



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Holy Trinity, Melrose

The *Communicant*

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

10 July 2025

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Diocese of Edinburgh
21A Grosvenor Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 5EL
office@edinburgh.anglican.org
0131 538 7033
SC001214

News and Notices

Synod • Canon 4

A Special Meeting of Diocesan Synod took place on Tuesday 24 June via Zoom. It considered changes to Sections 12 & 26. These were to change the 12-month time-limit for completing the Episcopal Election process and to allow the voting process to be combined across Houses rather than just within Clergy and within Lay Houses. There were other minor grammatical updates. There were 83 votes cast and the updates were unanimously supported. Notes/Minutes will be published in due course.



We are recruiting...

As part of our Administrative Review, the Personnel Committee is creating a new post of Finance & Support Officer to replace the Assistant Diocesan Administrator role but increasing the hours to 25 p/wk. It will take more of the time-consuming finance work from the Diocesan Administrator's desk, as well as from the Diocesan Treasurer. It also takes over the IT and office management as well as the administration of the clergy & lay database. It is hoped that this will enable Simon Filsell to focus on more strategic and project work.



Please share this with anyone you think might be interested. See our [vacancies web page](#).

Clergy Changes

On 1 September 2025, The **Revd Janet Spence** will be installed as the **Rector of Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains**.

Bishop John's Departure: Key Dates

- **Friday 1 August** – deadline for financial contributions for Bishop John's leaving gift. If using BACS, use reference BSHP25, and send to Sort Code: 60-01-73 and Account Number: 00215170 (Edinburgh Diocesan Synod).
- **Sunday 24 August** – Cathedral Evensong will be Bishop John's final service.



Bishop's Lent Appeal News

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Bishop's 2025 Lent Appeal. The final total stands at **£8418.12**.

In 2024, the Bishop's Lent Appeal raised **£13,885** for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre.

The Very Revd Frances Burberry has received a thank you letter from the General Director of the Centre, Violette Mubarak, which is reproduced below.

Dear Frances,

On behalf of our Palestinian staff, families/caregivers and children, my heartfelt thanks to you and to all in the Diocese of Edinburgh for your support for our ministry at the Jerusalem Princess Basma through the Bishop's Lent Appeal last year. We have commissioned an Armenian tile in your honour, along with others for their gifts in 2024, and this has just been mounted here in our Child Rehabilitation Centre.



Our teams in Jerusalem and in Gaza remain faithful to our vision to alleviate suffering and bring hope to Palestinian children with disabilities and their families through these very uncertain days.

And so we join you in prayer for the safety of all peoples in these lands, especially in Gaza and for the well-being of our Princess Basma team of now eight staff at our unit in Al Ahli Arab Hospital.

One of therapists there, pictured, tells us:

"My motivation to continue is driven by love; love for the work, love for the city, and love for the people, standing by them and sharing their pain. Despite the challenges, my presence in the field provides a ray of hope for children and their families."



Thank you once again for sharing this mission with us, especially in these days, as we seek to bring light and hope, and to walk alongside our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

Violette Mubarak, General Director

News and Notices

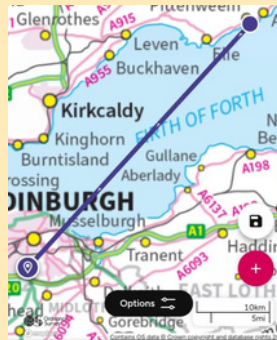
Farewell Fundraising Challenge for St Fillan's

Before he leaves the diocese at the end of August, The Revd Michael Johns-Perring, Priest-in-Charge of St Fillan's, Buckstone, is taking on a fundraising challenge – to walk from St Fillan's Church to St Fillan's Cave in Pittenweem.



Any funds raised will go towards creating a new, accessible side entrance for the church, as currently there is no step-free access to the church toilets.

Michael's two-day hike of more than 50 miles is planned for 1 and 2 August. His first attempt at plotting his route from St Fillan's Church to St Fillan's Cave gave him a straight line across the Forth... "I might be ordained, but I can't walk on water."



If you would like to make a donation, [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! Drop us a line at: communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org



Don't forget to like and share what we post on the diocesan social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky). It does make a difference. Links above!



