



Scottish Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Edinburgh

Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love



St John's Princes Street



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

25 January 2024

In this edition...

news: p. 2
events: p.4
notices: p.5
mission & ministry: p. 6
diary: p. 7

News



30 Days until Diocesan Synod

The Spring Diocesan Synod will be held on **Saturday 24th February 2024** at St Paul's & St George's Edinburgh. The publication of business (to the web page below) will be Friday 29th January. Area Councils can therefore meet to discuss the business in readiness for the Synod meeting itself.

A one-stop webpage is now setup in readiness for all the paperwork and business:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-synod-february-2024/>

You can find it under the "Resources" tab on the main menu.

Please note that there will be elections to General Synod and various Provincial Committees etc. and we will let you know which vacancies exist.



Nominations to vacancies (with Proposers/Seconders) need to be submitted by noon on **Monday 19th February**. Forms can be found on the website above.

News

Diocesan Forms

The following should now have all been submitted to the Diocesan Office:

1. Congregational Statistics (by Rectors/Priests in Charge)
2. Diocesan Schedule (Vestry Officer changes post-AGM)
3. Annual Accounts for 2023 and Finance Schedules

If you are unsure if we have received them, please let Ceri Ashton (CAshton@dioceseofedinburgh.org) know and she can tell you if we have or not.

Please do get these to us as:

- The deadline for us passing the statistics to the Province was 8th January
- We may soon be sending the Synod notifications to the wrong Lay Representative, and
- The financial work to assess financial support in 2024 (including Investing in the Future and other grants) cannot proceed

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. A letter, and a details form, was sent out last week on behalf of the Diocesan Registrar, Pippa Snell, to all Rectors, Priests in Charge, Vestry Secretaries and Treasurers. This is just information-gathering and the task of Registration is being handled by a small team at Pippa Snell's company.

Staffing

Sam Campbell, Bishop John's PA, has been on sick leave now since early September and we have been covering the work within our office team as best we can. We have some additional part-time help through Phoebe Pryce, which has enabled Joanna Appleby (Admin Asst for Mission & Ministry/Diocesan Protection Officer) to move across to Bishop John's work. However, that is only a half-time person covering a full-time post, so do bear with us whilst we deal with all this. We will get round to all the incoming work.....but maybe not as quickly as we might like to.

Thank you so much for your patience.

Simon

Events



Events Calendar on Website

Don't forget you can now submit your own events on our website! Please find details of upcoming events and how to submit your own [here](#).

Events Highlights

Some highlights over the coming few weeks are:

Tuesday 30 January: Choral Eucharist (1637 Scottish Liturgy) for Charles, King and Martyr, Founder of the Diocese of Edinburgh, 11.30am, St Mary's Cathedral

Saturday 3 February: The Life and Death of Eric Liddell and the Rebirth of Chinese Christianity, 10.30am, **Playfair Library. Please note change of venue.**

Sunday 4 February: St Mary's After Dark: Celebrating the Light, 7pm, St Mary's Dalmahoy

Tuesday 6 February: Discerning our Ongoing Call to Leadership in God's Church, 10am, St Peter's Luton Place

Wednesday 7 February: The Place of Hope (Part one of two), 4.30pm, online

Wednesday 14 February: The Bad Bible in the Twenty-First Century: inaugural lecture by Professor Matthew Novenson, 5.15pm, Playfair Library

Tuesday 27 February: Christian Aid: The Gathering 2024, 12 noon, online

Wednesday 6 March: Dalmahoy Literary Circle, 9.30am, St Mary's Dalmahoy

Friday 8 March: Operation Unicorn - a personal reflection, 7pm, St Cuthbert's Colinton

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.

Safeguarding

John Wyllie and I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended the workshops. In all, 47 people from across the diocese attended a workshop with wide-ranging discussions and debate. I will circulate the slides as soon as possible.

We will be holding another workshop in the Borders in the New Year, I will be in touch shortly with possible dates.

If anyone has any questions regarding safeguarding please contact myself or John Wyllie on safeguarding@scotland.anglican.org.

PVG queries can be sent to pvg@scotland.anglican.org.

Joanna

Joanna Appleby
Diocesan Protection Officer
JAppleby@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Mission and Ministry

*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, **ST PETER'S LUTTON PLACE** on 6 Feb.

Register online [here](#), and **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.**

Lent

The Diocesan Lent Course for 2024, entitled 'The Emotions of Jesus', is now available on the website. Hardcopies can be printed for posting or collection: please contact the Office to arrange.

PRAYER

Prayer Diary

Diocesan Prayer Diary for 2024 is now available on the website.

There are also daily reminders on our Facebook and Instagram pages, which are easily shared on congregational feeds.

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-prayer-diary/>

Please feel free to check when your church features in the diary, and let us know if there's anything specific in your church, congregation or community you would like us to pray for.

Diary

Monday 29 January Diocesan Buildings Committee

Saturday 24th February Diocesan Spring Synod

Monday 29 January - Friday 2 February Diocesan Audit Week

Tuesday 30 January Diocesan Standing Committee

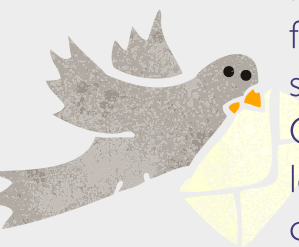
Vacancies

Rector, St Michael and All Saints, Edinburgh



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.

