



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Christ Church, Falkirk

The *Communicant*

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

13 November 2025

In this edition...

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

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Alternate Lay Representatives.*

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27 November 2025**

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News and Notices

BISHOP SEARCH



Picture: Peter Backhouse

The deadline for nominations for the office of Bishop of Edinburgh has been reached, and we are grateful to confirm that nominations have been received.

Once questionnaires are returned, the Preparatory Committee will meet again to prayerfully consider which candidates to invite for interview.

We ask you to continue to hold all involved in your prayers, particularly the Preparatory Committee and those who have made themselves vulnerable in considering this discernment.

You can find more information about the process on the Bishop Search page of our website: <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/bishop-search/>

Bishop Search Prayer

Living God,
you walk with us in all seasons of life
calling us to follow you with joy, hope and love
as we share in your work of renewing the world;
give us humility and discernment to hear your voice,
that those discerning their calling
and all involved in our bishop search
may be encouraged in your ways
and open to your creative Spirit.
Amen.



🌿 Preparing for Advent and Christmas 🌿

People will soon start looking up their local church for Advent and Christmas services, on social media, churches' websites, and perhaps our diocesan Church Directory – so it would be a good idea to make sure your Directory details are up to date! You can access the list of our charges [here](#), and click through to your own entry. If you need to make any updates, please email communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

Rt Revd Robert (Bob) Halliday

We are deeply saddened to inform you that the Rt Revd Robert (Bob) Halliday passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 11 November, surrounded by his family. His funeral service will be held at 1pm on 27 November at St Cuthbert's, Colinton.

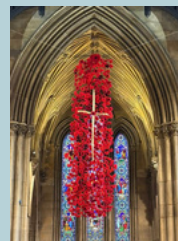
Bishop Robert (Bob) Halliday offered many decades of service to the Diocese of Edinburgh and to the Province. He was a part-time lecturer of New Testament at Edinburgh Theological College from 1963 to 1974, and Rector of Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains, from 1963 to 1983. He was also an external tutor at the Department of Christian Ethics and Practical Theology at the University of Edinburgh from 1969 to 1971 and a Chaplain to the Bishop of Edinburgh from 1967 to 1973. He was Canon of St Mary's Cathedral from 1973 to 1983. In 1990 he was consecrated Bishop of Brechin and served there until his retirement in 1996. From 1997 he ministered in a non-stipendiary capacity at Christ Church, Morningside (1997–2009), St Peter's, Luton Place (2009–2018) and St Cuthbert's, Colinton (2018–2025).

“We will remember them”

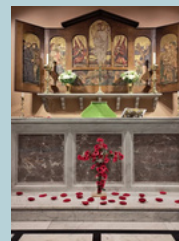
Our charges marked Remembrance Sunday with services and displays. Revd Fiona (Fee) Reynolds also laid a wreath on behalf of the diocese at the National Remembrance Day Service at Edinburgh City Chambers.



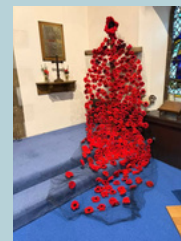
Good Shepherd,
Murrayfield



St Mary's,
Dalkeith



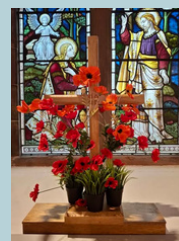
St James the Less,
Penicuik



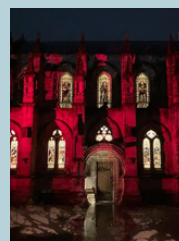
St Leonard's,
Lasswade



St Andrew's,
Kelso



St John's, Selkirk



St Matthew's,
Roslin



Wreath laid at
Edinburgh City
Chambers

Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see a reel of Remembrance Sunday displays.

News and Notices

the CHURCH TIMES guide to happy recruitment

A handbook for congregations



A new guide, *The Church Times Guide to Happy Recruitment*, has been published to steer congregations in the Scottish Episcopal Church through the process of recruiting rectors or priests in charge. A collaboration between the Scottish Episcopal Church, 3D Coaching and *The Church Times*, it's friendly and easy to read, and features cartoons by Dave Walker.

