

**Bishop, Members of Synod,**

**Once again, I offer my Report to give you some sense of the call on my time and energy during the past year.**

**Something of a taste of what's involved in my working alongside Bishop John, and in fulfilling the various duties of Dean.**

### **April 2023**

I was at St Baldred's, North Berwick in April when Jane Edwards was ordained priest by Bishop John. Jane continues to serve there and at St Adrian's, Gullane alongside Simon Metzner, Lorna Mortis and Harriet Harris.

Two others of our diocesan clergy were ordained priest in the past year –

Janet Spence who continues to serve as Chaplain alongside John Conway and Marion Chatterley and the wider team at St Mary's Cathedral; and

Ross Jesmont who continues to serve as Assistant Curate at St Salvador's, Edinburgh and has Stephen Holmes of Holy Cross, Edinburgh, as his training incumbent.



## May 2023

The Diocese of Espoo is one of our companion dioceses and some of our friends from there visited last May. They enjoyed a literally warm welcome to Edinburgh with wall-to-wall sunshine and it was a real privilege for Nicki McNelly and me to be with them on their visit to Rosslyn Chapel – thanks to the generosity of the Rosslyn Chapel Trust and the kindness of Director, Ian Gardner.



## June 2023

The Bishop, the Dean, and the Diocesan Secretary are, ex officio, three of the five Trustees of the Walker Trust.

The primary objective of the Trust was the building of St Mary's Cathedral. And each year various small sums of money are paid out for certain activities; with the residue of the estate being used for the benefit of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

At our June meeting we heard back from Bishop John about the Coronation of the King and Queen at Westminster Abbey where, as ex officio Convenor of the Trust, Bishop John fulfilled the role of the Heritable Usher of the White Rod; an historic



office of the Parliament of Scotland and the counterpart to the role of the Usher of the Black Rod, a senior officer in the House of Lords.

The Usher of the White Rod has not held duties since Scotland's union with England in 1707, however one of the remaining honours of the office is to take part in the Coronation procession.



By permission of the Trustees, part of White Rod's regalia will be on display in Perth Museum from 30<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

The exhibition, entitled *Unicorn*, explores the cultural history of Scotland's national animal from antiquity to the present day.



## July 2023

July saw my visitation to St John's, Jedburgh.



There were 12 visitations in the past year –

Balerno St Mungo's

Edinburgh Christ Church

Edinburgh Good Shepherd

Edinburgh St Barnabas

Edinburgh St Columba's-by- the-Castle

Edinburgh St Cuthbert's

Galashiels St Peter's

Gullane St Adrian's

North Berwick St Baldred's

Hawick St Cuthbert's

Jedburgh St John's

Selkirk St John's

## August 2023

A familiar sight for me has again been Perth Railway Station. The College of Deans has met for a day every six to eight weeks this past year – meetings held at the Diocesan Office of St Andrew, Dunkeld and Dunblane, Perth.

As Deans we facilitate and resource the witness and ministry of our bishops and others, and in meeting together, amid often changing and challenging contexts, we have been able to support each other and share something of our Diocesan-wide responsibilities while maintaining confidences.



It has certainly been good for me to keep in touch with colleagues on matters of common concern.



## September 2023

Under the umbrella of our Diocesan Ministry and Mission Committee, September saw the second of our in-person Vestry Training Days, when Vestry members - lay and ordained - from throughout the Diocese met at George's Watson's College, Edinburgh, to hear from Gavin McEwan, a member of Old St Paul's Edinburgh and a specialist in charity law, about the roles and responsibilities of Vestry members as Charity Trustees, and how proposed changes to the current legislation could affect Vestries in the future.

Gavin also talked about the relationship between the Vestry and the Rector or Priest-in-Charge. And I did my best to place all this in the wider contexts of the Diocese and SEC.

There was also time for those who were there to share experiences with other Vestry members and to raise questions with Gavin, with me, and some members of the DMMC team.



## October 2023

Last October Mike Hull, as Principal of the Scottish Episcopal Institute was installed as a Canon of St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh.

As Principal of SEI, Mike is responsible for strategic leadership in the training and formation of candidates for ministry in the SEC.

Mike also serves as one of the ministry team at St Vincent's Edinburgh.



## November 2023



Effective safeguarding learning is one of the key means by which we will become a safer and healthier Church.

John Wyllie is the Provincial Head of Safeguarding and I was glad to be able to be at Old St Paul's Edinburgh for one of John's training sessions for a group of our Safeguarding Co-ordinators. John helpfully facilitated those there to explore the role of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator; the SEC's Safeguarding Policy; and raised awareness of resources, responsibilities, risks, and support.



**December 2023**



Andi Hofbauer was installed as Priest-in-Charge of St Cuthbert's Hawick and St John's Jedburgh in December.

There were a further four appointments as Rector or as Priest-in-Charge this past year:

Rosie Addis - Rector of St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow

Matthew Rushton - Rector of Christ Church Edinburgh

Michael Johns-Perring - Priest-in-Charge of St Fillan's Edinburgh Gav Burnage - Priest-in-Charge of the Priory Church of St Mary of Mount Carmel, South Queensferry

Additionally,

Lesley Penny is now serving as Curate-in-Charge at St John's Selkirk, and St Peter's Galashiels;

David Bagnall is serving as Associate Rector at St John's Edinburgh; and Ryan Bennett is serving as Associate Rector at Christ Church Edinburgh.

We look forward to welcoming Gill Hitchin as Priest-in-Charge of St Matthew's, Roslin from March.

And St Michael and All Saints, Edinburgh, and St Peter's, Musselburgh, are currently advertising for Rector and Priest-in-Charge, respectively.

**January 2024**



I am one of the Provincial Standing Committee's appointees on the Preparatory Committee for the calling of a bishop to Argyll and The Isles. The Preparatory Committee met for the first time in Oban last month in December, following a meeting of the Argyll and The Isles Electoral Synod. Since then, the Preparatory Committee has met frequently online; and we'll be back in Oban next month in March.



## **February 2024**

As Dean of Edinburgh, I am one of the Trustees of The Guntrip Trust SCIO. The Trustees meet several times each year, and our most recent meeting was last week.

The Guntrip Trust exists to assist education and training in the field of human relations; and to provide bursary assistance for people who may be ordained or non-ordained, who are fulfilling a designated ministerial role within the Christian church or other faith traditions and who reside in Scotland or the North of England, within bounds of the Anglican Province of York.

Many people engaged in the day-to-day work of ministry find support through various forms of counselling and psychotherapy, spiritual direction, and supportive supervision/ consultation.

Sometimes, however, issues arise that call for deeper exploration of the emotional life; much of which can be complex and remain unconscious in our day-to-day lives. This is where psychodynamic counselling or psychoanalytic psychotherapy can help.



Offering bursaries for those in religious vocations seeking psychotherapy, counselling, or training.

**Looking ahead to the immediate future, it's back to the reality – the blessings and the challenges - of the day to day. Bishop, members of Synod, this is my report.**



**The Very Revd Frances Burberry  
Dean of Edinburgh, February 2024**