

BUILDING TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, WITNESS AND SERVICE



The Cairn



News from St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church in Dunbar

Rector's Letter

September sees churches around the world observing the **Season of Creation**, a special time of prayer, reflection and action for the care of our world. The Season brings people together to give thanks for God, the creator and sustainer of all life. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the damage we have done to the natural world, to reflect on the effects of environmental degradation, and to remember those people, animals and communities who are most vulnerable and have the least voice.

For me, these concerns have a very personal connection. My aunt lives in British Columbia, Canada, and regularly keeps us updated about the forest fires there. As a lifelong animal lover, she draws our attention to the arrangements available for farmers and others who have animals when evacuation is necessary. It is a powerful reminder that, when disaster strikes, care and preparation needs to extend to all of God's creatures.

The exceptionally hot, dry summer experienced in parts of the UK and Europe this year is a timely reminder of the reality of climate change. According to the Met Office, the UK has been warming at

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approximately 0.25°C per decade since 1976 and since the 1980s, each decade has been warmer than the previous one. The picture is similar globally. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the world's eleven warmest years on record have all occurred since 2015.

The Scottish Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church use the **Season of Creation** as a time to pray, reflect and take action for environmental care and climate justice. The theme for **2026 is "Living Water"** focusing on the interdependence between humanity and the natural world. As a local church St Anne's is invited to take part in worshipping Creator God and praying for renewal, healing and well-being for people and the whole of creation.

It is good to worship, reflect and pray. But it is also good to allow our prayers to inspire action. Together, we can encourage governments and businesses to reduce harmful emissions, move away from fossil fuels, protect forests, rethink development in the light of climate change, and safeguard our precious water supplies. There are also things we can do as individuals: use less energy, fly less often, reduce our reliance on cars, and consider alternatives such as public transport, walking, cycling or electric vehicles where these are practical.

I am very encouraged by the level of environmental awareness I see among people in St Anne's and in Dunbar more widely. My hope is that this year's Season of Creation will deepen that awareness, strengthen our care for God's creation, and—perhaps most importantly—give us hope. There is much to be concerned about, but there is also much we can do together, with God's help.

May our prayers lead to action, and may our action be rooted in hope.

Harriet

The Seagulls of Dunbar

Nothing in Dunbar happens without at least one gull seeing it.

They know whose dog escaped and exactly how to tease it as it chases its tail. They know who feeds them secretly despite loudly insisting they don't. They know the best vantage points to stake out both chippies at the same time, and they know exactly when they open and shut so that they can move on to other victims elsewhere in the town.

They know everyone's routines. They know which café leaves scraps outside. They know exactly when the primary school lunch bell rings and which children panic the moment a gull begins marching towards their packed lunch. They can identify, at a glance, the tourists who make the fatal mistake of unwrapping fish and chips outdoors. They know when the fishing boats return, when the bins go out, and exactly which streets become all-you-can-eat buffets on a Tuesday morning.

The seagulls own this town. They simply allow us to live here.

I've often wondered if they work shifts. One team appears to patrol the High Street. Another seems permanently assigned to the harbour. The squadron stationed at Asda car park look like they're on surveillance duty, quietly observing people loading shopping into their cars while deciding which loaf of bread has the weakest security.

This is no random flock. It has all the hallmarks of a well-organised operation.

In fact, I'm sure they're running a protection racket. Leave food unattended... they take it. Carry your chips confidently... they'll let you pass. Hesitate for a moment, glance at your phone or stop to peer into a shop window and suddenly there are three of them, positioned with military precision, waiting for you to make the first mistake.

As you leave the chip shop they watch silently from the rooftops. You can almost hear one mutter, in a broad Sicilian accent, *"Nice fish supper you've got there. Shame if something happened to it."*

It's impossible not to become paranoid. It starts with one gull. Is it following me? Then another lands on a nearby roof. A third begins strutting a respectful distance behind, never too close, just enough to make you wonder whether you're imagining things.

