



Scottish Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Edinburgh

Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love



Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield



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**

4 April 2024

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News



Diocesan Autumn Synod

The next meeting of Synod will be on the evening of **Thursday 24th October 2024** at St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh.

At the February Diocesan Synod there were a number of presentations. These are now uploaded to the web page where all the resources were published. Bishop John's address to Synod can also be found [here](#).

Diocesan Office Visit

On 18th April the Diocesan Office once more relocates for the day. After the successful visit to the Borders Area Council last Autumn, we visit the Mid & East Lothian Area Council and will take up residence for the day at the Trinity Centre in Haddington (next to Holy Trinity Church). Any clergy, Lay Reader or Vestry Member/officer will be very welcome to come and see us, and chat face to face – just as those living in Edinburgh have the ability of doing at our West End office. We'll be there between 10.30am and 3.30pm

Diocesan Administrator

Now that Godfrey has retired as Diocesan Secretary, Simon is experiencing a sharp increase in contact message and emails. Added to this has been Synod preparations, but also queries about several areas which are not any part of his work (Prayer Cycle, Rector Installation arrangements, Vestry Training Days and much more).

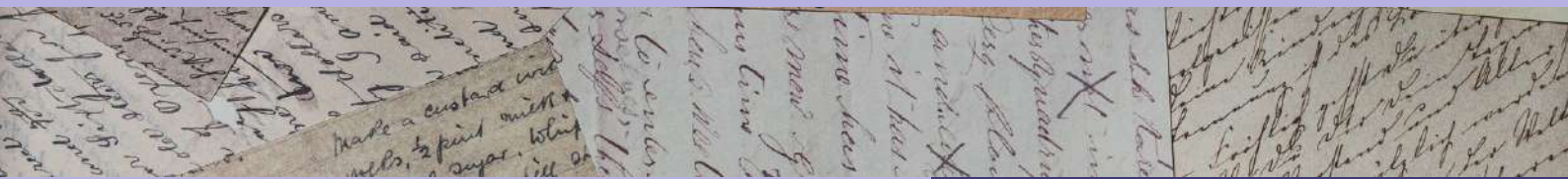
Before contacting Simon as a 'default' we would be immensely grateful if you would either **check the information already sent out for contact points and look at the [Staff page on the website](#)**:

It explains the areas that all the staff are responsible for and it will help you get a quicker and more-informed reply. Simon's inbox and voicemail has been overwhelmed recently so we would be very grateful if you would check the information, as above, rather than using a 'default' contact method.

Much appreciated!

Simon

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.

Staffing

Miranda will be leaving us on 10 April to take up a new role with Museums and Galleries Edinburgh. her role will be advertised in due course, but in the meantime please send any communications queries to communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Office News & Notices



Quinquennial Reports

We are aware that a significant number of reports remain overdue – in some cases by several years. Many of them are for rectories. It is a Canonical obligation to commission one every 5 years but, almost more importantly for vestries, **the absence of a report jeopardises the success of grant funding** – particularly the Provincial Green Grants mentioned above. Please check when your last ones were done on each property. Further details, including the required Proforma, can be found at: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-vestry-resources/resources-diocesan-office-buildings/>

Provincial Green Grants

Over the last month the Diocesan Buildings Committee has received a number of applications for Provincial Buildings Grants which include work to improve energy efficiency etc. Several were prefaced that the basis for the application was due to having heard that “grants were available for Carbon Zero projects”. We know that they will be available soon, but any applications at this point are premature. All we know at present from the Province is:

“It is currently anticipated that new grant application forms and process will be introduced in April. There will be two new forms – one specifically for work to rectories, the other for work to all other church buildings. We are hoping to hold a Zoom meeting in the second half of April to provide an opportunity for dioceses to learn more about the new funds, forms and process”

Until we have attended that meeting, we will not know anything about the process or what the financial commitment of the diocese might be. We will let you know (here) as soon as we know ourselves.



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 10 April: God's invitation to relationship (a six week introduction to ways of praying), ONLINE

Saturday 13 April: Ring Out for Climate Justice, St Mary's Cathedral

Wednesday 17 April: Taizé prayer with one of the brothers of the Taizé Community, Greyfriars Kirk

Saturday 27 April: Retreat / Restore / Inspire, St Ninian's, Comely Bank

Saturday 4 May: Plants are our Teachers Workshop 2: Dynamic Plant Drawing, St Mary's Cathedral

Saturday 11 May: The Big Day 2024: Let us Pray!, St Mary's Cathedral

Mission and Ministry

MISSION

The BIG Day: Let us Pray.

It is just over a month until our 2024 Diocesan BIG Day, and the time has come to get your congregation signed up...just so we have enough sandwiches for everyone! We have a veritable feast of prayer-based workshops lined up, as well as all-in worship, Taize, and sung compline. Just as importantly, it is a time to get together as a Diocese, meet old friends, and make new ones.

