



# Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Scottish Episcopal Church

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

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## A Severe Lent

The senior staff member responsible for discipline in a school where I once had some involvement specialised in what became known as 'a severe letting off.' It misled the errant and rule-abiding students alike, undermined teaching colleagues, short-changed parents and did nothing to improve behaviour or school life. In short it was poor leadership.

Rewarding bad behaviour is hopeless and yet we go on making excuses for all kinds of appalling goings-on in our lives. We even do it in local church life, mostly because we are desperate to be nice to one another rather than be truthful.

One of the reasons many Christians fail to grasp the real challenge of Lent is that we skip Ash Wednesday. When the priest smears black sooty ash paste on our foreheads, 'rubbing in' physically and metaphorically our wickedness, we are left in little doubt that the game is up. Compounded by the stares of the puzzled public during rest of the day.

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.*

Ashes are a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality. By God's grace alone we overcome our shortcomings to receive eternal life. Ash Wednesday's annual ashes are a great witness and we should probably make more of them than we do. The season of Lent offers a serious wake-up call: a time for self-examination, penitence, study and preparation for Easter. There are no short cuts.

The traditional giving up or taking up something for Lent are not redundant. Indeed they take on a fresh urgency and determination when we appreciate the true meaning of Ash Wednesday. So start off as you intend to continue and get yourself to an Ash Wednesday Service on 5 March. I am at Monifieth 10am and Carnoustie at 7pm.

If you are uncertain what to do this Lent, then here's a ready-made idea. **The Food for Thought Lenten Cookbook** is a brand new collaboration between the Scottish Episcopal Church and Christian Aid, encouraging the sharing of food and discussion – about food production and justice and the challenge that one in eight people in the world still go to bed hungry. The cookbook is free of charge and every SEC congregation has been sent one. It's the recipe for 'a severe taking on' of Lent.

### QUIZ NIGHT

St Ninian's, Kingsway East, Dundee  
Friday, 28 February 2014  
7.30pm-9.30ish

Stovies and drink included in the ticket price  
Adults £3.00  
Children £1.00

**World Day of Prayer**  
**Friday 7 March 2014 at 10.30am**

St James the Great  
Arbuthnot Street  
Stonehaven

**Come and share in the world wide day of prayer.**

### From the Bishop's March Diary

1	Diocesan Synod, Dundee	16	Steeple Church, Dundee
2	St Martin's, Dundee	17	Faith and Order Board, Edinburgh
3	Montrose Vacancy meeting	18	Abertay University Court
4	Conference Planning, Pitlochry		Administration Board
	Meeting at Muchalls	19	Cathedral Chapter
5	Ash Wednesday Services, Montrose, Carnoustie	21	Ecclesiastical Investment Meeting, London
6	General Synod Office	23	Holy Trinity, Monifieth
7	St Andrew's Diocesan Synod	25	Consecration at St Paul's Cathedral, London
9	St Andrew's, Brechin	26	Vestry Meeting at Stonehaven
	St Paul's Cathedral Evensong	27	Deliverance Ministry, Edinburgh
12	Diocesan Buildings Committee	29	Mothers Union Service, Perth
14	Bishop Vincent Service at RC Cathedral	30	Mothering Sunday Service at St John and St Martin

## St Drostan's have a new website.

[www.stdrostans.org](http://www.stdrostans.org)

This will provide all the information you need about St Drostan's Church and Lodge at Tarfside, Glenesk. View the up-to-date calendar of Lodge availability and find out how to book together with details of what you can expect at the Lodge.

There is also a photo gallery and St Drostan's would like to post any of your interesting photographs on the site.

Please e-mail any comments or photographs to Peter Nelson [stdrostansbook@btinternet.com](mailto:stdrostansbook@btinternet.com)



## Music at St Paul's Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts Saturdays at 1pm

**8 March: Simon Kempston: Guitar**  
**22 March: Dundee University Chamber Choir**  
**5 April: Svitlana Explin: Piano**

Tickets available at the door  
Adults £4  
Students £3  
Accompanied school children: Free  
Coffee/tea served after each concert

## A Chamber Music Recital with The Savane Trio

**Keiko Asakawa: Piano**  
**Eva Lundell: Violin**  
**Jacqueline Black: Cello**  
**Guests:**

**April Randall: Viola and**  
**Stephen Morrison: Guitar**

**St Paul's Cathedral, Saturday, 12 April at 3pm**  
**Admission Free**

## Sunday School Resources

Resources are available on loan from the Diocesan Office.

Materials cover all ages.

Please contact Jackie on 01382 562264 or email [office@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org)

## Prize Bingo

St Martin's Church  
Derby Street, Dundee

Wednesday, 26 February at 1.30pm  
Admission 50p  
includes tea/coffee and refreshments

## Knitting Together Sunday, 23 March 2014

The Rectory, Arbroath  
3pm—4.30pm

Knitting together is a group that knits for charity or own knitting whilst chatting over a cup of tea and relaxing.

If you would like to attend contact Mairi Cuthbert 01241 873392 or email [mairicuthbert@gmail.com](mailto:mairicuthbert@gmail.com)

All welcome.

## Book Group at St Mary's Rectory

Each month the book group meets in the Rectory of St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath between 7.30pm-9pm where there is a relaxed discussion. Dates and books to be discussed below.

All welcome. For further details contact Mairi Cuthbert on 01241 873392 or email [mairicuthbert@gmail.com](mailto:mairicuthbert@gmail.com)

### Thursday, 20 March 2014

The Search for Richard III by Philippa Langley and Michael Jones.

### Thursday, 24 April 2014

One Day by David Nicholls

### Thursday, 22 May 2014

Villette by Charlotte Bronte

## Join the Real Easter Egg Campaign

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter.

Further information can be found at

[www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

