

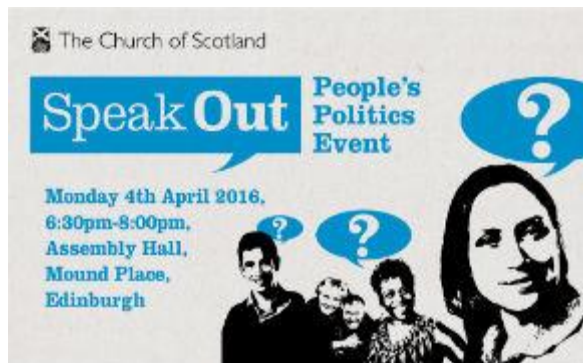


Church and Society Enews April 2016

Speak Out

Church and Society Council

Speak Out - People's Politics, Monday 4 April



With the Scottish Parliamentary elections set for May, the Church of Scotland is inviting you to a special evening event that will give you the chance to question leaders from Scotland's political parties. Hosted by the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of

the Church of Scotland, we will be joined by leaders of Scotland's main political parties to hear about their vision for Scotland.

Conservatives: Annabel Goldie

Greens: Patrick Harvie

Labour: Kezia Dugdale

Liberal Democrats: Willie Rennie

SNP: John Swinney

This will be a political hustings for the Scottish Parliament elections but it will not be like any other event. During the evening we will hear directly from people who live with the ongoing struggle against poverty – and what they believe needs to change. It will be about making sure that the real stories of real people are heard – and our politicians will need to respond. We are excited about this event – it is about doing politics differently – and we hope you are too. We promise you an evening of learning, laughter and tears as well as information and wisdom.

Join us on Monday 4 April at 6.30pm in the General Assembly Hall, the Mound, Edinburgh. Register via [Eventbrite](#).

If you would be interested in hosting your own Hustings event ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections or the European Referendum, you may like to download the [Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office elections guidance](#).

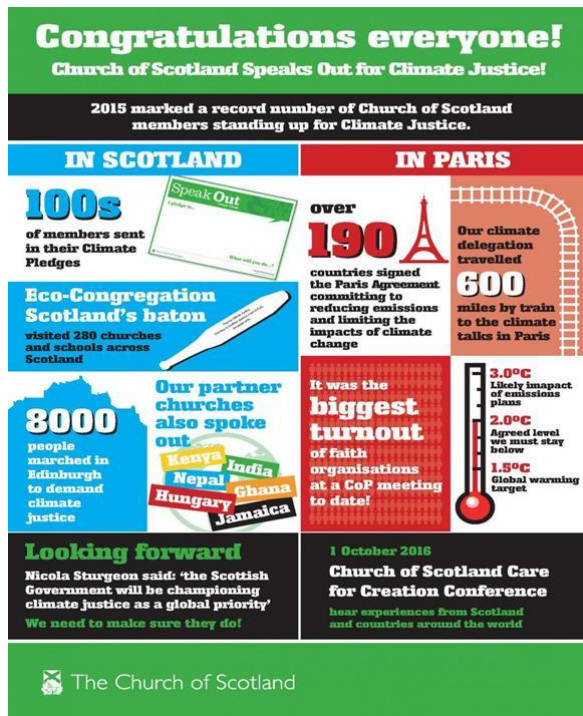
Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees is a project which seeks to co-ordinate and promote action by faith communities in Scotland to support asylum seekers and refugees. Their newly launched [website](#) has details of campaigns, actions and resources for churches and individuals.



Read a blog by David Bradwell, Refugee Coordinator, on Glasgow allegations of asylum seeker mistreatment on the Joint Public Issues Team [website](#).

Church Action for Climate Justice



Speak Out for Climate Justice - Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Week for Climate Justice last November - we've created an [infographic](#) to show all the facts and figures relating to the Church of Scotland's achievements and the global impact of our campaigns.

Have you got the bottle?

Eco-Congregation Scotland is backing a campaign for a deposit return system for all bottled drinks sold in Scotland. The campaign, organised by the

Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, is called "[Have you got the bottle?](#)" It aims to reduce litter and resultant pollution; increase recycling rates and reduce carbon emissions. Similar successful schemes operate in other European countries.

EU Referendum - Resources and Events

Think, Pray, Vote – EU referendum resources for churches

Since its report in 1996 "The European Union – Crisis or opportunity" the Church of Scotland has repeatedly affirmed the work of the European Union in promoting peace, security and reconciliation amongst European nations. We believe that Christians should be engaging in the political processes that shape our society as we follow God's call to work and live for a better society. The EU referendum is one of these processes.

We are currently preparing a resource to help people explore the issues and questions that surround the referendum; sovereignty, the single market, freedom of movement, the environment and more. "Think, Pray Vote", will provide information, the opportunity for theological reflection and different perspectives from Christians intending to vote both in and out on the 23 of June. The resource will be available in April on the [SCPO](#) and [JPIT](#) websites.

European Movement in Scotland – referendum events

While themselves pro-EU, the European Movement in Scotland is planning a series of “town hall” style events around Scotland intended to inform people about European facts and the issues which are at stake. With a working title of “Why Vote? Bring your questions to this public meeting”, the exact format will vary by locality and available speakers.

One date has been firmed up for the evening of 25 May in Dundee in collaboration with the University of Dundee. Events will also take place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Hawick, Skye and Fife - keep up to date with the schedule at www.euromovescotland.org.uk

Church in the News

[Climate change campaigners congratulated for efforts](#)

[International Women's Day - church working for gender justice](#)

[Refugee resources now online to help congregations act](#)

The links will take you to the full story on the Church of Scotland website.

Events Calendar

[People's Politics](#) 4 April, Assembly Hall, Edinburgh

[Eco Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering](#) 23 April, St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Contact Church and Society

The Church and Society team can be contacted by emailing churchandsociety@cofscotland.org.uk or by phone on 0131 240 2275.

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