



Scottish Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Edinburgh

Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love



Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield



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The **Communicant**

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

18 May 2023

In this edition...

news: p.2
notices: p.5
mission & ministry: p.6
diary: p.7

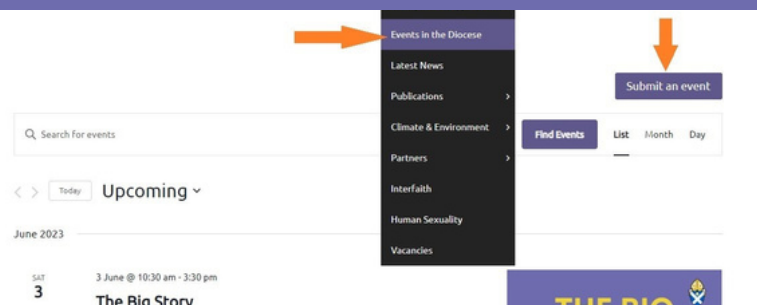
News



New look Communicant

Welcome to the Communicant in its new format! After reflecting on feedback received from General Synod, we've reworked the content and design of the communicant, while still keeping it as a fortnightly PDF publication. Moving forward, the Communicant will now be published every second Thursday. We look forward to hearing any feedback you may have!

Events Diary



We have setup a new web-based events system, which is like an online listings website – so **you can upload your own events** to it. Ceri will be Events Editor (each entry has to be approved before publishing), but it will contain Diocesan events (The Big Story is already there) as well as your own events. In addition, we will highlight upcoming events within the main Communicant editions, so you won't miss anything! [Here's the link](#) (you'll find it under "News & Issues").

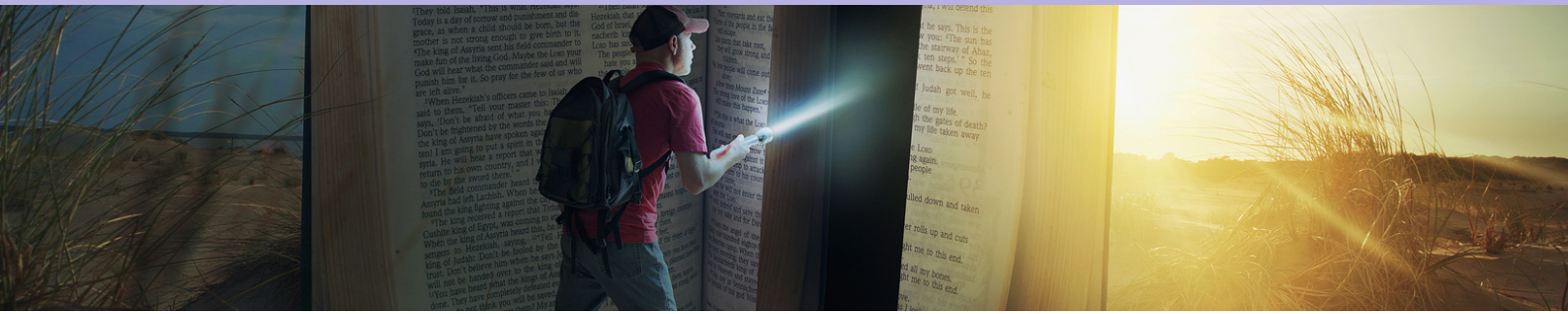


Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

We'll be sharing daily bible verses on our social media, and a wide selection of resources for your church and/or individual prayer can be found on the [Thy Kingdom Come website](#).

News



The Big Story.

The BIG Story – Saturday 3rd June from 10.30am-3.30pm at the Cathedral. A free, family-friendly day of learning, creating, and worshipping together. Time to sign up and get planning!

Our Diocesan Gathering this year is an opportunity to share *our* stories of faith, and The BIG Story. There are two aspects to the day:

Showcasing our Churches' life together:

We invite each of our churches to come together to share the BIG Story of the good news of Jesus, by showcasing an aspect of its life/its life in the community.

How? Discuss with your Vestry, talk together and plan your contribution. Choose *one thing* that shows how you share the Good News in your location, and try link it to a verse from the Bible, or a Bible story, that speaks of the good news of Jesus. Try to make your stall as creative and interactive as possible, for example you could use a craft, puzzle, game, quiz or simple activity. You will have quite a small space, about 2m x 2m. If you can bring a table that would be helpful – or let Sarah Shaw know if you need one! You are welcome to bring other things as necessary.

