



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

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

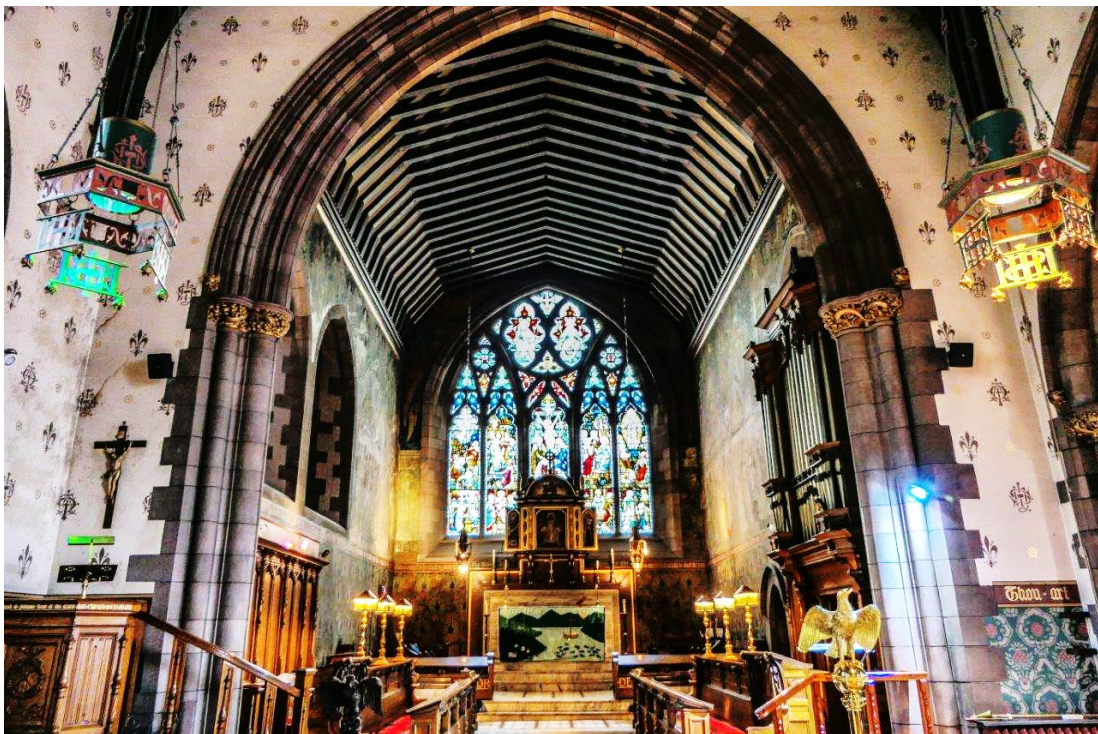
The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

22nd February 2023

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: 8th March 2023



St James, Goldenacre

DIOCESAN OFFICE NOTICES & NEWS

DIOCESAN SYNOD

The agenda business for Saturday 25 February is now published, and you can download it from:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-synod-february-2023/> (on the main menu under “Resources”)

Everything you need for the meeting should be there for you. Synod will be in-person at St Paul’s & St George’s in Edinburgh (Synod Eucharist at 8.30am), and could we please remind you that both clergy and lay members who are unable to attend the meeting **must** submit apologies, so that our attendance records are up to date. Thank you.

OFFICE IT PROBLEMS

A few weeks ago, the Diocesan Office IT server suffered an error which required reverting us to a backup. Unfortunately, it was then discovered that an unconnected error in the backup software meant that the last secure data we had was on **11th December 2022**. Whilst we cannot now do anything about that, Simon Filsell met with the Operations Director and Major Incident Manager from the IT support company to discover what went wrong and how to prevent it in the future.

Please note therefore that there may be files and data we have ‘lost’ in the period between then and now. We are really sorry about this, and we are doing our best to reconstruct much of our work using emails received/sent during that period. This may of course, affect the **Annual Returns**, and the log, later in this edition. Please do let us know if we have missed any forms not recorded in the log. All the returns done using **Google** forms are completely safe though, thankfully.

SAFEGUARDING – Appointments

We have had a number of queries in recent months about the appointment of PVG Coordinators. In the document “Appointing a PVG Co-Ordinator for your Congregation” (can be found on the [SEC website](#)) it says: “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.**”

The document also includes the Role Purpose and the Duties of the coordinator. Also, for information, Donald Urquhart, the Provincial Protection Officer has now retired, and Daphne Audsley is now handling all safeguarding matters until Donald’s replacement starts. Recruitment is also underway for a dedicated Training Officer for safeguarding, so we hope to see several new training opportunities very soon. As soon as we get any news of that, we will let you know in *The Communicant*.

