

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

23rd March 2023

Cathedral Refreshment Day for Lent held at All Souls' Invergowrie



Participants blowing bubbles

(Photo E Thomson/Twitter)

St. Pauls Cathedral and All Souls, Invergowrie hosted a quiet day for Lent last Saturday, 18th March, It took place at All Souls, Invergowrie with a balance of guided and self guided activities. This day, on 'Refreshment Weekend' (Mothering Sunday is sometimes called 'Refreshment Sunday' was a space for quiet and prayer.

SEC Carbon Net Zero Consultation: Action Needed: Closes Tuesday 28th March



Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030)

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 web

link 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.

New Head of Scottish Episcopal Church Safeguarding Appointed

John Wyllie has been announced as the new Head of Safeguarding. Full news of the appointment will appear in 'Inspires Online' later this month. A brief excerpt from the magazine states:

"John has spent the last 35 years in public service firstly for 5 years in the British Army and then in policing, from where he retired as a Detective Superintendent - his most recent role saw him leading on work to protect Ukrainian displaced people, leading the airport security operation at COP26 and also providing oversight of serious crime investigations across Scotland. He has worked across the world assisting countries to develop their training and capabilities to protect vulnerable groups, leading programmes from Bhutan to Malawi, with a range of partners including UNICEF, The Asia Foundation and the European Union. John has also worked with the 5Rights Foundation developing international efforts to protect children and young people from on-line harm. John is married to Nicola, a Primary School teacher and they have three adult children, Katie, Scott and Ross."

John will start in post on 17 April.

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 4 are available [here](#).

The remaining sessions are:

(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](#).

Coronation Champions: by 2nd April



The King and Queen Consort will mark Their Coronations by celebrating inspiring volunteers who make far reaching and positive differences in their local communities with the introduction of The Coronation Champions Awards. Honouring those who freely give their time, skills and energy to the vulnerable, individuals, organisations and communities within our society, there are a number of categories of award, including Young Coronation Champions, aged between 14-18 years. The competition is managed by The Royal Voluntary Service, who are ensuring this not only commends outstanding volunteers throughout the Four Nations, but also takes this unique opportunity to raise awareness of the impact of volunteering on communities and those that volunteer.

More detailed information, including how to nominate can be found by following the link below:

www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/coronation-champions-awards

Please note, nominations for this competition will close on 2 April.

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