By the time you reach home, there's one sitting on the bonnet of your car. It's not doing anything. It doesn't need to, the message is loud and clear.

"We can make a deposit if you don't provide us with some protection bread."

The clever thing is that they're never in a hurry. They have the patience of seasoned detectives. They'll stand perfectly still, staring at you with one eye, as though waiting for you to make the next move. Blink first and you've lost.

Visitors don't understand this, you can spot them immediately. They're the ones walking along the High Street with an unprotected ice cream, completely unaware they're about to become part of the food chain.

The locals don't intervene, some lessons need to be learned the hard way. Within seconds there's a flurry of wings, followed by a screeching squawk then a startled shout of despair as a ninety-nine disappears into the East Lothian sky.

Another successful shakedown.

I sometimes wonder what they talk about after we've all gone to bed.

Perhaps they gather on the church roof:

"I pinched two sausage rolls today."

"Not bad. I got a steak bake."

"I nearly had a baguette but she saw me coming."

"I got a direct hit on some woman walking towards Bleachingfield."

"Excellent work. Same time tomorrow."

Maybe they compare notes on the tourists, score each other's landings, or nominate Gull of the Month for exceptional acts of intimidation.

Whatever they discuss, one thing is certain. Nothing escapes them.

The next time you're walking through Dunbar, have a look up before you have a look around.

You'll probably see one perched on a chimney pot, pretending not to notice you.

Don't be fooled. It noticed you long before you noticed it.

Rab



Fundraising for St Anne's



ST ANNE'S CHURCH, DUNBAR

Community Events & Fundraising Calendar 2026-2027

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2026	OCTOBER 2026	NOVEMBER 2026	DECEMBER 2026
 Coffee Morning & Cake Sales  Guest Speaker (every other month)	 Anne's Pantry  Film Club  Art Exhibition & Sale	 Anne's Pantry  Film Club  Christmas Sale • Christmas Cards • Christmas Puddings • Crafts • Calendars	 9 Lessons & Carols  Crib Service
JANUARY 2027	FEBRUARY 2027	MARCH 2027	APRIL 2027
 Anne's Pantry  Film Club  Guest Speaker (every other month)  Quiz Night	 Anne's Pantry  Film Club	 Anne's Pantry  Film Club  Art Exhibition & Sale  Guest Speaker (every other month)	 Anne's Pantry
MAY 2027	JUNE 2027	JULY 2027	AUGUST 2027
 Anne's Pantry  Vinted Sale • Clothes • Jewellery • Crafts • Auction  Guest Speaker (every other month)	 Anne's Pantry  Organ Recital  Guest Speaker (every other month)	 Anne's Pantry  Local Musicians Event  Guest Speaker (every other month)	 Anne's Pantry  Organ Recital

ALL YEAR

 100 CLUB • Richard Kendall • Alasdair Swan	 TUBE COLLECTION • David Robins • John Rea • Pippa Swan	 LOOSE CHANGE BUCKET • David Robins • John Rea • Pippa Swan	 FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE • David Robins • John Rea • Pippa Swan	 CHRISTMAS CARDS, PUDDINGS & CALENDARS • Mike Harvey • Anne Harvey
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Fundraising for St Anne's is officially underway!. The first event has been organised by Judy and her team and will have happened by the time this month's Cairn goes to print. This was a coffee morning with home baking and a raffle at the day centre on Saturday 29th August. I'm sure it will have proved a great success.

The first of Anne's pantries will be on 18th October after the service at St Anne's. Home baking contributions (with listed ingredients) will be most welcome and will be offered for sale. At the same event 2027 St Anne's wall calendars, Christmas cards and packs of notelets will also be on sale. There will be 2 calendars (one featuring local scenes and the other local birds) and 2 different Christmas cards. Each pack of notelets will consist of 8 different photo cards (local flora and fauna)

with blank interiors, ideal for giving as gifts or for thank you /greeting notes. So, don't buy your Christmas cards, calendars or notelets until you have seen what St Anne's has to offer this year.