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



ON-LINE 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 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 pictures of events held at your church, do send them to Miranda at 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 ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP – WEBSITE PUBLISHED



Our new **Diocesan Environment Group** will help support and encourage churches 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. 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/1n8AjYlkam1LFskMiaun3FwUY6Nx7n9HfaOwFsFQdNeM/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) and Christina Ehlers (Christina.Ehlers@sparck.io).

Best wishes, CLAS Secretariat

NOTICES

Aidan Burn Murdoch: RIP

We are sorry to announce the death of the Revd Aidan Burn Murdoch, who passed away peacefully on 12th February 2023. He was Rector at Hawick in the 1970's, and then worked in the Gower, where he stayed until he retired to St Ebba's. The thoughts and prayers of the Diocese of Edinburgh are with his family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

DIARY

THE BISHOP'S DIARY

25 th February	Diocesan Synod, P's and G's
26 th February	Presiding and preaching at The Good Shepherd, Murrayfield
28 th February	CMD Event with Steve Aisthorpe
1 st March	Institution of Rosie Addis as Rector: St Columba's Bathgate & St Peter's Linlithgow
4 th March	Aberdeen and Orkney Diocesan Synod
6 th -8 th March	Aberdeen and Orkney visitation

Announcements

1st March: The Revd Rosie Addis will be instituted as Rector of St Columba's, Bathgate & St Peter's, Linlithgow

16th March: The Revd Matthew Rushton will be instituted as Rector of Christ Church, Morningside

30th March: The Revd Michael Johns-Perring will be installed as Priest in Charge of St Fillan's, Edinburgh

EVENTS

I'm offering a Lenten Series in 2023 entitled '**Teach Us to Pray: A Close Reading of the Lord's Prayer**' on the six Mondays of Lent as part of the Scottish Episcopal Institute's offering for the wider church.

You'll find everything you need on Eventbrite [here](#).

Please let me know of any questions.

All good wishes,

Mike

The Revd Dr Michael Hull
Director of Studies
Scottish Episcopal Institute
+44 (0)7538-196415 with FaceTime, Telegraph and WhatsApp

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees is hosting an exciting ecumenical event on **Saturday, 25th March**. You are invited to join us at a one-day gathering called '**Journeying with New Scots – Building community with refugees and asylum seekers**'

Saturday, 25th March 10am - 3.30pm
St Mark's Parish Church, Raploch, Stirling.

Churches and refugees & asylum seekers (New Scots) from across Scotland will be gathering to worship together, share experiences, grow in knowledge, and strengthen our ties as people with a shared passion for creating welcoming communities. As places of hope and sanctuary churches are at the heart of building community with New Scots. Whether you have extensive experience of welcoming refugees and asylum seekers, or are just exploring journeying with New Scots, all are welcome. You can sign up for the conference, and see additional details on the Eventbrite page <https://journeyingwithnewscots.eventbrite.co.uk>

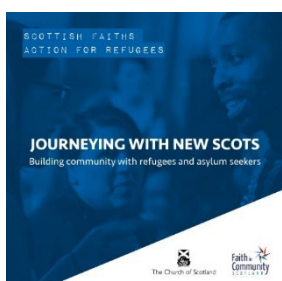
The event is free and open to church leaders and members from all denominations, as well as members of all faiths, though it will be a specifically Christian gathering. If you have any questions please email david.moodie@churchofscotland.org.uk

David Moodie | Churches Support Officer | Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Faith Action Team, The Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN

Mob: 07856630956 | Email: david.moodie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Working pattern: Monday, Tuesday pm & Thursday, working a combination of office and remotely.



Short Term Mission Trips 2023

ENVOY Short Term Missions are your chance to make a difference in some of the most in-need areas of the UK and Ireland.

Each Short Term Mission Trip takes place over 7-14 days, at locations across the UK and Ireland. In partnership with local churches and projects, your team will share the good news of Jesus and transform local communities.

For more information please contact **Andy Rushworth** (andy.rushworth@churcharmy.org) or click the link below:

[Short Term Mission Trips - Church Army](#)

Church Army Discovery Events

Online – Monday 27th February - from 7pm – 9.30pm

**In Person (Sheffield) – Saturday 25th March - from 10am-3pm
(specifically focussed on CA training)**

Do you have a passion for seeing people come to know Christ? Are you exploring vocations or wanting to find a network of like-minded people? Are you unsure where you fit? How about considering Church Army? We are a Mission Community as well as a trainer and employer of Pioneer Evangelists across the UK and Ireland.

