



# Diocese of Edinburgh

*Scottish Episcopal Church*



St John's, Jedburgh

# *The Communicant*

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

**19 February 2026**

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

# News and Notices

## Congratulations, Bishop Dagmar!

The Right Reverend Dr Dagmar Winter was elected on Saturday, 14 February 2026, as the new Bishop of Edinburgh.

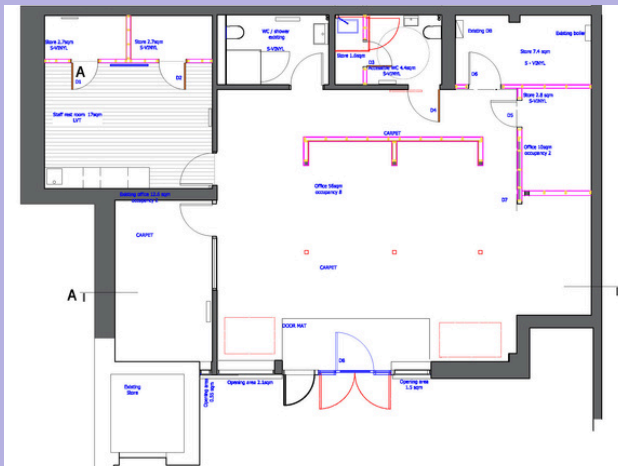


The Bishop-Elect accepted the post following a meeting of the Electoral Synod in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, where she received over half of the votes in each house, with clergy and lay representatives from congregations across the diocese voting.

Bishop Dagmar currently serves as the Bishop of Huntingdon, a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Ely. Since 2023 she is also Acting Bishop of Ely.

We are delighted to be welcoming Bishop Dagmar to the diocese and to this season of new beginnings in Scotland. Please keep her in your prayers as we plan her installation, on Saturday, 30 May 2026 at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.

## NEW DIOCESAN OFFICE



After a long process to find suitable premises from which to run the central administrative functions of the diocese, the final details are being agreed for the lease of the former Stonemasons Workshop adjoining the Chapter House at St Mary's Cathedral. Inevitably, the industrial equipment is having to be removed and then the space will be stripped out and refitted for our use.

It is going to be both a smaller office space and also an open-plan space, so visitor facilities are going to be much restricted unfortunately. Nevertheless, the Bishop will have an individual office still, to allow flexibility in how she wishes to work.

The meetings of our committees will need to take place elsewhere as we will no longer have the luxury of a large on-site Meeting Room. We are planning that all the work will be done and that the move will have taken place before the Bishop's Installation in May.

# News and Notices

## DO YOU HIRE OUT YOUR PREMISES?

We are looking to further develop our website so that we can identify to visitors which churches have spaces for hire to organisations in their communities. Although we won't be able to give full details of what is available, enquirers looking for churches and halls available will be able to see that this is something you offer and click a link to get in touch with you.

Drop a line to Mollie, our Communications Officer, at:  
[communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org)



## 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!*



## St Mary's Bells

St Mary's Cathedral has just launched a fundraising campaign to carry out essential repairs on the Cathedral bells. The repairs are estimated to cost approximately £15,000, and the bell ringers are hoping to raise these funds by the time work starts in July. This is a once-in-a-lifetime project with some of the work being essential repairs that have not been carried out since 1935!

Susannah Ewens, the Tower Captain, said: "Our Cathedral bells are a valued part of life at St Mary's and in the West End, calling us to worship and marking both occasions of celebration and reflection. Essential work is now required to ensure the bells can safely ring out for years to come. We will be very grateful for any support in helping to preserve this part of our community!"



Credit: Peter Backhouse

## Futher information & how to donate

[Repairing the Bells of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral | Stewardship](#)

[Home | St Mary's Edinburgh](#)

## ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOLKITS

Around 45% of charges were on renewable energy tariffs at the last count - has your church changed? The SEC Net Zero Team would love you to complete your latest toolkit (EFT) and they have sent a message round to all churches. Could you see if you have had the message? If not - please email Neil Rawlins:

**Thank you!**

[NeilR@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:NeilR@scotland.anglican.org)



# Mission & Ministry

## 2026 Bishop's Lent Appeal

**This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal is for Aberlour Children's Charity.**

Aberlour Children's Charity works to provide tailored support to families facing poverty, disadvantage and discrimination. It provides support at the earliest opportunity by offering a range of services across Scotland, utilising the voices of those impacted to create and implement tools for change. The charity has been in operation for just over 150 years, with a long and varied history, although giving every child the best possible start in life has always been at the heart of what they do.



