

Brechin Bulletin

31st October 2024

Brechin Diocesan Autumn Synod Held

The Diocese of Brechin Autumn Synod 2024 took place in St Ninian's Church Dundee last Saturday. This was a 'business' meeting for the church, where the clergy and lay reps from the diocese gather to receive the previous year's annual report and accounts and budgets for the next year are agreed. All business was approved unanimously.



Canon Jim Benton-Evans briefs on the developing plans for the Festival of Lay Ministry (photo A Swift)

As well as that business, the meeting also considered the mission and ministry of the charges, with a discussion on what 'success' might look like in SEC church communities. The five year plans that the Diocesan Council are generating to carefully use reserves to allow clergy appointments in some new and, as yet, not defined groupings were also discussed. There was a strong sense from the floor that the local vision and plans for the individual church communities were vital in all these plans, an area requiring much support.

The Synod also heard from Canon Jim Benton-Evans about plans for a 'Festival of Lay Ministry' to be held in 2025. Claire Benton-Evans, the Diocesan Children and Youth Officer, gave an overview of diocesan and provincial activities with children and young adults. She also trailed a resource she has created to help churches reflect on the welcome that they might give to children and families, even if they do not have young people in their church community at present.

Bishop Andrew thanked all for attending the Synod, and thanked all for the kindness that he and his family had received since the recent death of his mother.

The Synod closed with song and prayer.

Bruce Gowans Charity Book "Horace the Helpful Hog" Published

Three hilarious stories in one book about a Gloucester Old Spot pig whose attempts to be helpful inevitably go awry. Fully illustrated and suitable for children all the way through Primary school, it's written by Bruce Gowans, Lay Reader at St Luke's and illustrated by Ian Hall.



One of Ian Hall's images from the book.

Priced at £4.99 it's in A5 size and all proceeds will go to support those in difficult circumstances the church encounters in its ministry at the Foodbank/ Clothing Bank – sometimes more than food and clothing are needed. They can be obtained at the church midweek café, open Tuesday 1000-1500 and Wednesday 1000 – 1400, at church services on a Sunday 1030 -1215, or by contacting Bruce via the church Facebook page "Café Church at St Luke's Dundee" It's a brilliant little book – don't miss it!

Energy Footprint Tool Request

A request from Prof Peter Sharp, Diocesan Net Zero Representative: Recently vestry treasurers will have received an email from the Net Zero Team asking them to input data into the Energy Footprint Tool. Possibly because no deadline for responses was given, relatively few charges in Brechin have responded so far. It is very simple to complete; at the least you simply have to give details from your charge's annual energy bill(s) for 2023. Its importance is that it provides you with your carbon footprint for that year and so you will be able to see how, in future years, measures that you have put in place have reduced your carbon emissions.



Dundee 'World Day of Prayer' Committee is Recruiting

This committee helps prepare for the World Day of Prayer service in Dundee, held annually on the second Friday of March. This was once known as the 'Women's World Day of Prayer' and is a wonderful ecumenical chance to reflect global joys and concerns in the churches. For 2025, the location theme is the Cook Islands: <https://worlddayofprayer.net/cook-islands-2025.html>

If a member of your congregation is interested in joining, please contact kati.smith@blueyonder.co.uk. The next meeting of the committee is on 8 November, in Dundee West Church.

Notices from Around the Diocese

Christmas Fayre at St. Mary Magdalene's: Saturday 2nd November 10am – 2pm

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping! Come to St. Mary Magdalene's on Saturday 2nd November for their Christmas Fayre. Crafts, gifts for all budgets, cake, candy and much more!

Time to Remember Service at All Souls, Invergowrie: Saturday 2nd November 12pm

All Soul's Church, Invergowrie will be holding a Time To Remember Service on Saturday 2nd November which is All Soul's Day. During this short act of worship we will take time out to remember and to hold in prayer those we have loved and lost,

The service will begin at 12.00 noon and will be followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread. All are welcome to join us at this service.

A Service of Light at Holy Rood, Carnoustie on Saturday, 2nd November at 6.00 pm

Church of the Holy Rood, Carnoustie invites you to join them on 2nd November at 6pm for a Taizé style Service to honour all the saints and those we have loved but see no more. Everyone is welcome from all faiths and none. If you aren't familiar with the Taizé Chants, just sit and let the music wash over you. Then enjoy your memories in the special peace.

Cathedral Concert: Celebration of Dundee's Community Choirs, Saturday 9th November, 1pm

Join us on Saturday, November 9th at St Paul's Cathedral for the next concert in our Autumn-Winter Lunchtime Series, as Alice Mara presents "A Celebration of Dundee's Community Choirs!" featuring performances by:

Lochee Linties – A vibrant community choir with 15 years of joyful singing, promoting physical, mental, and social wellbeing. They are thrilled to perform at the Cathedral for the first time!

Just Sing – A choir formed by Maggie's Centre Dundee and NHS Tayside for anyone affected by cancer, including family, friends, and health professionals. This group comes together to sing uplifting songs, welcoming new members with open arms.

Big Noise Douglas Community Choir – Run by Sistema Scotland, this choir began with just 3 members and has blossomed into a lively group, performing locally and beyond. They are always looking for new voices to join their weekly sessions.

Saturday 9th November, 1pm.

Tickets £8 (adults) £5 (children, 15 and under)

Come experience the magic of community, friendship, and song in this special celebration! Tickets available at the door. See you there!

Lunchtime Concert at St. Mary Magdalene's: 13th November 1pm

The next lunchtime concert at St Mary Magdalene's Church will be on Wednesday 13th November at 1pm. It will be given by pupils of Grove Academy. As usual you are invited to bring your lunch and tea and coffee will be available. Admission is by donation.



Any news or upcoming events 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.