If you wish posters or leaflets to advertise further, please contact Phoebe, Joanna or Fee to be sent either hard copies or electronic files for you to print. Or share the links below.

[Events page on Diocese website](#)

[Sign-up form](#)



Play Church Appeal

Play Church Appeal! We are looking to enhance our Play Church with a couple of additional items. We would love some more white servers' robes / albs. If any congregation has something white and child-ish size squirrelled away somewhere they would be prepared to donate, please do get in touch. The other is a small processional cross. These are unlikely to be lying around spare, but if you—or someone you know—is interested in helping us make one, we would be delighted to hear from you. In either case, please get in touch with Fee Reynolds. Thank you!

Young People

Do you work with children and young people in the Diocese of Edinburgh? YOU are invited to a day just for you on Saturday 27th April in St Ninian's, Comely Bank. For more information and to book:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/event/retreat-restore-inspire/>



Diary



Saturday 13 – Tuesday 16 April Visit of Bishop Kaisamari from Espoo Diocese

Monday 15 April Diocesan Office closed (Public Holiday)

Thursday 18 April +John attends Provincial Standing Committee

Thursday 18 April Diocesan Office visit to Mid & East Lothian Area Council (Haddington)

Monday 22 - Wednesday 25 April +John visits Cork, Ireland, for Celtic Bishops' Meeting



Have you got news or stories from your church you'd like to share? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please drop us a line at communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

Tag us on your socials!

and follow us at the links below.

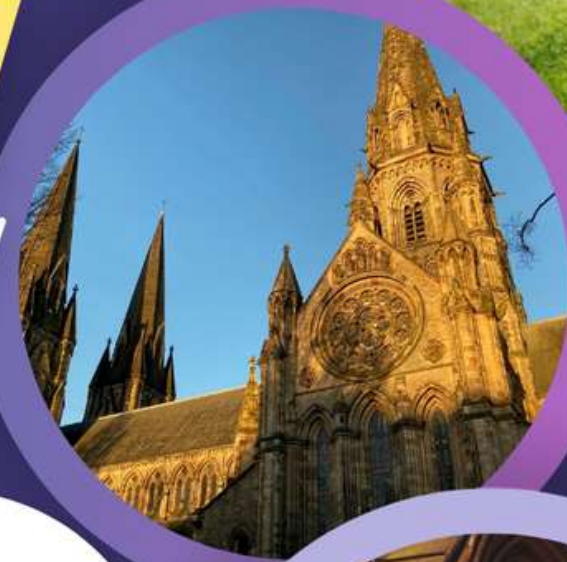
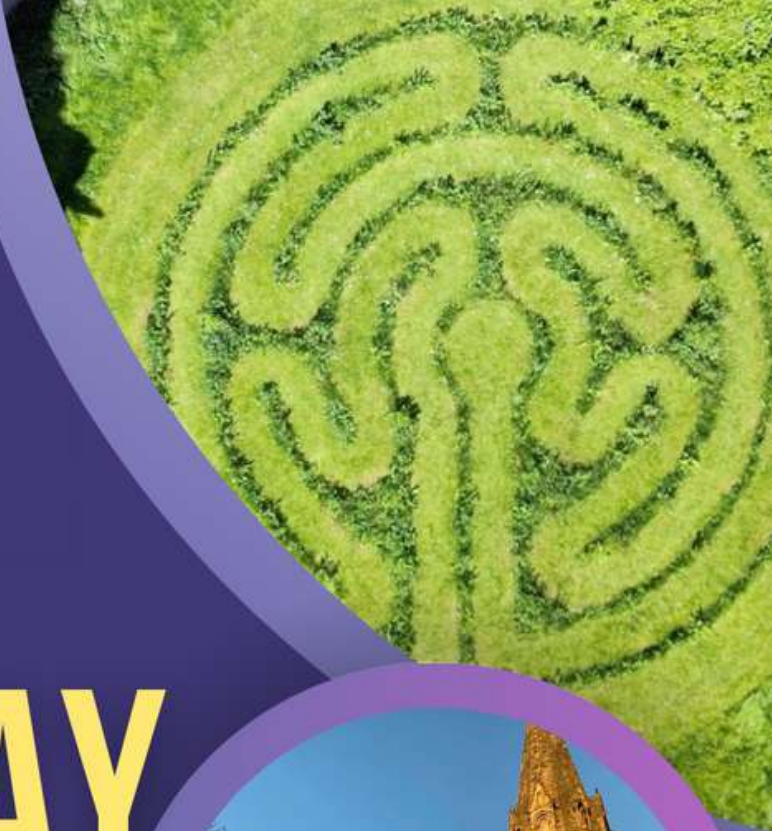




— Diocese of —
EDINBURGH

THE BIG DAY

Let Us Pray!



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



Worship and Song



Prayer Workshops



Individual Prayer Stations



edinburgh.anglican.org



St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh