Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



Christ Church, Duns

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

3 September 2026

In this edition...

News & Notices: pp. 2–3
Mission & Ministry: p. 4
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: 17 September 2026

Diocese of Edinburgh
34 Manor Place
Edinburgh EH3 7EB
office@edinburgh.anglican.org
0131 538 7033
SC001214

News and Notices

Happy Retirement!


Photo: Peter Backhouse

The Revd Canon Dr Marion Chatterley will retire as Vice-Provost of St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 13 September. We give thanks for all that Marion has given through her years of ministry and wish her a long and happy retirement!

People News from the Province



The Rt Rev Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney, has announced that she will retire in February next year.

Bishop Anne, who was consecrated in 2018, was ordained a deacon in 1987 and a priest in 1994. After over 20 years of ministry in the Church of England, she was appointed Rector of Holy Trinity Haddington in 2011. Read the full story on the SEC website.



Dr Dee Bird has stepped down after more than two years as Secretary General of the General Synod of the SEC. Dee led a period of significant change within the GSO, including an office relocation, and delivered the first General Synod outside Edinburgh for 20 years. Get the full statement from the Provincial Standing Committee on the SEC website.

Congratulations!



The Revd Simon Schofield has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Fillan's, Buckstone, Edinburgh. Simon's Service of Collation will take place on Thursday 1 October at 7pm.

The Revd Diana Hall has been appointed as Rector of St John's Dumfries, in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Diana's Institution will take place on Wednesday 9 December at 6.30pm.





The Institution of **Revd Andy Croft** as Rector of St Paul's and St George's, Edinburgh, will take place on Sunday 4 October at 7pm.

The Installation of **Revd Mae Christie** as Vice-Provost of St Mary's Cathedral will take place on Thursday 24 September at 5.30pm.



News and Notices

Doors Open across the Diocese

DOORS OPEN DAYS 2026

It's September, so Doors Open Days are here again! Here are the churches within the diocese that will be opening their doors over three weekends.

- **5 September**, 10am–3pm: St Peter's, Galashiels
- **12 September**, 10am–3pm: St James the Less, Penicuik
- **12 September**, 10am–4pm: St Mary's, Dalkeith
- **26 September**, 10am–4pm: St John's, Princes Street
- **26 September**, 10am–5pm: St Mark's, Portobello
- **26 September**, 11am–5pm; **27 September**, 12–5pm: St Michael and All Saints, Edinburgh
- **26 September**, 10am–5pm: St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge

Lay Readers Gather



This week, Lay Readers from across the Province have gathered at Glenalmond College for a conference entitled 'From Stranger to Friend'. Alan Baker, our Warden of Lay Readers, wrote a conference report which you can read on the SEC Facebook page.

Orthodoxy Conference

On 26 September the Fellowship of St Andrew, an ecumenical group based in Scotland, will be holding a conference, 'Orthodoxy and Britain'. The day will start with Divine Liturgy at one church, and continue with proceedings at another. The programme contains some excellent speakers and the day includes lunch.



Information and registration: fellowship.standrew@gmail.com

Keen to do some learning?

Did you know that we have a 'Courses' page on our website, where you can see what learning opportunities are coming up? From one-off lectures to online courses to in-person training days, see what takes your fancy!

APPLICATION DEADLINES



When you submit applications for Canon 35 consent, Provincial Buildings/Net Zero Grants, there is quite a bit to do at the office, before getting members to look at the large amounts of paperwork, in advance. That helps them to arrive at good decisions, un-rushed.

We do need to set some deadlines by which we need to have received papers. Any applications for Grants or Canon 35 consents after these dates will be considered at the subsequent meeting.

- **22 September**
- **26 October***
- **16 November**

**incl Provincial/Net Zero deadline*

Thank you for your understanding, as this is intended to make sure each application gets fully considered.

Slimming in the Office!



This tiny USB Drive now contains the backup of 38,224 pages of archive correspondence and papers from all the charges' box files which were in our 'back room' at 21a. These have all been professionally scanned, had the text recognised and been fully catalogued for quick reference. All part of our efficiency-drive now we're in our new office!

Vacancies

St Peter's, Musselburgh: Children and Families' Worker

See current vacancies on our Vacancies Page.

Mission & Ministry

Creationtide

Don't miss our updated Creationtide web page with resources to support you as you celebrate God as Creator and earth as our common home, and explore this year's theme of Living Water.



