

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Brechin



Diocesan Synod

Saturday 10th March 2018

Diocesan Centre St John Baptist Church Dundee

Membership of Synod
Rules of Order of Synod
Constitution of Synod
Can be found at the end of the book

Scottish Episcopal Church
DIOCESE OF BRECHIN
Scottish Charity No SC 016813

Agenda for Diocesan Synod – Saturday, 10th March 2018

9.30am Synod Eucharist followed by coffee

10.45am Commencement of business

During the morning our Guest Speaker is Reverend Steve Godfrey, Rector of St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Des Moines and Diocesan Missioner for Congregational Development and Transitions.

Lunch will be at 12.45pm, business resumes at 13.30pm

1. Roll call of members – by attendance slips and apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous Diocesan Synod March 2017 Paper A
3. Diocesan Statistics for 2017 Paper B
4. Diocesan Personnel Paper C
5. Report of the Election of Lay and Alternate Representatives for 2018 Paper D
6. Report of the Standing Committee & Diocesan Council Paper E
7. Report from Diocesan Mission Officer Paper F
8. Report from Diocesan Ministry Officer Paper G
9. Diocesan Buildings Committee Report for 2017 Paper H
10. Report from Information and Communications Officer Paper I
11. Protection of Vulnerable Groups Report Paper J
12. Companion Dioceses Officer Report Paper K
13. Diocesan Youth Report Paper L
14. Diocesan Elections and Appointments Paper M
15. Provincial Elections and Appointments Paper N
16. Bishop's Charge
17. Annual Report and Accounts 2017: Budget and Quota 2018 Paper O (to follow)
18. Cathedral Motion Paper P
19. Any Other Competent Business – Request from Provincial Standing Committee & Data Protection Legislation 2018
20. Date of Next Meetings of Synod: Saturday 9th March 2019
21. Confirmation of the Acts of Synod, Final Prayers, the Blessing and Dismissal

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Brechin Diocesan Synod
Held on Saturday, 11 March 2017 at
Diocesan Centre, 38 Langlands Street, Dundee, DD4 6SZ**

Synod Eucharist

The Eucharist was celebrated at 9.30am. Bishop Nigel presided and preached, assisted by Reverend Helen Bridger and Ms Carole Spink, Lay Reader. Bishop Nigel announced the opening of the Diocesan Synod.

Refreshments followed.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Bishop Nigel welcomed everyone to Synod and in particular Malcolm Bett from General Synod Office, John Thom, Diocesan Registrar, and Reverend Kate Gibson, new Priest in Charge at St Andrew's, Brechin.

Thanks were given to Reverend Helen Bridger for assisting with the Eucharist and Stuart and Mandy Budden for the refreshments.

1. Roll Call of Members

The roll call of those present was represented by the signing in register. 59 were in attendance with apologies received from 7.

Bishop Nigel took the chair

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Paper A

Minutes from Synod dated 5 March 2016, were presented. Minutes were accepted.

Proposed: Rev Canon Fay Lamont
Seconded: Mrs Vina Strachan
All agreed

3. Diocesan Statistics

Paper B

Diocesan Statistics (Paper B) accepted and agreed by all attending.

4. Diocesan Personnel

Paper C

Bishop Nigel acknowledged the passing of David Elder. A welcome was extended to all new personnel including Mrs Sharon Loudon as PA to the Bishop. Mrs Jackie Milton, former PA to the Bishop was thanked and he wished her well for the future.

**5. Report of the Election of Lay and Alternate
Representatives for 2017**

Paper D

Mrs Mary Bowker Inverbervie reported that they now had a Alternate Lay Rep.
Noted and accepted.

6. Report of the Standing Committee

Paper E

No meeting had been held.

7. Report of the Diocesan Council

Paper F

Bishop Nigel reported the council had met 8 times during 2016 and he provided a summary of activities.

Membership is still Bishop (Chair) and the Dean, the Mission Officer, the Ministry Officer (now vacant, council to elect), the Treasurer, the Convenor of the Diocesan Buildings Committee and the Diocesan Secretary. Report agreed by all attending.

8. Report from Diocesan Mission Officer

Paper G

Bishop Nigel thanked Rev Canon Fay Lamont for her report and asked those attending for any questions. Report agreed by all attending.

9. Report from Diocesan Ministry Officer

Paper H

The Rev Kirrilee Reid provided her final report as Ministry Officer. There are currently two "live" ordinands and no reader candidates. Kirrilee was thanked and her report accepted.

10. Report of the Diocesan Buildings Committee

Paper I

Business is largely conducted online. Charges were encouraged to provide early warning if major changes are envisaged.

11. Report from Diocesan Communications Officer

Paper J

Bishop Nigel thanked Mrs Karen Willey. Unfortunately, Mrs Willey was unable to attend Synod. All questions were requested to be addressed directly to Bishop Nigel at the end of the session either verbally or via email to the office address. Report agreed by all attending.

12. Protection of Vulnerable Groups Report

Paper K

Bishop Nigel thanked Mrs Cheryl Birse for her services to the Diocese. Mrs Birse has relocated to England to be closer to family and therefore has resigned from her post. Bishop Nigel confirmed that Rev Denise Herbert has agreed to take over as Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer for a period of one year.

Bishop Nigel confirmed that a full internal audit will take place once she is in post.

13. Report from Diocesan Companion Links Officer

Paper L

Bishop Nigel read out a message from Bishop Alan in Iowa sending his greetings.

Bishop Nigel thanked Mrs Pat Millar for her report. Unfortunately, Mrs Millar was unable to attend Synod. Any questions regarding the report are to be sent to either Bishop Nigel or Mrs Sharon Loudon to pass to Mrs Millar on her return.



14. Report from Diocesan Youth Officer

Paper M

Bishop Nigel introduced Mr Robson St Clair as the Diocesan Youth Officer. Bishop Nigel thanked Mr St Clair for his report and asked the group for any questions. Mr St Clair addressed the group covering the lack of age 12 to 18 year olds in Brechin Diocese and the plans to improve on this. Bishop Nigel thanked Robson for taking on this role.

15. Diocesan Elections and Appointments

Paper N

Diocesan Secretary, Mr Mike Duncan and Diocesan Treasurer, Mr Allan Duffus were reappointed, all in attendance agreed. Bishop Nigel thanked both Mr Duncan and Mr Duffus for their service to the Diocese.

Prof Peter Sharp confirmed he was happy to continue as the Convenor of the Buildings Committee. All attending agreed, and Bishop Nigel thanked Prof Sharp for this and all his continued work.

16. Provincial Elections and Appointments

Paper O

Dean takes the Chair

1. Member of General Synod

1.1 House of Clergy

The Dean reminded members that the Diocese was now allowed six members of General Synod. It was agreed that elections be held over til next year. The Rev Sam Ferguson was willing to continue as House of Clergy alternate. All agreed.

1.2 House of Laity

Mrs Liz Howson was currently interim Lay Rep for St Andrews, Brechin. Mrs Judy Robinson will continue as an alternate Lay Rep.

2. Members of Boards and Committees of General Synod

Agreed by all attending

3. Members of the Provincial Panel for Episcopal Elections

Clerical Member – Rev Canon Fay Lamont

Lay Member – Mrs Judy Robinson has come to the end of her 3 years. Prof Peter Sharp was nominated to take over. All attending agreed.

Bishop Nigel resumed the chair

17. Canonical Changes – Canon 63

Paper P

Bishop Nigel confirmed this section referred to Office of Lay Representatives.

The proposed change is to allow Alternate Lay Representatives to join Lay Representatives as ex officio of the Vestry.

All agreed

Canonical Changes – Canon 22

Paper P

Bishop Nigel confirmed that any proposed changes/alternations to the authorised service list should be only on the recommendation of the Faith and Order Board. This is to be discussed at General Synod.

All attending agreed.

Canonical Changes – Canon 31

Paper P

Bishop Nigel discussed two sessions already carried out in Broughty Ferry and Brechin to discuss the proposed amendment to Canon 31, Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony.

Discussion surrounding how the secret vote would be carried out at Diocesan Synod and how the outcome would be communicated to General Synod in Edinburgh.

Bishop Nigel opened the floor for discussion, questions and comments.

Secret Ballot – Bishop Nigel confirmed he would be abstaining and gave his reasons.

Ballot

	BISHOP	CLERGY	LAITY
FOR	0	11	14
AGAINST	0	4	6
ABSTAINED	1	0	2

Guest Speaker Jenny Marra MSP North East Scotland Scottish Labour Party

“Keeping Faith in Politics”

Mrs Marra was schooled locally attending St John’s High School, Dundee before continuing her education at the University of St Andrews completing a MA (Hons) in History. Mrs Marra then visited America before returning to Scotland to complete her studies. She is currently the MSP for North East Scotland, Scottish Labour Party.

Mrs Marra discussed the similarities between government and the church by spreading the word and feeding positively back into the community. She referred to the impact of faith groups on her work and the great support she received from churches. She discussed local initiatives/issues with Human trafficking and other local matters. The floor opened for Q&A session.

18. Dissolution of the Charge of St John the Baptist, Dundee (Canon 36)

Paper Q

The Very Rev Francis Bridger summarised paper Q in relation to the dissolution of St John the Baptist, Canon 36. The Dean confirmed that the Church would be incorporated into the Diocesan Centre. The assets of St John’s the Baptist had now passed to the Diocese and Synod was being asked formally to give its approval.

Bishop Nigel confirmed that the name of St John the Baptist would be retained for the Diocesan Centre in order to reflect its contribution to the local area.

Bishop Nigel thanked St John’s the Baptist congregation, serving priests and assistants for their service over the years.

All agreed.

Rev Canon Fay Lamont took the chair.

Mr Lachlan Gunn, Lay Rep for St Pauls Cathedral spoke to the motion.

Motion: That this Synod resolves that Canon 54 of the Code of Canons ('Of Offences and Trials',) as presently written, requires review; requests the Faith and Order Board to cause to be carried out a comprehensive review of the said Canon, inviting where appropriate written submissions from interested parties, and, if considered appropriate, to propose amendments that may be considered by General Synod.

Background

Ladies and Gentlemen, why have we submitted this motion?

From July 2016 until very recently the congregation and clergy of St Pauls Cathedral have gone through a distressing, painful and frustrating period. As most of you may be aware, earlier in the year an accusation was made against our Provost by a member of the congregation. What would, in the business world that I inhabit, have been fairly straightforward process to ensure that the complaint was properly, and fairly considered, from both side, became a long drawn out nightmare.

The reasons for this boil down to the fact that, under Canon 54, the person accused is, from the outset, deemed to be guilty until proven innocent. This was traumatic for our Provost and his family, and hugely impacted on all of our wider Cathedral family. Had it not been for his strength, coupled with the wonderful support given to us all, by our then Cathedral Chaplain, the wounds to our Cathedral community could have been even worse. Thankfully, those wounds are now starting to heal. At a congregational Annual General Meeting last November, it was agreed that Canon 54 is not fit for purpose and, as the newly elected Lay Representative, I was asked to take the matter forward, through the appropriate channels, to ensure that the necessary changes are made in due course. As a result, the motion today has been put forward and I am speaking to you now.