Another fundraiser involves tubes:



Whether you take vitamin tablets or clean your teeth (no one needs to know which!) please could you bring the empty tubes to church ; there's a collection box in the chapel.

These tubes are also conveniently sized for £1 coins and once we've decorated them we'll be asking for willing folk to take one home and gradually fill it to the top.

The scheme works well if there's a little nudge in life to help this along; maybe £1 for each day of a holiday , or an outing ? Maybe to acknowledge an unexpected visit , letter or phone call ? Maybe to give thanks for a quick answer to an arrow of prayer sent up ?

For many, finding a parking spot on the High Street on your first tour up and down will do.....so much more positive than a parking meter!

The first guest speaker in our fundraising calendar will be Professor John Crichton and the talk will on Sunday 18th October at 3pm in St Anne's. The talk is entitled:

'People, Violence and Hope: Reflections from a forensic Psychiatrist'



Professor Crichton is a consultant forensic Psychiatrist and he is an honorary Professor at the school of Law, University of Edinburgh. He has published over 40 peer reviewed papers and book chapters and he edited the book 'Psychiatric patient violence: Risk and response'. His day to day work consists of assessing and treating people who are appearing before the criminal courts, providing psychiatric treatment in secure settings and supporting those at risk of inflicting violence on others to remain safe in the community. This is sure to be a fascinating talk and tickets are priced at £7.50

Refreshments will be on sale to support this fundraising event.

New Liturgy Books

Whenever a parcel arrives, it brings a sense of anticipation, even when you have a fairly good idea of what's inside. As I write, I've just received the first batch of new liturgy books for St Anne's.

Thanks to a generous donation from members of St Anne's, who prefer to remain anonymous, we now have up-to-date *Scottish Liturgy* books, also known as the 'Blue Book'. Inside are different prayers suitable for the various seasons of the church year. So, instead of having to work out which service book to use, we will have one book that does it all – well, almost!

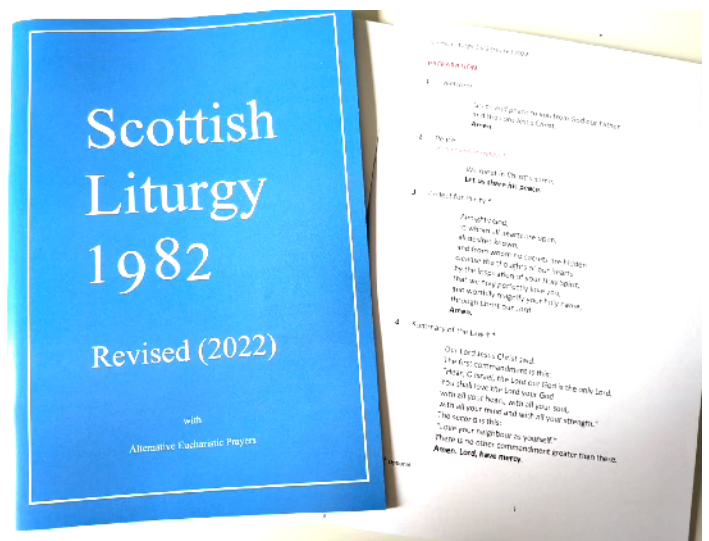
For procedural reasons, which I won't bore you with here, the Blue Book doesn't contain liturgies for the Season of Creation or All Age Services. Consequently, I've been working with members of St Anne's Eco-group and the Ministry Team to produce two further liturgy books, which we will use during the Season of Creation and for future All Age Services.

Although there are some changes to the wording here and there, the content of the new liturgy books will be very familiar, and the format mirrors that of the service books we have been using. Several large-print copies of each liturgy will also be available.

I realise it will take a little getting used to the new books, but I hope you will soon enjoy using them.

