



St Martin of Tours  
Diocese of Edinburgh Scottish Charity No: 011137

Living our faith in our community  
through prayer, reflection and action





**June July 2025**

**St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church**  
is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion  
[www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk)

## Who are we?

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Alternative Lay Representative	Diana Gilligan	

## **Rectors letter**

RAF Induction As I am sure most of you are aware, I have just been commissioned as a chaplain in the RAF; it is a new type of commission designed solely for ex-regulars to come back in on a zero-hours contract and offer support when needed. As RAF Chaplains don't have anyone between Lossiemouth (near Inverness) and Boulmer (in Northumberland) The Chaplain in Chief approached Bishop John who was happy to recommend me, should any pastoral support to RAF personnel and their families be required in Central and Southern Scotland, and Northern England.

As part of my induction, I attended a course for Anglican RAF Chaplains at The Defence Academy near Swindon; within its grounds is Beckett House, (pictured below this article) home to The Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre; when it is not hosting chaplaincy training across the three services, it runs courses for the wider military on subjects including listening skills, ethics, and pastoral support. Central to its ethos is rank is left at the door, so whether a private soldier or a Lieutenant General, everyone is in civilian clothes, eats together and shares the same accommodation.

My course ran over 5 days and was structured around a morning eucharist and evening prayer. We had a wonderful variety of speakers and facilitators; the highlight for me were the sessions led by The Rt Rev'd Sean Semple, the Bishop of Cyprus and The Gulf. Although based in Cyprus, his diocese covers the whole of the Arabian Penninsular and Iraq. As you can imagine, such a diocese is challenging, and the bishop must tread a very narrow diplomatic path; Countries such as Saudi Arabia have a blanket ban on any Anglican presence. Other Muslim countries allow Anglican worship, but strictly a no proselyting rule, so churches are placed in a compound and serve predominantly ex pats, and foreign workers. The compounds are policed to ensure no locals attend. As Bishop Sean remarked, 'some of us will be the only bibles that others will read'.

In Southern Cyprus, where Greek Orthodoxy is the predominant denomination, the Anglican church has a few of its own buildings but also uses Greek orthodox Churches. This too brings its problems as the Orthodox Church has strict policy on women priests; a woman is not even allowed to enter a church dressed as a priest, let alone take an Anglican service, so there are some charges which are not available to women. The Orthodox church is generally hostile towards Muslims, engaging in little, if any, dialogue and the Anglican churches have played a significant role in building up good relationships with the Muslim faith community and finding ways of working together.

Yet despite these challenges, the churches are flourishing, ministering to vibrant congregations from many different cultures: Even in war torn Yemen, the Anglican church has a presence, running an eye clinic in the church grounds even though the church itself cannot open. The Anglican church in Baghdad is thriving and runs a free dental clinic and a pharmacy, and in the year he has been in post has made great strides in building up relationships with other church and faith leaders and with a diocesan staff of just three (Including him) he is kept very busy!

Other speakers included the Bishop to the Forces, and the Military lay Rep for the Church of England General synod, who led a surprisingly humorous session on Church of England Governance. We had sessions on the relationship between Art and Spirituality from Professor Maggi Dawn, and an excellent presentation from Kate Bruce, an RAF chaplain on preaching and imagination.

But perhaps most importantly for me was the opportunity to meet my new colleagues in the RAF and to feel that I am very much a part of their family; I ask that you keep them in your prayers, especially those currently deployed in The Falklands and The Gulf and thank you St Martin's for allowing me the time away.

John



**From: Wilson Poon, Diocesan Secretary, on behalf of the Diocesan Standing Committee**

I share a message with you from Bishop Andrew Swift, who will be convening the Electoral process:

“The election of a new Bishop is a vital part of the life and ministry of a Scottish Episcopal diocese. As you start the preparations to say farewell to Bishop John, please keep in prayer him and Clare and also all those who will be supporting the process to elect his successor. This process is just starting to begin now, with each charge in the Diocese being asked to share a



short profile, to reflect on where you are as a church community and how the next Bishop might be able to support you in your next season of life. These profiles are vital to the election process, as we will use this information, gathered together, in the production of descriptions of the role and person who will be called to be your next Bishop! And please especially pray for all those clergy who might be willing to discern over the next months if they may have a call to be the next Bishop of Edinburgh. Please read this email very carefully and share it in your charges, as it will guide you through the beginning of the Canon 4 electoral process.”

Electing a bishop is one of the most important moments of the life of a diocese and is a matter of vocation and spiritual discernment. A Vacancy in See is also an exciting missional opportunity; because it will engage interest more widely. When we add a Bishop Search tab to our diocesan website, and put information on, and update the website and our social media platforms we will be saying who we are, what matters to us, and where we are going, which will draw interest from beyond the Church.

