



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Photo: S Filsell



St Michael & All Saints, Edinburgh

The *Communicant*

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

18 September 2025

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*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:
2 October 2025**

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News and Notices



Picture: Peter Backhouse

Bishop Search

Members of the Preparatory Committee met in Edinburgh on Saturday 6 September to begin building a strong, effective team – one that is well-equipped to carry out their responsibilities with care, integrity, and discernment.

The next event to note is the Electoral Synod and Special Diocesan Synod on 27 September. A timetable for the Bishop Search is now available on the [Bishop Search page of the diocesan website](#).

MANDATE AND SUMMONS

Following the retirement of Bishop Armes on 31 August, on 16 September 2025 the Primus, Bishop Mark Strange, issued a Mandate for an election for said vacant Bishopric. Bishop Andrew, as Convenor of the Electoral Synod, at request of Primus and instruction of College of Bishops, has issued Summons to the Preliminary Meeting of the Electoral Synod on Saturday 27 September.

SYNOD CLERK ELECTION

The Reverend Canon Sarah Shaw took up her new post as Vice Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway on 8 June 2025, thereby demitting the office of Synod Clerk in this diocese.

Canon 44 now requires the House of Clergy to vote for a new Synod Clerk. Two valid nominations were received by the published deadline of 31 August.

A short Special meeting of the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod to elect a Synod Clerk will take place at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 27 September within the timetable for the Preliminary Meeting of Edinburgh's Electoral Synod.

Website Refresh

Some of you may have already noticed that we (the staff team!) have finished a significant refresh of the front page and some other areas of our website. You can still find things quickly through the menu system, but we hope the front page layout will guide you if you don't know where to look. You will find all the newsletters in one place too. All the upcoming events are there as well as the very latest news.

If you have difficulty finding something, let us know. We are still developing a number of the 'back pages' so bear with us whilst we finish them. It's a work in progress, as ever!



STAFF & OFFICE NEWS



The work to relocate the Diocesan Office continues at pace whilst we look at options to share space with the General Synod Office or rent a separate suite of offices elsewhere. The small Relocation Group has made an initial report to the Finance & Management Committee as the decision-making deadlines get closer – we have to move in January. Options in the city centre and around the city are being considered as we try to find the best fit for the range of needs. Hold us in your thoughts and prayers as we consider this important decision.

Christmas Worship 2025 recording at St Giles' – help needed!

A Christmas Worship offering for BBC Television is being recorded in the High Kirk of Edinburgh on **Tuesday 23 September at 4pm**, as part of a series on prayer and reflection. You are warmly invited!

Doors open at 3.15pm. The Minister will conduct worship and the Cathedral Choir will, of course, be in good voice.

If you are able, [please register using this link](#) so there is an idea of numbers, but all are welcome at the door.



News and Notices



90 years young!

On 3 September, The Revd Dr Ian Clark celebrated the Eucharist at St Andrew's, Kelso, a couple of days before his 90th birthday. Revd Dr Clark came to know St Andrew's, Kelso in the 1950s, on holidays in the Borders. Born of Anglican and Presbyterian parentage, in his long life he has rung bells at St Mary's Cathedral, taken Evensong at the old Water of Leith Mission, studied at King's College, Cambridge and taught in a seminary in India, before providing 'Pulpit Supply' in Church of Scotland parishes in the Borders and serving as Honorary Assistant Priest in Kelso. Happy birthday, Ian!

On 16 September The Revd David Bagnall was Instituted as Rector of St John's, Princes Street. The service was recorded and you can [view it on Facebook](#).



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!

Call to Prayer

Sunday 21 September, the UN's International Day of Peace, also marks the World Council of Churches' International Day of Prayer for Peace.



The Rt Rev Ian Paton, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane, has expressed his hope in a video message that Scottish Episcopal churches will "observe this call to prayer in our services on 21st September. To pray for Gaza, for an immediate ceasefire, unfettered access to humanitarian relief, the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees, and a meaningful peace process. And also for Ukraine, Sudan, and every place where war rages."

Bishop Ian suggests that the experimental liturgical material for use in times of lament would be appropriate for this call to prayer. [The material is available at this link](#).

Further resources can be found via [the WCC](#), [Christian Aid](#), and [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#).

Free-kneeling!

