

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

18th November 2021

Eucharist and Presentation for COP 26 at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Dundee

Rev. Roxanne Campbell has written the following on the event last week.

People from churches around the diocese gathered on 9th November to prayerfully consider the climate emergency during COP26. We celebrated a Eucharist using some very moving prayers produced by Anglican Church of Southern Africa's Environmental Network, and we held silence for those places most affected or at risk from Climate change.



After this we viewed the recent Church & The Academy talk from the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway: "Responding to the Fifth Mark of Mission" by Green Anglicans' Rev. Canon Dr Rachel Mash. We had a prayerful and profound discussion about our community and individual responses to the climate emergency and we were able to share and learn much from each other.

Picture above: Prayer tree with the names of places affected by or at risk from the climate emergency for whom prayer was offered during our Eucharist of Lament.

Beyond COP26: keeping up momentum:

- The Diocesan Eco Working Group, with guidance from the Province, will be finding ways to support all charges to understand their carbon footprint and how to engage with reducing and balancing this.
- Continue to pray for/preach on: the integrity of Creation; the wonders of our planet; those affected by climate injustices; the importance of preventing global warming; the leaders involved in making momentous decisions; and those working on behalf of our Church in relation to climate change.

- Sign up to be an 'Eco-congregation' with <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>. Several churches in the diocese are members: all are encouraged to join. The basic membership is a statement of intent, then 'bronze', 'silver' and 'gold' awards are made as actions are taken. Eco-congregation also have a great deal of useful guidance on their website to help charges engage in very practical ways with climate justice issues.

Launch of Friends of St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee: First Annual "Cathedral Thinking" Talk: 20th Nov at 4pm

Cathedral Thinking – a chance to consider a topical issue in a different light and a deeper perspective. Cathedral thinking is sometimes used to mean the opposite of a quick fix, the kind of long-term planning and commitment needed to build, for instance, a cathedral. In Cathedral Thinking we hear speakers tell us about their work in this perspective – and in a cathedral. The inaugural speaker is Jacky Close, of Faith in Community, Dundee, who will speak about community engagement with the title: "**Experts by Experience**".

The event will also be the launch event for the 'Friends of St Paul's Cathedral', a charity supporting the work of the Cathedral in the City.



Memorial Service: 21 Nov 2021 The Reverend David Shepherd

A Memorial Service is being held on Sunday 21 November at 4pm in St. Mary Magdalene's Church. This Choral Evensong is to give thanks for the Life and Ministry of the Reverend David Shepherd. Clergy are invited to robe (Choir Dress—cassock, surplice/cotta and scarf). An invitation is extended to our wider Diocesan family to attend. Refreshments will be served afterwards. For further details contact Rev Canon Kenneth Gibson at kenneth.gibson1@btinternet.com

Scottish Episcopal Institute presents: Reading the Bible Like an Episcopalian

'Reading the Bible like an Episcopalian' is a series of four talks in the Season of Advent to reflect upon ways in which Episcopalians understand Holy Scripture. Because we Episcopalians, like all Christians, read the Bible from our own perspective and within our own denomination, it is worth probing our own predilections. It is worth asking, in other words, what characterises an Episcopalian approach to the Bible over time, say, from the Reformation until today.

The talks, by Rev Dr Mike Hull, Director of Studies, will address: (1) how we settled on the Bible as the last word at the Reformation; (2) how we pray with the Bible and why Books of Common Prayer came into use; (3) how the Enlightenment affects the way we read the Bible; and (4) how we read the Bible in a variety of ways in our own day.

Time: 7pm to 8pm on the four Mondays in Advent (29/11, 6/12, 13/12, 20/12) via Zoom. Event registration and further information can be found [here](#).

The 'GoHealth Community' and Church of Scotland present the Denis Duncan Lecture 2021 (24th Nov)



The "Guild of Health and St Raphael" is a Christian organisation that explores links between health and faith from a balanced and inclusive perspective. As the pandemic continues, they are offering resources for churches to engage with this Advent.

The 'Denis Duncan' Lecture is an annual event which focuses on the links between health and faith. It is run in partnership between GoHealth Community and the Church of Scotland and seeks to explore the healing ministry, communication and a whole person approach to wellbeing.

This year's speaker is Dr Ruth Valerio with: "**Losing Connection – Does the natural world matter for the future of humanity?**". Ruth is a Tearfund Director and was in Glasgow for the COP26 summit. The lecture is streaming online on 24th November 2021 at 7pm, and Ruth will be joining live to take questions. The film of the lecture includes BSL interpretation

and is free to everyone.

Booking: <https://gohealth.org.uk/shop/booking/the-denis-duncan-lecture-2021>

Film: <https://youtu.be/IIWRbWcqFBE>

Waiting Well, an Advent journey with the GoHealth Community

Advent is the traditional time of year when Christians wait and GoHealth are offering a 'Waiting Well' Advent Journey. Each day in Advent receive an email packed full of inspiration, wisdom, prayers and new practices to help us wait well for the birth of Christ. This is a time of year where we explore how to grow in the faith – join this journey, with an optional online group, to grow in patience and joy, becoming more healthy and hopeful, at a time that is often chaotic, in a world that is full of uncertainty. The first week is free to everyone, and from then on for GoHealth Community members (which costs just £4).

Booking: <https://gohealth.org.uk/shop/booking/waiting-well-an-advent-journey-with-the-gohealth-community>

Film: <https://youtu.be/ktsqAKoWFLQ>

Christingle Planning?

Many churches hold 'Christingle' services around Advent and Christmas. These services, using a decorated orange as a symbol of Christian faith, were introduced into the UK many years ago by the Children's society, a charity based in England. In Scotland, the



SEC often supports the Aberlour Charity in the same way. This charity, originally rooted in the Episcopal Church, does very similar work throughout Scotland. If you are planning a Christingle service this year, please consider supporting Aberlour in their vital work.

<https://www.aberlour.org.uk/christingle/>

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

Please send news and photos to Elliott in the office at office@brechin.anglican.org.