

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

9th March 2023

Brechin Diocesan Synod: Spring 2023



Synod gathers in Broughty Ferry (M Swift)

The Brechin Diocesan Synod for Spring 2023 met in St Mary's Broughty Ferry on Saturday 4th March 2023: the same day as Aberdeen and Orkney, Glasgow and Galloway and Moray, Ross

and Caithness. Just over 50 clergy and lay delegates and members gathered for the opening eucharist and charge given by Bishop Andrew. Ms Miriam Weibye, General Synod Office (GSO) Church Relations Officer, was welcomed as the guest from GSO. The business of Synod included advisory votes on new Pastoral Office books, a presentation by Miriam on the Provincial Environment Group (PEG) Plan for Net Zero by 2030, confirmation of revised statutes for the cathedral in Dundee and elections to Diocesan and Provincial Boards and Committees.

A substantial item was considering a revised Canon for election of Bishops in the SEC. Dean Fay spoke to this item as she was part of the working group that had been guiding the new legislation. The revised Canon had passed a first reading at General Synod 2022 and was now out for consultation and advisory votes in the Dioceses. The Canon gives improved flexibility in time-scales, improved training for all involved in the process, works towards improved confidentiality and allows a shortlist of two candidates for a second stage of elections.

The motion to approve the revised Canon was passed in the advisory vote with 69% of clergy and 85% of laity in favour. Concerns were expressed about clear criteria for



Miriam Weibye presents for PEG (M Swift)

Episcopal ministry, diversity (in all ways) in the candidates, pastoral care for those not elected and, with

much debate, clarity on the role of the College of Bishops and Episcopal Synod in any stage of an electoral process. The Bishop undertook that the comments would be fed back to the Faith and Order Board for consideration before the General Synod second reading in June 2023.

The Synod ended with confirmation of the Acts of Synod and a blessing: the Synod next meets on 28th October 2023 to review our budgets and strategy.

New Dean and Canon Announced

Bishop Andrew announced that Canon Kenneth Gibson will be appointed as the next Dean of Brechin when Dean Fay Lamont retires in the summer. Dean Fay will be appointed 'Dean Emeritus'. It was also announced that the Rev Mary Jepp, priest for Muchalls and Stonehaven, will be appointed as a Canon to the Cathedral Chapter: she will be installed at a service after Easter: details to follow.

Royal Honour for Vina and Royal Correspondence: at St. Ninian's, Dundee

Vina Strachan, of St. Ninian's Church, Dundee, has been honoured as one of 74 men and 74 women across the UK to receive the Maundy money on Maundy Thursday from King Charles III at York Minister. This is in recognition of almost 40 years of work in the church in many different roles, and mainly with our young people from Sunday School, Bible Class, Boy's Brigade, Girl's Brigade, Youth Group and in the Diocese as Diocesan Youth Officer, Lay Rep and on the Mission Board. This is a huge honour for her personally for her dedicated service, for us as a church, our community and our Diocese.

Also, last year, following the death of the Queen, the Sunday school youth of St. Ninians, Dundee sent a card to King Charles III. A beautiful card in reply from King Charles to our young people has been received.



Church youth presenting the card to the congregation.

(Photo & consent: St Ninian's Dundee)

He writes in the card: "It was so very kind of you to send me such a wonderfully generous message following the death of my beloved mother. Your most thoughtful words are enormously comforting, and I cannot tell you how deeply they are appreciated at this time of immense sorrow."

Bishop's Lent Appeal: DEC Appeal for Turkey-Syria Earthquake

This Lent the Bishop is supporting the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC—an umbrella body for the major UK charities) online appeal for the disastrous earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The news from those regions remains harrowing with the horrendous loss of life, massive destruction of shelter and resources and ongoing need for humanitarian aid. The political situation in Syria makes this situation even worse. Please pray for all those affected and for those providing care and support. And please donate to the Bishop's Appeal or direct to the DEC Appeal if you are able: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

Cathedral Refreshment Day for Lent—Saturday 18th March at All Souls' Invergowrie

A date for your diaries: 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 provincial 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 and 2 are available [here](#).

Upcoming sessions are:

- (3) Give us today our daily bread (13 March)
- (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](#).

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](#).