



# Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Scottish Episcopal Church  
October & November 2019 No. 139  
[www.thedioceseofbrechin.org](http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org)

Scottish Charity SC016813

## New Beginnings in the Diocese of Brechin

It has been a wonderful few weeks in the life of the Diocese of Brechin as we have celebrated the start of new ministries. Church life can be a challenge and the work to move towards delivering a Diocesan Strategy continues with the recent Synod: but the beginning of new ministries within the Diocese is a sign of hope and encouragement. Please watch out for news of the Diocesan Strategy and approaches to mission and ministry at every level of the Diocese in future editions.



### **Transitional Priest in Mid-Angus**

At the end of August the Revd John Skinner with his wife Linda came to charges of St Mary's and St Peter's Montrose with St David of Scotland Inverbervie and St Andrew's Brechin. John is the 'priest in charge' of this new linkage of churches and has been specifically licensed as a 'Transitional Minister': a priest with the project of helping the charges work together in shared aspects of their ministry. John will be working to grow a shared team for worship between the charges and helping the joint financial and governance aspects of the churches function well. John's licence is for an initial three-year period while the linkage is established. The start of John's ministry was marked by two licensing services, one in Brechin and one in Montrose, a sign of the different context and character of these communities.

### **A New Deacon**

At the end of September, on the Feast of Michaelmas, Roxanne Campbell was ordained as a Deacon in the Cathedral Church of St Paul in Dundee. The service was a wonderful occasion with exceptionally good music, superb preparation by the Provost and cathedral team and excellent support from people from churches, Roxanne's family and friends and many, many others. Roxanne originally comes from the Cathedral congregation and has served placements in other churches and secular places during her training with the Scottish Episcopal Institute.

Roxanne is serving an innovative curacy, with extended periods of time in different charges in Dundee City. She will be supervised initially by Dean Fay Lamont in St Ninian's Mid-Craigie, but the whole three year curacy is overseen by the Bishop. Roxanne lives in Dundee with husband Neil and daughter Isabella: she will not be moving house as she makes the transition to full time ministry. Please do look out for the Reverend Roxanne Campbell in Dundee and the wider diocese in the months and years to come!



The new Deacon dismisses!

Please keep John and Roxanne and all who minister in the church in your prayers!

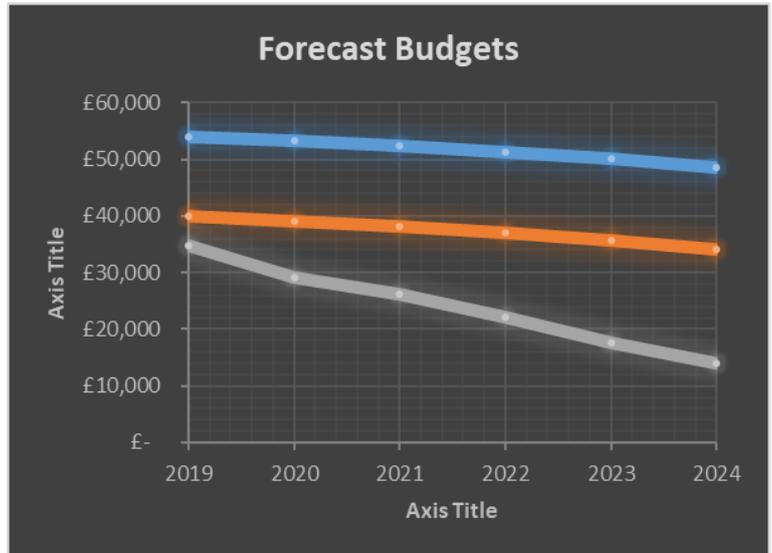
**+Andrew**

# Diocese of Brechin: Autumn Synod 2019

**Budget Deficit:** The Spring Synod approved a deficit budget as long as Diocesan Council reported back with plans and progress on reducing this deficit. The actions was started with some planning and projections for future budgets, based on different assumptions and cost cutting approaches.

The figure to the right shows some potential projected budget deficits. The Bishop suggested that even the best line might need to be improved upon.

A further report would be made at Spring Synod 2020.

