Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



St Fillan's, Buckstone
Credit: Bishop Dagmar

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

15 October 2026

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Bishop's Letter for October

Dear Friends

I enjoy meeting you, the people of the Diocese and especially those involved in public ministry, who, with your God-given gifts and faithful commitment, shape and make the Diocese what it is.

This week I took part in the Annual Lay Readers' Day Conference (pictured below), led by the Warden of Readers, Alan Baker. You will find me a great advocate of this distinctive lay ministry vocation for preaching and teaching which, it seems to me, is often underappreciated. We heard a passage from Numbers 11 in which Moses says "I wish all God's people had the Spirit". This calls us together under the one Spirit, as the one Body of Christ, to strengthen discipleship across our congregations, and I believe our Lay Readers, aka Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), have a distinctive role to play in this. While he was lead bishop for LLMs in the Church of England, the Bishop of Leicester helpfully defined lay ministers as commissioned by the Church principally for the work of equipping others in their everyday witness. I would like to explore further how we can develop this in Edinburgh Diocese.

Then of course I am looking forward to our Clergy Conference in Pitlochry in November, and to me it is an exciting prospect – after my first few months and lots of individual meetings – to be together with all those charged with leading a church. I hope it will be a good time of learning and reflecting, getting to know one another further, and of enjoying each other's company and relaxing and resting.



I am very conscious that the Clergy Conference does not include those who are non-stipendiary or self-supporting clergy. You too have your own particular charisms, gifts, joys and challenges, and I would like to spend some time with you to understand more about your ministry, its role in our Diocese and what I can do to help you and that ministry flourish further. Therefore, I am planning a Day Conference in the first part of next year, possibly on Saturday 24 April – date and programme tbc.

Speaking of ministry, since I last wrote it has been wonderful to welcome Revd Mae Christie as the new Vice-Provost at our Cathedral (right), Revd Simon Schofield to his new role as Priest-in-Charge at St Fillan's, Buckstone, and Revd Andy Croft as Rector of Ps & Gs (photos on p. 3). I have been particularly encouraged by the great support expressed by so many, lay and ordained alike, who came along to these respective services.



It was so good to confirm a group of people of varying ages last Sunday in Christ Church, Holy Corner. Confirmation is a great way of visibly marking a milestone on the journey of faith, celebrating the commitment to Christian discipleship and doing this purposefully in the context of belonging to the whole Church – I warmly commend it!

And finally, dare I say it, the new Diocesan Lent Course for 2027 is almost ready, so those of you who are early planners, do keep that in mind and look out for it …

With every blessing.

+ Jeremy

News and Notices



On Thursday 1 October, the Revd Simon Schofield was collated as Priest-in-Charge of St Fillan's, Buckstone.



On Sunday 4 October at 7pm, the Revd Andy Croft was licensed as Rector of Ps & Gs. You can catch up with the entire service, including Bishop Dagmar's sermon, here. The Revd Canon Dave Richards will remain at Ps & Gs for the next few months as Teaching Rector.



On the morning of Sunday 4 October, Bishop Dagmar authorised lay ministers at St James the Less, Penicuik. This was part of a harvest thanksgiving service, after which there was lunch and a walk around Penicuik Estate – much appreciated by Tilda!



Save the Date



The Revd Jane MacLaren will be installed as Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh on Sunday 17 January 2027 at 3.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. Please join us to welcome Jane as new Dean and to celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our diocese.



News and Notices

Diocesan Synod, 22 October



All the resources for the Diocesan Synod on 22 October are now available on a dedicated page on our website. The Synod, to be held at **St Mary's Cathedral (note the change of venue from the Walpole Hall)**, will commence with a Synod Eucharist at 5.30pm.

Any **Clergy apologies** must be sent to the Bishop. Also, if you want a printed copy of the papers, let the Diocesan Office know, and you can collect them at sign-in.

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.

St Mark's, Portobello Shortlisted for Architectural Award





St Mark's, Portobello is one of six finalists for the President's Award, which celebrates the best new church building, including re-ordering, extensions or alterations to existing church buildings. Read the full story here.

New SEC guidance and resources

Martyn's Law (the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025)

Guidance and resources relating to Martyn's Law are now available on the SEC website: Church Security and Martyn's Law: What You Need to Know.

