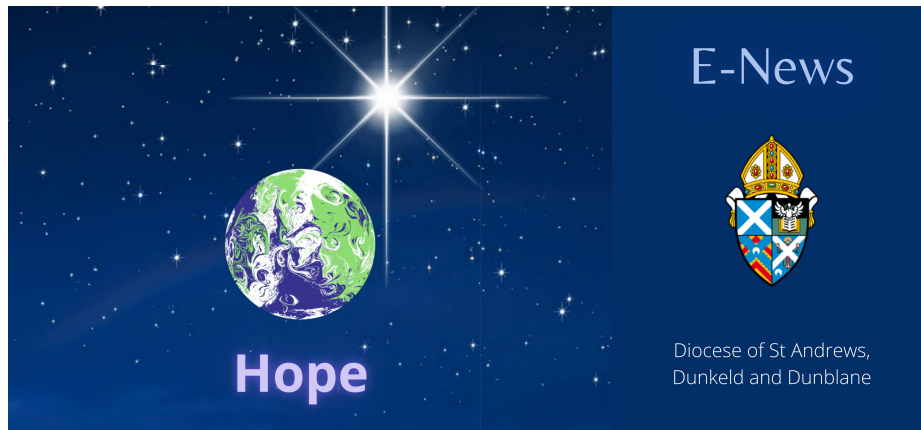


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December 2021

**Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.**

We hope you enjoy this month's news!

We welcome any suggestions and comments
from everyone in our diocese at media@standrews.anglican.org

Further information can be found on our website at
<https://standrews.anglican.org>

**You can view this E-News in your web browser
by clicking [here](#).**



Looking for Hope



Advent is the season of hope. But as the pandemic continues, with new strains of Covid, as the climate crisis threatens the whole world, and as refugees lose their lives looking for a safer future, it can feel as though hope is in short supply. The

simple task of keeping going is so exhausting that our chances of being able to discover any hope feel slim and often beyond our grasp.

Advent and Christmas, however, remind us this year that, contrary to appearances, hope does glimmer around us. It just doesn't look like we expect it to look. On one level this shouldn't surprise us. Jesus, hope for all the world, certainly didn't look like the people of his day expected him to look. Instead of a powerful, majestic king - what they got instead was a baby; they expected him to be in a palace - instead they found him in a stable.

This month is in the season of hope we call Advent. Traditionally, on the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas, we light the candles of the Advent Wreath. People often light a simple version of it at home, just four candles around a fifth in the centre. The circle of candles is a symbol of God's Love, with no beginning or end. The evergreen foliage which often decorates the circle is a symbol of new life even in the dead of winter. The lighted candles are a symbol of God preparing the way for Christ, the light of the world. We light the candles in these weeks of Advent until we light the last candle in the centre, the Christ candle, on Christmas Day.

At the COP summit in Glasgow last month, Christians were praying for the whole Church to become "a beacon of hope" for all people. Lighting the Advent candles is a symbol of that hope, the hope we place in Christ and his coming among us. Then we can face the climate crisis, the pandemic, and all of life's reality, as "a beacon of hope" and with hope in our hearts.

With blessing for Advent and Christmas,
Bishop Ian

Dean and Canons installed during Evensong Service on 21st November



In a beautiful service of Evensong
on Sunday 21st November 2021,
the Diocese, led by Bishop Ian,

celebrated the installations of our new Dean and four new Honorary Canons at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth.

Congratulations

The Very Revd Graham Taylor

Revd Canon Celia Matthews

Revd Canon Kenny Rathband

Revd Canon Professor Trevor

Hart

Lay Canon Dr John Ferguson

Smith



The Very Revd Graham Taylor

Revd Canon Kenny Rathband and his wife, Ruth, were also honoured for his time as Dean from 2007 to 2021.



Joining the choir were children from the Ardvreck School Chamber Choir from Crieff.

The full service is available to view on the Diocesan YouTube channel:

https://youtu.be/2zjD_T7ueLI





Graham and Revd Canon Kenny Rathband:
from one Dean to another



Revd Canon Celia Matthews



Revd Canon Professor Trevor Hart
with Rachel Hart



Lay Canon Dr John Ferguson Smith
with Bishop Ian

Young People's Gathering at the Cathedral in Perth

Since August, our Young People's Forum has been meeting on Zoom. They have had 4 meetings now and the focus of the meetings have

been on the Diocesan Young people's Gathering we had on Saturday 20th November. While numbers were smaller than expected it was still a really great day, supported by the Young People's Committee with the Young People's Forum being the steering group. We had team building which involved toothpaste, paper, a very long pole and paper plate and a tea bag and rolls of toilet paper. The toilet paper challenge was a great success, keeping one strip of paper off the floor.

