



The Right Revd Ian Paton
Bishop of St Andrews
Dunkeld and Dunblane
Scottish Episcopal Church

Dear friends in Christ,

Season of Creation

We are now in the middle of the Season of Creation, adopted by the General Synod as part of the SEC Calendar, and running from the 1st September to St Francis' Day, 4th October. You may be celebrating a Harvest Festival during this time, but I also hope that you and your congregation are celebrating the Season as a whole, and using some of the worship resources available via the [SEC website](#).

In recent times, a 'Feast of Creation' on 1st September has been proposed in [ecumenical discussions](#), to go alongside the Season. This comes from the Eastern Orthodox Churches, who have an ancient tradition of celebrating 1st September as the day when God created the Earth, a tradition that has been revived to include both thanksgiving for that gift of creation, as well as prayers for the protection of all of creation.

I wonder if the celebration of a 'Feast of Creation' could become a third pivotal point of the liturgical calendar in all the Christian churches, as significant as the other great feasts of Christmas and Easter. Could it help us to understand that God is Creator as well as Redeemer? Could Christians learn from each other's traditions to reflect spiritually and theologically on our part in safeguarding the life of the earth? Could praying more intentionally for Creation in worship help us to act more purposefully for Creation in life?

Environment Gathering Sunday 22nd September

at St Ninian's Cathedral (2.30pm-5pm and gathering for lunch from 1.15pm).

The SEC's journey to Net Zero is a crucial part of our mission as a church. The Diocesan Environment Group and Diocesan Mission Board have organised a hope-filled and informative afternoon. I encourage at least one person from each charge to attend. It will be an excellent afternoon for learning and sharing no matter how big or small your congregation. Registration is through the Diocesan Office. If you have not received information, please contact office@standrews.anglican.org.

SEC's Net Zero Portal

If you have not yet looked at the Net Zero Portal, then please do and then subscribe to it, so that you receive brief email updates of new content each week. It is an excellent source of case studies of charges who are making changes, and information on all things Net Zero within the SEC and beyond. I strongly encourage every charge to subscribe. Please enter your email address at the following link: <https://netzerochurch.scot/blog/#Subscribe>.

Congratulations

to **St Mary's, Dunblane**, who have reached the list of Church Times Green Church awards finalists. This is in recognition of their ECO Fest community day in Dunblane. The winners will be announced on 26th September. And also to **St Serf's, Burntisland**, who have been awarded Eco-Congregations's Bronze award for stewardship of the environment in addressing lifestyle challenges in Lent, and setting up a bee and butterfly friendly garden.

Installation of the new Provost

Please come to the Installation service for Provost Stephen Holmes at St Ninian's Cathedral **this Sunday, 15th September**, at 3.00pm. All are very welcome, and clergy and lay readers are welcome to robe (alb and white stole).

Ordination of Deacon

And please pray for Ross Stirling Young and for others being ordained this month. Ross will be ordained deacon at St Ninian's Cathedral on Sunday 29th September at 3.00pm. All are very welcome, and clergy and lay readers are welcome to robe (alb and white stole).

With warmest regards,