Of course, we will have the opportunity to explore something of who we are and where we are going when we gather together for the Diocesan Big Day on Saturday, 10 May at St Mary’s Cathedral and share there the blessings we have received and offered in our communities.

For now, the practical task of collating information for the Diocesan Description is upon us (Canon 4.4b). In this endeavour, you have a clear role to play, as each charge owns its story and is best placed to tell it. The Diocesan Standing Committee now invites you to share your congregational profile and vision so that it might connect with candidates and inspire them to apply.

Accordingly, we are looking for the following to be returned by Vestry Secretaries or Charge Clergy:

- A submission of not more than 300 words about the current life of your charge, citing two examples of things going well – where the strengths of your activities and involvement lie – and one which you consider a current challenge. Do not pretend that things are different from what they are. If you feel/know you are having a tough time, then say so. However, also try to show that you are up for a challenge and want things to be better in the future, even if you do not quite know what that future looks like.
- Three good quality photos depicting events, activities and/or services which your church community has undertaken (recently). Ideally, your photos will be of people in landscape orientation.
- Separately, we would also like each charge to provide a number of words (maybe 5-10) to describe what is important in the next bishop, as we are considering creating a *word cloud* (a visual representation of text data where the size of each word indicates its frequency or importance) from your suggestions. This would bring together our

collective thoughts about what our Diocese needs in our next bishop. As a congregational activity then, perhaps during or after a Sunday service, you might ask the question, ‘what does the Diocese need in our next bishop?’, and follow that up with, ‘what skills and characteristics are desired?’.

- Please send your stories, photos, and suggestions to [bishopsearch@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:bishopsearch@dioceseofedinburgh.org) by 27 June 2025.

The submission (as a Word document) with photographs and suggestions should simply be attached to your email. Should you have any queries at all about any of the above, please don’t hesitate to contact either Hannah Marcus, Bishop’s and Dean’s PA at [hharcus@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:hharcus@dioceseofedinburgh.org) or 0131 538 7044, or the Dean, Frances Burberry, at her email address or phone number below.

[dean@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:dean@dioceseofedinburgh.org) or 0131 346 9083.

We look forward to hearing from you all in due course as we embark on the first stage of this process.

Chancellor, Clergy, Lay Readers, Hon Lay Canons, Licensed Ministers, Lay/Alternate Representatives, Vestry Treasurers, Vestry Secretaries, Edinburgh’s General Synod Representatives, Diocesan Staff, Convenors and Members of Diocesan Committees

Membership of the Preparatory Committee (as defined in Canon 4.15) for the Edinburgh electoral process is confirmed as the following eleven people:

#### Two Bishops

- Bishop Andrew Swift, Bishop of Brechin, Convener
- Bishop Mark Strange, the Primus, nominated by the College of Bishops

#### Five members of the Provincial Panel for Episcopal Elections

- Dean Frances Burberry Ordained Rep from Edinburgh. Dean of Edinburgh and Rector of St Ninian’s, Comely Bank
- Canon Alistair Dinnie Lay Rep from Edinburgh Diocese. Honorary Lay Canon of St Mary’s Cathedral
- Ms Ley-Anne Haigh-Forsyth Lay Rep from Moray Diocese, Youth lead in Diocese and Province, Safeguarding
- Dean Alison Simpson Dean of Moray, Ross and Caithness and Rector of St Columba’s, Nairn
- Dean Graham Taylor Dean of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and Rector of St John’s, Perth

#### Four Edinburgh members chosen by the last Diocesan Synod

- Dr Jennifer Floether Lay Rep, Lay Reader St Salvador's, Stenhouse
- Rev Andi Hofbauer Ordained Rep, Priest-in-Charge of St John's, Jedburgh & St Cuthbert's, Hawick
- Rev Liz O'Ryan Ordained Rep, Rector of Holy Trinity, Haddington
- Mr Josese Rokotakala Lay Rep St James-the-Less, Leith

3 key dates from the Draft Provisional Timetable for the Episcopal Election Process for the Diocese of Edinburgh are:

- Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 - Preliminary Meeting of Electoral Synod (including an in-person meeting in Edinburgh of the Preparatory Committee)
- Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 - Electoral Synod meeting with candidates
- Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 - Electoral Synod meeting to undertake **election**

Please feel free to share this email as widely as you would wish.

