

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

12th October 2021

“Bishop Forbes” Evensong 2021

The Most Reverend Mark Strange, the Primus of the SEC and the Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness was the guest preacher at this year’s evensong (10th Oct) in St Paul’s Cathedral Dundee, to remember Alexander Penrose Forbes. All were welcomed by Provost Elizabeth Thomson at her first Forbes Evensong. Bishop Mark, preaching on the text Mark 10.17-31 (“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God”) reflected on the privilege and wealth that Forbes had enjoyed in his upbringing, for example his mother having lived in a stately house in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, but that he worked for the poor of Dundee’s industrial developments.



Bishop Mark Preaches
(Photo M Turner)

An enhanced cathedral choir and a good turnout of di-



Clergy, lay readers and choir (Photo M Turner)

ocesan clergy and lay readers all added to the celebration and remembrance—after last year’s service had to be held on Zoom due to Covid restrictions. A reception with refreshments followed with a chance for those attending to catch up with others from around the Diocese. We are still in the pandemic, but the easing of restrictions allows a careful return of some elements of ‘normal’ church and Diocesan life.

Prayer for Black History Month

B:IM2021

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Bishop Andrew writes: October is ‘Black History Month’ in the UK—see <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk> for more details about this important campaign.

The Scottish Episcopal Church is working on our understanding awareness of our own historical roots in the many and complex issues of racial justice, so we have commissioned a prayer that can be used in our churches to help us in this awareness:

God of our Salvation,
you have created the people of the world
in your own image:
Give us grace, we pray,
to rejoice in the differences of culture,
language, and colour
by which you have enriched humanity;
to repent when we fail to recognise
Christ in one another;
and to commit ourselves to pursuing justice
and peace for all your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who took our human nature,
died upon the cross, rose again,
and lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for eternity.
Amen.

Diocesan Centre/St. Johns Church: Temporary Home for Food Project

The Diocesan Council have agreed to a local Food project, ‘Taught by Muhammed’, renting the Diocesan Centre office and the nave of St John’s Church in Stobswell as a temporary base for food storage and office work, after they lost their accommodation this autumn. The church and its ecclesiastical fittings are being protected and cared for as this vital social action in Dundee is supported and enabled. The

‘interfaith’ element of this six month arrangement is also a positive sign of working together for the greater good in difficult times for many people.

The Diocesan Centre and St John’s remain as a consecrated church, but have been mothballed since the pandemic in 2020, with Bishop Andrew and Elliott working online, around the Diocese and from home.



St John’s & Diocesan Centre complex

The Church Hall at St John’s remains a permanent base for the Dundee Foodbank in Stobswell, an arrangement that has been in place since 2018.

Church & Academy Seminar

Responding to the Fifth Mark of Mission - the Green Anglicans Movement

The next meeting of the Church & Academy Seminar will take place on Thursday, 21 October, at 5.30 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Canon Dr Rachel Mash, Environmental Coordinator for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and a leading figure in the Anglican Communion Environmental Network (A.C.E.N.). Dr Mash hails from Scotland, and is a Mission Partner of St Paul’s & St George’s, Edinburgh. The title of her presentation is: **Responding to the Fifth Mark of Mission - the Green Anglicans Movement**.

Further details and the Zoom link can be found on the website below.

Zoom Link: <https://www.churchandtheacademy.org/next-meeting.html>

Green Anglicans: <https://www.greenanglicans.org/>

Climate Challenges

Weekly Climate Challenge: Tread Lightly (travel)

The Eco-group from St. Paul’s Cathedral are launching a weekly climate challenge in the lead up to COP26, the Climate Change conference being held in Glasgow in November 2021. People are encouraged

to take part in weekly challenges that will be on a variety of different topics. They ask you to make at least one change each week to reduce your climate impact, learn more about the climate crisis and the COP26 UN Climate Conference, reflect on our own responses to the climate crisis, pray for those most impacted by it and pray for the success of the conference.

The flyer attached with the bulletin contains practical steps you can take to reduce your climate impact. This week’s challenge: Tread lightly (travel).

“Sign a Wind Turbine”

Another symbolic action we can take is to have your name added to a wind turbine in the Dogger Bank Wind Farm—offered by the operator SSE as a sign of urgency for success at COP26. Details are here: <https://www.sse.com/cop26/sign-the-turbine/>

Dundee City COP26 Events

Dundee City Council is hosting events running up to the start of COP26. The full events schedule can be found on their website.

<https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sustainable- Dundee/dundee-cop26-events-programme>

Afghan Refugee Response Update: How can we offer help?

This has left the news cycle but remains very relevant for us all. There are various local schemes in place to support areas where refugees are being housed. Contact your local church for details.

Some larger, national financial appeals for the refugee crisis can be found at:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/afghanistan>

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/afghanistan-emergency-appeal>

<https://act.refugeecouncil.org.uk/donation/refugee-crisis-appeal>

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

Please send news and photos to Elliott in the office at office@brechin.anglican.org.

Upcoming local events in charges can be shared by the office via email—the Bulletin will advertise Diocesan events or events that are of interest to all in the Diocese.