Single-Sex and Gender-Neutral Facilities

Guidance and resources relating to single-sex and gender-neutral facilities are now available on the SEC 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 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.

Grosvenor Crescent: Items still available!



Some of the items left over after our move to Manor Place have been claimed by some lucky charges, but some are still available! Do have a look and see if there's anything that takes your fancy. If you'd like anything, you'd have to collect the items within three weeks of being told they're yours. Browse the available items.

Changes to Vestry Officers? Don't Forget to Update Us!

Please can you ensure that if there are changes to your Vestry Officer details you fill in the Vestry Officers Update Form without delay. This is **essential**, for GDPR and now for the legal Registration of Controlling Interests in Land. Thank you!

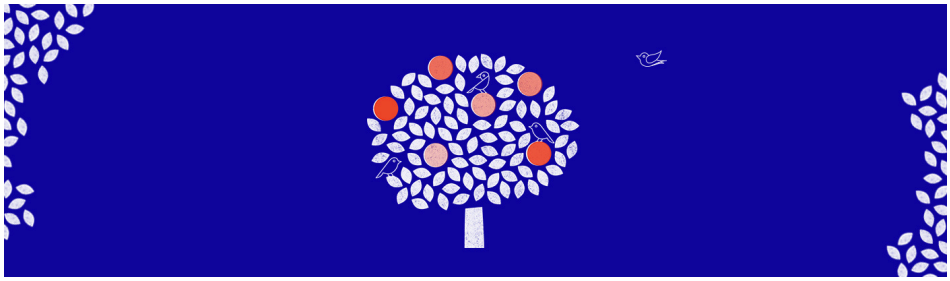


Mission & Ministry



Postcard from a Pilgrimage

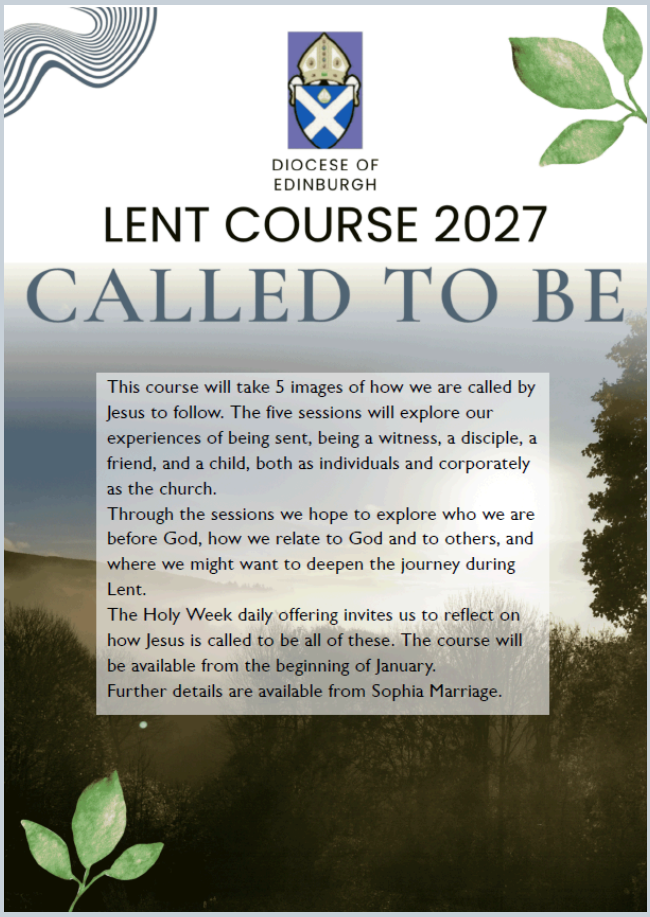
Dean Frances and Revd Gill Hitchen of St Matthew's, Roslin are currently with a group on a pilgrimage in Rome. Here they are at morning Mass.