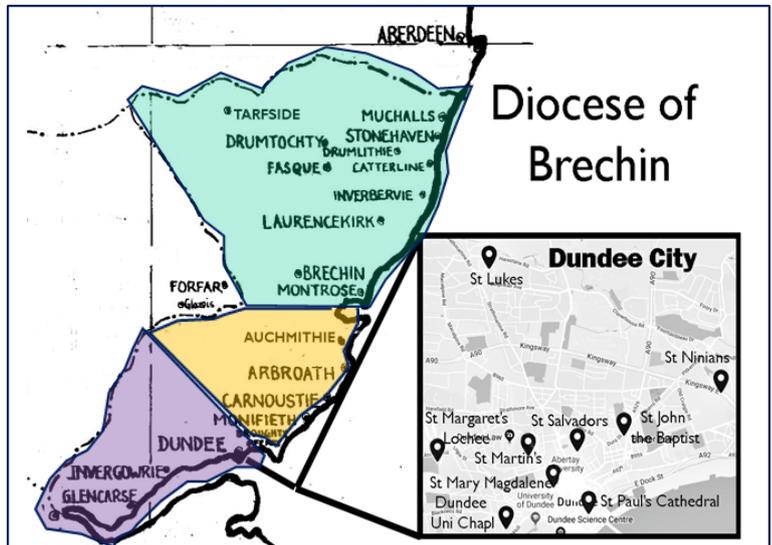


## Diocesan Strategy for the Diocese of Brechin:

Not a top-down strategy that tells charges what to do: a strategy to bring health (spiritual & financial) to our churches to let mission grow. Presentations were made on three strands of the strategy:

### Clusters – Transitions – Support

**Clusters** are groups of charges that are invited to meet and, helped by the Diocese, work together for mutual support. This may be in areas such as finance, property, outreach, spirituality. The cluster decides what it needs and what is helpful.



The 'northern cluster' started activities in 2019. The 'coastal' has met once and 'city and west' has a date to meet.

**Transitions** – helping churches find a long-term future. Churches work in partnership with the diocese to appoint a shared priest for a fixed term to look after the charges and produce firm/agreed proposals for long term future. Priest has special skills/training.

**Support** – helping ordained and lay ministries flourish. Focus on clergy & lay reader wellbeing, prayer for new vocations and work to help support a variety of lay ministries in every charge:

Discussions round tables and back in the whole Synod explored what this might mean. Clusters looked like some other plans for e.g. Local Collaborative Ministry or Mission Hubs: it was emphasised that what clusters did would be chosen by the cluster itself.

### Motion approved by Synod:

"That this Synod receives the presentations on Diocesan Mission initiatives and will support the Diocesan Council and Officers and others in developing and growing these initiatives."

# Diocese of Brechin: Autumn Synod 2019 Continued

## Money for Mission – Policy on Using Diocesan Reserves:

Diocesan Resources for Mission such as Transitional Ministries are limited. Deficit reduction planning constrains the finances available from year-on-year finances.



But the Diocese has reserves that could support mission initiatives like Transitional ministries and/or to cover deficits while the Diocesan finances are stabilised. Presentations were made on the Diocesan finances, what funds were actually available for general use and what the impact of this use would be. There are significant funds that are available, but which must be used prudently – they can only be used once.

A useful discussion took place on the balance between deficit reduction (which means less ongoing support for some charges) and use of reserves to help other charges to grow and develop long term plans. There was some anxiety about potential loss of support to some charges. The Diocesan Council is the body that acts for the Synod between meetings and needs to be empowered and trusted to deliver Synod's policies.

A motion (which had been amended before the Synod convened) was passed to empower Diocesan Council to act and require reporting back to Synods:

### **Motion approved by Synod:**

"That this Synod authorises Diocesan Council to prudently use reserves (cash and investment) to support mission and ministry projects, subject to the condition that each project must:

- a.** Be for a fixed period of time
- b.** Have clearly identified, measurable and achievable outcomes as agreed by Diocesan Council and the particular charge or charges involved
- c.** Be supported financially by the particular charge or charges involved as well as Diocesan Council
- d.** Be outlined in written terms which are submitted to the Diocesan Synod following, and thereafter reported upon annually."



The Acts of Synod were confirmed and lunch was shared!