St Leonard's, Lasswade is being refurbished – a new heating system, accessible toilet and servery area. The Revd Peter Harris says: "We now have a number (18) of pew seat cushion runners as seen in picture. 18 at 3300cm and a couple of runners 2400cm long. Happy for them to go to a new home." Please email Revd Harris for more information: revpharris@googlemail.com



Institutions and Collations

25 September: The Revd Amy Jo Philip to be collated as Priest-in-Charge of St Catharine's, Bo'ness and St Mary's, Grangemouth

6 October: The Revd Dr Ross Jesmont to be collated as Priest-in-Charge of St Salvador's, Stenhouse.



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

Vacancies

St Peter's, Peebles and St Andrew's, Innerleithen:
Priest-in-Charge, full-time position

St Michael and All Saints, Edinburgh:
Director of Music

Find details of all vacancies on our [Vacancies page](#). P.3

Mission & Ministry



Adventures in Faith September 2025

Welcome to Adventures in Faith: where everyone in the Diocese of Edinburgh can explore, learn, and grow in faith and fullness of life.

[Homepage](#) [Newsletter](#) [Calendar](#) [Courses](#) [Awareness](#)



Adventures in Faith

September Newsletter Out Now!

The latest edition of the Adventures in Faith Newsletter is out now: [Read here!](#)

This month, we are highlighting the call to Pray for Peace on Sunday 21 September (see p.3 above) and the opportunity to hear from a Palestinian Christian, who will be visiting Edinburgh later in September (see p.5 below). This is in addition to the regular update on courses, retreats, and events which cover a broad range of interests and tastes.

Why not have a read, share with a friend, and [register here to receive your copy in your inbox](#) every month?!

Afternoon Teas for Vestry Office Bearers

This autumn, we are hosting a series of Sunday Afternoon Teas for Vestry Secretaries, Wardens, Lay and Alt Lay Reps, and Treasurers. Start: 3:30pm. Finish around 5pm.

- * 21 September: St Peter's, Linlithgow
- * 5 October: Holy Trinity, Haddington
- * 12 October: St Ninian's, Comely Bank
- * 19 October: St Peter's, Galashiels
- * 9 November: St Ninian's, Comely Bank



[→ Register here ←](#)

Trustee Training

Ordained and lay vestry members alike are encouraged to attend Trustee Training on **Saturday 15 November** at the Trinity Centre, **Haddington**. Hot breakfast rolls are provided from 9am until the training proper starts at 9:30am! We conclude by 1pm.

[Register for the training here.](#)



TRUSTEE
Training



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

22 September: Buildings Committee

POSTPONED until a later date

25 September: Standing Committee

27 September: Preliminary Meeting of the Electoral Synod

25 September: Collation at St Mary's, Grangemouth

27 September: Preliminary Meeting of the Electoral Synod

6 October: Collation at St Salvador's, Stenhouse

Following the retirement of Bishop John Armes, Bishop Mark is our Acting Bishop. He will not be spending much time in Edinburgh Diocese, and much of the work that was done by Bishop Armes will be covered by Dean Frances. If you wish to contact the Bishop, please do so via [Hannah Marcus](#), who will coordinate all the various needs with Dean Frances and Bishop Mark's PA. Thank you.



Add to our online Events Calendar

Don't forget you can 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

- **20 September:** [Community Harvest Feast](#), St Michael and All Saints
- **21 September:** International Day of Prayer for Peace – see p. 3, above
- **21 September:** [Musical Play for Under 5s](#), Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains
- **21 September:** [Vestry Officers' Afternoon Tea](#), St Peter's, Linlithgow
- **21 September:** [Nature's Genius: Evolution's Lessons for a Changing Planet](#). Lecture by Professor David Farrier, Morningside Parish Church
- **23 September:** BBC Christmas Worship Recording at St Giles' – see p. 2, above
- **23 September:** [AI in Ministry](#), conference, Dalziel Saint Andrew's Parish Church
- **24 September:** [A Swinging Summer Concert](#), St Matthew's, Rosslyn Chapel
- **27 September:** [Come-and-Sing Evensong and Benediction](#), St Michael & All Saints
- **28 September:** [St Barnabas' Church Dedication Festival](#), St Barnabas, Moredun



Tent of Nations Events

Daoud Nassar, a Palestinian Christian from the [Tent of Nations](#), a family-owned farm near Bethlehem, is visiting Edinburgh from 24–25 September. There are three opportunities to see him:

24 September, 2–3:30pm: as part of Christian Aid's Prayers for Peace in the Middle East series. In-person at Augustine United Church, or online. [Register here.](#)

25 September, 1–2pm: University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy. [Register here.](#)

25 September, 7:30–9pm: St James-the-Less, Leith. [Register here.](#)

WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES

A STORY OF RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE IN PALESTINE