Kind regards

Hannah

Diocesan Link for the Bishop Search Process

**Blessings on the Way, The Big Day at the Cathedral.**





The Bishop gave a fine talk using the walks he took to his office to show the changes in the city of Edinburgh. The spires of the Cathedral partially hidden by new buildings, yet the spires were reflected in the glass windows of the new buildings. There is still hope for the future. After the communion every charge was given a candle as seen on the title page. The candle has a prayer for a New Bishop and will be lit in each parish as they pray for a New Bishop.

Prayer for a New Bishop.

Living God,

You walk with us in all seasons of life calling us to follow you with joy, hope and love as we share in your work of renewing the world; give us humility and discernment to hear your voice, that those discerning their calling and involved in our bishop search may be encouraged in your ways and open to your creative Spirit. Amen

## **St Martin's Toddler and Baby Group**

Toddler Martians

Many people aren't aware that the toddler group is part of St Martin's weekly use of the building, and was started about 17 years ago. Sophia had Phoebe and the twins Rhona and Freya all under 3 years old and decided to start the group. It was about 5 weeks before we began to get people coming and its never looked back since.

We collected toys, some had belonged to the original playgroup at the old St Martin's and anything that we had spare. Since then we have been eco-friendly, using and reusing toys brought by parents, found in charity shops or donated to the church from other groups. Dalry nursery donated some and a toy library which was closing down let us choose what we would like. Anything that is unsuitable for the group is collected and we have a sale.

The group is multicultural and many children are bilingual. Mums, dads, grandparents, carers and nannies bring their children so there is a nice mix.

We offer play, refreshments of breadsticks and fruit for the children and tea and coffee for the adults and finish with a sing song of action rhymes and nursery rhymes.

We run on donations only, although the rental charge is included in St Martin's annual rental payment for the Church's use of the building.

It runs alongside the Toy Library which was started several years ago. It was the idea of a group from the local churches wanting to do something for the community. As there was no toy library on this side of Edinburgh, local grants were sought and the Library was created. St Martin's seemed to be the only church to have space so it was installed. Like the Toddlers, it's manned by a group of volunteers and members of St Martin's and thanks to Stuart it runs well and is a success.

Recently we had a visit from Auntie Liz's friend Ellie Stratton. She liked what we are doing and gave us a generous donation to honour her friend in the work we do. This gave me quite a headache trying to decide what to do, and how to do it. After some discussion with others involved, we have now spent the money.

The most used toys at the playgroup are the cups, pretend food, teapots etc, always a busy area. This symbolises the kitchen as a centre for food and conversation, and company, and we have all enjoyed that with Liz. Liz has always been known as Auntie Liz by our children and other groups at St Martin's as opposed to her sister in law, Mrs Liz. We bought a toy kitchen for the group and Stuart made a sign, 'Auntie Liz's kitchen'. Play continues and they all enjoy the company.

The Cars and vehicles are always popular. We have had several road maps for the vehicles but they quickly get creased and tear. As Liz is always driving someone around and is known as St Martin's Taxi, we bought a rug road map for the group. The children can now drive their cars along the roads.

As you know, Liz organises the fund raising for Elinor's Orphanage, so it seemed appropriate to give the rest of the money to that cause. The orphanage has received their first instalment and will receive another at Christmas time. An invaluable aid for their existence.

I'd like to think we have spent wisely and we have honoured Liz in the work she does and we wish her all the best with her training.







### **Tony's Kitchen**

Diane Fairlie-Clarke, Tony's widow, will be visiting St Martin's for the Service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 when she will unveil the plaque in dedication of Tony's Kitchen.

### **THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you to all of you who supported us in our recent house move. A stressful time was made much easier by your encouraging words, lovely cards and gifts of food, also extra packing boxes and lifts in your cars. We really felt the friendship of the St Martin's family, as well as friends further afield. The work does not end with the actual move, however, as many of you will know! When we have sorted ourselves out, we hope to be able to host visitors. Until then, thank you all again.

**Elizabeth and George**



**Dedication of Memorial Bench in Memory of Bill Brockie  
Dalry Community Park on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**









## **Art Show 2025**

Sunday August 24th (Preview Evening) to Saturday 30th August.

If I can count correctly, this will be our twenty-first Art Show. As we had no idea if this would even work, I am amazed to find how many people return year on year, both exhibitors & visitors, and how welcomed it is.

Your help is vital for all the tasks that need done.....to distribute/put up posters; set up the display boards and art work on Saturday 23rd August; run the café during the week; make some home bakes to sell all week; supervise the show; talk to visitors; run the Coffee Morning on Saturday 30th; and then dismantle the show and help with collection of art by purchasers and exhibitors; and put the church back to normal in readiness for Sunday morning service.

