

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

Two Week Edition: 30th November 2023

A Full and Lively in Glencarse:

IMPROPERA Fundraiser

Ven Canon Dr Ian Young writes: The IMPROPERA weekend at All Saints' Glencarse and Fingask Castle began its life early this year when Fiona Leslie of Seasyde House, a member at All Saints' approached me about the church hosting a concert by them.

IMPROPERA, based in London, is the world's only improvising opera troupe who bring their unique blend of music, agile wit and ingenious storytelling to an audience who suggest the topics for the opera and songs.

The aim of the evening was to raise money for Siobhan's Trust and their work in Ukraine. The weekend began on Friday in All Saints' with a concert of operatic arias by David Pearl (baritone) and Fiona Finsbury (soprano) with Anthony Idle on the piano.

On Saturday, the main event at Fingask began with a champagne reception, followed by an hour of improvised opera by IMPROPERA with the song subjects chosen by the audience. This was followed a delicious Indian dinner, a raffle and an auction. IMPROPERA then brought the evening to a triumphant conclusion. We all arrived home early on Sunday morning. During the event an anonymous donor gave £10,000 and another £1,000, so after 108 tickets at £65 each, a raffle, an auction and a few other donations the grand total was just under £30,000!! The vast majority will go to Siobhan's Trust with a small proportion to All Saints', Glencarse

Glencarse confirmations

There were more celebration at All Saints' Glencarse last week as Bishop Andrew confirmed three members of the congregation, following their preparation by Ian Young.

In the SEC, full "membership" is given by baptism, but confirmation by the Bishop remains a way to reaffirm baptismal vows and make a commitment to the life of the church.



The candidates receive bibles and certificates

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

The Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership has created a series of events which will run during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, a global campaign to inspire people to learn, reflect and act to end violence against women. A full programme of events can be found here:

<https://www.dvawp.co.uk/news/16-days-2023>

Healthy Environment: Net Zero Cards now available for churches

The Provincial Environmental Group has released sets of "Net Zero cards". The Net Zero Cards help churches engage with actions a church can take that will reduce your energy use and move your charge towards Net Zero. The cards are designed to let a group within a church (maybe the vestry or a working group looking at environmental issues) make sense of what can feel an overwhelming range of issues and possibilities. The cards in the pack cover Energy Efficiency Improvements, Clean Energy, and Positive Finances, the priority areas from our Net Zero Action Plan.



The Net Zero cards available from the office

Packs of the Net Zero cards are now available from the General Synod Office in Edinburgh, and sets are also available from the Diocesan Office. Please contact Elliott to order a pack for your church or to explore guidance on how they can be used in a church setting use.

War in Israel-Palestine: Anglican Emergency Appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Archbishop of Jerusalem Hosam Naoum have issued a joint emergency appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Details of international partners in the UK where donations can be made are: JMECA (UK): <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24585> Friends of the Holy Land (UK, Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic): <https://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/donate/christmas>.

As ever, please pray for peace in this terrible time of war and violence in the Holy Land.

Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association: Thanksgiving Epilogue Report

The SECMA Thanksgiving Service held on 4th November in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh, was well attended by about 70 people from all over Scotland, and further afield including Uganda and Kent. Bishops Mark (Moray), Kevin (Glasgow and Argyll), John (Edinburgh) and Andrew (Brechin) all attended along with supporters, past committee members including conveners and secretaries and people involved in projects SECMA has supported.

A full report of comments received, people who participated and projects highlighted can be found [here](#).

SEI Advent Talk Series: "The Coming of the Christ"

Presented by Rev Canon Prof Michael Hull, Principal and Pantonian Professor of Divinity, Scottish Episcopal Institute, the advent series will ask why in the twenty-first century, it is worth reviewing a first-century Christian take on the coming of the Christ by rereading some of Christianity's oldest texts, particularly the Gospels. What did Christians project in a pre-Christian age? What did our forebears in the faith think about the coming of the Christ before the disciples were called 'Christians' (Acts 11.26)?

This series will be offered on the Mondays of Advent 2023 at 7pm on YouTube as a resource for individuals or groups to use creatively during the Season of Advent.

1. The Christ: God come down to earth (Monday 4 December 2023)
2. The Christ: God come to save us (Monday 11 December 2023)
3. The Christ: A sign of contradiction (Monday 18 December 2023)

The Series is free and open to all. Register [here](#). Or get the links directly from Mike at principal@scotland.anglican.org.

A Christmas Quartet at St. Salvador's: 2nd December

St. Salvador's invites you to join them on the 2nd December at 3pm as they host the Soteria Ensemble playing music that is sure to get you in the holiday mood. Entry by donation.

Advent Carol Service at St. Paul's Cathedral: 3rd December

St. Paul's Cathedral is holding an Advent Carol Service sung by the Cathedral Choir at 5pm on Sunday 3rd December. Entry is free and all are very welcome.

Lunchtime Concert at St Mary Magdalene's: 13th December 2023

The next lunchtime concert at St Mary Magdalene's will be on Wednesday 13th December starting at 12.30. It will be Christmas Miscellany presented by the church choir and friends. Admission is by donation with tea, coffee and mince pies available. Audience members are invited to bring their own lunch to enjoy with the music.

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](#).

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have details of upcoming events, stories and photos of events around the diocese, please email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org.