



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Photo: P Backhouse



St Mary's Cathedral, 24 August 2025

The *Communicant*

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

4 September 2025

In this edition...

news & notices: pp.2 & 3
Mission & Ministry: p.4
diary & events: p.5

*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:
18 September 2025**

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

News and Notices



Photo: Peter Backhouse

Farewell to Bishop John!

Bishop John Armes retired as Bishop of Edinburgh on Sunday 31 August, after leading the Diocese for 13 years. With his wife Clare and his children and grandchildren he attended his final Choral Evensong at St Mary's Cathedral on 24 August.

You can read about Bishop John Armes' final Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral on the websites of the [Diocese of Edinburgh](#) and the [Scottish Episcopal Church](#), and take a trip down memory lane on the [Scottish Episcopal Church Facebook page](#), where there is a selection of photos spanning the various stages of his long career.

Diocesan Website – Refreshed

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. Much of the content actually remains the same but, we hope, it is now easier to find and easier to read. Each of the front page photo-buttons open a doorway to that area of the site and we have tried to customise them to each different audience/viewer. 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 – some you might not know we produce. All the upcoming events are there as well as the very latest news.

We don't pretend we have all this set up perfectly so, if you have difficulty finding something, let us know and we will see how we can improve it. We are still developing a number of the 'back pages' so bear with us whilst we try to finish all those. It's a work in progress, as ever!



STAFF & OFFICE NEWS

We are delighted to let you know that we have appointed Caroline Miller (*right*) to the new position of **Finance & Support Officer**. Caroline, a former Practice Manager at a law firm, will take over much of the daily finance work, office management and the database, and help Simon with all the committee work. She started this week, and has already been welcomed to the team!



Since Mollie Nijam (Comms Officer) went on maternity leave, we have been fortunate to have had **Robert Guthrie** covering all our Social Media work. Robert is now pursuing other freelance work and is stepping away from our work. He has produced some wonderful media for us and we wish him well. Please send any enquiries to Cathy Tingle: communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org

News and Notices



Bishops sign letter on child poverty: "act now to secure the futures of millions of children."

Image: Scottish Episcopal Church

Bishops' Letter on Child Poverty

Before his retirement at the end of August, Bishop John Armes was one of the seven bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church who signed a letter to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor asking them to "seize this moment to take decisive action to drive down child poverty."

The letter, which was drafted by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) of the Baptist, Methodist, and United Reformed Churches, has been signed by 38 faith leaders representing the five major faith groups in the UK.

The letter was sent to Downing Street on Sunday 31 August and calls for an abolition of the two child cap on social security. Recognising the economic pressure the government faces the letter goes on to make costed recommendations that increasing levies on gambling profits could be sufficient to raise half a million children out of poverty across the UK.

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

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!

Institutions and Collations

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



On 1 September, The Revd Janet Spence was instituted as Rector of Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains.



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

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

Mission & Ministry

Fancy something new this autumn?

Perhaps you wish to reflect on Ecological Matters? Then you can join with Morningside Parish Church's Autumn Lecture series.

If you prefer learn things from the comfort of your own home, you may wish to watch the Autumn Lecture series by The Church Times and St Martin-in-the-Fields where, for a small cost, you can hear some of the most prominent speakers of our day.

For all this and more, visit the [Courses page](#) on our website!

Or maybe you want to be more hands-on and creative, closer to home... in which case, check out the various events in the Diocese on our [Events Calendar](#). From singing The Messiah to Icon Painting, there is something for everyone of faith this autumn. **Happy Adventures!**



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

9 September: Finance & Management Committee

15 September: OFFICE CLOSED (Public Holiday)

16 September: Mission & Ministry Committee

18 September: CMD Day at St Columba's by the Castle

27 September: Preliminary Meeting of the Electoral Synod

12 September: Confirmations at St Peter's, Galashiels

16 September: Institution at St John the Evangelist, Princes Street.

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

- **6 September:** [Building Bridges Festival](#), St James, Leith
- **6 September:** [Sing Messiah! \(Melrose Music Festival\)](#), Melrose Parish Church Hall
- **7 September:** [Ecology, the Climate and the Need for Action](#), Lecture, Morningside Parish Church
- **11 and 12 September:** [FLOCK Children's Concerts](#), St Peter's, Musselburgh
- **12 to 14 September:** [Art Exhibition](#), St Mark's, Portobello
- **12 September:** [Responding to the Sacred+: A Panel Discussion](#), St Mary's Cathedral
- **14 September:** [Durufle Requiem and Sung Compline](#) (Melrose Music Festival), Holy Trinity, Melrose
- **15 September:** [Between Life and Debt: Panel Discussion](#), Chair Humza Yousaf MSP, St Augustine UC
- **16 September:** [Signing of the Saint Ninian Declaration](#), St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral and St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
- **17 September:** [Resources for Church Communities: A CMD Day](#), New College, Edinburgh

21 September: Christian Aid Calls Us to Pray for Peace in the Middle East



Christian Aid says: 'We believe the gravity of this moment demands a visible, united Christian witness—one that speaks to our shared commitment to peace, reconciliation, and the dignity of all God's people. In response we are urging churches across Britain to pray for peace on Sunday 21st September, coinciding with UN World Peace Day and the global call to prayer from the World Council of Churches.

'To support these actions, we are working with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to provide an online hub of resources: www.ctbi.org.uk/middle-east-prayers'