Unfinished Music and Hope

The Revd Oliver Brewer-Lennon, Rector of St Michael and All Saints, Tollcross, recently spoke at a conference held at New College, "Therefore I Have Hope", about how unfinished music might be a sign of hope – a suggestion that what is left incomplete still draws us forward. The talk was recorded and is available on the [St Michael and All Saints website](#).



Don't forget to email us if you have upcoming job vacancies so we can promote them for you!

Vacancies



Diocesan Office

- **Finance & Support Officer.** [More details](#)



Ps & Gs, Edinburgh

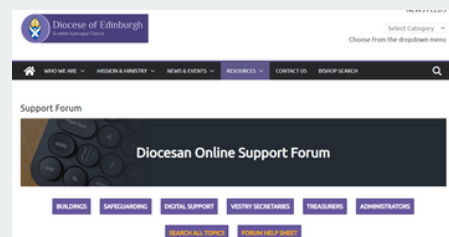
- **Deputy Director of Children's Ministry.**
- **Production Coordinator**
- **Church Housekeeper**

[More details on the Ps & Gs vacancies page.](#)

Find details of all vacancies on our [Vacancies page](#).

Online Support

Get answers from your colleagues around the diocese via the Online Support Forum. There are sections for Treasurers, Secretaries, PVG Coordinators, Buildings Convenors, and more. Register [here](#) and login [here](#).



Mission & Ministry

Taizé Pilgrimage

Since the last edition of The Communicant, a group of young adults and two leaders have spent a week at Taizé, France, on a Diocesan-organised trip, returning on Monday 7 July.

Five of the Scottish Episcopal Church's seven dioceses were represented on the trip, which was faithfully documented by James Gardner, Youth and Children's Worker at the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane.

As the week progressed we reproduced James's social media posts and blogs on the diocesan website. You can read them all [here](#). We've included a few of James's pictures below.



Edinburgh City Centre Historic Churches Walking Trail



Launch of New Walking Trail

As part of the work of DMMC over the past year, we have pulled together a leaflet, *Edinburgh City Centre Historic Churches Walking Trail*. This trail will be 'launched' by a group walking the trail, and anyone can join us 🦶 We will leave **St Giles Cathedral at 10:30am on Thursday 24 July** and finish up at St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place. We're aiming to take pictures as we go, so look out for some in the next edition of The Communicant!

The next Trustee Training session is taking place on **Saturday 15 November**.

The venue is the Trinity Centre in Haddington, and we meet from 9am until 1pm.

Please register by clicking on the image (left) or the link below.

Hot breakfast rolls are provided from 9am until the training proper starts at 9:30am!



TRUSTEE
Training



New date!

Saturday 15 November

Join us at 9am for some breakfast (provided!)

Get into the training at 9:30am

Finish by 1pm

@ Trinity Centre, Church Street, Haddington, EH41 3EX

tinyurl.com/NovTrustee

[Register here or via tinyurl.com/NovTrustee](https://tinyurl.com/NovTrustee)

July 19: SEC Net Zero Roadshow at St Mary's Cathedral

[Register for the Net Zero event at this link!](#)



July 17: Annual Service of Dedication at St Paul's Cathedral, London

July 22: Institution of The Revd Juliet Stephenson as Rector of St Columba's by the Castle, Edinburgh

July 26: Ordination of the Revd Fiona (Fee) Reynolds to the Priesthood at St Ninian's, Comely Bank

July 27: Preaching at St Cuthbert's, Hawick

Revd J Richardson R.I.P.

Clergy will wish to know of the recent death of The Revd Canon John Malcolm Richardson, formerly Curate of Old St Paul's in Edinburgh from 1984–1986. He retired to Forfar in the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



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

- **Until 23 July:** [Stories of Belief: Celebrating 900 Years of Faith Communities in Edinburgh](#). An audio-visual exhibition running at [St Mary's Cathedral](#) until [15 July](#), then the [St James Quarter](#) from [16 to 23 July](#).
- **19 July:** [Net Zero Roadshow](#), St Mary's Cathedral
- **1 to 22 August:** [Just Festival](#), various locations in Edinburgh
- **1 to 31 August:** [Festival at St Mary's](#), St Mary's Cathedral
- **10 to 16 August:** [Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts](#), various locations in Edinburgh
- **15 to 17 August:** [Edinburgh's Festival of Faiths](#), Lauriston Castle

