



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Photo: S Filsell



St Marys, Dalkeith

The *Communicant*

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

7 August 2025

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News and Notices

DIOCESAN OFFICE RELOCATION



You may have seen in [Inspires Online](#) that, due to operational and maintenance issues, the General Synod Office is moving out of Forbes House – which means the same for us in the Diocesan Office, as we rent our offices from the GSO. There are many discussions taking place about our new home, but we have at least been given the offer of space at the new location of the GSO, which is likely to be in the city centre and close to all the transport links. This is due to happen before the end of the year, so please (again!) bear with us as we deal with this relocation alongside the Episcopal Election work, new staff and all the usual autumn busyness.

SYNOD CLERK ELECTION

Following the Revd Canon Sarah Shaw's move to Glasgow, the voting Presbyters and Deacons present in the Diocesan Synod will need to elect a new Synod Clerk. The voting will take place on 27 September for which a Special Synod will be called when the Preliminary Electoral Synod gathers at St Mary's Cathedral.

Nominations with bios should be sent to dioadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org to arrive by Friday 29 August.

This is advance notice to give eligible clergy time to discern their nomination. The Synod Clerk's Role Description can be found within Canon 44. The nomination form will be available for download from the [diocesan website](#) in the next few days.

Reflective walk in nature

Alan Baker, Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers, is leading a Reflective Walk at the Botanic Garden in Edinburgh on 12 August at 2.20pm for a 2.30pm start. The walk will take approximately 45 minutes, with coffee or tea afterwards. If you're interested in joining this walk, please email Alan at alanwbaker@live.com.



New primary schools singing programme

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral is launching the Edinburgh Schools Singing Programme this August. The programme aims to provide weekly, curriculum-based singing lessons to state school primary classes. In addition to the school classes, after-school choirs are being formed which will draw together pupils from different schools and backgrounds, offering further opportunities for practice and performance at an exceptional standard.

The programme builds on recent efforts by the Cathedral to share its expertise in choral singing by leading singing workshops in primary schools and running the weekly singing programme in one school.

To enable the delivery of the full programme, Katrina MacKinnon (pictured) has been appointed as St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral's Schools Choral Director.



Read more on the [diocesan website](#).

FINANCE & SUPPORT OFFICER

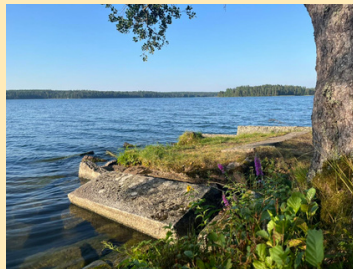
The deadline for applications for this post in the Diocesan Office has now closed and we are in the process of shortlisting. We hope to announce an appointment in the next edition of *The Communicant*. We have had 34 applications, so thank you to all the sharing of the advert that was done!

News and Notices

Fun in Finland

The Revd Fee Reynolds, our Advisor for Christian Life, and Phoebe Pryce of the Provincial Youth Committee spent last week helping to lead an English-speaking confirmation camp in our linked diocese of Espoo, Finland. The weather ranged from pouring to scorching!

Some highlights are shown below. For a day-by-day account of the week, visit the [Edinburgh Diocese Youth and Children Facebook page](#).



Ordinations and Installations

10 August, 7pm: The Revd Eilidh Proudfoot to be ordained as Priest at St Paul's and St George's, Edinburgh.

1 September, 7pm: The Revd Janet Spence to be instituted as the Rector of Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains. Please RSVP by 18 August to beverleylnaidoo@gmail.com if you wish to attend, advising if you would like to robe (white stole for clergy, usual Sunday robes for others).

16 September: The Revd David Bagnall to be instituted as Rector of St John the Evangelist, Princes Street.

6 October: The Revd Ross Jesmont to be instituted as Rector of St Salvador's, Stenhouse.

Challenge completed!



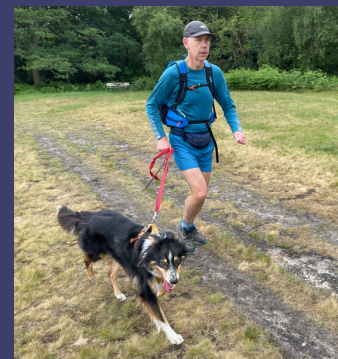
Just after 8pm on Saturday 2 August, The Revd Michael Johns-Perring completed his walk from St Fillan's, Buckstone to St Fillan's Cave, Pittenweem.

You can catch up on Michael's journey on the [St Fillan's Facebook page](#), which includes video footage of the moment he reached St Fillan's Cave. If you'd like to donate to his appeal to create an accessible entrance to St Fillan's Church, you can do so [here](#).

One bishop and his dog run the Pennine Way

The Bishop of Kingston, The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, and his faithful dog Jem are currently running the Pennine Way to raise funds to build new schools in Zimbabwe. The energetic pair will be averaging a marathon a day for ten days, camping together along the way. They started on 1 August.

The Pennine Way finishes at Kirk Yetholm, Scottish Borders – so Bishop Martin will be completing his run within the Diocese of Edinburgh! [Find the full story here](#).



Have you got news or stories from your church you'd like to share?

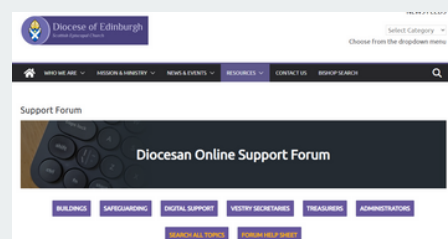
If so, we'd love to hear from you! Drop us a line at: communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org



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!

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](#).



August 11: Buildings Committee



August 10: Festival Mass at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral

August 10: Ordination of the Revd Eilidh Proudfoot to the Priesthood at St Paul's and St George's

August 17: Preaching at St Mary the Virgin, Dalkeith

August 24: Choral Evensong/Farewell Service at St Mary's Cathedral

Ordination of The Revd Fiona (Fee) Reynolds as Priest, St Ninian's Comely Bank, 26 July 2025

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 22 August:** [Just Festival](#), various locations in Edinburgh
- **Until 31 August:** [Festival at St Mary's](#), St Mary's Cathedral
- **12 August:** [Reflective Walk in Nature](#), Royal Botanical Gardens
- **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

Edinburgh Fringe Recommendation: *Perfectly Imperfect* by Grant Bromley theSpace @ Surgeons' Hall, 12–16 August, 10:25pm (55 mins running time)

Bishop John writes: 'Grant Bromley is a friend of mine from my Lancashire days and a professional creator, writer and performer. *Perfectly Imperfect* is based on his own story, told with music and humour, of his discovery that he is deeply accepted for who he is as God's imperfect yet beloved child. Faith, friendship and love are the strong themes of the show; and Grant hopes that it will encourage anyone who has wondered whether their "imperfections" rule them out of God's care. I commend it to you and hope you might enjoy supporting Grant during this year's Fringe Festival.'

Find out more and book on [the Edinburgh Fringe website](#).

