questions at:

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

Subjects are:

- Diocesan Office
- Finance
- Buildings
- Synod
- Safeguarding
- Bishop's Office
- Forms
- Vestries
- Youth & Children



## ONLINE SUPPORT FORUM

There are now **51 users** signed up to the various forums.

Recent posts (in the last few weeks) include:

- *Secondary glazing installation completed*
- *CAF Bank changes*
- *Energy Savings Advice (CofE)*
- *Contactless donations*
- *Energy suppliers*



## Why not join up and subscribe?

If you wish to subscribe to the forum, you can do so here:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/forum-registration/>

## COMMUNICATIONS

Have you got news or stories from your church you'd like to share? If so, our Communications Officer Miranda would love to hear from you! Please drop her a line at [communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org) to share your goings on.

We also have active Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts for all the activities in the Diocese. Please do not hesitate to send Miranda your best pictures of anything you would like to be shared on our social media accounts, whether it be a coffee morning, charity fundraiser, or a special service e.g. blessing of pets. We love getting your pictures and stories!







If you have any lovely Christmas-themed pictures of your church e.g. covered in snow, filled with candles, or the choir singing in a church decorated beautifully with holly and ivy, do send them to Miranda at [communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

If you've any news, stories or photos you'd like to share, please drop Miranda a line.

Follow The Diocese of Edinburgh on Social Media:



Twitter: @EdinDiocese



Facebook: Edinburgh Diocese



Instagram: @dioceseofedinburgh

## DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT GROUP – WEBPAGE PUBLISHED



Our new **Diocesan Environment Group** will help support and encourage charges to work towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030. It reports to the Diocesan Standing Committee. The website of the Diocesan Environment Group is packed with ideas and resources to help the SEC become carbon neutral by 2030. It includes sections on Sharing Stories, Resources and Funding. The group is being led by Bethany Nelson, and you can contact her at [bethany@psandgs.org.uk](mailto:bethany@psandgs.org.uk). The website can be found at <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/environment/>

The September newsletter can be found here: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DEG-Newsletter-Sept22.pdf>

Some of the resources available include:

- A toolkit by The Provincial Environment Group of The Scottish Episcopal Church to guide churches towards reaching net zero;
- The Energy Footprint Analyser to calculate your carbon emissions associated with heating and energy usage;
- A series of webinars by the Church of England.

You can also visit the Heat Hack scheme to help churches and other community buildings become more energy efficient: <https://heathack.org>

## CHURCH BUILDINGS



### Free Historic England webinar on heat pumps in historic buildings

The session will cover heat pump technologies, design and installation considerations, and what to watch out for in collaborating with building services engineers and clients. It will also look at case studies from a range of buildings from across England. This webinar coincides with the recent publication of Historic England's new guidance on installing heat pumps in historic buildings.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/training/webinars/technical-tuesdays/>

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

At the recent Church of England DAC Conference, a crowd-sourced note of practical suggestions was started to save parishes energy and money with the winter heating season fast upon us.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n8AjYIkamILFSkMiaun3FwUY6Nx7n9HfaOwFsFQdNeM/edit>

## NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST: MAINTENANCE GRANT

The Foundation Grant Programme offers our small grants of between £500 and £5,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection or Survey Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should be up to £10,000 excl. VAT and awards will never exceed 50% of the costs. Decisions are made on a rolling basis.

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants/foundation-maintenance>

## Non-Domestic Alternative Fuel Payment - users for testing support

The [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy \(BEIS\)](#) hopes to be put in contact with users that will be able to test the proposed energy support package.

BEIS are looking for:

1. Contacts with the authority to apply for support on behalf of their organisation/building with access to information such as invoices, building records and heating bills
2. Representing organisations operating in buildings that are **non-domestic, off the gas grid, and using large quantities kerosene for heating** (for instance above 10,000 litres per year)
3. Contacts would need to be able to participate in remote usability testing sessions of around 60 minutes, with internet access and Microsoft Teams enabled. We can offer a payment of £50 per interview

If your organisation meets any of the above criteria and would like to help test the proposed support package for non-domestic alternative fuel payment, please contact Jonathan Sweetman ([Jonathan.Sweetman@beis.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Sweetman@beis.gov.uk)) and Christina Ehlers ([Christina.Ehlers@sparck.io](mailto:Christina.Ehlers@sparck.io)).

Best wishes

CLAS Secretariat

# DIARY

## THE BISHOP'S DIARY

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Presiding at St Columba-by-the-Castle
Christmas Eve	Nine Lessons, St Mary's Cathedral
Christmas Day	Christmas Eucharist, St Mary's Cathedral
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Presiding at Christ Church, Falkirk
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Preaching and presiding at St Fillan's

## EVENTS

### *Free Community Activities with Bethany Christian Trust*

Are you looking for warm, friendly spaces to help connect individuals from your church into the community, and a place for them to learn new skills, build confidence and meet new people?