Grateful thanks to everyone who has been involved in compiling and contributing to these new liturgy books.

Harriet



My love affair with Mendelssohn

I fell in love with Felix Mendelssohn on my honeymoon! A visit to dramatic Fingal's Cave on Staffa (the highlight of a MacBrayne's tour of the isles) put me in mind of the composer's *Hebridean overture*, surely one of his most colourful and atmospheric works. Suddenly I recalled when I first heard the piece on the *Third Programme*, in 1948; I remembered then being utterly entranced by it. This chance encounter with a famous landmark sparked off curiosity on my part to find out more about Mendelssohn's life and work- an interest that would eventually result in this little piece. Delving into various sources I unearthed a fascinating story.



Born in Hamburg in 1809 into a wealthy and distinguished Jewish family, Felix shielded from the worst aspects of the prevailing anti-semitism, partly because his banker father Abraham had prudently converted to Protestantism (hence the family names suffix, Bartholdy); also on account of the Mendelssohn solid social status. Felix's grandfather Moses- 'Mendel's son' a towering personality and widely respected philosopher had fearlessly championed the cause of Judaism throughout Germany and done much to ameliorate the plight of the Jews, then treated very much as second class citizens.)

In childhood, following piano tuition by his gifted mother Lea, Felix became a pupil of the great teacher Zelter, under whom proof of the boys prodigious talent swiftly emerged. A stream of compositions followed his first appearance (at nine) as a concert pianist: sonatas, songs, cantatas, symphonias, concerti, two one act operas -all before his 13th birthday!

Then, a commendation by the celebrated composer Cherubini persuaded Abraham to allow his brilliant offspring to follow his chosen path of a musical career - a decision amply vindicated by the appearance in 1825 of the '*Octet for strings*' a work of astonishing maturity, and in the following year, the magical *Overture to a Midsummer night dream* written at the age of 17.

The young composers life now proceeded to unroll as a glittering success story (marred only on two occasions when he receive taunts of 'Jew-boy': incidents which left an enduring mark on his sensitive nature). Handsome, rich, cultured and charming, an accomplished linguist and horseman, gifted artist, superb pianist, good violinist, exceptional organist, inspiring conductor, Felix travelled widely in Europe performing, conducting, composing- all to huge public acclaim. No more so than in Britain, where he formed a close relationship with the young queen Victoria and Albert, the prince consort, with whom he performed several times on the organ.



From 1833 to 1846 Mendelssohn held the posts of conductor, successively of the lower Rhine music festival in Dusseldorf and the Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestra.

During this period Felix (from 1837 happily married to Cecile Jeanrenaud from an old Huguenot family) wrote some of his finest and most popular works including the great *Violin Concerto in D*, the oratorio *Elijah* and the melody of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (words added later by one Cummings) – a happily preserved gem from an otherwise totally forgotten work, the *Festegesang*, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press!

As a fledgling organist, I'm particularly interested in Mendel's output for this instrument. However, although himself an excellent performer on the organ it has to be said that organ compositions don't form a major part of his *oeuvre*. What little there is though: some preludes, fugues and sonatas and also the *Andante and variations in D* is most pleasing and rewarding. Also, it's worth remembering that without Mendelssohn's championing Bach's music would probably have sunk without trace and some of the greatest organ works ever composed lost forever.

Mendelssohn's tragically early end at the age of 38 was hastened by suicidal over work combined with the shock of his sister Fanny's death in 1847, which was followed by his own death later that same year. The enormous popularity of his work in the 19th century suffered a severe decline in the 20th (unsurprisingly, most marked in Nazi Germany) when it suffered from (surely unjust) accusations of superficiality and lack of passion. In recent years however his standing has greatly recovered thanks to a growing recognition of his music's true qualities; delicacy, brilliance and charm, allied to impeccable craftsmanship, often masking underlying depth and power. Happily, as a result of the composers rehabilitation, a Mendelssohn museum has recently opened in Leipzig where in 1937 his statue was destroyed by the Nazis.

