

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 28th April 2022

### Bishop's Lent Appeal



Many thanks for those churches who have already submitted collections for the 2022 Bishop's Lent Appeal. The Appeal is being shared between two causes:

- the ongoing vital aid work in our partner Diocese of Swaziland;
- Charity 'Energy Action Scotland' who campaign against fuel poverty in Scotland.

Please can any final collections/savings be gathered in the charges and sent to (by cheque or transfer) to the Diocesan Treasurer as soon as possible.

Once again, many thanks for your support for these vital initiatives.

### Discover Eden in Dundee—public meeting in Dundee Cathedral: 7th May

Saturday 7th May, from 3.30pm to 5pm, in the Cathedral Lower Hall. The 'Friends of St Paul's Cathedral' with support from the Cathedral Eco-group are delighted to host this important event, which you are warmly invited to attend.



Image of the Eden site in Dundee (Picture © BBC)

The event will have presentations and conversations on the Eden Project plans for Dundee, with speakers Caishlan Sweeney, the Project Engagement Manager for Eden Project International and Martin Quigley, the Community Network Developer for the Eden Project in Scotland. Refreshments will be provided.

Please do come to learn more about this exciting project for Dundee and the north east of Scotland. Expressions of interest for numbers should be returned ASAP to [friends@saintpaulscathedral.net](mailto:friends@saintpaulscathedral.net).

For more details click [here](#).

### Environmental: Carbon Audit of Churches—carry out by 25th May 2022

The recent launch of the toolkit by the SEC includes a request that an initial analysis of the 'energy footprint' of our churches for 2021 be carried out by the 25th May, and submitted to the Province. <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/news-and-issues/towards-net-zero-2030-toolkit-and-checklist/>. We suggest this is an action for charge treasurers to gather the utility bills for 2021 and, with the cleric or charge environmental group (if you have one), to enter this data into the '[Energy Footprint Analyser](#)' provided by the Province. Please contact the Diocesan Environmental Group (via [Elliott](#)) for details/guidance if needed.

### SEI Lent Course Online: Remaining Session next week



The Scottish Episcopal Institute (slightly delayed) Lent Zoom study series "Episcopalians and their Ethics", led by the Rev Dr Michael Hull, completes this Monday at 7pm with the final session titled: "Where do I go with Christian ethics?"

Registration free. All welcome. Register [here](#).

Previous videos are available on the SEC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/search/videos?q=scottish%20episcopal%20institute> so this excellent course can be caught up on even if you haven't been able to make the sessions to date.

Please watch out for future courses.

## Upcoming Events of Interest

**Thursday 28th April, 7pm:** Council Election Hustings for Dundee hosted by St Ninian's Church, Kingsway East.

Various other churches are involved in the local elections, e.g. Arbroath's hall being a polling station. Are you involved? Please let us know about it.

**Sunday 15th May, 4pm:** Montrose Choral will sing choral evensong at St Mary's and St Peter's Montrose. Donations for DEC Appeal for Ukraine.

## The War in Ukraine

### **Church Responses**

The war in Ukraine continues to dominate the news and our thoughts and prayers. We also need to remain aware of many other areas of the world where war and injustice is ever-present.

In Ukraine, where the war shows no sign of ending soon, the ongoing refugee crisis continues to demand resources, especially in the countries around Ukraine. Below are some pointers on how we can respond.



Ukrainian flag in St Paul's Cathedral at a vigil for peace

### **Pray for Peace**

Most importantly: Please pray for peace in Ukraine. Pray that all combatants act in accordance with international law, and pray that politicians do all they can to work for peace. Pray for all victims of this horrific violence in Ukraine. Pray for other parts of world suffering war and violence.

### **Donate money for refugee support**

The bigger appeals include the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (an umbrella appeal for [major UK aid charities](https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal)). Donate personally or with any church collections at:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), also heavily involved in local aid activities for Ukraine can be supported via:

<https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/where-help-is-needed/ukraine-situation/>

### **Refugee support—opt-in and lobby**

The UK response to refugees has been mixed in effectiveness and response. Some Ukrainians are now safely in the UK, but some aspects of the UK government schemes have been found to be not ideal (e.g. a troubling the lack of safeguarding control in matching some hosts and refugees, the slow progress in issuing visas and this turning into safe arrival of families fleeing the violence). Lobbying the Westminster government is an entirely reasonable action that church members can take to improve the UK response to this still fast developing situation.

### **Aberlour Charity support for Ukraine**

SallyAnn Kelly, Chief Executive of Aberlour (a charity supported by and rooted in the SEC), writes the following on the work they have been doing to support the Ukraine humanitarian response.

“Right now in Ukraine, parents fearing for their lives are taking desperate measures to protect their children; writing their blood types and relatives’ contact information on their skin.

“Such fear and despair is hard to imagine.

“But today I’m writing to you to let you know that Aberlour will be doing our bit to help some of the Ukrainian children and families due to arrive in Scotland: providing a safe, welcoming home for people who have been forced from theirs at a newly adapted facility in Dumfries and Galloway.

“Our contribution to Scotland’s humanitarian effort may be small, but we believe it is significant; demonstrating that we stand in solidarity with Ukraine’s children whose young lives have been blighted by bombs and bullets.

“Every child should have the chance to thrive, not merely survive, and we stand ready to help our Ukrainian neighbours settle into their new lives in safety.”

### **Any news to share in the Bulletin?**

If you have stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin.

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