



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*



St Cuthbert's, Hawick

# *The* *Communicant*

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

**8 January 2026**

*In this edition...*

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



*Published by the Diocesan  
Office fortnightly, and circulated  
to all Clergy, Lay Readers,  
Treasurers & Vestry Secretaries,  
and Diocesan Synod Lay &  
Alternate Lay Representatives.*

**NEXT EDITION:  
22 January 2026**

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

# News and Notices

## BISHOP SEARCH



Picture: Peter Backhouse

In December, the Preparatory Committee met to prayerfully consider which candidates to invite for interview.

The Committee will be reconvening next week 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.



## Institution of Revd Harriet Johnston at St Anne's, Dunbar



*Harriet Johnston will be instituted as Rector of St Anne's, Dunbar on Saturday 24 January at 2pm. The service will be followed by afternoon tea at Dunbar Day Centre. RSVP to [secretary@stannedunbar.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stannedunbar.org.uk).*

## OFFICE & STAFF NEWS



A very happy New Year to everyone! We are all back in the Diocesan Office, ready for whatever 2026 holds for us. We have welcomed back Mollie Nijam (left), on her return from Maternity Leave, as our **Communications Officer** - working Tue (pm), Wed & Thu. At the same time,

we record our huge debt of gratitude to Cathy Ballantine (right) for covering the communications work over the last 12 months. She has become such a valued member of the team, and we are delighted that she is continuing as Interim **Admin Asst** for Mission & Ministry, supporting Fee Reynolds.



**CLOSED**

Please note:

**The Diocesan Office will be CLOSED to visitors in the week beginning 12 January in order for us to facilitate our Bishop Search activities.**

At least one person will be available each day to answer anything urgent, so please call us on 0131 538 7033 if you need us, and select option 'ZERO'.



The relocation of the **Diocesan Office** is still being worked on, but now with a potentially very good solution in the headlights! There may be a short while when staff will need to be asked to work from home before the move, but we will be at 21A until, at least, March. More news very soon.

*Best wishes to you all for 2026 from the Diocesan Office team!*

# News and Notices

## Fundraising Success

ST JAMES, LEITH: BUILDING LINKS 2025  
**FUNDRAISING UPDATE: WE DID IT!**  
2 action-packed months of our community showing up with creativity & passion to raise funds for the improvement of our building & the community groups that benefit from it. We have achieved more together than we ever imagined.

**THANK YOU!**

Our goal **£20,000**  
We raised **£21,639**

Just before Christmas, St James the Less, Leith announced that its 'Building Links' campaign, to raise funds to maintain and grow the use of its building for the Leith community and to support groups least able to pay, had surpassed its £20,000 goal, raising **£21,639**.

Activities such as a fundraising gala, a kilted cycle ride, climbing Arthur's Seat ten times in a day, craft stalls and crafternoons, a Beetle Drive and more enabled the church to raise this amazing amount in two months.

## A Big Thank You!

If you went along to "A Christmas Carol" at St David's Pilton or St Salvador's, Stenhouse, a big thank you for your donations, which raised £1,022 for the churches' food initiatives!



## 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!

## Patronal Festival Grants 2026

Applications for the Choral Evensong Trust's 2026 Patronal Festival Grants are 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](https://www.choralevensongtrust.org). **The deadline for applications is 2 February 2026, Candlemas.**

## Youth & Children Newsletter

Our latest bi-annual Newsletter was published just before Christmas, so you might have missed it in the midst of the festivities. Do take time to read, and be inspired by, all the amazing ministry taking place with and amongst children and young people across our diocese.

Edinburgh Diocese  
**YOUTH & CHILDREN**

Issue 5: Christmas 2025      Contact Fee Reynolds: [freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

**CHRISTMAS**  
2025

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Christmas Giving

Ferrywell Youth Project



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

## Lord's Prayer in Finnish

At the end of November's Conference, the clergy of Edinburgh Diocese committed themselves to learning the Lord's Prayer in Finnish. Our Finnish counterparts in Espoo Diocese speak wonderful English and we want to participate in their liturgy when we meet together, even if just a little. We invite YOU to join us! The words and a recording are on our website via the link below.



[edinburgh.anglican.org/the-porvoo-communion](http://edinburgh.anglican.org/the-porvoo-communion)

## Next CMD Date

The next Continuing Ministerial Development Day for clergy and Lay Readers is on **Tuesday 3 March 2026**. Please do come and 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**.



[Register here](#)



## Save The Date

**Saturday 25 April (Edinburgh)**

**Saturday 24 October (Borders)**

## Mission & Ministry Grants

The Grants Committee for DMMC meets in the first weeks of March, June, September, and December each year. Applications for the following Grants should be with [the DMMC Team](#) by 25th of the previous month. Click links to find out more.

[Youth & Children's Grant](#)

[St Hilda's Grant](#)

[CMD Grant](#)



## Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage

In 2026, a series of pilgrimages across England is being planned for July–October. Each individual pilgrimage (rooted in history, culture, and spiritual tradition) offers its own sacred rhythm, inviting you to slow down, breathe deeply, and rediscover what truly matters.



If this piques your interest, please find out more via the [Spirit of Francis](#) website. *P.4*

# Diocesan Diary

# Bishop's Diary

## Week beginning 12 January:

Diocesan Office CLOSED to facilitate Bishop Search activities

**CLOSED**

## Monday 19 January:

Diocesan Buildings Committee

**Sunday 11 January:** Confirmations at St Peter's, Peebles, conducted by Bishop Alan Abernethy

**Saturday 24 January:** Institution at St Anne's, Dunbar

**Sunday 25 January:** Confirmations at St Vincent's, Stockbridge

**Tuesday 27 January:** Service to Commemorate Charles I, St Mary's Cathedral



## Online Events Calendar

You can submit your own events on our website! Please find details of upcoming events and submit your own [here](#). It's easy to do!

## Events Highlights

**12 January:** [Inaugural Cheyne Memorial Lecture: 'Protestant Scotland's Cardinal Sin'](#), Martin Hall

**19 January:** [Eco-Congregation Scotland: Edinburgh and West Lothian Local Network Meeting](#), Online

**22 January:** [Business Energy Scotland: Funding for Window Upgrades – All You Need to Know](#), Online

**24 January:** [Christian Aid Prayers for Peace](#), Online

**5 February:** ['The God of Small Things': Heriot-Watt Chaplaincy Annual Public Lecture](#), James Watt Centre, Currie

**10 February:** [The SCVO Gathering 2026](#), EICC, Edinburgh

**24 February:** [Christian Aid in Scotland: The Gathering 2026](#), Online

*Finally ... a medley of your Facebook images from the Advent and Christmas season. Enjoy!*

