



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Credit: St Peter's Musselburgh



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The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

30 April 2026

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News and Notices

A Green Dream

St Peter's, Musselburgh, made news this week with its "green dream" coming to fruition, having 41 solar panels installed on the hall roof. The project was supported by the SEC Net Zero team, and **CARES**, which afforded the cost of the project.

The **SEC's Net Zero Action Plan** is a pathway set out to move towards General Synod's target of Net Zero by 2030. The main goals of the action plan are to utilise collective responsibility in understanding emissions across the diocese, and to reduce those where possible with a structured and supportive approach. **The Net Zero toolkit** is still available here for you to understand your emissions, before taking next steps to engage in the logistics of reducing emissions.

"We have also taken other steps to help us become a greener community, like changing the lighting in the church to LED bulbs and installing a HIVE thermostat in the church to better manage the heating in that building. For us, environmental responsibility isn't separate from faith - it is faith in action."

- Daniel Muñoz, Priest-in-Charge, St Peter's, Musselburgh

- **Click the banner to read the Case Study**



News and Notices



Reverend Lesley Penny, at St Peter's Galashiels and Fr Pip Blackledge, Rector of Holy Trinity in Melrose, will launch their new podcast Talking Faith on Sunday 3rd May.

There will be in-depth discussions about the "big" questions, "Why are we here? Why do bad things happen to good people? Is there a God?" These questions prompted Lesley and Pip to take on the idea of the podcast, and as an avenue to allow them to answer some of the compelling questions they are asked so often. Every episode begins with a question or statement from those who don't normally go to church, and they go on to explore these with not only discussions, but videos and occasionally an interview review.

"As clergy we get asked a lot of questions from people, really good questions, but often when it's hard to sit down and talk through the issues." - Pip Blackledge

"The heart of the podcast is being able to talk through difficult things in a supportive and helpful way." - Rev'd Lesley Penny

Listen or watch via the links below, and if you're curious, they might answer some of your questions, too!

Click the icons below to stream or watch Talking Faith



News and Notices

We are so pleased to announce that Cathy Ballantine, our Interim Administrative Assistant for Mission and Ministry, will be joining us in an official capacity from June!



Cathy has been with us on a freelance basis since 2024, covering the communications role during a period of maternity leave, before moving to her current position. She will be coming on board as the permanent Communications and Support Officer, helping to facilitate and communicate the mission and ministry of the church, and providing support to the wider team. Congratulations Cathy!

You can contact Cathy at dmmcadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Are you looking for new ideas to raise money for your church? Beyond Funding is a podcast that advises charities on how to succeed in raising money for their specific cause, including tips on how to apply for grant money, fundraising ideas, and professional advice.

Fundraiser Andrew Clark emphasises the need to diversify funding sources while aligning projects with community need to tell a clear story of your goal and impact.



In essence, what story are you communicating, and what are you inviting people to be a part of?

Click the icon to stream all episodes

Opportunities

There are a range of vacancies being advertised across the Diocese and wider community. Please find the these below, with contact details for each within the advertisement.

[St Andrew's Kelso, Rector](#)

[St Mary's Cathedral: Vice Provost](#)

Mission & Ministry

CMD Day: join us if you can!

If you're a member of clergy or Lay Reader, do [register to join us](#) on **Tuesday 19 May** at St Ninian's, Comely Bank, when the Revd Dr Gillian Straine will be leading our reflections on *Regenerative Leadership*. The Revd Dr Straine is CEO of [GoHealth](#) (aka The Guild of Health and St Raphael) an ecumenical Christian charity with over 100 years' experience in health and healing.



What the workshop will explore

The day will engage with a holistic and theologically grounded understanding of pastoral ministry, including:

- The theology of vocation and flourishing, rooted in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
- Exploration of a faith based approach to wellbeing
- The theology and science of avoiding burnout and sustaining ministry over time
- A trauma-informed understanding of ministry, including the impact of collective trauma in the post-COVID context
- The systems we live and work within, and how organisational, ecclesial and cultural dynamics interact with health and wellbeing in ministry
- Changing patterns of ministry and leadership, and the courage required to respond faithfully

Throughout the day, we will return to the conviction that caring for others and caring for oneself are both rooted in the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. [Register here.](#)

Mid-Exam Chillout

9 May, 4-7pm

Chill time for 12–18 year olds at St Mary's Cathedral with friends from across the Province and a Taizé-style Eucharist.

