Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



St Cuthbert's, Hawick
Credit: Bishop Dagmar

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

29 October 2026

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

News and Notices

Diocesan Synod



Diocesan Autumn Synod took place in St Mary's Cathedral on the evening of 22 October. The presentations from the evening are available on the Synod page on our website. The Livestream of the meeting also remains available for now, and you can access it via the same web page.

LAY REPRESENTATIVES

Just a reminder to let us know when you have a change of Lay (or Alternate) Representative – again, there were a few invites sent out to people who were no longer in post. These, and other Vestry Officer changes, should be updated on our website – Vestry Resources page. Thank you.

DATE OF NEXT SYNOD

The next Diocesan Synod will be on Saturday 13 March 2027 and will be held at St Paul's & St George's, Edinburgh.

Vacancies



- St Andrew's, Kelso – Rector

Find details of all our vacancies on our Vacancies page. Don't forget to send your vacancies in to us so we can publicise them for you!

Mandatory Safeguarding Training



Bishop Dagmar has written to all clergy (with licence, commission, warrant or PTO) and licensed lay readers to tell them that all clergy and lay readers wishing to minister in the Diocese of Edinburgh must participate in Safeguarding Training alongside having a clear PVG.

We are offering the following training dates, supported by our Provincial Head of Safeguarding, Christine Riddoch, and her Deputy, Balázs Czinege:

IN-PERSON SESSIONS:

General Synod Office, Ground Floor West, 40 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8JB

- **Tuesday 17 November**, 10am–12pm
- **Tuesday 17 November**, 1pm–3pm
- **Thursday 19 November**, 10am–12pm
- **Tuesday 17 November**, 1pm–3pm

St Peter's, Galashiels

- **Tuesday 19 January 2027**, 11am–3pm

ONLINE SESSIONS:

- Dates to be confirmed in the New Year.

Please contact Hannah Harcus on hharcus@dioceseofedinburgh.org to register for your preferred session. Please note that in-person training will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have attended safeguarding training between January 2025 and now, you do not require training until 2028.

News and Notices

Two Coats Sunday offers warmth this winter



On Sunday 25 October, St Columba's by the Castle in Edinburgh held a Two Coat Sunday service. Members of the congregation brought new school coats to donate to local children through Kids Love Clothes, a charity based in Ratho which provides clothes for children and families across the Lothians. **Find out more on the St Columba's website**.



The BBC One Christmas Day Service this year will be broadcast live from St Mary's Cathedral! If you would like to attend the service, you can reserve a place here.



On 11 October, Bishop Dagmar confirmed a group of candidates at Christ Church, Morningside.



On 20 October, Bishop Dagmar joined other church leaders at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh at a special Christian Aid roundtable with partners in South Sudan. Attendees discussed what action the churches in Scotland could take together to support the people of South Sudan.

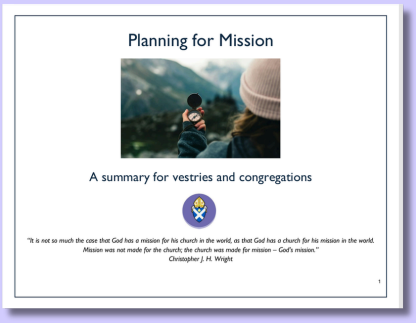
Once again, we will be publishing on our website a list of **Christmas services in the diocese**. It would help us if your online information (website and/or Facebook) is posted in good time.
Or you could email your service listings to Cathy at dmmcadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org. Thank you!

Mission & Ministry

Help with Mission Planning

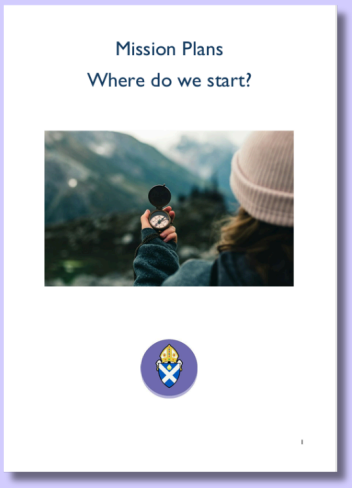
Mission Plans are a tool to discern the next phase of congregation life. They identify priorities and gaps in your ministry and mission. They shouldn't be scary!

To help you with mission planning in your own charge, we've created a Mission Planning page on the diocesan website with resources to help you.

