



Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Newsletter
Scottish Episcopal Church

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GOD'S MISSION AGENTS

One of the striking things about my first week as dean has been the number of times people have asked me what it means to be one. Maybe this has been a more tactful way of saying something like, "What's a dean *for*, then?" Well, whatever deanship means, I am genuinely grateful and honoured to be invited to serve Bishop Nigel and colleagues in this diocese at a decisive moment in its life and history.

2013 will be a year in which we will all face the challenge of mission. This has been a crucial part of my ministry as a pastor, theological teacher and parish priest since ordination over 30 years ago in another St Paul's, and I am excited (not to mention humbled) by the challenge in this beautiful corner of Scotland.

A Burning Fire

But at the same time, the words of theologian Emil Brunner continue to strike home with me: "The Church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission, there is no Church, and where there is neither Church nor mission there is no faith."

Here, surely, Brunner gets to the heart of what it means to be the Church. For it has its very being by virtue of what theologians refer to as the *Missio Dei* – the mission of God - which is the outpouring of divine love towards humanity revealed in Jesus Christ. We are what we are solely because of God's burning desire to reach out to us and to draw us into his presence. And because *God* has done this, so we reach out in turn with the love of Christ to the world around us. We are God's mission agents, impelled by love to share the Good News.

Journeying Together

What this will mean in practice is one of the many aspects of the diocese's journey in mission about which Bishop Nigel wrote in the January *Bulletin*. As dean, I am looking forward to being part of that journey as we discover what God holds for us. It is an exciting time to be in the diocese of Brechin and I'm very glad to be here.

Warmly,

Francis Bridger

FROM THE BISHOP'S FEBRUARY DIARY

- 2 Candlemas at St Salvador's, Dundee
- 5 Lancaster University
- 6 Diocesan Buildings Committee
- 7 Mission to Seafarers Trustees
- 9 Memorial Service, St Luke's, Dundee
- 10 Cathedral Evensong
- 11 St Luke's Vestry, Dundee
- 12 Clergy Study Day - Edzell
- 13 Ash Wednesday - Montrose
- 14/19 On Leave
- 20/21 College of Bishops
- 23 Administration Board
- 24 St Luke's, Dundee
- 26 St Margaret's Home Trustees
- 27 SECMA meeting at St Mary Magdalene's,

Scottish Episcopal Mission Association (LINKS)

A links lunch is to be held at 12 noon with lunch at 12.30 on Wed, 27th February at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dudhope Crescent Road, Dundee to which all are invited.

Speaker:
Rt Rev Dr Nigel Peyton
Bishop of Brechin

Bring and Buy stall and financial donations towards lunch for SECMA Mission projects.
Further info from Rosemary Eddy (01382-667119) or from your congregational correspondent.

BRECHIN DIOCESAN SYNOD

Chalmers-Ardler Church, Turnberry Avenue, Dundee

The Diocesan Synod will take place on Saturday, 2nd March 2013 at Chalmers-Ardler, Dundee. Members will be receiving their papers early this month. The day starts with a Eucharist at 9.30 am and ends at 3 pm and will include the usual business and presentations. The event is open to all.

Taize Service

St Ninian's, Kingsway East, Dundee

A Taize Service is to be held at St Ninian's on **Sunday, 24th February 2013 at 6.00 pm**. All are welcome to come and spend a quiet hour in chant and reflection.



Santiago Pilgrimage

Rev Michael Paterson, SEC priest and veteran pilgrim is offering to lead small groups of 8 pilgrims along the Camino de Santiago in 2013.

French option Cathedral of Le Puy to Abbey of Conques (7 days)

Spanish option Knights Templar Castle of Ponferrada to Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (9 days)

Visit www.joiningthedots.org.uk or contact michael@joiningthedots.org.uk for more details.

Thank you

Whose voice is it anyway?

Professor Annula Waller would like to thank those who supported her when she gave her recent talk at Dundee University's Discovery Day on Friday, 11th January 2013.



Gift Aid

All vestry treasurers and secretaries have received correspondence from General Synod office in December regarding **GIFT AID**. It has been suggested that action is required now in advance of changes to be taken place in April 2013. If you require any further help or information please contact the Diocesan Treasurer, Allan Duffus on 01334 870064

Faith in Action

A prayer for people with disabilities

Lord, we give thanks for the glorious diversity of ability within your children,

Open us up to see you in the differing abilities of the different people we meet,

Let us recognise the insight of the blind,

Let us hear your voice in the deaf,

Let us encounter your Wisdom in those with learning difficulties.

For although different, together in our great diversity of gifts and abilities we reflect the inexhaustible richness of your love, and the beauty of your holy name.

AMEN



Fairtrade Fortnight 2013

Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 is from Monday, 25th February to Sunday 10th March. In 2012 nearly 1 million steps have been registered. The aim for 2013 is to register more steps and your help is needed to reach more farmers and workers who urgently need a better deal from trade. This allows a better standard of living, investing in basic things we take for granted, like hospitals, schools, clean drinking water and electricity. Our Diocesan contact is Cait Weir Tele 01382 815652 or cate.weir@btinternet.com

All this can be achieved by simply buying **Fairtrade** versions of the products you eat, drink or wear everyday.

Finally, I hope you have enjoyed your Brechin Bulletin. As this is my first, I would welcome any suggestions or information that you may wish to give to help keep the Brechin Bulletin informative and interesting. This can be emailed to me at:- office@brechin.anglican.org by the 16th of each month.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and warm welcome to the Diocese of Brechin.

Jackie