Read more and download a PDF version of the guide from [this page on our website](#).

Grounds for a celebration!



On Sunday 2 November, Holy Trinity, Haddington ceremoniously planted a flowering cherry tree in the church's front grounds to mark its 250th Anniversary. Congratulations!

Ro-bin!

St Catharine's, Bo'ness welcomed this wee visitor just before Morning Prayer on Tuesday.



OUR CONTACT PAGE

Who should I contact?

I'm looking for:

Adventures in Faith Advisor for Christian Life Advisor for Christian Life's administrative support Bishop's social media and public profile Bishop's PA and administrative support Bishop's diary Canon 31 marriage permissions Canon 35 administration Canon 35 queries Clergy licensing Communications training and resources The Communicant	Dean's PA and administrative support Diocesan Administrator Diocesan news stories Diocesan Office Management (Facilities) Diocesan Standing Committee Secretary Diocesan Synod Secretary DMMC News Faith nurture and growth Finance & Management Committee and pendant committees secretary Finances (day-to-day) Governance Internal communications	Ministerial development and training Mission and Ministry administrative support Mission and ministry resources Personnel & HR PR PVG checking Social media Support for people in authorised ministry Website Youth and children's ministry support and resources Youth and Children's Newsletter
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Don't forget to look at our updated [web page](#) for when you contact us. Just click on the subject title and it will take you to the right person. Just one of the wee enhancements on the website for you – with more to come!

Have you got news or stories from your church that 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!

Send us your pictures!



We're starting to plan our social media Prayer Diary for next year, and for this we need photos! If you have any recent photos of your church buildings (without people in them, please!), send them to dmmcadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org. Thank you!

AUTUMN – ANNUAL FORMS

As we approach/reach AGM season we will soon be asking for:

- Annual Accounts
- Finance Schedules
- Congregation Statistics
- Vestry Officer updates (via Google Form)



We will contact Treasurers, Vestry Secretaries and Rectors/Priests in Charge soon...



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

Vacancies

St Mungo's, Balerno & Livingston:

Finance Manager, part-time

Office and Communications Manager, full-time

St Peter's, Peebles and St Andrew's, Innerleithen:

Priest-in-Charge, full-time

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

CLOSING TOMORROW!

Mission & Ministry

So much of the 'mission and ministry' of our Diocese takes place in our congregations and via our local partners. Here we highlight a couple of things that might interest you or a friend!

AI and Theological Anthropology

What's the place of humans in creation?



Monday, November 24th, 2025
17:15 - 19:00.

Martin Hall, New College,
University of Edinburgh

There is provision for disabled access

This free seminar will be
led by Dr. Shoab Malik



Booking and further details, please visit www.albertus.scot or to book directly use the Eventbrite link



Albertus Institute in Association with



The Albertus Institute is registered as a Scottish charity (SCIO), number SC045760.
Registered Office: 24 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD. www.albertus.scot

Science & Religion Event

What might theology say about 'intelligence' now that artificial systems can perform tasks once thought uniquely human? Join Dr Shoab Ahmed Malik for an interactive event that explores AI and theological anthropology, and invites the audience into the discussion.

Date = Monday 24 November 2025.

Time = 5:15–7pm.

Cost = Free.

Location = Martin Hall, New College,
The Mound, Edinburgh.

Tickets available here.

£1589* per person

Spiritual Directors:

Fr Michael Akintolu
St Matthew's RC Church
Rosewell
Rev Gill Hitchen
St Matthew's, Rosslyn Chapel
Roslin

Ecumenical Pilgrimage 2026
ROME & SALERNO



Rome

13th-19th October

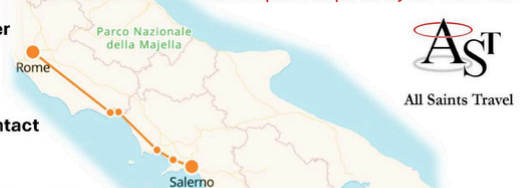
*£400 Deposit required by 30th Nov '25.

