

Seeing Injustice, Imagining Change – Saturday 1st December at St John's Episcopal Church, Perth

Last year, the St Andrews diocesan gender justice group marked the *16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence* (November 25 until December 10) by organizing a day meeting, *Poverty has a Woman's Face*. Nearly 50 people came to hear Kathy Galloway, formerly Head of Christian Aid Scotland and Leader of the Iona Community, as the main speaker. Kathy reminded us of the importance of church leaders speaking out – to challenge when religion is wrongly used as a justification for unfair cultural practices; to emphasize the importance of the Bible in empowering women, rather than subjugating them.

Encouraged by that event, we asked the SEC's first woman bishop, Bishop Anne, if she might consider leading a day this year to mark the *16 Days of Activism*, using some of the images from her weekly *Picturing Prayer* blog to explore gender justice. We were delighted when she agreed – and quickly gave us this fascinating title for the day! Bishop Anne will lead two sessions.

In the first session Bishop Anne will use fine art pictures to look at ways in which injustice has been seen and represented. This will be followed by an activity and discussion time using some of the pictures to explore how and when we are able to see injustice, and when are we blind to it. In the second session the Bishop will look at how artists, male and female, have imagined change for those experiencing hardships of many kinds. A second activity and discussion time will consider the contribution that Christian ways of 'seeing' can change lives. The day will conclude with a Eucharist.

The day also falls under the umbrella of *Side by Side*, the growing global faith movement for gender justice, launched in Scotland at Holyrood on International Women's Day March 2018. SBS works with faith communities and leaders to encourage positive discussion around the role the world's faiths can play in promoting women's rights and empowerment. Visit sidebysidegender.org.

We are delighted to be working with Bishop Anne, and are looking forward eagerly to Saturday 1st December when both women and men may be challenged by her imaginative approach.

This day is open to anyone, from any part of Scotland, and of any denomination. To register (preferably by November 24) and for more information, please contact Rev Val Nellist 01383 824066 or email valnellist@btinternet.com

Elaine Cameron