



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Photo: S Filsell

St Ebba's, Eyemouth, Berwickshire

The *Communicant*

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

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/>

Staff & Office News

Over the next few weeks, there are a few **staff holidays** being taken – Hannah (Bishop's & Dean's PA) is currently on leave, Simon (Diocesan Administrator) is taking leave this week and into next week, Caroline (Finance & Support Officer) is away after that, and Fee (Advisor for Christian Life) will be on leave for the week including Christmas Day. We will, of course, keep all the essential work going, but the lesser-priority work may not get done as quickly as we'd all like. Thank you for your patience!

A small group of people continue to work on the office relocation, which remains a large body of work.

Many technical details are being dealt with and we hope to have a bit more news as soon as we come back in the New Year – but there's still a warm welcome at 21a in the meantime!



🌿 Preparing for Advent and Christmas 🌿

Welcome to the Diocese of Edinburgh

We are a diocese of the Scottish Episcopal Church, stretching from Falkirk to Dunbar and Edinburgh to Jedburgh. Our diversity is expressed in our many different church communities and worship styles, while our unity is found in our commitment to Jesus.



Upcoming Events

NOV	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
28	Choir Festival
NOV	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
28	Saints and Sinners: The Stories that Shaped Scotland
NOV	10:00 am - 3:30 pm
29	Star of Wonder: A Quiet Day for Advent 2025
NOV	4:00 pm - 9:30 pm
29	AdventFest: Seeds of Hope
NOV	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
30	The Sacred Art of Contemplative Writing

[View Calendar](#)

On Monday we launched the first of our [Advent and Christmas listings on the diocesan website](#), covering charges' Advent events and special services until 14 December. If you'd like to request changes or additions to these listings, please email communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

Next we will be finalising the listings of services from 15 December to Christmas Day. We'll be scouring charges' publicly available information for this, so please can you ensure that any information about services up to Christmas is posted on your charge's website and/or Facebook page **by the end of 9 December?** Or we'll happily receive details by email.

It's also a good time to make sure your Church 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, email communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

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.



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...

News and Notices



THE PIANO

The Piano for Channel 4 is back!

DO YOU LOVE PLAYING THE PIANO?

Love Productions are searching for talented amateur pianists.

Whether you play classical, pop, jazz, or your own original songs — if the piano is at the heart of who you are, we want to hear from you!

Visit:

takepartinthepiano.co.uk

Faith and Belief Forum

NHS Lothian Spiritual Care

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Timing: 12:30 – 1.30 p.m.

Venue: Spiritual Care Department, Mackinnon House,
Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Morningside Place,
Edinburgh EH10 5NP

An opportunity for representative from Belief and Faith communities to meet with members of the NHS Spiritual Care team.

Registered Healthcare Chaplains working for NHS Lothian will present NHS Lothian's Spiritual Care Policy.

There will be scope to share experiences, and raise questions about the ways in which spiritual and religious care is facilitated or offered by NHS staff and by representatives from the belief and faith communities who visit NHS Lothian's acute hospitals at Little France, the Western General, St John's and the Royal Edinburgh.

RSVP appreciated: Gemma.Scott-Wood@nhs.scot

Charity Bookkeeping Course

New to being a Treasurer? You might be interested in this course where you can learn the essentials of charity bookkeeping in clear, manageable steps. Two lessons include balance sheets, credits, debits and trial balances, as well as Unrestricted, Designated and Restricted Funds – when you must use them and how to avoid common fund accounting errors.

The School of Charity Finance are involved in training courses for ExpensePlus, a charity accounting package used in a few places around the diocese. The two lessons cost just £49 (for both). More details – [click here](#).



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!

Updated Declaration Forms for Vestry

There are now updated the Declaration Forms on the diocesan website, which reflect the changes to charity law earlier this year. There are two of them, each of which should be signed by all new vestry members. Given the recent change in the law, it might be prudent to ask everyone to re-sign the 'OSCR' one as well. File these completed forms in a secure manner, according to your Data Protection Policy.

- [OSCR Eligibility](#)
- [HMRC Fit and Proper Person](#)

Please direct any questions or problems [to the ACL](#).



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

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

Mission & Ministry

Play Church Restock!

Over the summer months, the Play Church was available for thousands of people to explore in our Cathedral. Now it has moved onto the next host, it needs a wee restock. If you have any of the following items no longer being used in your homes or churches, please do dig them out and get in touch with [the DMMC Team](#).

- small silver-coloured paten
- silver-coloured pyx
- bunch of artificial flowers
- cream pitcher jug
- party dress for girls aged between 4 and 8 (roughly)



We are excited that we have someone making us a processional cross, and welcome any offers to make items that can enhance the breadth of experience the Play Church offers.

Thank you!

16 Days of Activism

Every year, the UN and many other organisations (including the Anglican Communion) observe 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November until 10 December. If you are not aware of this worldwide movement, [find out a bit more here](#).



You may also wish to explore and join the year-round campaign **Thursdays in Black.**

[Learn more, and be inspired, here.](#)

2026 Pilgrimage to Rome

Ecumenical Pilgrimage 2026 ROME & SALERNO

£1589* per person

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

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

Salerno

FULL DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM AT :
WWW.ALLSAINTSTRAVEL.CO.UK/RM1093/

Business Awards UK Winner 2025 **AITO** **Travel Trust Member 710**

- 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



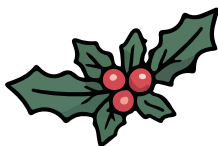
Two churches dedicated to St Matthew in Midlothian (Roslin and Rosewell) are offering an ecumenical pilgrimage to Rome and Salerno next year: 13–19 October 2026. Using All Saints Travel, this 7-day trip will include Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and Salerno Cathedral. There will be opportunities 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.

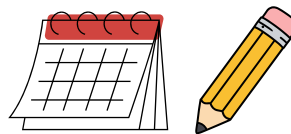
1 December: Diocesan Buildings Committee

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



29 November: Confirmations at Fettes College

30 November: Presiding at Rosslyn Chapel



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 Marcus](#), 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

- **28 November:** [Choir Festival](#), St Mary's, Dalmahoy*
- **28 November:** [Saints and Sinners: The Stories that Shaped Scotland](#), St Peter's Church, Galashiels
- **29 November:** [Lines in the Growing Darkness](#), St Mary's Cathedral
- **29 November:** [Adventfest: Seeds of Hope](#), St James the Less, Leith*
- **30 November:** [The Sacred Art of Contemplative Writing](#), St Michael and All Saints, Tollcross*
- **1 to 5 December:** [A Winter Movement: Movement as a Means of Understanding](#), St Vincent's Chapel
- **2 December:** [Faith & Belief Forum](#), Spiritual Care Department, Royal Edinburgh Hospital*
- **6 December:** [Children's Come and Sing Carols](#), St Mary's Cathedral*
- **6 December:** [Christmas Coffee Morning](#), St Baldred's, North Berwick*
- **6 December:** [Crafty Christmas](#), Belhaven Church Halls*
- **6 December:** [Carols by Candlelight](#), Melrose Parish Church
- **9 & 10 December:** [Carols at the Palace](#), Palace of Holyroodhouse
- **12 & 13 December:** [A Christmas Carol](#), St David's Pilton*
- **13 December:** ['And Mary said YES'](#), St Columba's by the Castle*
- **13 December:** [Christmas Tea](#), St Cuthbert's, Colinton
- **13 & 14 December:** [A Christmas Carol](#), St Salvador's, Stenhouse*

* Admission free!

