With the independence referendum less than two weeks away, the Bishop of Brechin, the Rt Rev Dr Nigel Peyton, looks at faith and the future of Scotland

Have faith in the future

WHERE IS faith, in the referendum? People are asking me this more frequently as September 18 approaches, the date when a pro-independence Yes vote will, if the result is close, see Scotland become an independent nation. Is there a future for Christians in a Scotland that votes to remain in the UK? Will it be a future where faith and religion are important in public life or will it be a secular nation where the idea of a Christian nation is dismissed?

These are questions that are being asked by many people in both the Yes and No campaigns. The Yes campaign is promoting a Scotland that values its rich history and culture, while the No campaign is highlighting the risks of independence, including economic uncertainty and political instability.

Faith groups have been actively involved in the referendum campaign, with both the Yes and No sides seeking to rally support from religious communities. The Yes campaign has been particularly active in gathering support from religious leaders, who have been encouraged to speak out in favor of independence.

The No campaign has been more cautious in its approach to religious leaders, and has focused on highlighting the potential risks of independence, including economic uncertainty and political instability.

The referendum result will have significant implications for the future of faith in Scotland. If the Yes vote wins, the country will become an independent nation, with new opportunities for faith to flourish. However, if the No vote wins, Scotland will remain in the UK, with the potential for a stronger role for faith in public life.

The future of faith in Scotland is uncertain, but one thing is clear: the referendum will have a lasting impact on the country's political and social landscape.