

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

4th January 2022

New Year Greeting from Bishop Andrew

May I wish you all a safe and happy New Year for 2022. We have passed through our second Christmas Day of the pandemic, and still find ourselves with restrictions and anxiety as a new variant of the virus works through the world: but I pray that we can find time and space as 2022 starts to stop, reflect and give thanks for all that God is giving us, even in troubled times.

The death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu a few days ago is a sad moment: but it invites us to give thanks for the life that this man of faith lived to the full, proclaiming the gospel of justice and redemption in all he did and all he said. The difference that one single Christian can make in the world is encouragement for every single one of us, in our lives of prayer, our lives in community and our lives in action. His call to justice and campaigning for those marginalised by society and the church, is an inspiration for us all.

As 2022 begins, this next year will undoubtedly have challenges and setbacks as we continue to navigate the pandemic—but it will also have the joys that we can trust always come from being followers of Jesus Christ. I look forward to the journey of the next weeks and months with you—as we work together to discern God’s call for all of us!

Rev Mary Jepp starts in Brechin Diocese: 22nd January 2022

Mary Jepp will start her ministry as the priest in charge and transitional minister for St James’ Stonehaven and St Ternan’s Muchalls on Saturday 22nd January. Mary is moving to Aberdeenshire from Portsmouth Diocese (and was the SEC Rector of Kilmarnock prior to that).



Mary Jepp and husband Mike

She will have two licensing services to mark the beginning of this ministry, both on Saturday the 22nd January:

11am: St James’ Stonehaven

3pm: St Ternan’s Muchalls

Please contact the diocese if you wish to attend. ‘Transitional’ Ministry in this context means that Mary, as well as being the full-time priest for these churches, will help them explore their history, context and future plans for mission and ministry. Mary will have special training and support in this transitional work.

Please Mary and her husband Mike in your prayers as they prepare for this new beginning.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu RIP

This past fortnight we have been keeping in prayer—Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, anti-apartheid campaigner (1984 Nobel Peace laureate), LGBT rights advocate and man of prayer, who died on 26th December 2021 at the age of 90.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Photo: SEC website)

The Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town said: “On behalf of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, the whole faith community, and – I make bold to say – on behalf of millions across South Africa, Africa and the world, I extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Nomalizo Leah, to his son, Trevor Tamsanqa, and to his daughters, Thandeka, Nontombi and Mpho, and all of their families.

“While we mourn his passing, as Christians and people of faith we must also celebrate the life of a deeply spiritual person whose alpha and omega – his

starting point and his ending point – was his relationship with our Creator. He took God, God's purpose and God's creation deadly seriously. Prayer, the Scriptures and his ministry to the people God entrusted to his care were at the heart of his life.

“He believed totally that each one of us is made in the image of God and ought to be treated as such by others. This belief was not reached through cerebral contemplation; it arose from his faith and was held with a deeply-felt passion. He wanted every human being on earth to experience the freedom, the peace and the joy that all of us could enjoy if we truly respected one another as people created in the image of God.

“Because he believed this, and because he worshipped God, he feared no one. He named wrong wherever he saw it and by whomever it was committed. He challenged the systems that demeaned humanity. He could unleash a righteous anger on those – especially the powerful – who inflicted suffering upon those the Bible calls “the least of these, my brothers (and sisters).” And when the perpetrators of evil experienced a true change of heart, he followed the example of his Lord and was willing to forgive.

“Desmond Tutu's legacy is moral strength, moral courage and clarity. He felt with the people. In public and alone, he cried because he felt people's pain. And he laughed – no, not just laughed, he cackled with delight when he shared their joy.”

Dr Thabo offered the epitaph Tutu once chose for himself:

He laughed,
He cried,
He loved.

The Archbishop also preached at the interment of Tutu's ashes on the 2nd Jan 2022: the text is at <https://archbishop.anglicanchurchsa.org/2022/01/homily-preached-at-interring-of-ashes.html>

Covid-19: New FAQs for the SEC

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been re-issued by the SEC Covid Advisory Group—these are at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/frequently-asked-questions-version-12-20-12-21/>.

There are no further changes in the government guidance for churches—care needs to be taken with the prevalence of the Omicron variant, by following the existing regulations and guidance: face coverings, hand hygiene, 1m distancing between households, getting the booster vaccine as soon as possi-

ble. Online church activities such as meetings etc. are ideal, but in-person, if judged necessary, are possible with great care. These changed measures feel like a backwards step in our journey through the pandemic and are very hard the week before Christmas, but they are designed to keep worship and other church activities safe in the presence of the virus.

Please keep checking for any updates at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>

Companionship continued: Covid and political situation in eSwatini—help still needed

As reported before, the position in Eswatini remains very precarious. The help that Brechin Diocese provides, especially in funding the Neighbourhood Care Point (NCP) scheme, is greatly valued in the Diocese of Swaziland, especially now that matters are so hard in the country. If any churches are able to provide donations to support this work, please send them via the usual channels, or contact the [Diocesan Office](#) if you wish to know more details.

Brechin Diocesan Training Sessions: 'Pastoral Care' Training for lay members: January 2022

From Dean Fay. Following the successful Zoom training sessions held earlier this year, and as requested by some of those participants, the next training to be offered is three lay training workshop sessions on 'Pastoral Care'.

These will be held on Zoom on Sundays 16th, 23rd and 30th January 2022 at 2.30pm each day.

The titles for the 1hr 45min sessions are:

- Week 1 – The stories that form us
- Week 2 – The God who calls us
- Week 3 – The community that sustains us

They will be led on Zoom by the Rev Liz Crumlish, an associate of the Institute of Pastoral Supervision and Reflective Practice. We are very fortunate to get this input and I would be grateful if you could put these dates in your diary and as many people as possible would sign up for this.

If you could email flamont53@sky.com to register interest and Dean Fay will send you the ZOOM link for the sessions.

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

Email the office on office@brechin.anglican.org