We host a series of **Discovery Events** throughout the year and our next ones are listed above with the full list for 2023 on the website link. Come and find out what we do, our vision and values, about working for us or about joining the Mission Community. The in-person days in **Sheffield** are especially for anyone considering training with us to be a Commissioned Church Army Evangelist. The evenings are usually a good introduction.

To book a place please click the link below or please contact **Andrew Payne** (Andrew.Payne@Churcharmy.org), in the Community & Vocations Team. The link will show all Discovery events for 2023 so please book onto later ones if earlier ones above are not convenient.

[Discovery Events - Church Army](#)

Historic Environment Scotland - Launch of our new Historic Environment Grants (HEG) Programme

We're launching our new Historic Environment Grants programme on the **15th March 2023** and we'd like to tell you all about it. [Click here](#) to sign up to one of our free hour-long online sessions to find out more.

In these sessions, the Historic Environment Scotland Grants Team will explain what's new about the Historic Environment Grants programme and how to apply for funding. There will also be plenty of time for your questions and queries following the presentations. Please only sign up for one of our sessions to make sure there is space for everyone to attend.

If you can't join us on the 15th March, we will be posting videos of the presentations on our [website](#) on the 16th March, as well as FAQs drawn from the online sessions.

Historic Environment Scotland Grants Team

[**Scotland's Historic Environment Strategy: we are currently consulting on a new strategy for Scotland's historic environment until 20th February. If you would like to read more about this and have your say, please click here**](#)

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?

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 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) or Daphne Audsley (DaphneA@scotland.anglican.org).

Lent will start next month (22 February), and Fr. Paul Burrows, Assistant Priest at Old St. Paul's has offered a few suggestions for Lenten reading either individually or in a group. All the titles are available at Cornerstone Bookshop on the terrace by St. John's Princes Street, Edinburgh, and for groups multiple copies can be bought at a discount.

Failure by Emma Ineson

In 2019, Emma Ineson wrote about ambition and what it means for Christians to be successful. And then there was a global pandemic . . . Suddenly failure began to feel very much more familiar than success.

The Way of Thomas Merton by Thomas Inchausti

A beautifully designed devotional guide for Lent based on Thomas Merton's major writings that will help you find and develop your true self as you journey through Lent and beyond.

An Easter Book of Days by Gregory Cameron

A beautiful exploration of the Cross and Resurrection, An Easter Book of Days tells the stories of the key Easter characters and what we can learn from them today.

God Forsaken by Stephen Cottrell

This series of reflections, written for Lent and Holy Week 2023 by the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, ponders the significance of these words. What does it mean for Jesus to have quoted them, at the very end of his life? What do those words mean for us?

Hearing God in Poetry by Richard Harris

A collection of poetry for Lent and Easter compiled by the former Bishop of Oxford in 2021

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 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.



Bishop of Edinburgh

Lent Appeal 2023

In the Scottish Episcopal Church we believe it is a priority to provide high-quality training to form the next generation of church leaders. We recognize how important it is to resource our Scottish Episcopal Institute and we are proud of its success. At the Lambeth Conference last year, I discovered that this is a priority shared right across the Anglican Communion, but many Provinces struggle to find a consistent funding stream for their Seminaries and Theological Colleges.

My appeal this Lent is in support of St Nicholas' Seminary in Cape Coast, Ghana. Cape Coast is our partner diocese and I had the great joy of visiting the Seminary when I attended Bishop Victor's enthronement 10 years ago. The Dean of the Seminary, Joseph Bain-Doodu, was in the UK last year so I learned first-hand of his struggle to provide excellent training with limited and erratic funding sources.

This water filtration project seems to me to be a wonderful example of self-help. I commend it to you and ask for your generous support. I know that the cost-of-living crisis is hitting many of us hard just now, but I hope, nevertheless, that by pooling our generosity we may help to sustain the life of a church, far away in geographical terms, but close to us within the life of Christ.

As Joseph explains, a comparatively small amount of money (for us) can make a big difference for the ongoing life of the church in West Africa.

+John



Water Filtration Project St Nicholas' Seminary, Cape Coast, Ghana

St Nicholas Seminary has been training clergy since 1975. It is the only active seminary in the Province of West Africa

(which includes Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, the Gambia, and Cameroon). Alongside our own ordinands, we have also trained ministers and lay pastors for the Methodist and Pentecostal Churches in Ghana and Ivory Coast.

