



# Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



St Peter's Church, Lutton Place, Edinburgh



*Published by the Diocesan Office fortnightly, and circulated to all Clergy, Lay Readers, Treasurers & Vestry Secretaries, and Diocesan Synod Lay & Alternate Lay Representatives.*

**NEXT EDITION:**  
**13 June 2024**

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# The Communicant

**News & Notices for the Diocese of  
Edinburgh**

**30 May 2024**

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# News and Notices

## New Diocesan Secretary



### **Professor Wilson Poon will be the Diocese of Edinburgh's next Diocesan Secretary, the Bishop of Edinburgh has announced.**

Wilson is a member of Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, and Professor in the University of Edinburgh's School of Physics and Astronomy.

Having accepted on Thursday the Diocesan Standing Committee's invitation to take up the post, the decision will come to the autumn meeting of Diocesan Synod for ratification.

The Bishop of Edinburgh, The Rt Revd Dr John Armes, said: "I am pleased to announce that Professor Wilson Poon has accepted Standing Committee's invitation to be our next Diocesan Secretary. This decision will come to the autumn meeting of the Diocesan Synod for ratification.

"The primary duties of the Diocesan Secretary are set out in the Canons of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Each holder of the office also brings their own experience and gifts to the role and shapes it very differently. But the bottom line is that they are a key lay person in the diocese who works closely with bishop and dean as well as our various committees.

"I am very grateful that Wilson has been willing to undertake this new responsibility alongside his many other commitments."

Wilson added: "My reading of Scripture—for example, Exodus 18:13-17 and Acts 6:1-7—has long convinced me that appropriate organisation and administration are of deep spiritual significance for the people of God, and that these need to be renewed as needs and times change.

"I am therefore looking forward to serving in this role and playing my part in helping churches throughout the diocese to be the presence of Christ in today's world. I hope to have the opportunity to meet and get to know many of you over the coming months."

Please pray for Wilson as he works his way into this new role.

## Janet McKinnell to step down as Warden of Lay Readers

### **The Diocese's Warden of Lay Readers, Janet McKinnell, will step down after 15 years of service, the Bishop of Edinburgh has announced.**

Janet, who is part of the congregation of Holy Trinity, Haddington, East Lothian, will bring her tenure to a close at the end of July.

The Bishop of Edinburgh, The Rt Revd Dr John Armes, said: "I am so grateful to Janet for her 15 years of service in this role, for her diligence in pastoral care and in promoting Lay Reader ministry within the diocese and the province.

"I have always found her advice and support invaluable. Lay Readers offer an often unseen yet vital contribution to ministry in many of our charges.

"Thank you, Janet, we wish you well as you explore where your ministry will next take you."

Lay Readers play a pivotal function in the Diocese of Edinburgh and wider Scottish Episcopal Church, assisting priests with pastoral work, outreach, preaching, teaching and spiritual development. They are not normally paid a stipend.

Alan Baker has been appointed as the new Warden for Lay Readers, and will soon take up formally the position.

The Bishop of Edinburgh commented: "I am delighted to announce that Alan Baker has accepted my invitation to be our new Warden of Lay Readers.

"Alan is Lay Reader at St Ninian's, Comely Bank, having begun his ministry in the Church of England."

Alan Baker added: "I am honoured to take on the role of Warden of Lay Readers and I hope that I can fulfil it diligently and compassionately.

"Lay Readers have a great deal to offer and I look forward to working with them, so their gifts may find full expression in the communities they serve, and beyond."

Please hold Alan in your prayers as he works with Janet over the coming months to enable a smooth transition.



# News and Notices

## Bishop's Lent Appeal

A last call for donations to the Appeal. We have already received c.£8,000 from congregations, which is a wonderful sum to be able to send. You will be fully aware that the conflict goes on, and the work of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, for disabled children and their families from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, continues within such a challenging time. You can still donate via this link: [www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/JPBC](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/JPBC). Alternatively, you can send payments to our bank account, marked 'BLA24': Edinburgh Diocesan Synod; Sort Code: 60-01-73; Account No: 00215170.



## Contacting us

We are working on updates to our website to help you find resources/answers but, before contacting Simon as a 'default' do check any information already sent out for contact points or look at the [Staff page on the website](#). It explains the areas that all the staff are responsible for. Also, you could use the **Online Support Forum**.

