

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 6th July 2021

### New Rector Announced for Brechin and Montrose with Inverbervie

The vestries and Bishop Andrew are delighted to announce that the next Rector of St Andrew's Brechin and St Mary's & St Peter's Montrose, with St David's Inverbervie will be the Reverend Jim Benton-Evans, presently priest in charge of the East End Team in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Jim follows John Skinner, who was the transitional priest in charge from 2019-2021.



Jim and Claire Benton-Evans

Jim says: "It is with great delight, joy and excitement that I accept the Vestries' invitation to become the next Rector. I am honoured and humbled to have been asked to come, and Claire and I are looking forward impatiently to being with you and continuing the wonderful work of building God's kingdom in this corner of Angus. We will, of course, leave the East End with some sadness and will miss the many friends we have there enormously: but the Holy Spirit moves in irresistible ways and it seems absolutely clear to me that God is calling me to these places and to serve among you.

"At my interview, I told the Vestries of the advice given to me by the then Archdeacon of Bodmin shortly before I began my first incumbency. He said this: "Jim, you'll find that people want three things from you. They want you to love God; to love the place; and to love them. Hit those three and you cannot go far wrong. Miss any one, and you cannot go far right." My subsequent experiences, joyous and painful, have proved how right he was. So I promise you that in my ministry here, I will love God,

love Brechin, Montrose and Bervie, and love you, to the best of my ability.

"As we prepare to move, to say our goodbyes in Glasgow and to come to you, please could I ask you to pray? Pray for Claire and I; pray for our children Tabitha, Alex and Tobias; pray especially for the congregations of the East End, St Serf's Shettleston, St John's Baillieston and St Kentigern's Dennistoun; and for each other and those who will continue to lead, support and care for you until my institution. I will, of course, be praying for all of you. God bless you all – and see you all very soon."

Jim will begin this ministry in early October 2021. More details on dates for his institution and the start of his ministry will follow in due course

### Digest of Events this Week

Events and services in the diocese this week:

#### Tuesday 6th July

7.30pm—Diocesan Council meets by Zoom

#### Wednesday 7th July

5-6pm—Eco Congregation Scotland Webinar "Net Zero Carbon: Energy Efficiency in Church Buildings". Book via <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/event/hes-energy-efficiency/>

#### Thursday 8th July

2pm—Memorial Service for Lay Reader Carole Spink at the Cathedral. To book a seat, contact [admin@saintpaulscathedral.net](mailto:admin@saintpaulscathedral.net)

#### Saturday 10th July:

10.30am—Licensing of Rev Martin Allwood as Priest in Charge of Carnoustie

2.30pm—Licensing of Rev Martin Allwood as Priest in Charge of Monifieth

#### Sunday 11th July:

11am—Licensing of Fr David Gordon as Priest in Charge of St Salvador's Dundee

3pm—Recovery & Renewal Fund Zoom 'Drop In' with Bishop Andrew (see article later).

[Zoom link](#)

## **Prayers for eSwatini**

Please pray for the situation in eSwatini where civil unrest and violence have recently broken out. Communications with our Companion Diocese of Swaziland have become intermittent and reports from the country are very worrying. Please pray that their government and other agencies in Southern Africa will work for peace and to protect the vulnerable.

## **Diocesan Council Summary: May 2021**

Diocesan Council met on the 25th May, by Zoom. Ongoing actions were reviewed, and the final total for the Bishop's Lent Appeal noted (£2341.50), with this split between DEC Coronavirus Appeal and Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH).

Mission and Ministry in the Diocese were discussed. The imminent purchase of a house Stonehaven for housing the transitional priest in charge (a vacancy about to close) was confirmed, using a fund designated for clergy housing. This house will be an asset for the future mission in that area. The closing date for applications is this Friday (28th June). Other vacancies were also discussed, including Montrose, Inverbervie and Brechin, who are interviewing a candidate, and St Salvador's Dundee where Fr David Gordon will become priest in charge in July (continuing with All Souls, Invergowrie in a transitional ministry). Bishop Andrew discussed the status of 'Lay Worship Leaders' in the diocese, a recognised ministry in the SEC distinct from e.g. Eucharistic assistants. Training and/or assessment will support appointment and special badges of office will be awarded.

Companion Links were reviewed, with a summary of support given to eSwatini and some future joint plans with Iowa including the third and final leg of the youth pilgrimage. Some planning was started to mark Bishop Alan's retirement later this year.

Council discussed property matters, including the future of the Diocesan Centre/St John's. A discussion on the future of the site was agreed to be started with the Food Bank, the tenants of the hall. The Diocesan Buildings Committee reported, with a proposal from the Cathedral for enhancing online services and some other possible changes from other charges in the pipeline. Some discussion also took place on plans for General Synod 2021 and the need for a revised method for the appointment of Brechin reps to General Synod 2022. This will be a matter for Diocesan synod in the Spring. Finally, a query was raised about ID cards for clergy and lay visitors engaging in pastoral work in the community. This will

be explored. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 6th July 2021 by Zoom. This meeting closed with Prayer and The Grace.

## **'Recovery and Renewal' Fund**

Guidance notes have been sent out to vestry secretaries and clergy for the SEC 'Recovery and Renewal Fund' – a fund discussed at General Synod last year to help charges grow and recover from the pandemic. This fund will allow small grants to be made from GSO, via Diocesan Offices, in various categories to assist charges in recovering from the pandemic and in renewal/development e.g. improving digital communications.

Each Diocese will take applications and triage/integrate them into a diocesan proposal. Applications will be made this August for review and payment in the autumn.

To assist, the Diocese will be holding two Zoom 'drop-in' sessions in July, to clarify the scheme and provide guidance for possible applications. These are: Sunday, 11th July at 3pm and Sunday, 25th July at 3pm. Zoom links have been sent out via vestry secretaries/clergy so please contact them for details.

## **Online Worship in the Pandemic**

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.



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/>

## **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).