



Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Scottish Episcopal Church

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We vote on June 8th

As the General Election on the 8th June coincides with General Synod in Edinburgh, many members will opt for a postal vote. I am fascinated how reports on elections are presented.

Margaret Thatcher's landslide victory in 1983 was achieved on 42.4% of the vote, but this will probably be lower than the SNP will get even on a poor showing. The SNP are unlikely to maintain 56 seats, as the Scottish Conservatives and Liberal Democrats will probably increase their number from one seat each. Though it is hard to predict how much 'tactical voting' might affect the result, it is difficult to see how the Conservatives will not win a larger majority in the Westminster Parliament than the 12 they had in the 2015 election on a 36.9% share of the vote. This will be reported as a major success for the Conservatives and be interpreted as a firm No to Scottish independence and a definite Yes to a hard Brexit for the UK. Any SNP losses will be seen, at least in England, as beginning to roll back nationalism. No one, except the SNP that is, will remark that they will hold the vast majority of Scottish seats. So both the Conservatives and the SNP will claim victory and that both have a mandate and both will be correct. This will continue to move Scotland, with its more social outlook, apart from England, which is more individualistic.

Sadly, the reporting of the General Synod vote on the amendment to the Canon on Marriage will be similar. The vote may be close but the numbers cast at the 2016 meeting indicate it will gain the required two thirds majority. This will cause further separation in the Anglican Communion, with the SEC left standing in the hallway as the naughty step is already occupied.

Would it not be nice if, as Jenny Marra observed at Diocesan Synod, the Church conducted its business with talk of reconciliation and not banishment? Would it not be nice if the Church provided political parties and governments with a model of how to be reconciled, as opposed to copying their behaviour? The move towards a more inclusive nation and more inclusive church may paradoxically cause us to drift apart and ultimately separate; the opportunity for reconciliation may be lost. I may be wrong in my analysis and conclusions, but Friday June 9th will be a long day.

Let's each praise God for his reconciliation and for coffee cups.

Rev Pete Mead

St Paul's Cathedral,
Dundee
Lunchtime Concerts
Saturday 13th May at 1pm
Strathmore Singers, Chamber Choir

Saturday 27th May at 1pm
Raymond Spasovski (Canada) Piano

Tickets available at the door, Adults £5.00,
Students £3.00
Accompanied schoolchildren free

St Martin's, Church Hall,
Dundee

Tea and B'lether Club

Saturday 27th May 2017
11.00am - 12.30pm

Free entry with Donations Welcome

Holy Rood Church,
Carnoustie

Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th May 2017
10.00am—11.30am
All welcome

St Martin's, Prize

Bingo

Wednesday 31st May
at 1.30pm
Admission 50p
includes refreshments and free
raffle.
All Welcome



Diocesan Area Ascension Day Services

Thursday 25th May 2017 at 7.30pm

St Martin's Church, Dundee

For the greater Dundee area

St Laurence, Laurencekirk,

For the Central and Northern area

Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Youth Week Glen '17

Sunday 23rd July—Sunday 29th July 2017
Glenalmond College, Perthshire

The Youth Week happens each year when young people and leaders from all over Scotland gather together for a week of fellowship, worship, activities, sports, and evening events. It's a fun-filled holiday week with a difference - there's plenty of time to relax, make good friends, and generally have a great week!

For further details contact Robson St Clair 01382 562 244
robsonstclair@yahoo.co.uk

Booking details can be found on the website

<http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org/resources/by/category/youth-group>