During Creationtide, two churches in the Diocese of Edinburgh – St Columba's by the Castle and St James, Goldenacre – are hosting community screenings of the People's Emergency Briefing, a 50-minute film that aims to engage its viewers with issues of climate change. Others, such as Holy Trinity, Haddington and St Peter's, Musselburgh, have screenings planned for later in the autumn.

We've put together a page for any churches that are considering hosting a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, with useful advice from three Diocese of Edinburgh churches. Find out more.



The Scottish Episcopal Net Zero team is holding a residential conference, **Hope for Creation**, on **20–21 October in Stirling.**



The conference will provide opportunities for worship, discussion and learning, with contributions from across the SEC, ecumenical partners, and partner organisations.

Bethany Nelson, Net Zero Empowerment Co-ordinator, says: 'Plans for this conference were drawn up in response to the feedback from attendees of the Net Zero Roadshow events, which took place over the past year ... Hope for Creation will also allow us to share our learning with, and learn from, ecumenical guests and partner organisations.'

Further information and booking are available via the Eventbrite event page.

These lovely photos were taken at the Pet Blessing Service at **St Adrian's, Gullane** on 30 August. Do let us know about any services of pet blessing during Creationtide!





Lent Course 2027

Called to Be ... is a new Lent Course as we think about discipleship. This course will take five images of how we are called by Jesus to Follow. It will be an opportunity to explore who we are before God, how we relate to God and to others, and where we might want to deepen the journey during Lent.

Called to Be ... will be available from the beginning of January. Further details are available from Revd Sophia Marriage.

Events

Diocesan Diary

Monday 7 September: Buildings Committee meeting

Tuesday 8 September: DMMC meeting

Tuesday 15 September: Staff Development Day

Monday 21 September: OFFICE CLOSED



Bishop's Diary

Sunday 6 September: Preaching, presiding and sprinkling congregation at the 200th Anniversary Holy Communion service at St Mark's, Portobello

Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 September: Attending Conference of European Churches (CEC) meetings in Frankfurt

Sunday 13 September: Choral Evensong and Farewell to Vice-Provost Revd Canon Dr Marion Chatterley, St Mary's Cathedral

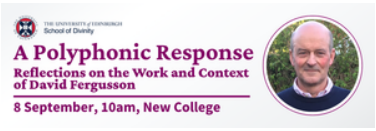
Wednesday 16 September: Confirmation at St Mary's, Grangemouth

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday 22 October Diocesan Synod (evening)

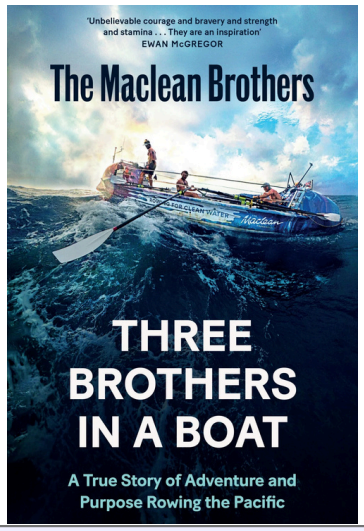
Events

Submit your own event details here. It's easy to do!

- **Friday 4 September:** Rosslyn Chapel Concert Picnic, St Matthew's, Rosslyn Chapel
- **Saturday 5 September:** Swap Shop and Coffee, St Mary's, Dalkeith
- **Saturday 5 September:** Choral Taster Singing Day, St John's, Princes Street
- **Sunday 6 September:** Creation Sunday in East Lothian, St Peter's, Musselburgh
- **Tuesday 8 September:** Reflections on the Work and Context of David Fergusson, New College, Edinburgh
- **Tuesday 8 September:** Vigil for Peace, St Mary's, Dalmahoy
- **Friday 11 September:** Albert the Great on Becoming Fully Human: Virtue, Judgement, and Perfection, Martin Hall, New College, Edinburgh
- **Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September:** St Mark's Art Exhibition, St Mark's, Portobello
- **Friday 11 September to Sunday 20 September:** Borders Music Festival, various locations in the Scottish Borders
- **Saturday 26 September:** Fellowship of St Andrew Conference: 'Orthodoxy and Britain', St Andrew's, 33 Chapel Street and Craigmillar Park Church, Edinburgh
- **Monday 28 September:** Three Brothers in a Boat Book Launch, Ps & Gs, Edinburgh







We love hearing your updates! Please email us at communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org