- Register [here](#) or login [here](#)

## John Stuart to be made Lay Canon on GSO retirement

John Stuart, who will step down after 28 years as Secretary General of the SEC's General Synod in July, will be made a Lay Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, next month.

All are welcome to attend his installation at Evensong on Sunday 9th June at 3.30pm.

Bishop John paid tribute to John at Diocesan Synod in February; his remarks featured in the SEC's [social media release](#).

Instead of receiving a personal gift, Mr Stuart has said that anyone who would like to mark his tenure is welcome to make a donation to the Scottish Episcopal Institute Training Fund - donations can be made via the link on [this page](#).

Thank you, John!



## Vacancies

**The Diocesan Office** is now advertising for a new:

- **PA to the Bishop and Dean** (30hrs). The deadline for applications is Sunday 23rd June and full details are on our website - [click here](#).

**St Peter's Church, Musselburgh**, is looking for:

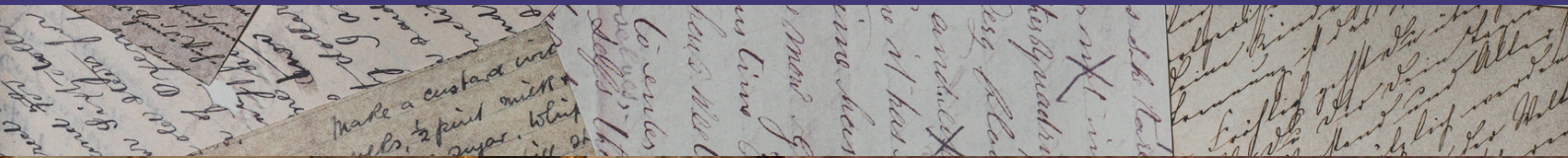
- **Full-time Priest-in-Charge**. The deadline for applications is 15th July and full details are on the church's website - [click here](#).

**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](mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org)**

Follow us on social media (click for the links)



# News and Notices



## Bishop John meets the Archbishop of Canterbury

+John said: "Wonderful to spend time with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop Andrew Swift while attending the Church of Scotland General Assembly last week.

"I am thankful for our partnership in the Gospel, and for the links the Edinburgh Diocese and wider Scottish Episcopal Church have with The Church of England, Church of Scotland and Christians of many denominations across the UK and world."

Diocesan Online Support Forum

BUILDINGS CONVENORS PVG COORDINATORS VESTRY SECRETARIES VESTRY TREASURERS CHURCH ADMINISTRATORS/MANAGERS

SEARCH ALL TOPICS FORUM HELP SHEET

## Signposts

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

There are now 99 users signed up to our [Online Support Forum](#), where you can ask your colleagues from across the diocese for help and advice.

Recent posts include:

- Counting footfall
- Health & safety
- CAF Bank Changes
- Energy Savings Advice
- Contactless Donations.

The areas covered by the forum for each role are:

- Buildings Convenors
- PVG Coordinators
- Vestry Secretaries
- Church Administrators
- Treasurers.

## Recommended listening from Bishop John

"I was very moved to hear of the Bishop of Chelmsford's recent visit to the Holy Land. The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani has long experience of that part of the world. +Guli's interview with Francis Martin from the Church Times puts the present crisis in helpful context.

You can listen to the podcast here: <https://t.ly/UP3Ag>

+Guli speaks of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre which the Diocese of Edinburgh supported in our Lent Appeal, and of the plight of Palestinians presently in Israeli gaols.

I would commend her insights and agree with her that we must see an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages and borders open to allow aid to relieve the immense suffering in Gaza.

+Guli also wrote a diary of her visit, which you can read here: <https://t.ly/zuMIF>

She undertook the visit with the aim of showing solidarity with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Christians in the region, and of learning more about the conflict and its impact on the Diocese and local communities.

Similar to our Lent Appeal in the Diocese of Edinburgh, the Bishop of Chelmsford supported the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's Healthcare Ministry this year.

My thanks go to everyone around the Diocese who has contributed generously to this year's Appeal. It is still possible to contribute for a short while; see p.2 for the final call.

