



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



St Peter's, Lutton Place. Credit: Fee Reynolds



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:
19 March 2026

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The *Communicant*

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

5 March 2026

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News and Notices

Bishops Lent Appeal 2026

Aberlour Children's Charity works to support disadvantaged children and families in Scotland. They provide a range of services dedicated to emotional care and support to help children feel safe and cared for, while aiming to help families before situations become too difficult.

In case you haven't seen it yet, the 2026 Bishop's Lent Appeal is raising funds for Aberlour, and we would love your help to reach our target.

If you can, we would warmly welcome any donation you can spare. [Bishops Lent Appeal 2026](#)



Supporting St Fillan's

Can you help? A message from Revd Canon Dr Sophia Marriage: "Thank you to everyone who has been willing to help continue worship patterns at St Fillan's during this time of vacancy. The vestry are really grateful and they are enjoying having such a rich variety. Currently we have cover until the end of June with one notable exception: **12 April**. We realise this is Low Sunday and so many priests are on leave, but is there anyone who would like to visit and share worship with St Fillan's that day? Please contact me at sophia.marriage@stmarksportobello.org.



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:

NeilR@scotland.anglican.org

News and Notices



Edinburgh's Easter Play

Cutting Edge Theatre is bringing the Edinburgh Easter Play back this year on Saturday 4 April at 2pm in Princes Street West Gardens. As the largest free public presentation of the Gospel story in Edinburgh, the play shares the message of Easter openly and accessibly in the heart of the city.

This year's production, *Unbroken*, explores how Jesus connected with disabled people during his ministry, and the cast includes seven disabled performers, contributing to a diverse and representative portrayal of the Gospel story. Everyone is warmly encouraged to come along and experience this powerful retelling of the Easter story together.

The crew are still looking for additional assistance with stewarding and hospitality on the day, so if you are able to commit to a couple of hours, please get in touch with them directly below.

“We would love to connect more with the churches in Edinburgh and work more closely together. Each year it is a big struggle for us to produce the play and we could do with some support and help, so if you are interested, let me know. I'm happy to come and chat.”

- Suzanne, Artistic Director, Cutting Edge Theatre

Email: Cutting Edge Theatre

Sacred Art Competitions

The Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts is calling for entries for two competitions this year: The Young Composers Competition and the Young Religious Poet Competition. Winners will be included in events during the Sacred Arts programme this August.

The Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts brings recitals, exhibitions, tours, screenings and performances of the Christian religion to Edinburgh's Fringe.

Please find more information here: [Edinburgh Sacred Art Competitions](#)



News and Notices

The Bellsmeadow Arch

Members of Christ Church, Falkirk, are celebrating the church's 160th anniversary with inspiration from the hidden gem that is the 'Cathedral of Trees' in Glencruitten Woodlands, Oban. Reverend Lesley Fraser drew inspiration from the woodlands after recognising it as once a spiritual place, teeming with natural life, but sadly it had fallen into disrepair. Upon visiting years later in 2023, it was apparent that a community project had taken over and were restoring the woodlands to its former beauty.

This has inspired a new community planting project in Bellsmeadow Park in an ode to give something back to the wider community while creating a "lasting environmental legacy". The project brought together Falkirk Council, local volunteers and community groups to spend two days planting in November 2025 and February 2026. In a collective effort, they planted 160 native trees and 2,000 spring bulbs. Everyone came together afterwards to enjoy tea and cake in the church together, a lovely way to spend a day!

As the trees and plants grow, the space is intended to become a place for reflection, gatherings, and peaceful enjoyment.



Update: St Mary's Fundraising

St Mary's Cathedral have reached 43% of their fundraising target in just one month! Let's keep the momentum going and spread the word about the beloved bells of the Cathedral.

The aim is to raise £15,000 by the time work starts in July, which will include essential repairs dating back to 1935! Please find more information below.

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

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



Vacancies

There are a range of opportunities being advertised across the Diocese and wider community. Please find these below, via links to our website. Should you have any questions regarding a specific role, please find contact details via the advertisement.

