

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

16th February 2022

Consecration of Bishop Dalcy Dlamini as Bishop of Swaziland: Sat 19th Feb

Dalcy Dlamini will be consecrated as the 6th Bishop of Swaziland this coming Saturday, Feb 19th 2022, at 10am (8am UK time). They hope to have a livestream to follow the ceremony: we will share that link later this week if we receive it.

Due to short timescales and the ongoing issues in the country, no representatives from Brechin are able to attend, but greetings have been sent from Brechin Diocese to Bishop-elect Dalcy. We hope to see her in Scotland as soon as suitable events and arrangements permit.

Please keep Dalcy and all in the Diocese of Swaziland in your prayers as the weekend and consecration approach.

Diocesan Synod 2022: 'In-person' Synod in Broughty Ferry and 'Situations Vacant'

The March 2022 Diocesan Synod for Brechin is being held 'in-person' at St Mary's Broughty Ferry on Saturday 5th March. Normally, anyone would be welcome to attend to observe proceedings, but to take care with a 'pandemic-safe' meeting we are limiting in-person attendance to voting members of Synod: authorised clergy, lay reps (or alternates) and the others who are members by membership of other Diocesan or Provincial boards/committees. The plan is to livestream the Synod on the Diocesan Facebook page, so anyone can



St Mary's Broughty Ferry—venue for the Synod

follow and observe the proceedings. The Synod papers will be posted on the Diocesan website later this week.

The Synod will review the activities in the Diocese over the past year, the second year to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The good work done in all of charges in difficult times will be reported and celebrated. Recruitment of clergy to vacant charges has been a major focus of the Diocese's work this year, with significant support, financial and human, dedicated to this work. Usual statutory business will be conducted, such as liturgical revision (a Canonical change), setting quota for the charges in the diocese for the present year and receiving a financial report on the Diocese. Full accounts will not be presented this year, as we have crossed a threshold in the value of the Diocese's assets and a full audit is now required of the accounts, which will take some months.

Another key area of 'statutory' business is electing people to posts in the Diocese and the Province. It is so important that charges are represented in the Diocese and the Diocese is represented in the Province. This year there will be elections for all of the Diocesan representatives at General Synod: 6 lay and 6 clergy members. Some of those previously serving are eligible to stand again, but we need new people willing to come and serve for a new four year term. There are also vacancies on Diocesan Council for one clergy and two lay members. Some of the previous members can serve again: but we do need new people willing to stand. A full list of the posts that require to be filled will be issued in the next few days. Please do consider if you might be able to serve in this important way!

Brechin Diocesan Council: Jan 2022 Meeting Summary

Council met on 11th January 2022 on Zoom. After opening with prayer and approving previous minutes, the following business was conducted:

The Bishop gave an update on clergy recruitment and ministry matters, with Rev Mary Jepp moving to Stonehaven to be licensed later in January, Broughty Ferry Rector interviews planned, a possible 'transitional ministry' in St Martin's Dundee planned and some adjustment on clergy housing matters.

The Companionship Link with Africa and the US had been busy with the consecration of the new Bishop of Iowa and the election of a new Bishop of Swaziland. Gifts from the Diocese had been presented (via Zoom) to Bishop Alan of Iowa as he retired. The Council approved a Brechin contribution to a memorial orchard for the late Bishop Ellinah of Swaziland. The recent appeal for funds for Swaziland had provided a £1,100 donation to be sent to support the Neighbourhood Care Point projects.

Property matters were discussed, focusing on the potential sale of the St John the Baptist's site to the Dundee and Angus Foodbank (see separate Bulletin article). Full consultation on the disposal of contents and the building will take place in the next few weeks. The temporary lease of St John the Baptist to a second Foodbank is now being terminated to allow vacant possession in the spring. Various surveys and pieces of work will be required to support the process. Options for ongoing support for the small number of Diocesan owned buildings were explored.

In finance, the Treasurer was still gathering accounts from charges to help in calculating quota for the spring Diocesan Synod. A draft Diocesan budget for 2021-22 was tabled, which needed further work, but showed a moderate deficit against budget. Proposed quota to be requested from charges at the Synod will increase, as Provincial Quota has increased, but the Diocese wishes to assume a small deficit to keep the quota requested from charges to as low a level as is practicable. This will be debated at Diocesan Synod.

Diocesan Synod planning was discussed, with the preferred way of meeting to be 'in-person', and St Mary's Broughty Ferry suggested as a venue, given the flexibility of the re-ordered space. Some of the business of Synod was discussed, including the election of General Synod representatives. This is currently done in part by a formula, which no longer corresponds to the actual arrangements between charges. A straight election without formula but trying to keep a geographical spread around the diocese, was the preferred option. The meeting closed with a prayer and the grace.

Proposed New Future for St John the Baptist Church, Dundee

As reported last week, the former church of St John the Baptist, Dundee, which closed as a congregation in 2015, and has been the home of the Diocesan Office since then, officially opening as the Brechin Diocesan Centre since 2017 has now had an offer

made by Dundee and Angus Foodbank for the purchase of the whole St John the Baptist campus. The foodbank wish to expand their operation into, for example, a community café and advocacy centre for Stobswell, as well as the ongoing foodbank operation.



St John the Baptist Church, Stobswell, Dundee

A full paper describing the situation and the process that Diocesan Council have gone through is at this [link](#). Various actions are now in hand to support the process of selling the site. A Canon 35 process has been started to deal with the ecclesiastical contents of the church—this repeated news article is part of the consultation process to support this Canonical application. The link above has details of how to feed back your thoughts on the proposal. The sale of the church will require due conveyancing process and correct legal permissions.

A final thanksgiving service will be held in the church to formally deconsecrate the church as a Scottish Episcopal Church place of worship. It is a sad and significant matter, to sell a church building, but the encouragement that this new use for St John the Baptist will bring to so many people can be a sign of light at the end of this church's life with us.

Online Worship for the SEC

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online every week. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, is continuing in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. This will continue beyond the pandemic. There are more details of each week's services at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin.

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