Over the years, we have trained over 500 priests and currently there are 40 students in training. We have four full-time lecturers, eight adjunct lecturers and ten non-teaching staff. We are affiliated to the University of Cape Coast and run programmes in Bachelor of Theology, Diploma in Theology, Diploma in Ministry, Certificate in Ministry and Certificate in Anglican Studies.

Bishop of Edinburgh Lent Appeal 2023

The Problem

Each diocese is expected to pay for its own ordinands, but some cannot afford to do so. With the ever-increasing cost of goods and services, alongside ongoing economic challenges, our budget is constantly in deficit. Sometimes, indeed, we are unable to feed our students or to pay our utility bills and must send our students home abruptly. This lack of financial sustainability makes it hard to attract and retain staff, and almost impossible to renovate and maintain our buildings.



An Idea

With all this in mind, we have come up with an innovative idea that will generate regular income and so offer us financial stability. There is a need for

clean water in Cape Coast, so we plan to establish a water filtration plant. This purified water will be sold to schools, university students and the general public.

The machinery will cost 187,250 Ghana Cedis – approximately £12,200.

We know this is a lot of money, but we hope you will feel able to support us this Lent. Once in full production we would expect our plant to bring in over £9000 a year. You will be helping us to help ourselves, as we seek to provide consistent care for staff and students and to prepare labourers to reap God's harvest for many years to come.



The Venerable Joseph Justice Bain-Doodu
Acting Dean, St Nicholas' Seminary, Cape Coast

HOW TO DONATE:

All the details for online donations will be posted on this page on our website:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/2023/02/bishops-lent-appeal-2023/>

(Under menu item "News & Issues")



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Divinity



Short Courses for Church People 2023

Dear Friend of New College

We're excited to inform you of the return of our Short Courses for Church People. The courses are endorsed by the Faith Nurture Forum of the Church of Scotland, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian, and the Scottish Episcopal Institute. They are led by experienced academics and practitioners.

This year, we are running two paid courses in January/February and March for Church people, lay or ordained.

Values Based Reflective Practice® An Introduction...

Equipping the present, informing the future: reflective practice for ministers and lay leaders.

Our churches – and indeed the world around us – are in a period of significant transformation and change. As we acknowledge our place in this ever-changing landscape, we can find ourselves navigating profound questions in relation to our calling, role, purpose and practice.

Core to how we manage and navigate change in a rapidly changing context, is our willingness to reflect on our past experience as a way to better understanding our present practice, and as a means of informing future practice.

**19th
Jan
6pm**

Session 1: A VBRP® Taster

**9th
Feb
6pm**

Session 2: Using VBRP®

For those who have completed both sessions and wish to explore this area further in their own time, NHS Education for Scotland will grant access to its Essential Tools module – online learning over three 2-hour sessions.

Deadline for registration is 12pm, Tuesday 17th January.

[Find out more and register](#)

Leadership in a time of change

A short course for ministers and lay leaders to equip them to offer the kind of leadership the church requires at the moment.

"Leadership is necessary only if a group is under orders to go somewhere. Without a mission there is no need for leaders." - Will Willimon

The church is commissioned by Christ to play its part in God's mission to the world. Many parts of the church in Scotland are both rediscovering the central place of mission and struggling to work out what this means in practice. They are looking for leadership.

There is an urgent need for both ministers and lay leaders to offer appropriate leadership so the church can play its part in Christ's mission. This short course is designed first, to help you offer the leadership the church requires, and second, to help you develop the leadership potential others in the church have.

1st March 6pm: Week 1: Recalibrating the church

8th March 6pm: Week 2: Releasing Leadership potential

15th March 6pm: Week 3: Developing as an Adaptive Leader

22nd March 6pm: Week 4: Improvisation

Deadline for registration is 12pm, Monday 27th February.

[Find out more and register](#)



Living Well with Differences Course



Our churches face change, encounter differences and can struggle to manage conflict. This can often impact the health and wellbeing of many in our churches. The Scottish Episcopal Church is partnering with Place for Hope to make available the **Living Well with Differences** course to all church leaders as part of their continued ministerial development (CMD).

Living Well with Differences is an online course designed for church leaders who would like to be better equipped to recognise and respond well to differences, change and conflict in our churches. It provides an introduction to the dynamics of conflict in ourselves and in faith communities and provides tools for positively addressing conflict and helping create a safer environment for all.

What will be involved?

Participants will be required to participate in 4 online sessions on a weekly basis over the course of a month. Each participant will receive a workbook that contains the content covered, as well as reflective tasks that can be completed between sessions. Each participant will receive a certificate on completion of the course.

