

# Brechin Bulletin

## 6th February 2025

### **SEC awarded £490,000 by Benefact Trust to support Net Zero work**



From the SEC website: The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) is pleased to announce a new strategic partnership with Benefact Trust. This partnership will deliver a new Net Zero Grant Awards Programme, providing £700,000 in combined funding from Benefact Trust and the provincial Buildings Grants Fund. Churches will be nominated by each of the Scottish Episcopal dioceses and invited to apply for the programme.

Benefact Trust has pledged £490,000, over two years, towards the SEC's Net Zero Grant Awards Programme. This support will be instrumental as part of the SEC's mission to care for God's creation. Through the underlying values of discipleship, justice and hope, the SEC is working towards a sustainable and flourishing church, which will serve the varied communities of Scotland today, and in the future. Partnership with Benefact Trust will help to tackle the challenges of that journey across a wide range of buildings, financial situations and geographical areas.

Each Scottish Episcopal diocese will be given the opportunity to invite eligible projects to apply for tailored support to reduce carbon emissions, and contribute towards a culture of net zero leadership within the SEC. The funding will be allocated to churches from each diocese, which will be identified as Pilot or Pioneer projects. Pilot churches will be awarded project development support through funding professional works such as consultancy fees, or through trialling innovative technologies. Pioneer churches will receive funding to enable the implementation of already developed project plans.

Thanks to Benefact Trust funding, this scheme will enable Pilot and Pioneer churches to reduce the carbon footprint of their own buildings and contribute to emis-

sion reductions across the province. Most importantly, they will act as exemplars to inspire and encourage others both within and beyond the Scottish Episcopal denomination.

### **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.

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

**17<sup>th</sup> 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>

## **Music at St. Mary Magdalene's: 12 February at 1pm**

St Mary Magdalene's Lunchtime Concerts return on 12th February with the Carnoustie Traditionals playing a selection of Scottish music. Concerts start at 1pm and last for about half an hour. Admission is by donation with tea and coffee available from 12.45. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch to enjoy with the music.

## **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 Friikki 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**

**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](mailto:jackn@scotland.anglican.org) to register your interest.

## **Hillwalking Retreat for Young Adults**

Looking forward to summer? On 26-28 May 2025, Claire Benton-Evans and Rev Dr Richard Tiplady (pictured, on a wintry Corbett) will be leading 'Meeting God in the Mountains', an exciting retreat opportunity for young adults aged 18-25ish. The retreat will be based at St Drostan's Lodge and activities will include a short night hike experience, an ascent of Mount Keen and plentiful opportunities to explore faith through facilitated discussions in the peace of the Angus hills.

This is an outreach activity which is offered to any young adults in the Diocese. It will be advertised in the universities through the Chaplaincy teams. Please share widely in your congregations and beyond! Just 15 places available, so early booking is advised. [Full information and registration here.](#)

*If you love the sound of this but are no longer under 25, please register your interest [here](#) for possible future opportunities for other ages*



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