Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church



St James the Less, Penicuik
Credit: Revd Nick Bowry

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

12 November 2026

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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:
26 November 2026

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Bishop's Letter for November

Dear Friends

I have returned from our Diocesan Clergy Conference in Pitlochry full of gratitude for our priests and for the great spirit at the Conference. Special thank you to Sophia Marriage, Convener of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Committee, who did so much work organising everything, and thanks to Pip Blackledge and Lesley Penny (those of podcast fame!) for preparing the uplifting music which makes such a difference to worship.

We had fascinating sessions with Eve Poole OBE from Edinburgh, reflecting on deep questions posed to us by AI on what it is to be human. For a taster, do watch this short TED talk. We thought about the coming Lectionary Year B which focuses on the Gospels according to Mark and John, and about our life together as we go forward.





Perthshire was dressed at its best with autumn colours and while some of us, including our new Dean, thought wild-swimming in a loch was a good idea (really??? not me!), others enjoyed walks, including climbing the nearby Corbett, Ben Vrackie (yes!!!).

I continue to enjoy visiting and worshipping with charges across the Diocese. In Penicuik recently, I was particularly honoured as Alan Murray specially composed and premiered a new song "Our Doors are Open" for us all to sing. It really was good with an easy and catchy tune, and since Alan is generously offering it to anyone, you will find it here for use in your charge.



Picture: Legion Scotland

We are in Remembrancetide, and on Remembrance Sunday I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of Edinburgh Diocese at the National Service of Remembrance at Edinburgh City Chambers, alongside Archbishop Leo, Diocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh, and Revd Dr Alistair May for the Church of Scotland. We will remember them, we pray for all those affected by warfare across the world, and those in active service now. Alongside the ageing veterans, I was moved by the sense of commitment in many of the young faces on parade.

And as we are heading for the last Sunday in the Church Year, Christ the King (22 November), we pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Every blessing.

+ Dagmar

News and Notices



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.

Congregational Statistics 2026



Our Congregational Statistics form for this year is now online. Every Rector or Priest-in-Charge is required to complete it "no later than 10 days after the eve of Advent Sunday" in accordance with our Canon 50, so make sure you do all you need to do in good time! If you have any questions, please contact Simon Filsell at dioadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Access the form here.

Mandatory Safeguarding Training



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~~ FULLY BOOKED
- ~~**Thursday 19 November**, 10am–12pm~~
- **Thursday 19 November**, 1pm–3pm

St Peter's, Galashiels

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

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

LIVE ONLINE SESSIONS:

- Dates to be confirmed in the New Year.

The requirement is to attend in-person training (including live online sessions) every three years. If you have attended safeguarding training since January 2025, you do not require training until 2028.

PVG E-Learning from the Province

The SEC has produced a mandatory Level 1 e-learning Safeguarding Awareness training session for everyone undertaking a regulated role within the SEC. This will now form part of the SEC's Safe Recruitment process.

When the Provincial Safeguarding Team receive a PVG application it will now trigger the applicant being sent the relevant links to take the training online. The SEC will not confirm a candidate's PVG status until they have completed this training.

The SEC hopes to be able to roll out the training out to everyone whether they are in a regulated role or not.

View the training at the links below. The closed captions have not picked up every word accurately, but this is not something that can be changed – apologies!

SEC Safeguarding Awareness - Level 1

SEC Safeguarding Awareness - Level - Knowledge check

News and Notices

St Mungo's Celebrates a Decade in Livingston





St Mungo's vision is to "Be Love", and this was at the heart of their celebrations as they marked their 10th Anniversary in Livingston.

On Saturday 10 October, teams headed out across the town to show love to the people of Livingston in different ways. Some went litter picking, particularly around St Margaret's Academy, which has hosted St Mungo's throughout the last ten years; others prayer walked the streets of Livingston; and a couple of teams went out armed with Celebrations chocolates to share with anyone they met!

The celebrations continued on Sunday 11 October, with a special service which culminated in the unveiling of a beautiful new wooden cross for the front of the worship space, lovingly crafted by a talented and generous member of the congregation.

And the icing on the cake (quite literally!) was rounding off the celebrations with a couple of amazing cakes (and cupcakes!) baked by members of St Mungo's.



Vacancies



- St Cuthbert's, Colinton – Organist

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!

Diocesan Communications During Advent: We Need your Help!

Advent and Christmas Service Listings

We will again be publishing on our website a list of **Advent and 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. Thanks to those who have already done so!

Advent Doors

For our Advent social media campaign, we're aiming to have a virtual advent calendar, featuring one charge per day. The graphic will move from a picture of a church with a closed door to a picture of the inside of the church. We will also list the upcoming Christmas services of that charge, and include a link to the Advent and Christmas service listings page on our website.

If you'd like your charge to be featured in our virtual advent calendar, please can you send us:

- A landscape photograph (in jpeg or tiff) of the outside of your charge with the closed door clearly visible and preferably fully facing the camera
- A landscape photo (jpeg/tiff) of the inside of your charge
- A list of your Advent and Christmas services, or a link to that information.

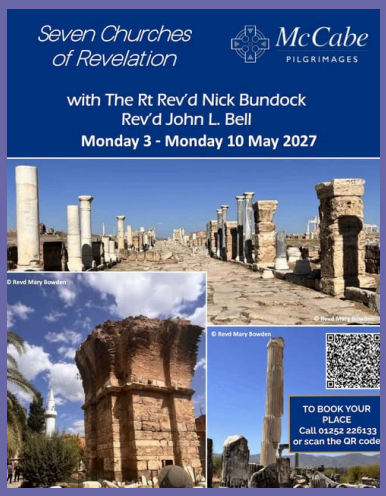
Examples of useful pictures are in the mock-up below. We can't guarantee the inclusion of your charge, but the overall campaign should encourage people to visit the Advent and Christmas service listings page.