Who will facilitate the training?

The course will be facilitated by two Place for Hope facilitators experienced in training others in conflict transformation and mediation.

What will the course include?

- 1. Understanding conflict:** We will share what we mean by conflict, and how it 'looks' in our churches; we will also begin to explore our different approaches to conflict, and how we respond.
 - 2. Conflict transformation skills:** Working with real life scenarios, we will explore how conflict escalates. In doing so, we will consider tools and techniques to 'lower' the level of conflict, enabling us to work constructively with disagreements in different settings.
 - 3. Responding to Bullying & Harassment:** We will explore how we can respond with dignity and respect as our core values to bullying and harassing behaviour in our church communities.
 - 4. SEC Context:** We will look at the internal policies and mechanisms in the Scottish Episcopal Church for handling conflict-related complaints.
 - 5. Additional Resources:** Further links and a reading list will be provided
- For further exploration of the topics covered in the course.

Course Dates & Registration: Choose the dates and times most suitable for you and follow the link under each set of dates to register for the course. Make a note of the dates in your own calendar and Place for Hope will send a confirmation email two weeks before the course begins together with further details about the course. **Please Note:** The course limit for each group is 16, so please register early to avoid disappointment in attending the timing of the course that suits you best.

- January 20th & 27th & February 3rd & 10th 2023 (**Fridays 09.30 - 1pm**) <https://bit.ly/3eHY2oc>
 - March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd 2023 (**Thursdays 1.30 pm - 5pm**) <https://bit.ly/3TQrl7U>
- April 19th & 26th & May 3rd & 10th 2023 (**Wednesdays 10 am - 1.30pm**) <https://bit.ly/3Bw4lUN>
- June 16, 23, 30th & July 7th 2023 (**Fridays 10.00 am - 1.30pm**): <https://bit.ly/3RvWa01>

What Participants have said about the course...

"...thank you for facilitating the course, which was expertly done with giving us enough freedom to speak freely but always keeping us on track. I will certainly take away many things that have been helpful not just in my job but the conflict situations that crop up in life."

"Place for Hope has been a God send for me, and I'm grateful for your attentive listening and support."

"It was good to be participating in a faith context and to see how really negative and hurtful situations can be worked through and learned from - a great group on the course! Not being afraid of conflict and seeing how it can be positive was really helpful."

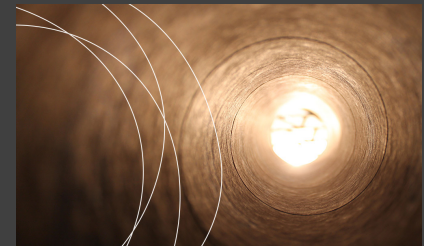


Living Well with Differences

About Place for Hope

Place for Hope accompanies and equips people and faith communities so that all might reach their potential to be peacemakers who navigate conflict well.

We want every community to be a place for hope.



Net Zero Action Plan Consultation Launch Event

11.30am-12.30pm, Wed 15 February 2023

On Wednesday 15 February, Bishop Ian Paton (Convener of the Provincial Environment Group) will launch the consultation phase of the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) which responds to the call for 'urgent action in relation to the global climate emergency'.

This ambitious plan provides the commitment, stability of purpose, necessary financial investment, and corresponding resources at provincial level to give confidence, support and empowerment to dioceses and charges to take the required steps to reach Net Zero by 2030. During this launch, participants will be able to find out about the principles that underpin the plan, download a draft of the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) and submit formal feedback via an online survey.



Given the far-reaching implications around this work, the Provincial Environment Group kindly requests that at least one person from each vestry attend this launch so your church can get informed about the plan and how you can all contribute towards shaping our future.

[Book your place now](#)

During the live online session you'll:

- Gain a broad overview of the proposed Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030)
- Explore the ten core objectives, with a specific focus on energy efficiency and 100% clean energy
- Find out how you can get involved in providing formal input in order to help shape the actions that the church will take
- Learn about the values and principles that underpin the plan
- Understand how the church intends to define 'Net Zero'
- Learn about actions that you and your church can carry out now in order to join with others in addressing the climate emergency.

It is recommended that you [watch Robert's webinar](#) from December 2022 prior to this event, to make the most of your time and to get up to speed on the differences between Net Zero and Carbon Neutral.

This online launch will be followed by a more detailed online webinar which will go into further depth about the plan, the specific targets therein, as well as provide an opportunity for informal feedback. The Provincial Environment Group asks you to note these additional webinar dates in your diary, and invites you to register for one of these. Both webinars will cover the same content, so please register for just one.

