

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 18th February 2021

### Diocesan Council Summary: Feb 2021

Diocesan Council, the charity trustees for the Diocese of Brechin, met by Zoom on the evening of Thursday 4th February.

The business covered a substantial discussion on ministry in the north of the diocese. This included hearing the ongoing developments in the Transitional Ministry proposed for St Ternan's Muchalls and St James' Stonehaven. A congregational 'Zoom' meeting had been held in early January, organised by Dean Fay and 'Place for Hope'. This meeting explored transitional ministry and the 'Hopes and Fears' that might come with the project. Permission to 'suspend' the incumbencies had been given by the College of Bishops in late January, a formality to let the project go ahead and appoint a priest in charge. Options for housing the priest were explored, including the use of some diocesan funds that could be allocated for this purpose without affecting diocesan cashflow. The vestries would have to agree to this proposal as they would be asked to maintain any property. The overall finance for the project was also reviewed, based on assumptions for housing. Two motions on this project were passed by Council:

1. To approve diocesan funding (from a designated mission & ministry fund) for the three-year project ministry costs;
2. To approve, in principle, the idea of using some additional diocesan funds to allow suitable housing to be acquired.

In the remainder of the meeting Council covered:

- Progress on recruitment for the Cathedral and Carnoustie and Monifieth, both of which have a potential candidate. The process has been delayed by Covid and restrictions on 'in-person' visits;
- Pat Millar presented an update on the Companionship link, focusing on the recent death of Bishop Ellinah due to Covid. The situation in Eswatini is reported to be poor, with routes being explored for providing help;
- Upgrade proposal for the diocesan website;
- Overview of the diocesan financial position, including significant growth in the unit trust pool holdings;

- Diocesan building issues, including work required on a flat in Dundee, water work underway in Arbroath needing support and updates on the (presently mothballed) diocesan centre;
- Looking ahead to the upcoming Diocesan Synod on 6th March.

The next meeting of Council is a Pre-Synod meeting to approve the annual report and accounts, to be held on Saturday 27th February by Zoom.

### Resources for Lent

Lent 2021 has now started with Ash Wednesday, 17th Feb, being marked by online services as we remain unable to meet for in-person worship. A great deal of creativity has gone into creating worship that connects with the tradition of 'imposition of ashes' that many churches would usually keep.

The Provincial worship for Ash Wednesday was



**LENT  
2021**

'hosted' by Brechin Diocese as Bishop Andrew led a 'service of the word', supported by the people of St Mary Magdalene, Dundee.

Many churches are having Lent books or discipleship courses for their local membership. There are also many other resources that you may wish to use as we journey through Lent. A selection are:

Lenten devotions from 'Green Anglicans' to honour the memory of Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya. There is a contribution from Canon Pat Millar, who is a member of the Green Anglican network for Southern Africa. [Link to PDF.](#)

*Continued...*

SEC Liturgy Committee Material for Lent: this has been produced as a resource for home use at this time of lockdown. This is not SEC authorised liturgy but may be a helpful devotional and is in liturgical language. [Link to material.](#)

A lecture series led by Dr Michael Hull of the Scottish Episcopal Institute on Mondays in Lent: 'Acting Like a Christian' <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/acting-like-a-christian-five-part-discussion-series/>

Rev Denise Herbert has provided some Lent book recommendations from Church House Bookshop <https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/features/lent-books-2021>

## **Leading Intercessions Workshop**

In this session, we hope to cover not just what words we say but our preparation and delivery so that we can truly help our intercessions reach the hearts and minds of all the people.

Whether we are experienced in leading intercessions or are thinking about it this session will give an opportunity to reflect on our practice and share some of our ideas.

The days of following set forms of words have given way to a variety of approaches which can enrich our services. Leading a congregation in prayer is quite a responsibility which can seem both daunting and joyful. Come and share more.

Sunday 28th February at 3.00pm by ZOOM led by Carole Phelan of the Epiphany Group. Carole has worked with us before and is known to many.

To sign up please contact Very Rev Fay Lamont - [flamont53@sky.com](mailto:flamont53@sky.com) or message or text and she will send out the Zoom link.

## **Invitation to Lenten Quiet Day**

All Souls' Invergowrie, are hosting a Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday 13th March via Zoom. It will be led by Brother Joseph Emmanuel, Franciscan Friar at Alnmouth Friary, Northumberland. There may be space for others who wish to attend.

The day will begin at 10am with Morning Prayer and an address from Brother Joe. As would be the case, were we able to go away for such a time of quiet and reflection, there will then be time for us all to do what we need in order to sustain ourselves spiritually, whether that be going for a walk, spending some time reading, reflecting, praying, etc. We will come back together in the afternoon with more input from Brother Joe. The day will conclude with Evening

Prayer and will end at 4pm. Brother Joe will also preach for All Souls the following day at our Zoom Service on Sunday 14th March, the 4th Sunday in Lent.

If you would like to be part of this Quiet Day, please email [david.gordon@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:david.gordon@brechin.anglican.org) to register for a place and receive a Zoom link.

## **Dundee University Chaplaincy series - "One People: Many Philosophies"**

The Chaplain at Dundee University, the Rev Dr Fiona Douglas, is launching a new Chaplaincy series: One People: Many Philosophies. Professor A.C. Grayling CBE FRSA FRSL, philosopher, author and Master of New College of the Humanities, London will give a talk entitled - 'Humanism'. Prof Grayling is Vice-President of Humanists UK and an associate of the National Secular Society. He is regarded as one of the 'New Atheists' in the UK, along with e.g. Richard Dawkins. As Christians, it is healthy to engage with any religious or philosophical position, so this talk may present interesting challenges and insights to us as people of faith. Book with the link below.

**Thursday 25 February 2021 17:00 – 18:00**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chaplaincy-series-one-people-many-philosophies-tickets-138922865029>

## **Online Worship**

In lockdown we can find ways to worship online. Many churches in the diocese are Zooming or gathering in similar ways—see link below.

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each led by one of the College of Bishops, will continue in the form of a Eucharist broadcast at 11am through the current lockdown and beyond, as restrictions ease.

This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at:

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

[Link to online services within the diocese](#)

## **News to share? Please send...**

If you have any events, ideas with worship or anything else to report, please send copy to Elliott at [office@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org). The Bulletin will come out each week for the foreseeable future with updates on Covid issues, news from charges and (hopefully) useful information for our communities.