

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

Holy Week and Easter 2022 (2 week edition)

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In 2022 we are approaching this Holy Week and Easter with the lowest level of Covid-19 restrictions for two years: 2019, the last pre-pandemic year, feels a long time ago. So we enter this time with care, paying attention to the anxieties and joys these changes bring. As Christians have done for centuries, we are now invited into this journey through Holy Week. We encounter the adoring 'Hosannas' of Palm Sunday, meet the intimacy of the Last Supper followed by betrayal on Maundy Thursday, and experience the cries of 'Crucify' and the brutality of Good Friday. Even as we live and work in the changing state of the modern world, the ancient story draws us into the hopes and the darkness of the world.



The freedoms we can (carefully) enjoy as restrictions are eased do not take away the pains and loss of the past two years of the pandemic. That pandemic is still causing suffering in many parts of the world. And the wars, financial pressures, the sense of matters being beyond our control: all of that can be placed in God's care as we make this journey that draws us into God's saving love and grace.

However you keep it, whatever Holy Week 2022 may hold for you, I pray that you will find strength and comfort in the recollection of that journey in Jerusalem two millenia ago. And when Easter comes, as it will: be blessed in the joy of God's saving, redeeming love.

+Andrew

Chrism Eucharist: 11am, Thursday 14th April—Cathedral

The annual 'Chrism Eucharist', where oils for ministry are blessed and distributed, and ministerial vows for clergy and lay leaders are renewed, will take place in-person for the first time in three years. The service is on Maundy Thursday in the Cathedral in Dundee at 11am. All clergy, lay readers and those with an authorised lay ministry (worship leaders, eucharistic assistants, pastoral visitors etc.) are very welcome to come and renew their promises. Everyone is welcome to

attend. Please bring a packed lunch—coffee and hot cross buns will be provided. Please be ready to go by 10.45am—robing for clergy and lay readers in the Cathedral Lower Hall (alb & white stoles for clergy, surplice & scarf for Lay Readers). Bring church oil 'stocks' to be refilled.

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir in SEC Churches in Dundee

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir, conducted by Alan Taverner BEM, were in Dundee on the week-end of 9th & 10th April 2022.

The Choir tours widely in the UK and abroad, and undertakes annual periodic mini-residencies in North British Cathedrals, singing the major choral services in place of the regular Cathedral Choir. Since its recent return to public performance last Autumn, the Choir has sung liturgies, presented public concerts, and participated in the premiere performances of Nitin Sawhney's 'About Us' at the Unboxed Festival in Paisley Abbey.



The Choir pictured outside St Salvador's Dundee
(Photo St Salvador's Facebook Page)

The choir gave a free lunchtime concert in the Cathedral on Saturday, then sang Stanford in B flat major and a plainchant Matthew's Passion for the St Salvador's High Mass on Palm Sunday. They then sang Choral Evensong in the Cathedral that evening, with Howell in G and a Stainer anthem.

Environmental: Action for Carbon Audit of Churches—25th May 2022

The recent launch of the toolkit by the SEC includes a request that an initial analysis of the 'energy footprint' of our churches for 2021 be carried out by the 25th May, and submitted to the Province. <https://>

www.scotland.anglican.org/news-and-issues/towards-net-zero-2030-toolkit-and-checklist/. We suggest this is an action for charge treasurers to gather the utility bills for 2021 and, with the cleric or charge environmental group (if you have one), to enter this data into the '[Energy Footprint Analyser](#)' provided by the Province. Please contact the Diocesan Environmental Group (via [Elliott](#)) for details/guidance if needed. Some more details will be shared after Easter.

Season of Pilgrimage: 2022 onwards

From Rev Denise Herbert: This Province-wide Season was delayed because of Covid restrictions although some of the Dioceses have managed to do some things. Pilgrimage is one way of engaging with our Creator God - there are so many ways we can in our Pilgrimage of life. May we draw your attention to a BBC 2 programme called Pilgrimage: The Road to the Scottish Isles on Fridays at 9 pm (or on iPlayer for catch up). The multi-faith or none group are following St Columba. It is hoped that Brechin Diocese will be able to engage with the concept of Pilgrimage this summer. Please watch this space for details.

SEI Lent Course Online: Remaining Sessions Re-started (11 April onwards)

The [Scottish Episcopal Institute](#) Following a short break, the Lent study series "Episcopalians and their Ethics", led by the Rev Dr Michael Hull, returns this Monday (11 April) at 7pm with the third session titled: "How do I tell good from evil?". 2022. Registration free. All welcome. Register [here](#).

Remaining Sessions - dates TBC.

What is conscience?

Why follow conscience?

Where do I go with Christian ethics?

'War in Ukraine: Church Response

The war in Ukraine, now with atrocities by Russian troops on civilians coming to light, and the withdrawal of the invaders from the some areas and an intensification in others, continues to dominate the news and our thoughts and prayers. The refugee crisis caused by the war continues to demand resources, especially in the countries around Ukraine. Below are some pointers on how we can respond.

Pray for Peace

Most importantly: Please pray for peace in Ukraine. In the busyness of cost-of-living crisis and all the oth-

er concerns we might have, the news from Ukraine can become just one of many things needing our prayers. As the new evidence of Russian atrocities mounts, pray that all combatants act in accordance with international law, and pray that politicians do all they can to work for peace. Pray for all victims of this horrific violence in Ukraine.



Ukrainian flag in St Paul's Cathedral at a vigil for peace

Donate money for refugee support

The bigger appeals include the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (an umbrella appeal for [major UK aid charities](#)). 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 can be supported via:

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

Refugee support—opt-in and lobby

The UK response to refugees from Ukraine is slowly giving visa-based access to safety in the UK. There has been a massive response from potential 'hosts' in the UK, far in excess of the applications and visas granted. This scheme remains disappointing in the help it has been able to give to vulnerable Ukrainian refugees. An action we can take, as well as offering such hosting if you are able, is to lobby the Westminster government to improve their response to the situation.

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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