



Scottish Episcopal Church

# The Diocese of Edinburgh

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



*St Paul's and St George's*



*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**

**8 February 2024**

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# News



## 16 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 Elections paper is on the web page so that you can see the vacancies we need to fill. Area Councils are invited to 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.



until Nominations to vacancies (with Proposers/Seconders & nominee's biography) need to be submitted.

# Lent Appeal



This year's **Bishop's Lent Appeal** is in aid of the Jerusalem Princes Basma Centre, located under the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The centre provides rehabilitative services to children with disabilities from Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza and operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. It serves as a place of hope, healing and inclusivity for all. Our Dean, the Very Revd Frances Burberry, has visited the centre

Dean Frances writes,

It was February last year when I visited the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) which is located on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives and operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East – under the supervision of the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Bishop Hosam Naoum – in the fields of health, disability and inclusive education. The JPBC is also a part of the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network and like its near neighbour the Augusta Victoria Hospital, it plays a vital role in the Palestinian Healthcare system.

First established in 1961, when there was a need for physiotherapy services for children with disabilities as a result of polio becoming widespread amongst the Palestinian population, the Centre took its name from Princess Basma of Jordan (sister of King Hussein of Jordan) who inaugurated the building during her visit there in 1966.

The JPBC is an inclusive school, and is also a child rehabilitation centre for disabled children and their families from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. The school has children from ages 5 to 18, one third of whom are disabled. The rehabilitation centre provides inpatient and outpatient support for children (from birth to age 15) with a range of congenital and neuromuscular conditions including such as autism and cerebral palsy.



# Lent Appeal



Both inpatients and outpatients can receive speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, music therapy and psychosocial support. Rehabilitative treatments often involve more than three-week stays at the centre.

Children receive individualised rehabilitation programmes and their parents and/ or grandparents are trained as 'shadow therapists' to continue the programmes at home, supported by follow-up appointments as needed and/ or telephone consultations with staff at the JPBC.

The JPBC was scheduled to open a new centre inside the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza in November 2023. At the war's conclusion, that new centre's services will be more necessary than ever. For not only will thousands of newly maimed children need physical therapy, nearly all of Gaza's children will also be suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and in need of psychological counselling.

On my visit in February 2023, I saw a place which grows hope by offering a lifeline of support, education and rehabilitation; transforming the lives of children with disabilities and empowering their families to care for them.

The JPBC receives financial support for the care of children with disabilities. It is also dependent upon international fundraising to sustain the Centre's vital and inspiring programmes.

*Dean Frances*

# Environment News



## Ring out for Climate Justice

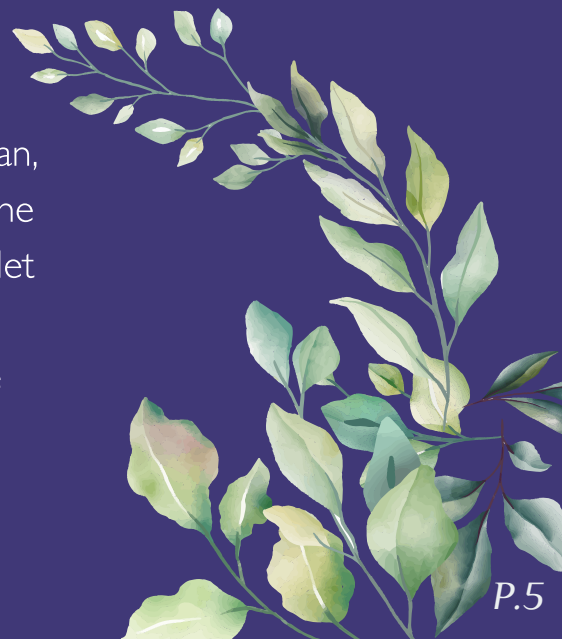
**Ring Out for Climate Justice**, a youth-led climate justice project delivered in collaboration with A+E (Art and Ecology programme) at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh will begin this Saturday, 10 February. Responding to the desire of young people to channel their deep concern about the climate and ecological crisis, this monthly bellringing event was initiated by Emily Slack (age 11) in conversation with Jonathan Baxter (artist in residence at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral) and Emily's mum, Alison Slack. You can find out more information on the [Cathedral's website](#).