So, what are the issues with Canon 54? It appears to be a relic from an earlier period and in no way, reflects the modern and progressive Church that the SEC is striving to be. For those of you who are Clergy, if an accusation is made against you, you too will suffer the trauma of the current process unless significant changes are made. You too would be guilty until proven innocent. The principles of fairness, openness and justice all appear to be sadly lacking in this SEC procedure. The principles of natural justice (the right to a fair hearing and rules to prevent bias) should also surely apply?

The SEC is happy to use State Legislation, and its Churches status as registered charities, to gain various advantages (particularly tax advantages) so now it is surely the time for it ensure that the way it manages its clergy follows the European Convention on Human Rights and also Employment Law. The attitude of society to religion is changing and a number of course cases in Scotland have considered the issue of whether Ministers of Religion have employment rights and have decided in favour of the Ministers. I think we would all agree that there is a distinction between the relationship between a member of the clergy and the SEC, which is a temporal one, and the relationship between the member of the clergy and the SEC which is a spiritual one.

Churches are becoming more business-orientated in respect of aspects of their organisation and the lines between Church and State are becoming more blurred and therefore open to forensic scrutiny.

In context Canon 54 is an anachronism and needs to change. In the case of St Paul's Cathedral:

- As there is no adequate preliminary procedure in place members of our congregation were interviewed by an official from the General Synod Office before anyone knew that any process was underway.
- There is no procedure for communicating any information to a congregation, which resulted in many of our Cathedral congregation learning about the suspension of our Provost by reading it in the press. By the time our Vestry was told, it was already in the online version of the Courier.
- Current employment law states that any suspension should be for as brief a period as possible. In our case it continued for four and a half months pending investigation. The investigation had been concluded prior to this, and that delay was in the coming together of the Preliminary Proceedings Committee to consider the matter. Astonishingly, Canon 54 provides no timescale within which they require to do so. During this time, our congregation was left almost entirely in the dark as to what was happening (if indeed anything at all!).
- We did not feel there is proper accountability built-in to the process for actions taken at the centre of the SEC, including by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee, or at the Diocesan Level. The process is opaque, not transparent.
- We found the language of Canon 54 to be archaic and not in keeping with current employment law procedures. The procedure itself is in many respects vague and lacking in specification and pays no regard to the needs of the congregation affected by the process. The result was a congregation that felt ignored, powerless and therefore frustrated and at times angry. Many congregations could have fallen apart under the strain.

The next time it could be your congregation!

I therefore ask that you support the motion that this Synod resolves that Canon 54 of the Code of Canons ('Of Offences and Trials',) as presently written, requires review; requests the Faith and Order Board to cause to be carried out a comprehensive review of the said Canon, inviting where appropriate written submission from interested parties, and, if considered appropriate, to propose amendments that may be considered by General Synod.

Thank you.

Rev Canon Kerry Dixon seconded.

Discussion and questions from those attending followed regarding the revision of Canon 54.

It was confirmed that it would be the responsibility of the Faith and Order Board to look at how this is to be reviewed and taken forward.

Bishop Nigel confirmed he was in full support of this proposal.

The motion was carried unanimously.

20. Call to Action – Mobilising for the Future

Presentation by Rev Canon Kerry Dixon. Q&A session and workshop.

All information from the last Synod had gone to the Diocesan Council. The feedback from today would be incorporated in discussion of next steps.

21. Bishop's Charge

Bishop Nigel addressed the group and announced his retirement in July of this year (2017). He thanked all of those who had assisted him over his time in post.

Discussion around the vacancy. Voting options discussed for 2 Clergy and 2 Lay representatives for the committee to assist with the recruitment process.

- Option 1 – Diocesan Council to decide – not accepted
- Option 2 – Another Synod to vote on committee members – not accepted
- Option 3 – Postal or email vote – agreed by those in attendance
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22. Annual Report and Accounts 2016: Budget and Quota 2017 Paper S

Allan Duffus discussed the accounts previously sent out by email to members of Synod.

Accounts

He provided a commentary on various aspects of the account;

- Financial activities – continued reduction of stipend support; outstanding quota; reduced rental income
- Deficit had been budgeted at £10,000 but was only £4825
- With funds just over two million the point was approaching that a full audit would be required resulting in £2000 to £3000 of additional costs
- Other debts besides outstanding quota

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Mr Robert Pemble and seconded by Rev Canon Michael Turner.

Budget

A rise in quota from £78,000 to £90,911 is being sought. Those present expressed concern that one third of financial schedules had not been returned.

Acceptance of the accounts and 2017 budget was proposed by Mr Robert Pemble and seconded by Rev Canon Michael Turner.

The Diocesan Treasurer was thanked for his work.

23. Any Other Competent Business

None.

24. Vote of Thanks: The Dean

Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger thanked Bishop Nigel for his conduct of the days business. As this would be his last Diocesan Synod he also thanked him for his leadership and his episcopacy. He wished him well in his retirement.

25. Date of Next Meeting of Synod

Saturday 10 March 2018

26. Confirmation of the Acts of Synod, Final Prayers, the Blessing and Dismissal.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR THE YEAR ENDED EVE OF ADVENT 2017

Charge with name of church	Rector or Priest in Charge	Persons of all ages belonging to congregation	Persons on Communicant's Roll	Persons baptised (under 6 years)	Persons baptised (over 6 years)	Children admitted to Communion	Persons Confirmed	Marriages Solemnised	Burials or Cremations	Celebrations (public & private)	Communicants at Eastertide	Communicants on Sunday next before Advent	Total Attendance on Sunday next before Advent	Total Communion made throughout the year	Total Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
Cathedral Church of St Paul	Very Rev Jeremy Auld	223	177	3	0	2	0	1	3	162	269	132	151	6587	138
St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath	Rev Peter Mead	73	67	1	0	0	0	0	9	209	56	36	39	2593	0
St Peter, Auchmithie	Rev Peter Mead	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	10	4	4	0	0
St Andrew, Brechin	Rev Canon Fay Lamont:IR	67	27	1	0	0	0	1	2	130	40	23	24	1781	11
St Mary, Broughty Ferry	Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger	90	82	1	0	0	0	0	1	198	70	32	32	1879	91
The Holy Rood, Carnoustie		132	99	1	0	0	0	1	2	82	64	32	38	1786	40
St Phillips, Catterline	(Figures with St James)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St John the Baptist, Drumlithie	Rev Canon Michael Turner	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	5	11	0
St Palladius, Drumtochty	Rev Canon Michael Turner	23	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	5	5	41	0
St John the Baptist, Dundee		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Luke, Dundee	Rev Kerry Dixon	45	29	0	0	0	3	0	1	46	22	12	15	386	94
St Margaret, Dundee	Rev David Shepherd: IR	120	39	2	0	0	0	0	1	78	29	13	14	852	7
St Margaret's Home, Dundee *Figures incorporated in St Paul's Cathedral	Very Rev Jeremy Auld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Martin, Dundee	Very Rev Francis Bridger:IR	75	29	5	4	0	0	0	3	108	27	16	16	1302	156
St Mary Magdalene, Dundee	Rev David Shepherd	373	154	10	0	1	0	5	25	193	129	70	85	3945	112
St Ninian, Dundee	Rev Canon Fay Lamont	110	69	10	5	1	0	4	12	70	32	27	28	1441	31
St Salvador, Dundee	Rev Clive Clapson	68	52	1	0	0	1	0	3	244	74	27	59	2746	40
University of Dundee, Dundee	Rev Professor Annalu Waller	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Andrew, Fasque	Rev Canon Michael Turner	28	18	0	0	0	0	7	0	14	9	4	4	83	0
All Saints, Glencarse	Rev Kirrilee Reid	131	97	0	0	0	0	5	0	73	65	26	28	1205	66
St David of Scotland, Inverbervie	Rev Peter Mead:IR	13	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	12	5	5	354	0
All Souls, Invergowrie	Rev Ashley Cummins	62	44	1	0	0	0	1	0	109	30	10	11	1038	14
St Laurence, Laurencekirk	Rev Canon Michael Turner	75	39	0	0	0	0	0	1	62	19	8	8	441	14
Holy Trinity, Monifieth	Rev Kenneth Gibson	79	62	5	0	0	0	0	6	115	35	24	84	1340	0
St Mary and St Peter, Montrose	Rev Peter Mead: IR	123	80	4	0	0	0	1	8	120	50	27	27	2178	6
St Ternan, Muchalls	Dr Peter Smart: IMC	57	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	31	20	20	315	720
St James, Stonehaven & St Philip's, Catterline	Dr Peter Smart: IMC	129	75	0	0	0	0	0	2	92	35	38	41	1371	0
St Drostan, Tarfside	Rev Jane Nelson	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	12	5	4	4	80	0
	2017 Totals	2124	1310	46	9	4	4	26	81	2280	1120	600	747	33755	1540
	2016 Totals	2249	1323	54	9	13	16	39	105	2287	1232	647	731	33307	2139
	Increase/(decrease)	-125	-13	-8	0	-9	-12	-13	-24	-7	-112	-47	16	448	-599

STATISTICS (Returns relating to gender)

Name of Church	Persons of all ages belonging to congregation			Persons on Communicants' Roll			Communicants on Sunday next before Advent			Attendance on Sunday next before Advent		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
	Dundee Cathedral Church of St. Paul	104	119	223	78	99	177	52	80	132	60	91
Arbroath St. Mary the Virgin	25	48	73	23	44	67	12	24	36	15	24	39
Auchmithie St. Peter	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	4	4
Brechin St. Andrew	26	41	67	14	13	27	6	17	23	6	18	24
Broughty Ferry St. Mary	32	58	90	30	52	82	7	25	32	7	25	32
Carnoustie The Holy Rood	44	88	132	29	70	99	10	22	32	3	35	38
Catterline *Combined with Stonehaven St. Philips												
Drumlithie St. John the Baptist	5	7	12	3	3	6	3	2	5	3	2	5
Drumtochty St. Palladius	10	13	23	5	6	11	2	3	5	2	3	5
Dundee St. Luke	23	22	45	14	15	29	6	6	12	7	8	15
Dundee St. Margaret	52	68	120	15	24	39	3	10	13	4	10	14
Dundee * combined with St Martin's St. John the Baptist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dundee St. Martin	19	56	75	4	25	29	4	12	16	4	12	16
Dundee St. Mary Magdalene	154	219	373	59	95	154	27	43	70	34	51	85
Dundee St. Ninian	33	77	110	19	50	69	8	19	27	9	19	28
Dundee St. Salvador	29	39	68	21	31	52	12	15	27	19	30	59
Dundee University of Dundee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fasque St. Andrew	12	16	28	7	11	18	3	1	4	3	1	4
Glencarse All Saints	58	73	131	38	59	97	13	13	26	14	14	28
Inverbervie St. David of Scotland	4	9	13	3	8	11	1	4	5	1	4	5
Invergowrie All Souls	22	40	62	12	32	44	4	6	10	5	6	11
Laurencekirk St. Laurence	26	49	75	13	26	39	3	5	8	3	5	8
Monifieth Holy Trinity	38	41	79	28	34	62	8	16	24	36	48	84
Montrose St. Mary and St. Peter	41	82	123	29	51	80	12	15	27	12	15	27
Muchalls St. Ternan	21	36	57	15	20	35	9	11	20	9	11	20
Stonehaven St. James	56	73	129	30	45	75	13	25	38	14	27	41
Tarfside St. Drostan	4	6	10	3	5	8	2	2	4	2	2	4