Workshops – something for everyone

What? The confirmed workshops are listed below. There will also be a young kids'/baby-friendly soft space, and Play Church available. The day will culminate with everyone coming together for 'The Man with the Plan ' (The Jesus Rap!), and for worship, in praise of the God who gave us the BIG Story.

What to do now

1. **Share this information** with everyone in your congregation via social media, your website, pew sheets, and notices. More info/resources available [online](#).
2. **Book your FREE spot via Eventbrite.** www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-story-tickets **P.3**

News



Nordic Visits

We are excited to be welcoming visitors from Finland and Norway later this and next month. At the end of May, clergy from one of our partner dioceses - Espoo, in Finland - will be visiting and preaching in several of our churches. Please see the diary page for further details.

In June, nearly 100 visitors from Diocese of Stavanger in the Church of Norway will be visiting Scotland over two weeks as part of a continuing education project to learn more about the church in Scotland. We look forward to meeting them, and sharing more details of their visit in due course.



Latvia's "Night of Churches"

On the 27th of May, St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Riga will be participating in Latvia's yearly "Baznīcu nākts" (Night of Churches) event, where churches throughout the country are open all day and host special concerts, lectures, discussions, exhibitions, and prayers. Since St Saviour's is the only Anglican church in Latvia, they like to try to represent other Anglican churches from throughout the world in their exhibitions, and this year are inviting Anglican churches around the world to send short 1-2 minute videos with greetings from the people of that church. If you'd like to participate, there's more info [here](#).

Office Notices

Safeguarding

Simon Filsell has now stepped down as Diocesan Protection Officer and this role has now been taken over by **Joanna Morris** (also a member of the Diocesan Office Staff) in addition to her existing office role.

Vacancies

The following posts in the diocese are vacant; all information including how to apply is listed online.

Priest in Charge: The Priory Church of St Mary of Mount Carmel, South Queensferry

Children's and Young Persons' Worker: Old St Paul's Church

Signposts

Did you know we have a resource page on our website? This contains answers to many frequently asked questions.

Our Diocesan Environment Group 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.

There are now 74 users signed up to the Online Support Forum, Posts include:

- Health & Safety
- Secondary glazing installation completed
- CAF Bank changes
- Energy Savings Advice (CofE)
- Contactless donations

Admin Support Forum

We have a **new forum** specifically for Church Administrators. We will be directly contacting those we know of in our churches, but do encourage anyone you might have in your congregation who might have such a role in your administration – other than your Vestry Secretary. They can be volunteers or paid, it doesn't matter. Recent topics include:

- VAT on Energy bills and Standing Charges
- Insurance
- Secondary glazing installation completed successfully at St Mary's Dalmahoy

Mission & Ministry



Grants Available

The Church in Society Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church has relaunched its grant funding scheme to support projects which work to enable life in all its fullness for children, young people and their families. Find out more about the Enable Grant [here](#).



Upcoming Courses

The following events may be of interest to you and your congregation:

[Reimagine 2023](#), 9-11 June, online, run by London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC), particularly for lay members. This is a course for anyone who wants to make a difference with Jesus in the ordinary places where God has put them. Cost £50 (£40 if book before 31 May; group bookings get 3 for 2).

[The Art of Curating Creative Engagement in Worship](#), Monday 26 June, Wellington Church Glasgow, run by Trinity College, for worship leaders of all denominations: lay or ordained. Cost £40 (includes lunch). Apply by 12 June.

Diary



Monday 22 May Diocesan Office
CLOSED (Public Holiday)

Wednesday 24th May Diocesan
Standing Committee

**Saturday 27th – Tuesday 30th
May** Bishop Kaisamara Hintikka and
clergy from our linked diocese of
Espoo, Finland will be visiting Edinburgh

Sunday 28th May Bishop John
Presiding at St Mary's Cathedral

Sunday 28th May Bishop Kaisamara
(Espoo) preaching at St Mary's Cathedral

Sunday 28th May Revd Jaakko Niiles
(Espoo) preaching at St. Mark's,
Portobello

Sunday 28th May Revd Mika Nurmi
(Espoo) preaching at St. Ninian's,
Comely Bank

Sunday 28th May Revd Timo-Matti
Haapiainen (Espoo) preaching at Old
Saint Paul's

Saturday 3rd June The BIG Story, St
Mary's Cathedral

Tuesday 6th June Visit from The
Church of Norway Stavanger Diocese

**Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th
June** General Synod

Communications



Have you got news or stories
from your church you'd like to
share? If so, our Communications
Officer Miranda Heggie would
love to hear from you! Please
drop her a line at
mheggie@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

Tag us on your socials!

and follow us at the links below.

