

Brechin Bulletin

12 June 2025

General Synod 2025

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church met last week in Edinburgh. Reporting was carried out on the SEC website: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/news-and-issues/>.



The Primus closes the Synod with a blessing (Photo SEC)

Some highlights of the three days of meeting are:

A Provincial Strategy has been initiated, driven by the College of Bishops and the Provincial Standing Committee. This process will ask what the members of the SEC would wish to be like as a church in 7 to 10 years' time: and use the human and financial resources of the church to this end. Some £10m of the church's reserves might be used to help this work, with a focus on growth, a strong presence throughout Scotland, children and young people's work and other key areas. The Synod worked in tables to answer the questions of who the SEC is and what we would wish to become.



Archbishop Leo Cushley and the Primus, Bishop Mark Strange, after the 'St Ninian's Declaration' was passed (Photo SEC)

An agreement was passed between the Roman Catholic Bishops and the General Synod of the SEC: the St Ninian's Agreement. This is a statement of friendship and cooperation between our churches. It also reflects the many differences that exist between us. The Most Rev Leo Cushley, Archbishop of Edinburgh and St Andrews, spoke to Synod and was warmly thanked by the Primus.

One the final morning, the Synod passed a motion affirming the place of trans+ people in the life of the SEC. A measured debate reflected differences in view and the fear that trans+ people are now feeling in the UK. The motion passed with a large majority and was followed by a time of careful silence to reflect the emotions and differences felt by many.

The Synod carried out other regular financial and governance business, electing members to provincial boards and committees and setting quota levels. Brechin Diocese was represented by a team of clergy and lay people: thank you to all who gave their time to attend this vital meeting.

+Andrew

Canon Mary Jepp



Mary is re-licensed by Bishop Andrew (photo Mary Swift)

Canon Mary Jepp, the Transitional Minister and Priest in Charge for St James Stonehaven and St Ternans Muchalls, was re-licensed in her ministry on Sunday 1st June. After three years of this transitional post, this has now become an ongoing 'priest in charge' role, with the expectation that Mary will continue to her planned retirement and then a successor found to care for the charges. Mary has been leading the charges since January 2022.

The congregations met for a joint eucharist service at St Ternan's Muchalls, led by Bishop Andrew, which was followed by an excellent shared celebration lunch between the members of the two communities.

Bishop's Lent Appeal

If any charges or individuals have collected funds for the Bishop's Lent Appeal, supporting the USPG Gaza & West Bank Crisis appeal fund, please send these to the Diocesan Treasurer (via your charge treasurer if you wish).

The recent news from Gaza of further bombing at the Al Ahli Hospital directly affects the appeal. This hospital is part of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, directly supported by the funds raised by the USPG Lent Appeal.

Below is a message for us from Carol Miller of USPG, who attended the General Synod in Edinburgh:

"I would like to offer an update on the work of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza with which USPG is partnering. This is our USPG Lent Appeal, but it is part of a relational commitment we have with Archbishop Hosam, with the Diocese and with the people of the province. It is ongoing and we don't anticipate an end to our assistance as long as the crisis continues.



A view of patients being treated in the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, supported by the USPG Lent Appeal (photo USPG)

"The USPG Lent Appeal will boost their reserves for the long road ahead, with hopes to rebuilding and restoring lives. "

Please do support this appeal if you have not already had a chance. You can still give directly to USPG at <https://uspg.org.uk/current-appeal/>.

Upcoming Music and Events in the Diocese of Brechin:

Pride March: Saturday 14th June 12pm

A group from the Scottish Episcopal Church will be joining the Pride March on Saturday 14th June. We'll gather at the steps of the Cathedral at **11:30am**, ready to join the march when it begins at **12:00pm**.

If you'd like to take part, please let Roxanne know at provost@saintpaulscathedral.net so we can register the correct number of participants.

Teddy Bear Parachute Jump: Saturday 14th June 10.30am to 12.30pm

An invitation for your very own soft toy to parachute 30m from a fire engine at Balmossie Community Fire Station nr Broughty Ferry. Hosted by St Mary's Broughty Ferry and fundraising for Aberlour Children's Charity and the Fire and Rescue Service Family Support Trust. £5 suggested donation.

Rock Choir concert at St. James': Saturday 21 June at 7pm

St. James', Stonehaven will host the Rock Choir on Saturday 21 June starting at 7pm. Tickets are available at the door for £10 or by telephone via Paula 07710529694 or Jane 07821191211 Entry cost includes a glass of wine/tea/coffee. Raffle tickets will also be on sale.

Pisky Session at St. Mary's and St. Peter's Montrose: Thursday 26 June at 7.30pm

The next Pisky Session concert hosted by St. Mary's and St. Peter's will be the musical talents of Maaïke Siegerist and Jonni Slater. Tickets are available at the door for £10. For more details contact Rev Canon Jim Benton-Evans at 07702842727 or jimbenton-evans@gmail.com.

Friends of St. Paul's Cathedral Dundee: Lord Lyon presents "A Right Royal Year", 6 September.

Save the date! Saturday 6th September 2025 The Lord Lyon Dr. Joe Morrow will speak on "A Right Royal Year" followed by refreshments in St Paul's Cathedral at 2.00 pm.



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.