Pilgrimage Organiser

Pat McGeever
07445 897 864

Roslyn Chapel Contact

Shonagh Toulouse
07739 342 939



AST

All Saints Travel

Salerno



- Flying Edinburgh to Rome with Ryanair
- Professional local tour escort and guides as per itinerary
- 4 nights in Rome 3 star
- 2 nights in Salerno 3 star
- Personalised travel pack for every pilgrim

FULL DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM AT :

WWW.ALLSAINTSTRAVEL.CO.UK/RM1093/



2026 Pilgrimage to Rome

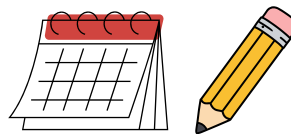
Two churches dedicated to St Matthew in Midlothian (Roslin and Rosewell) are offering an ecumenical pilgrimage to Rome and Salerno next year: 13–19 October 2026. Using All Saints Travel, this 7-day trip will include Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and Salerno Cathedral. There will be opportunities to worship together and free time in each city. To secure a place the tour operator is asking for an initial deposit of **£400 by 30 November**. The full cost per person is £1589 (single supplement £295) in 3* hotels.

Details and booking available via All Saints website here. P.4

- 18 November:** Mission & Ministry Committee
- 20 November:** Standing Committee + Area Councils
- 24 November:** Personnel Committee

- 29 November:** Confirmations at Fettes College
- 30 November:** Presiding at Rosslyn Chapel

DIOCESAN OFFICE CLOSURE – From the end of **24 December** until it re-opens on **5 January 2026**.



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 John is being 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.

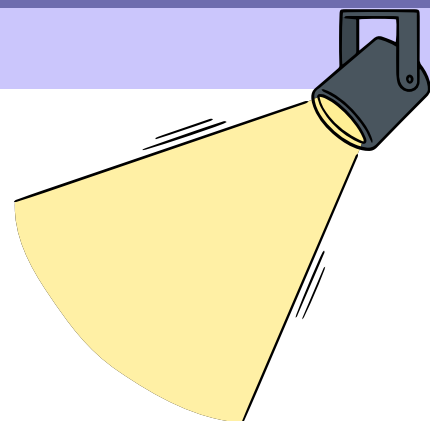


Online Events Calendar

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

- 14 November:** [Children in Need Charity Concert](#), St Matthew's, Roslin
- 15 November:** [Scottish Church History Society Autumn Conference](#), St Augustine United Church
- 15 November:** [Climate Café](#), St Ninian's, Comely Bank*
- 15 November:** [Pub Quiz](#), St James the Less Penicuik Church Hall
- 16 November:** [Godly Play Circle](#), St Ninian's, Comely Bank*
- 18 November:** [Folk and Acoustic Open Mic Night](#), St Peter's, Luton Place*
- 19 November:** [Concerns of the Day: Scottish Reparations for Slavery](#), Quaker Meeting House, Edinburgh*
- 22 November:** [Concert and Afternoon Tea: "End of the Pier"](#), St Mark's, Portobello
- 23 November:** [Orchard Planting Event](#), St Mary's Cathedral*
- 24 November:** [Christmas with "The Chosen"](#), St Columba's, Bathgate*
- 28 November:** [Choir Festival](#), St Mary's, Dalmahoy*
- 28 November:** [Saints and Sinners: The Stories that Shaped Scotland](#), St Peter's Church, Galashiels



* Admission free!

Advent Retreats in the Diocese

*22 November, St Mary's Cathedral:
Homecoming: An Advent Quiet Day*

Led by Revd Dani Muñoz. More information and booking on the [St Mary's Cathedral](#) website. Tickets £5



*29 November, St Columba's by the Castle:
Star of Wonder*

Led by Heart in Pilgrimage. More information and booking on the [Heart in Pilgrimage website](#). Tickets £35/£25/pay what you can.



*29 November, Holy Trinity, Haddington:
Gifts Past, and Gifts to Come*

Led by the Holy Trinity Lantern Group. More information [here](#). Tickets are free; bring your own lunch.

