

# Brechin Bulletin

## 13th March 2025

### **Brechin Diocesan Spring Synod 2025**

The Diocese Of Brechin Spring Synod 2025 took place on Saturday 1st March at St Mary's Church Broughty Ferry. Clergy, Lay Representatives and other Synod members gathered for a day of good conversations and engagement with a busy agenda.



The Synod gathers in St Mary's Broughty Ferry (Photo M Swift)

Reports and presentations were received including on national Net Zero work, ministry in the Diocese and the financial position in the past year. Members were elected to positions in the Diocese and the Province.



Canon Pat Millar presenting on her time as Companion Links Officer. (Photo F Lamont)

The Synod also marked the retirement of Canon Pat Millar who had been our Companion Links Officer for the past 17 years. Rev Canon Jim Benton-Evans will be stepping in to lead the team who will do this work. Pat gave an overview of the work that has been led, in particular in Eswatini, over these years. Thank you to St.

Mary's for hosting the event and to all who took part in this essential part of diocesan governance.

### **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. These do not need to be specifically worship or Sunday focused: they could be e.g. 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](mailto:jimbentonevans@gmail.com)).

### **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.

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

## 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**

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

### **Building Communities of Hope – Worship for All**

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

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

## Dundee Community Gardens Pilgrimage: Saturday 22nd March at 11am

Join the eco-group of St Paul’s Cathedral for a pilgrimage and prayer walk to visit some of some of Dundee’s beautiful community gardens. We will meet at the Maxwell Centre, Carnegie Street, DD3 7EW on Saturday 22nd March at 11am. We plan to visit a few locations and finish at the Cathedral. If you would like to join us but don’t fancy walking that far then there’s also great bus routes with the number 22 bus going between Carnegie Street and the city centre approximately every 15 minutes.



Easter Story Stones. (Photo C Benton-Evans)

## 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.

## Night and Day in the Mountains

“The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and the moon” (Ps 74:16)



*Retreat leaders in action: Richard Tiplady teaching night navigation to university students and Claire Benton-Evans leading the Glen Esk Provincial Pilgrimage for young adults. (Photo C Benton-Evans)*

There’s nothing like spending time in the mountains to give you a new appreciation of daylight and darkness. Young adults who join our Hillwalking Retreat (26-28 May) will experience both, with a short night hike and a daytime ascent of Mount Keen. There will be lots of opportunities for reflection and faith conversations along the way. If you or someone you know is 18-25(ish) years old and would like to be part of this, all information and booking is here: <https://tinyurl.com/KEENINFO>

## Concert at St. Mary’s Arbroath: 29th April at 7pm

St. Mary’s Arbroath will be hosting a concert by Cantate Domino, a Slovenian vocal group, from Kocevje. The event will begin at 7pm. All are welcome.



## 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).