

# Brechin Bulletin

## 28th November 2024

### Scottish Episcopal Institute Advent Series: Theology of Creation

From the SEI.scot website. The latest in the series of online short courses provided by the Scottish Episcopal Institute will take place throughout Advent, looking at Creation Theology.

The course, led by the Very Rev Stephen Holmes, Provost of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth and Associate Tutor at the Institute, is made up of four roughly 40-minute videos with questions for reflection or discussion.

Previewing the talks, Dr Holmes said: "We live in an environmental crisis. Although many Christians are responding to it in creative ways, there has recently been a neglect of the theology of creation in the Western Churches which has obscured a distinctively Christian response to the crisis. Taking their shape from the 1982 Scottish Liturgy these four sessions aim to outline the main elements of a faithful and orthodox Christian theology of creation which can speak to our contemporaries. The basic structure is taken from traditional Catholic theology, but this is filled out using the insights of poets and theologians such as Kathleen Raine, Maximus the Confessor, Elizabeth Theokritoff, Seyyed Hossein Nasr and Gerard Manley Hopkins. That I have naturally turned to poets, Eastern Orthodox theologians, and an Islamic philosopher, to help outline an adequate theology of creation, and have found the contribution of Pope Francis helpful but limited, suggests that we in the Western Churches have work to do here."

[Theology of Creation 1 – The Mountain behind the Mountain – 25 November](#)

[Theology of Creation 2 – Creation through the Word – 2 December](#)

[Theology of Creation 3 – New Creation in the Spirit – 9 December](#)

[Theology of Creation 4 – Creation perfected in praise – 16 December](#)

The course can be joined at the links found in the session titles above from 7pm on starting Monday past and the first three Mondays in Advent.

### Scottish Episcopal Institute launches 'Piskie Podcasts'

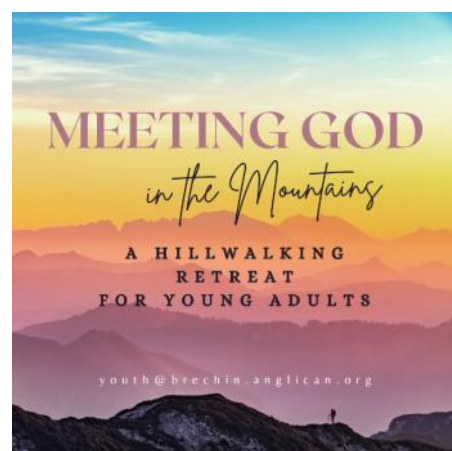
Hosted by the Scottish Episcopal Institute's Principal, Prof Michael Hull, 'Piskie Podcasts' have been launched that seek to feature perspectives on issues from across the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The inaugural Piskie Podcast offers four perspectives on assisted suicide, particularly the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. This Bill is one of the many proposals in the United Kingdom that aims to change current law around assisting a suicide. The question each of the four addresses is simply this: 'Is the Bill consistent with Christian ethics?' The Scottish Episcopal Institute offers their perspectives for deliberation about the Bill.

Full details of the speakers from a range of church, social and medical backgrounds, can be found here: <https://sei.scot/news/piskie-podcasts/>

So, is the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill consistent with Christian ethics? Four Scottish Episcopalians weigh in, the first two opining that is, and the second two opining that it is not. Each talk is about 15 minutes, and the podcast in its entirety about an hour. It can be found [here](#).

### Brechin Diocese Young Adult Hillwalking Retreat—Seeking expressions of interest



Plans are afoot for a guided hillwalking retreat next summer for young adults (18-25ish) in Brechin Diocese, to be led by Claire Benton-Evans, Children & Youth Officer and trainee Mountain Leader, and Dr Richard Tiplady, qualified Mountain Leader and author of 'Following Jesus in the Great Outdoors'.

Please share this offer widely! Here's the plan so far:

- Escape the daily grind and explore your faith with other young Christians (18-25ish) in the wild beauty of the Angus hills
- Climb Scotland's most easterly Munro, Mount Keen
- Share a short night hike experience under the dark skies of an Angus glen
- Stay in a comfy yet remote Retreat House (St Drostan's Lodge)

Find further information and register your interest without obligation here: <https://forms.gle/UkU3ShrH7bZD3aC16>

### **The Welcome Audit: Trailblazers in Brechin Diocese wanted to try new Children's Engagement resource!**



The Welcome Audit is a brand new resource launched at Synod by the Children & Youth Officer. It is designed to help churches with no children renew the welcome that they offer. Could your church be a pilot project? During the Advent season of preparation, why not reflect on a Welcome Audit for next year? Get in touch with Claire who will be happy to support you on your church's journey from first idea through to successful Welcome Audit and beyond. Contact [youth@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:youth@brechin.anglican.org) and find the Welcome Audit here: <https://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org/groups/youth-group/>

### **Net Zero: Energy Footprint Tool completion Request - Please Complete by 30 November.**

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.

A deadline to complete the Tool has been set for 30 November. Please contact the office or Peter if you are unsure of how to do this or what you need to do.

### **Notices from Around the Diocese**

#### **St Andrew's Day Fair at All Souls, Invergowrie: Saturday 30th November, 10am - 11:30am**

Join us at All Souls to celebrate St Andrew's Day with refreshments and fellowship in the church hall. Raffle and home baking & craft stalls.

#### **Lunchtime Concert at St. Mary Magdalene's: 11th December 1pm**

The next St Mary Magdalene's lunchtime concert will take place on Wednesday 11th December at 1pm and will be a celebration of Christmas by the Impromptu Singers. As ever there will be tea and coffee from 12.45 and attendees are invited to bring their lunch to enjoy with the music. Admission is by donation towards performers' and church expenses.

#### **Christmas Concert at St. Mary's, Broughty Ferry: 14th December 2pm-3pm**

Join St Mary's on Saturday 14th December for a Christmas concert provided by musicians from Dundee Symphony Orchestra. Enjoy a mince pie and cup of tea or coffee while you listen. Entry is by donation.

### **Call for Details of Christmas Events and Services to Share on Diocesan Communications**

Please send details of Advent and Christmas services and events that you may be planning, to share on the Diocesan website and from upcoming editions of the Bulletin. And please share photos of the events that have taken place, so we can tell the good news stories of all that is taking place in the Diocese this year!

### **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](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org).