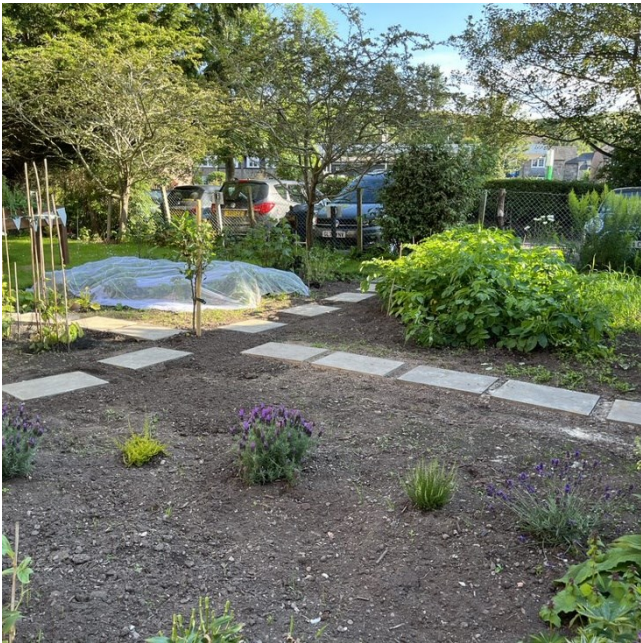


Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

5th October 2023

St. James' Stonehaven are finalists in the National Church Awards

Paula Hall from St James' Stonehaven writes: The National Church Awards are given to churches throughout the UK for outstanding achievements in a variety of categories, this year these are architecture, maintenance, tourism, community and volunteer and friends as well as a "Church of the Year" award.



The garden project at St James' Stonehaven (photograph M Swift)

We, at St James, entered in the Church and Community "Volunteer" category as we are all volunteers in our church along with lots of other people, in our community who volunteer with us.

We, especially this last year, have achieved a huge amount with supporting the Ukrainian refugees at our Friday drop in sessions, and our Garden Scheme with the members from Inspire which grew from a small seed sown at a Thursday drop in session in the hall. We have had so many people helping out with this project by giving time and muscle power as well as trees, bushes and plants.

You can find out if we are a winner 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 booked tickets can be found [here](#).

New Net Zero Toolkit and Net Zero Cards released by Provincial Environment Group

From the SEC website: To celebrate the beginning of the Season of Creation the Provincial Environment Group (PEG) is pleased to announce the release of the updated Net Zero Toolkit. This online resource has been completely redesigned to complement the ten core objectives identified in the Scottish Episcopal Church's Net Zero Action Plan (2023-2030), approved by General Synod in June 2023.



Read about the toolkit and the Net Zero cards here:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/new-net-zero-toolkit-and-net-zero-cards/>

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.

Upcoming Events in the Diocese:

Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts Autumn/Winter Term Begins: 6th October 1pm

The Cathedral's lunchtime concert series resumes on Friday 6th October at 1.00pm, with Kim and Robert Duncan playing a beautiful programme of music for oboe and piano. Tickets and are available at the door and cost £5 for adults or £3 for students.

Lunchtime Concert at St Mary Magdalene's: 11th Oct 2023

The next Wednesday Lunchtime Concert at St Mary Magdalene's Church will be on 11th October and will be given by The Tayside Young Fiddlers. The concert starts at 12.30 and admission is by donation. Tea and coffee are available and listeners are invited to bring their own lunch to enjoy with the music.

Explorations in Prayer - St. Mary Magdalene's Church: Next Date 14th October 2023

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!" Please note the change of date for the second session. It will now be held on Saturday 14 October from 10.30 am - 12.00 pm.

Celebrate and Hear about the Companionship 'Young Adult Pilgrimage' in Iowa: 15th October 4pm

The young adult pilgrims who returned from Iowa will be presenting some memories and reflections on their time with the Companion Diocese at a celebration worship in the Cathedral in Dundee on Sunday 15th October at 4pm. Please do come to celebrate and hear more about their experiences of Iowa, the Companionship and the newly formed relationships that have been made.

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

The Bishop has called the Autumn Synod to approve budget and quota and to discuss a revised Diocesan Strategy. The official notice was sent to Synod members last week inviting them to join us at this year's Autumn Synod.

The agenda and papers for Autumn Synod will be issued on Thursday, 14th October. Motions to be considered by Synod can be emailed to the office at the address below: any such motions should be received by 7th October for inclusion in the papers.

"Faith Questions": A free resource available from Church Army

Faith Questions is a free resource from Church Army exploring the difficult questions we come across in our lives. It doesn't seek to give easy answers, but instead learn from the wisdom of our predecessors in faith, and give space for participants to reflect and discover what they think about these ideas. Faith Questions is six sessions long and the sessions can be used as one off, or as part of a course. Further information can be found [here](#).

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.