



Brechin Bulletin



Diocese of Brechin Scottish Episcopal Church

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Seasons' Greetings for the Diocese of Brechin!

This latest edition of the Brechin Bulletin will take us through the seasons of Advent, Christmas and on into Epiphany in the New Year of 2019.

Advent is a time of preparation. The wider world in Scotland is getting ready for Christmas celebrations (although that can feel to have started any time from Halloween onwards!). The streets are full of Christmas lights and the shops full of presents and shoppers. In the churches we tend to have a more muted time as we pass through December: Advent is a penitential season for the church, as we ask for God to forgive us as well as bless us as we remember the coming of Jesus as a child 2,000 years ago and we prepare for the coming of our Saviour again into our hearts and into the world. The season may be marked by muted purple decorations, reflective music and a steady pace through scriptures of prophesy and preparation for the child's birth. As we approach Christmas Day we all decorate churches, we have our carol services and expectation builds: the couple from Luke's gospel make the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census...

And the child is born! Gold and white fill the churches as we celebrate Midnight Masses, Watchnight services, first communions of Christmas, Christmas Day Eucharists, celebrations of every kind: the bells ring out and the Christmas hymns ring out across the country! God's plans finally start to be fulfilled, as the Saviour is born. We have prepared ourselves and now we celebrate the wonder of God made human!

Twelve days of Christmas follow: Luke's shepherds arriving; Jesus is named; the horrors of Herod's killing of innocent children in Bethlehem and the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt. We continue to keep Christmas, even as the New Year sales kick in and the wider world is excited with Hogmanay.

And the 6th of January arrives, when tradition says Christmas decorations must be down: because this is the next season, Epiphany. This means a "revelation" - in this case as the wise men arrive, in Matthew's gospel, telling Mary and Joseph who their son really is. Epiphany will take us right through to Candlemas in early February.

The Epiphany for us today is the encounter that anyone can have with God: through bread and wine in a eucharist; through the life and care of a church community; through the action of disciples spilling out of a church to work for justice in the world. WE can be that Epiphany for the rest of the world!

Preparation for Jesus to come; the celebration of encountering God made human; and the revelation that God is present in the world, for us and through us: this run through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany is a perfect model for Christian life!

I hope and pray that you will have a blessed time this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can over these seasons and into the New Year of 2019.

Every Blessing



St James' Church,
Stonhaven
Book Browse

Saturday 1st December 10am–3pm

Over 2,000 books on sale, all arranged making it easy to find what you may be looking for. Fiction, crime, cooking, biographies, history etc
Books cost £1.00 each or 5 books for £4.00

Entry if free and with refreshments

All welcome



St Martin's Dundee
Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 1st December
11am–1pm**

Including cake stall, gift stall, book stall, tombola and a warm welcome with tea, coffee and more cake!

All Welcome

All Saints' Glencarse
5th Marvellous
Monorgan Festive
Fayre

**Wednesday 5th December
10.30am–7pm**

At Monorgan Farmhouse, Longforan
in aid of the Perthshire Kenyan
Educational Fund

All Welcome

St Andrew's Church,
Brechin
Christingle Service

**Sunday 2nd December
4.15pm**

All welcome

Holy Trinity Church,
Monifieth
An evening of Acoustic
Music

**Friday 7th December
7.30pm**

An evening of acoustic music in aid of the
Angus Foodbank

A wide variety of music, something for
everyone

Tickets £3.00 includes tea/coffee

Available from Kennth

07825554419 or at the door

All Saints' Glencarse
Advent Meditations

**Wednesday 12th & 19th December
10.30am**

All Welcome



St James' Church,
Stonhaven
Tree of Life

**Saturday 8th December
10am—12noon**

Write a message to those you wish to remember on a bauble, which will be hung on our special tree.