[Online Net Zero Consultation - Webinar 1: Tuesday 21st February \(16.30-18.00\)](#)

[Online Net Zero Consultation - Webinar 2: Thursday 9th March \(11.30-13.00\)](#)

The consultation phase of the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) will close on Tuesday 28 March.

To find out more about the consultation, visit the [dedicated webpage](#) on the provincial website.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

Artificial Intelligence and the Christian Churches

23 February 2023, 9:40am-4:00pm
St John's Cornerstone Centre,
Princes Street, Edinburgh



To register, please email:

Michael.Fuller@ed.ac.uk | Simeon.Xu@ed.ac.uk

by Wednesday 15 February

Chair

Murdo Macdonald

Policy Officer of the Society, Religion and Technology, the Church of Scotland

Speakers

Mr Alexander Martin Mussnug

PhD candidate, School of Informatics/ School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Title: What Counts? Models, Measurement, and Machine Learning

Yuxin Liu

PhD candidate, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Title: Artificial moral advisor and moral enhancement

Prof Michael Rovatsos

Professor of Artificial Intelligence, School of Informatics, and Director of The Bayes Centre, University of Edinburgh

Title: AI: Vision and Reality

Dr James Eglinton

Meldrum Senior Lecturer in Reformed Theology, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh

Title: The Church and the Metaverse

Rev Dr Michael Fuller

Lecturer in Science and Religion, and Science and Religion MSc Programme Director, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh

Title: AI, Big Data and Theology

Dr Simeon Ximian Xu

Kenneth and Isabel Morrison Post-doctoral Research Fellow in Theology and AI Ethics, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh

Title: When AI Ministers Come: Pastoral Care and Responsibility

“From Loss to Love”
a retreat in daily life
conducted by Timothy J. Ray

St. Columba's by the Castle
Each Sunday evening at 7:00 PM
February 26 – April 2 & April 16 – April 30, 2023
(on-site and online)

“From Loss to Love” offers a Celtic Christian exploration of the depths of God's love and the human need to embrace God's forgiveness as “loved sinners”. It provides an opportunity to make a scripture-based retreat in daily life for those people who want to prayerfully engage with the themes of Lent and Easter through imaginative forms of prayer developed by Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

An intrinsic part of this spiritual pilgrimage is a sequence of nine weekly prayer services connecting stories from the life of Saint Columba with thematic devotions woven from the prayers of the Celtic saints through the centuries. The retreat will expand on the themes of these prayer services through private guided prayer and personal consultation with a spiritual director (offered through in-person or online conversations).

These prayer services will be open to anyone interested in this journey through Lent into Easter, regardless of their participation in the retreat.

“From Loss to Love” will be conducted by Timothy Ray, who is currently in residence at Saint Columba's by the Castle. A former Jesuit, Timothy has 40 years of experience guiding various types of Ignatian prayer in a wide range of communities and has spent the last 20 years exploring the affinities between this tradition and Celtic Christianity. He is the author of nine books on prayer.

If you are interested in participating in this retreat in daily life, please contact Timothy Ray at 4timothy.ray@gmail.com for further details.

Rewilding the Church CMD Event 28th February 2023 for Clergy and Lay Readers



There are still places available for the event with Steve Aisthorpe author of "The Invisible Church". In his latest book "Rewilding the Church" Steve finds inspiration for his new book in the ecological concept of rewilding, an approach to the environment that allows nature to break free from the dulling effects of strategic control and bring wonder back into our lives. Applying this thinking to the Church, Steve imagines what might happen if we put less faith in our strategies and plans which inevitably depend on our own capabilities and resources, and allow the Spirit to lead us beyond our capacity to imagine.

This event will provide food for thought as we take forward two of the three priorities for the diocese agreed at the October Synod to:

- energise church and mission development in new housing areas,
- strengthen existing congregations where there are good prospects of growth.

To register for this event click [here](#).

Vestry Training 11th March 2023

You are invited to book your place at the vestry training event on the 11th March 2023.



Why not join us for breakfast and hear from the Dean and Gavin McEwan, a specialist in charity law, about the roles and responsibilities of vestry members as charity trustees and, how proposed changes to the current legislation could affect vestries in the future. Gavin will also talk about the relationship between the vestry and the Rector.

There will be time during the morning to share experiences with other vestry members and to raise questions with Gavin and other members of the Diocesan Office.

We are limited to 60 places but please register as many vestry members as are able to attend. We will let you know if we have can't accommodate everyone and will be running a second event later in the year.

If you haven't already expressed an interest and would like to book your place at this event, please click [here](#).