When Bishop Ian heard that the young people were planning to have a music workshop, he set them a challenge to create a Diocesan Youth Hymn, and he asked for the Hymn to be sung at the Diocesan Evensong the following afternoon. Tobias Benton Evans, one of the young forum members, helped with this activity bringing with him his guitar and recording equipment. The Hymn was created in 90 minutes using Thine be the Glory as the tune.

We also had a weaving prayer activity that was used in the final worship which is still on display in the cathedral, and bread making.



One of the loaves of bread was used in the Eucharist worship that was led by the Young People's Forum (YPF) and Bishop Ian. The YPF picked the reading and led the service up to the Eucharistic Prayer. During the intercessions they and their parents wrote their prayers on the gift tag and tied them to the weaving loom.



Labyrinth set up in the middle of the cathedral nave

Lunch was provided by the wonderful team at Giraffe who did the Glen final Saturday worship lunches overall again these lunches went down well. Lunch included a sandwich, a pack of crisps, a drink, piece of fruit and a traybake.

After lunch we gathered in the Lady Cathedral and Bishop Ian was asked the questions written down below by the young people who came along. Bishop Ian discussed at length about the importance of the Easter Vigil and challenged us to think of a Young people's potential sleepover event for Easter.

Questions asked to Bishop Ian by the young people:

- What is your favourite celebration: Midnight Mass or Easter Vigil?
- What is the point of the Diocese?
- If you were God for the day what would you do?
- Have you made any changes to how you live recently to try and be more green?
- Why do Bishop's wear purple?
- If you were to have a 3-course meal with Jesus what would be on the menu?
- What can you learn about God from a Dog?

A few of his answers included:

** Easter Vigil is his favourite. He has special memories of a 5am service lighting the paschal candle from a bonfire. No one knows exactly when Jesus rose from the dead, the Bible just tells us in the morning.*



The prayer weaving activity, finished and ready for the worship

The young people led and planned the first part of the service themselves which included a Mexican weave piece in the canon stalls of the Cathedral. They then organised themselves into subgroups to plan certain bits of the service such as the homily slot as they didn't all meet in person until the day.

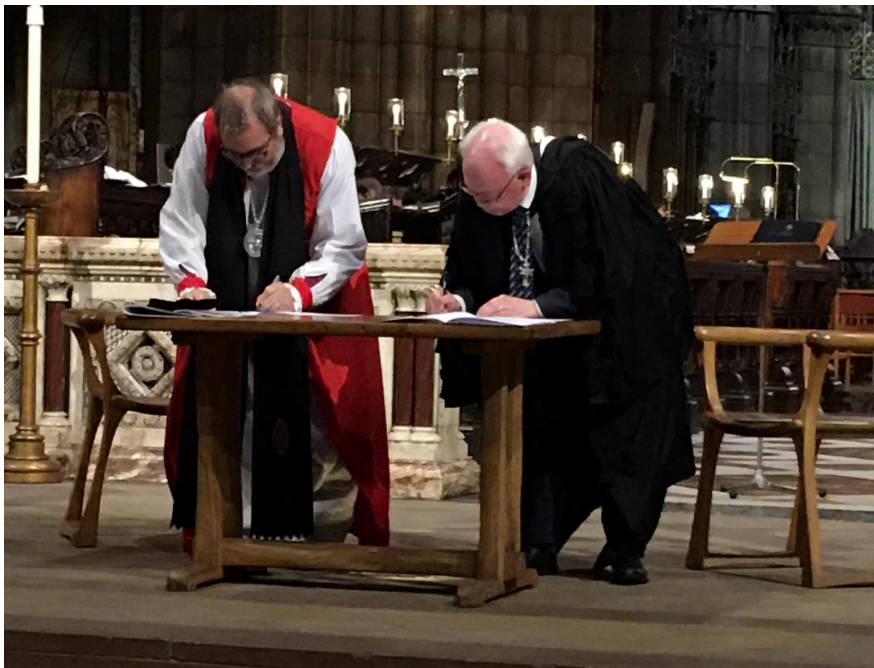
** Life style changes he is making to be more green includes eating less red meat and having an electric car in 2022 to travel around the diocese.*

** He would expect a three-course meal with Jesus to involve bread, as Jesus broke bread with his disciples, soup, and fish, as his disciples cooked fish on the shore after they had been out all night fishing.*

The day was a great success and after Christmas the Young People's Committee and Forum will meet to look at plans for 2022.