+John

# Mission and Ministry

## *Pentecost Course*

### *Faith is a Verb*

*Mondays on Zoom: 6:30-8pm*

*6 weeks from 20th May*

*Register: [freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org)*



The Diocese of Edinburgh (Scottish Episcopal Church) Registered Charity SC001214 [edinburgh.anglican.org](http://edinburgh.anglican.org)

### Faith is a Verb: Zoom Course for Pentecost

The Diocesan Advisor for Christian Life, Fee Reynolds, will be offering the 2023 Lent Course as a 'Pentecost Course', for anyone across the Diocese. It will take place on Zoom on Monday evenings, starting at 6:30pm and finishing at 8pm. The first evening will be Monday 20th May and the final session on Monday 24th June. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Fee: 0131 346 9089 or [freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org).

### Youth Event: 1st June

Diocesan teenagers are invited to gather on Saturday 1st June at 4:30pm. We will meet at Waverley Station steps at 4:00pm and make our way to St Mark's Portobello. You can also may your own way to St Mark's for 4:45pm. Pick up, if required, will be 8:00pm from St Mark's. Further information from Fee Reynolds.



## YOUTH

### End of Exams Picnic

**Sat 1st June@St Mark's Portobello**

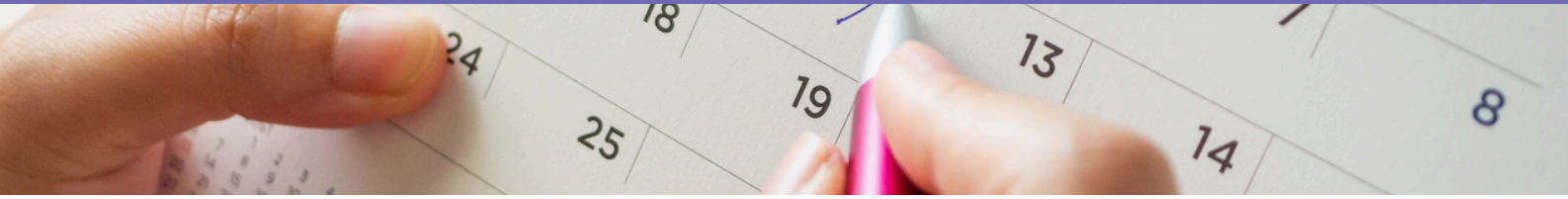
For all those 12-18,  
whether or not you actually sat any exams!



## REMINDER

**Clergy and Lay Readers** are reminded that the date of our forthcoming CMD day is now **Tuesday 18th June.**  
Venue: Old St Pauls, Edinburgh.

# Diary



**Sunday 2nd June** Bishop presiding at St Ninian's, Comely Bank

**Monday 3rd June** Diocesan Buildings Committee

**Sunday 9th June** Installation of John Stuart, Honorary Lay Canon, St Mary's Cathedral

**Thursday 13th to Saturday 15th June** General Synod

**Thursday 24th October** Diocesan Autumn Synod

## Events



### Add to our online Events Calendar

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](#). It's easy to do!

### Events Highlights

**Thursday 30 May:** [Is this the right time for you and your church to explore Anna Chaplaincy?](#), FIOF (online)

**Saturday 1 June:** [Summer Fair & BBQ](#), St Leonard's (Lasswade) and St Mary's (Dalkeith), in Dalkeith

**Saturday 1 June:** [Children's Come and Sing with Jonah-man Jazz](#), St Mary's Cathedral

**Tuesday 4 June:** [Unlocking funding to "green" your church mission webinar](#) (online)

**Wednesday 5 June:** [Place for Hope: Responding to Challenging Behaviour](#) (online)

**Friday 7 June:** [Finding Petunia LittleTree \(physical theatre/dance re climate change\)](#), St Columba's by the Castle

**Saturday 8 June:** [Finding Petunia LittleTree \(physical theatre/dance re climate change\)](#), St Columba's by the Castle, Edinburgh

**Tuesday 18 June:** [Place for Hope: Leading Through Change Transition](#) (online)

**Friday 21 June:** [Edinburgh Springboard 2.0: Bridging the Gaps between Arts and Climate](#), St Mary's Cathedral

**Saturday 29 June:** [Plants are our Teachers Workshop 3: Moss and Lichen](#), St Mary's Cathedral

**Monday 1 - Tuesday 2 July:** [Don Cupitt & The Sea of Faith 40th Anniversary Conference](#) (Emmanuel College, Cambridge)

**Saturday 6 July:** [Plants are our Teachers Workshop 4: A Forest in and Inch of Moss](#) (St Mary's Cathedral)