St Columba's Episcopal Church Glasgow Road, Bathgate

Sing-along



Friday 3rd March 2023

at 7pm

Ticket £5

B.Y.O.B

This course is for anyone who wishes to begin training as a professional counsellor or those who are interested and healing and transformation, and wish to help other using a Christian worldview.

The course is an introduction for the Diploma in Counselling for those wishing to become professional counsellors. (beginning Sept 2023)

The teaching embraces Counselling Psychology, Christian principles of tridimensional healing. There is also a focus on “The Art Of Listening” as well as counselling skills & interventions.



WWW.VITALCONNEXIONS.ORG



WHERE AND WHEN?

Venue: Davidson Mains Parish Church,
1 Quality Street, Edinburgh, EH4 5BB

Dates : Friday 10th March '23 from 2.30pm
to 7.30 pm and Saturday 11th March '23 from
10am - 4pm

and

Friday 14th April '23 from 10am - 4pm

Saturday 15th April '23 from 10am-4pm

Cost: £150 per weekend -total £300

How to apply:

Please go to www.vitalconnexions.org and click on the Course “Certificate in Counselling”. You will find an application form there and payment by credit/debit card through the Vital Connexions Paypal Account.

Places are limited and this is the last Certificate course before the next Diploma in Counselling which starts in September 2023 so book now to reserve your place.

“CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING”



**A FOUR DAY LIVE COURSE TO
TRAIN THOSE WHO WISH TO
START THE JOURNEY TOWARDS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING
OR HELP PEOPLE BETTER**

**with
Andrea Wigglesworth &
Vicky McEvoy**





Andrea Wigglesworth and Vicky McEvoy

Andrea Wigglesworth: is an experienced Trainer, Therapist and Supervisor and has many years of experience planting Wellness Centres throughout Scotland. She has an M.Sc. Counselling Studies (Advanced Practice): M.Sc. Health Promotion and Diploma in Supervision..

Vicky McEvoy: is an experienced Therapist, Supervisor and Trainer. Vicky has a MA in Supervisory Practice a B.Th, Higher Dip in Adult Education, and Diplomas in both Counselling and CBT.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID:

“This training was life changing for me. I came on the course to learn to help others, and it started me on an incredible journey of self discovery and connection with God in a new way”. JL

“I was unsure if I wanted to become a counsellor or continue in my role as a social worker. Having done this little (incredible course) I changed direction and am now doing the Diploma in Counselling” Loving it!! PF

“Everyone involved in helping people should do this helpful course with a Christian worldview. It’s helped me in all my inter personal relationships so much..” AK

CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out with religion. Come to me, get away with me and you’ll recover life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest.

Matthew 11 :28



MODULE 1- COMMUNICATION, BLOCKS TO LISTENING & ACTIVE LISTENING.

In this module we introduce you to the art of communication and teach you about the 5 levels of communication, communication traps, and defensive stances in communication. We introduce you to a 3 stage counselling model which teaches you 1. How To Explore with a client. 2 How to offer insight and understanding. 3. How to help the client move on.



Strength For The Journey.



Flourishing and Thriving.

MODULE 2- SPIRITUAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES: UNDERSTANDING VALLEYS IN LIFE.

Understanding of some important spiritual /psychological boundaries and how boundaries can be too rigid or too diffuse. The ability to move people from their valleys to a new place of hope will be taught and counselling skills of valley mapping, reflection, paraphrasing, active listening all taught through live demos & case work work .



Work life Balance and Balancing energy for tasks.



Strength for Body and Mind

MODULE 3 AND 4- MOVEMENTS OF GRACE AND MOVING ON....

With many broken hearts and negative emotions disempowering many people, this module will examine the root of negative emotions. God has created us with amazing potential and resilience. Spiritual truths will give insights and keys to healing the broken heart. We will open up closed areas of your life and help you to find the turning points to transformation .



Post- traumatic growth! Tri- dimensional healing.



Resilience and Positive Psychology.

The logo for Garleton Singers, featuring the name in a stylized, dark blue script font. The background of the entire poster is a historical painting of a naval battle, likely the Battle of Trafalgar, showing numerous large sailing ships with multiple masts and sails on a dark sea under a cloudy sky.