## Net Zero Action Plan

As part of the Scottish Episcopal Church's Net Zero Action Plan, we are delighted that Bethany Nelson, formerly convenor of the Diocesan Environment Group, has been newly appointed as Net Zero Empowerment Coordinator for the province.

Congratulations, Bethany! We are also very happy to welcome Andrew Aveyard into Bethany's previous role.





# Office Notices



## 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.

The letter asked that you returned the form within one week of receiving the email (which was 19th January). We currently have 27 of the 53 returns. Unfortunately, this is a legal requirement for all Vestries, so could you please let us have them by midday on **Monday 19th February** so that the Diocesan Registrar's office can begin the enormous task which the Scottish Government has placed on us all.



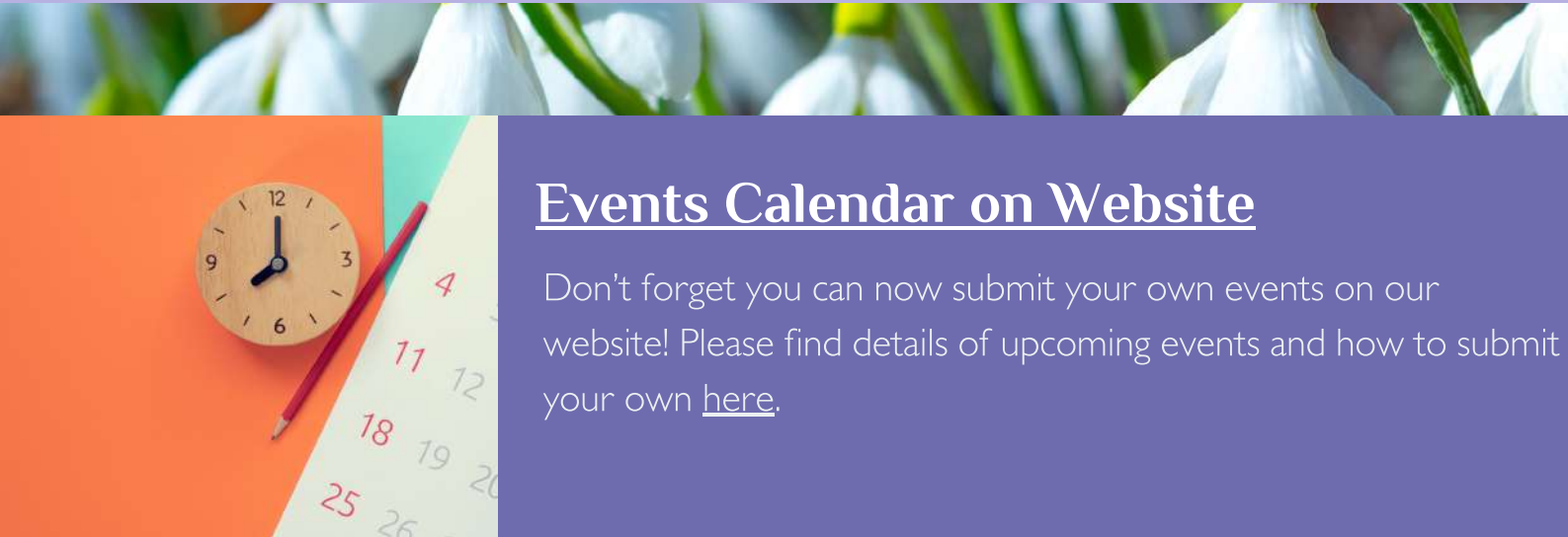
## Staffing

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 continued 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:

**Wednesday 14 February:** [The Craftsman - Online Reflection Series for Lent](#)

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

**Tuesday 20 February:** [Futures that Money can Buy](#): lecture on finance and net zero, 5pm, Rainy Hall, New College

**Tuesday 27 February:** [Christian Aid: The Gathering 2024](#), 12 noon, online

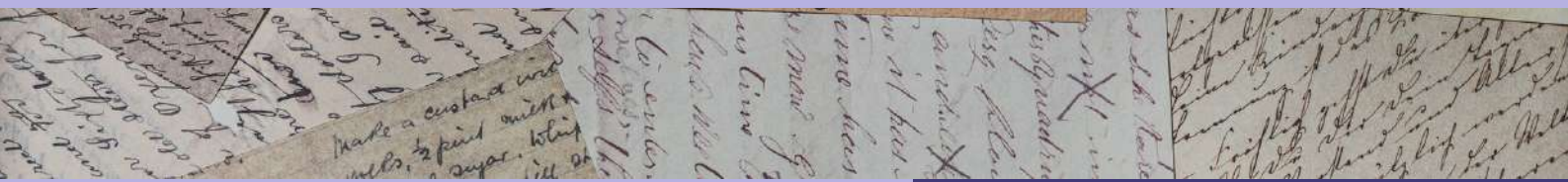
**Wednesday 6 March:** [Dalmahoy Literary Circle](#), 9.30am, St Mary's Dalmahoy