Diocesan Personnel - Appointments 2017

Reverend Catherine Gibson retired as Priest in Charge of St Andrew's, Brechin (24 February 2018)

Reverend Samantha Ferguson Priest in Charge St Mary and St Peter, Montrose and St David Of Scotland, Inverbervie moved to be Rector of St Michael's Church, Ellie and St John's Church, Pittenweem (4 September 2017)

Reverend Canon Fay Lamont no longer Diocesan Mission Officer but appointed Diocesan Ministry Officer (May 2017)

Reverend Canon Kerry Dixon appointed Diocesan Mission Officer (May 2017)

Diocese of Brechin Report of the Election of Lay Representatives and Alternates for 2018

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|---|--|
| <p>1. ARBROATH
LR Mrs Evelyn Fordyce
ALR Mr John Lansley</p> | <p>13. DUNDEE ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
LR Dr Cathy Mitchell
ALR Mr Lachlan Gunn</p> |
| <p>2. AUCHMITHIE
LR Mrs Margaret Brown
ALR Mrs Susan Smith</p> | <p>14. DUNDEE – ST SALVADOR
LR Mrs Katie Clapson
ALR Mr Arthur Lynch</p> |
| <p>3. BRECHIN
LR Mr James Arbuthnott
ALR Mrs Elizabeth Howson</p> | <p>15. FASQUE
LR Mr I Thornton-Kemsley
ALR Vacancy</p> |
| <p>4. BROUGHTY FERRY
LR Mr Laurie Bidwell
ALR Mr David Stanley</p> | <p>16. GLENCARSE
LR Mrs Dorothy Maingot
ALR Ms Lorne Heriot Maitland</p> |
| <p>5. CARNOUSTIE
LR Mrs Gillian Millar
ALR Vacancy</p> | <p>17. INVERBERVIE
LR Mrs Mary Bowker
ALR Mr John Hitchon</p> |
| <p>6. DRUMLITHIE
LR Mr N Constantine
ALR Vacancy</p> | <p>18. INVERGOWRIE
LR Mrs Barbara Currie
ALR Mrs Val Beveridge</p> |
| <p>7. DRUMTOCHTY
LR Mrs Helen Sanderson
ALR Mrs Georgina Middleton</p> | <p>19. LAURENCEKIRK
LR Mrs J Gaye Thornton-Kemsley
ALR Mrs Michelle Constantine</p> |
| <p>8. DUNDEE- ST LUKE
LR Mrs Mandy Budden
ALR Mrs Helen Stewart</p> | <p>20. MONIFIETH
LR Mrs Linda Walls
ALR Mrs Dorothy McFawns</p> |
| <p>9. DUNDEE – ST MARGARET
LR Mr Robson St Clair
ALR Vacancy</p> | <p>21. MONTROSE
LR Mrs Georgina Mallie
ALR Mrs Liz Whitson</p> |
| <p>10. DUNDEE – ST MARTIN
LR Mr Iain Turnbull
ALR Vacancy</p> | <p>22. MUCHALLS
LR Mrs Irene Butler
ALR Mrs Susan Manson</p> |
| <p>11. DUNDEE – ST MARY MAGDALENE
LR Mrs Denise Scobie
ALR Mrs Judy Robinson</p> | <p>23. STONEHAVEN with CATTERLINE
LR Professor Peter Sharp
ALR Mrs Arma Iles</p> |
| <p>12. DUNDEE – ST NINIAN
LR Mrs Vina Strachan
ALR Ms Fiona McDade</p> | <p>24. TARFSIDE
LR Mr Peter Nelson
ALR Mr Kenneth Goddard</p> |

Report from the Standing Committee & Diocesan Council Report

The Standing Committee has not met in the current year. During the Episcopal Vacancy its responsibilities have been carried out by the Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Council Report

The Diocesan Council has met eight times since Diocesan Synod met in March 2017. *Ex officio* membership comprises: Bishop (Chair), Dean, Mission Officer, Ministry Officer, Convener of the Diocesan Buildings Committee, and Diocesan Secretary. In addition, two clerical members (Very Revd Jeremy Auld; Revd Samantha Ferguson) and two lay members (Mrs Karen Willey & Mrs Patricia Millar) were elected for the current term of office by their respective synodical houses. Mrs Sharon Loudon, Bishop's PA, has acted as minutes secretary.

Since June 2017, Bishop Nigel, Michael Duncan (Diocesan Secretary) and Samantha Ferguson have stood down.

During the episcopal vacancy, the Council has fulfilled the responsibilities of the Diocesan Standing Committee in producing the Diocesan Profile for the episcopal election and in disposing of the Bishop's House in order to purchase a suitable replacement prior to the arrival of Bishop Nigel's successor.

Other responsibilities have included: considering proposals for the use of the St John's premises; commissioning a professional fire risk assessment of these premises; receiving and considering regular reports from Diocesan Officers; developing strategy for mission hubs within the diocese; fulfilling the Council's fiduciary duties according to paragraph 8(a) of the Diocesan Synod Constitution.

I am grateful for the support and commitment of all members of the Council and invite the Synod to recognise their signal contribution to the ongoing life of the diocese.

Francis Bridger

Dean

fbridger@yahoo.ie

Diocesan Mission Officer Report

At the last two Synods I presented the outline mission strategy for the Diocese, as laid out below. It was agreed that the aim of the Diocese is:

'To be a diocese of outwardly focused Christian communities, dependent on God, giving generously, serving open-handedly, and worshipping with enthusiasm!'

However our purpose is not to create one specific style of worshipping community, but rather to contextually appropriate different styles of worship. We therefore aspire to a diverse and mixed-economy approach - not looking for a church made up of small independent, autonomous, self-serving groups doing what they fancy, in the style that suits them (which is always a danger) – in a context in which there really is a flow of communication, good news and challenge between different styles of church life. While this context might respond to different personalities and different stages of the journey, we believe that it is Jesus that holds this together and not a particular style of worship. The unifying factor in all of this is therefore our dependency on God, a focus on those who do not come to church, our generosity and service, and with our shared enthusiasm for worship.

To achieve this aim, we are committing ourselves to five strategic goals:

1. The whole Diocese to be focused on mission as a priority, and increasingly becoming more effective in mission.
2. That 25% of worshippers are aged between thirteen and twenty-four.
3. That we will be fully resourced in both ministry and administration.
4. That our church properties and resources are rationalised.
5. That every congregation commits themselves to Jesus, and actively lives out their faith in the local community.

In our desire to work more collaboratively across the Diocese and be effective in achieving these goals, it is necessary to organise the Diocese into Mission Hubs. These hubs will relate to geographical areas and the associated charges. Each charge will be encouraged to participate in developing a mission plan for the hub they are in. Each hub's plan will have the same aim and strategic goals as the Diocese (as above), but the methods of achieving these goals will be different in each hub depending on their context.

After the last Synod it was intended that the Bishop and the Mission Officer would do a 'roadshow style' tour of the Diocese to communicate this vision. However, with Bishop Nigel's retirement this has not happened. Similarly, we had also intended to begin to flesh out the five goals, starting with lowering the age of the Diocese. Sam, Kirrilee and I had agreed to meet and take this forward, but as they have both recently left the Diocese that also has not been possible.

Nevertheless, discussions have begun with St James's Stonehaven and St Ternan's Muchalls about creating the Diocese's first mission hub. It is not yet clear where these discussions will lead, but we have made a good start.

As Mission Officer I have also produced some statistics to help the Diocesan Council and the wider church better understand the reality of our situation, and the need to proactively engage in mission and evangelism. From these findings it is clear that each charge needs to continue with renewed vigour to engage with mission and evangelism.

The Centre of Mission, set up as a partnership between the Diocese and Church Army, has continued to engage people in mission. The vision is for everyone everywhere to encounter God's love and be empowered to help transform their communities through faith shared in words and action. This is to be achieved through the DARE strategy:

Doing evangelism

Advocating evangelism

Resourcing evangelism

Enabling evangelism

As such, everything that we do should be underpinned by Church Army's values (GRACE UP):

Generous - We want to model God's generosity to others.

Risk-taking - We have a long heritage as a pioneering movement. We give colleagues permission to seek to do new things.

Accountable - We are accountable to God and others. We want to be reliable and live responsibly to high professional standards.

Collaborative - We are committed to partner with those who share our values; we believe it enhances our work.

Expectant - We are hope-filled, expecting God to do new things among us.

Unconditional - We will serve anyone regardless of their age, gender, race, sexuality, ability, status or circumstances because God loves everyone, and everyone is significant in His eyes.

Prayerful - We listen for God's voice and want to be obedient to Him. We want to be like Jesus in our actions and witness.

Current activities of the Centre of Mission include:

- Café Church at St Luke's
- School Chaplaincy
- Football Chaplaincy
- Bus project
- Pirate Monks
- Soup and Soul at the Cathedral
- Church at the Klozet Nightclub

St Luke's Downfield has continued to grow from a small group of elderly people to a café-style congregation of forty-five people (when they all turn up!). Currently our average weekly attendance has risen from five to thirty over the past three years.

In the coming year we hope to start a second Café Church service in Stobswell. There is already a small group of local people ready to form the basis of the new congregation.

This autumn we will run a 'Stepping into Evangelism' course that will be filled with practical advice, tips and exercises to help individuals and congregations reach out to others in words and action.

We also hope to introduce 'Faith Pictures', a short course designed to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about what they believe. The course aims to be accessible and light-hearted, without jargon or inflexible methods. It has a number of emphases not always found in faith-sharing courses, and these include the avoidance of 'one size fits all' models and the importance of honesty and listening.

We are beginning to train a St Luke's Family Worship team who we hope to train in Godly Play, Messy Church and other forms of fresh expressions. It is hoped that this team will be available to other churches in the Diocese who may need help in starting something new.

It is a challenging but exciting time to be in the Diocese of Brechin! If the Mission Officer or the Centre of Mission can be of help or support to you, please do feel free to make contact.

Kerry Dixon

Diocesan Mission Officer

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Diocesan Ministry Officer Report Vocations & Training Update

You may wonder if you have a 'vocation', and the answer is 'Yes', because we all do.

Each one of us is called to become fully human, and to join in the great adventure of sharing God's love in the world, alerting it to God's presence in our midst. Each one of us has been given gifts that we can offer for this service, and we are invited to discover how best we may use them.

God calls some people to help the Church's mission of love in a public way, appointing them to be a focus of ministry and to take responsibility for aspects of the Church's life and growth. They may become lay readers, deacons or priests.

Perhaps you are wondering whether God is calling you to this kind of ministry. You may have a strong inner sense that God is drawing you towards it. Or perhaps other people have mentioned it to you.

Your first point of contact is your Rector or Chaplain and then the Diocesan Director of Ordinands or Diocesan Ministry Officer.

