



Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Scottish Episcopal Church
www.brechin.anglican.org

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THE ADVENTURE OF ASCENSION

"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1: 8)

What? Them? Witnesses? Could *they* really stand up and command the attention of the world? They wouldn't get past the first round of interviews in any apostleship selection process, yet Jesus declares to the disciples that world-scale witnesses are indeed what they shall be; and before they can draw breath and beg to differ, he's gone and they're looking up, gawping.

And you'd think that would be the end of them; abandoned by their wonderful teacher who has just set off this verbal grenade and pushed off. But, interestingly, the opposite appears to be true. Once he's gone, they truly see him for the first time. They see him beyond their limitations and in God's all-encompassing realm; one which they now know includes and incorporates them; one which extends beyond the wildest confines of their old vision.

And so it's with trust and joy that they go back and set about doing as they have been commanded: waiting and praying, but with a fresh hope in their hearts. And, notably, they are a community. As one writer has pointed out, Jesus gathered them as a community, taught them as a community and left from the midst of the community. The Spirit was promised to the community and they wait and pray as a community. This group of people is the first Christian congregation. Our forerunners.

So maybe they have something to teach us, for the disciples' story is very much ours. Like them, our vision can sometimes be very parochial, limited to the time and space and people we know. Like them, Jesus can talk to us till he's blue in the face and the filters we've stuck around our brains mean that we still won't want to hear.

But as with the disciples, Jesus has got some big ideas about who and what we are as a community of Christians in this neck of the woods, and he knows that if we can let our eyes follow upwards after him and glimpse the realm of God where he now sits, we might see everything just a bit differently. And then what?

"...You will be my witnesses in the diocese of Brechin and to the ends of the earth..."
So...anyone up for an Ascension adventure?

Reverend Helen Bridger

For further reading see Feasting on the Word Year A Vol 2 2010 Westminster John Knox Press

Ascension Day North and South Thursday, 14 May 2015

St James, Stonehaven at 7pm
Celebrant: Reverend Jane Nelson
Preacher: Reverend Sam Ferguson
Refreshments

St Mary's, Broughty Ferry
At 7.30pm
Celebrant: The Bishop
Preacher: Reverend Canon Fay Lamont
Cathedral Choir
Refreshments

Mission Spot

Am I looking daily into the
face of the risen Christ?

In what ways am I reflecting
his glory to others?

Easter Around the Diocese



Kate & Hannah Willey
with the Easter Garden at
Arbroath



Creating a Picture
Carnoustie



Fair Trade, Arbroath

St Martin's, Dundee Prize Bingo

Wednesday, 29 April at 1.30pm

Admission 50p

Includes refreshments and free raffle

Holy Rood Church Carnoustie Coffee Morning, Cake & Book Stall

10am—11.30am, 2 May 2015

Entrance £1.50

includes refreshments

Holy Trinity Church Monifieth

Explorations in Prayer

A series of 2 hour workshops exploring our
understanding and experience of Prayer

10.30am - 12.30pm

23 May; 13 June

More dates to be confirmed for August & September

Places are limited. To reserve your place contact

Rev Kenneth Gibson 01382 535920 or 07825554419

St Andrew's Church, Brechin Family Fun Day Saturday, 23 May 2015 12.30pm onwards Featuring Alan's Magic Show

Bouncy Castle
Tea/Coffee Cakes
Barbecue
Floral Art
Demonstration

Games and
Stalls
Golf Game
Pound in Bucket
Roll a Penny
Hook and Duck

Raffle
Brass Band
Face Painting
Books

St Ternan's Muchalls Strawberry Afternoon Tea

on the Rectory Lawn

Saturday, 20 June 2015

2-4pm