Email your pictures and information to Cathy at dmmcadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org





Mission & Ministry



Pilgrimage: Seven Churches of Revelation, May 2027

The SEC are advertising a week-long 'Seven Churches of Revelation' pilgrimage, to be led by Bishop Nick Bundock and Revd John Bell, in May 2027. Click on the graphic for more.

How Can Christ Be Born in Us? Advent Quiet Day, 28 November

Vice Provost Mae Christie will lead the Cathedral's Advent Quiet Day on 28 November, 10.30am–3pm in the Song School. Mae says:



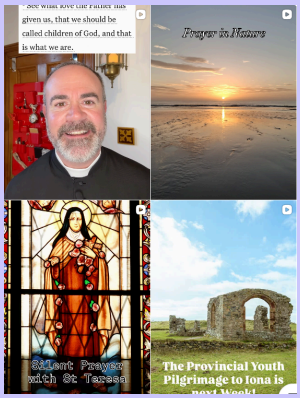
"Our Advent Quiet Day this year will centre around contemplating how Christ is born within us, the church and the world. There will be time for prayer, reflection, and fellowship. All very warmly welcomed!" Find out more and book here.

Catch up with ... the Provincial Youth Committee

Have you checked out the social media pages of the SEC Provincial Youth Committee lately? They're including a lot of great video shorts, with more on the way!

Check out Facebook here

Check out Instagram here

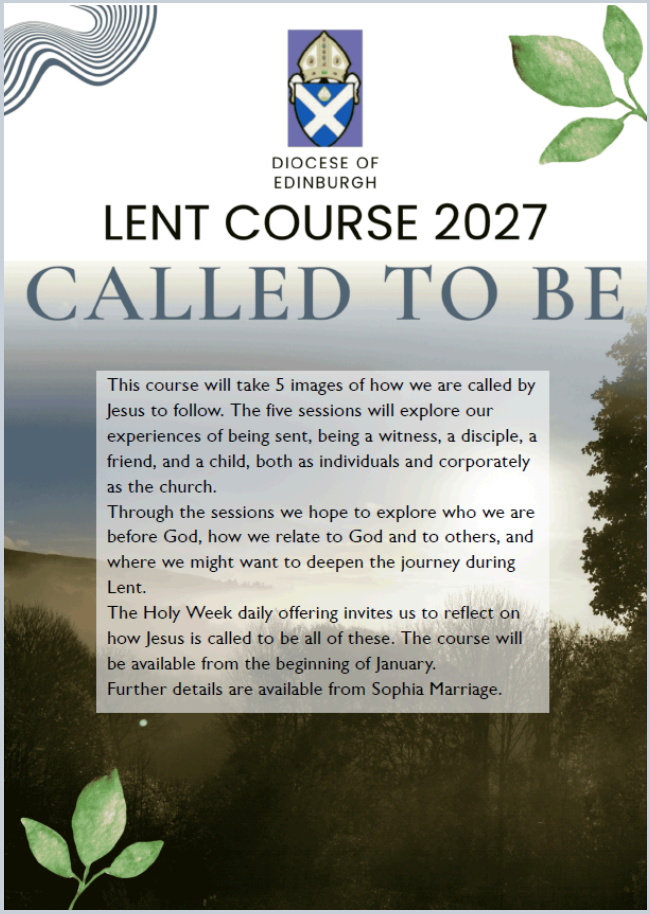


Catch up with ... the 2026 SEI Lecture

On Thursday 29 October, Revd Dr Raj Bharat Patta presented the 11th Annual SEI Lecture titled 'Towards a subaltern theology of sanctuary in the context of far-right extremism'.



You can catch up with Revd Dr Patta's lecture on the SEI YouTube channel.



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.



The 2026 Real Advent Calendar is included in our list. It's the UK's only Fairtrade Advent calendar and it comes with a 24-page Christmas story-activity book. Hurry to get yours – they are going fast and the deadline for purchases is **24 November!**

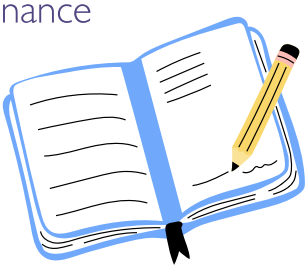
Events

Diocesan Diary

Tuesday 17 November: Finance & Management Committee

Tuesday 24 November: Standing Committee

Monday 30 November: Buildings Committee



Bishop's Diary

Saturday 14 November: Special Service at St Matthew's, Rosslyn Chapel

Sunday 15 November: Confirmations at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

Sunday 22 November: Preaching and presiding at Christ Church, Morningside

Events

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

- **Friday 13 November:** Soul Tides, St Mark's, Portobello
- **Friday 13 November:** Aerternam: Early Music for Reflection, Old Saint Paul's, Edinburgh
- **Saturday 14 November:** Affirming LGBTQI+ Identities and the Bible, St Augustine United Church, Edinburgh
- **Saturday 14 November:** Messy Church, Kenmore Hall, Jedburgh
- **Friday 20 November:** Quiz Night, St David's, Pilton
- **Saturday 21 November:** The Rolling Hills Chorus, St Mark's, Portobello
- **Sunday 22 November:** Cornhill Community Choir Concert, St Mary & All Souls, Coldstream
- **Saturday 28 November:** How Can Christ Be Born in Us? Advent Quiet Day, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh
- **Saturday 28 November:** Granton Youth's Christmas Fair, St David's, Pilton
- **Saturday 28 November:** Christmas Fayre, St Cuthbert's, Colinton
- **Sunday 29 November:** Advent/Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, St Peter's, Lutton Place





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.