

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 26th October 2023

### Flooding in Brechin Diocese

Bishop Andrew writes: Many of our communities in the Diocese were affected by Storm Babet last weekend. The news was full of the severe flooding in the city of Brechin itself with many people displaced from their homes by the river South Esk and other homes and businesses were flooded throughout Tayside, Angus and Aberdeenshire.



Flooding in Invergowrie, near Dundee. Photo: D Bertie

The tragic loss of lives in Scotland and England brings home how extreme was this weather. There will be appeals for help as people work to return to their homes and rebuild their lives over the next weeks and months: we will share ways that support can be offered. Please continue to keep all affected in your prayers.

### War in Israel-Palestine: Anglican Emergency Appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Archbishop of Jerusalem Hosam Naoum have issued a joint emergency appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The full text of the appeal letter is attached to the bulletin email. Details of international partners in the UK where donations can be made are found below:

JMECA (UK): <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24585>

Friends of the Holy Land (UK, Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic): <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate/christmas>

Please pray for peace in this terrible time of war and violence.

### SECMA Service of Thanksgiving - Saturday 4th Nov 2023 at 11.30am

The Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association is drawing to a close after many years of faithfully supporting projects in Scotland and overseas. A service of thanksgiving for all of SECMA's work will take place on November 4th 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH 12 5AW

As well as a chance for all to joyfully giving thanks to God, the Most Rev Dr Mark Strange will be preaching, a Ugandan family choir will be singing and we will hear about SECMA's far-reaching impact past, present and future. A light lunch will follow.

For catering purposes it will be good to have an idea of numbers attending so please respond to Gill Campbell at [secma.convener@gmail.com](mailto:secma.convener@gmail.com).

### St. James' Stonehaven Finalist at the National Church Awards on 6th November

As reported in the past weeks, St James Stonehaven is a finalist in the Church and Community "Volunteer" category of the National Church Awards for their work with Ukrainian refugees and a Garden Scheme with the members from inclusion charity 'Inspire'. Find out who the winners are by booking a free ticket to watch the awards ceremony live online on YouTube on Monday 6th November at 4pm from the Mercers Hall in London. The link to book tickets can be found [here](#).

### Upcoming Events in the Diocese:

#### **Pisky Sessions in Montrose - Alison Eales: 27th October 7.30pm**

St Mary's and St Peter's Church are extremely excited to be bringing Glasgow singer-songwriter Alison Eales to the Pisky Sessions in Montrose. Alison's debut album, 'Mox Nox' has been a stand-out of this year and will likely feature in many national 'best of the year' lists. As a long-standing member of indie band, Butcher Boy, Alison is an experienced and accomplished performer, and it is very exciting to have the chance to see her in a solo setting.

Alison is supported by Adam Ross, front man of Scottish underground faves Randolph's Leap.

Tickets available in advance from <https://alisonales.bpt.me> or contact Rev Jim Benton-Evans, 07702 8942727

## **Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts Autumn/Winter Term: 3rd November 1pm**

The next Cathedral's lunchtime concert will be on Friday 3rd November at 1.00pm, with sopranos Moira Docherty and Barbara Scott and Robert Duncan on the Piano. Tickets and are available at the door and cost £5 for adults or £3 for students.

## **Concert in aid of Siobhan's Trust and All Saints' Church, Sat 18th Nov 2023**

All Saints Church invites you to "Impropera". No script. No score. No safety net. What could possibly go wrong? The event, being held at Fingask Castle, begins with drinks starting at 6.30pm and the concert set to start at 7pm. Dinner will be from 8pm. RSVP by completing the form attached to the bulletin email by 30th October.

## **Provincial Building Grants: Timescales for Additional Applications**

The SEC Provincial Building Grants Group still has a balance of about £91,500 available to award. The Group agreed to schedule an additional meeting in December on Tuesday 12th December to allocate funds against projects. Applications have to have been approved by the Diocese, so a submission deadline of 11th November to the Diocese is suggested to let Council review and approve. Note: the usual requirements apply: three quotes required, up to 50% of the cost of the work, ideally the work identified in a quinquennial report. Contact the office for more information. <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/buildings/provincial-building-grants-and-loans/>

## **Aberlour's Christingle Appeal**

From Aberlour: This Advent you can help disadvantaged children across Scotland by holding a Christingle service in aid of Aberlour. The money raised by your congregation will directly help children and families living in poverty. Aberlour has helped 18,000 children living in poverty over the

past three years, by awarding £2.9m in cash grants to their families from our Urgent Assistance Fund.

However, 2023 has seen another increase in the number of families in Scotland asking for our help to meet their children's basic needs, including food, clothing, and shelter. By holding a Christingle service in aid of Aberlour, your Church can help make sure that children across the country have access to everyday essentials like food, a warm place to sleep and clothes that fit.

The toolkit found [here](#) on the Aberlour website provides tips on holding a Christingle celebration and information on how to request more Christingle envelopes. Donations can also be made directly at [www.aberlour.org.uk/donate](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/donate).

This festive season, please shine a light for children in desperate need.

## **SEI Journal—Autumn 2023**

The latest edition of the Scottish Episcopal Institute Journal has been released: <https://sei.scot/resources/sei-journal/> This edition has academic essays exploring faith and the political issues associated with Scottish independence.

## **Cost of Living Crisis: Info and Projects**

The Cost of Living crisis continues, and as the colder weather arrives the pressure on people trying to heat their homes with continuing high utility costs will increase.

We are continuing to place information and resources to help with living costs on a 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 in your area that can help people with costs, food or any other form of help, 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](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org).