

Brechin Bulletin

17th May 2024

Special Appeal for Winter School Shoes for the Diocese of Eswatini

Companion Links Officer Canon Pat Millar writes, “A couple of weeks ago I had an informal message from a friend in Eswatini about a special appeal in their diocese for school shoes for children in their Diocesan schools.



In line with our Companionship agreement, I checked this with Bishop Dalcy’s office and I have had written support from her for this special appeal.

She writes that they are entering the colder months now (they are in the southern hemisphere so it is autumn now) and as a Diocese they are reaching out to orphaned and vulnerable children, in their Diocesan schools, to provide them with school shoes. Bishop Dalcy stresses their belief that every child deserves to have a pair of school shoes that are appropriate for school wear and fit well. In order to attend school, pupils are required to have the basic uniform and to wear shoes. Many families struggle to make ends meet and as a result their children often do not have proper footwear to keep their feet healthy and protected.

Most children across the Diocese walk long distances to and from school, often on gravel roads or rural paths and I know at first hand that some children walk bare-foot and only put their shoes on when they reach school; sometimes because the shoes are broken or too small and uncomfortable and often because they are not able to replace worn out shoes.

The photos of worn and broken shoes above show the problems more clearly than words could. School classrooms usually have bare concrete floors and no internal heating. School playgrounds are compacted earth which become soft and muddy in cold season weather.

I feel that many in our churches in Brechin Diocese might want to respond to this special appeal with donations. Please do not offer shoes – the cost of post/carriage is hugely expensive and the postal services extremely unreliable.

In order to help, we need to send funds, so that shoes can be ordered in a whole range of sizes and distributed to schools by the Diocesan team. This is an appeal that is urgent and because of the approach of very cold weather needs a swift response.

I suggest that donations will be open until Sunday 30th June 2024. That would allow us to transfer donations to Eswatini in the first week of July.

Holy Trinity will, as usual, manage the collection and transfer of donations. Cash donations can be handed to Keith Florence or to me (Canon Pat Millar) and cheques should be made payable to Holy Trinity Church. Bank transfer details are available from Keith or from me patriciamillar2509@gmail.com.

Bishop Dalcy assures us of their gratitude for our Companionship and on-going support for their Diocese.

Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts: Friday 24th May at 1pm

Duende Voices, directed by Alice Marra will be performing at the next of the regular concerts hosted by the Friends of St Paul’s Cathedral. Entry is £5, or £3 for students. Tea, coffee, cake and chance to meet the performers are all on offer at the concert series!

Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Youth Week: A week for teenagers that's “out of this world”!

Booking is 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 with a long-standing culture where young people support and 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 unforgetta-

ble experience at Yeek (28 July – 3 August 2024). For further information and registration, visit www.yeek.scot Please encourage families with teenagers to find out more!

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse: 2pm, Saturday 25th May at St Mary's Broughty Ferry

A pilot session for Brechin Diocese will be held at St Mary's Broughty Ferry at 2pm on Saturday May 25th. Encouraged by the Bishop, Mrs Isabelle Pottinger from the Scottish Mothers Union Domestic Abuse Committee will give an illustrated talk on this important topic. The talk will be followed by questions, discussion and tea.

Hopefully some people from each charge have chosen to attend this talk to be able to further inform all our churches about this often hidden and difficult topic. Entrance is through the main church door in Queen St and though on street parking is limited there is a public car park 100 Mt east along Queen St. All are very welcome at this very important event.

Book Launch at St. Mary's, Broughty Ferry—31st May at 7:30pm

Bookhouse, an independent book shop operating in Broughty Ferry, is hosting a book launch and talk with author Victoria Mackenzie in St Mary's Church on Friday 31st May at 7.30pm.

The Rector, Rev Mark-Aaron Tisdale will conduct the interview as they explore her debut novel, For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy on My Little Pain, a story about Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich fictionally meeting. All very welcome! Tickets at £5 are available from Bookhouse or from their website: at the QR code below.



Victoria MacKenzie



What can we offer children and families? "Messy Church" event 7th June.

If your church is asking this question, invite people to attend the upcoming Messy Church training day for

encouragement and inspiration! This event taking place on **7 June in Dundee** will feature Messy Church Goes Wild and Fischy Music, so you can learn more about how Messy Church works, but also get excited about other things that could thrive in your context, such as music that gets children singing and working with families outside. The day costs £20 including lunch: it is recommended that churches pay for their volunteers' attendance, so that they are officially 'sent' and equipped for ministry to families in your community. If money is an issue, Diocesan help is available: please contact Claire at youth@brechin.anglican.org. Information and booking here: <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/messy-church-events/products/scottish-messy-church-training-days-dundee>

Dundee Pride March - 15th June

This year's Dundee Pride March will take place on Saturday, 15 June. If interested in attending as part of an organised SEC presence please contact Rev Roxanne Campbell at: roxanne@saintpaulscathedral.net.

Retiral of SEC Secretary General

Since it was announced that Mr John Stuart is to retire from the position of Secretary General to the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, there have been several enquiries from individuals and churches about how to contribute to a retirement gift. John, who will retire at the end of July this year after 28 years in office, has indicated he would prefer that anyone who wishes to mark his retirement in this way should do so by making a donation to the Scottish Episcopal Institute Training Fund. The Fund exists to help churches support the costs of full-time ordinands.

A 'giving' page has been set up on the Scottish Episcopal Church website for those who wish to contribute, and it can be accessed here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/secretary-general-retiral-donations-to-benefit-sei/>

Anyone who wishes to contribute via a direct bank transfer will find the necessary details at the foot of the website article

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.