

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

24th November 2022

Advent 2022: A New Season Begins



First Sunday of Advent

Image: <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/advent-clipart-9.htm>

Bishop Andrew writes: This Sunday is 'Advent Sunday', the start of a new year in the worshipping and spiritual life of our churches. This season of preparation for Christmas has a richness, whatever themes or activities we might follow, but this year will have a contrast with the Advents we have followed in the past two pandemic years. In Advent 2020 we were very constrained and were about to go back into a state of lockdown. We had no vaccinations back then, just spacing, face covering and hand hygiene to protect us. In Advent 2021 we did have vaccination, but church was still constrained with spacing and no congregational singing. For 2022 there are no government constraints on us, but life is not fully back to normal. We do have a sense of moving on from the pandemic with no real risk of restrictions or lockdowns ahead of us, even as we take care. Although we face the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis, environmental issues and so many other things, we can start this new church year with a sense of wonder and anticipation at what may lie ahead of us this Christmas.

The life of our church communities in the Diocese of Brechin and in the wider Scottish Episcopal Church have been changed by these two years of pandemic, but we remain called to be signs of God's love and grace in the towns and cities where we minister and reach out. This Advent, whether large and active or small and prayerful, my hope for all of our churches is to be places where all are welcome, all are supported and our ever-loving God is encountered!

Blessings for all! +Andrew

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (25/11-10/12) & "Reclaim the Night" March

'16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' is a yearly international campaign running from this 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](#).

The annual 'Reclaim the Night' march is on **Monday 28th November**, gathering on Magdalene Green at 18:30, and ending at the V&A with guest speakers. If you'd like to march with others from around the Diocese a group, being organised by Rev'd Roxanne Campbell, will gather outside the V&A at 18:00 and walk together to Magdalene Green. All welcome.

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



Tayside Opera Winter Concert

Tayside Opera (featuring Canon Michael Turner) will host their Winter Concert on Friday 2nd December 2022 at 7.30pm at West Church hall, Dundee. <https://www.taysideopera.com>

Advent Courses & Events:

A Broken World Awaits Redemption: a Meditation for Advent (27th Nov)

By Sophie Grace Chappell, Professor of Philosophy, Open University. All Souls' Invergowrie, 6.30pm, Sunday 27th November. Interested parties can contact David Gordon at david.gordon@brechin.anglican.org for further information and enquiries.

'Anglican' Christianity: A four-part webinar series from the Scottish Episcopal Institute (Starts Mon 28th November at 7pm)

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.

1. Holy Scripture: 'all things necessary to salvation' and the rule of faith (Monday 28 Nov)
2. The Apostles' and Nicene Creeds: symbols and statements of faith (Monday 5 December)
3. The Dominical Sacraments: Baptism and the



Image: SEI.scot

4. Lord's Supper (Monday 12 December)
5. 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

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.

"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

If you are running any projects and need help, please let us know and we can raise that in future editions of the Bulletin.

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