

Brechin Bulletin

Diocese of Brechin Scottish Episcopal Church Summer 2015 No 101
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TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Have you ever had the feeling that God has turned your life upside down and shaken everything up? I have. Seven months ago I said goodbye to a long career in the civil service, my home in London and my ministry in the Church of England. In return, I have received good things in abundance. A very warm welcome to my new Church, our diocese and St Paul's Cathedral. A new home in Carnoustie, which once we got over the darkness of a Scottish November and the total quietness, Fiona and I have both come to love. We have received the support and kindness of colleagues and many people both at St Paul's Cathedral and other churches in our diocese.

There were however, a few things that I did not foresee. As someone who has spent most time on the west coast of Scotland, I did not expect to be totally entranced by the Angus countryside, but I am. I did not foresee a new member of my family arriving but she has. My beautiful granddaughter, Ingrid was born in Epsom on Trinity Sunday and finally, I did not expect to feel so at home so quickly. A brief trip back to London recently confirmed that I belong here now and a new chapter has opened.

So what prompted the leap of faith from all that I knew to something rather different? Well, I think it has ultimately come down to trust. As someone who only came to faith in 2004, most of my Christian journey has been rooted in trust. I trusted God and my Christian community in Wimbledon; I trusted that my vocation to the priesthood was real, that I would survive ordination training and finally that I could live out my calling as deacon and priest. It seems that God had a further call in mind – a relocation 500 miles north.

People have asked me what I miss about London and I can honestly say nothing, except for my family, friends and local racecourses! The move to Scotland, whilst not easy at times, has taught me that we do not stand still in our Christian journey; that we need to be very open to change, risk and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Most of all, my journey, spiritual and geographical, has taught me that God is, indeed, full of surprises!

Reverend Tracy Dowling



A FOND FAREWELL FOR THE REVEREND DAVID MUMFORD

St Andrews Church Brechin bade farewell to Reverend David Mumford and his wife Elisabeth at a Choral Evensong with Bishop Nigel attending.

David is retiring after being Rector of Brechin and Tarfside for 8 years and there were a large number of well wishers to mark this special occasion. He and his wife Elisabeth are now moving to Dunbar.

James Carnegy Arbuthnot spoke on behalf of the congregation of Father David's dedication and devoted service over these years. He added that David and Elisabeth will be very much missed, wishing them good health and happiness in the future.



**The Reverend Tracy Dowling
Chaplain at
St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee**



Summer Around the Diocese



**Holy Rood Church
Carnoustie
Coffee Morning, Cake & Book Stall
Saturday, 4 July, 1 August and
5 September**

10am—11.30am
Entrance £1.50
includes refreshments



**St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath
Summer Fayre
25th July 2015—10am-12noon**



**St Salvador's, Dundee
present**

**Soprano Emma Versteeg and
Organist Chris Bragg
Wednesday, 29 July 2015 at 7.30pm**

The programme will include the 'Six Biblical Songs' by Charles Villiers Stanford.
Tickets will be available at the door priced at £5 (£4 concessions).



**St James, Stonehaven
Open Day and Book Browse
Saturday, 1 August 2015 11am—3pm**

Music to include hand-bell ringing, organ recital, piano and singing.

Bouncy Castle Sausage Sizzle

Over 2,500 titles on display at £1 each

Entry free—tea and coffee available in the Church Hall

**Sunday, 1 August 2015 11am-3pm
Stonehaven Harbour Festival**

St James will be having a stall at the Harbourside

**Friday, 21 August 2015
"The Big Debate"**

BBC's lunchtime live broadcast will be aired from St James.

Public are invited to participate - watch media magazines for details.

**LINKS (SECMA) Quiet Day
"What time is it for you?"**

**Thursday, 20 August 2015
at 11.00am - 2.15pm
St Mary & St Peter, Montrose**

led by

Linda Walls (Lay Reader)

Coffee available from 10.30am

Bring your own packed lunch -
tea and coffee provided

For further information please contact
Rosemary Eddy 01382 667119 or
Judy Robinson 01382 645305



**Glencarse Games
Inchyra House, Glencarse**

Sunday, 23 August 2015 1.30pm

All Saints Church Glencarse Games Committee
invite you to come and join them at the
Glencarse Games.

Events will include dog judging competitions,
birds of prey, pipe band and
Highland dancing displays.

Stewarts of Tayside Tug o' War competition, -
open to both male and female teams.

Due to health and safety, there will be no
Throw the Wellie but the fun will continue with
Heave the Hassock

The event is being held to raise funds for
All Saints' Church and the
MindSpace Counselling Service in Perth.