Our thanks to **Rev Canon Kirrilee Reid** who worked very hard with those interested in Vocations in the Church and with training those already doing the job of Ministry over the last few years. After her resignation last May Bishop Nigel asked me to take on this role. I was very grateful for the induction by Rev Canon Alison Peden our Provincial Director of Ordinands who has worked very hard with the new Scottish Episcopal Institute and the College of Bishops to facilitate those who are seeking to minister in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Bishop Nigel left me this remit:

- 1) *to mentor the progress of our vocational seekers and ordination candidates together with Canon Alison Peden Provincial Director of Ordinands*
- 2) *to keep an eye on ministry issues in the Diocese, together with the Dean*

The Rev Pete Mead was appointed last year by Bishop Nigel as our Diocesan Adviser in Ministry and Pete will journey with the candidates through their initial training period.

Roxanne Campbell was well into the process and completed her Bishops Advisory Panel in July 2017. She began her training at the SEI in September 2017.

Paul Hibbert will go before the Provincial Selection Panel in Spring 2018 and will hopefully return to complete previous training at SEI later this year.

Two other candidates are in the process of discerning their vocations and others are welcome to begin the process.

Funeral Poverty Report

I continued to represent the Diocese on Faith in Community Dundee and the main task this year has been tackling the issue of Funeral Poverty and in particular the creation of a leaflet for public use which has been distributed throughout the Diocese to help people to discuss the issue of funerals before the time comes to organise one.

In 2014 St. Ninian's Mid Craigie encountered the issue of Funeral Poverty head on. Funeral Poverty is a generic term used to encompass a range of issues around the difficulties experienced by people with insufficient funds upfront to pay for a funeral. The issue of Funeral Poverty was and is now is currently being highlighted by both the Scottish & Westminster Governments.

As a representative of Brechin Diocese I began to working with the Church in Society committee of Dundee Presbytery to see what could be done to alleviate this issue.

In 2016 we got together with Jacky Close of Faith and Community Dundee who brought together a group of community and strategic partners in Dundee with the aim of spotlighting the issue of Funeral Poverty and investigating possible solutions. We looked into the challenges people face, the market place in terms of funeral and support services and explored a number of possible options to help alleviate Funeral Poverty.

**Diocesan Ministry Officer Report
Vocations & Training Update**

Through Jacky's perseverance we were fortunate to get Scottish Government Funding to employ 2 members of staff to carry out some research. They completed an in-depth analysis of the funeral industry and the strategic landscape. In addition, to fully understand the challenges and impact of funeral poverty we conducted extensive consultation across the city including Community Outreach meetings, Community Survey, Stakeholder Interviews and a Stakeholder Consultation Event.

Despite being an event we all inevitably face, for most people funerals are an unplanned expense with the deceased often leaving no savings, life insurance or funeral plan.

People often struggle to consider cost when organising the funeral as they feel it does not honour the deceased. This can be exacerbated by the general reluctance to discuss this sensitive subject hence many are unaware of the deceased's wishes.

Although the recent introduction of price comparison sites and new affordable packages are to be welcomed, it can still be difficult to identify essential expenses and acquire comparative costs as an unexpected purchase many seek a quick solution rather than shopping around. Those who are less well-off are often treated unfavourably, being asked to finance significantly larger than average deposits. Direct cremations, where there is no memorial service, are now being offered as a low cost alternative however it is vital that they do not become the only option available to those in poverty.

While there is no single solution to funeral poverty we feel empowering families to give their loved one a dignified send off without causing financial hardship, the problems can be alleviated by the following:

- A one-stop shop funeral advice service to provide dedicated support at the time of bereavement when people are at their most vulnerable.
- Increased awareness of funeral and bereavement benefits and support to assess eligibility and submit applications.
- Affordable finance to be made available and promoted widely e.g. local credit unions already offer loan options and are being encouraged to develop specialist funeral products.
- Funeral planning to become the norm hence the need to encourage dialogue is vital. The current leaflet available goes some way towards this. The failure of many pre-paid funeral plans to cover costs is another matter worth highlighting.
- Local authorities to ensure burial and cremation costs are pitched at affordable levels and consider implementing a trusted trader scheme similar to the East Ayrshire model.
- Continued local and national campaigning to maintain the spotlight on the issue of funeral poverty and promote change and increased transparency in the industry.

Rev Canon Fay Lamont
Diocesan Ministry Officer
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Diocesan Buildings Committee Report

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Membership of DBC in 2017 was:

Prof. Peter Sharp OBE (Convenor),

The Dean: * The Very Rev. Dr Francis Bridger

The Diocesan Secretary* Mr Michael Duncan (retired during year)

Dr David Bertie

Mr Melvin Christie

Mr Robert Hamilton

Mrs Judy Robinson

**ex-officio*

Appointments took effect from Diocesan Synod 7th March 2015, with the exception of the Convenor who was elected at the Diocesan Synod 11th March 2017.

In attendance

The Bishop: The Right Revd, Dr Nigel Peyton (retired during year)

2. MEETINGS in 2017

There have been no meetings of the committee. All its work has been carried out on-line.

3. APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL UNDER CANON 35

Since the last report the Committee considered, and, for its part, approved applications from the following, which were also approved by The Bishop of Brechin, The Right Revd. Dr Nigel Peyton or the Dean acting on behalf of Bishop John Armes.

3.1 St Ternan's, Muchalls. An experimental reordering request to remove two pews to create more space at the front of the church. The change was approved by DBC for a period of 6 months.

3.2 St James', Stonehaven. To create two Exhibition Spaces at the West End of the church. One exhibition will be describing the history of the Episcopal Church the second exhibition will celebrate the work of the Wadsworth Organ.

3.3 St Mary's, Broughty Ferry for:

- a) Construction of a new access ramp from the public pathway to the main door.
- b) Construction of an external extension to south rear side of the church so as to provide accessible toilets and a small kitchen.
- c) Removal of the pews and levelling of the nave and baptistry floors to a consistent height throughout.
- d) Provision of good quality, comfortable seating as a replacement for pews.
- e) Repairing and redecoration of walls

3.4 Holy Trinity, Monifieth, for the installation of external lighting.

3.5 St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath. An experimental reordering request to remove some pews from the back of the church to allow them to hold a Mother and Toddlers Group in the church. This change was approved by DBC for a period of 6 months.

Diocesan Buildings Committee Report

The Diocesan Buildings Committee has two main, and clearly defined, areas of responsibility: discharging the responsibilities of the Diocese under Canon 35 and ensuring that properties in the diocese are maintained to an adequate standard. A full description of the committee's duties can be found on the Diocesan website (www.thedioceseofbrechin.org).

Peter Sharp
Convenor Diocesan Buildings Committee
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Diocesan Communication Officer Report

Membership

Karen Willey, Sharon Loudon (Diocesan Office and Brechin Bulletin), Rev Michael Turner (Grapevine) and Linda Walls

The Remit of the Group is:

1. To provide a channel of communication between Province, Diocese and Congregation;
2. To further an awareness of the church, its work and mission through the media; and,
3. To provide help to congregations with regard to publications and communication

As well as the aims outlined above, I feel it is important that there is communication between dioceses and between congregations.

What has happened in 2017:

Diocesan Website – Sharon regularly updates the website with news and events. It has been decided to keep the existing website and put off revamping it until we have a Bishop in place.

Information and Communications Board – I have attended the meetings of the I and C Board at the General Synod Office and reported back to the Diocesan Council. An online magazine has been launched to replace the Inspires magazine – Pisky.Scot – it is well worth subscribing to. The SEC website has a lot of useful information and I would recommend it to vestry members

Last year I asked you how I could help you better and I ask you that again this year. I feel we are all finding things difficult and have our heads down working for our own charges and have little time to think about anything else. I believe we have similar issues and that we could find support and encouragement from each other. After all we all have the same goal and good communication, by whatever method, could help us share ideas and achieve our aims.

The Diocese pays a significant amount of money to the Province on your behalf; what would you like to see the Province doing in return? What would help you achieve your aims?

I would welcome any thoughts on the above.

Karen Willey
Diocesan Communication Officer
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Protection of Vulnerable Groups Report

As the Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese I am asked to report to members of Synod and to remind such Members, and through them to the Churches, the importance of safeguarding in the Church.

Important points to note are:

- Protecting all vulnerable people, whether children or adults, is everyone's responsibility as the church must be a safe place at all times.
- The SEC takes safeguarding seriously with a Provincial Committee and a Safeguarding and Depute Safeguarding Officer at the General Synod Office.
- Each Diocese is responsible for Safeguarding and each Synod appoints an appropriate person as the Diocesan Officer.
- All Diocesan Safeguarding Officers meet together at least once a year with the Provincial Officer.
- Church Vestries are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding is carried out correctly and thoroughly with regard to all Church activities.
- The Vestry is responsible for appointing a PVG Coordinator for the Charge (there may be one Coordinator for adults and one for Children) and the name/s submitted to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Their name and contact details should be displayed on the safeguarding poster in the Church and Church Hall.
- The PVG Coordinator ensures that the Church work is carried out in accordance with National Safeguarding Law and the SEC Policies [See Canon 65]
All information about this can be obtained from the SEC website:
<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/safeguarding/>
- PVG Coordinators are asked to report quarterly to Vestry meetings, and especially to submit a written report to the AGM. This gives a continuing reminder to Vestry and church members the importance of vigilance and reporting any possible concerns to the appropriate people (such as the Rector, Diocesan Safe-guarding Officer or even the Police and Social Services if there is an urgent safeguarding matter.
- It should be noted that both OSCR and Ecclesiastical Insurance are keeping a close eye on safeguarding policies in all Churches.

The role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is to monitor the measures that each Vestry has in place to help safeguard vulnerable people and is willing to visit Charges, by invitation, to talk through any issues or to speak with the Congregation generally.

Towards the end of 2017 emails, with the new Vestry Protection record attached, were sent to all Vestry Secretaries and PVG Coordinators asking them to complete and return the Record and to provide a copy of the Safeguarding AGM report. This gives a good indication of what is being done (or not being done) in each Charge about safeguarding. I am pleased to report that all the 26 Churches contacted (some a few times) have sent in a return. Five Charges have used the older version of the Vestry Protection Record and it is hoped in 2018 all will use the more up to date record. Twelve Charges have sent an AGM report; all the other Churches sent bullet points or odd notes, except one Charge that did not send any report with the old Checklist. Two Churches sent a separate training record and a few Coordinators said they would appreciate updated training.

Training - The Provincial Officer has said he does not wish to run a training session in this Diocese until a new bishop is installed, however we were invited by St Andrews Diocese to join in two of their training days and 5 went to the first held in May and 5 to the second at Glenrothes in October 2017. I attended both. As there are two new Charge Coordinators in the Diocese and others who need to upgrade training I will ask the Provincial Officer if a training day can be arranged as it may take some time now to appoint a new Bishop. I will contact the Charges and also put a notice in the Brechin Bulletin when a date is fixed. St James's Church, Stonehaven invited me to preach about

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Report

Safeguarding (I did offer to talk about it over tea rather than in a sermon, but they wanted the theological aspect) so using the Dives and Lazarus story [Luke 16 v 19 – 31] I suggested we should be careful about being indifferent and not noticing the need for support.

