



Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Newsletter
Scottish Episcopal Church

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FROM THE BISHOP'S MARCH DIARY

KNOWING OUR LIMITATIONS

The news that Pope Benedict XVI is to retire casts an intriguing shadow over Christians worldwide, observing of the season of Lent. His sudden abdication attributed to failing stamina has been variously described as courageous and a surprise but not a shock. It is certainly a rare event in the history of the papacy. As his time as Pope is evaluated for some Benedict is seen as a great theologian but a poor leader – so perhaps his decision to retire gracefully will yet prove to be his leadership legacy. As Clint Eastwood famously said on screen in *Magnum Force*: 'a man's got to know his limitations.'

Understanding our frailties and limitations, and living with and beyond them, is the Lenten journey with Jesus, the road of the passion. As the liturgy signposts us: 'by carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so to grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.' And there is no shortage of ways to pray and ponder, to retreat or participate – in quiet reading or lively discussion groups or in active service of others. Each of us has a unique and precious *interior life* which is nourished differently just as our personalities are different.

And yes, there are things to give up, those excesses and distractions which we can name if we are honest. A recent YouGov survey found that four per cent of those planning to give up something for Lent had chosen alcohol. In response, the *Church Times* ran a feature on alcohol, describing it as many churchgoers' recreational drug of choice. Like many things in life there are beneficial and disastrous possibilities in many of our choices. Overleaf you can see some reminders of the wider dimensions of fasting - of world hunger and the carbon footprint.

The important thing is to humbly acknowledge our need to grow as people of God and to see Lent as a Spring-time opportunity rather than a bleak burden. As the Iona Community's 'Hymn of the Passion' sums it all up: *Lord, in mercy, pardon send me. Lord, from my worst self defend me. By your broken body mend me. Hear my prayer and here am I.*

- 2 Diocesan Synod, Chalmers Ardler Church, Dundee
- 3 Stonehaven Baptism
- 4 Montrose Vacancy Meeting
- 5 Citizen of the Year at City Chambers, Dundee
- 7 Cathedral Chapter
- 10 Cathedral Evensong
- 14 Mission and Ministry Board Meeting
- 17 St Luke's, Dundee
- 19 Administration Board Meeting
- 23 Mother's Union Service, Perth
- 24 Inverbervie and Montrose Services
- 25 Downfield Ecumenical Service
- 26 Maundy Thursday Chrism Mass, St Paul's Cathedral
- 29-31 Easter at Cathedral

Saturday Concerts at St Paul's Cathedral

- 9.3.13 Svitlana Esplin Piano
- 23.3.13 Matthew McAllister Guitar
- 13.4.13 Luke Welch Piano
- 27.4.13 Glenalmond College Music Scholars

Each concert will commence at 1 pm
Tickets: Adults: £4
Concessions: £3
Schoolchildren: Free

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.

ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE

Hunger is the world's most shocking problem and our toughest challenge. One in eight people on this planet lives with the pain of hunger.

And yet our planet provides enough food for everyone. It's unfair, it's unjust and—it is totally preventable. We can push world leaders to end this injustice by tackling the **four big IFS**. Visit

www.christianaid.org.uk and watch a

short video to find out more about the campaign and how YOU can get involved.



Boswell House

107 High Street, Montrose

Boswell House welcomes people of all denominations and of none, provides a peaceful place for people to rest and reflect.

16 March	Air-Spring-Dawn
4 May	Fire-Summer-Noon
14 September	Water-Autumn-Twilight
30 November	Earth-Winter-Midnight

All events commence at 10.30 am and finish at 4pm with a suggested donation of £25.

Lent Retreat in Daily Life

A non-residential individually guided retreat. Sunday, 17 February—Saturday, 23 March. Suggested donation £40.00.

4—6 October Residential Weekend Writing Retreat with Kenneth Steven. Cost £125. Further details : 01342 832429/email: judithirving@btinternet.com

Carbon Fast For Lent

The Church in Society Committee has just received the Diocese of Cape Town's *A CARBON FAST FOR LENT? Programme*. It is full of great ideas of great ideas of ways we can each reduce our carbon footprint by making small adjustments to our daily living. This can be downloaded from the website www.thedioceseofbrechin.org under Resources then Links.



Equip

Saturday, 16th March 2013

10am—4pm

Scripture Union Scotland, together with local churches in Dundee invite you to attend a training event for those working with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds at **Douglas and Mid Craigie Church, Balbeggie Place, Dundee DDR 8RD**

The cost for the day including lunch is £5 and £2 for unwaged/student. This can be paid on the day.

To book your place contact SU Scotland's Urban Ministries Leader, John Nonhebel on 0141 352 7635 or email urban@suscotland.org.uk

Vacancy—Honorary Treasurer The Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association

SECMA is an independent mission charity that aims to relieve poverty overseas.

We are urgently seeking an Honorary Treasurer to join our board of Trustees.

You would have experience as a fully qualified accountant, or would have held a similar position.

Informal enquiries to:-

Mrs Hilary Blyth, SECMA
Provincial Secretary,

0131 225 6357 (Tue-Thu, 10 -2)
or at secma@live.co.uk

