



Church and Society Enews June 2017

Speak Out Tackling Injustice, Living Hope

Speak Out: Building Global Friendships

Shoulder to Shoulder: interfaith pilgrimage, Sunday 2 July

This weekend Christian Aid Scotland and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees are coordinating Shoulder to Shoulder, a pilgrimage walk for all people regardless of their religion or belief. Walking the well-worn paths of the ancient and spiritual mountain of Ben Ledi, near Callander, this 10km walk will be themed around sanctuary and refugees.

You can sponsor David Bradwell, SFAR Coordinator on [mydonate](#).

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees also have a new [facebook page](#) where you can find their recent news and events information.

No longer strangers: churches' role in creating welcoming and integrating societies

The biblical imperative to welcome the stranger was at the heart of a Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) conference in Prague this week. The event brought together more than 70 representatives from churches, governments, UNHCR, regional non-governmental organisations, and delegates to the CCME General Assembly.

The [message](#) of the Assembly draws on the rich history of migration in Europe to find new hope for the current situation, and commends all citizens and church members to support integration, and encourage efforts to make societies welcoming and safe for those forced to leave their homes.

Scots show solidarity on World Refugee Day

Scots marked World Refugee Day by forming a human chain in Glasgow city centre, with the symbolic act marking the start of Refugee Festival Scotland. The organisers of the act, Amnesty International, Oxfam Scotland and Scottish Refugee Council, hope it sends a clear message to the world that "Scotland Stands with Refugees".



Speak Out: Health and Wellbeing



British Transplantation Games

The British Transplantation Games are taking place in North Lanarkshire from 27-30 July 2017. Find out more, including how to volunteer at the Games at www.britishtransplantgames.co.uk

Digital Xtra fund

Do you have an amazing project that will engage young people in computing science and digital activities that needs financial support? A new round of grant funding was launched on 16 June 2017 with submissions due by 1pm on 1 September 2017.

Find out more at www.digitalxtrafund.scot

Death on the Fringe: Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief

Join the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care and Edinburgh University's Primary Palliative Care Research Group for a night of death-themed performances, featuring music, theatre, comedy, dance and storytelling. The Showcase is the first in a series of Death on the Fringe events taking place in Edinburgh this August as part of our Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief work to promote more open and supportive attitudes and behaviours relating to death, dying and bereavement in Scotland.

Book via [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Speak Out: An Economy Driven by Equality

Good Money Week Event: what have faith and money got to do with climate change?

The Church of Scotland is partnering with Christian Aid Scotland, Eco-Congregation Scotland and Oikocredit to show how our financial investments can have an impact on climate change. The annual Good Money Week conference, hosted by the Church of Scotland Society, Religion and Technology Project, is taking place on Thursday 12 October.

Find out more and register on [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Taking Action on Debt and Supporting Financial Inclusion

This resource booklet, part of a research project on "Christian Responses to Debt and Financial Inclusion" provides a guide to enable churches to start talking about issues of money, debt and financial inclusion in their local communities. It begins with a guide to holding a 'Money Talk', which provides an easy way to start a conversation about these challenging issues.

The resource can be downloaded from the [Durham University website](http://www.durham.ac.uk).



Speak Out: Doing Politics Differently



Participatory Budgeting for Churches: what it is and how to get involved

In early 2017 the Church of Scotland received funding from the Scottish Government Community Choices Fund to enable a group of churches to learn about Participatory Budgeting (PB) and host an event to distribute funds in their own community.

PB is a democratic form of decision making that empowers local communities to take financial decisions. This event will include an introduction to PB, a chance to hear from congregations who have hosted PB events - reflecting on the opportunities and challenges of being at the heart of community transformation, and case studies exploring different ways of doing PB.

The event will take place on Saturday 19 August 2017 at Gorbals Parish Church, Glasgow. Find out more and register on [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Meet Your MSP - One Year On

The Meet Your MSP project is one year old! If your church hasn't met up with your local MSPs or is interested in holding an event, please go to www.scpo.scot/meet-your-msp for ideas, resources, and information on which churches have taken part across Scotland. Summer is a great time to meet with your local politicians as they are on parliamentary recess – get in touch and let us know how you get on.

Speak Out: Investing in Young People

Action of Churches Together in Scotland - Further Education Conference

This year, the ACTS conference for Further Education chaplains, spiritual care teams, support staff, and equalities staff will be held on 26 October 2017. The theme is 'Common Threads' and there will be representatives of different faiths who will be there to discuss their faith. The conference will be held at City of Glasgow College, Riverside Campus.

Please book via [eventbrite](#).

Learn: Children and Young People publication launch

The Church of Scotland publication 'Learn: Children and Young People' is being launched at the Community of Faith conference on 26 August 2017. The conference is an opportunity for those who work with and minister to children and young people in the church, to connect, be resourced and inspired. Following the three chapters in the publication - being church together, working together and forming together - you will hear from 12 different speakers and have opportunities for discussion and sharing with one another.

Book via the [Resourcing Mission website](#).



Speak Out: Caring for Creation



Eco-Congregation launches new awards scheme

Eco-Congregation Awards are an optional, but important part of the Eco-Congregation Scotland programme. All eco-congregations are encouraged to take part in the award process as soon as they feel ready to do so, joining the 135 eco-congregations who have already gained an eco-award in recognition of the care for creation.

A new set of more challenging award criteria has now been developed, replacing the previous award scheme. All eco-congregations (whether they have previous awards or not) will be able to apply for awards at bronze, silver or gold levels. Under the new award system, congregations may apply for an award at any time.

Visit the [Eco-Congregation Scotland website](#) for further information on their work.

Speak Out: Flourishing Local Communities

My Mind is Free - human trafficking awareness events

A collaboration between three charities, Rah Rah Community Theatre Company, The Salvation Army, and Hope For Justice is taking place this year in Edinburgh in August. The project 'My Mind is Free' is offering unique events - including workshops, talks and plays - in which the community can be involved in, and learn about, human trafficking in the UK today.

The play will also be performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe between the 7th-18th of August.

For further details visit www.mymindisfree.com



Contact Church and Society

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