Garleton
Singers

Haydn

NELSON MASS

Bach - *Tonnet, ihr Pauken! BWV 214*

Willcocks - *A great and glorious Victory*

Telemann - *Concerto for 3 Trumpets*

Saturday 11th March, 7.30pm
Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh

Sunday 12th March, 7.30pm
St Mary's, Haddington

Tickets available from:

Choir members;
Kesley's Bookshop, Haddington
or Garleton Singers website

adults £14, students £8, school children £3

garletonsingers.co.uk

Scottish Registered Charity SC002500

Lent 2023

The Heart's Hunger

A series of online reflections for Lent

Lent is a good time to listen to what our hearts hunger for, what we need to sustain us and nourish us on our journey. And then there are the deeper longings which stir within. How do we listen to them, and what might they be telling us about moving towards fullness of life? New reflections to read and listen to each week using Scripture, poetry, art and spiritual writing.

Cost: £30. See website for details.

Finding Sustenance

A Quiet Day for Lent

**Sat 25th March, 10.30am-4pm,
Christ Church Centre, Edinburgh**

What helps sustain us if we find ourselves in a dry and weary land? How do we find water for the journey when the cup doesn't overflow? This retreat day is an invitation to pause beside the well of Living Water and reflect on how to find more of what revives your heart and nourishes your spirit.

Cost £30/£20 concession, includes lunch and coffee. See website for details.



Email: info@heartinpilgrimage.org.uk

www.heartinpilgrimage.org.uk

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY FOR THE JOURNEY



THE BIG *story*

*A sharing of stories from across the diocese and a
celebration of the Good News of Jesus Christ*



Save the date!

Saturday 3 June 2023

St Mary's Cathedral

Palmerston Place

EH12 5EW

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD THEOLOGY SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

Sunday 30 July – Saturday 12 August 2023
Christ Church, Oxford

A one- or two-week residential summer school for members of the clergy, lay ministers and readers, theologians and teachers of religious education. Running for over 20 years, this summer school draws participants from all over the world, and from a wide variety of Christian denominations.

- Explore the programme theme *Christian Theology in a Time of Global Crises*.
- Participate in seminars taught by members of Oxford University's Theology Faculty, distinguished theologians, and prominent church leaders.
- Attend lectures from leading scholars in the field of Theology.
- An opportunity to study and live in Christ Church, one of Oxford University's largest and most beautiful colleges.



Choose 2 options, from 11 stimulating seminar topics:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • Theology of Refugees | • Sabbath as Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World | • A Time for Re-Constellations |
| • Religion and Nature in the Twenty-First Century | • Christianity and the Crisis of Modernity | • Is Horrendous Evil Compatible with a God of Love? |
| • It's Good to Talk: The Value of Dialogue | • Christian Leadership in Crisis | • African Pentecostal Understandings of War and Sickness |
| • Trying to Live into a New Normal | • Psychological Approaches to Religion: Friend or Foe to Christian Theology | |

Seminars take place Monday – Friday, 09:00am–12:00pm and 1.30pm–4.30pm, and Sunday – Friday dinner in [Christ Church's spectacular dining hall](#) is included for all participants. Course fees start at £1,190 per person.

To apply, please complete the [application form](#) on our website, and provide a brief personal statement detailing your reasons for wishing to attend the summer school. Further details can be found on our website, or please get in touch via the email address below if you have any questions.

www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/theology-summer-school

theologysummer@conted.ox.ac.uk



The Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation

Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts in the Fringe

13th-19th August, 2023

The fifth Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts will take place between Sunday 13th and Saturday 19th August 2023.

This year's programme continues the post-pandemic expansion that began in 2022. In addition to seven musical events and three exhibitions, there will be poetry, drama, film, talks and demonstrations, alongside opening and closing church services. Three more city centre venues are participating, bringing the total to nine.

The 2023 Sacred Arts Festival will also forge new collaborations with other Edinburgh organizations. **'Songs of Displacement'** is a late evening recital organized jointly with the well-established Just Festival based in St John's Princes Street. **'Spirituality, Faith and Belief'** is a literary event jointly sponsored with the Scottish Network for Religion and Literature at New College and the Scottish Poetry Library. The Edinburgh School of Icon Painting will hold a three-day exhibition in St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge.

Two events feature younger participants and performers.

'Composing Sacred Music: a New Generation'

This lunchtime recital will enable a wider public to hear the work of two exceptionally gifted young composers based in Edinburgh.

'Modern Mystery Plays'

Over the last decade the UK has witnessed renewed interest in the medieval mystery plays based on biblical themes that were once common. Capitalizing on this development, a youth theatre group is being assembled to perform a series of short, modernized mystery plays.

Over the next few weeks, keep checking our website and social media for programme updates and special offers!

<http://www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org/>

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[Twitter@SacredArtsFest](https://twitter.com/SacredArtsFest)