

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

2nd December 2022

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (25/11-10/12)

'16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' is a yearly international campaign running from Friday, 25 November until 10th December, calling for an end to violence against women and girls globally. There is a full programme of events around Dundee and Angus - information about these can be found [here](#).

Even if you can't make any of the events, the 16 Days are a good time to consider the ways in which our churches are safe spaces for women and girls. Some things to consider might be:

- Contact details for support services such as Women's Aid and WRASAC being displayed on notice boards.
- Raising awareness of how church members should respond effectively to disclosures of abuse.
- Including those affected by Gender Based Violence in prayers of intercession

'Reclaim the Night' March

Rev Roxanne Campbell writes: Members of the Cathedral congregation were among the hundreds who gathered for the Dundee Reclaim the Night march on 28 November. These marches are held annually to raise awareness of and call for an end to sexual and gender-based violence. The march concluded at the V&A with some powerful and moving stories from around the world and close to home highlighting the challenges, violence and limitations still faced by women because of misogyny and patriarchy.



RRS Discovery with the banner. Photo R Campbell.

Ukrainian Worship and Carols at the Cathedral in Dundee

Rev Roxanne Campbell writes: On Advent Sunday, the Cathedral was able to host a service of Ukrainian worship with prayers for Ukraine and Carols in Ukrainian and English. The service was led by Protos-priester Bohdan Matwijczuk. A wreath was also laid to remember the victims of the Holodomor famine-genocide carried out by the Stalin regime in 1932-33.



The service in St Paul's Cathedral. Photo: R Campbell

Around 100 were in attendance at this important event where the SEC was able to offer a safe place for Ukrainian worship in the current international context as the Russian invasion continues.

Companionship Diocese Youth Pilgrimage to the USA: 2023

Plans are afoot for the exciting third leg of the Youth Pilgrimage with our companion dioceses in the USA and southern Africa. Previous pilgrims from Scotland and Iowa travelled to the Diocese of Swaziland in Eswatini in 2014, then Americans and Africans came to be hosted in Dundee for the second leg in 2016. In August 2023, young pilgrims will be travelling from the Dioceses of Brechin and Swaziland to Iowa, where we will be hosted by Bishop Betsey and her team. Is there a young person (aged 18-25) connected to your church who would like to be a pilgrim? Further information will be shared and a flyer can be found [here](#). Anyone who is interested in taking part should contact Claire Benton-Evans: youth@brechin.anglican.org.

'Anglican' Christianity: An Advent webinar series from the Scottish Episcopal Institute



Image: SEI.scot

Over 40 Churches around the globe, consisting of no less than 85 million people, identify themselves as 'Anglican'. Yet, Anglicans are divided among themselves in terms of doctrine and practice as was demonstrated in the most recent Lambeth Conference (Summer 2022). This Series looks to four staples that Anglicans have classically identified as the bases of their doctrine and practice to highlight harmony rather than discord.

The SEI Advent series will be offered on the Mondays of Advent 2022 from 7pm to 7.30pm (Edinburgh time) in four 30-minute webinars, each of which will be posted on YouTube. Presented by Revd Dr Michael Hull, SEI Director of Studies and Tutor, the series is meant to be a resource for Anglicans (Episcopalians) to use creatively during the Season of Advent, for example as a refresher course for individuals or a conversation starter for church groups, with discussion questions at the end of each webinar.

Last week the first session explored Holy Scripture: 'all things necessary to salvation' and the rule of faith. The upcoming sessions (next one is 5th Dec) are:

1. The Apostles' and Nicene Creeds: symbols and statements of faith (Monday 5 December)
2. The Dominical Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Monday 12 December)
3. The Episcopate: a universal and locally adopted means of unity (Monday 19 December)

Registration is free and all are welcome to join. The link to register is [here](#).

Cost of Living Crisis: Info and Projects

Resources to help with living costs

There is lots of helpful guidance for anyone struggling with the current cost of living crisis. Local authorities are gathering information together on benefits, energy and food support and other ways that help can be found: churches can share this with members or anyone who approaches for help. Some good resource sites for the areas covered by the Diocese are:

Aberdeenshire: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/cost-of-living/>

Angus: <https://www.angus.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice/help-with-the-cost-of-living>

Dundee: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/costofliving>

Perth and Kinross: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/costofliving>

All Scotland: <https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

Warm spaces/Cosy Spaces: Maps

Many churches are offering warm spaces this winter as part of various Council-led initiatives. Look for info on social media and on Council resource pages. There is a Dundee City Map here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ddf901a89522437a9e5c3e1c0ccf2c7e>

And a national 'warm spaces' map that any church can register with is here: <https://warmspaces.org/register>

"Big Coat" Project at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Dundee

Donations of warm winter jackets and coats are needed for St. Mary Magdalene's 'Big Coat' Project over the winter months. Women's and men's coats are accepted but they are especially short on men's. Please contact Rev Canon Kenneth for further details: Tel: 07825554419 or email: kenneth.gibson1@btinternet.com

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have upcoming events of interest to the whole diocese and stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin. Email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org