



# Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Newsletter  
Scottish Episcopal Church

December 2013 No. 82  
Scottish Charity No. SC 016813

[www.brechin.anglican.org](http://www.brechin.anglican.org)

## The Waiting Time

As I write this my grandchildren tell me its thirty-one 'sleeps' until Father Christmas comes. That's a lot of shopping days. And rather too many Christmas adverts on TV urging us to consume this or that ideal gift, and preferably more of the same.

But of course the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus long ago in Bethlehem, and the good news that he was for humanity – means so much more. And worth waiting for. And worth preparing for properly.

We have the whole season of Advent, four weeks full of expectation, to get ready. Against the darkest winter nights, advent calendars, wreaths and candles bring a growing light and warmth. Seasonal cards, decorations and food raise a sense of anticipation and fun in our homes and amongst friends.

During Advent, Bible readings in church weave patterns of promise and fulfilment. We are challenged to face difficult things, to change our ways but also to remain a people of hope. As the old covenant is realised - incarnated in Jesus who comes to seek and to save that which is lost, heralding life in all its fullness.

So, here's three suggestions for a great Christmas: First. It's not about how much money we spend – kindness and generosity come in many guises. A smile costs nothing. Second. It's easy to give presents to those we like, and who love us back. So maybe have a think about building bridges with those people we find more difficult. Finally. There are some extremely needy and frightened, damaged and lost people in the world around us, so let's do something charitable in the coming weeks.

May God bless your Advent preparation and your Christmas celebration.

+ Nigi

## From the Bishop's December Diary

- 1 St Mary Magdalene's, Dundee
- 3 Administration Board Meeting
- 4 St Mary and St Peter, Montrose
- Mission and Ministry Board
- 5 Cathedral Chapter
- NHS Carol Concert, Dundee
- 7 Montrose Choral Christmas Concert
- 8 St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee
- University of Dundee Carols
- 9 General Synod Office, Edinburgh
- 11 Abertay University Court
- 13 Lathallan School
- Clergy Christmas Party at Bishop's House
- 15 St Luke's, Dundee
- 16-17 Retreat
- 19 St Margaret's Home, Dundee
- 22 Carols at Holy Rood, Carnoustie
- Carols at St Paul's Cathedral
- 24 Monifieth Christmas Eve Service
- Cathedral Midnight Mass
- 25 St Mary and St Peter, Montrose
- 26 Leave until 5 January



## Write for Rights

**Part of Amnesty International Campaign  
Saturday, 14 December 10.30am-12noon  
Invergowrie Inn**

**Please join us in sending Christmas Greetings to people all over the world (identified by Amnesty) who are prisoners because they have stood up for human rights.**



## An Evening with Archdeacon Bheki

Archdeacon Bheki attended Lathallan School to give a talk about the Diocese of Swaziland. The pupils of Lathallan School provided music. The event was well attended by the congregations of the Brechin Diocese and there was a retiring collection which raised £270 for the Home Based Care services provided by the Diocese of Swaziland.

*Please note the Diocesan Office will be closed from Monday, 23 December to Friday, 27 December and Wednesday, 1 and Thursday, 2 January 2014.*

*Bishop Nigel will be off on holiday from Boxing Day until Sunday, 5 January 2014.*



**VACANCY**  
**CARETAKER/VERGER**  
**St Paul's Cathedral, High Street, Dundee**

Responsibilities will include opening and closing the building to the public, liaising with the public, trades people, Cathedral staff and volunteers. Cleaning and light maintenance work within the buildings.

**Core hours Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 3pm and Sunday 9am to 12noon (negotiable)**  
**some flexibility is essential.**

**£7.50 per hour**

Letters of application with CV to: Mrs Isobel Harris, Cathedral Administrator  
Castlehill House, 1 High Street, Dundee, DD1 1TD

or by email to: [admin@saintpaulscathedral.net](mailto:admin@saintpaulscathedral.net)

Closing Date: **12 noon on Friday 29 November 2013**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

St Ninian's Family Support Group are looking for volunteers to help at their Family Support Group on a Monday and Tuesday (especially Tuesday) between 10am to 12noon.

Further information can be obtained from Fay on 01382 453818 [faylamont@sky.com](mailto:faylamont@sky.com) or Audrey Mitchell 0771 2331 124 [stniniansstayandplay@gmail.com](mailto:stniniansstayandplay@gmail.com)

**Scottish Interfaith Week**  
**Monday, 25 November 7-9pm**  
**Room 2521**  
**University of Abertay, Dundee**

This event, organised by Dundee Inter Faith Association (DIFA) will include speakers from diverse faiths on the theme of

**'Developing Inner Peace -  
Faith Perspectives'**

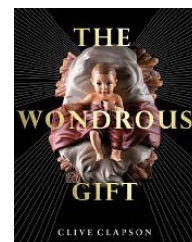
There will be a panel discussion with an audience Q & A, followed by refreshments. Please contact Julie Wardrop at DIFA for further details: [secretary@difa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@difa.org.uk)

**The Wondrous Gift**

Read Father Clive's reflections on the season from  
Advent to Epiphany

A drunk pharmacist. A toy pony. The origins of Christmas. A crummy old Christmas tree. A depressed engineer. Bible smuggling. A variety of memories and thoughts linked in some way by the subject of giving. Christmas and gifts: we

all like to give and receive them. "The Wondrous Gift" reflects on God's gift to us at the Incarnation that Christmas celebrates, through a series of reflections on more than thirty years of ministry. Available in paperback and kindle version from Amazon.



**Christmas Events and Services Around the Diocese**

**Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday, 30 November 2013**  
**Muchalls Village Hall—10.30-12noon**  
Entrance £2.50 includes refreshments  
Home baking, crafts, tombola, books, and gift stalls

\*\*\*

**Saturday 30 November**  
**10 am - 12 noon**  
**Holy Trinity Church Monifieth**  
**Christmas Coffee Morning**  
Admission Adults £1.50 Children 50p  
Tea coffee/ mince pies, usual stalls.

\*\*\*

**Service of Advent Carols**  
**St John the Baptist, Dundee**  
**Sunday, 1 December at 5pm**

\*\*\*

**All Souls, Invergowrie**  
**Christian Aid Big Carol Sing**  
**Sunday, 15th December at 8pm**  
**Invergowrie Inn**

\*\*\*

**St Ternan's Church**  
**Remembrance Tree**  
**Saturday, 14 December 10am—2pm**  
Please come and place a bauble on our tree in memory of those we have lost  
**Christmas Readings and Carol Service**  
**Sunday, 15 December at 10.30am**

\*\*\*

Further details of services can be found on our website [www.thedioceseofbrechin.org](http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org)