Charges - I am pleased to report that all Charges have a Safeguarding Officer, though one person covering a group of Churches has been ill and has not had a chance to attend the Churches. It is hoped that the Vestry members in each case are keeping an eye open for possible problems and may consider appointing a Depute until the Coordinator is well again.

Photography and internet - during the year I emailed all Coordinators to remind them that consent must be obtained from parents or guardians before photographs of children may be taken and displayed whether in church or on the internet. There is a specific form for this on the SEC Safeguarding website and can be downloaded. Two or three Coordinators wrote about this in their AGM reports.

General information - all members of the Church who wish to know more can find the information on the SEC website – see link above. With the media constantly on the watch for any possible breach of safeguarding, especially in the Church, it is so important that we are all seen to be above reproach. As all Synod members will be aware there has been much in the media lately and the SEC works closely with the Church of England and also other denominations in Scotland to share ideas and information so we can put across the best teaching and advice.

I am grateful to the PVG Coordinators and Vestry Secretaries for undertaking their roles over the past year as we look forward to another year of keeping our vulnerable people safe and risk free.

Denise Herbert
Diocesan Protection Officer
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Companion Diocese Links Officer Report

During the past year, we have been active in working to develop our involvement with our Companions in Iowa and Swaziland.

Regular online contact with Iowa and Swaziland is well established and has been strengthened by exchange visits where Companions have travelled to spend time working together and sharing in worship, discussion, cultural visits and study.

A highlight of 2017 was the working visit to Swaziland in September. Notices on our website and in Brechin Bulletin, explained the visit's purpose and invited participation. Two young adult members from St Ninian's Church joined me on the two week visit.

We flew from Glasgow, via Dubai, to Johannesburg where we met up with a group of twelve adults from our Companion Diocese of Iowa. We all travelled together, by road, to Swaziland in a hired minibus and that road trip gave time to renew existing friendships or to start to get to know each other. The Iowan group included 5 women priests, three serving and two retired.

In Swaziland we were based in Mbabane and stayed at Thokosa, the Church Centre. As is usual in Swaziland, our programme was full and involved us in a range of work projects selected by Bishop Ellinah. It was all 'real' work – and included a hard but worthwhile task working with Swazi Companions on a river clean up project. The work projects were varied and made good use of the group's skills and expertise.

A small group of us worked in Mbabane with the Cathedral's Home Based Care (HBC) team and then travelled with the team far into the hills to provide rural, roadside clinics. Another group established a new Diocesan Library at the Diocesan Office, while another group helped Swazi Companions to clear land and plant fruit trees for a new parish vegetable garden.

Two of us from Brechin spent some time undertaking a detailed audit and review of the various projects we help to support in Swaziland and helping to identify priority areas for change or future development. Our third Brechin participant, who is a health care professional, spent some challenging time working in a Red Cross Clinic.

As a whole group, we travelled to some deeply rural communities to visit Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) where our dioceses help to support feeding stations for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). We saw at first hand the levels of poverty along with the isolation and the on-going effects of the long drought. We also saw the resilience and optimism of the people and were able to help one community to prepare foundations for a communal kitchen. People were warm and welcoming wherever we went and genuinely pleased that we had made time to visit them – it is always humbling when people who have so little are so generous in their hospitality.

We spent memorable days with all three dioceses together in Swaziland - living, worshiping, working hard and enjoying shared experiences. Those returning to Swaziland were delighted to be back there and those visiting for the first time all said they felt it was a life-altering and enriching experience. I have prepared a series of three illustrated articles on this visit for Pisky.Scot, which give more details of our shared experiences.

I was honoured to be invited to visit the Diocese of Iowa in October and travelled there to participate in a very busy programme of services and meetings around churches in Iowa City and Des Moines and then had the great pleasure of driving long distances into the Mid West to experience the different ways of living and of 'being church' in those communities.

The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa was just completing a 12 month Revival and so I had the special experience of sharing in some services and social events organised to review and round off that year of focused work. The church communities were also seeking to identify priorities for the follow-up year under the heading of Growing Iowa Leaders.

I will write about this in our publications, to share some details of the experience.

The Diocese of Iowa's annual Convention was held over a three day weekend, as a residential event in a large hotel in Des Moines. People travelled from all across their huge diocese to attend and there were around three hundred at some of the sessions.

Companion Diocese Links Officer Report

People were actively engaged in the various sessions and there was a sense of positivity and enthusiasm.

I was invited to address Convention to share something of our Diocese's history and current situation and also to talk a bit about my role as Companion Links Officer and my experiences of our shared commitment to our Companions in Swaziland.

It was certainly an interesting and worthwhile visit and people everywhere were warm and welcoming. It was a pleasure to meet up again with Iowa friends I have come to know through sharing time with them in Swaziland and also in Brechin.

Unfortunately, I had to cut short my visit for family reasons and return home early.

I am delighted that we are able to welcome Rev Steve Godfrey to our Synod this year. He is Rector of St Andrew's Church in Des Moines and also Diocesan Missioner for Congregational Development and Transition.

I enjoyed sharing in a Sunday morning Eucharist at St Andrew's and meeting afterwards with members of his very active church and unusual extended congregation.

We have received an invitation from the Archbishop of Canterbury to participate in a Commonwealth Big Lunch in March – April this year. There isn't too much time to get organised if our diocese decides to participate. More information and publicity will be available soon.

I have recently received an unexpected and most generous gift of some beautiful clerical stoles, which I am charged to give to priests in some of the small, poorer parishes in Swaziland. If I have the permission of the donor, I hope to write about this gift in one of our publications. I think it is a story worth sharing.

In the past year, our fundraising efforts for Swaziland have again been successful and I am most grateful for all the donations we have received.

At the time of writing this, the total amount transferred to the Social Development account at the Diocesan Office in Mbabane, since our last Synod, is £9,406. That is down by around £700 from last year and perhaps reflects our current position and increasing demands on available funds. It is a most generous amount from our small diocese and reflects the kindness of our people.

A couple of charges remain actively and regularly engaged in this outreach work; some others continue to give following seasonal appeals and other fundraising events.

During the past year, we have again been fortunate to receive a generous grant from SECMA to support our involvement in Swaziland. I am most grateful for and encouraged by their on-going support of our efforts.

As they say in Swaziland – 'Every brown penny matters'.

We have a robust process in place to oversee the receipt and disbursement of funds and we can assure all donors that the funds we transfer do reach the intended recipients safely and fairly promptly.

Holy Trinity Church, Monifieth continues to process all funds collected from our diocese and I am indebted to Keith Florence, the Church Treasurer, for working with me to manage this on behalf of the diocese. Any donations to be given by cheque should be made payable to Holy Trinity Church.

My thanks and gratitude go to all who continue to support our Companion Links' work.

Please continue to hold Swaziland and Iowa in your thoughts and prayers as we look ahead to our continuing involvement in 2018.

Patricia A. Millar
Diocesan Companion Links Officer
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Diocesan Youth Officer (Provincial Youth Network Representative) Youth Report

April 2017 – February 2018

This past year has been one of change for not only myself, but for the diocese as a whole. Since I last wrote for the Synod, the Brechin Youth Group has been moving along with a number of projects: we have had a few events for young people in our diocese as well as creating further plan for the rest of this year. Unfortunately, it is always difficult to balance time constraints for each individual, and as a result a number of events have not gone forward as planned.

Diocese Events

With everyone away for summer (myself included for the most part) I found it wise to focus on the Glenalmond Youth Week. This is the highlight of the youth calendar in the Scottish Episcopal Church and is found at the tail end of July each year. I attend in my capacity as a youth leader, and it fills me with faith to see such a large amount of young people who attend and actively want to grow in faith and learn together.

In November we had a youth event which involved myself and others from St Ninian's with whom I have been working in a wider context in regards to our links with Swaziland and Iowa. This event was a fun games night that everyone enjoyed and was attended by a record high of 11 young people. This is extremely encouraging. The evening started off with us attending the evening service in St Mary Magdalene's and then moving onto the food and games part. These events give me a lot of joy to host as it not only feels like you've accomplished something but it gives you the strength to go on. The raw enthusiasm and encouraging energy from this diocese and its youth is exhilarating.

Interdiocesan Events and Next Steps

There are a number of events outside Brechin that have happened or are on the horizon. Both Edinburgh and Glasgow have hosted youth events that have been a large success and I have taken many pointers from the way they conduct them. As well as this I have been attending Youth Council meetings to keep up to date on what is happening around the rest of the province and reporting back on our own progress.

In the coming months I intend to focus more on helping the young people in our diocese with the transition from schools and training institutions to whatever it is they will be heading into, as this is indeed a daunting time, and speaking from my own experience it can be quite heavy on your mind. By helping with this aspect of young people's lives, we are allowing them to succeed and reach their full potential. Furthermore, this month and in April there will be youth events happening, both in Perth and Dunoon. The information for these can be received on the PYC website and also myself if requested. As always, Glenalmond is on the 22nd – 28th of July and is something no-one wants to miss, so get your applications in early to avoid disappointment.

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

Benjamin Franklin

Robson St Clair
Diocesan Youth Officer
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Diocesan Elections and Appointments

1. Diocesan Officials

Diocesan Secretary	Vacant	
Diocesan Treasurer	Mr Allan Duffus	Reappoint
Registrar	Mr John Thom	
PVG Officer	Rev Denise Herbert	
Chancellor	Mr Gregor Mitchell	

2. Diocesan Council

The Bishop	Vacant	
The Dean	Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger	
The Treasurer	Mr Allan Duffus	
The Convener Diocesan Buildings Committee	Professor Peter Sharp O.B.E	
Mission Officer	Rev Canon Kerry Dixon	
Ministry Officer	Rev Canon Fay Lamont	
Clergy Member (2015-2019)	Very Rev Jeremy Auld	
Clergy Member (2015-2019)	Vacant	
Lay Member (2015-2019)	Mrs Patricia Millar	
Lay Member (2015-2019)	Mrs Karen Willey	
Diocesan Secretary	Vacant	

3. Diocesan Standing Committee

The Bishop (chair)	
The Dean	
The Diocesan Secretary	
Lay Member - Elected annually by Diocesan Council	
Clergy Member - Elected annually by Diocesan Council	

4. Diocesan Buildings Committee

Professor Peter Sharp O.B.E	Convener	Nominated
*The Diocesan Secretary	Vacant	
*The Dean	Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger	
Member (2014)	Dr David Bertie	
Member (2014)	Mr Mel Christie	
Member (2015)	Mrs Judy Robinson	
Member (2015)	Mr Robert Hamilton	
Member (2017)	Vacancy	
Member (2017)	Vacancy	
Member (2017)	Vacancy	
*ex officio		

5. Provincial Youth Network Representative

Mr Robson St Clair

Ex officio and additional lay members of Diocesan Synod

(Members of Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and Diocesan Buildings Committee who are not otherwise members of Synod)

Dr David Bertie	Mr Robert Hamilton	Mr Mel Christie
Mrs Patricia Millar	Mrs Karen Willey	