Margaret Laidlaw

Harvest Thanksgiving

This year, we will celebrate Harvest on Sunday 4th October, which is also the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. This marks the end of the Season of Creation, which this year is focused on the theme 'Living Water'.

Speaking about the significance of this season, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said:

'In the season of creation, we turn to Christ, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. In his incarnation, death and resurrection, God's love is revealed not only for humanity but for the whole created order. To care for creation is therefore an essential expression of Christian discipleship and an integral mark of the Church's mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. As we follow Christ, we are called to share in his reconciling work, seeking justice, healing and hope for the earth and for all who dwell within it.'

In previous years St Anne's has collected donations of food for Dunbar Foodshare which operates from Dunbar Parish Church halls on Wednesdays. Foodshare provides a social cafe and essential groceries to people in our community who are struggling or are experiencing crisis. We plan to support them again this year.



Dunbar FoodShare has particularly requested donations of the following urgently needed items:

- UHT semi-skimmed and skimmed milk
- Tins of macaroni cheese, chicken in white sauce, ham, pies, custard and tinned fruit
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Cereal
- Diluting juice



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

All donations will be gathered together after the service and taken to one of the donation points for Dunbar FoodShare. Every donation, whether it is a single item or a whole bag, helps Dunbar FoodShare continue supporting local individuals and families with dignity and choice.

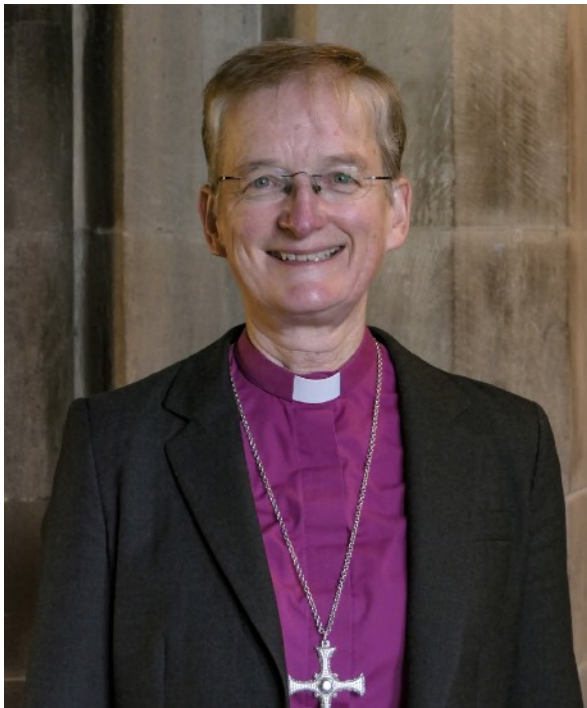
Many thanks for all your generous donations.

Harriet

What's on at St Anne's

Bishop Dagmar to lead All Saints' Day service at St Anne's

Bishop Dagmar will lead the service at St Anne's on Sunday 1st November. Since becoming Bishop of Edinburgh in May, Bishop Dagmar has been visiting churches and taking services across the diocese.



As the Church marks All Saints' Day, it is anticipated that the Bishop will reflect on this in her sermon, while also bringing a message particularly relevant to us in the St Anne's congregation.

After the service, tea, coffee and cake will be served, giving everyone an opportunity to meet and chat with the Bishop.

Please save the date and keep Bishop Dagmar in your prayers.

Harriet

What's on

St Anne's Church, Dunbar

Silent Reflective Mornings in 2026

**Monthly on Saturdays
at 10.30am for an hour**

- 6th June
- 4th July
(extended session for Summer Silence)
- 1st August
- 5th September
- 3rd October
- 7th November
- 5th December
(extended session for Advent)

Each session is followed by coffee and chat

Contact for queries - Sharon Morgan
sharon@eh42.scot

**SHARING
PERSPECTIVES**

WE ARE LAUNCHING AN INFORMAL MONTHLY GROUP SHARING PERSPECTIVES ON RICHARD ROHR'S DAILY MEDITATIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION.

