



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*



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

Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield

# *The* *Communicant*

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

**11 December 2025**

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# News and Notices

## BISHOP SEARCH



Picture: Peter Backhouse

This month, the Preparatory Committee is meeting to prayerfully consider which candidates to invite for interview.

The Committee will reconvene in January for the interviews of the shortlisted candidates.

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.



## A NOTE OF THANKS

2025 has been a year of challenge at the Diocesan Office, with several staffing changes in a number of roles, leading into the Episcopal Vacancy and then the work towards relocating the office. We are a small team serving you, and your patience and understanding while we responded to your needs and questions has been greatly valued by us all. The coming year will bring fresh challenges, but we are already planning innovations to improve our support for you. This is our chance to say thank you, and have a truly blessed Christmas.

### *The Revd Charles Aitchison*

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of the Revd Charles Aitchison, non-stipendiary minister for St Peter's, Peebles, and St Andrew's, Innerleithen.

The funeral will be held on **Wednesday, 17 December**. A burial will take place at Peebles Cemetery at 10.30am, followed by refreshments at the Tontine Hotel in Peebles. A service of thanksgiving for Charles's life will then be held at St James the Less, Penicuik, at 2pm, with refreshments served afterwards in the church hall. All are warmly welcome to attend.

### *Christine Roy*

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Christine Roy. Many of you will remember Christine from her time serving as PA to Bishop Richard Holloway.

Christine's funeral will take place on **Friday 19 December** at 12.30pm at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.



Advent and Christmas  
on our website



### 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	
DEC 10 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	10 Clarinet Quartet Training Concert
DEC 10 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	10 Carols at the Palace
DEC 12 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	12 "A Christmas Carol" at St David's Pilton (Friday 12th and Saturday 13th December)
DEC 13 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	13 "And Mary said YES"
DEC 13 10:30 am - 2:00 pm	13 Christmas Life Bites

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

Thank you for making such a sterling effort this year with graphics. These are great for sharing and showcasing, so do keep them going with all your events into 2026!

# News and Notices



## 'Everyone Is Welcome'

On behalf of the Primus, Dean Frances attended a Saltire Service on St Andrew's Day in Athelstaneford, organised by the Scottish Flag Trust.

The First Minister, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and representatives of different faith groups were also in attendance.

During the event a new flag was dedicated. A church service then reminded all present, through hymns, reflections, songs, poetry and prayers, that the Saltire is not only a historic emblem but a living symbol of friendship, inclusion and hope – 'Everyone is welcome'.

## Patronal Festival Grants 2026

Applications for the Choral Evensong Trust's 2026 Patronal Festival Grants are now open. These grants support parish churches in celebrating their patronal festival through a service of choral evensong as a central feature of the festival, followed by a reception. For more details, visit the [Choral Evensong Trust's website](#). **The deadline for applications is 2 February 2026, Candlemas.**

## 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](mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

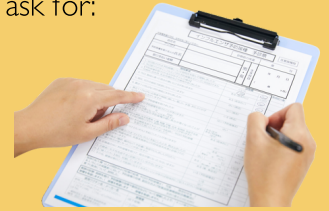


Don't forget to like and share what we post on the diocesan social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky). It does make a difference. Links above!

## ANNUAL RETURNS

Most charges will, by now, have held their AGM and we would be very grateful to receive the information that will flow from those. We have already contacted Treasurers and Rectors/Priests-in-Charge to ask for:

- Annual Accounts
- Finance Schedules
- Congregational Statistics



A sincere thank you to Rectors/Priests-in-Charge for the statistics – we have only six outstanding, possibly a record!

Accounts and Finance Schedules are already starting to flow in. Treasurers were sent a letter by Ian Lawson on 24 November so, if any Treasurers missed that, please email [office@edinburgh.anglican.org](mailto:office@edinburgh.anglican.org) to ask for one to be sent to you direct. That email address is also where the accounts and schedules should be sent.

Finally, we will soon be sending your Vestry Secretary a sheet showing what we hold on the database so that any changes can be spotted and notified to us.

This is all hugely appreciated!

## 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!**

## Next CMD Date

All clergy and Lay Readers are reminded that our next Continuing Ministerial Development Day is on **Tuesday 3 March 2026**. Please do save the date and come join with the **Revd Keith Thomasson** (Rector of St Ninian's, Troon, and Chair of the Provincial Mission Board) as he leads our thinking on **Leadership and Collaboration**.



A registration form will be available shortly, once the venue has been confirmed.



TRUSTEE

Training



# Save The Date

**Saturday 25 April (Edinburgh)**

**Saturday 24 October (Borders)**

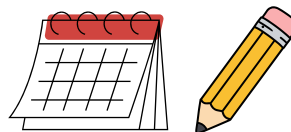
## DIOCESAN OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

– From **midday on 24 December** until it re-opens on **Monday 5 January 2026**.



## Sunday 11 January: Confirmations at St Peter's,

Peebles, conducted by Bishop Alan Abernethy



**Monday 19 January:** Diocesan Buildings Committee



## 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

- **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\*
- **14 December:** [Christmas Community Carol Sing](#), St Anne's, Dunbar\*
- **14 December:** [Tryst Theatre Show](#), Christ Church, Falkirk
- **15 December:** [Christmas Movie Night](#), St Columba's, Bathgate
- **17 December:** [Pantonian Lecture: 'The Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creeds'](#), online\*
- **18 December:** [Christmas Carols Round the Tree](#), Edinburgh Grassmarket\*
- **18 December:** [Christmas with the Salvation Army](#), St Mary's Cathedral
- **22 December:** [Festive Brass Medley with Carols](#), St Matthew's, Rosslyn Chapel

\* Admission free!



*Wishing you and your loved ones peace and joy this Christmas,  
from all of us at the Diocesan Office.*