

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

17th November 2022

SEC National Lay Reader's Conference: 'Readers: A Prophetic Voice?'

Thanks to Sue Rowe, Lay Reader at St Mary's, Broughty Ferry for writing about her experience at the recent SEC Lay Reader's Conference:

In October I attended the Lay Readers' Conference, which was for all Lay Readers in the Province. It was the first conference since 2014 and, as I am still fairly new to the SEC, the first one I have ever attended. It was held in Perth Cathedral, a beautiful venue although rather chilly, I think that there was a problem with the heating!



Bishop Martyn of Leicester opens the conference in Perth

We started our time together on Friday with Evening prayer and, after a dinner prepared in the Cathedral kitchen, we had our first session with the key-note speaker, Bishop Martyn, the Bishop of Leicester. It was a shame that none of Bishop Martyn's three sessions were long enough to encompass a

proper question and answer time as we were looking at the role of Lay Readership within the SEC. Several attendees felt that Bishop Martyn had based everything on Readers in the Church of England rather than here in Scotland. Interestingly I found that the majority of the Lay Readers at the conference had trained in the Church of England and then moved to Scotland!

The workshop sessions on Saturday were about:

- Worship for people with learning disabilities and dementia
- Praying the psalms
- Funerals

I attended the first two and found them very useful, but again, there was insufficient time to explore as much as we wanted to.

As with all conferences, the real joy was meeting the other Lay Readers, exchanging different experiences

and just getting to know one another. In conversation there were quite a few people questioning how the SEC views the Lay Reader role. Yes, we are a good link to the community because we are part of the community. Yes, we tend to stay longer than most priests and hence provide a certain continuity and help through vacancies. But I remember the words of the bishop at my licensing as a Reader in the Church of England. He stressed that the role of a Reader was not just to fill in when the vicar was not available, it was a clearly defined role as preacher and teacher.

Maybe we need another conference to thrash this out!

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 25 Nov until 10th Dec, 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

Music in the Diocese this Autumn:

Lunchtime Concerts at St Paul's Cathedral on Fridays: 18th Nov next event

St. Paul's Cathedral's last concert of the autumn/winter series will take place on the 18th November. This concert will include Kim Duncan on oboe and recorder, accompanied on piano by Robert Duncan. Details are at <https://www.saintpaulscathedral.net/concerts/>. Tickets available at the door.

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>

SEI Advent Course 2022:

'Anglican' Christianity: A four-part webinar series (Mondays at 7pm)

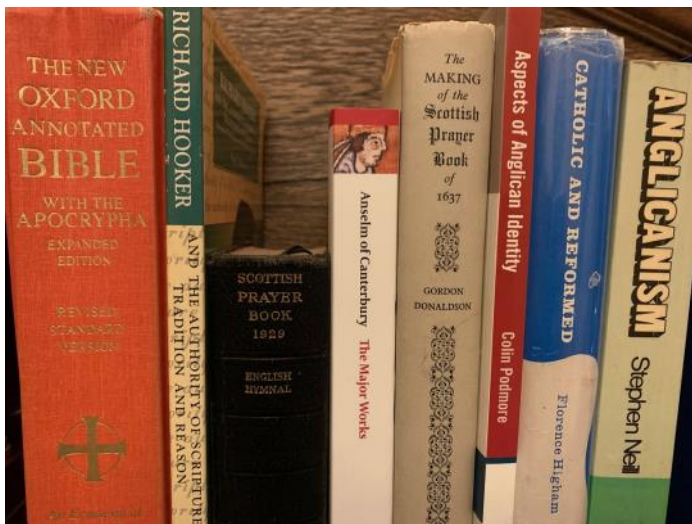


Image: SEI.scot

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.

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 Lord's Supper (Monday 12 December)
4. 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 excellent 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>

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