

Brechin Bulletin

20th February 2025

Brechin Diocese Festival of Lay Ministry: 17 May at Dundee University Chaplaincy

The Festival of Lay Ministry – a whole-day event for the entire Diocese seeking to celebrate, resource and encourage lay ministries of all shapes and sizes— will take place at the University of Dundee Chaplaincy Centre, on Saturday 17 May, running from 9.30 – 4.00 pm. The day will include workshops focused on different aspects of lay ministry; discussion; and worship led by both experienced lay leaders and novices .

A central part of the day will be the “Marketplace of Ministry”, where each congregation is being asked to showcase an example of lay ministry in their church. Contributions to the Marketplace do not need to be specifically worship or Sunday focused: they could, for example, include lay ministry in care homes or schools, musical ministry, peer support or anything at all that committed lay people carry out on behalf of the church. More details and booking for the workshops can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1192929798139?aff=oddtcreator>. If you have questions or queries about the Festival, please direct them in the first instance to Rev Canon Jim Benton-Evans (jimbentonevans@gmail.com).

Your Diocese Needs You! Positions open for Diocesan Synod Elections

It is so important that the bodies that run the Diocese and Province are well staffed by capable people—and all this service is very, very gratefully acknowledged! This year there are again a number of Diocesan posts vacant ahead of the upcoming Diocesan Synod. The posts needing the right people are:

- A clergy and a lay member of Diocesan Council—this is the Charity Trustees for the Diocese who oversee support for all our churches
- One clergy representative for General Synod—the national decision-making body.
- Clergy and lay alternates for General Synod—these are elected each year in case any of the twelve full members cannot attend.
- Three members for the Buildings Committee—needing some interest and knowledge in the care and development of church buildings, and increasingly making decisions related to Net Zero changes.
- One member, either clergy or lay person, for the national Mission Board—someone with an interest in

church growth, outreach and evangelism.

Could any of these posts suit you? If you are interested in any of these positions please contact the office at office@brechin.anglican.org. The Bishop may also be reaching out to some possible candidates!

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 re at <https://uspg.org.uk/current-appeal/>. Please either give directly, or pass to the Diocese after Easter and we will pass that on.

Bishop Meshack Mabuza Requiem Mass held in Eswatini



Bishop Dalcy says a blessing during the service. Photo Diocese of Eswatini.

On Saturday 15th February a Requiem Mass was held by the Diocese of Eswatini at St. Michaels, Manzini for Bishop Meshack Mabuza, the former Bishop of Swaziland (now Eswatini). Greetings were shared from the Companionship Dioceses of Iowa and Brechin as part of the service. Thank you to the Diocese of Eswatini for sharing the mass allowing for those around the world to take part. The image above is a screenshot of the livestream.

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

Upcoming SEC Net Zero Webinar

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.

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

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

or

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

Building Communities of Hope – Worship for All

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

or

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

Further information on the training can be found [here](#).

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.

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.