*James Gardner
Diocesan Children and Youth
Officer*

St Andrew Declaration signed



The signing of the St Andrew Declaration on St Andrew's Day was a historic moment for the Christian Church in Scotland. The Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church owe their origin to the same pre- and post-Reformation Church in Scotland, but they were divided in the late 17th century by the question of Episcopal versus Presbyterian church polity. For many years our two Churches have enjoyed a friendly relationship, but the St Andrew Declaration commits us to go much further.

For the first time (how slowly the Church moves!) the Declaration says

that we formally recognise each other's Churches as part of the whole Church of God, even though we continue to respect our differences over many things. And it affirms our commitment to work together more closely as we serve the people of Scotland.

This is a national Declaration, but it will be in local partnerships and collaborative action for our communities that it will be lived out. The Declaration therefore means that every congregation in the Diocese is being called to reach out to its Church of Scotland neighbours, and to make the St Andrew Declaration a reality across this part of Scotland.

Bishop Ian

Area Council Gatherings spark conversation and action



St Mary's congregation in Birnam and St Saviour's in Bridge of Allan were delightful hosts for the Dunkeld and Dunblane Area Council Gatherings in November. We enjoyed wonderful fellowship, meaningful conversation around Climate Change issues and Pilgrimage, and experienced the importance of being together.

We've had so many wonderful discussions at each one, and meaningful and lively conversations have been started. Let us continue these!

And let us continue to see opportunities to gather... as pilgrims on the way facing some of the most important issues of our time.

Following the Dunkeld Area Council Gathering, some have decided to form a group among their churches, and invite others to join it to see how we can make a difference. Stay connected in your congregations and your Area Council to engage in important conversations and learn how you and your community can make a difference...together.



St Luke's in Glenrothes wins Good News prize!

St Luke the Evangelist Church in Glenrothes has been named the Scottish winner of the Good News church competition.

Congratulations to Revd Gerry Dillon and the congregation of St Luke's!

See below for information on how to vote for them for the national prize!



A Fife church that provided school children with tablets to help with online learning has received £1,500 in prize money in a national competition.

The Good News church competition was launched by specialist insurer Ecclesiastical to shine a light on churches' bright ideas and success stories, community heroes and ingenuity in the face of adversity.

St Luke the Evangelist Church in Auchmuty, Glenrothes was chosen as the regional winner for Scotland – earning themselves £1,500 to support the church's work in the community.

The church, led by former teacher Father Gerry Dillon, provided computers and tablets to local pupils to take part in online learning during the UK-wide lockdown.

Father Gerry Dillon, Priest of St Luke the Evangelist, Glenrothes and St Finnian's, Lochgelly, said: "We are delighted to win and very grateful to Ecclesiastical for the award which we'll be putting towards our AV equipment.

"The AV system will widen access to our community space(s), and to the community groups and services working with people and within our community. It will also make it possible for us to partner with global projects and initiatives who can broaden individual and community horizons.

"This scheme not only helped us partner with the local school to support the learning of children through digital devices, but also to develop parents' literacy, numeracy and digital skills – which has been an unexpected benefit of this initiative.

"Going forward St Luke's will continue to be an additional space in the community that will be of use for the ongoing well-being of the whole community, as well as developing nurturing opportunities, especially with local schools and youth groups."

St Luke's will now join four other churches in the national final where they can win a further £6,000 as overall winner – bringing the total winnings to £7,500.

Helen Richards, church director at Ecclesiastical, said:

"Congratulations to St Luke the Evangelist Church, our regional winner for Scotland. Their efforts to support local pupils who were without access to computers or devices needed for online learning during the pandemic really impressed our judging panel.

"Despite the challenges that the pandemic has brought with it, churches have remained a beacon of hope to the communities they are based in.

"That's why this year's theme for our church competition is 'Good News'! We wanted to help shine a light on those unsung heroes in our communities and the new initiatives that churches have come up with to help those most in need – spreading the 'Good News' far and wide."

Members of the public will be able to vote for their favourite shortlisted church to help decide the overall national winner, who will receive a further £6,000.

Voting will open on Wednesday 3 January and closes on Tuesday 22 February and can be made at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp.

Climate Change Group

So what's next after COP26?

We have been thrilled with the engagement of congregations in our diocese at the four Area Council Gatherings held in October and November 2021, and with the wonderful fellowship and commitment to work together and encourage each other in addressing the pressing issues of climate change.

