



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Photo: S Filsell



The Lady Chapel, St Mary's Cathedral

The *Communicant*

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

2 October 2025

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News and Notices



Picture: Peter Backhouse

Bishop Search

On Saturday, the Preliminary Meeting of the Electoral Synod took place at St Mary's Cathedral. Around 120 clergy and laity gathered to discuss the discernment process for our next bishop, and to feed back on our Diocesan Description.



A timetable for the Bishop Search is now available on the [Bishop Search page](#) of the diocesan website. As the process progresses, new information will continue to be added to this page, so do bookmark it!



SYNOD CLERK ELECTION

At the short Special meeting of the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod to elect a Synod Clerk on Saturday 27 September at St Mary's Cathedral, The **Reverend Liz O'Ryan** was elected by clergy to the position. Two valid nominations had been submitted.

AUTUMN SYNOD

A note to confirm that there will be **no Diocesan Synod** this Autumn. Instead, on Thursday 20 November, the Standing Committee will meet with 2x representatives from each Area Council to transact the formal business – such as the 2026 Budget.



Church Magazines...please!

In the distant past, when *The Edge* magazine was published, we were being sent your monthly church magazines from across the diocese. It was amazing to see what you were doing, and we told everyone else via *The Edge*. We have gradually seen all that reduce, and we now only get a few, and we'd like to change that.

PLEASE LET US HAVE COPIES OF YOUR MAGAZINES OR TELL US WHERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THEM!



Contact Cathy Ballantine via her email: communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org or just send paper copies in the post to the Diocesan Office.

We want to communicate all your news, around the diocese, and this will really help us to do that for you.

Thank you!



ARE YOU CONTACTING THE RIGHT PERSON?

We love hearing from you! However, we are aware that more and more queries are directed through the Diocesan Administrator as a 'default' position. We have a good 'signpost' [Office Staff webpage](#) now where you just click your subject area and it takes you to the right person! Some items have now changed, and some may even surprise you! We are also continuing to build our [Vestry Resources webpage](#) which could well have the answer anyway (Governance, Treasurers, Buildings, Church Management, Net Zero and *much* more). Click the links. Have a look!

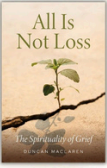


News and Notices

Duncan MacLaren and Canterbury Press invite you to the launch of

All Is Not Loss

The Spirituality of Grief



Friday 17th October 6pm
St James' Goldenacre
57B Inverleith Row
Edinburgh, EH3 5PX

Light refreshments will be provided and copies of the book will be available for sale

CANTERBURY PRESS For any queries, please contact dasm@outlook.com

The Revd Duncan MacLaren and Canterbury Press invite you to the launch of 'All Is Not Loss: The Spirituality of Grief', to be held at St James' Goldenacre at **6pm** on **Friday 17 October**.

Duncan is a priest within in the Diocese of Edinburgh. His book reflects on the fact that we experience grief and loss throughout our lives, and explores the possibility that such pervasive grief – far from being hopeless – may harbour hidden gifts and an invitation to spiritual growth. You can read more about the book's themes on a dedicated blog site: www.allisnotloss.org

Profits from the launch will go to St James' redevelopment project.



On 25 September, The Revd Amy Jo Philip was collated and licensed as transitional Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's, Grangemouth and St Catharine's, Bo'ness.

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!



INTERFAITH PEACE VIGIL

4th Oct, 2025 - 4pm

Black History Month 2025
Helix Park Peace Pole, Falkirk



1950 to 2025!

Congratulations to St Barnabas, Moredun on its 75th anniversary! St Barnabas was the first church to be built in the large new housing development of Moredun after the Second World War.

The milestone was celebrated in the evening of 1 October with a special Ecumenical Service.

Institutions and Collations

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

Support to Vestry Members

Sunday Afternoon Teas

Calling all Treasurers,
Vestry Secretaries, Wardens,
Lay and Alt Lay Reps!

Choose from the menu of dates
and locations, then join with
other Office Bearers for an
Afternoon Tea and a chance to
connect with others across the
Diocese.

Start at 3:30pm; Finish by 5pm

tinyurl.com/VestryTeas

5 October
Trinity Centre
Haddington

12 October
St Ninian's
Comely Bank

19 October
St Peter's
Galashiels

9 November
St Ninian's
Comely Bank



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

Subsidised Christmas Booklets to Give Away



This book is described as "An affirming Christmas gift to give to families, encouraging them to talk together, be creative, be hospitable, be celebratory, and including activities for all ages."

Congregations can order these books via the Diocese for the reduced and subsidised cost of **£1 per book**. [Have look at what the inside is like here](#), or view a copy the next time you're in the Office.

Order via this form and we will be in touch once they are available!

Newsletters

Two newsletters have come out from the Mission and Ministry Team in the past 10 days, full of information, resources, and ideas. Click the icons below and have a read!

YOUTH & CHILDREN
Updates & Newsletters

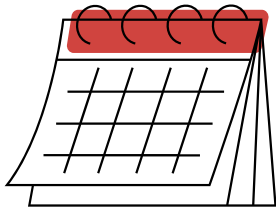


DMMC NEWS
Enabling mission and ministry
across the whole Diocese

Poverty in Scotland

In the run-up to the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May 2026, the SEC, in partnership with the Church of Scotland and other faith bodies, are focussing on the poverty facing too many people in Scotland. Learn a bit more during **Challenge Poverty Week (6-12 October)** and/or engage with the **Scotland Demands Better campaign**, which includes a March and Rally in Edinburgh on **Saturday 25 October**, at which the Primus will be present.

27 October: Diocesan Buildings Committee



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 Harcus](#), 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

- **3 October:** [Taizé: One Week in July](#), St James the Less, Penicuik
- **4 October:** [Plants Are Our Teachers: Linocuts](#), St Mary's Cathedral
- **4 October:** [Swap Shop at St Mary's Church, Dalkeith](#)
- **4 October:** [St Mary's Craft Fair](#), St Mary's, Dalmahoy
- **4 October:** [Interfaith Peace Vigil](#), Helix Park Peace Pole, Falkirk
- **4 October:** [The Vision of John](#), Chalmers Church, Edinburgh
- **5 October:** [Animal Blessing Service](#), St Mary's, Dalmahoy
- **5 October:** [St Francis Day Blessing of the Animals](#), St Peter's, Musselburgh
- **5 October:** [Musical Play for Under 5s](#), Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains
- **5 October:** [LGBTQ-urious About God?](#) St Peter's, Linlithgow
- **7 October:** [An Introduction to Building Conservation, Tour and Talk by Historic Environment Scotland](#), Engine Shed, Stirling
- **11 October:** [Mental Health, Faith and Community: Rethinking How the Church Cares](#), with Professor John Swinton, St Mary's Cathedral



ST FRANCIS DAY
Blessing of the Animals

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY 10.30am
at St Peter's on the High Street (near Lucas)

for a special service
of thanksgiving and blessing of pets
followed by a bring & share lunch in the hall

EVERYONE IS WARMLY WELCOME



Scotland Demands Better is a national campaign by The Poverty Alliance, Scotland's multi-agency network behind events such as '[Challenge Poverty Week](#)' (which is next week). [A March is being held on **Saturday 25 October**](#), assembling from 10am at the Scottish Parliament. It will culminate in a family-friendly festival in the Meadows, 1–4pm. Individuals and congregations are invited to join with the Primus and "demand that politicians make the changes we need for a society where every household can thrive and prosper." *p.5*

