Diocese of Edinburgh
Scottish Episcopal Church



St Mary's, Dalmahoy

The Communicant

News & Notices for the Diocese of Edinburgh

26 November 2026

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News and Notices



On 11 November, Revd Val Cameron was officially licensed as Deacon to St John's, Princes Street during the Wednesday Eucharist service, following a commemoration of Armistice Day.

Remembering Reginald Earnshaw



St David's, Pilton made a pilgrimage to the war grave of Reginald Earnshaw in Comely Bank Cemetery on Armistice Day. Reginald was killed in 1941 aged 14 years old, and his was the first funeral to be held at St David's. He is believed to be the youngest person in the British services to die in World War II. You can read more about Reginald Earnshaw on Wikipedia.

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.

Safeguarding Update



All clergy and lay readers wishing to minister in the Diocese of Edinburgh must participate in Safeguarding Training alongside having a clear PVG.

Four in-person sessions, run by our Provincial colleagues, have now taken place at the General Synod Office at 40 Torphichen Street. We will be able to release some new in-person dates for the new year soon, so watch this space.

We have one in-person session planned for the new year so far:

St Peter's, Galashiels

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

Please contact Hannah Harcus on hharcus@dioceseofedinburgh.org to register for this session.

We will also confirm dates for live online sessions 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.

Thank you to all who have attended and engaged with the training so far.

Finance and Management Committee

In its recent meeting, the Committee considered the paper on recommended fees for clergy providing occasional cover, including during vacancies or an incumbent's absence. The Committee agreed to the rates of £54 for one service and an additional £16 for a second service, with £70 for two services plus mileage, and reviews in future at two-year intervals. The rates were guidance to charges, not mandatory payments.

Actions: Simon Filsell to confirm the agreed figures against the paper and arrange publication of the recommended rates through The Communicant.

News and Notices



On 14 November, Bishop Dagmar presented Harry Stoddart of St Matthew's, Roslin with the St Cuthbert's Award for more than 30 years of faithful service as a lay reader.



On 15 November, Bishop Dagmar confirmed a group of candidates at St Mary's Cathedral (not all candidates are pictured).



St Mary's, Coldstream hosted the Cornhill Community Choir on 22 November. The concert raised more than £160 for church funds.

Busy Weekend at St David's



A quiz night (pictured above) which attracted 50 people on Friday 20 November, followed by a full church to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday 22 November, gave St David's Pilton a very busy weekend – as well as a real sense of hope for the future.

Advent Communications

Advent and Christmas Service Listings

Our web page listing **Advent and Christmas services in the diocese** is now live!
Thank you to everyone who has emailed listings to us, and well done for producing some lovely graphics. We will be able to update the web page until 22 December, so do email Cathy at dmmcadmin@dioceseofedinburgh.org if you would like to add your listings.

Advent Doors

There are still slots available in our Advent social media campaign which will feature one charge per day. The slides for Day 1 are shown below. There will be an animated transition between the slides.







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/png) of the inside of your charge
- A list of your Advent and Christmas services, or a link to that information. If we already have your details on our Advent and Christmas Services page, don't worry about sending them again.

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

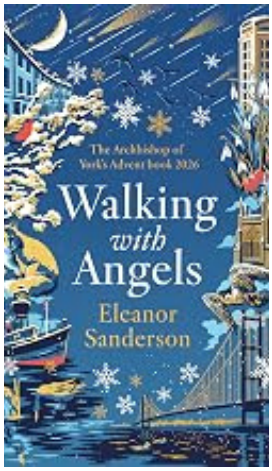
When our campaign starts on 1 December, we'd appreciate any likes and shares!

Mission & Ministry

Advent



Our Advent to Candlemas resources page has been updated for 2026. It's packed with links and ideas to help you navigate Advent, Christmas and beyond.



One place to purchase

If you haven't decided on your Advent book yet, 'Walking with Angels', the Archbishop of York's 2026 Advent Book, comes recommended – it is being used by Advent groups within the diocese, including St Anne's, Dunbar and St Baldred's, North Berwick, and it was mentioned in the latest episode of the Talking Faith podcast!

Twin your Christmas Tree with an Olive Tree!

If you're looking for an interesting Christmas present or a way to mark Christmas while helping others, why not consider an olive-tree twinning? Embrace the Middle East has launched a tree-twinning initiative that encourages you to twin a Christmas tree with an olive tree in Palestine.