St Luke's Church,
Dundee
Carol Concert

**Sunday 16th December
4.30pm**

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

St Ninians Church Dundee
Carol & Christingle
With lighting of Community
Christmas Tree

**Sunday 16th December
6pm**

Followed by hot chocolate
All welcome

St Mary & St Peter's
Church Montrose
Holy Communion & Service
of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 16th December
11am Holy Communion**

**&
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons
& Carols
All welcome**

St James' Church,
Stonhaven
Coffee Morning

**Saturday 8th December
10am—11.30am & 10am—12noon**

Stalls include raffle, tumble cakes, home made jams & marmalades, hand knits, books and handicrafts.



St Mary Magdalene's
Church, Dundee
Carol Service

**Sunday 16th December
11am**

With price draw and sherry party
All welcome



St Ninians Church,
Dundee
All Age Service

**Sunday 23rd December
11am
All welcome**





Icons in Holy Rood, Carnoustie

During the last three months Holy Rood Church in Carnoustie showed icons by the well-known icon writer Amada de Pulford. To celebrate St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, an icon depicting him receiving the Stigmata was exhibited. Francis was the most Christ-like of all the saints and is depicted as identifying so closely with Jesus' suffering that he even developed the five wounds of Christ.

In November, to honour St. Martin, Bishop of Tours in Gaul (today France), Amada's icon shows St. Martin as bishop taking pity on a beggar. This relates to a story in the hagiography by Sulpitius Severus in which Martin, dressed in his Roman centurion uniform, halves his cloak to clothe a beggar in Amiens. Amada shows St. Martin as the bishop of Tours.

During December, an icon of St. Nicolas will be on display in Holy Rood. St. Nicolas is the patron saint of children. He was bishop of Myra in what is now Turkey. During persecution he was thrown into prison and had his nose broken. The broken nose is indicated in all traditional icons ever since. To save his relics from destruction, they were moved from Myra to Bari in southern Italy where they still are. The icon in Holy Rood shows St. Nicolas in the typical fashion of an Eastern Orthodox bishop.

In Holy Rood Church we have a wonderful painting by Torrinton Bell, showing a red-haired Jesus sharing bread with two of his friends in Emmaeus. When the Irish artist Eric Duhan who lives in the South of France heard about this painting he painted a red-haired St. Andrew, Patron saint of Scotland, holding a saltire flag, surrounded by fishing nets. The nets are a reminder that Andrew was a fisherman, just as the model for Jesus in our Emmaeus painting.



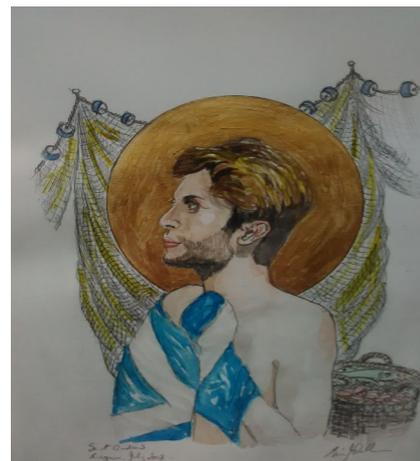
St Francis



St. Martin of Tours by Amada de Pulford - as to be seen in Holy Rood Church Carnoustie



St Nicholas



St. Andrew



All Saints' Glencarse Tree Giving Service & Joint Carol Service

Sunday 16th December
10.30am then 5pm
Joint Carol Service with St Madoes
and Errol Parish Church
All welcome

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dundee Nativity Play

Sunday 23rd December
11am



St Luke's Church Dundee Midnight Communion & Christmas Day Family Service

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
11pm

Family Service with Communion
Christmas Day 10.30am



St Peter's Church, Auchmithie Carols by Candlelight

Monday 24th December 2018
At 6.30pm

Readings, Poetry, Music

Children's Nativity

Mulled Wine, Christmas Cake &
some good cheer!!

All Welcome

St Luke's Church Dundee Nativity Play & Christingle Service

Christmas Eve
Monday 24th December
At
5pm
All Welcome





Safeguarding Training Day

For the first time in a number of years soul's Diocese held a Safeguarding Training Day on Saturday 10th November at All Soul's Church, Invergowrie. Sixty four people attended which included Bishop Andrew and his wife Mary. The day was led by Donald Urquhart the Provincial Safeguarding Officer and Daphne Audsley the Assistant - both are only work part time on this important task. Only one Church was not represented and apologies were received - some Churches brought a number of people.