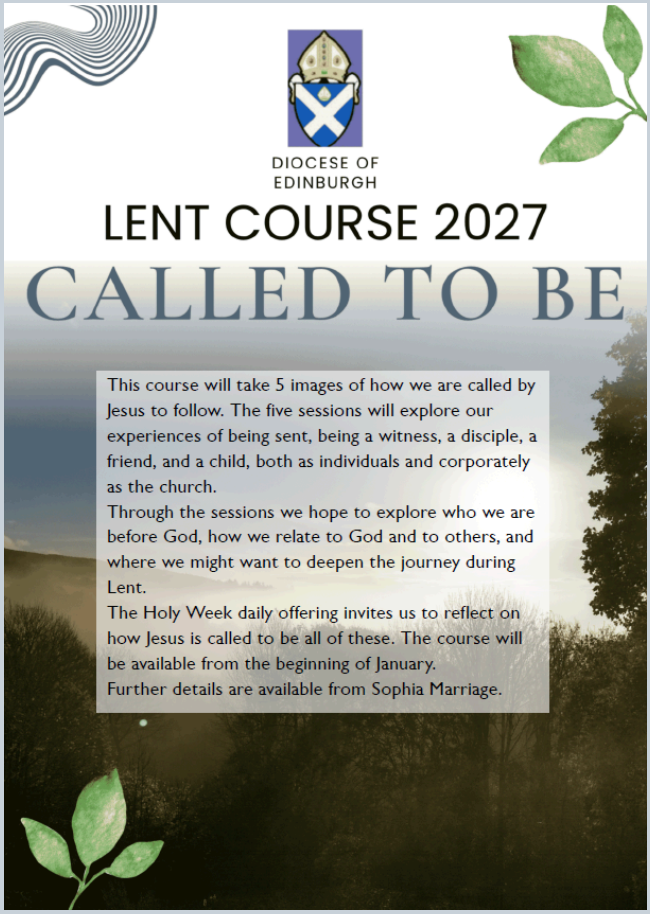


Planning for Mission: A Summary for Vestries and Congregations is a short document that takes you through some of the basics of mission planning. It contains a table you can use to start planning for mission. The document is available in Word as well as PDF so that you can copy and paste and edit it as you wish.

Mission Plans: Where Do We Start? is a much more detailed guide that takes you through some different models of mission planning, along with things to consider and questions to ask. Again, you'll be able to amend the Word version in whichever way is most useful to you.



Find the Mission Planning page here.



Looking forward to Advent



Our Advent to Candlemas resources page has now been updated for 2026. It's packed with links and ideas to help you navigate Advent, Christmas and beyond, so do have a look as Advent approaches.

Messy Church are launching a new network of Regional Teams nationwide! There are two major launch meetings for these groups, on **Tuesday 3 November** in the evening and **Thursday 5 November** in the afternoon. If you run a Messy Church in your charge then these groups are for you! Sign up here.

Events

Diocesan Diary

Tuesday 3 November: Staff Away Day
Monday 9 November: Buildings Committee meeting
Tuesday 10 November: DMMC meeting
Tuesday 17 November: Finance & Management Committee meeting

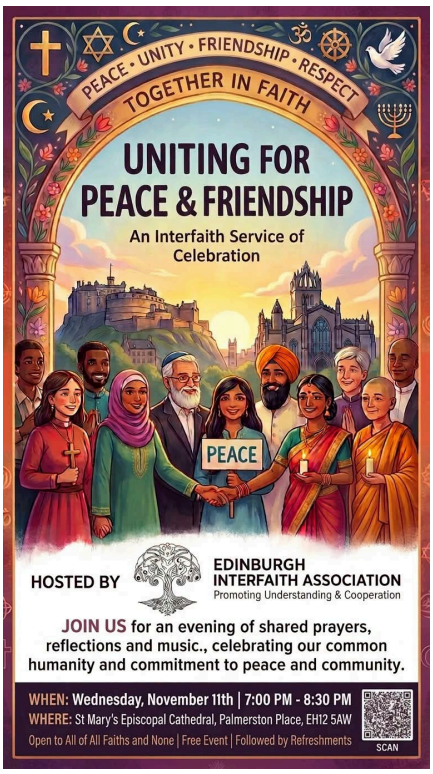
Bishop's Diary

Sunday 1 November: Preaching and Presiding at St Anne's, Dunbar
Monday 2 November to Thursday 5 November: Diocesan Clergy Conference
Sunday 8 November: National Service of Remembrance at Edinburgh City Chambers

Events

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

- **Saturday 31 October:** Climate Café, St Ninian's Church, Comely Bank
- **Tuesday 3 November:** A Vigil for Peace, St John's Episcopal Church, Jedburgh
- **Tuesday 3 November:** Sanctuary at St John's, St John's Princes Street
- **Tuesday 3 November:** Folk Open Mic and Singing Circle, St Peter's, Lutton Place
- **Saturday 7 November:** Silent Reflective Morning, St Anne's, Dunbar
- **Saturday 10 & 17 November:** Bible Labs, Priory Church, South Queensferry
- **Wednesday 11 November:** Uniting for Peace and Friendship Service, St Mary's Cathedral
- **Saturday 21 November:** The Rolling Hills Chorus, St Mark's, Portobello



November events from the Albertus Institute

THE ALBERTUS INSTITUTE

Monday 23 November: Making Good Citizens: Instilling Civic Virtues in School (an early evening event)

Saturday 28 November: Science and Religion: Lived and Imagined Realities (a day conference)

Both events will take place in Augustine United Church. Find out more.