

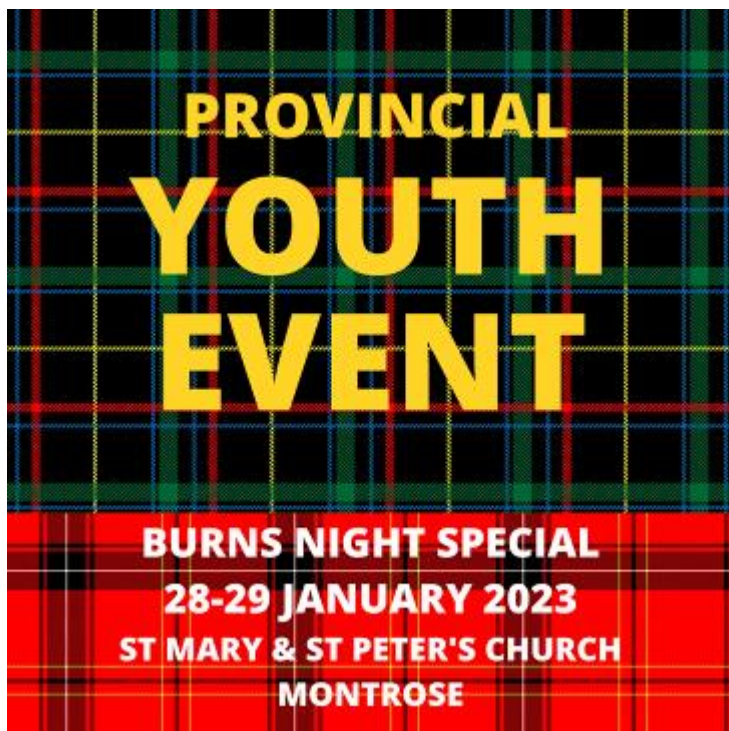
Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

5th January 2023

Happy New Year 2023

Greetings to all in the Diocese of Brechin and friends everywhere. As we start this new year in our diocese in the North East of Scotland, I reflect that there is much to celebrate in our lives as church communities. This year we will see new developments in youth activities in the Diocese (see below), the working up of a 'Year of Christian Life' in the Province and all of the many and rich activities in our diverse worshiping and pastoral lives. We, with so many people in the world, face many challenges with environmental challenges, financial instability, and the darkness of war and injustice throughout the world: but our strong faith in our redeeming, transforming God will support us as we live and flourish even in challenging times. With every blessing for all as we start our pilgrimage through 2023!

+Andrew



St Mary and St Peter's Church, Montrose is hosting fun activities, games and food with a Burns Night theme, for teenagers (S1-S6) in the Scottish Episcopal Church and their friends! This is an overnight sleepover event on 28-29 January, with the option to attend for Saturday only. £5 per person – snacks, dinner and breakfast included. Details and booking here: <https://tinyurl.com/YouthBurnsNight> or contact Claire youth@brechin.anglican.org

Saturday 4 February at St Ninian's, Dundee 10am – 12.30pm



Following the success of the Christmas workshop, the Children and Youth Officer will lead an interactive workshop full of new things to try for Lent and Easter, including all-age Ash Wednesday and Good Friday activities. All clergy, lay readers, lay leaders and volunteers are welcome. Please email Claire to let her know you're coming: youth@brechin.anglican.org

Companionship Diocese Youth Pilgrimage to the USA: August 2023

Plans are afoot for the 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.



Image: Claire Benton-Evans & [Mike from Pixabay](#)

Music Events at St Mary Magdalene's Dundee: Jan & Feb 2023

Music at St Mary Magdalene's continues at 12.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. On 11th January Jamie Campbell will play light organ favourites and on 8th February the Carnoustie Traditionals will perform Scottish music. Concerts last approximately 30 minutes and tea and coffee are available.

Request for PVG Safeguarding Reports from Charges: 13th January deadline

Revd Denise Herbert, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, wishes to remind Clergy, Vestry Secretaries and PVG Coordinators to complete the Provincial Office's new Safeguarding form and send it to her preferably by email, by absolute deadline of **13th January**. Please contact her if there is any problem about this. Your cooperation would be greatly valued so she can complete her safeguarding report in time for the Diocesan Synod this spring.

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. There are some changes coming to energy support in the next few months: it is not clear who may find themselves in further difficulties.

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. Please access the local authority website for local information in the area where you live. For the whole of Scotland there is information at:

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

Various projects and other initiatives are taking place in churches in the Diocese. These include:

St Luke's Foodbank/Clothing Bank/Café

Since the 2020, St Luke's has operated the above projects for people struggling with food or clothing poverty. This has settled into a fixed pattern of opening 1000-1500 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays providing food, clothing, warmth and companionship. Around 20 to 25 food parcels are provided daily and the café is busy with locals dropping in and Foodbank visitors taking advantage of the cakes and toasties provided at next to cost prices. It's a very happy and cosy place to be and a number of non-

church volunteers help out regularly. Encouragingly, there is modest growth in church worship taking place, as those attending find out first-hand what the church is all about. If you happen to get an offer of food or clothing (sorry, can only accommodate clothing for adults) and are looking for somewhere to direct it, please consider St. Luke's if you can.

There is a reception shed in the car park outside the hall which is signposted, and permanently unlocked, where items can be safely lodged. It's checked regularly. Food stocks have been going down as need has increased – and it is anticipated that the winter energy crisis will result in even greater attendance at the Café for warmth and for food parcels.

"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

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>



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