



Scottish Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Edinburgh

Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love



St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh



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

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The **Communicant**

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

02 November 2023

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News



Autumn Synod

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to our most recent Synod! It was especially heartening to hear about how our Investing in the Future project is coming to fruition, not least with the arrival of the Franciscan Brothers to St. David's, Pilton.

Bishop John's opening address at Synod is now available to read on our website, should you wish to.



Office Relocates!

...for one day only! Don't worry – you can still find us at 21a Grosvenor Crescent! However, for those for whom such a journey would take 2-3 hours out of their day, our Diocesan Office Staff relocated for a day to the Trinity Centre in Melrose. Using laptops, portable Wifi and other equipment we were able to run the office business remotely (even answering the 21a office doorbell at one point!) whilst providing an open opportunity for anyone to come and meet us and talk to us about how we can help. We had people from Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Melrose and Peebles visiting us, with many appreciative comments. We look forward to organising similar days in East Lothian and Falkirk in the near future.

Events

Please find details of upcoming events and how to submit your own here. Some highlights over the coming few weeks are:

Thursday 2 - Saturday 4

November: New College Festival - Books and Belief

Saturday 4 November: Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association Thanksgiving Service

Saturday 4 November: Youth meet up at Old St Paul's

Monday 13 November: United for Peace: Edinburgh Communities Against Hate

Thursday 30 November: Got Questions? Come along to Night Church at St Mary's Dalmahoy.



Office News & Notices



Signposts



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

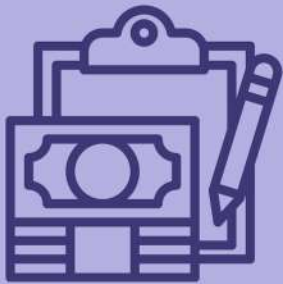


Our [Diocesan Environment Group](#) includes sections on Sharing Stories, Resources and Funding. The group is being led by Bethany Nelson, and you can contact her at bethany@psandgs.org.uk.



There are now 92 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



We have an [admin support forum](#) specifically for Church Administrators. Do encourage anyone you might have in your congregation who might have such a role in your administration – other than your Vestry Secretary.

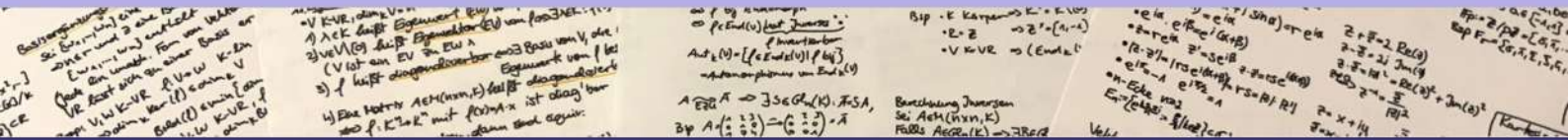
Forms

Could all Incumbents and Priests in Charge note that the annual **Congregational Statistics** will soon be due for “the year ending on the eve of Advent Sunday” which is **Sunday 3rd December**. All the numbers can be prepared now, except for the attendance on “the Sunday next before Advent”.

In addition, we will soon send out the **Diocesan Schedules** for you to let us know any changes to your Vestry personnel etc., if you haven’t already done so. This is intended to align with many of your AGMs which take place mostly in the Autumn.

There will be no Provincial Safeguarding Annual Return for this year as GSO are re-evaluating the process in light of new legislation being implemented in 2024. The Diocese will be sending out a simple checklist to assist Vestries in maintaining safeguarding best practice.

Office News & Notices



Safeguarding

PVG Safeguarding Training Events in November and December

In conjunction with John Wylie (the Provincial Safeguarding Officer) we are delivering five training events in November and Early December. Evening events start at 4pm and Saturday events will start at 10am.

This training has already been delivered in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway and has been subject to very positive feedback. Each session consists of facilitated discussion of key issues in Safeguarding, along with a series of practical scenarios, with each scenario building upon attendee's knowledge. The overall aim is to improve levels of confidence and to make it clear that help is always available.

It is very important that Coordinators attend this training. Feeling equipped and safe will help you to help and support others. In addition, significant changes to PVG legislation create criminal offences for both individuals and churches if processes are not adhered to. This training will help to support all vestries with these issues.

You can register using this link: [PVG Co-Ordinator Training - Google Forms](#)

Joanna Appleby
Diocesan Protection Officer

Diocesan Advent Calendar

It's coming up for that time of year again! This year's digital Diocesan advent calendar will be focusing on names of Christ in the Bible. We'd love to feature a range of voices from across the Diocese in our videos, including congregation members of all ages, clergy and lay readers. If you're interested in taking part please [email Miranda](#) by Monday 20 November.



Mission and Ministry



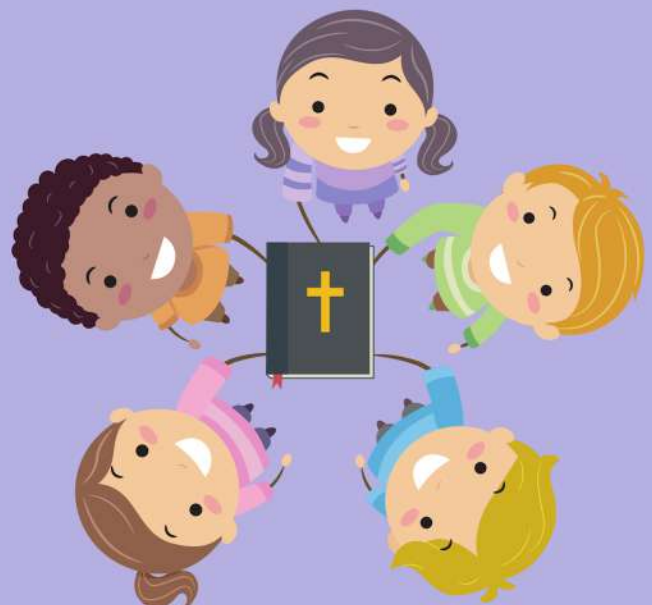
Faith in Older People

Faith in Older People (FiOP) have just released their autumn schedule of events, which are all taking place via Zoom and start at 4:30pm. Further information and booking via FiOP's [Eventbrite](#):

- 15th November: FiOP and Interfaith Scotland – Tackling Loneliness and Isolation in our Communities
- 30th November: The Gift of Age Conference

Upcoming Mission and Ministry Events

- Thursday 2nd November: Care for the Family event: "Who Let the Dad's Out?" 12noon-2pm at Craiglockhart Parish Church. [Book free tickets here.](#)
- Saturday 4 November: [Youth Meet up](#) at Old St Paul's, 4 - 7pm
- Monday 13th November: CHAS Conference on Children's Spirituality, 9am-4pm, cost £12 including lunch. [Tickets can be purchased here.](#)



Diary

Sunday 12 November Bishop John attends Act of Remembrance at City Chambers, Edinburgh

Sunday 12 November Bishop John blesses the new peace Garden at St James', Goldenacre, Edinburgh, 3.30pm

Wednesday 15 November The Installation of the Revd Gavin Burnage at The Priory Church, South Queensferry

Thursday 14 December The Installation of the Revd Andi Hofbauer at St Cuthbert's Hawick and St John's Jedburgh



Communications photos

We're in the process of updating our selection of images of churches in the diocese. If you've got some recent images of your church you'd be happy to share - or if you'd like us to come and take some pictures which you can use too - please email Miranda at mheggie@dioceseofedinburgh.org.uk



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.

