Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



St Mary's Cathedral
Credit: Bishop Dagmar

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

1 October 2026

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News and Notices

Revd Jane MacLaren Announced as Dean



Bishop Dagmar has announced that the new Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh will be the Revd Jane MacLaren, Priest-in-Charge of St Philip and St James, Goldenacre. Jane will take up the post of Dean from 1 November, while continuing to lead St James, Goldenacre.

Jane's roles in the Diocese of Edinburgh have included Associate Rector at Ps & Gs; ministry at St James, Leith; Associate Tutor at the Scottish Episcopal Institute; and Diocesan Ministry Development Officer. Bishop Dagmar said: "This experience will stand her in good stead as she brings her gifts and skills to serve our Diocese and I very much look forward to working with her."

Jane said: "It's a great honour to be invited by Bishop Dagmar to work with her as Dean of Edinburgh Diocese. From the Borders to the City and the Lothians, it's an exciting place to be. Many of our churches are growing, embracing the challenges, and finding new opportunities for mission and ministry. I'm looking forward to working as Dean with Bishop Dagmar and the wider Diocese whilst continuing to lead St James Goldenacre."



The Very Revd Frances Burberry will stand down as Dean on 31 October after ten years of service. Bishop Dagmar said: "I speak on behalf of all of you when I express my sincere and deep gratitude for her faithful commitment, gracious support and hard work which she has offered during this time, and of course especially during the episcopal vacancy. I am personally tremendously grateful to her for her help to me in these early days of my time with you."

Jane's installation in St Mary's Cathedral will take place in the new year. Bishop Dagmar said: "Please remember in your prayers both Frances and Jane at this time of transition."

New Vice-Provost Installed at St Mary's Cathedral



The Rev Canon Mae Christie was installed by Bishop Dagmar as the new Vice-Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh during a service of evensong on 24 September.

Originally from Louisiana, Mae came to the UK to study theology, and was ordained in the Church of England in 2015, becoming the vicar at All Saints, Tooting in 2017.

Commenting, Bishop Dagmar said that it was: "A glorious evening yesterday for the installation of Rev Canon Mae Christie as Vice Provost at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh with Provost John Conway."



Charges' Communications

The Priory Church in South Queensferry has changed its website and email addresses from a .com suffix to an .org one.



St Andrew's, Innerleithen has launched its own Facebook page. You can now get all the latest from St Andrew's here.

Vacancies

St James, Goldenacre –
Church Administrator, 15 hours/week

St Peter's, Musselburgh –
Children and Families' Worker, 12 hours/week

Find out more on our Vacancies page.

News and Notices

Diocesan Synod, 22 October



Papers for the Diocesan Synod on 22 October are now available on a dedicated page on our website. The Synod, to be held in **St Mary's Cathedral (note change of venue from the Walpole Hall)**, will commence with a Synod Eucharist at 5.30pm. There is a full agenda and timetable on the web page: https://edinburgh.anglican.org/diocesan-synod-22-october-2026/

Membership of the Diocesan Synod comprises:

- **Clergy** – all those who are Authorised, Commissioned, Instituted or Licensed
- **Lay** – an elected Lay Representative (or Alternate, in their absence) from each charge;
- **General Synod Lay Members** who were elected by Diocesan Synod.

New SEC guidance and resources for Martyn's Law and Single-Sex and Gender-Neutral Facilities

Guidance and resources relating to **Martyn's Law (the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025)** are now available on the Scottish Episcopal Church website: Church Security and Martyn's Law: What You Need to Know.

Guidance and resources relating to **Single-Sex and Gender-Neutral Facilities** are now available on the Scottish Episcopal Church website: Single-Sex and Gender-Neutral Facilities Guidance.

The guidance has been developed to help dioceses and charges understand the recent changes in legislation and any practical steps that may be required. For many, the requirements will be proportionate to what is already in place. A handy review template is available on the page under the "What next?" section: Toilet Facilities Assessment Template

Winter Weather Guidance

As autumn approaches, churches are encouraged to review their preparations for winter. Ecclesiastical has produced a range of resources covering cold weather, flooding, storms, lightning protection and tree management to help churches reduce the risk of weather-related damage and disruption:

- Cold weather advice
- Winter hints and tips (PDF)
- Flood safety for churches
- Church storm safety (PDF)
- Lightning protection guidance (PDF)
- Lightning advice
- Tree management guidance



Office Move: Items Available!

Following our office move, we have a number of items available for free to any charges who can come and collect them. They include chairs, desks, cabinets, and even some artificial plants. Most items are still at 21a Grosvenor Crescent.

We've put together a web page with pictures of all the items, which links to a Google form where you can submit a note of interest for any of them.

We'll review the notes of interest and let you know if you've been successful in securing the item(s). After that, you will have three weeks to come and collect.

Review all the items we have on offer on this web page.



News and Notices

The Welcome Space at St John's, Princes Street needs volunteers



The Welcome Space at St John's, running every Monday from 4–6pm, exists to combat the poverty experienced by so many in the community around us, and to provide folk with a warm welcome, wholesome food, a safe space in which to think and be, and the assurance that they are not forgotten or alone.

We need new volunteers to make anyone who attends the session feel welcome, by:



- Sitting and chatting with the guests
- Welcoming people on the door
- Assisting with the catering lead in offering top-ups of tea and soup
- Assisting with the setting up and clearing away
- Being able to volunteer for at least one session (3.15pm-6.15pm) per month



The key skills and attributes you'd need:



- Communication, active listening and empathy
- A welcoming, respectful & non-judgemental approach
- Teamwork, reliability and adaptability
- Organisation and practical support
- To be community-minded and compassionate
- A commitment to safeguarding best practice and membership of the PVG scheme.

