

Brechin Bulletin

22nd February 2024

Licensing of Brechin and Montrose Lay Worship Leaders in Montrose Church



Cate Ashley (l) and Betty Matheson (r) are commissioned by Bishop Andrew, with the Rector, Canon Jim Benton-Evans. Photo M. Swift

Cate Ashley and Betty Matheson were commissioned as Lay Worship Leaders in St Mary's and St Peter's Montrose on Sunday 18th February. Canon Jim Benton-Evans, the Rector of Brechin and Montrose with Bervie, had supported Cate and Betty through training in this vital ministry. They join a team from the three charges that share, with clergy and lay readers, in the liturgical life of the churches. The Bishop thanked the newly commissioned leaders, along with all of the teams that bring so much to the life of the church communities.

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2024: "Save the Children: Gaza Crisis" Appeal

Bishop Andrew has chosen the Save the Children "Gaza Crisis" Appeal for our Lent Appeal, with its special focus on humanitarian aid for the children affected by the dreadful violence and humanitarian disaster developing as Israel engages in military action in Gaza.



Save the Children

The politics of the Israel-Gaza conflict are complex, with Hamas atrocities committed on October 7 and hostages taken and held, and the overwhelming Israeli military

response since then leading to so much suffering in Gaza: that ongoing suffering of so many civilians and especially the children of Gaza demands our support.

Please either collect during Lent for gathering and passing on to Save the Children after Easter, or give directly to Save the Children at <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/emergencies/gaza-crisis-2> if you wish to add Gift Aid to your donation. Please let the Diocese know if you give directly so we can thank you for your response to the appeal.

'Forbes' Lecture: "Robot Souls", 9th March at 3pm with Dr Eve Poole OBE

This year's Forbes Lecture has Dr Eve Poole OBE giving a lecture, entitled 'Robot Souls'. In her new book of that same title Eve looks at what we've been deliberately leaving out of the design of AI. It turns out that all that 'junk code' left on the floor contains the very essence of our humanity. As hallmarks of soul, this code is vital to our flourishing. Might it be vital to the flourishing of AI too?

Eve is an academic and writer who specialises in leadership. Her books include *Capitalism's Toxic Assumptions*, *Buying God*, and *Leadersmithing*. Eve was the first female Chairman of Gordonstoun School in Moray from 2015-2021. She also served as Third Church Estates Commissioner for England from 2018-2021, and was Interim Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2022. She was awarded an OBE in the 2023 New Year Honours List for services to education and gender equality.

The Forbes Lecture is a new initiative, to modernise and replace the 'Forbes Evensong' to commemorate Bishop Alexander Penrose Forbes that was held each year in October with a guest preacher.

'James Gregory' Lecture: 4th March at 5.15pm at St Andrews Uni

Please note that the next James Gregory public lecture on Science, Religion and Human Flourishing will be held on Monday, March 4 at 5.15 pm by Professor Justin Barrett entitled "Does my brain fit with the world around me?"

Prof Barrett is an evolutionary psychologist who has

taught in Oxford and the Fuller Seminary (Los Angeles).

For more information follow this link <https://jamesgregory.org.uk> and click on the lecture.

NOTE –that the lecture will be given in a new location, the Booth Lecture Theatre, which is the main lecture theatre in the Medical Sciences building.

Room location see https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/roomBookingView/index/253-A_01_155

Lambeth: Companion Links Foster a Deep Appreciation of our Diversity

From our Companion Links Officer, Canon Pat Millar
Dear friends, I'm sharing this link and hope that you might have a look. I think this short piece is a worthwhile reminder of the many benefits of Companion Links.

In Brechin, we are already properly engaged and regularly involved with our Companions in Iowa and Eswatini, but it's always helpful to refresh our thinking.

https://www.lambethconference.org/companion-links-foster-a-deep-appreciation-of-our-diversity/?fbclid=IwAR2hLBiLkPATOQUvvp9zz6vG_LJ1h14Mgp9Om9Nn8-rVI_zCQJjc5IXo514_aem_AYumsZaZ5_6AP3fjL84DDS1Tzanf3ofDO7vKQKdcm6hCEbmUnySRud319tRnnWzbYs4

Interested in a Retreat this Year? Open Event at Whitchester 17th-19th May 2024

A retreat is planned for 17th - 19th May 2024. It will be at Whitchester Christian Guest House, a beautiful and tranquil setting in Hawick, and will be led by Cathedral clergy. The cost is approximately £180 per person (full board). If you want to go then fill in a booking form and return to Rev'd Roxanne Campbell. Form can be downloaded [here](#). For more information contact roxanne@saintpaulscathedral.net

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

This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal is for the Save the Children Gaza Appeal. There are other ways of supporting those working in that area. 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

in their work to help the those suffering including victims of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. 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.

St Drostan's Church , Tarfside, looking for a "Leaded Window Restorer"

One of the 4" panes of plain frosted glass in our West Window has been broken and we are having difficulty in finding anyone who is willing to repair this leaded window in situ at Tarfside.

We are therefore asking anyone who has knowledge of anyone, or any company, who can carry this important repair, to please contact me.

Rev Jane Nelson. Email; nelson.jane1@btinternet.com or telephone 01569 730967

Cost of Living Crisis: Info and Projects

The Cost of Living crisis continues in the winter of 2024, and in this colder weather the pressure on people trying to heat their homes with continuing high utility costs. Churches and charities are also feeling the pressure of raised bill. Inflation is dropping—but that just means that prices are rising less quickly, rather than the cost of living dropping back down. Some churches continue to share 'cosy spaces' in their churches or halls to give a warm space, activities and a warm welcome to members of the public. Watch social media pages for details of the times and places.

The Diocese is 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.