



# Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Scottish Episcopal Church  
[www.brechin.anglican.org](http://www.brechin.anglican.org)

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## *Getting Ready*

This year's TV adverts for Christmas make interesting viewing – you can even Google them all in one go. With few exceptions their sentiments are wholesome, even religious. John Lewis's *Lonely Man on the Moon* is a lovely take on bridging human isolation. My favourite though is Sainsbury's simply delightful 'Mog's Christmas Calamity' featuring the much loved children's story cat. Mog somehow manages to both create and save a Christmas Eve disaster (a family home nearly burns down and the neighbours rally round). The advert supports Save the Children UK Child Literacy project. Make sure your children and grandchildren see it.

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 than tinselled TV adverts. We need to get ready in other ways and have the whole season of Advent, four weeks full of expectation, to do so.

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. 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.

Sentiments run high in the approach towards Christmas, both happy and sad. People of all ages enjoy carol services and Midnight Mass congregations swell. However it's amongst our family and friends and our neighbours, including the difficult ones (and even our enemies) that the true spirit of Christmas is tested. It's not just about buying gifts, but bringing joy.

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*Please look at the Diocesan Website for services throughout the Diocese during the Festive Season.*

*The Diocesan Office will closed from 1pm, Tuesday, 22 December and won't re-open until Tuesday, 5 January 2016.*



## *Outreach in Brechin—Brechin Explorer's Club*

In the spring several of us got together to discuss how we might take the Christian message of God's love to the children in Brechin. Sunday school does not seem to attract many youngsters. A Holiday Club was organised in Andover Primary Brechin. Brechin Churches Together Group agreed to support us financially and a generous donation was received from an Aberdeen church.

Each day, over fifty children from P2-P6 attended, having lots of fun participating in outdoor activities, drama, cooking, crafts music and a daily teaching session. During the teaching slots the children learned about four New Testament characters who became friends of Jesus, even though they sometimes made mistakes. This led on to looking at how we are never too *anything* to be one of His friends and part of God's Big Expedition. (Based on the Scripture union resource, Polar Explorers)

In September a Harvest Supper event was held. The children also wrote their own thanksgiving prayers based on the four seasons of the year.

An all-day event is focussing on the Christmas message. It seems in the twenty first century that one-off events throughout the year are more likely to appeal to young folk than a weekly club. We hope that all those who attend will be blessed and maybe someday find their way into one of our churches.



## *December Events in the Diocese*

**St Ternan's Church, Muchalls**

**Christmas Floral  
Demonstration**

by

**Jo Goldsworthy**

**Friday, 4 December 2015**

**Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill**

**7.00pm-10.00pm**

**Tickets £5.00  
(includes refreshments)**

**Tickets available from:-**

**Newtonhill Pharmacy**

**Peter: 01569 731388**

**Muriel: 01569 730302**

**Holy Trinity Church  
High Street, Monifieth**

**Christmas Fayre**

**Saturday, 5 December 2015**

**10am to 12 noon**

**Cake and Candy, Tombola, Raffle,  
Crafts and Gifts,  
Chocolate Tombola and Raffle.**

**Admission: Adults £2.00**

**Children 50p  
includes Tea/Coffee and mince  
pies**

**All Souls, Invergowrie**

**Write for Rights (Amnesty International UK Campaign)**

**Saturday, 12 December 2015 10.30am -12noon**

**Carols and Christmas Quiz**

**Wednesday, 16 December 2015 at 8.30pm**

**Both events in the Lounge Bar,  
Invergowrie Inn, Main Street, Invergowrie**