Provincial Elections and Appointments 2018**1. Members of General Synod****1.1 House of Clergy (6)****2018 - 2021**

St Pauls Cathedral	To be elected
St Martin's/St Margaret's	To be elected
Stonehaven/Catterline/Muchalls	To be elected
Brechin/Tarfside	To be elected
Diocesan Elected	To be elected
Diocesan Elected	To be elected

Three alternates elected by Diocesan Synod for 2018

1. To be elected
2. To be elected
3. To be elected

1.2 House of Laity (6)**2018 - 2021**

St Mary Magdalene	To be elected
St Ninian's/St Luke's	To be elected
Montrose/Inverbervie	To be elected
Monifieth/Carnoustie	To be elected
Diocesan Elected	To be elected
Diocesan Elected	To be elected

Three alternates elected by Diocesan Synod for 2018

1. To be elected
2. To be elected
3. To be elected

2. Members of Boards and Committees of General Synod

	Member	Alternate
2.1 Misson Board	Reverend Canon Fay Lamont (2015-2019)	The Very Reverend Dr Francis Bridger
2.2 Administration Board	Professor Peter Sharp	Mr Allan Duffus
2.3 Information & Communication Board	Mrs Karen Willey (2016-2020)	
2.4 Faith & Order Board	*Clergy – The Very Reverend Dr Francis Bridger *Laity - Vacancy	

** Members of the Faith & Order Board must be Members of General Synod.*

3. Members of the Provincial Panel for Episcopal Elections

Clerical Member (2015-2018)	Reverend Canon Fay Lamont
Lay Member	Professor Peter Sharp O.B.E

Item 16

Bishop's Charge

Item 17

Annual Report and Accounts 2018: Budget and Quota 2018

**Paper O
(to follow)**

Item 18

Cathedral Motion - Cap on Quota

Paper P

Motion: That this Synod resolves that, from 2020 onwards,

- 1) quota receivable per charge shall not exceed 10% (i.e. one tenth) of the three-year aggregate of quota assessable income per charge; and,
- 2) quota contributed by the Diocese of Brechin to the Provincial General Fund shall not exceed 33.3% (i.e. on third) of the quota assessable income of the Diocese.

Jaap Jacobs on behalf of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee

Item 19

Any Other Competent Business – Request from Provincial Standing Committee & Data Protection Legislation 2018

Item 20

Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 9th March 2019

Item 21

Confirmation of the Acts of Synod, Final Prayers, the Blessing and Dismissal

DIOCESE OF BRECHIN

MEMBERSHIP OF DIOCESAN SYNOD – 10 March 2018

Bishop: Vacant Diocesan Office, 38 Langlands Street, Dundee, DD4 6SZ,
01382 459569

Diocesan Officials

Chancellor: Mr Gregor Mitchell, 45 Airlie Street, Brechin, DD9 6JX, 01356 622564
Registrar: Mr John Thom, Miller Hendry, 10 Blackfriars Street, Perth, PH1 5NS
01738 637311

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Mr Allan Duffus, 32 Pitcairn Drive, Balmullo, St. Andrews, KY16 0DZ
01334 870064

Clergy, Lay Readers, Members of Religious Orders, Lay Representatives and Alternate Lay Representatives

ARBROATH: The Church of St Mary the Virgin, 2 Springfield Terrace, Arbroath, DD11 1EL

Clergy: Reverend Peter Mead, 2 Springfield Terrace, Arbroath DD11 1EL
(12 March 2016)

Lay Rep: Mrs Evelyn Fordyce, 63 Keptie Road, Arbroath DD11 3EF 01241 877701

Alt. Lay Rep: Mr John Lansley, Colliston Castle, Colliston, Arbroath 01241 890791

AUCHMITHIE: The Church of St. Peter, DD11 5SQ

Clergy: Reverend Peter Mead, 2 Springfield Terrace, Arbroath DD11 1EL
(12 March 2016)

Lay Rep: Mrs M. Brown, 31 Kirkbank, Auchmithie, DD11 5SY 01241 877656

Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs S. Smith, 14 Kirkbank, Auchmithie, DD11 5SY 01241 871012

BRECHIN: The Church of St. Andrew, Argyll Street, Brechin, DD9 6JL

Clergy: Vacant Interim Rector: The Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger, 3 Wyvis Place,
Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3SX 01382 739035

Lay Rep: Mr James Arbuthnott, Balnamoon House, Balnamoon, Brechin DD9 7RH
01356 660273

Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs Elizabeth Howson, The Walled Garden, Broomley, Montrose,
DD10 9LQ, 01674 810289

BROUGHTY FERRY: The Church of St. Mary, Queen Street, Broughty Ferry. DD5 1AJ

Clergy: The Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger, Dean of the Diocese. 3 Wyvis Place,
Broughty Ferry, DD5 3SX

Rev Helen Bridger, 3 Wyvis Place, Broughty Ferry, DD5 3SX
01382 739035

Rev William Neill, Roseheath Cottages, 2 Malt Row, Pitlessie, Fife, KY15 7SY

Lay Reader: Mrs Elaine Hammersley, 137 Gleneagles Avenue, Dundee DD2 3GH
01382 812825

Lay Rep: Cllr. Laurie Bidwell, 82 Dundee Rd, Dundee. DD5 1DW 01382 738566

Alt. Lay Rep: Mr David Stanley, 5A Albany Road, West Ferry, DD5 1NS
01382 739231

CARNOUSTIE: The Church of the Holy Rood, Maule Street, Carnoustie. DD7 6AB
Clergy: Vacant
Lay Reader: Mrs Jean Forbes, 30 Dundee Street, Carnoustie DD7 7PS 01241
856800
Lay Rep: Mrs Gillian Millar, 7 Barry Downs Park, Barry, Carnoustie, DD7 7SA,
01382 419444
Alt. Lay Rep: Vacant

CATTERLINE: The Church of St. Philips, nr. Stonehaven, AB39 2UN
Clergy: Vacant - Interim Ministry Co-Ordinator Dr Peter Smart, The Auld Scots
Pines, Muirfoot, Church Road, Luthermuir, Laurencekirk AB30 1YS
01674 840789
Lay Reader: Mrs A. Geldart, Woodside, Cammachmore, Stonehaven, AB39 3NQ
01569 73170
Lay Rep: Professor P. Sharp, 3 Loirston Manor, Cove Bay, Aberdeen, AB12 3HD
01224 895357
Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs A. Iles, 12 Martin Drive, Stonehaven, AB39 2LF 01569 764080

DRUMLITHIE: Church of St. John the Baptist, Church Road, AB39 2YS
Clergy: Rev Canon M. Turner, Beattie Lodge, Laurencekirk, AB30 1HJ 01561
377667
Lay Reader: Mrs G Middleton Drumallan, Auchenblae, Laurencekirk, AB30 1SX,
01561 320179
Lay Rep: Mr N. Constantine, Mains of Balfour, Fettercairn, Laurencekirk, AB31DT
01561 340618
Alt. Lay Rep: Vacant

DRUMTOCHTY: The Church of St. Palladius, Glen of Drumtochty, by Auchenblae,
AB30 1TN
Clergy: Rev Canon M. Turner, Beattie Lodge, Laurencekirk, AB30 1HJ
01561 377667
Lay Reader: Mrs Georgina Middleton, Drumallan, Auchenblae, Laurencekirk, AB30
1SX, 01561 320179
Lay Rep: Mrs H. Sanderson, 1 Mackenzie Avenue, Auchenblae, Laurencekirk,
AB30 1XU 01561 320669
Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs Georgina Middleton, Drumallan, Auchenblae, Laurencekirk, AB30
1SX, 01561 320179

DUNDEE: The Church of St. Luke, St Luke's Road, Downfield,
DD3 0LD
Clergy: Reverend Captain Kerry Dixon, Diocesan Priest Missioner of St Luke's,
6 Dudhope Street, Dundee DD1 1JU 01382 523911
Pioneer
Evangelist: Captain Stuart Budden, St Luke's Rectory, 4 St Luke's Road, Dundee,
DD3 0LD 07796887024
Reader: Mr B. Gowans, 16 Hillpark Drive, Birkhill, Dundee, DD2 5QZ
01382 580666
Lay Rep: Mrs Mandy Budden, St Luke's Rectory, 4 St Luke's Road, Dundee,
DD3 0LD 013852 864051
Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs Helen Stewart, Old Pier, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5DP
01382 562571

DUNDEE: The Church of St. Margaret, 17 Ancrum Road, Lochee, Dundee DD2 2JL
Clergy: Vacant. Interim Rector: Rev David Shepherd, 14 Albany Terrace, Dundee DD3 6HR 01382 690234
Lay Rep: Mr Robson St Clair, 26 Portmore Place, Dundee, DD2 4UW 01382 623618
Alt. Lay Rep: Vacant

DUNDEE: The Church of St. Martin, Derby Street, Dundee, DD3 6RL
Clergy: Priest in Charge The Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger, 3 Wyvis Place, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3SX 01382 739035
Associate Priest Reverend Helen Bridger, 3 Wyvis Place, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3SX 01382 739035
Reader: Mr R. Pemble, 7 Castlevew Apts., 6 Dudhope Terrace, Dundee, DD3 6HG 01382 533676
Lay Rep: Mr I. Turnbull, Miltonhough, Tealing, by Dundee, DD4 0QZ 01382 380501
Alt. Lay Rep: Vacant

DUNDEE: Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Dudhope Crescent Road, Dundee, DD1 5RR
Clergy: Rev D. Shepherd, 14 Albany Terrace, Dundee, DD3 6HR 01382 690234
Lay Rep: Mrs D. Scobie, 19 Thorter Row, City Quay, Dundee, DD1 3BX 01382 206220
Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs J. Robinson, 15 Canisp Crescent, Dundee, DD2 4TP 01382 645305

DUNDEE: Church of St. Ninian, Kingsway East, Dundee, DD4 7RW
Clergy: Rev Canon F. Lamont, St. Ninian's Church House, Kingsway East, Dundee, DD4 7RW 01382 453818
Lay Rep: Mrs V. Strachan, 59 Midmill Road, Dundee, DD4 8JF 01382 500616
Alt. Lay Rep: Ms Fiona McDade, 15 Finmore Street, Fintry, Dundee, DD4 9LT

DUNDEE: The Cathedral Church of St, Paul, Castlehill, Dundee, DD1 1TD 01382-224486
Clergy: The Very Rev J. Auld, 4 Richmond Terrace, Dundee, DD2 1BQ 01382 646296
Reader: Ms Carole Spink, 29a Hill Street, Arbroath DD11 1AG 01241 437384
Lay Rep: Dr Cathy Mitchell, 24 Strawberry Bank, Dundee, DD2 1BH 0103825 643921
Alt. Lay Rep: Mr Lachlan Gunn, Rose Cottage, Kinnaird, PH14 9QY, 01828 686403

DUNDEE: The Church of St Salvador, Church Street, Dundee, DD3 7EW
Clergy: Rev C. Clapson, 9 Minard Crescent, Dundee, DD3 6LH 01382 221785
Lay Rep: Mrs K.E. Clapson, 9 Minard Crescent, Dundee DD3 6LH 01382 221785
Alt. Lay Rep: Mr Arthur Lynch, 7 Mulligan Court, Camperdown Street, Lochee, Dundee, DD2 3AZ 01382 900227

