

Brechin Bulletin

Christmas and New Year 2024

Christmas and New Year Greetings from Bishop Andrew

May I offer my Christmas greetings and prayers to all in the Diocese of Brechin and all of our friends throughout the world. Christmas 2024 and New Year 2025 draw us to the end of a year that gave many challenges as well as joys throughout the world, our land and our local areas.

We are now, as church communities, firmly into the season of carol services, planning for Christmas eucharists and preparations for another year in the towns and communities where we are based. These celebrations and our lives as Christian communities are signs of Christian presence and God's grace and love in all of our diverse towns and neighbourhoods.

As we move towards another year, we still face so many challenges in the world, with the environmental crisis and our Net Zero response, war in so many parts of the world bringing violence and injustice to the vulnerable, poverty and political unrest in our own land and so many other places. The world needs all of us as Christians to pray and work in practical ways to bring light into all that darkness. Our faith is rooted in Jesus Christ as the light of the world: as we hear in the Gospel of John in our Christmas services:

“What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”



The crib in Holy Trinity Monifieth (Photo M Swift)

May your journey be a gracious and peaceful one, through the end of the Advent season, to the joyful arrival of the Christ Child on Christmas Day, and on to the New Year celebrations as 2025 greets us.

Peace and blessings for Christmas and the New Year!

Christmas Celebrations in the Diocese

The Advent season is now moving fast towards Christmas, Carol Services, and other celebrations being held in our places of worship. A handy guide to the many joyful occasions throughout the Diocese has been gathered and can be shared with all. The details of services taking place throughout the Diocese can be found on the website [here](#).



Christmas trees in St. Mary Magdalene's, St. Mary's Broughty Ferry, and St. Ninian's. (Photos: Church Facebook pages)

If you have any events that have not yet been shared, please send them to Elliott in the office (office@brechin.anglican.org).

St Mary's Broughty Ferry: Christmas Celebrations at Ballumbie Care Home



Team from St Mary's Broughty Ferry at the Ballumbie Crib (Photo St Mary's Facebook)

Ballumbie Care Home shared Christmas carols and celebrations with their regular visitors Rev Mark-Aaron Tisdale and the team from the church.

St James Stonehaven: A “Resilience Hub” for the Town

Paula Fogiel (St James’ Stonehaven) writes: St James church hall is now an emergency resilience hub within the town in partnership with the Stonehaven and district community council.

The Community council has a robust action plan/procedure should our hall need to be used, this can be viewed on the community council’s website.

We have a Generator point in the hall which will power the heating and lighting to enable people in the town to come to us in the case of an emergency such as a power an outage or flooding. We also now have a socket with USB points which will help to charge peoples phones as necessary.

The Generator will be bought to the hall and plugged in by an approved person, this will enable us to help in any way we can.

A member of the community council will be on hand as this will cover insurance compliance and we (volunteers) will be on hand to supply Teas/coffees (a supply of this will always be available in church) and basic support.

Paula is the named person with the community council, so contact her (via the office) if you have any questions.

Scottish Episcopal Institute Advent Series: Theology of Creation

From the [SEI website](#). The series of online short courses provided by the Scottish Episcopal Institute throughout Advent, looking at Creation Theology, has just finished its last session. 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 video’s with questions for reflection or discussion.

[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](#)

All courses have now been broadcast and are available online through the links found in the titles above.

Please watch out for further courses and online events for the SEC—a variety of seasonal courses are

planned and will be shared through the usual Provincial channels.



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 and find the Welcome Audit here: <https://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org/groups/youth-group/>

Christmas Greetings—and a Break for the Brechin Bulletin until Week Beginning 6th January

The Brechin Bulletin will be having a break over the Christmas and New Year period, with the next edition planned for the week beginning 6th January 2025.

If you have any urgent matters that need to be communicated, please email Office and Bishop and email distribution can be arranged before the next edition is produced.

From all in the Diocesan Council, Bishop Andrew and Elliott in the Virtual Office: have a Holy and Peaceful Christmas!



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.