Please visit our [Diocesan Climate Change Group page](#) to see updates, information and highlights of your stories, initiatives and projects so we can celebrate together steps taken toward better care for creation, and also challenge and encourage all of us on our journey to becoming carbon neutral.

Currently on our page, you can find information on:

Exciting information on solar panels and the green ticket scheme at Saint Andrew's, St Andrews.



Links to COP26 information and resources, including a message from the SEC Provincial office on what is next after COP26.

A lovely reflection from Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills from a talk she gave at Interfaith Scotland.



We can DO this... together!

Climate Change

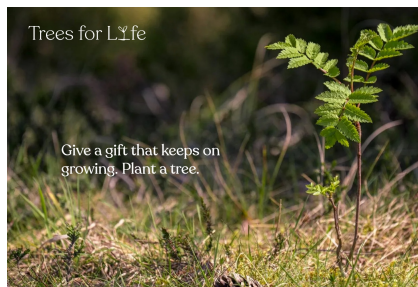
The first in-person ministry study day for some time was organised by Elaine Garman on behalf of the Continuing Ministry Development (CMD) Group, and hosted by the welcoming congregation of St John's, Perth.



Revd Dr Jenny Wright, Chaplain to the Archbishop of York, challenged clergy and Lay Readers from our diocese to think deeply about the Theology of Climate Change. During the morning all ministers joined St John's congregation at their midweek celebration of the Eucharist, led by Bishop Ian using the liturgy for Creation.



Prayer stations were set up around the room that had been used for COP26 at Saint Andrew's, St Andrews and all were invited to engage with them.



Interested in purchasing a tree in the World Interfaith Harmony Grove as a present for a relative or friend? Interfaith Scotland would like to offer the opportunity to obtain a free certificate to accompany your gift. This would be in electronic form and can be sent to you as a picture (PDF or jpeg), a GIF or a video.

You can purchase a tree for any special occasion. Just send me the name of the person you are buying for on their behalf, the occasion and the number of trees you have purchased so that I can add this to the certificate.

If you plan to make a gift of a tree please do so at the link below for the World Interfaith Harmony Grove, using the 'Add to this Grove' button, then let [Frances Hume](#) know if you would like her to send you the e-certificate via email, as well as the format in which you would like.

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/groves/g8922/>

You might notice on the website that they offer certificates. These cost £17.99,

however Interfaith Scotland are offering them for FREE if you send Frances all the details directly. Please be aware that she will be unable to respond to your request during the period from 22nd December to 4th January.

Frances Hume
frances@interfaithscotland.org

National Development Officer
Interfaith Scotland
Flemington House
110 Flemington Street
Glasgow G21 4BF

www.interfaithscotland.com

Prayer offered by Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills at the COP26 Prayer Vigil

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer

Help us to hear the screaming of the earth as glaciers melt, as water dries up and animals and plants faint from thirst.

Help us to hear the cries of your creatures starving, drowning as sea waters rise.

Help us to hear the gasps of our sisters and brothers, of trees and plants and animals as the air they breathe chokes and strangles.

Teach us the wisdom of trees, sharing nutrients through their minute root systems, living in harmony and collaboration rather than competition.

Teach us the wisdom of those living for centuries beside the sea, in harmony with the tides, breeding seasons, the winds, and storms.

Teach us the wisdom of indigenous peoples who know themselves as partners in your creation, not rulers over it.

Guide us to know that enough is the time to stop, and surplus is the time to share.

Guide us to value life, each and every life, from a blade of grass to our most beloved child, companion, neighbour, or stranger.

Guide us to gratitude, for this life which we share with the whole of creation, interconnected and bound by your Love for all.

Help us, teach us, guide us to take the overdue action needed to reverse our sin of greed, selfishness, and fear.

Help us, teach us, guide us to love you, our creator, to love one another, to love your creation, and to love ourselves as part of each.

Amen

Pilgrims on the way

Reflections on Pilgrimage as a Spiritual Practice

from Michael Paterson

The message I have learned from multiple pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela can be summarised in one sentence:

Travel Light, in good company, in response to the call, to set others free.

