

December
2021
update



Around The Dioceses

Below each Scottish diocese reports on what is happening in their area.

Aberdeen A pre-COP26 Prayer for our Earth service was held in St Francis of Assisi Church in Mannofield, Aberdeen, on the Feast of St Francis, 4th Oct 2021. The prayer service was well-attended and led by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB. Kenneth Sadler, Aberdeen rep, wrote a report on the event which featured in the J&P Scotland blog and, later, in the Aberdeen diocese publication, Light of the North. At the start of Advent, the Aberdeen St Mary's Cathedral J&P group launched a campaign to encourage the parish community to unite to raise funds for a SCIAF 'Water For A Village' Real Gift. **Inverness group:** this group recently held their Annual Peace Prayers Candlelight Service in their local church hall. They also continue with their plans to resettle a family from Syria or Afghanistan. This project has been ongoing for the last year and they have raised approx. £4,000 of the £9,000 needed to date. Leaflets are going into parishes locally to appeal for help with the fundraising and the official request to the Home Office to resettle a family is hoped to be submitted in January 2022.

Argyll & Isles The Parish in Skye have raised over £1000 for the SCIAF real gift, Water For A Village, any excess money raised above that needed will be donated to SCIAF. Bishop Brian McGee has asked Marian Pallister the diocesan rep to organise a Laudato Si/Justice & Peace event at the end of January 2022. A fuel poverty zoom event is also planned for January and it is hoped that expert advice from 'AliEnergy' at this meeting can then be disseminated throughout the community. The Lochgilphead group have been supporting the campaign for justice for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe by contacting their MP. This group are also refreshing their recycling campaign and the resources they have produced on this. Plan for a rewilding area in the community are underway. Zoom will be the preferred platform of meetings going forward in this rural diocese.

Dunkeld A Holy Hour and Prayer For Our Earth Service was held by Canon Golden. A silver EcoCongregation award was given to St Ninians in Dundee. St Ninians and St Mary's Dundee have restarted their community cafes, providing a meal on Saturdays for those in need with a food pack to be taken home afterwards also. St Mary's Parish have also been collecting locally to support Afghan families and there is ongoing work to support families affected by the cut to Universal Credit. In St Mungo's deenery, Fr Frayne has also had a number of meetings and events on COP26 which have been well attended both in person and on zoom.



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Galloway: We are delighted to welcome 2 commissioners for Galloway diocese and look forward to working with them in 2022 and beyond. Anne & Maureen can be contacted by email at justiceandpeace@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Glasgow This group continues to share resources from the National Office, eg weekly CST quotes and campaign of the month via local parish social media. They also conducted a survey of single use plastics in local supermarkets and contributed a video to the '[24 Hours For The Climate' global event during COP26 in Glasgow](#). Walk to Worship took place on Climate Sunday. The Glasgow group are working on updating their group's constitution and will discuss this with the new archbishop of Glasgow when that appointment is made. Hats are also being knitted for distribution to seafarers by Stella Maris. Going forward the group want to step up their campaigning on poverty, nuclear weapons, refugee issues and the environment.

Motherwell: The Motherwell group are planning to reinstate face-to-face meetings in the new year and continue to keep in touch via email. Margaret McGowan took part in the COP26 mass in the Cathedral in Motherwell and Carol volunteered as a steward during COP26. John Kane continues to campaign locally for individuals to divest from fossil fuels. Parishes also continue to collect tinned food for local foodbanks.

Paisley: held A Prayer For Our Earth Service to in St Mirin's Cathedral to pray for the success of COP26 on Sunday 24th October 2021. The diocese also continues to collect clothes for families and individuals in hardship and works with various local and national charities to distribute these items.

St Andrews & Edinburgh A Laudato Si group, A refugee group and a Food/Poverty/Inequality group make up the three working groups within St Andrew's & Edinburgh Archdiocese. Fr Basil Clark is currently running a pilot of the successful Westminster diocese and Cardiff diocese food voucher scheme in his parish area. This scheme affords people the dignity of going to the shops and buying the food they want with vouchers, instead of attending food banks. This pilot scheme is being rolled out in local schools rather than through a priest. The pilot will be reviewed in January 2022 and hopefully it will be extended to the rest of the archdiocese. There are plans to look at Catholic Social Teaching and Fratelli Tutti within the archdiocesan groups also.



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