There is a task to suit all abilities so please think about volunteering at some point. Even if you come along to view the show and have a coffee & cake and a wee blether, it all counts.

We now open from 12noon till 4pm Monday to Friday and 10am till 12.30pm on Saturday 30th. Please check the Rota, at the back of the church during August, to see when you can help.....then fill in your name in and add to your diary.

The Preview evening on Sunday 24th August at 7pm is open to all the congregation. Please join us if you can and bring a friend.

Thank you.

Lynn



# edinburgh canal festival

saturday 21st june 2025

12-5pm



• a free festival

open to all •



water activities •

music •

community doors open and more



online programme at  
[edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk](http://edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk)  
or scan  
the QR code

This Festival would not be possible  
without all the support we are  
receiving from volunteers,  
organisations, sponsors  
and funders.



Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust  
Charity Reg. No. SC002240 Company  
Reg. No. 265685

**SAT**  
**23rd AUG**  
**Edinburgh Canal**  
**RAFT RACE 2025**  
**12-5PM**

*barge boat trips*  
*raft building*  
*raft race*

more info:  
[www.fact.scot/welcome](http://www.fact.scot/welcome)



*a fun  
day out*

## Eco Group

**The Net Zero Team will host a Diocesan Net Zero Roadshow event for the Edinburgh Diocese at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Saturday 19th July 2025.**

The event will run between 10am and 3pm, with time for networking, sharing stories, and hearing from external contributors. Contributions will include talks, information stands, and workshops on a range of subjects, such as funding, climate justice, and building improvements.

The day will include a catered lunch and will end with worship, helping to keep our environmental concerns rooted within the context of our faith.

Please see a draft timetable for the day below:

- 10:00 Arrival, registration, tea & coffee
- 10.30 Session 1: Talks
- 11.30 Session 2: Choice of workshops
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13:00 Session 3: Diocesan case studies
- 13:30 Session 4: Choice of workshops
- 14:30 Closing worship
- 15:00 Finish

In order to have an idea of attendance, please fill in the RSVP form to register using this link: [Edinburgh Net Zero Roadshow – Net Zero Portal](#)

We will contact you again soon with further details. In the meantime, please feel free to share this with others within your congregation who may be interested in attending.

Thanks,

Neil Rawlings, Carbon Projects and Data Officer Scottish Episcopal Church



Lynn saw this excellent Beach Library on a visit to Fife.

## PALESTINE MUSEUM SCOTLAND



ARTWORK COURTESY OF PALESTINIAN ARTIST TALA ABUNUWAR

### TELLING THE PALESTINIAN STORY THROUGH THE ARTS

VISIT US: WED - SUN, 11 AM - 6 PM

13A DUNDAS STREET | EDINBURGH EH3 6QG | SCOTLAND UK

CONTACT: [scotland@falastin.museum](mailto:scotland@falastin.museum)



SOCIAL MEDIA  
LINKS



Barbara Darcy sent this poster about a new Palestine Museum

## **St Martin's Stroller Walks for 2025**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June Glentress Forest Walk, Peebles meet at 11am at the Main Car park at Glentress, post code EH45 8NB.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July Anstruther (Jim's caravan near Cellardyke)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August Newhailes House and Garden

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September West End to Botanics

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October Ratho

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November Little France Park

## **The craft club**

The craft club continues to meet at Monika's and Sonia's on Saturday afternoons, 2pm to 4pm, with refreshments at 3pm. Membership is rising and we recently had 11 people round the tables with a lively conversation going on.

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June will be Sea Sunday and Jeremy Hawkins, a Trustee of the Mission to Seafarers, will be preaching. Jeremy is a lay leader, vestry member and Treasurer of St Columba's Episcopal Church in Aberdour. The craft group have been busy making balaclavas, warm hats etc for seafarers which Jeremy will collect during his visit.

Diana



## Calendar: June July 2025

### June 2025

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Sun 1	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> Preacher Sarah Kilbey
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Sun 8	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Pentecost</b> Preacher: John Vincent
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Sun 15	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Trinity Sunday</b> Preacher: Eileen Thompson
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Sun 22	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Sea Sunday</b> Preacher: Jeremy Hawkins
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Sun 29	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Trinity 2</b> Preacher: Stuart Robertson
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<b>July</b> Sun 6	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Trinity 3</b> Preacher: David Warnes
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Sun 13	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Trinity 4</b> Preacher: Sarah Kilbey
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Sun 20	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Trinity 5</b> Preacher: Stuart Robertson
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Sun 27	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Trinity 6</b> Preacher: John Vincent
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