

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

19th October 2023

Prayer for Israel-Palestine

Bishop Andrew says, "The ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis in Gaza feels overwhelming as we hear of increasing suffering and death in that troubled part of our world. The violence of Hamas and disproportionate response of the Israeli state are causing so many vulnerable civilians to suffer. Please pray and act as you are able to challenge this dreadful situation."

The College of Bishops backed a call to prayer this past week, which took place on the 17th October. The Primus, the Most Rev Mark Strange said: "I know that across the Scottish Episcopal Church in recent days many have prayed for an end to violence, have prayed for healing for the wounded and traumatised, and have prayed for the dead in this conflict. I commend Archbishop Hosam's request, alongside the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, for a global day of prayer and fasting."

Companionship 'Young Adult Pilgrimage' Shared in Cathedral Service



Claire Benton-Evans with pilgrims Michaela, Frankie and Edward. (Photo A Swift)

Three of the young adult pilgrims who travelled to Iowa this summer for the Iowa-Eswatini-Brechin Companionship pilgrimage shared their experiences at a special service in St Paul's Cathedral Dundee. The mixture of church-based encounters and fellowship had been an enriching and rewarding experience for all. The pilgrims had been assisted by the Diocesan Children and Youth Officer, Claire Benton-Evans, who has helped produce a video of the pilgrimage that will be shared at Synod on the 28th October and put on the Diocesan website. Watch this space for details!

Poverty Forum at St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee: Saturday 21st October 10am

A space for individuals, churches and faith groups to develop practical ideas about how to respond to the ongoing cost of living emergency and welcome people in local contexts during Winter 2023/4.

This has been organised by members of the Cathedral 'Micah' Group who are working with Faith in Community Dundee and Dundee City Council, and follows on from Challenge Poverty Week 2023, 2 - 7 October.

Everyone is welcome: please sign up via Eventbrite [here](#).

SECMA Service of Thanksgiving - Saturday 4th Nov 2023 at 11.30am

The Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association is drawing to a close after many years of faithfully supporting projects in Scotland and overseas. A service of thanksgiving for all of SECMA's work will take place on November 4th 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH 12 5AW

As well as a chance for all to joyfully giving thanks to God, the Most Rev Dr Mark Strange will be preaching, a Ugandan family choir will be singing and we will hear about SECMA's far-reaching impact past, present and future. A light lunch will follow.

For catering purposes it will be good to have an idea of numbers attending so please respond to Gill Campbell at secma.convener@gmail.com.

St. James' Stonehaven Finalist at the National Church Awards on 6th November

As reported in the past weeks, St James Stonehaven is a finalist in the Church and Community "Volunteer" category of the National Church Awards for their work with Ukrainian refugees and a Garden Scheme with the members from inclusion charity 'Inspire'. Find out who the winners are by booking a free ticket to watch the awards ceremony live online on YouTube on Monday 6th November at 4pm from the Mercers Hall in London. The link to book tickets can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events in the Diocese:

Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts Autumn/Winter Term: 20th October 1pm

The next Cathedral's lunchtime concert will be on Friday 20th October at 1.00pm, with Luke Anderson playing the guitar. Tickets are available at the door and cost £5 for adults or £3 for students.

Pisky Sessions in Montrose - Alison Eales: 27th October 7.30pm

St Mary's and St Peter's Church are extremely excited to be bringing Glasgow singer-songwriter Alison Eales to the Pisky Sessions in Montrose. Alison's debut album, 'Mox Nox' has been a stand-out of this year and will likely feature in many national 'best of the year' lists. As a long-standing member of indie band, Butcher Boy, Alison is an experienced and accomplished performer, and it is very exciting to have the chance to see her in a solo setting.

Alison is supported by Adam Ross, front man of Scottish underground faves Randolph's Leap.

Tickets available in advance from <https://alisonaeales.bpt.me> or contact Rev Jim Benton-Evans, 07702 8942727

Diocesan Autumn Synod—28th October at St Ninian's Dundee

The Bishop has called the Autumn Synod to approve budget and quota and to discuss a revised Diocesan Strategy. Agenda and papers for the Autumn Synod will be made available on the diocesan website.

Concert in aid of Siobhan's Trust and All Saints' Church, Sat 18th Nov 2023

All Saints Church invites you to "Impropera". No script. No score. No safety net. What could possibly go wrong? The event, being held at Fingask Castle, begins with drinks starting at 6.30pm and the concert set to start at 7pm. Dinner will be from 8pm. RSVP by completing the form attached to the bulletin email by 30th October.

Provincial Building Grants: Timescales for Additional Applications

The SEC Provincial Building Grants Group still has a balance of about £91,500 available to award. The Group agreed to schedule an additional meeting in December on Tuesday 12th December to allocate funds against projects. Applications have to have

been approved by the Diocese, so a submission deadline of 11th November to the Diocese is suggested to let Council review and approve. Note: the usual requirements apply: three quotes required, up to 50% of the cost of the work, ideally the work identified in a quinquennial report. Contact the office for more information. <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/buildings/provincial-building-grants-and-loans/>

Aberlour's Christingle Appeal

From Aberlour: This Advent you can help disadvantaged children across Scotland by holding a Christingle service in aid of Aberlour. The money raised by your congregation will directly help children and families living in poverty. Aberlour has helped 18,000 children living in poverty over the past three years, by awarding £2.9m in cash grants to their families from our Urgent Assistance Fund.

However, 2023 has seen another increase in the number of families in Scotland asking for our help to meet their children's basic needs, including food, clothing, and shelter. By holding a Christingle service in aid of Aberlour, your Church can help make sure that children across the country have access to everyday essentials like food, a warm place to sleep and clothes that fit.

The toolkit found [here](#) on the Aberlour website provides tips on holding a Christingle celebration and information on how to request more Christingle envelopes. Donations can also be made directly at www.aberlour.org.uk/donate.

This festive season, please shine a light for children in desperate need.

Cost of Living Crisis: Info and Projects

The Cost of Living crisis continues, and as the colder weather arrives the pressure on people trying to heat their homes with continuing high utility costs will increase.

We are continuing to place information and resources to help with living costs on a page on the Diocesan website. The page can be found here: Cost of Living Crisis page [here](#).

If you are aware of any special projects that are running in your area that can help people with costs, food or any other form of help, please pass details on to the office who can share them in future bulletins.