**St James Church  
Stonhaven  
Book Browse**

**Saturday 5th 10am—4pm  
Sunday 6th 10am—2pm  
October 2019**

**Free entry  
Tea & Coffee**

**Books £1.00 each or 5 for £4.00  
All Welcome**



**St Martin's Church  
Dundee**

**Tea and B'lether**

**Saturday 19th October 2019**

**11.00am - 12.30pm**

Free entry with Donations



**St Martin's Church  
Dundee**

**Prize Bingo**

**Wednesday 30th October 2019**

**Eyes down 1.30pm**

All Welcome



**St Pauls Cathedral  
Lunchtime Concerts  
Saturdays—1pm**

**5th October**

Christopher Baxter – Piano

**19th October**

East Fife Male Voice Choir

**2nd November**

David Ferguson – Bass

**16th November**

Tayside Opera

Admission – adults: £5;  
students: £3; accompanied  
schoolchildren: free

Coffee/tea and cake

**St Martin's Church  
Dundee**

**Tea and B'lether**

**Saturday 16th November 2019**

**11.00am - 12.30pm**

Free entry with Donations



**St Martin's Church  
Dundee**

**Prize Bingo**

**Wednesday 27th November 2019**

**Eyes down 1.30pm**

All Welcome

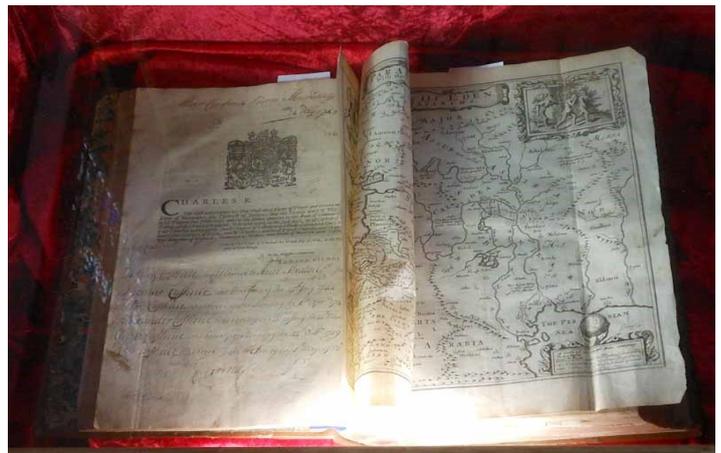
# Primus to dedicate 'Priests and Pipes' Exhibition at St James The Great, Stonehaven

Now that the work of creating the 'Priests and Pipes' Exhibition in the West End of St James' church in Stonehaven is nearing completion, we are very pleased to announce that the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Revd Mark Strange has kindly agreed to lead the Service of Dedication. The Service will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019, and will start at 4:00 pm. Also taking part will be our own Bishop, Right Revd Andrew Swift.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone from the diocese to join us. Invitations are also being issued to the very large number of people who have contributed to the Exhibition, including donors, suppliers and volunteers. Some people even fall into all three categories!!

As the Exhibition covers church history and the role of church organs, the service will contain elements of previous celebrations held at St James and some special musical items. Full details of the Exhibition are on our web site at <https://www.stjames-stonehaven.org.uk/exhibition/>

After the service the Primus will be asked to cut the celebration cake, and coffee and tea will be available, and of course the Exhibition will be open for all to view.



## Explore More. An After –School Club for Brechin

For the last five years volunteers from all the churches in Brechin have organised one-off 'workshop' events to provide a Christian outreach for primary children in the town. This has grown over the years and a Holiday Club now runs for the first week of the summer holidays. About a hundred children attend the Christmas Workshop. These events have gone under the banner of Brechin Explorers.

Although the leaders come from different churches within the town a very strong team has been built and we hope to get younger parents involved too. A large number of the volunteers are members of St Andrew's Church, Brechin. Various themes have been used including ,Getting to know the Disciples, Being in Jesus' team, Polar Explorers, A special Birthday-Christmas and Palm Sunday. It has become clear that if we are to continue building on what we have done at these events, then more regular get- togethers are needed. The children who come along are not church attendees. It has been decided to run a weekly club with a Christian ethos but to provide lots of hands –on activities and fun!

It is planned to;-

- Set up an after school club to meet each Thursday for 1.5 hrs.
- Continue the good practice already evident through existing teamwork
- Provide a Christian ethos with a culture of caring and sharing
- Offer a nurturing environment which enhances childrens' resilience, with a focus on wellbeing and support.(children and Young people (Scotland) Act 2014Offer a range of activities including some Christian teaching, discussion outdoor games, cooking crafts etc

We already have a reasonable team of volunteers but our requirements will very much depend on how many children enrol. It is planned to hold the first meeting at the start of November. Please remember this group in your prayers.

**Liz Howson**

**St Andrew's Church ,Brechin**

## Cross Connections

(A group of local musicians) presents  
An evening of Acoustic Music in aid of Holy Trinity  
Church Social Care  
Projects in Swaziland (eSwatini)

Music from across the decades and genres with something for everyone to enjoy!

**Friday 1st November at 7.30pm**

in Monifieth Parish Church,

High Street, Monifieth

**Tickets: £5**

**Available by calling Kenneth on 07825554419 or tickets will be available at the door**