

Brechin Bulletin

27th March 2025

All Very Welcome to Choral Evensong and Installation of Dr Peter Smart as Lay Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee: this Sunday, 30 March, at 5pm

Come and join us on Sunday 30th March at 5pm as Dr Peter Smart, former Warden of Lay Readers and who held many, many other Diocesan and Provincial Roles, is installed as a Lay Canon during a special evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral. All are welcome to attend this celebration and all clergy and lay readers are very welcome to come robe in choir dress (cassock, surplice, hood, preaching scarf etc.).

Please contact Elliott at the Diocese (office@brechin.anglican.org) to say you intend to robe for numbers. And please keep Peter and his family in your prayers as he approaches this new season of ministry.

Volunteer Friendly Award for St Ninian's 'Stay and Play' Volunteers



The VFA Award presented to Stay and Play (Photo V Strachan)

The 'Volunteer Friendly Award' was presented to the 'Stay and Play' Project at St Ninian's Church, Mid-Craigie Dundee. The VFA is awarded for a three year period and is a quality standard for volunteer programmes in Scotland.

Stay and Play is a parent and toddler group run out St Ninian's Church, providing vital support for families in that area of Dundee.

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.

Festival of Lay Ministry – but what do we mean by Lay Ministry?

If the term brings to mind just Lay Readers and Eucharistic Assistants – think again. In Paul's letters to the early churches, he goes to great lengths to remind us that we all have gifts and, for the church, and indeed for society, to function, we need all of those gifts. Paul's message is that God has given us gifts and talents to use for the benefit of the whole community. As he writes in his letter to the Romans,

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

And if Paul had been writing that letter today, he might have added that, "If a person's gift is IT, let them manage the church website conscientiously, if it is hospitality, let them organise the refreshments tastily!" And we could add so many more things.

One of Festival of Lay Ministry workshops will be looking at the ways you can use your gifts and hearing about what people are already doing. Some of the most important and effective outreach is done through lay ministry – positions that have no title and no fancy outfits, just people willing to use their God-given gifts for the benefit of the wider community.

So, whatever your burning desire is, come along and talk to people who can set help you achieve it.

The Festival is in the Chaplaincy Centre of Dundee University and is free – book now at <https://tinyurl.com/lay-ministry> or use the QR code below scanned in your mobile phone to access the booking process.



Nominations Sought for Provincial Board Convenership Vacancies

The Province has two upcoming convenership vacancies. Nominations are sought for the Convener of the Provincial Standing Committee and the Convener of the Mission Board. Information can be found about these opportunities on the provincial website: [Exciting opportunities arise as new Conveners sought for Standing Committee and Mission Board - The Scottish Episcopal Church](#)

Nominations (form available from office) should be submitted by 9 April to the Secretary General, Dr Dee Bird, at secgen@scotland.anglican.org.

SEC Net Zero Team Update: The 2024 Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) Now Open for Completion: Please Open the Email and Complete Now!

From Prof Peter Sharp, Diocesan Net Zero Lead:

All vestry treasurers should by now have received an email asking them to complete the latest return of the Energy Footprint Tool. Contrary to what you might see on the website, the deadline for returns is **Easter Sunday, 20th April**.

The latest version of the return has been simplified and, even with my chaotic filing system, it only took me 15 minutes to complete. It is important that we provide this information to the Net Zero Team to allow them to monitor the progress that is being made towards the target. The percentage of charges in the Brechin diocese making a return last time was not the highest in the Province, so let's see if we can improve on that. Remember, failure to submit data may compromise your ability to access Net Zero finance.

Cathedral Lunchtime Concert: Saturday 12th April 1pm

The Cathedral's next lunchtime concert is on Saturday 12th April at 1.00pm. Come and enjoy the singing of community choir The Noteables. Tickets are available at the door and cost £8 for adults or £5 for children(15 or under).

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 very welcome at this excellent event!

Creative ideas for Lent and Easter with all ages



Easter Story Stones. (Photo C Benton-Evans)

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](#) (click the link) from creative prayers to community outreach: contact the Children & Youth Officer for more details.

Young Adult Mountain Retreat

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

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>