Mission Spot

*In what ways are you
growing in God?*

*How can you help nurture
growth in a friend?*



Sheila Tennant Award in the Spirit of Mary Slessor

St Luke's, Downfield have been successful in their application for funding from the Sheila Tennant Award under the category of Creative Charge and have been awarded £1000 to go towards the purchase of a laptop, coffee machine, PA and radio mics.

The Food Cupboard Ministry at St Salvador's also received funding through the Community Endeavour section which will be used to help us continue our ministry to those who come to us on a Sunday afternoon.

St Salvador's would like to take this opportunity to thank all those congregations and individuals who support the work of the Food Cupboard Ministry in any way. All the help we receive is very much appreciated.

Grateful thanks are given for the generosity of Sheila Tennant and to those on the judging panel for these awards. The awards ceremony took place at Dundee West Church on 16 June 2015.

Further details of the award can be found on: -
<http://www.dundeechurch.org/sheilatennantawards.html>



Faith in Older People?

The Reverend Canon Fay Lamont represented the SEC at a presentation of the research done by Faith in Older people to the Scottish Government's policy of Reshaping Care for older people. The results of the survey can be found at www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk.

They speakers advised us that this was a celebration of the contribution of older people in the community had made. The faith communities had a major input into shaping care in older people because they don't work in isolation but are an important part of the ongoing partner working. Loneliness and isolation among older people were identified as the major issues and we were asked to consider this question. Were we dealing with 'A person with DEMENTIA' or 'A PERSON with dementia'? There are lots of older people services but they need to be accessed and many older people have complex needs or are just simply either frightened or too proud to do this so the faith communities play a huge role in communication.

Faith communities can influence therapeutic care but more importantly can help with also celebrating the spiritual dimension existing within older people.

Spiritual tasks are associated with trying to achieve balance and harmony in our lives so that we can accept our aging process with grace and honesty. T.S. Eliot said there were two fundamental questions in life. "*What is my life for? And What am I going to do about it?*"

FiOP was the vision and ambition of The Reverend Malcolm Goldsmith of Edinburgh. The SEC still plays an important part in the organisation.

Let me leave you with some questions for your church.

- **How aware is your church about the policy on shaping care in older people?**
- **How well and in what ways do you keep links with older people in congregation at local level?**
- **Could you consider having a FiOP group where some pastoral care training or sharing could be done?**
- **Or should this be done at a Diocesan level?**

Please respond to flamont53@sky.com or phone 01382453818 for further information or discussion.



Veterans Assist Scotland

Whether you left the Armed Forces two weeks ago or twenty years ago, were a member for a week or 40 years, Veterans Assist Scotland can provide you with information, support and guidance.

Further information can be found at www.veterans-assist.org

The Diocesan Office is closed for annual leave and will re-open on Monday, 27th July 2015

Bishops' Lent Appeal

The Diocese of Brechin raised £1200 for the College of Bishops' Lent Appeal for the Scottish Episcopal Institute's formational work with ministry candidates.
Grateful thanks for all the donations



Swaziland: Walking to Clothe the Children.

Young people from our Companion Diocese of Swaziland undertook a sponsored 200km walk over a 7 day period through the mountainous terrain. The aim of the walk was to raise funds and awareness of the difficulties faced by most children who wish to attend school in the rural areas. The poorest children wish to attend school, go barefoot and without proper uniforms. A basic school uniform will cost around £30.

How can we help?

The money raised from sponsorship pledges and collections during the walk is to be used to purchase school uniforms and shoes for the most needy children. The walkers' aim is to provide uniforms for 200 children - although the number in need is far higher.

I hope that individuals, families and/or congregations in our diocese might be inspired to support this worthwhile Companionship project. If you can help, please send or pass any donations to me with cheques made out to Holy Trinity Church.

Pat Millar
Companion Links Officer
Diocese of Brechin.



Woman's Retreat 2015 St. Drostan's Lodge Tarfside 11th-13th September

Leader **Fiona Walker**

For more information please contact;

Rev. Jane Nelson

Tel 01569 730967

or email nelson.jane1@btinternet.com



Centre of Mission Update

Over the past weeks three men have given their lives to Christ. It is early day but all the signs are that these conversations are genuine. It won't be an easy journey out of addiction for some of them but they are doing really well.

We need more people to help out in many different ways. You don't need any experience as we will train and support you. If you would like to explore how you can get involved contact Captain Craig Dowling