There was a power point talk reflecting on a such things as Theology of Safeguarding and Risk Assessment. The main attraction of the day was the 4 to 5 people groups - the Bishop joined one group - and we worked on discussing 2 of 4 scenarios we were given and were asked to assess the risk factors in each case and what action might be taken.

The Provincial Officers received 50 feedback forms and there were mostly favourable comments. The main positive comments were meeting other people, importance of communication, awareness, maintaining boundaries and that the information provided was about right. When applying to attend many said it was a long time since they had any training. As there are many other aspects regarding Safeguarding I hope we shall have another chance to share and learn in a couple of years' time.

The team at All Souls' Invergowrie were magnificent and put on a wonderful array of cake for us. Full marks to them for hospitality.

Denise Herbert, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

St Mary & St Peter's Church Montrose Christingle & Midnight Mass

**Christmas Eve
Monday 24th December
4.15pm & 11.30pm
All welcome**

All Saints Glencarse Christmas Eve Service

**Christmas Eve
Monday 24th December
11.30pm
&
Christmas Day Service—All Age
Eucharist
10.30am**

St Ninians Church Dundee Christmas Eve Service & Family Eucharist

**Christmas Eve
Monday 24th December
8pm**

Followed by refreshments

**Christmas Day Service
Family Eucharist
11.00am
All welcome**

St Mary & St Peter's Church Montrose Holy Communion

**Wednesday 26th December
10.15am**

&

**Sunday 30th December
11am
All Welcome**

Northern Charges Consultation Day

On the 6th October 2018 representatives from nine of the charges in the north of the diocese gathered in St Andrew's church hall in Brechin for a consultation day on the idea of "hubs" or "clusters" – the current diocesan strategy on sharing vision and resources between charges. The charges were: Arbroath; Auchmithie; Brechin; Fasque; Inverbervie; Laurencekirk; Montrose; Muchalls; Stonehaven. Well over thirty people attended to learn more about the diocesan strategy and to see what the next steps might be. The day was organised by Dean Francis, Canon Kerry Dixon, the Diocesan Mission Officer, and the Bishop. A superb bring and share lunch made the day a wonderful social occasion!

The day started with prayer and a free discussion on the expectations of those attending. Most people wanted something to happen and soon, after the frustrations of waiting for the new bishop to arrive. The bishop presented an overview on the Scottish Episcopal Church context and structures that we were working within: the system of charges, linkages and charities. This was familiar to most people and provides the framework for whatever creative thinking we may have about the lives of our churches.

Three representatives from different charges then gave excellent presentations on what they felt was essential for churches to flourish. Suggesting things from being outward looking, through strong and supported lay leadership, to being business-like and well organised as churches, the presentations were lively, inspiring and well received. Kerry Dixon then gave a presentation on mission and "fresh expression" approaches to church renewal. This challenged all present to think about what "success" in church might look like: a focus on mission; 25% of church members aged 13-24; fully resourced ministry; reduction in historical church property and, above all, a focus on Jesus.

Dean Francis then facilitated table discussions on what had excited, what had scared and what had each charge to offer to a "shared" ministry model. A long list was rapidly produced, which pointed to some immediate actions to move on: a workshop on "café church" and "fresh expressions"; a "faith sharing" project or workshop; sharing experience on property and grant application experience; improved diocesan communications. There was quite a buzz at this point of the day and an eagerness not to lose momentum on the ideas that were produced.

The workshops and projects identified will now be planned and delivered between the diocese and the charges, to take place through 2019. A joint grant application has already been generated from within the charges attending the day. The energy and excitement of the day will be maintained as we explore this early stage of sharing aspects of ministry, and it is hoped that even more areas of shared resource and vision will be possible as the groups of charges get used to working together. Similar consultation days will also take place in the south east of the diocese and in Dundee City, also followed by projects and activities identified as relevant for those contexts.

To know more, please contact Canon Kerry Dixon (via the diocesan centre) or Bishop Andrew (bishop@brechin.anglican.org).





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