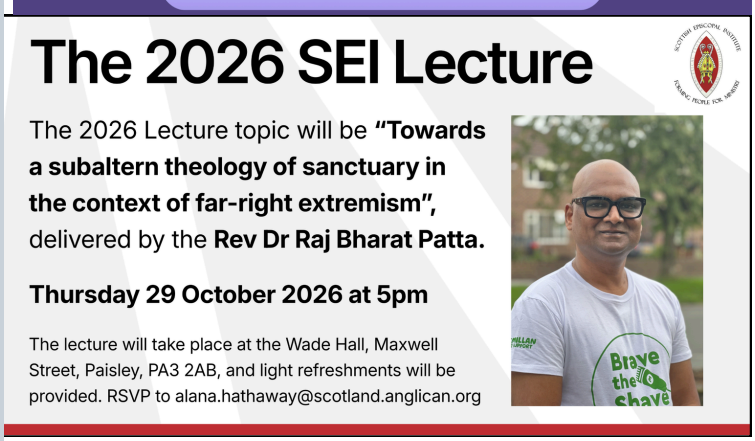
Fruitfulness on the Frontline from LICC has recently been relaunched and is featured in the 'Have You Tried?' section of October's Adventures in Faith, out today.

The frontline is "an ordinary place where God calls you to live and work with people who don't yet know Jesus", according to LICC. The programme encourages you to use 6Ms of Fruitfulness to spot how God is already at work through you.

You can delve into *Fruitfulness on the Frontline* as deeply as you like and with as many people as you like! There is a book, small group course, podcast and devotional app. The app and podcast are free; the book is £10; a single licence for the small group course is £15; a licence for up to five groups is £50, and for up to 10 groups it's £90. Find out more here.







Events

Diocesan Diary

Thursday 22 October: Diocesan Synod (evening)
Monday 2 November: Buildings Committee meeting
Tuesday 10 November: DMMC meeting

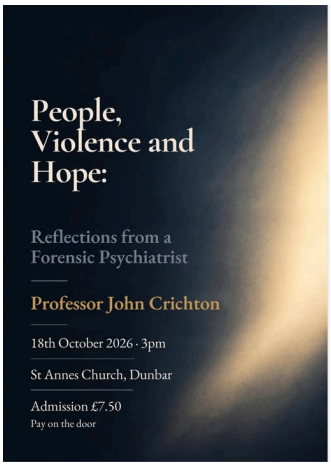
Bishop's Diary

Sunday 18 October: Preaching and Presiding at St Cuthbert's, Hawick
Wednesday 21 October: West Forth Area Council Meeting at St Mary's, Grangemouth
Sunday 25 October: Preaching and Presiding at Holy Trinity, Haddington

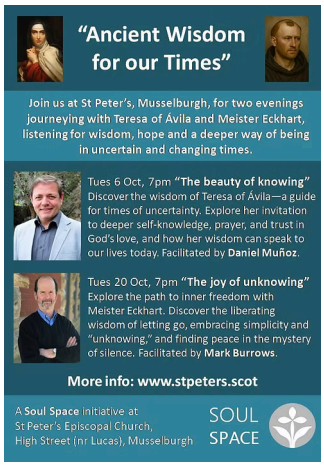
Events

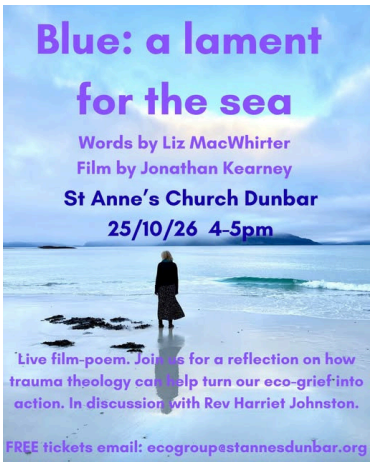
Submit your own event details here. It's easy to do!

- **Saturday 17 October:** Neurodiversity and Worship: A Practical and Liturgical Theology, Walpole Hall, St Mary's Cathedral
- **Sunday 18 October:** People, Violence and Hope, St Anne's, Dunbar
- **Mondays 19 and 26 October:** The Jed' Soul Sisters, JedEye Hub, Jedburgh
- **Tuesday 20 October:** Ancient Wisdom for our Times: The Joy of Unknowing, St Peter's Church, Musselburgh
- **Sunday 25 October:** Blue: A Lament for the Sea, St Anne's, Dunbar
- **Sunday 1 November:** Ecumenical Memorial Service, St Leonard's, Lasswade









Vacancies

- St Andrew's, Kelso – Rector
- St Cuthbert's, Colinton – Church Administrator
- St Mary's Cathedral – Assistant Director of Music
- St Peter's, Musselburgh – Children and Families' Worker



Find details of all our vacancies on our Vacancies page.