

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

8th December 2022

Christmas Services in the Diocese: online resource & information

The Diocesan website (www.brechin.anglican.org) has details of the special events, services and other activities planned in the churches of the Diocese for the end of Advent and the Christmas season. Please access the information using the link above.

If you have events or services you would like to share, please contact Elliott (office@brechin.anglican.org) who will add them to the webpage.

Professor Ann Loades CBE: RIP

Ann Loades, Honorary Professor at St Andrews and Professor Emerita at Durham and a member of the cathedral in Dundee died on Tuesday. She became unwell while returning from church on Sunday and did not recover. Ann was one of 20th and 21st-century British theology's great figures, the first woman to receive a personal chair at the University of Durham and the second person ever to be honoured with a CBE for services to theology. We will share details of funeral and memorial services once these are planned. Please keep all of her friends and family in your prayers.

Ukrainian Service: St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, 18th Dec

The Ukrainian community in Dundee are organising a service on the Eve of St. Nicholas with an event for children. Details: 18th December, 7pm-9pm. St. Paul's Cathedral, High Street, Dundee

Please share this with your networks and any you think might be interested.

Companionship Diocese Youth Pilgrimage to the USA: August 2023

Plans are afoot for the exciting third leg of the Youth Pilgrimage with our companion dioceses in the USA and southern Africa.

Previous pilgrims from Scotland and Iowa travelled to the Diocese of Swaziland in Eswatini in 2014, then Americans and Africans came to be hosted in Dundee for the second leg in 2016. In August 2023, young pilgrims will be travelling from the Dioceses of Brechin and Swaziland to Iowa, where we will be hosted by



Image: Claire Benton-Evans & [Mike](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Bishop Betsey and her team.

Is there a young person (aged 18-25) connected to your church who would like to be a pilgrim? Further information will be shared and a flyer can be found [here](#). Anyone who is interested in taking part should contact Claire Benton-Evans: youth@brechin.anglican.org.

'Anglican' Christianity: An Advent webinar series from the Scottish Episcopal Institute

Over 40 Churches around the globe, consisting of no less than 85 million people, identify themselves as 'Anglican'. Yet, Anglicans are divided among themselves in terms of doctrine and practice as was demonstrated in the most recent Lambeth Conference held in Summer 2022.



Image: SEI.scot

This Series looks to four staples that Anglicans have classically identified as the bases of their doctrine and practice to highlight harmony rather than dis-

cord. The SEI Advent series will be offered on the Mondays of Advent 2022 from 7pm to 7.30pm (GMT) in 30-minute webinars, each of which will be posted on the Scottish Episcopal Church YouTube channel. Presented by Revd Dr Michael Hull, SEI Director of Studies and Tutor, the series is meant to be a resource for Anglicans (Episcopalians) to use creatively during the Season of Advent, for example as a refresher course for individuals or a conversation starter for church groups, with discussion questions at the end of each webinar.

The first two sessions can already be seen on YouTube (see <https://youtube.com/@TheScottishEpiscopalChurch>). The next two sessions are:

1. The Dominical Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Monday 12 December)
2. The Episcopate: a universal and locally adopted means of unity (Monday 19 December)

Registration is free and all are welcome to join. The link to register is [here](#).

Cost of Living Crisis: Info and Projects

Resources to help with living costs

There is lots of helpful guidance for anyone struggling with the current cost of living crisis. Local authorities are gathering information together on benefits, energy and food support and other ways that help can be found: churches can share this with members or anyone who approaches for help. Some good resource sites for the areas covered by the Diocese are:

Aberdeenshire: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/cost-of-living/>

Angus: <https://www.angus.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/help-with-the-cost-of-living>

Dundee: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/costofliving>

Perth and Kinross: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/costofliving>

All Scotland: <https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

Various projects and other initiatives are taking place in churches in the Diocese. These include:

St Luke's Foodbank/Clothing Bank/Café

Since the start of the pandemic "lockdowns", St Luke's has operated the above. It has settled into a fixed pattern of opening 1000-1500 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays providing food, clothing, warmth and companionship.

Around 20 to 25 food parcels are provided daily and the café is busy with locals dropping in and Foodbank visitors taking advantage of the cakes and toasties provided at next to cost prices. It's a very happy and cosy place to be and number of non-church volunteers help out regularly. Encouragingly, there is modest growth in church worship taking place, as those attending find out first-hand what the church is all about.

If you happen to get an offer of food or clothing (sorry, can only accommodate clothing for adults) and are looking for somewhere to direct it, please consider St. Luke's if you can.

There is a reception shed in the car park outside the hall which is signposted, and permanently unlocked, where items can be safely lodged. It's checked regularly.

Food stocks have been going down as need has increased – and it is anticipated that the winter energy crisis will result in even greater attendance at the Café for warmth and for food parcels.

Warm Spaces/Cosy Spaces: Maps

Many churches are offering warm spaces this winter as part of various Council-led initiatives. Look for info on social media and on Council resource pages. There is a Dundee City Map here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ddf901a89522437a9e5c3e1c0ccf2c7e>

And a national 'warm spaces' map that any church can register with is here: <https://warmspaces.org/register>

"Big Coat" Project at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Dundee

Donations of warm winter jackets and coats are needed for St. Mary Magdalene's 'Big Coat' Project over the winter months. Women's and men's coats are accepted but they are especially short on men's. Please contact Rev Canon Kenneth for further details: Tel: 07825554419 or email: kenneth.gibson1@btinternet.com

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have upcoming events of interest to the whole diocese and stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin. Email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org