FASQUE: The Church of St Andrew, Fettercairn, AB30 1DN
Clergy: The Canon Rev M. Turner, Beattie Lodge, Laurencekirk, AB30 1HJ 01561 377380
Reader: Mrs Georgina Middleton, Drumallan, Auchenblae, Laurencekirk, AB30 1SX, 01561 320179

Lay Rep: Mr I Thornton-Kemsley, Thornton Castle, Laurencekirk, AB30 1EB,
01356 377301

Alt. Lay Rep: Vacant

GLENCARSE: The Church of All Saints, Main Street, Glencarse, PH2 7LX
Clergy: The Rev Canon K. Reid, The Rectory, Glencarse, Perth, PH2 7LX
01738 860386

Lay Rep: Mrs D. Maingot, Glencarse House, Glencarse, Perth, PH2 7LF 01738
860373

Alt. Lay Rep: Ms Lorne Heriot Maitland, Keepers Cottage, Hill of Errol, Perthshire,
PH2 7TQ 01821 642765

INVERBERVIE: The Church of St. David of Scotland, Victoria Terrace, Inverbervie,
DD10 0PS

Clergy: Vacant

Readers: Dr Peter Smart, The Auld Scots Pines, Muirfoot, Church Road,
Luthermuir, Laurencekirk, AB30 1YS

Mr Harold Jack, 12a Gibson Place, Montrose DD10 8HQ

Lay Rep: Mrs Mary Bowker, Newbigging House, Inverbervie, DD10 0PQ
01561 361491

Alt. Lay Rep: Mr John Hitchon, 26 West Park, Inverbervie, Montrose, DD10 0TT

INVERGOWRIE: The Church of All Souls, Main Street, Invergowrie, DD2 5BA
Clergy: Rev A. Cummins, 27 Errol Road, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5AG
01382 562525

Lay Rep: Mrs B. Currie, 13 Rosewood Terrace, Dundee, DD2 1NS
01382 643791

Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs Val Beveridge, 8 Noble Avenue, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5AN,
013825 561844

LAURENCEKIRK: The Church of St. Laurence, High Street, Laurencekirk, AB30 1BH
Clergy: The Rev Canon M. J. R. Turner, Beattie Lodge, Laurencekirk,
AB30 1HJ
01561 377380

Reader: Mrs Georgina Middleton, Drumallan, Auchenblae, Laurencekirk, AB30
1SX, 01561 320179

Lay Rep: Mrs J. G. Thornton-Kemsley, Burnside of Thornton, Laurencekirk,
AB30 1DY 01561 377667

Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs M. Constantine, Mains of Balfour, Fettercairn, Laurencekirk, AB30
1DT 01561 340618

MONIFIETH: The Church of the Holy Trinity, 99 High Street, Monifieth, DD5 4AB
Clergy: Rev K. Gibson, 39 Durham Street, Monifieth. DD5 4PF
01382 535920

Rev Canon W. McAusland, 18 Broadford Terrace, Broughty Ferry,
Dundee, DD5 3EF 01382 737721

Readers: Mrs L. Walls, 15 Maule Street, Monifieth DD5 4NQ 01382 533107
Mr W. McFawns, 59 Fotheringham Drive, Monifieth, DD5 4SP,
01382 796749

Lay Rep: Mrs L. Walls, 15 Maule Street, Monifieth. DD5 4NQ 01382 533107

Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs D. McFawns, 59 Fotheringham Drive, Monifieth, DD5 4SP,
01382 796749

MONTROSE: The Church of St Mary and St Peter, Mid Links, Montrose,
DD10 8HD
Clergy: Vacant
Readers: Dr P. Smart, The Auld Scots Pine, Church Rd., Luthermuir, AB30 1YS
01674 840789
Mr Harold Jack, 12a Gibson Place, Montrose DD10 8HQ 01674
675700
Lay Rep: Mrs Georgina Mallie, 6 Union Place, Montrose, DD10 8QB
01674 673711
Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs Liz Whitson, 3 Gladstone Gardens, Fettercarin, Laurencekirk

MUCHALLS: The Church of St Ternan's, Muchalls, AB39 3PP
Clergy: Vacant Interim Ministry Co-Ordinator Dr Peter Smart, The Auld Scots
Pines, Muirfoot, Church Road, Luthermuir, Laurencekirk AB30 1YS
01674 840789
Lay Rep: Mrs I. Butler, 7 Juniper Place, Portlethen, Aberdeen, AB12 4XA
01224 784080
Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs Susan Manson, 39 Crollshillock Road, Newtonhill AB39 3RF,
01569 730513

STONEHAVEN: The Church of St. James the Great, Arbuthnott Street, Stonehaven,
AB3 2JB
Clergy: Vacant Interim Ministry Co-Ordinator Dr Peter Smart, The Auld Scots
Pines, Muirfoot, Church Road, Luthermuir, Laurencekirk AB30 1YS
01674 840789
Reader: Mrs A. Geldart, Woodside, Cammachmore, Stonehaven, AB39 3NQ
01569 731707
Lay Rep: Professor P. Sharp, 3 Loirston Manor, Cove Bay, Aberdeen, AB12
3HD 01224 895357
Alt. Lay Rep: Mrs A. Iles 13 Kinmouth Road, Drumlithie, Stonehaven, AB39 3YF
01569 740164

TARFSIDE: The Church of St. Drostan, Glenesk, via Brechin, Angus,
DD9 7YX
Clergy: Rev J. Nelson, 4 St Michael's Road, Newtonhill, Stonehaven, AB39
3RW 01569 730967
Lay Rep: Mr P. Nelson, 4 St Michael's Road, Newtonhill, Stonehaven, AB39
3RW 01569 730967
Alt. Lay Rep: Mr Kenneth Goddard, The Old Post Office, Tarfside, Glenesk, DD4
7YU 01356 670456

**UNIVERSITY OF
DUNDEE:**
Clergy: Rev Professor Annalu Waller, 9 Invergowrie Drive, Dundee, DD2 1RD
01382 644570

Lay Members & Alternate Lay Members of General Synod to be elected

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIOCESE OF BRECHIN

(Scottish Charity No SC016813)

RULES OF ORDER OF DIOCESAN SYNOD

(Adopted by Synod in 2000)

1. Application

These rules of order shall apply to the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod whether sitting as one body or in separate Houses of Clergy and Laity.

2. The Chair – Powers and Duties

Deference shall at all times be paid to the authority of the Chair. All points of order shall be addressed to the person occupying the Chair, stated briefly and audibly, and raised immediately the perceived irregularity occurs, otherwise the person occupying the Chair shall dis-allow them. Points of order shall not introduce new subject matter. Speeches shall not be allowed on points of order. Where, in the view of the person occupying the Chair, the matter raised does not constitute a point of order, the person occupying the Chair shall rule accordingly. On all points of order the ruling from the Chair shall be final and not open to discussion. When the person occupying the Chair rises to speak, any member of Synod who is addressing the meeting shall sit down.

It shall be the responsibility of the person occupying the Chair to preserve order and secure that members obtain a fair hearing, to decide all matters of order arising at meetings of Synod and to decide, if two or more members rise in their places, which to call to speak. In the event of disorder arising at any meeting of Synod, the meeting may be adjourned by the person occupying the Chair who shall also, then or subsequently, fix a time for its reconvening. Quitting the Chair in such circumstances shall, without further procedure, have the effect of a formal adjournment of the meeting.

3. Order of Debate

Members desiring to speak shall rise in their places. Those called upon to speak shall address the Chair. Speeches shall be directed to the motion or amendment being proposed, seconded or otherwise under discussion or to a question of order. No member shall be allowed to speak more often than once on any subject under discussion, save on a point of order or, with consent of the Chair, to make an explanation, but the mover of a motion shall have a right of reply. A member who is speaking when a question of order is raised shall sit down until the question of order has been decided by the person occupying the Chair.

4. Matters Taken in Private

Synod may decide by a majority of those present and voting that:

- (a) Any business shall be taken in private
- (b) Synod shall go into Committee for the informal discussion of any subject.

5. Adjournment

- (a) Any meeting of Synod may be adjourned to such other place, time or day and hour as may be set by the person occupying the Chair.
 - (b) Any meeting of Synod may be adjourned to a later time on the same day and such an adjournment may be made on the direction from the Chair, or failing such direction, on the motion of any member, the vote on which motion, on being seconded, shall without amendment or discussion be taken by a show of voting cards as one House.
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5. Quorum

The Quorum of Synod shall be one half of the voting members of the House of Clergy and of the House of Laity, but no business shall be invalid because transacted without a quorum being present, unless the attention of the Chair has been called to the absence of a quorum. The person occupying the Chair shall then ascertain, in such a way as seems fit, that no quorum is present, and declare the fact. This shall be a responsibility of the person occupying the Chair, whose declaration, whether or not a quorum is present, shall be final. If it has been declared from the Chair that no quorum is present, no business shall be transacted until a quorum is declared from the Chair to be present except:

- (a) the consideration of a motion to adjourn
- (b) such non-contentious business as the meeting, with consent of the person occupying the Chair, sees fit to transact.

If however, a division is challenged on any subject other than on a motion for adjournment, the same shall not be dealt with by the meeting. No motion for adjournment shall be submitted until at least fifteen minutes after the declaration from the Chair that a quorum is not present, except with the consent of the person occupying the Chair.

7. Obstructive or Offensive Conduct

- (a) In the event of any member at any Synod meeting disregarding the authority of the Chair, or being guilty of obstructive or offensive conduct, a motion may thereupon be moved and seconded to suspend such member for the remainder of the sitting. The motion shall be put without discussion.
- (b) The person occupying the Chair shall warn any member of the public who interrupts the proceedings at any meetings. If that member of the public continues the interruption the person occupying the Chair shall order the person concerned to leave the meeting, and not return.

8. Duration of Speeches

The mover of a motion shall not speak for more than ten minutes except with the consent of Synod. All other speakers taking part in the discussion on the motion or amendment shall not normally speak for more than five minutes, subject to the discretion of the person occupying the Chair. The mover of the original motion shall have the right to speak for five minutes in reply, but shall not introduce any new matter into the debate. Thereafter the discussion shall be held closed and the question shall thereupon be put from the Chair.

