

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 10th March 2022

### War in Ukraine: Church Response

The ongoing war in Ukraine continues to dominate the news and thoughts and prayers of people throughout the world. The now millions of refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries is being described as the fastest growing refugee crisis since the Second World War.

The overwhelming news of warfare and destruction and the cost in innocent lives lost and displaced demands a church response. There are many areas to consider, including:



### **Refugees: lobby to improve UK response**

There is great concern among church leaders that the UK response to refugees from Ukraine, including relatives of those with a right to live and work in the UK, is not proving to be adequate. The Primus, Bishop Mark Strange, appealed Tuesday (8th March) for government to urgently improve their response: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/primus-calls-for-swifter-action-to-help-ukraine-refugees-reach-uk/>. Please consider contacting MPs/MSPs and raising awareness of this issue.

### **Donations for refugee aid**

Please support agencies helping the refugees. These include:

The UK Disasters Emergency Committee (an umbrella appeal for [major UK aid charities](#), including the Red Cross) has been established since last week. The UK Government have added £20m of matched aid to this appeal. You can donate personally or with any church collections at:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), also heavily involved in local aid activities for Ukraine, is running another appeal:

<https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/where-help-is-needed/ukraine-situation/>

And, of course, please pray for peace in Ukraine. Pray that world leaders, especially in Russia and their partners, accept their responsibility to promote peace and stop wars. This conflict is still in its early days—pray that it will end soon.

### Diocesan Synod 2022: Report

Brechin Diocesan Synod took place last Saturday (5th March 2022) in St Mary's Broughty Ferry. This was the first non-worship 'business meeting' of the Diocese held since March 2020, with the pandemic constraints. Nearly 40 people gathered, clergy and lay representatives of the Diocese's charges, as well as reps on Provincial Boards and the Diocesan Council.

Business included greetings from Bishop Betsey Monnot (Iowa) and Bishop Dalcý Dlamini (Swaziland), our companionship bishops. There was also a review by the Bishop of progress on the Diocesan strategy, as initiated in 2019, along with draft financial results for the financial year 2021-22. Budget and quota for 2021-22 were formally approved.



Bishop Andrew reads Bishop Dalcý's letter of greeting.



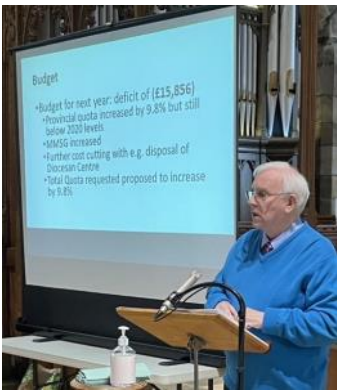
Dr John Davies, Liturgy C'ttee

An item of Provincial business was the proposed revision of the 1982 'Blue Book' liturgy, spoken about by Dr John Davies from the Provincial Liturgy Committee. The changes are a consolidation of many years of permitted changes to less gendered language and new eucharistic prayers, e.g. for Christmas

and Epiphany. The proposal was strongly supported by the Synod.

Rev Canon Kenneth Gibson spoke to the Diocesan statistics, showing (again) a gentle decline in membership. Kenneth explained the context and reality of statistics and gave cause for some positive reflection.

Elections took place for various posts, including all the Diocesan representatives and alternates for General Synod. In the business of boards and committees, Lay Canon Pat Millar was thanked as she stepped back from Diocesan Council after two terms as a lay member, and also many years serving on the Standing Committee and Administration Board and other previous structures of the Diocese.



Allan Duffus, Treasurer

It was also announced that Allan Duffus, the Diocesan Treasurer, would retire this coming year, so although he was starting this next year as treasurer, this would be his last spring Synod. Bob Main, treasurer at the Cathedral, was appointed as assistant treasurer for the Diocese to help with the transition.

The next spring Synod will be on Saturday 4th March 2023, but the Bishop announced that he intended to call an autumn Synod to explore environmental and carbon-zero issues in more detail.

The Synod ended with confirmation of acts of synod, prayer and final blessing.

## **Bishop's Lent Appeal**

Bishop Andrew's Lent Appeal this year will be equally shared between two areas that urgently need support in 2022. As in previous years, there will be 'global' and 'local' elements.

The 'global' half will be donated to our ongoing projects in the Diocese of Swaziland, where Covid-19 and ongoing civil unrest have made a fragile society even more vulnerable. The help that Companion Dioceses Iowa and Brechin give to projects such as the 'Neighbourhood Care Points' (NCPs) in Eswatini makes a massive difference in food and care for vulnerable children and families throughout the country.

The 'local' share of the appeal will be donated to 'Energy Action Scotland' - a charity working to end fuel poverty in Scotland. The current UK situation with soaring fuel prices and rising costs of living is

making many vulnerable people's situations unbearable and the war in Ukraine may make this even worse. <https://www.eas.org.uk/>

## **SEI Lent Course Online**

The Scottish Episcopal Institute is offering an online Lent Course: 'Episcopalians and Their Ethics: A six-part series in Lent 2022'. The Series is offered on the six Mondays of Lent in 30 minute webinars, each of which will be available on YouTube. The Series serves as a resource to be used creatively during the Lent, for example as a refresher course for individuals or a discussion starter for a church group.

Time: 7pm to 7.30pm on Monday evenings in Lent 2022. Registration free. All welcome. Register [here](#).

7 Mar: *What is Christian ethics?*

Remaining Sessions

14 Mar: Why should I choose good over evil?

21 Mar: How do I tell good from evil?

28 Mar: What is conscience?

4 Apr: Why follow conscience?

11 Apr: Where do I go with Christian ethics?

## **"The Great Holy Work"**

Why build a church on the Castle Hill, Dundee? Dr Aileen Black, historian and Cathedral member, will help us explore the Cathedral, its artworks and memorials that tell its story.

A "Friends of St Paul 's Cathedral Dundee" event, on Saturday 12th March, 3.00 - 5.00 pm - with tea and cake. All welcome. For catering numbers, it helps if you can say you'll be there:

email [friends@saintpaulscathedral.net](mailto:friends@saintpaulscathedral.net)

## **Online Worship for the SEC**

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online every week. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, is continuing in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. This will continue beyond the pandemic. There are more details of each week's services at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

## **Any news to share in the Bulletin?**

If you have stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin.

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