[Sign up here.](#)



Finance & Management

Over the coming editions, we will be signposting to new resources, templates, instructional videos and external links all aimed at reducing the sense of isolation we sometimes hear of in secretary, treasurer and other roles. We will also be introducing members of staff in a little more detail so you know what areas we cover for you.



OFFICE RELOCATION



We are very pleased to say that work has now started at the former Stonemason's Workshop to convert it/refit it as our new Diocesan Office! The stone-cutting machines and all the associated ventilation extraction system has been stripped out, the steel poles which fixed them into the structure have gone and the work to create the new partitions has been started. These will create storage rooms, a printer/IT room and a 1-2-1 room for private work and conversations. The Bishop's Office is in a space which was already used as an office. Paint colours, carpets and desk finishes are all agreed.....we just need to get a Broadband supply provided in time! We aim to move office in mid-June and start to welcome visitors. We will have much less room than at 21A.....but room enough to provide coffee!



CONTACTING US

As you know, we are lovely people, but we are few in number - 2 full-time staff and 4 part-time. We are here to help **you** but, quite often, it gets overwhelming! The huge number of emails we receive is difficult to keep pace with, so we want to guide you to where to find what you need and whom to contact. This is where you will find us:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/who-we-are/office-staff/>

You can click on the subject titles on this page and it will take you to the person you need to contact. Thank you - more improvements to come soon!



Who should I contact?

I'm looking for:

BISHOP & DEAN	COMMUNICATIONS	FINANCE, BUILDINGS & SYNOD	MISSION & MINISTRY
Bishop's PA and administrative support Bishop's diary Canon 31 marriage permissions Dean's PA and administrative support Clergy licensing PVG checking Vacancy Procedures for appointing a Rector	Diocesan news stories Bishop's social media and public profile Communications training and resources The Communicant Internal communications PR Social media Website	Canon 35 administration Canon 35 queries Data management Diocesan Administrator Office Facilities management Diocesan Standing Committee Secretary Diocesan Synod Secretary Finance & Management Committee and pendant committees secretary Finances (day-to-day) Governance Office Personnel & HR	Adventures in Faith Advisor for Christian Life DASHIC News Faith nurture and growth Ministerial development and training Mission and Ministry administrative support Mission and ministry resources Support for people in authorised ministry Youth and children's ministry support and resources Youth and Children's Newsletter

CANON 35 - 2026 CONSENTS GRANTED:

- St. Peter's – Musselburgh - Solar Panels project
- St. John's Princes Street - Siting of Pisces Sculpture in curtilage of church
- St. James, Goldenacre - Phase 2A of refurbishment project
- St. Adrian's, Gullane - Building of Centenary Extension and Installation of secondary glazing
- Holy Trinity, Haddington – Building Western Extension inc toilet refurbishment
- St. James, Leith – Refurbishment of Sanitary provision and installation of radiant heat provision

Events

Diocesan Diary

- May 4:** OFFICE CLOSED (Public Holiday)
May 7: Finance & Management Committee
May 11: Buildings Committee

Bishop's Diary

- May 3:** Confirmations at Rosslyn Chapel



Saturday 30 May, 11am: Installation of Bishop Dagmar

Every charge will receive an allocation of tickets, to be managed by their rector or priest-in-charge. We'll be in touch soon!

Community Events

Submit your own event details [here](#). It's easy to do!

30 April: The Nooma Conversations, St Peter's, Musselburgh

Sat 2 May: Plants Are Our Teachers: Spring Harvest Part 2: Drawing and Printing, St Mary's Cathedral

Sat 2 May: Clarsach Society "Spring Strings" Concert, St Matthew's, Rosslyn Chapel

Sun 3 May: Come and Sing Evensong, St Mark's, Portobello

Mon 4 May: Gifford Lectures, University of Edinburgh

Tues 5 May: Dementia Awareness Workshop, St Cuthberts, Colinton

Tues 5 May: Folk and Acoustic Open Mic Night, St Peter's, Lutton Place

Fri 8 May: Bethany's Showcase, Ps & Gs

Sat 9 May: Christian Aid Book Sale, New Town Church

Sat 9 May: Cathedral Open Day, St Mary's Cathedral

Sun 10 May: Grave Talk – Death Café, St Columba's by the Castle

Sun 10 May: Saxophone Concert, St Adrian's Church, Gullane

Thurs 14 May: David Goodbourn Lecture 2026, Online

Thurs 14 May: Ascension Mass: An Uplifting Celebration, St Michael's and All Saints

Wed 20 May: Left to Their Own Devices? A Care for the Family Event, Ps & Gs

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.