[Mustard Seed: Babies and Toddlers lead](#)

[Ps and Gs: Rector](#)

[St Cuthberts, Colinton: Organist](#)

[Micro Equity: Project Manager](#)



Mission & Ministry



Coming up

leading children and young people to:

- believe - in Jesus
- become - whole-life disciples
- belong - in churches of grace

09.00 - coffee, pastries and chat
09.20 - welcome and prayer
09.30 - worship
09.45 - training (various topics)
12.20 - reflections/questions
12.30 - prayer
13.00 - finish

Sat 21 Mar 2026
Sat 23 May 2026
Sat 26 Sept 2026
Sat 28 Nov 2026

More info. www.psandgs.org.uk/beheld



In 2026, all involved in youth and children's ministry are invited to a fresh series of training days at Ps & Gs called '**beHeld**'. The first is on **21 March**.

beHeld costs £15 per session, but the diocese will cover the cost of one ticket per charge. Just email us at dmmcadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org with your name and charge, and we'll book you in for the 21 March session.



The next **Provincial Youth Overnight Event** will be held in the stunning surroundings of Kinlochleven on 28–29 March. There will be fun, games, and creativity 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](#)

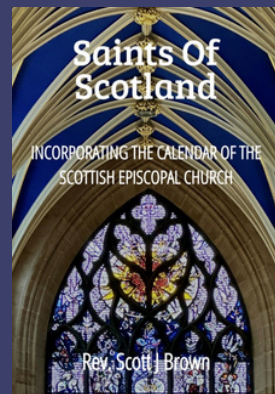
Don't miss! Thriving Biodiversity: Caring for God's Creation, 12 March, 1–2pm



In this free webinar, Sharon Hall will introduce Operation Noah's Church Land Use Vision, and how you and your church can be part of it. Sharon will share some inspiring case studies from other churches and Christian landowners, and offer free resources.

There will be a chance to ask questions and share from your own local context. Get the link for the event by [emailing Jack Nevin of the Net Zero Team](mailto:Jack.Nevin@netzero.org).

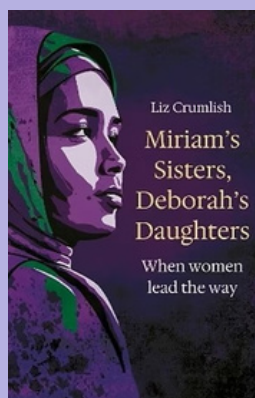
New book: Saints of Scotland



Rev. Scott Brown, a Kirk Minister transitioning towards ministry in the Episcopal Church, has compiled a new book on the Saints of Scotland – a devotional guide, with a short history of each saint, and a Collect/Prayer.

The book is available on Amazon at £10.99, but Scott is offering it at a discounted rate of £7.50 & postage. Churches could then retail it for the same price as Amazon, raising money for funds. For more information please email Rev. Scott Brown at scott16568@gmail.com.

Retreat: When Women Lead the Way



This retreat on **21–23 April at The Bield at Blackruthven**, led by Rev Liz Crumlish, focuses on cultivating leadership practices rooted in the ancient wisdom of women.

More information on [The Bield's website](#).

Events

Diocesan Diary

Monday 16 March: Personnel Committee

Monday 23 March: Buildings Committee



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

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

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)

Community Events

6 March: Rethinking the Gospel for a New Missional Era

7 March: Art & Spirituality: Common Ground

7 March: A Moment at the Well: A Quiet Day for Lent 2026

14 March: Diocesan Synod

14 March: Widowed Young Support Day

14 March: Christian Aid Changemakers Conference 2026

21 March: Spring Saturdays Godly Play Storyteller and Door Person

Accredited Training Course

29 March: 20th Annual Mindful Peace Walk

Drop us a line!

We love hearing your updates! Please email us 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.



Please note:

The Diocesan Office will be closed during the Easter weekend including Good Friday and Easter Monday, 3 April - 6 April.



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!