This Autumn we'd love you to visit Bethany's free community activities happening across the city. Our varied programme includes computer drop-ins, lunchtime meals, recovery groups, conversational English groups, a toddler group, homework club and men's activity group, along with opportunities for walking, crafting, upcycling, creative writing and more.

Our activities are open to all from across the city, particularly for those who are lonely and socially isolated and potentially at risk of homelessness. Feedback from those attending has included:

- *"I've got more structure in my life again and different groups to get along to in the week. It's taken me away from the things that were stressful and taking up my time."*
- *"It's built up my confidence and it pushes you to do something you wouldn't normally do. This place helps you build yourself back up."*
- 

For more information about our groups, please see the attached programmes or check out our new website for further details <https://bethanychristiantrust.com/get-help/>

We'd be grateful if you could also share our Autumn programmes with your congregations, and as always, we would love to hear from you about any ways you'd like to get involved with our work so please do get in touch!

---

Vacancy for the position of **Convener of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group** at the General Synod Office.

A convener for the reconstituted Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) is being sought, and any lay or ordained members of the SEC who are interested in the position are being encouraged to get

in touch. An interest in Christian ethics and a basic knowledge of investments is essential. The ethics of investments are complex and the convener will have oversight of a group where differing views are held in tension. The group will work closely with Investment Committee and report to Standing Committee. The overarching aim will be to provide advice that is grounded in Christian theology, but practicable for Investment Committee to implement. It is anticipated that the group will meet twice a year either online or in person at the General Synod Office.

If you would like to register an interest in the Convenorship post or would like more information about it please contact Malcolm Bett ([treasurer@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:treasurer@scotland.anglican.org)) or Daphne Audsley ([DaphneA@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:DaphneA@scotland.anglican.org)).

---

An article about the impact of **COVID-19: conversations with faith communities**, from the Scottish Government, is available to read here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/impact-covid-19-conversations-faith-communities/>

### **‘Anglican’ Christianity: A four-part series in Advent 2022**

What does it mean to be an ‘Anglican’ Christian?

Over 40 Churches around the globe, consisting of no less than 85 million people, identify themselves as ‘Anglican’. Yet, Anglicans are divided among themselves in terms of doctrine and practice as demonstrated in the most recent Lambeth Conference (Summer 2022). This Series looks to four staples that Anglicans have classically identified as the bases of their belief and behaviour to highlight harmony rather than discord.

The Series will be offered on the Mondays of Advent 2022 at 7pm (GMT) in four 30-minute webinars, each of which will be posted on YouTube. The Series is meant to be a resource for Anglicans/Episcopalians to use creatively during the Season of Advent, for example as a refresher course for individuals or a conversation starter for church groups, with discussion questions at the end of each webinar.

1. Holy Scripture: ‘all things necessary to salvation’ and the rule of faith (Monday 28 November)
2. The Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds: symbols and statements of faith (Monday 5 December)
3. The Dominical Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper (Monday 12 December)
4. The historic Episcopate: a universal and locally adopted means of unity (Monday 19 December)

Presenter: Revd Dr Michael Hull, Director of Studies and Tutor, [Scottish Episcopal Institute](#), Edinburgh

Time: 7pm to 7.30pm (GMT) on Monday evenings in Advent 2022.

Registration is free. All are welcome. Registration is [here](#).





*please join us for*

# Christmas open house

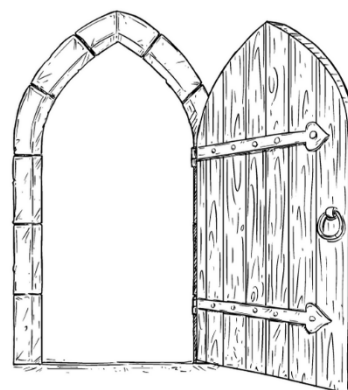
at the Diocesan Office, 21a Grosvenor Crescent, from 3pm on Thursday 15 December. No need to RSVP; feel free to pop in for a mulled wine, mince pie and a chat as we celebrate the festive season.



*Diocesan Advent Calendar*

## open your doors to Christ

This year's digital advent calendar will be themed around doors within the diocese, and how what's behind them can help prepare us for the coming of Christ. If there's a door in your church building or community you'd like to feature, please get in touch with Miranda, the Diocesan Communications Officer at [communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org).



Is your church hosting a

# Warm Hub?



We know many churches are providing an open, warm space this winter to help with the ongoing cost of fuel crisis. If your church is able to provide a warm welcome, you may wish to register your space on [www.warmwelcome.uk](http://www.warmwelcome.uk) to help build a map of warm places throughout the country and ensure that as many as possible in our diocese and beyond can escape the cold.