Travel light:

- without a hot water bottle, or extra blanket, or a parachute
- for the more baggage you carry, the slower your progress and the worse the blisters
- so don't let your pride or your dignity or old hurts weigh you down

Travel in good company

- the good company of those who have set their face towards Jerusalem and will not be distracted by the bright lights of other destinations
- the good company of those who have learned to be Really Present to each other
- and the good company of those who won't abandon you when your feet stink, or you snore all night or tell the same story for the umpteenth time

Set out in response to God's call

- Since it was God who called you from mending your nets, from gathering your taxes, from drawing water from the well
- listen to God and surrender your own map, compass, speedometer and estimated time of arrival
- and be prepared, that it might take longer than you thought to reach the place of promise

And finally, Let your travelling be for others

- let the journey itself be a taste of life beyond self-centredness, immediate comfort and the prison of self-gratification
- let your aches and pains be borne quietly in solidarity with those who are forced onto the road as migrants, exiles and refugees
- and let every arrival be not a notch on your own belt but a prayer for those who stayed home to let you come away

The wisdom of pilgrimage is the age old wisdom of Christianity itself:

- to become a company of bread-breakers,
 - unencumbered by inner and outer weights,
 - learning how to be guests and not just hosts,
 - recognising Christ in the stranger's guise
 - and journeying on for the healing of the world
-



A Pilgrim Canticle

Karen McClain Kiefer

Most Tuesday mornings during lockdown, I sat in the same choir stall in Saint Andrew's church to say and broadcast morning prayer. From this vantage point, in the early-ish morning hours, I often was incredibly moved to catch the first rays of sunlight streaming through the high rose window above, casting light on the prayer book in front of me during my favourite part of morning prayer: the last two verses of the Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79), 'The Benedictus':

*In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high
shall break upon us,*

*to shine on those who dwell in
darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.*

The tender image of in-breaking light felt like an encouraging embrace, promising that the day is bursting with meaning and worth living to its fullest. In the last line I heard an encouraging sending forth on a kind of pilgrimage.

Afterwards, I would venture out, on my 'lockdown pilgrimage' – the labyrinthine walk that became an essential spiritual ritual. Hence, this morning prayer became a 'Pilgrim's Canticle' for me, the dawn from on high inspiring and then calling me to move into the world. The promise of my feet being guided 'into the way of peace' felt like being equipped with a walking stick and map for the journey.

This canticle also brings to mind the Advent Antiphon O Radiant Dawn, as both texts point toward the light of the Incarnation.

Inspired by this prayer, meaning and movement, I fashioned a piece representing this pilgrim canticle for the [TheoArtistry Text & Image Exhibition](#) in St Andrews. Pilgrims often attach meaningful tokens, like shells, to their walking sticks. I attached a shell to the staff I found on my lockdown route, then added the text from the Canticle from the Book of Common prayer we used everyday. Both as an inspiration I have collected, and one that guides my steps. Included with it is a map with my lockdown route highlighted. Letters in the route spell out part of these last two verses.



On 9 December, the exhibition journeys from the gallery space in town to Saint Andrew's, St Andrews Church, and this piece will journey to very choir stall from where it was inspired.



O Oriens (Radiant Dawn), splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

And guide our feet... as pilgrims on the way

Our (Digital) Pilgrimage

As this year comes to a close and we look in hope toward the dawn of a new one, it is a natural time (after all the activity around Advent and Christmas events) to review what went well this past year, how you and your congregation adjusted, found edges for growth, impacted your community, were impacted by your community, and how you connected with your mission, among other things, including online. In the new year, I welcome the opportunity to accompany you in this exploration, and how together we might plan for renewed vision for 2022.

Please get in touch if you are interested in a conversation!

Karen
Digital Missioner

Upcoming Church Pastoral Aid Society training events

Church Pastoral Aid Society has provided details of their January and February training events for church leaders. You can also see a full list of upcoming CPAS training events at www.cpas.org.uk/events.

Moving On
Online, 25 January (9.30am-1pm)

For clergy seeking a new post. This online, forum-style, event will offer clergy insights into the tricky subject of moving jobs. Starting from Scripture, we will explore the discernment process as well as the practicalities of completing good applications and handling interviews well. Book at www.cpas.org.uk/events.

Leading with Vulnerability

Online, 27 January (9.15am-12.30pm)

Building on both personal experience and research into vulnerability within leadership, we explore the importance of being vulnerable, especially among Millennials, and ways to become appropriately vulnerable that reflect individual preferences and the situations we lead within. Book at www.cpas.org.uk/belowthesurface.

PCC Tonight Training Evening

Online, 15 February (7pm-9.20pm)

Building on our popular PCC Tonight resource, CPAS is running an online event to clarify the purpose and place of PCCs, to explore some common dysfunctions, and to introduce material you can use to shape its life. Book at www.cpas.org.uk/pccevents.



Wishing you every blessing in this season of Hope

Please share our diocesan newsletter with your colleagues or on social media!