WE MEET ON THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH TO REFLECT ON THAT MONTH'S MEDITATIONS. NO PREPARATION NEEDED - JUST COME AS YOU ARE. ALL WELCOME.

THE CAC'S DAILY MEDITATIONS DRAW ON THE CHRISTIAN MYSTICAL TRADITION, EXPLORING CONTEMPLATION, COMPASSION AND NON-DUAL THINKING - INVITING US TO SEE GOD IN ALL THINGS.

ST ANNE'S CHURCH

FIRST MEETING: MONDAY 29TH JUNE
2026 AT 4PM

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DAILY MEDITATIONS:
CAC.ORG/DAILY-MEDITATIONS

ANY QUESTIONS?
SECRETARY@STANNESDUNBAR.ORG.UK

Every last Monday of the month at 4pm

Harvest Festival



Sunday October 4th at 10:30

People's Emergency Briefing film Oct 7th

Please come to the screening of this engaging and important 50 min film, followed by a facilitated discussion.

Wednesday 7th October at 7pm at Dunbar Parish Church. Free.

Organised by members of St Anne's and Dunbar Churches Eco-group

More details in next month's Cairn, or from Diana Greene

CUPPA		TUESDAYS 10AM - 12NOON
	CAKE	
ST ANNE'S CHURCH		CHAT

Come on in, the kettle's hot!

Take what you need
Give what you can
Everyone is welcome

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk

Thursdays
at St Anne's Church

10.30 am
Quiet Communion Service
followed by discussion about faith and life

12.00 midday
Prayers for peace - gather at the Peace Pole



www.stannesdunbar.org.uk



Scottish Bridge

Play ♦ Learn ♦ Belong

**At West Barns
bowling club**



LESSONS

Bridge is a card game played with a partner against another pair, which is fun, sociable and stimulating. Play socially or in a club, face to face or online.

-  Meet new people
-  Exercise your mind
-  Enjoy friendly competition



 **DUNBAR**

 **TUESDAY**
15TH SEPTEMBER

 **7:00 PM**

 dunbar@bridgewebsemail.com

Readings and Rotas

Sunday 6th September

Genesis 2: 4-25, John 1: 1-5

Readings: David

Intercessions: Robert

Chalice: Robert

Organ: Diana

Sunday 13th September

Ezekiel 18: 1-22, John 19: 34-35

Readings: Chris

Intercessions: Mark

Chalice: Mark

Organ: George

Sunday 20th September

Ezekiel 47: 1-6, John 4: 1-10

Readings: Rosemary

Intercessions: Noreen

Chalice: Stuart

Organ: Brian

Sunday 27th September

Ezekiel 47: 6-12, John 4: 10-15

Readings: Caitriona

Intercessions: Sharon

Chalice: Sharon

Organ: Brian

All readings use the
New Revised
Standard Version of
the Bible

Services at St. Anne's

Sunday

10.30am - Holy Communion

Young Church every 1st and 3rd Sunday

Thursday

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

12.00pm - Prayers at the Peace Pole



Rector: Revd. Harriet Johnston

email: rector@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Rest days Friday & Saturday

Useful Contacts

Vestry Secretary Pam Shields: secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Treasurer Rab Shields: treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk

PVG Coordinator David Robertson

safeguarding@stannesdunbar.org.uk / 07737222832

Young Church Diana Greene:

youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Event Bookings David Robins: events@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Organ Enquiries Brian Dale: organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Magazine (contributions) comms@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Please send Cairn contributions by the third Sunday of the month

Website Enquiries David Robertson:

Pastoral Care Enquiries

pastoralsupport@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Sharon Morgan 01368 864582 / Harriet Johnston 07511 876294

Find us on 

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk

St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church, Dunbar is a Scottish Charity, SC010950, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)