



# Diocese of Edinburgh

## Scottish Episcopal Church

EDINBURGH DIOCESAN OFFICE ● 21A GROSVENOR CRESCENT EDINBURGH EH12 5EL

09 October 2025

**From the Right Reverend Andrew Swift, Electoral Process Convener**

Greetings.

### **Calling a New Bishop for Edinburgh**

Thank you for exploring this nomination pack for the Bishop of the Diocese of Edinburgh, the area of the Scottish Episcopal Church covering the City of Edinburgh and South-East Scotland from Falkirk District to the Border with England. The retirement of Bishop Dr John Armes at the end of August 2025 has created a vacancy in the Diocese. As each of the seven dioceses in the Scottish Episcopal Church elects its own bishop, the process of finding candidates has now started.

#### *The Process*

An overview of the current process, in its first stage, is as follows:

1. As the bishop ends their ministry in the Diocese, a 'Diocesan Description' is produced to say who the Diocese is and what they are looking for in their next Bishop.
2. A Preparatory Committee, drawn from the Diocese and the wider Province, uses this Diocesan Description to request confidential nominations from clergy who might wish to discern if their gifts, experiences and vocation might lead them towards being the next bishop. This is the stage we have now reached.
3. The Preparatory Committee will invite some of those nominated to submit a questionnaire to discern in more detail their possible 'fit' for episcopal ministry in the Diocese.
4. The Preparatory Committee will invite some of those who completed questionnaires to come for interview in the Diocese.
5. The Preparatory Committee is tasked to produce a shortlist of between three and five candidates which will be passed, confidentially, to the electorate, the Electoral Synod of clergy and laity from the Diocese.
6. The Electoral Synod meets each of the candidates, and presentations are given and questions asked.
7. A week later, the Electoral Synod meets again, without the candidates present, and aims to elect a new Bishop from the shortlist.
8. The name of the Bishop-elect is made public.

#### *Confidentiality*

The process will treat the names of nominees and candidates as confidential. The Preparatory Committee will know the identity of all nominees. The College of Bishops will know who is invited to submit a questionnaire as they are asked to give assent to possible candidates. References, including ones from the nominees' diocesan bishops, will be sought during the process. The Electoral Synod, primarily the clergy of the diocese and a lay representative from each charge, will know the names of those on the shortlist. However: the only name that the church will make public is the name of the candidate who is elected as Bishop.

Someone wishing to explore if they might have this call can, of course, share this with family, close friends and trusted advisers. We would expect that these trusted people would also maintain confidentiality. The fact of the process taking place, and the dates of significant events, such as Electoral Synods, will be made public, so that the process can be supported in the prayers of the whole church. Contents of the nomination pack.

The webpage where you found this letter has three other documents.

**Diocesan Description:** as stated above, this document gives an overview of the Diocese, its challenges and opportunities and the upcoming priorities that the new Bishop will be called on to decide and meet. The document also discusses the life of a bishop in the wider Scottish Episcopal Church. As a small province with only seven dioceses, each of the bishops has an important part in the overall leadership and culture of the whole Church. The document also explores the attributes and experiences that might therefore be expected of the next Bishop.

**Charge Profiles:** this goes alongside the Diocesan Description and presents, for each of the church communities in the Diocese, a snapshot of where the churches of the Diocese see themselves now. They talk about who they are, what they do and a challenge that they face.

Please read both these documents closely, as these will be guiding and informing all the stages of the discernment process. In particular, the attributes and experiences will be used to discern the best fit candidates for the shortlist.

**Nomination Form:** this form can be completed by someone wishing to nominate themselves, or by someone nominating another person. The consent of the person being nominated must be confirmed on the form. At this stage only the current post that the cleric holds and their contact details are being requested on the form. Please submit completed nomination forms by noon on 31st October 2025.

*What next?*

Please pray! Prayer is essential throughout this process. The Diocese and the wider Province are being invited to pray for all those involved in the process, especially those who are willing to make themselves vulnerable by considering this discernment. Please pray for all involved.

Finally, if you would like a short informal conversation, please do contact me via Hannah Harcus, the point of contact for the Edinburgh Diocesan Office ([hharcus@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:hharcus@dioceseofedinburgh.org)). I can offer a phone or video call to help if that would help in the discernment process. Thank you for considering if you might be called to be the next Bishop of Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,



Rt Rev Andrew Swift,  
Bishop of Brechin  
Convener of the Edinburgh Canon 4 Electoral Process