## Charities Christmas Fair

Saturday 10 December  
10:30 – 12:30

St Margaret's Church  
170 Easter Road



St Columba's Episcopal Church  
Glasgow Road, Bathgate

**“SWEET HARMONY”  
BARBERSHOP CHORUS**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

7.30 till 10pm

Ticket £7.50

includes mince pie & mulled wine

B.Y.O.B.





# Charities Christmas Fair

Saturday 10 December  
10:30 – 12:30

St Margaret's Church  
170 Easter Road





**Come  
and Sing!**

Handel's  
*Messiah*  
Choruses from Part 1  
& Christmas Carols

with  
**The Choir of  
St Mary's Cathedral**  
*in a rehearsal and  
concert experience*

**Sat 10 December**

Rehearsal 1.30–4.30 pm | Tickets:  
Performance 6–7.30 pm | **£15**

with Conductor **Duncan Ferguson** and  
Organist **Imogen Morgan** from St Mary's Cathedral

**St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral**  
Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AW  
**[www.cathedral.net](http://www.cathedral.net)**

Scottish charity No. SC014741



## CHRISTINGLES

Sunday 18th December 11am

Celebrate God's love for the planet with oranges and sweets  
Make a Christingle as part of the Communion Service

## WINE AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve 5pm

Join us for a good old fashioned carol singing party with mulled wine and mince pies plus a different take on the Christmas story

## CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

Christmas Day 11am

A traditional Christmas service of Holy Communion to celebrate the birth of Christ with well-known carols and the Christmas liturgy



# Join us for Christmas at St James Church Goldenacre

## EVERYONE WELCOME



St James Goldenacre is part of the Scottish Episcopal Church

[www.stpj.org.uk](http://www.stpj.org.uk)



# The Cornerstone Bookshop

## COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT CHAIR?

The Cornerstone Bookshop is an independent, ecumenical religious bookshop and a registered Scottish Charity.

The Bookshop stocks a wide range of books and gifts that are inclusive, ecumenical and responsive to the needs and issues of our time.

Customers value advice from the dedicated, knowledgeable staff and enjoy a calm oasis in which to browse the selection of books, cards, candles, and gifts.



**Do you have a passion for books?**

**Do you have the following skills?**

- Leadership
- People
- Communication

**Time to Apply!**

For further information and an application pack, contact Susie Stevenson at  
**[ss@whitehouse147.com](mailto:ss@whitehouse147.com)**

Deadline **15th January 2023**

# Peace & Justice - Scotland



Picture: Robin on razor wire at Coulport nuclear bomb dump - David Mackenzie

## 🎄 Festive Social at our new base 🎄

You are warmly invited to our first social event in our new base and 'peace shop' on the evening of **Thursday 15 December.**

Drop in anytime between 6pm and 9pm to see our lovely bright new space with:

☆ Festive food and drink

☆ Music

☆ Chance to purchase peace-related seasonal gifts

We have some plans for the space but we'd also love to hear how you would like the space to be used.

We're at: Peace and Justice Scotland, 58 Ratcliffe Terrace Edinburgh EH9 1ST

No need to register - just come along.

But if you have any questions [email Jane](#)



## **New Convener sought for Ethical Investment Advisory Group**

A convener for the reconstituted Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) is being sought, and any lay or ordained members of the SEC who are interested in the position are being encouraged to get in touch.

In June this year General Synod adopted the revised Ethical Investment Policy Statement for the SEC Unit Trust Pool (UTP). Drafting this was the final part of the remit of the EIAG which had been set up to look at specific issues relating to the UTP arising from General Synod 2019.

Standing Committee has agreed that EIAG should be reconstituted with a new remit, and is now seeking someone to convene the new group for the next five years. An interest in Christian ethics and a basic knowledge of investments is essential. The ethics of investments are complex and the convener will have oversight of a group where differing views are held in tension. The group will work closely with Investment Committee and report to Standing Committee.

The focus of the new group will be to provide advice to Investment Committee on matters relating to ethical investment, principally to consider how the broad aspirations in the Ethical Investment Policy Statement and the associated Policy on the use of Pooled Funds (2019) can be put into practice for the UTP. It is envisaged that the work will include discussion of topics recommended and requested by Standing Committee and other committees, as well as responding to concerns raised by members of the SEC in relation to the implications of current events.

The overarching aim will be to provide advice that is grounded in Christian theology, but practicable for Investment Committee to implement.

It is anticipated that the group will meet twice a year either online or in person at the General Synod Office.

If you would like to register an interest in the Convenership post or would like more information about it please contact Malcolm Bett (treasurer@scotland.anglican.org) or Daphne Audsley (DaphneA@scotland.anglican.org).