

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

2nd September 2021

Afghanistan – What we can do?

Bishop Andrew writes: We have all watched with alarm and horror the events unfolding in Afghanistan as the NATO forces in that country have withdrawn, the Afghan government has collapsed and the Taliban coalition has seized power. The concerns that all are feeling are for such a wide range of issues. The record of the Taliban with women's rights from their previous time in power is truly appalling. The safety and stability of a country that has suffered so much over the past few years is very much in doubt. Many charities and relief agencies are operating in that region and their safety must be matter of great concern. There is also the very real anger from many people who served, or have family members who served in the military in Afghanistan. So many servicemen and women risked their lives and many were injured or killed. Has their service and willingness to bring peace and order in Afghanistan been wasted? That is a hard question.

As Christians we can and should, of course, pray for this political and humanitarian disaster. We should pray for wisdom in all political leaders involved. We should pray for peace and justice for all in Afghanistan.

And there is an unfolding humanitarian crisis with refugees and other displaced people. Some are being brought to the UK from Afghanistan to be permanently resettled. They will be given government funding and support, but churches can offer a welcome in the time of transition as they arrive in this strange, small northern European country. That was the experience of the refugees from Syria who arrived in the UK in the 2010s. Some people are now displaced in the areas around Afghanistan itself. There are several large charity appeals that have been started in the past few days to support them (e.g. in the UK for support in transition). Churches or individuals might choose to donate and support these appeals. The agencies in Afghanistan and in the surround area will be doing vital work to protect the weak and vulnerable in this time of crisis.

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

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

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

A Priest for Muchalls and Stonehaven

The Reverend Mary Jepp has been announced as the priest and transitional minister who will serve St Teren's Muchalls and St James' Stonehaven.



Mary, who is presently serving in Portsmouth Diocese but was Rector of Kilmarnock, writes: "My mother used to say....'God works in mysterious ways etc. etc.'. Over the past few months those words have reverberated around my head on several occasions as I would say that this time last year, the notion that Mike and I would once again have the boxes out and we would be planning a move to Scotland was the farthest thing from our minds. Saying that, we are both thrilled at the prospect of moving north to be with you in the near future.

"Mike, who I met when he was serving in the Royal Air Force at RAF Goose Bay in Labrador Canada, and I seem to have moved a great deal throughout our married lives. Where ever we have put down roots I have always sought out a worshipping community, as a result my church experience has ranged from cathedral to heatless, sans electricity churches on the edge of wildernesses. For me, regardless of where we have ended up, it is the relationships that have mattered most, they being our relationships with God, with each other, the communities we live in and the world beyond our church walls.

"Although the press at the moment appears to be full of doom and gloom regarding the future of religion I think we live in very exciting times. Perhaps

the phrase 'imagining the future' speaks of what lies ahead. In saying that I am not suggesting that time honoured traditions and expressions of faith should be abandoned but that we should prayerfully consider what God is asking us to do using all that he has given us to experience and spread the message of his love. Recently I came across the phrase that blessings are found when giftings and needs meet...together I hope that we will be able to use our individual gifts to work towards meeting the needs of those we live alongside and in doing this we will be blessed. Mike and I are so looking forward to be with you! Every blessing! Yours in Christ...Mary"

Confirmations and Treasure Hunt at St. David's, Inverbervie

Bishop Andrew was at St David of Scotland, Inverbervie, on Sunday 29th August, for the joyous occasion of confirming three young people as part of the morning worship. Flo and Xan Arbuthnott and Charlie Craigie-Halkett renewed their baptismal vows and were confirmed (with plenty of hand sanitiser and face coverings worn throughout). They had been prepared for confirmation by the former Rector of



Flo, Charlie and Xan– with Rev Sam Ferguson supporting

Montrose and Inverbervie, the Rev Sam Ferguson, who assisted on the day.

In the SEC, baptism is sufficient for full lay membership of the church. Confirmation is a renewal of those baptismal vows. If any other churches would like to nominate candidates for confirmation, whether young people who wish to make their baptismal promises themselves or adults who wish to make a commitment to their faith, please contact the bishop to discuss options.

Later that same, St David's hosted a community Car Treasure Hunt, followed by refreshments. The relax-

ation of restrictions allows activities, when a church is ready, to be resumed.



Entrants for the Car Treasure Hunt enjoying refreshments and examining the answers.

Job Opportunity with Faith in Community Dundee

Over the past 11 years Faith in Community has worked with many faith communities across Dundee, supporting them to develop new and exciting initiatives to tackle poverty in local communities, building on the incredible assets already in the community.

They are excited to be looking for a Community Development Worker who will continue this work alongside faith communities in Dundee with the opportunity to develop new connections and work alongside faith communities in the surrounding areas. This is a fixed-term post which is currently funded for 6 months.

The application pack, with further information about this post, is available to download at:

[Community Development Worker \(Faith Communities\) - Google Drive](#)

Online Worship for the SEC

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, will continue in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. Some changes to the format of this worship are planned: watch for future notices. 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/>