

Brechin Bulletin

13th February 2025

Bishop Meshack Mabuza of Eswatini RIP



The Diocese of Eswatini has announced the death of Bishop Meshack Mabuza. Please pray for all of his family, especially his wife Lucy Mabuza, and all who mourn his loss.

His funeral will be at 10am (12noon UK time) on Saturday 15th Feb. If we received more details of e.g. livestreaming these will be shared on the Diocesan social media feeds. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025—USPG Middle East Gaza Crisis Appeal

Bishop Andrew is inviting churches and individuals in the Diocese to support the USPG's Lent Appeal 2025 to be launched early in 2025.

This Christian Mission Charity USPG <https://uspg.org.uk/> have decided to support the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East (of which St Philip's Nablus, linked to St Luke's is a church) and the Middle East Gaza crisis response. Even with the ceasefire in that part of the world, with the effects of conflict and the ongoing political turmoil, there is extreme and urgent humanitarian need. More details of the appeal and how to support it will be provided as we enter Lent this month.

Welcome People with Learning Disabilities to Church with Prospects across Scotland

Prospects across Scotland is a charity that aims to equip churches to be more effective in how they welcome people with learning disabilities and share the good news about Jesus in a way that can be understood. They are offering the following trainings:

Autism in the Church Family

This training comes out of real-life experience and will help you to understand autism, particularly in the context of church and faith. Come along if you are a parent,

a friend, family member, church leader or member. This costs £15 for a two-hour session and includes follow-up resources and training notes. There will be a short break and an opportunity to ask questions. The sessions are identical so choose a date that works best.

24th February 7-9pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1228182610249?aff=oddtcreator>

17th March 7-9pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1228234395139?aff=oddtcreator>

Building Communities of Hope – Worship for All

In this session we will learn about learning disabilities and what the Bible has to say, we will cover many practical issues and share ideas which could be incorporated into worship on a Sunday or used to hold fully inclusive services or celebrations. We have many years of experience of this in Prospects and look forward to sharing this unique and beautiful way of worshipping together. Worship for All really is that! When we open up worship for people with learning disabilities, many others benefit too - children, new Christians, those who find traditional services difficult due to a variety of health issues or life stages.

This session costs £12 but if you have booked onto 'Autism in the Church Family' you will be able to attend for just £5. Sessions are identical.

3rd March 7-9pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-communities-of-belonging-worship-for-all-tickets-1228206160689?aff=oddtcreator>

24th March 7-9pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-communities-of-belonging-worship-for-all-tickets-1228238998909?aff=oddtcreator>

Your Diocese Needs You: Positions open for Diocesan Synod Elections

There are a number of Diocesan posts vacant ahead of the upcoming Diocesan Synod. The posts available are:

- A clergy and a lay member of Diocesan Council
- One clergy representative for General Synod
- Four members for the Buildings Committee
- Clergy and lay alternates for General Synod

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact the office.

Choral Evensong at St. Salvador's: 15 February at 4pm

Come join St. Salvador's on Saturday 15 February as they host a service of Choral Evensong sung by the Royal School of Church Music Scottish Voices. Scottish Voices is an adult choir made up of singers from throughout Scotland who meet a six times a year to sing services in abbeys, cathedrals and significant churches around the country. The choir is directed by Frikki Walker, Director of Music at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, and accompanied on the organ by Kevin Duggan, Director of Music at Dunblane Cathedral. All are welcome.

Upcoming SEC Net Zero Webinar



Our Net Zero logo from the Provincial Environment Group
(Image: SEC Website)

Solar Panels and Other Energy Retrofit Considerations for Listed Church Buildings **27 February (Thursday) from 1:00 to 2:00pm**

This webinar, administered by the technology and policy teams from Historic Environment Scotland, will focus on the suitability of solar panels and other energy retrofit solutions in terms of achieving sympathetic installation to listed church buildings as well as the permission / consent process. There will also be an overview and explanation of the Ecclesiastical Exemption within the planning context and the opportunity to informally ask questions of the HES team.

Three SEC charges whom already have solar panels installed on their church buildings will also be providing their perspective and experience on the performance of panels at their property. Please contact jackn@scotland.anglican.org to register your interest.

Stay and Play Family Support Group

St. Ninian's Stay and Play Family Support Group meet together in St Ninian's church Dundee, on

Mondays and Tuesdays to provide non-judgemental support group for all families. We believe that by supporting families we are changing futures and building stronger communities.

We have two paid members of staff and a happy group of volunteers who keep the day-to-day work with the parents and the under-fives running.

They are supported by a Board of Trustees who meet five times a year, and we are looking for people to become a Trustee for this group.

In particular we are looking for a secretary, someone with fundraising skills to help with fundraising, and trustees with some knowledge and an interest in this area of work.

Please contact Vina Strachan on email: vinastrachan59@gmail.com or 07735330739.

Creative ideas for Lent and Easter with all ages

Even if you have no children who regularly come to your church, Lent and Easter are great opportunities for reaching out to local families. [Here are some seasonal ideas to inspire you](#), from creative prayers to community outreach: contact the Children & Youth Officer for more details.



Easter Story Stones. Photo: C Benton-Evans



Calling notice for any news or upcoming events to share in the Bulletin

If you have details of upcoming events, concerts, stories and photos of events around the diocese, please email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org.