



Brechin Bulletin

Christmas and New Year Edition 2023

Christmas Services Around the Diocese

The church communities of the Diocese are celebrating Christmas with a wide variety of Christmas carol services and eucharists. The office has created a list of the services: this can be found on the website at <https://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org/news/entry/christmas-carols-and-services-in-the-diocese>



The Cathedral ready for Christmas (Photo: Swift)

Lottery Grant for Brechin Soup Project

St. Andrew's, Brechin has been awarded nearly £10,000 from the Community Lottery Grant scheme, for its work distributing a simple cup of (frozen) soup and some bread, to local people who are on their own, struggling with the cost of living or who simply like to see a friendly face and a brief chat on the doorstep.



Maisondieu School pupils sing (Photo Rev Mike Harris)

(Consents given for photo)

The Brechin Soup Initiative in this form began in response to the Covid pandemic and has been sustained ever since by generous donations. The lottery grant will help continue the work for the next 12 months as we roll out community lunches in St. Andrew's Hall and our

annual Christmas dinner which was attended by over 70 people and included the choir of Maison Dieu school. Schoolchildren are now also being engaged (under supervision) in the preparation of ingredients for the soup.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: Broughty Ferry

This special time was marked at St Mary's Broughty Ferry in a number of ways. On Nov 25th, encouraged by Mothers Union, a short vigil was held outside church and passers by were encouraged to chat and given information leaflets about domestic violence. An empty red chair was placed there as a visual symbol of those absent because of gender based abuse. The empty red chair then remained in church for 16 days.



The Red Chair: Photo courtesy of C. Berry.

On Dec 4th the rector gave an excellent sermon linking the themes of advent and domestic abuse and special prayers were said. Finally Mothers union members visited an open afternoon at Dundee Women's Aid where they were shown the work done and at the same time were shocked to hear that around 30 people are employed in Dundee alone to deal with the many problems arising from domestic abuse. The activities shown varied from providing safe houses to helping to reunite broken families.

Mothers Union has produced a leaflet to be used on the back of toilet doors (even your church toilet!) with tear off slips for those wishing to seek help. Contact St Mary's if you would like copies.

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. Details of international partners in the UK where donations can be made are: JMECA (UK): <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24585> Friends of the Holy Land (UK, Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic): <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate/christmas>. As ever, please pray for peace in this terrible time of war and violence in the Holy Land.

Day of Prayer for Peace in Muchalls



**Saturday January 6th 2024
10am to 4pm**

At St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal
Church, Muchalls

10am, morning prayer service

11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm a brief
prayer for all

3pm closing Communion service

Sit quietly or try a selection of prayer activities. Canon Mary Jepp will be available for individual prayer at 11.30am and 2.30pm. Refreshments available throughout the day A simple bread and soup lunch available 12.30 to 1pm. Any donations received will be sent to Médecins Sans Frontières.

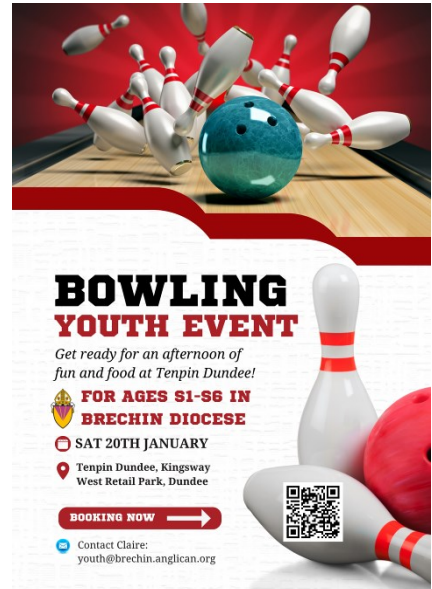
Healthy Environment: Net Zero Cards now available for churches

The Provincial Environmental Group has released sets of "Net Zero cards". The Net Zero Cards help churches engage with actions a church can take that will reduce your energy use and move your charge towards Net Zero. The cards are designed to let a group within a church (maybe the vestry or a working group looking at environmental issues) make sense of what can feel an overwhelming range of issues and possibilities. The cards in the pack cover Energy Efficiency Improvements, Clean Energy, and Positive Finances, the priority areas from our Net Zero Action Plan.

Packs of the Net Zero cards are now available from the General Synod Office in Edinburgh, and sets are also available from the Diocesan Office. Please contact Elliott to order a pack for your church or to explore guidance on how they can be used in a church setting use.

Upcoming Brechin Diocesan Youth Event: Bowling on 20th January

If a teenager or two comes to your church with their family this Christmas, why not invite them to the next Diocesan Youth Event? On Saturday 20 January there will be bowling and burgers at Tenpin Dundee for young people in S1-S6! A print-ready version of this flyer will be sent out by email, so you can put this information into their hands.



All details and booking can be accessed via the flyer's QR code, or this link:

<https://forms.gle/ofGKoXLsL1MjpHrU7> Booking deadline is 2 January 2024.

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](#).

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.

**Christmas and New Year's Greetings
from the Diocese of Brechin!**