



Scottish Episcopal Church

# The Diocese of Edinburgh

*Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love*



*St Peter's, Peebles*



*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**

**14 December 2023**

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# News



## Happy Christmas from the Diocese!

All at the Diocesan Office wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year!



We were delighted to join with our friends from the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic Church, the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Catholic Church, as well as Edinburgh locals and visitors to the city for the annual Nativity Carol Concert on Advent Sunday. Bishop John led the congregation in prayer, before the brand-new Nativity Scene was blessed by Archbishop Leo Cushley from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edinburgh and St Andrew's. If you have not yet seen the Nativity Scene, why not take a look at it on The Mound the next time you are in town!

## Events

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

**Friday 15 December:** [A Christmas Carol](#), St Salvador's, Stenhouse, 7pm

**Monday 25 December:** [Reflections from the Quay on BBC Scotland](#), with Aaron Moffat-Jackman, 8.50am

**Saturday 3 February:** [The Life and Death of Eric Liddell and the Rebirth of Chinese Christianity](#), 10.30am, Eric Liddell Community Centre

**Tuesday 6 February:** [Discerning our Ongoing Call to Leadership in God's Church](#), 10am, Old St Paul's Church



# News



## Spring Synod and Area Councils

The Spring Diocesan Synod will be held on Saturday 24th February 2024 at St Paul's & St George's Edinburgh. The publication of business will be 4 weeks before (as required by the Canons), by Friday 29th January. Area Councils may wish to set their meeting dates for sometime between 30th January and 23rd February.

Please note that there will be elections to General Synod and various Provincial Committees etc. And we will let you know which vacancies exist, and the nomination deadlines, around the time that the Synod business is published.

## Register of Controlling Resources in Land

New legislation requires registration, by 31 March 2024, details of those responsible for ownership and/or control of land in Scotland. Details of the process will be issued in due course but, in the meantime, please see the letter from Godfrey Robson, Diocesan Secretary, in the Diocesan Resources section of the website:

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

## Farewell to John Stuart

The Secretary General to the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church is to retire next year after 28 years in the position.

Mr John Stuart, who was appointed Secretary General in 1996, is expected to remain in post until the summer of 2024, and will oversee arrangements for the church's three-day General Synod in June.

A recruitment campaign to find a successor to Mr Stuart has begun, with the role currently being advertised nationally. A microsite dedicated to the recruitment process can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

# News



## Artworks find new homes for the new year!

St Andrew's, Kelso once again held their annual pre-loved art fair in the church earlier this month, with hundreds of prints and paintings being sold to raise money for church funds.

## Youth Meet Up



Edinburgh Diocese

**YOUTH**



**Save the date!**

**Saturday 6th January, 6-9pm**

**Epiphany Youth Meet-Up**



A special 2023 in review newsletter focusing on our Youth and Children's activity can be viewed online [here](#).

**REGISTER NOW!**

All serving clergy are encouraged to sign up for the forthcoming CMD event Discerning our Ongoing Call to Leadership in God's Church, 10am, Old St Paul's Church on 6 Feb. please register online [here](#).



# 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](mailto: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.

**As many of you will be aware, Samantha Campbell, the Bishop’s PA is currently off sick. Please join us in wishing her a speedy recovery. In the meantime, her role is being covered by Joanna Appleby.**

**Email: [JAppleby@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:JAppleby@dioceseofedinburgh.org) Tel: 0131 346 9085**

# Diary

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

**Monday 19th December** College of Bishops

**Friday 6 January** Epiphany Youth Meet Up



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:mheggie@dioceseofedinburgh.org).

**Tag us on your socials!**

and follow us at the links below.