If you're interested, please contact esther@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk

St John's, Selkirk's Memory Café Celebrates Five Years

St John's Memory Café, Selkirk had a fabulous 5th birthday party in September with photos, party games and songs, a bit of gentle tai chi, and then plenty of cake!













St Cuthbert's Awards at St Cuthbert's, Colinton



On Sunday 27 September, Bishop Dagmar presented Bryan and Ross with the St Cuthbert's Award for their faithful support and outstanding, generous service to the church community at St Cuthbert's Colinton.

Mission & Ministry





Could you host Play Church from Advent to Epiphany?



Play Church, currently at St Mark's, Portobello, is available for the Advent to Epiphany slot: November to February. It comes with outfits, props, books, an instruction booklet, and lots of opportunities to interest and engage children in the various services and traditions of the Scottish Episcopal Church. For Advent season, there is also an Advent candles feature! If you're interested in hosting Play Church from November, email dmmcadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

TRUSTEE Training

Join us at 9am for some breakfast
Get into the training at 9:30am
Finish by 1pm

Saturday 24 October
St Peter's, Abbotsford Road
Galashiels, TD1 3HS

https://tinyurl.com/Trustee26

Art and Availability

Revd Lana Woolford, St Mary's Cathedral Chaplain, will be offering 'Easel Hours', when she will paint icons while being available to listen, chat or just be with people as they watch her work. Easel Hours will take place on Thursdays and Sundays at 2pm.





"Ancient Wisdom for our Times"



Join us at St Peter's, Musselburgh, for two evenings journeying with Teresa of Ávila and Meister Eckhart, listening for wisdom, hope and a deeper way of being in uncertain and changing times.



Tues 6 Oct, 7pm **"The beauty of knowing"** Discover the wisdom of Teresa of Ávila—a guide for times of uncertainty. Explore her invitation to deeper self-knowledge, prayer, and trust in God's love, and how her wisdom can speak to our lives today. Facilitated by **Daniel Muñoz.**



Tues 20 Oct, 7pm **"The joy of unknowing"** Explore the path to inner freedom with Meister Eckhart. Discover the liberating wisdom of letting go, embracing simplicity and "unknowing," and finding peace in the mystery of silence. Facilitated by **Mark Burrows.**

More info: www.stpeters.scot

A **Soul Space** initiative at
St Peter's Episcopal Church,
High Street (nr Lucas), Musselburgh

SOUL SPACE

The 2026 SEI Lecture

The 2026 Lecture topic will be **"Towards a subaltern theology of sanctuary in the context of far-right extremism"**, delivered by the **Rev Dr Raj Bharat Patta.**

Thursday 29 October 2026 at 5pm

The lecture will take place at the Wade Hall, Maxwell Street, Paisley, PA3 2AB, and light refreshments will be provided. RSVP to alana.hathaway@scotland.anglican.org



Events

Diocesan Diary

Monday 5 October: Buildings Committee

Thursday 22 October	Diocesan Synod (evening). More information on our website.



Bishop's Diary

Thursday 1 October: Collation of Revd Simon Schofield as Priest-in-Charge of St Fillan's, Buckstone

Sunday 4 October: Preaching and Presiding at St James-the-Less, Penicuik

Sunday 4 October: Institution of Revd Andy Croft as Rector of St Paul's and St George's, Edinburgh

Sunday 11 October: Preaching and Presiding at Confirmation Service at Christ Church, Morningside

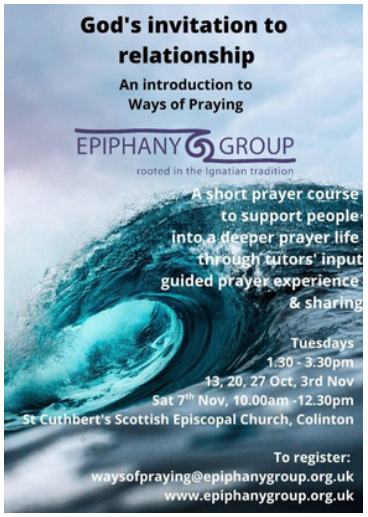
Monday 12 October: Lay Readers' Conference

Events

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

- **Saturday 3 October:** Silent Reflective Morning, St Anne's, Dunbar
- **Saturday 3 October:** Open Church, St Cuthbert's, Hawick
- **Saturday 3 October:** St Mary's Autumn Craft Fair, St Mary's, Dalmahoy
- **Sunday 4 October:** Artist Talk and Conversation with Kirralee Fisher, St Mary's Cathedral
- **Sunday 4 October:** Pet Blessing Service, St Mary's, Dalkeith
- **Monday 5 October:** The Jed' Soul Sisters (2), JedEye Hub, Jedburgh
- **Tuesday 6 October:** A Vigil for Peace, St John's, Jedburgh
- **Tuesday 6 October:** Sanctuary, St John's, Princes Street
- **Tuesday 6 October:** Ancient Wisdom for Our Times: 'The Beauty of Knowing', St Peter's, Musselburgh
- **Tuesday 6 October:** Folk Open Mic Night and Singing Circle, St Peter's, Lutton Place
- **Sunday 11 October:** The People's Emergency Briefing, Trinity Centre, Haddington
- **Tuesday 13 October:** God's Invitation to Relationship: An Introduction to Ways of Praying (Session 1), St Cuthbert's, Colinton





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