9. Motions

- (a) Synod shall consider only the following motions:
 - (i) motions which have been included in the Agenda and papers for that meeting
 - (ii) late motions which Synod has agreed to consider (see Rule 10 below)
 - (iii) formal or procedural motions
 - (b) All motions and amendments shall be stated, immediately on their being proposed to the meeting, by the mover, before being spoken to. All motions under Rule 9(a) (ii) and all amendments shall be submitted in writing, signed by the mover and seconder and delivered to the Diocesan Secretary immediately on being moved.
 - (c) Every amendment shall be relevant to the motion on which it is moved. A motion may be amended by the mover with the consent of the meeting, which consent shall be by the majority of those present and voting. In the case of a motion emanating from a Board or Committee of Synod or a Regional Meeting the mover of that motion shall have the power, unless specifically denied it by the body from which the motion has emanated, to accept the amendment to that motion, thus altering the text of the motion on which Synod is asked to vote.
 - (d) A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the seconder of that motion or amendment, but Synod shall have power by simple majority of those present and voting to refuse to allow such withdrawal, in which case the motion shall stand.
 - (e) Motions or amendments which are not seconded shall not be discussed or inserted in the minutes.
 - (f) If, in the opinions of the person occupying the Chair, more than one motion deals with the same subject matter, only the motion first lodged with the Diocesan Secretary (whether by hand delivery
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or by post) shall be considered and if, in the opinion of the person occupying the Chair, any motion deals with a matter already under consideration by a Board or Committee, that motion shall not be considered.

- (g) If a member who has submitted a notice of motion is not present to move the motion, the motion shall fall, unless Synod agrees that another member may move the motion.
- (h) No motion of any kind which involves a grant of money shall be competent unless it is printed in the Agenda with the observations of the Board or Committee within whose budget the grant would fall, with power to the Chair on special occasions to take the sense of the meeting with reference to matters appearing in the Agenda and, if satisfied, to dispense with the necessity of observations by the appropriate Board or Committee. Except as above provided, no motion (other than votes of thanks) shall be entertained unless notice has been given to the Diocesan Secretary in reasonable time to enable it to be entered in the programme of business, or a late motion is accepted in accordance with Canon 50 Resolution 3 (see Rule 10 below).
- (i) The Bishop may veto the discussion of any motion, though otherwise competent, unless at least five voting members of Synod shall express their desire that it should be discussed.

10. Late Motions submitted under Canon 50 Resolution 3

- (a) Notice of late motions should normally be given in writing (to the Diocesan Secretary) before Synod starts.
- (b) The motion shall be in writing, and signed by the mover and seconder, who must be members of Synod qualified to vote.
- (c) The mover of a motion under this Rule shall be given the opportunity to address Synod briefly (maximum of two minutes) as to why Synod should consider the motion at that time before a vote is taken on whether the Motion should be considered.
- (d) Subject to any contrary provision in the Code of Canons, in order for a late motion to be considered by Synod, a majority of those present and voting shall vote in favour of its being considered.

11. Motion: "That the Question be now put"

- (a) The amendment called "The previous question" shall not be allowed.
- (b) It shall be competent for any member who has not spoken on the question before the meeting to move "that the question be now put". On this being seconded, if it seems to the person occupying the Chair that the question before the meeting has been sufficiently discussed, a vote shall be taken, without amendment or discussion. If the motion is carried, the mover of the original motion shall have the right to reply, and the question under discussion shall be put to the meeting. If the motion "that the question be now put" is not carried, a similar motion may be made after every three additional members have spoken.

12. Voting

- (a) After the question on which the vote is to be taken has been announced, and voting has commenced, no member shall be permitted to offer an opinion, or ask a question, except on a point of order, or otherwise interrupt the proceedings until the result of the vote has been intimated.
 - (b) Save as otherwise provided, all motions and amendments shall be passed by a majority of the members of Synod present and voting.
 - (c) The person occupying the Chair shall have a deliberative but not a casting vote. Whether the matter which is the subject of the vote relates to the appointment of a member of Synod to any particular office or committee, voting shall be by ballot.
 - (d) When the question is put to the vote, tellers shall be named from the Chair and shall give in their report on each division taken. Except where otherwise stated in these Rules of Order, the vote may be taken in the first instance on a show of voting cards, the result, in the opinion of the person occupying the Chair, declared therefrom. In all cases of doubt the vote shall be taken counting the cards held up. On any question, if one third of the present and voting members of either House so wish, voting shall be by ballot.
 - (e) When voting by Houses, the Houses must meet separately if one third of the present and voting members of either House so wishes. When Synod votes by Houses, the numbers of the vote in
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each House shall be recorded, and a majority of those present and voting shall be required in each House for the passing of the motion.

- (f) A challenge to the accuracy of the Minutes shall be made by way of an amendment to the motion that the Minutes be approved. Only those members who were present at the previous meeting to which the Minutes relate shall be entitled to vote on the said amendment.

13. Election, Selection or Appointment of Members of Office

In the case of election, selection or appointment by Synod of a member of Synod or of any other person to any office where the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, the member or person to be elected, selected or appointed as the case may be shall be determined by a vote (or votes) by ballot in (each of) which members will be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies. No members may record in the ballot more than one vote for any candidate. The candidate or candidates having the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected. If there is equality of votes for the last vacancy, this shall be resolved by ballot or by a show of voting cards.

14. Assessor

The Chancellor of the Diocese (whom failing the Registrar, whom failing another person nominated by the Administration Board) shall act as Assessor to the person occupying the Chair. The Assessor shall intervene as Assessor only on the call of the Chair, without prejudice to the right of the Assessor, when a member of Synod to speak and vote as such.

15. Suspension of Rules

The application of any of these Rules of Order may be temporarily suspended or amended by a majority amounting to two-thirds of those present and voting. Voting shall be in one House.

References

Canon 50 of Diocesan Synods

The Rules of Order of the General Synod (as amended)

The Constitution of the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Brechin (as amended now)

THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BRECHIN

(Scottish Charity No SC016813)

Diocesan Synod

1(a) There shall be a Diocesan Synod in which is vested the functions, powers and duties set out in Canon 50 – Of Diocesan Synods – and in Sections 6.6.1 and 7 of the Digest of Resolutions of the General Synod 1997 and such other relevant Resolutions that General Synod may pass.

1(b) The Diocesan Synod's Boards and Committees shall comprise those listed in Articles 7 to 9 inclusive, hereof.

Membership

2. The Diocesan Synod shall consist of the Bishop, all instituted, licensed and commissioned clergy of the diocese, the diocesan officials as specified in Canon 61, and the lay members specified in Section 3 below.

3(a) The lay members of the Synod shall consist of a Lay Representative for each congregation within the diocese, the lay members of General Synod elected by the Diocesan Synod under Canon 52 Section 5, the alternate members of General Synod elected under Canon 52 Section 7, a lay member of the Diocesan Standing Committee ex officio and such additional lay members as elected by the Diocesan Synod.

3(b) Alternate Lay Representatives, Readers, Church Army Evangelists, members of Religious Orders working in the diocese shall be invited to participate fully in the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod, save in the matter of voting.

Meetings

4. At meetings of the Synod, the Bishop shall preside. In the absence of the Bishop, the Dean of the diocese shall preside, but should the Dean also be absent the meeting shall appoint one of its own members.

Officials

5. The Synod shall appoint a Treasurer, a Secretary and an Auditor whose appointments shall not be for a longer period than until the next annual meeting.

Trustees

6. The Diocesan Trustees shall be the Bishop, the Dean, the Chancellor and the Registrar ex officio.

Boards and Committees

7(a) The Diocesan Standing Committee shall be responsible for acting in an emergency on behalf of the Diocesan Synod or the Diocesan Council when they are not sitting.

7(b) The Diocesan Standing Committee shall consist of the Bishop, the Dean, the Diocesan Secretary and two members of the Diocesan Council, one clerical, one lay, elected annually by Diocesan Council.

7(c) The Bishop shall chair meetings of the Standing Committee, or in the absence of the Bishop the Dean shall chair; if neither are present the Standing Committee shall appoint one of its members to chair the meeting.

8(a) The Diocesan Administration Board and the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Board shall be disbanded and all functions previously carried out by the two boards shall be carried out by the Diocesan Council with immediate effect. The Diocesan Council shall administer the strategic direction

and life of the diocese on behalf of Diocesan Synod in all matters of mission and ministry, finance and property, and such matters sent to the diocese by the General Synod. For the avoidance of doubt the Diocesan Council shall be responsible for the appointment of salaried staff employed by the Diocese and their terms of employment.

8(b) Membership of the Diocesan Council shall be: the Bishop, who shall act as Chair; the Dean, the Mission Officer and the Ministry Officer (the latter two endorsed by Diocesan Synod), for the duration of their appointment by the Bishop; also the Diocesan Treasurer, Diocesan Secretary and the Convener of the Diocesan Buildings Committee, each elected annually by Diocesan Synod; two Lay Members elected by the House of Laity for a four year term; two Clergy Members elected by the House of Clergy for a four year term. The Diocesan Secretary shall act as Secretary to the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council shall have the power to co-opt up to two further members whose term shall only continue until the next Diocesan Synod. In the absence of the Bishop, the Dean shall act as chair, failing which the Diocesan Council shall elect one of its members to act as chair. Each member of the Diocesan Council shall have one vote.

8(c) All decisions and resolutions made previously by the Diocesan Administration Board and Diocesan Mission & Ministry Board shall be adopted without further action by the Diocesan Council.

8(d) The Diocesan Council shall have the power to appoint pendant or ad hoc committees.

9. There shall be a Diocesan Buildings Committee, reporting to the Diocesan Council, set up in accordance with Canon 35 and Canon 50(9). The membership shall be the Dean and Diocesan Secretary and seven other persons with expertise in architecture, ecclesiastical artefacts and liturgy. The Convener shall be elected annually by Diocesan Synod, members for a four year term.

Members and Conveners

10. Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, members of the Diocesan Council and Committees shall serve a term of four years and may be re-elected or reappointed provided, however, that no such member shall serve for a continuous period of more than eight years. No member on ceasing to be a member shall be eligible for re-election until after an interval of at least one year. In the event of any vacancy, appointments shall be made by the Diocesan Synod at its Annual Meeting, after nominations have been invited from members. Casual vacancies may be filled by the Council or Committee concerned until the next Annual Meeting of Synod when an appointment shall be made for a new four year period.

11. The Convener of the Diocesan Buildings Committee shall be elected annually by Diocesan Synod and may serve for a total period of four consecutive years. The Diocesan Buildings Committee, however, shall have power to recommend that the Diocesan Synod extend the period of office of their own Convener, in which case the Synod may extend the period of office for one further year only.

Quorum

12. At meetings of the Diocesan Synod, the quorum shall be one half of the number of Clerical and of the number of Lay Members entitled to vote, rounded up to the nearest whole number.

13. At meetings of the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Buildings Committee, the quorum shall be one third of the total membership, rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Amendment of Constitution or adoption of new Constitution

14. It is competent for this Constitution to be amended or a new Constitution adopted by a simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Diocesan Synod. Proposals for changes to the Constitution must be submitted for consideration to the Diocesan Council, whose comments shall be reported to Synod.

Review

15. Notwithstanding the power of the Diocesan Synod to amend its Constitution or to adopt a new Constitution at any duly constituted meeting thereof, the Constitution of the Diocesan Synod shall be reviewed by the Diocesan Council in **2020** and at the end of each five year period thereafter, and any recommendations for alteration brought to the Diocesan Synod.

Previously amended on 29th February 1992, 26th February 1994, 1st March 1997, 28th February 1998, 20th February 1999, 24th February 2001, 2nd March 2002, 8th March 2003, 5th March 2005, 4th March 2006, 18th October 2006, 15th October 2008, 14th October 2009 and 7th March 2015.

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