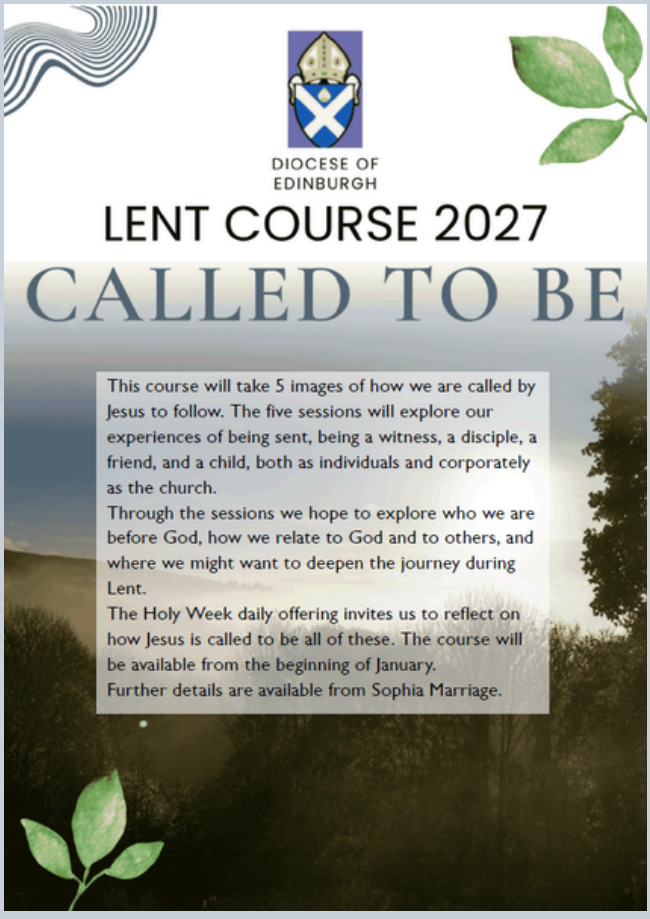
From £40, you can support Palestinian olive farmers in protecting their land and livelihoods. You'll receive a personalised twinning certificate, followed by a tree planting certificate the summer after your tree is planted. Find out more.



YEEK 2027: Save the Date!

YEEK 27 will take place from **25–31 July** next year!

Booking details will follow in the New Year.



Events

Diocesan Diary

Monday 30 November: Buildings Committee



Office hours over Christmas

We are officially closing for Christmas on 25 December, but if you're planning to visit the office on 23 or 24 December please make an appointment rather than just dropping in. Thank you!

We'll be back in the office on 5 January.

Bishop's Diary

Saturday 28 November: Baptism and Confirmation Service at Fettes College

Sunday 29 November: Preaching and Presiding at St Salvador's, Stenhouse

Sunday 29 November: Blessing of Edinburgh's Nativity Scene

Sunday 6 December: Preaching at St Martin of Tours



Events

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

- **Saturday 28 November:** How Can Christ Be Born in Us? Advent Quiet Day, St Mary's Cathedral
- **Saturday 28 November:** St Peter's Advent Fayre, St Peter's, Linlithgow
- **Saturday 28 November:** Granton Youth's Christmas Fair, St David's, Pilton
- **Saturday 28 November:** Christmas Fayre, St Cuthbert's, Colinton
- **Sunday 29 November:** Blue: A Lament for the Sea, St Anne's, Dunbar
- **Sunday 29 November:** Advent/Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, St Peter's, Lutton Place
- **Monday 30 November:** Jed Soul Sisters Christmas Special (1), Jedburgh & Oxnam Parish Church
- **Monday 30 November:** Advent Course: The People of Advent, Session 1, Christ Church, Falkirk
- **Tuesday 1 December:** Advent Course: Advent from A to Z, Session 1, online
- **Tuesday 1 December:** Sanctuary at St John's, St John's, Princes Street
- **Tuesday 1 December:** Folk Open Mic Night and Singing Circle, St Peter's, Lutton Place
- **Saturday 5 December:** Christmas Fair, St Mary's, Dalkeith
- **Saturday 5 December:** Silent Reflective Morning, St Anne's, Dunbar
- **Sunday 6 December:** Zimbabwe Celebration, St Columba's, Bathgate
- **Sunday 6 December:** Switching on of Church Christmas Lights, St Cuthbert's, Colinton
- **Sunday 6 December**: Queer Carols, St Columba's by the Castle

Keep us up to date! Send your news and stories to communications@dioceseofedinburgh.org