Aberlour offers a range of support services across Scotland including residential and foster care, recovery for families affected by addiction, disability care and support, and early years support.



Bishop Mark, Acting Bishop of Edinburgh Diocese says: "It's my great pleasure to write to you about an important and long-standing partnership with a Scottish children's charity; one which is especially close to my heart. As you may know, Aberlour – Scotland's Children's Charity, as it's known today, was established in 1875 by Canon Jupp, one of my predecessors as Rector of St Margaret's, Aberlour. It was originally The Aberlour Orphanage but moved away from that work to become one of the foremost providers of children's support and development in Scotland. I have seen at first hand the work of Aberlour and have met with many of the young people they work with and care for. I'm proud to say that we, as a church, have an association with Aberlour. In recognition of the work that Aberlour does in our communities in Scotland perhaps your congregation might consider supporting this wonderful Scottish charity this Lent. Thank you for your generosity. +Mark"



[Read more here](#)

[Donate now](#)

**aberlour**  
scotland's children's charity



The next **Provincial Youth Overnight Event** will be held in the stunning surroundings of Kinlochleven on 28-29 March. The usual pattern of these events will be followed: fun, games, and creativity in the afternoon before preparing to help lead worship for Palm Sunday in the morning. All meals are provided and a non-residential option is available.

Register by **12 March**.

[Information and Registration Form](#)

# Events

## Diocesan Diary

**Thursday 26 February:** Standing Committee

## Bishop's Diary

**Saturday 7 March:** Confirmations at Melrose (with Bishop Kevin Pearson)

**Sunday 22 March:** Confirmations at St Michael and All Saints (with Bishop Mark)



**Saturday 14 March:** Diocesan Synod, Ps & Gs, Edinburgh

**Thursday 19 March:** Chrism Mass, St Mary's Cathedral

## Community Events

**21 February:** [Finding Water in the Wilderness](#)

**21 February:** [Climate Cafe: Extreme Weather](#)

**23 February:** [God's Invitation to Relationship: Ways of Praying](#)

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

**25 February:** [How to Be \(More\) Moral: An Experiment in Divinity](#)

**25 February:** [Heartland Bluegrass Band Concert](#)

**27 February:** [Such Fragile Futures: Book Event](#)

**28 February:** [A Moment at the Well: Online](#)

**28 February:** [Let's Talk about Death and Dying](#)

**28 February:** [Godly Play Making Materials Day](#)

**1 March:** [Lent Retreat in Daily Life \(Opening Session\)](#)

**5 March:** [SEC Webinar: Fit for Funding Webinar](#)

FINDING WATER IN THE WILDERNESS

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**10am - 1pm**

As Lent begins...  
we reflect on the gift of life giving water

Please book your place for FREE via email or whatsapp  
rector@stcs.org.uk 07870817314

At St Columba's by The Castle - BLUE door  
14 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2PW  
Hot drinks and cakes provided - donations welcome



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH  
School of Divinity

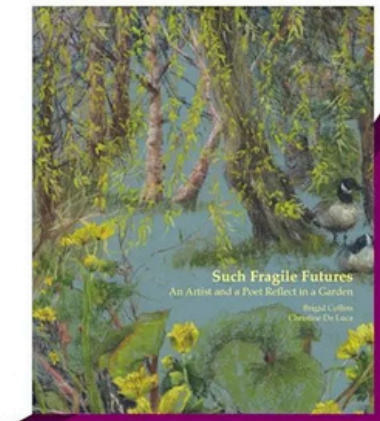


## Book Event

Such Fragile Futures: An Artist and a Poet Reflect in a Garden  
27 February, 4:10pm, Martin Hall

You are cordially invited to a panel discussion and readings from 'Such Fragile Futures: An Artist and a Poet Reflect in a Garden', followed by a drinks reception hosted by the Scottish Network for Religion and Literature.

This beautiful and reflective book records poet Christine De Luca's collaboration with the artist Brigid Collins, based on her year as Artist in Residence in Dr Neil's Garden in Duddingston, Edinburgh. Together, De Luca and Collins look deeply into how a garden may feed a vital and growing sensitivity towards our fragile futures.



## 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!

**CLIMATECAFÉ**

**Extreme Weather!**

Have we noticed a change in the weather? Is extreme weather linked to climate change? What adaptation is possible? Don't we all love to talk about the weather? Come along and share!

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2.30-4pm**  
in church – all welcome - Cuppa and cake  
40 Comely Bank EH4 1AG  
Any questions -contact: admin@sncb.scot