

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

16th March 2023

Dundee Cathedral Provost Supports 10th Anniversary Proclamation of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter



The Lord Provost addresses the event, with the party including Provost Elizabeth and the Lord Lyon, Joe Morrow. (Photo: Lord Provost on Facebook)

Hosted by Bill Campbell, the Lord Provost of Dundee, the Lord Lyon made a Proclamation in the City Square Dundee to mark the 10th Anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter and the Blessing and Raising of the Commonwealth Peace Flag. The Flag was blessed by Very Revd Elizabeth Thomson, Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.



Lord Provost with the flag
(Photo: Facebook)

The Commonwealth Charter is a document of the values and aspirations which unite the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Charter expresses the commitment of member states to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all the people of the Commonwealth.

The Charter also acknowledges the role of civil society in supporting the goals and values of the Commonwealth.

The text of the charter is available on the Commonwealth website at the link: <https://thecommonwealth.org/charter>

Bishop Andrew licenses Grant Wilson as Carnoustie & Monifieth Lay Worship Leader



Bishop Andrew presents Grant with his certificate and Brechin badge. (Photo Mary Swift)

Bishop Andrew was delighted to authorise Grant Wilson as a Lay Worship Leader at Holy Rood Carnoustie on Sunday. Grant, who has extensive experience in assisting with worship, was supported in training for the role by the priest for Carnoustie and Monifieth, the Rev Martin Allwood. As a Lay Worship Leader, Grant will be a part of the team that leads worship at the charges under the support and direction of the clergy. To find out more about this scheme, contact your local clergy.

Cathedral Refreshment Day for Lent – Saturday 18th March at All Souls’ Invergowrie

St. Pauls Cathedral and All Souls, Invergowrie are hosting a quiet day for Lent on Saturday 18th March from 10am to 3pm. Taking place at All Souls, the day will have guided and self guided activities and provide a space for quiet and prayer. Tea, coffee and cake are provided. All are very welcome!

St. Paul’s, Cathedral, Dundee to host “Religious Peace: Then and Now” Talk by Prof. Wayne Te Brake, 20th March

Monday 20th March at 5pm, Prof. Wayne Te Brake, will speak on one of the critical challenges of our time: making religious peace in a world afflicted by

religious conflict, violence, and war. This presentation will demonstrate how we can learn to see “the things that make for peace” in the world around us, and it will highlight photographic images, which could not be included in the book, of what religious peace currently looks like in four very different communities. Free admission.

SEC Carbon Net Zero Consultation

The consultation phase of the SEC Net Zero Action Plan is exploring the plan and the specific targets proposed to support the SEC in achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2030. The Provincial Environment Group invites you to register to provide feedback to the draft of the plan. You can fill out the online response form using the weblink below:

[Net Zero Action Plan \(2023-2030\) online survey](#)

The consultation phase of the Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030) will close on Tuesday 28 March. To find out more about the proposal and the consultation, visit the [dedicated webpage](#) on the SEC website.

SEI Lent Series “Teach Us to Pray: A Close Reading of the Lord’s Prayer”

This series, presented by the Revd Dr Michael Hull, reads the Lord’s Prayer closely and deliberately to unpack the ways in which it glorifies God and petitions for humanity’s spiritual and physical needs. The Series will be offered on the Mondays of Lent 2023 at 7pm in six 30-minute webinars, each of which will be posted on YouTube. The Series is meant to be a resource for Christians to use creatively during the Season of Lent, 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 presenter, Revd Dr Michael Hull, is the Director of Studies at the Scottish Episcopal Institute in Edinburgh, whose previous Advent and Lent Series have been greatly valued across the Province and beyond. Session 1 to 3 are available [here](#).

Upcoming sessions are:

- (4) Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us (20 March)
- (5) Do not bring us to the time of trial, but deliver us from evil (27 March)
- (6) For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever (3 April)

The Series is free and open to all. Please register [here on Eventbrite](#).

Creating Hope Together: ScotGov suicide prevention strategy 2022-2032

From Rev Denise Herbert, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Suicide in Scotland is a significant public health issue which affects all age groups and communities. Although no-one is immune from suicide, some individuals are at greater risk. Data from the Scottish Suicide Information Database (ScotSID) report, profiling suicide deaths between 2011 and 2019 shows: Just under three quarters of all suicides in Scotland are male. Almost half (46%) were aged 35-54. Death by suicide is approximately three times more likely among those living in the most socio-economically deprived areas than among those living in the least deprived area. 88% of people that die by suicide are of working age with two-thirds of these in employment at the time of their death.

We often hear about mental health issues, especially amongst young people, but any one of us could be at risk at any time, of feeling despair and hopelessness and whilst we hope our faith will support us it is one safeguarding issue that maybe we don’t think about but if we come across someone who seems to be despairing or withdrawn perhaps we need to stop and wonder if help is needed. Just passing on the thought to someone who might have more knowledge is a lot better than not saying anything though sadly, quite often, the person who is thinking of taking their own life does not say so and the family have no idea that the person has it in mind. Links:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/creating-hope-together-scotlands-suicide-prevention-strategy-2022-2032/>

<http://www.healthscotland.scot/health-topics/suicide/suicide-prevention-overview>

<https://www.samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/suicide/suicide-prevention>

Cost of Living Crisis: Info and Projects

The Cost of Living crisis continues, so we have placed information and resources to help with living costs on a new page on the Diocesan website. The page can be found here: Cost of Living Crisis page [here](#).

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have details of upcoming events of interest or stories and photos of events around the diocese, please email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org