

Brechin Bulletin

14th March 2024

Forbes' Lecture Delivered: "Robot Souls"

The inaugural 'Forbes Lecture' was delivered by Dr Eve Poole OBE at St Paul's Cathedral, Diocese of Brechin, Dundee on Saturday 9th March. The lecture, replacing the annual 'Forbes Evensong' as a commemoration of Bishop Alexander Penrose Forbes who founded St Paul's, drew on Eve's new book 'Robot Souls'. She reflected on the startling new developments in AI and some moral and ethical dilemmas. Is it acceptable to call AI robots 'toasters'? Will they have rights? What if they ask to be baptised? The 'junk code' that is omitted from AI may contain the essence of humanity.



Eve delivers the lecture in St Paul's Cathedral (M Swift)

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. Her book, 'Robot Souls' is available at <https://www.routledge.com/Robot-Souls-Programming-in-Humanity/Poole/p/book/9781032426624> (20% discount code CSDC24).

St. Margarets Home, Dundee: Final News of Closure of Church-run Care Home

The Trustees of St Margaret's Care Home have reported the sad final decision that the home will close, as of 8th March. The Trustees are the Bishop and other Diocesan officers. The financial problems of the past few years, as reported in the press in February, have proved impossible to resolve. The final resident moved to a new home

on the 8th March and the consultation with staff over employment and redundancies also concluded at that time. The Home will now be moth-balled by a few retained staff while options for sale of the building and site are explored.



St Margaret's Home on Victoria Road Dundee (A Swift)

The majority of the staff have already found jobs in other care homes and service providers in the local area, and the trustees are hopeful that all the staff, with redundancy support, will find suitable employment. This sad news of closure brings an end to over 50 years of Scottish Episcopal Church care provision on the Victoria Road site in Dundee, which followed from almost a century of forms of care provided by various religious bodies for the 'incurables of Dundee'.

Cathedral Lunchtime Concert: Friday 22nd March, 1pm

The Cathedral's next Friday lunchtime concert is on Friday 22nd March at 1.00pm. Come and enjoy the piano duet of Oran Halligan and Edyta Mdyłowska. Tickets are available at the door and cost £5 for adults or £3 for students. The concert will last 45 minutes with coffee/tea and cake being served after.

Book now: Diocesan Youth Event bowling, ping pong and pool: 24th March

Here is another opportunity for teenagers in the Diocese to get together at Tenpin Dundee on Sunday 24 March from 6-8 pm. There will be a game of bowling followed by food and then ping pong/pool. The cost is £5 per child. If transport to Tenpin Dundee is tricky, we can help arrange a lift. This event is for young people (S1-S6): please encourage teenagers

connected to your church to book! They are also welcome to invite friends from a different church or from school - simply share the booking link with their parents. **The deadline is 16 March 2024. Book here: <https://forms.gle/caaH4fUzWvRLpkRJ9>** Questions? Contact Claire at youth@brechin.anglican.org

Provincial Youth Week: A week for teenagers that's out of this world!

Booking is now open for the Provincial Youth Week (Yeek 24). This annual event for young people at High School is a week-long immersive experience, blending faith and fun in a community where everyone values kindness, respect and mutual support. Yeek is a place where young people lift each other up. Our theme this year is 'Another Planet' and it promises a week filled with discovery, creativity and connections. If you know a teenager who is connected to your church, give them the gift of an unforgettable experience at Yeek (28 July – 3 August 2024). There are discounts available before the Early Bird deadline on 1 April: for further information and registration, visit www.yeek.scot Please encourage families with teenagers to find out more!

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

Save the date – the Messy Church team is coming to Scotland

Friday 7 June 10.00 am – 4.00 pm – Dundee (£20).
[Full details and booking](#)

Saturday 8 June 10.00 am – 4.00 pm – Glasgow (£20). [Full details and booking](#)

If you've wondered whether Messy Church might be something your church could try, this is for you! It's a full day of training for both new and experienced Messy Church leaders, including digging into Messy Church values, discipleship and Messy Church Goes Wild, plus a music workshop with Fischy Music. An inspiring day that's not to be missed!

A Trauma Sensitive Approach to Children's, Youth and Family Ministry

Diocesan Child and Youth Officer Claire Benton-Evans writes: I recently undertook an excellent online training course on this subject. It is free and can be completed at the participant's own pace: each section is in bite-sized chunks, and there is a good balance of activities. It's suitable for solo or group learning. I would recommend it to anyone who missed the recent training day for clergy on the same subject. It can be accessed here: <https://cym.thinkific.com/courses/a-trauma-sensitive-approach-to-childrens-youth-and-family-ministry>

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. 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.



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.