

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

24th August 2023

Companionship Young Adult Pilgrimage in Iowa, USA

Pilgrims from Iowa, Eswatini and Brechin Dioceses spent a packed week-and-a-half together in the Diocese of Iowa last week. This time together was the third session of this type held between the three Anglican Communion dioceses in an ongoing 41-year three-way Companionship linkage.



The pilgrims at the old State Capitol building in Iowa City

The pilgrims had some flight disruption en route from both Scotland and Eswatini, so they gathered in the Midwest of the US some 24 hours later than planned. A full programme of visits and activities then followed. Details of the programme were shared on the Diocesan Facebook page during the time together: please access that at [this link](#).

Some highlights of the visit were attending the Iowa State Fair, the largest such show in the US, and the place where Republican candidates for the presidency attend to make their pitches. It has often been the case that whichever candidate wins Iowa becomes the Republican nomination. The pilgrims also visited the Iowa State Senate and met with Senator Rev Sarah Trone Garriott, a Lutheran Pastor and Democratic politician.

Visits were made to Jordan House, a key site in the 'Underground Railroad' system that helped escaped slaves from the southern states get to freedom in the 1800s, and to church projects in Iowa City dealing with poverty, racial issues and reconciliation. They also visited the home of the 'World Food Prize', the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for hunger projects.

There was also fun and social time: the pilgrims attended a baseball game, shopped in a big US mall, played crazy golf and spent a great deal of time in fellowship and discussion. Good relationships were built between these pilgrims from very, very different continents and contexts.



A picnic and tree-planting at Christ Church Cedar Rapids

The bishops of the three dioceses and other 'older adults' also attended and supported the pilgrimage. All were welcomed at St Paul's Cathedral Des Moines and Christ Church Cedar Rapids where a tree was planted to celebrate the link. More detailed reporting and a special service in Brechin are being planned for later in the year.

The Diocese supports Dundee Kiltwalk

The Dundee Kiltwalk, a sponsored charity walk in kilts, took place around Dundee on Sunday 20th August. Among the many charities supported, Dundee poverty group 'Dundee Fighting for Fairness' took part to raise funds to support their advocacy and support work. Bishop Andrew, Mary and their daughter Frankie joined the DFFF walkers. Bishop's PA Elliott Scarfe and his wife Fiona and children Lochlan and Ellinah also took part, supporting the National Autistic Society. Details on Facebook!

Special Evensong for Installation of Deans & Chancellor: 27th August

Dean Kenneth Gibson will be installed at a special Evensong at the Cathedral on Sunday 27th August at 5pm. During this service, the Bishop will also be installing Very Rev Fay Lamont as 'Dean Emeritus' and Sheriff George Way of Pleas as Diocesan Chancellor. George started his role during the pandemic with

'Zoom' services, so this will be an 'in-person' thank you for all he has been doing.

Please come and support Kenneth, Fay and George at this special service of thanksgiving and blessing.

Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association (SECMA) Open Day: 2nd Sep

The Brechin Diocese is holding an Open Day to showcase SECMA's achievements over the decades and how it will continue to impact lives across the world in the future. There will be talks, displays, a prayer corner and musical entertainment. Home-bakes, light lunches and other refreshments will be available.

This event will be held in St Luke's Episcopal Church, Downfield, Dundee, DD3 0LD on Saturday 2nd September, 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Please come any time that suits. The talks will be as follows:

11.30am eSwatini, 12.30pm Mary's Meals, 1.30pm Grahamstown, South Africa, 2.30pm Tearfund projects. Talks interspersed with live music!

All are welcome!

Charity Teddy Bear Parachute Jump—10th September

Rev Mark-Aaron Tisdale writes: St. Mary's, Broughty Ferry are hosting a fun day for the family. Starting at 3pm on 10th September, come watch your teddy parachute jump from the Fire Station Drill Tower at the Balmossie/Monifieth Fire Station and receive a certificate of bravery.

Donations for the teddy bear drop will go 50/50 towards the Firefighters Charity and Abelour Children's Charity.

Explorations in Prayer - St. Mary Magdalene's Church: Sep 2023

Beginning in September there will be a series of 2-hour workshops exploring some of the riches of our spiritual heritage. These monthly workshops, over six months, will offer a place in which we can learn, discuss and experiment with various aspects of prayer. If you wish to be involved or want more information, then contact Dean Kenneth by email - at Kenneth.gibson1@btinternet.com or message through St. Mary Magdalene's Church Facebook Page. The sessions are free. They are designed for beginners,

"for that is what we always are!" The first session is on Saturday 23 September 10.30 am - 12.30 pm.

Iona Pilgrimage October 2023: Calling All Young SEC Pilgrims!

Applications are open for the Provincial Youth Pilgrimage to Iona in October 2023. There are spaces available for young people from each Diocese. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend time away with God in a very special place, in the company of other young people and Provincial youth leaders. Full information and booking details for **pilgrims aged 12-18** here <https://tinyurl.com/piskypilgrim1218> and **pilgrims aged 18-25(ish)** here: <https://tinyurl.com/piskypilgrim1825>

Please share this with anyone you know who may be interested, and contact Claire if you have any questions: youth@brechin.anglican.org.

Diary Date

Diocesan Autumn Synod—28th October at St Ninian's Dundee

Official notice will follow, but please note in your diaries the date and venue for the Brechin Autumn Synod, on Diocesan Strategy and Budgets for next year.

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](#).

If you are aware of any special projects that are running for the school holidays with food or activities for young people, please pass details on to the office who can share them in future bulletins.



Any news to share in the Bulletin?

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