**Friday 8 March:** [Operation Unicorn - a personal reflection](#), 7pm, St Cuthbert's Colinton

**Wednesday 13 March:** [The Place of Hope PART TWO](#), online

**Wednesday 20 March:** [The Potential of Anna Chaplaincy](#), online

# Office News & Notices



## Signposts



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



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](mailto:safeguarding@scotland.anglican.org).

PVG queries can be sent to [pvg@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:pvg@scotland.anglican.org).

*Joanna*

Joanna Appleby  
Diocesan Protection Officer  
[JAppleby@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:JAppleby@dioceseofedinburgh.org)



# Mission and Ministry



## Vestry Training

There are two more vestry training events for all vestry members--including clergy--in March 2024. This morning session provides the fundamental information vestry members need when undertaking roles on Vestry and as charity trustees ([more information on website](#)). [Book attendance via the Form provided](#). **Saturday 16th March at St Peter's, Galashiels**, 9am-1pm and **Saturday 23rd March at St Peter's, Lutton Place**, 9am-1pm.



## 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.

## 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.



# Diary



**Sunday 11th February** Bishop John preaching at St John's Selkirk

**Monday 12th February** Meeting of Cathedral Trustees

**Sunday 18th February** Bishop John preaching at St Columba's Bathgate

**Saturday 24th February** Diocesan Spring Synod

## 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](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.







— Diocese of —  
**EDINBURGH**

# THE BIG DAY

*Let Us Pray!*

**SATURDAY**  
**11 MAY**  
**10:30-3:30**



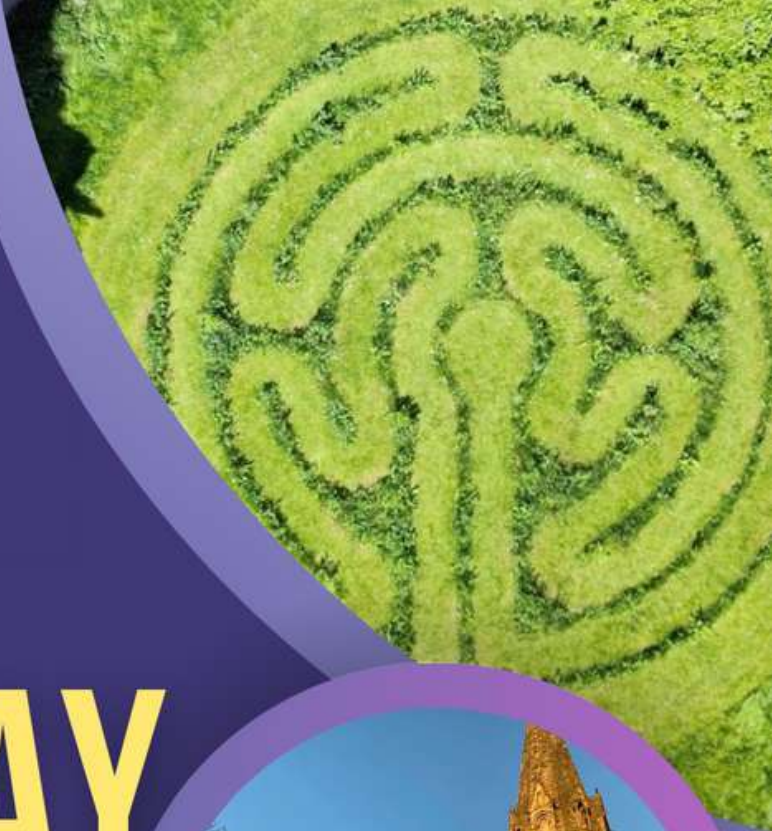
Worship and Song



Prayer Workshops



Individual Prayer Stations



[edinburgh.anglican.org](http://edinburgh.anglican.org)



St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh