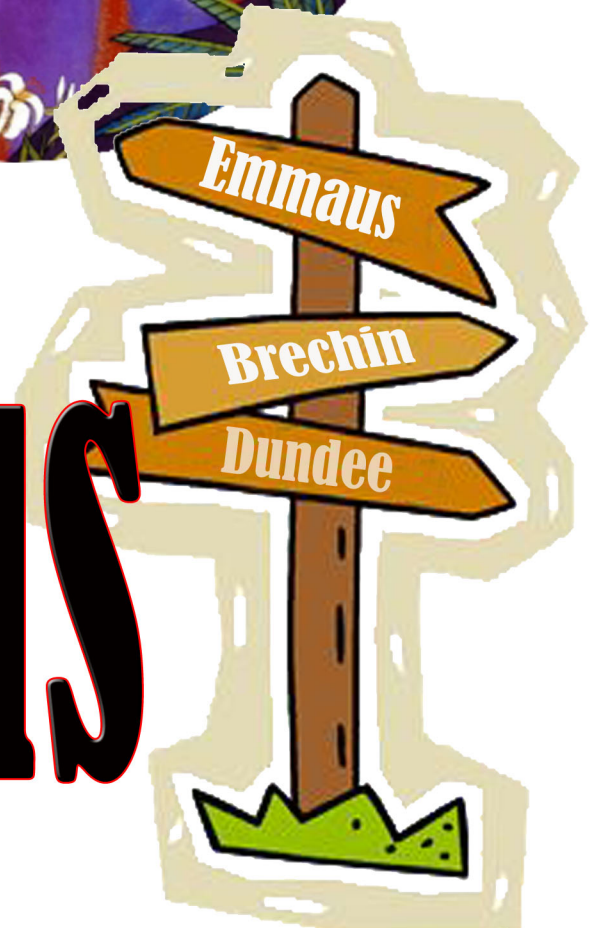


Brechin

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Emmaus



FOREWORD

I am deeply honoured to write this Foreword. Bishop John had a yearning to see, not only the churches in his diocese, but churches everywhere be active agents in the communities of which they were a part. What you read in this booklet is the result of much journeying around the diocese. From its pages you will be able to discern a picture of the diocese and of the way his vision for the church in the community was beginning to take shape. I commend it to you and to your congregations most warmly.

+Robert Gillies, Acting Bishop.

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SECTION ONE

1. Introduction

- Our Aim

The *Church in Society Action Group*, one of the committees attached to the Mission and Ministry Board, was given the task by Bishop John to make a record of the various ways the churches in the diocese reach out, both to their local community and to the wider world. He also wanted links with the Dioceses of Iowa and Swaziland strengthened and expanded.

Hence, the idea of an “audit”. To accomplish this job the group visited a total of seventeen churches, commencing with St Salvador’s in May 2009 and concluding with St Paul’s Cathedral in June 2010. The main aim of each visit was to listen, and take notes, as members of the congregation, Vestry and Rector told us about their church’s activities: how it was being ‘church in its community’. Each church reviewed its written report and on that basis we collated and analysed the information to produce this resource booklet.

However, this picture gives us an historical snap-shot. What Bishop John also wanted was for each church in our diocese to move forward by engaging in new and imaginative ways of being ‘church in their communities’.

We said that this booklet would be a celebration of all the many and varied activities engaged in by our church congregations, and indeed this is the case. We are certain that all congregations will be enormously encouraged by the range of activities and by the realisation of the important place the Scottish Episcopal Church has in our society.

So, our hope is that Rectors, Vestries and congregations will find inspiration in this booklet to enable them to fulfil that challenge given to the diocese by Bishop John.

- The Overall Picture

What a wonderful range of **church buildings** we have in the diocese! Each unique and precious and each requiring a lot of care and upkeep, making this, usually, one of the main preoccupations of Vestries and congregations. But they are a superb resource for the communities in which they sit. **Notice boards** give a good impression of each church and of the welcome that awaits both the regular attendee and the visitor. Colourful posters giving details of the services, vibrant with colour and movement, are very eye-catching. Such notice boards are also used to publicise up and coming events or a facility, such as a cafe, that is available to the public. **Gardens** bring a great amount of pleasure and provide splashes of colour, particularly in city surroundings. They can be made welcoming for anyone to come in and enjoy their peace and beauty. The **interiors** of our churches have many wonderful decorative features and often are just open on a Sunday, although several churches are open during the week giving a quiet and peaceful place for people to come and sit a while. Very often visitors from overseas also come to spend some time looking around. At some, food and tea and coffee are available for people, particularly the homeless, who are in need. There are fine examples of church needlework: lovely banners which adorn the walls. Again, in some churches there are notice boards displaying individual photographs of the Rector, Vestry and congregation. Being **e-connected** is an excellent way to advertise our churches, particularly if your church has something to market; for example, as a wedding venue.

SECTION TWO

SPECIAL SERVICES AND STUDY GROUPS

St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee, being the seat of the Bishop, has a central place in the life and work of the diocese, thus, it is the venue for many special services both for the diocese and the city of Dundee. Many are special occasions for joy and celebration: the enthronement of a new Bishop. Others, such as the Bishop Forbes' Evensong in September each year, are held to remember and give thanks for Bishop Forbes' work in Dundee. This service is also the opportunity for the renewal of commitment to their office by the various Lay Ministers: Readers; Eucharistic Ministers; members of Vestries; Diocesan Boards and Committees. While occasions such as the retiral Service of the Bishop or a Memorial Service, are more sombre, but along with the more joyous ones serve to bring the diocese together.

The Cathedral, also, is at the centre of the civic life of the city holding, for example, the Twin Cities Service each year which is attended by the representatives of Dundee's twinned cities. Dundee University has its annual Carol Service in the Cathedral.

The full richness and breadth of Episcopalian Liturgy is available in a number of services:

- Evensong and Benediction are sung in several churches.
- Special Feast Days that fall during the week are celebrated sometimes by Low or Solemn Mass or Holy Communion with prayers for healing. The Festival of Candlemas is also commemorated.
- A Taize Service for quiet meditation takes place at St Ninian's.
- Churches hold special Family Services and Children's Services.

The important events in the Church's calendar, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter are widely observed across the diocese:

(a) At Advent and Christmas there are:

- Joint Carol Services with the Church of Scotland and other denominations.
- Advent Carol Services.
- Christingle Services.

- Epiphany Carol Services.
- Mother and Toddler Carol Services.
- Community Christmas Tree services.
- Community Carol Services.
- A “Christmas Hurts” Service – which recognises that this can sometimes be an unhappy time of year.

(b) During Holy Week Stations of the Cross are said in several churches and in some this is combined with a procession to the local Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic churches. Also, there are a number of shared services with other denominations during Holy Week.

Some of the Linked Charges have shared worship.

There are various “International” dates that are marked:

- World Day of Prayer
- The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Service for Thinking Day, on 22nd February, for the Guide Movement.

At St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath, a monthly Tabcha Prayer Breakfast takes place. While, at other churches, the Rector or Eucharistic Ministers hold services and prayers in local retirement homes, sheltered housing complexes and day-care centres.

In addition to these foregoing ‘special’ services, there are other ‘events’ marked during normal Sunday Services, such as:

- Harvest Thanksgiving
- Sea Sunday
- Racial Justice Sunday
- Poverty Action Sunday
- Homelessness Sunday
- Back to School Sunday
- Back to Church Sunday
- Annual Services with local Church of Scotland and other denominations.

Very often a Retiring Collection will be taken on these Sundays for the particular organisation.

Throughout the diocese study courses are held, giving the laity the chance to deepen their knowledge of the Christian faith. There are TISEC courses for those wanting a more formal course of study, although most common are Lent and Advent discussion groups and courses. There are also Alpha Courses. Some groups study the Bible, and other texts, one such study group holding its meeting in a local pub. An exciting new development is being discussed by the Provincial Lay Learning Group: the establishment of a York St John's University course in Christian Studies in the diocese.

SECTION THREE

YOUNG CHURCH

Across the diocese our youngsters are being given grounding in the Christian faith. Though not every church has a Sunday School, nevertheless, this valuable work is being carried out in the majority of the churches we visited:

- St Paul's Cathedral uses the *Spotlight Series* that is based on the lectionary readings. The children come back into the service at the Eucharist and usually sing a song to the congregation that they have learnt as part of that morning's teaching. They also perform a Nativity Play at Christmas and are involved in the preparation of the Christingle Service. Young people (from age twelve) go to "The Third Sunday" sessions.
- St Ninian, Dundee has a Sunday School and Creche. The main emphasis is on building relationships and the activities are tailored for each age group.
- All Souls, Invergowrie has a small but very enthusiastic group whom the congregation treats as a very important part of their church community.
- All Saints, Glencarse has a very active Sunday School that meets on the Third Sunday of each month. The children come back into the service at the end and then give an account of that day's Readings.
- Holy Trinity, Monifieth has a thriving Sunday School where the youngsters are looking at the environment through their Bible study. They also make collages and join in the celebration of special festivals, such as Harvest Thanksgiving. The children also have a "Swazi Fund" (see Section8).
- Holy Rood, Carnoustie has a quite unique way of nurturing its youngsters. Most of them come to the church via the choir who 'look after them', thereby making them feel an immediate part of the church community. The children also have a number of overseas projects (see Section8).
- St Andrew, Brechin has a Sunday School during the 10.30am service.
- St Mary and St Peter, Montrose has a flourishing Sunday School that is self-funding. The children use resources at hand in the church as the basis for their learning. For example: their church buildings; the church liturgy. At the end of the service they come back into the church and give a short presentation on their work in that session. They use the monthly work sheet, *Take This* (www.TakeThis.org.uk).

- St James, Stonehaven has a Sunday Club for its youngsters. They join the main service at the Offertory.
- St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath has a Sunday School that has a regular attendance of around five children. Two or three young people attend “The Third Sunday” at the Cathedral and some have participated in the Glenalmond Week for a number of years.

Looking to the future: Rev. Angela Hughes, the newly appointed Convenor of the Development and Training Action Group attached to the Mission and Ministry Board, has, as part of her remit, the development of Sunday Schools in the diocese. To this end she has purchased a number of resource books and is planning several evenings at different venues in order to get together with those involved with the Young Church (see Section 10).

SECTION FOUR

CHURCH PROJECTS

This section gives some details about the many projects that have been taken on by the churches in the diocese. What is immediately obvious is the astounding diversity of these initiatives that reach out on local, national and international levels to the outside world.

- At St Mary, Broughty Ferry, **“The Mothers’ Union”** group, knit clothes for premature babies; small teddy bears are made and sent to traumatised children in hospital abroad in war zones; gowns and bonnets are sewn for still-born babies.
There is also a **“Mothers’ Union”** group at St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath, that raises money for Mothers’ Union projects.
- While a lot of our church halls are used by organisations such as Girls’ Brigade, St Ninian’s, Dundee, has its own **“Girls’ Brigade”** formed of girls from P1 to S6. This project is led and managed by members of the congregation. The girls lead some services at Easter, the Girls’ Brigade Dedication and the Christingle service. They also go up to St Drostan’s for a weekend.
- The Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association (**SECMA**) has a number of groups in the diocese whose work supports SECMA projects: A lunch for members is held each year, with each church taking a turn to host it.
- In several churches there are some members of the congregation who are in **“Cursillo”**.
- We are more eco-aware these days. Hence many churches collect various items for re-cycling, such as: postage stamps and post cards; ink cartridges and mobile ‘phones; dry batteries are recycled, not dumped in landfill sites; old spectacles are sorted and cleaned. All these are sent initially to Ann Noltie at St Salvador’s for onward transmission.

- Lunch Clubs, Shared Lunches and a Healthy Eating Initiative are used to raise funds for local, national and international projects.
- A variety of groups cater for members of congregations and the local community, hence there are:
 - Mother and Toddler groups
 - Youth groups
 - Dance classes
 - After School Projects
 - Fitness groups
 - Holiday Clubs
 - A Family Project incorporating a “Stay and Play” group
 - The Women’s Guild
 - Group supporting parents and carers with young children’s early development.
- There are individual projects that raise funds for special needs, such as:
 - Collecting household goods for “Starter Packs Dundee”.
 - Making up Shoeboxes for Blytheswood or Christmas Child Appeals.
 - Stocking a “Food Cupboard” with supplies for the needy.
- Some churches are open during the day, thus providing a safe haven for those who need a quiet space to sit for a while. Often refreshments are also available.
- Support, by way of prayers and donations, is given to a person working for the Wycliffe Bible Society in Central Africa.
- There are some good aids to devotion, for example: Intercession Request Boards with cards or cut-out little people; candles available to be lit, to assist private prayer; resources for use by children during the Sunday Service.

SECTION FIVE
CHURCH FUND RAISING
AND
CHURCH SOCIAL LIFE

The churches in the diocese are, without exception, beautiful buildings full of interest and history. However, as every congregation well knows, they need a lot of care, which usually means lots of money has to be spent on keeping them in good condition. Consequently, congregations have to find ways of producing these monies, and that means by way of *fund raising events*, of which there are a great diversity:

- Fairs and coffee-mornings are tried and tested fund-raisers, as well as other quite imaginative events:
 - (a) Monthly 'Book and Coffee Club'.
 - (b) 'Smartie Tubes'. After the sweets are eaten they are filled up with money.
 - (c) 'Jars of Grace'. Put a label on a jam jar and feed it with money every time a meal is eaten.
 - (d) 'Soup and Snack' lunches.
 - (e) 'Chocolate Tombola'.
 - (f) Monthly 'Meal of Simplicity'. The food is provided by a rota of church members, for example, the choir, vestry, servers.
 - (g) 'Strawberry and Champagne' afternoon teas.
 - (h) 'Cheese and Wine' evenings.
 - (i) Burns Suppers.
 - (j) 'Soup and Sweet' lunches.
 - (k) 'Daffodil' teas.
 - (l) 'Strawberry' teas.

- Money is also raised by way of **musical** events:
 - (a) Ceilidhs.
 - (b) Concerts.
 - (c) Themed functions, for example, 'Fifties Night'.
 - (d) 'The Bridge Praise Group' concerts.

- Then there are a whole range of other ideas for filling the church coffers:
 - (a) Bookstall held off church premises, for example in town centre.
 - (b) 'Buy a Brick' scheme.
 - (c) Bag pack for customers at a local supermarket.
 - (d) Donations received from use of church premises for community groups and projects.
 - (e) Use website to promote church as a special venue, for example, weddings, receptions and other events.
 - (f) Table top sales.
 - (g) Sponsored walks, haircuts etc.
 - (h) Craft groups, such as a quilting group, making and selling items.
 - (i) Provide stalls and entertainment ('Bouncy Castle') at local community events.
 - (j) Silent auctions.

All these numerous ways of keeping the church accounts in the black are thought up, run and attended by the congregation. Hence, in all our churches there is a very active and rich social life and a caring, pastoral concern for each other. Being a member of a church congregation in the Diocese of Brechin is fun, as is evidenced by the following occasions (in addition to all the others above-mentioned) when we all get together and keep in touch:

- Bingo sessions.
- Quiz Nights.
- Harvest Lunches.
- Burns Suppers.
- Pancake Days.
- Pantomimes.
- Bubbly and Berries Celebrations.
- Parish Meals held in local pubs.
- BBQs.
- Quilting and Craft Groups.
- Weekend Away Days to the Lodge at Glen Esk.
- Cards are sent to church members on their birthdays. Also to the newly baptised and confirmed.

SECTION SIX

ECUMENICAL OUTREACH AND CHURCH IN SOCIETY

While “ecumenical outreach” and “being church in society” have different emphases, they are broadly similar in that the activities they embody both ‘reach out’, the one to other Christian denominations, the other to people and organisations in our wider community.

All our church congregations are involved in ecumenical events:

- Joint services are held with local Christian churches annually and/or at Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.
- In some churches the Christmas Eve service is held early thereby attracting local families. Afterwards the children are given a present and everyone has mince pies and tea or coffee.
- Many Rectors and clergy teams are part of ecumenical groups that work in local schools, meeting regularly to discuss the way to carry out their work in these establishments.
- The Rector at Holy Trinity, Monifieth and Holy Rood, Carnoustie is, along with the clergy of other Christian denominations, a member of the Carnoustie Community Council.
- Choirs at some churches join with other local church choirs to sing Christmas carols at branches of TESCO’s.
- There are several formal organisations with other Christian denominations: “Lochee Churches Together”; “Brechin Churches Together”; “Montrose Churches Together”; “The Top of the Hilltown Churches”; “Broughty Ferry Churches Together”.

- Many of our churches, in conjunction with other Christian churches, hold ‘World Day of Prayer’ services on the first Friday in March. These local ecumenical groups meet to plan the services that are held in rotation in each church in the group.
- There are a number of ecumenical Bible Study groups that often draw in members of local Christian churches. On occasion these lead to Lent and Advent courses and also to joining groups visiting Iona and Oberammergau. In some instances, where there is no Mothers’ Union group available, church members join their local Church of Scotland Women’s Guild.
- Some of our church premises are used by other Christian denominations.
- St Ninian’s is involved in the ‘Mid-Lin Day Care Centre’, an ecumenical project with St Vincent’s (RC) and the Church of Scotland.

Without exception each church congregation engages in an astonishingly diverse range of ‘Church in Society’ activities:

- All churches work closely with local secular organisations:
 - St Paul’s Cathedral has links with Dundee City Council, with civic dignitaries attending many important services held in the Cathedral.
 - Rectors and/or members of clergy teams have contact with local Primary and Secondary schools where they take assemblies.
 - Local hospitals are served by specially appointed Hospital Chaplains and there are Chaplains to Armed Forces establishments in the diocese.
 - The Rector at St Mary the Virgin, Arbroath, is the Convenor of the Angus Independent Advocacy Board.
- The church buildings themselves serve their communities wonderfully:
 - Several participate in the ‘Open Doors Weekend’ in Dundee.
 - Churches are the venues for concerts at local, national and international levels.
 - Local nurseries use church premises, for example, ‘The Ark’ at St Paul’s that provides for the care and nurturing of children from 0 to 5 years of age.

- Many other groups make use of our church halls: there are Advice Centres; Community Projects (e.g. Boomerang, at St John the Baptist, Dundee); Mother and Toddler Groups; Weightwatchers; Local Forums; Dance classes; Quilt exhibitions; Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.
- Clergy and church members are engaged in breathtakingly numerous ways in the life and work of their individual communities:
 - Choirs visit local supermarkets for Carol singing, and in Old Peoples' Homes at Christmas, Harvest and Easter.
 - Some have handed out Hot Cross Buns to passers-by on Good Friday from the church steps, together with a note explaining the symbolism.
 - BBQs are held for the local people.
 - Local Nursing Homes receive visits from dedicated church volunteers and Eucharistic Ministers take services in their local sheltered housing complex.
 - Monetary support is given to many local, national and international charities, including the Cyrenians; Red Cross; SKIBB (premature babies); Life Boats; Mission to Seafarers; Christian Aid; SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Appeal Fund); Age Concern; Caring for Kids; Race For Life (Breast Cancer); Jericho House (Recovering Alcoholics); Cystic Fibrosis Society; Leprosy Mission; Blytheswood Care; Barnabus Fund; UNICEF; Starter Packs Dundee; Home Start; Archie Foundation; Mission Aviation Fellowship; Save the Children; Kath's Kitchen (Homelessness); The Aberlour Trust; The Aberlour Orphanage; Water Aid; Harvest Aid; Seven Arches Project; MacMillan Cancer; Scottish Poppy Appeal. And on special Sundays, e.g. 'Sea Sunday', retiring collections are taken up. Money is also sent for current disaster appeals.
 - Post cards are posted off in support of Tear Fund Campaigns to the Prime Minister, MPs and MSPs.
 - Most churches are eco-aware using low energy lighting. Some have done the 'Eco-Congregation' course, while one church has installed a biomass boiler.
 - Service books are available in Braille in some churches.
 - Very often church services and events are advertised in local newspapers.

- St Mary and St Peter, Montrose, distribute the church Newsletter to businesses and organisations in Montrose, resulting in donations of prizes and money for church events and requests for prayers to be said.
- A Bible study group that meets in the local pub has drawn in non church-goers into its discussions.
- Support is given to the local Credit Union.
- Food, donated by church members, is distributed from various Rectories to those in need.

SECTION SEVEN

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS.

It goes without saying that in all our churches there are dedicated bands of volunteers who 'keep the place running smoothly'. It is also true that, very often, they are under-appreciated and rather taken for granted. However, volunteering allows us to engage actively in our community and is a practical expression of our Christian faith.

Church volunteers perform an astonishing range of duties, both in our individual churches and in the wider community:

Some volunteers actively participate in our church services:

- Lay Readers.
- Eucharistic Ministers.
- Local Collaborative Ministry Teams.
- Choirs, whose wondrous singing adds depth and colour to our worship.
- Organists.
- Servers.
- Sacristans.
- Intercessors.
- Bible readers.

Others assist in organisation:

- Vestry members.
- Welcomers.
- Flower arrangers.
- Tea and coffee providers.

Then there are those who engage with their local communities. They:

- Visit the housebound.
- Give hospitality to visitors to the diocese.
- Help in Charity Shops and Groups
- Serve on boards/management committees of local/national Charities, Conservation Groups, Community Associations and Councils.
- Help with Scotland's Garden Scheme

- Sit on local School Boards
- Become members of Befriending Groups
- Assist in Holiday Clubs
- Help to man a Helpline, with the Local Primary Health Care Team, that provides drivers and telephonists
- Run groups of Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Boys' and Girls' Brigades
- Provide food and/or help for local Food Parcel projects
- Collect milk bottle tops that are then recycled into toys
- Assist with local Drama groups
- Support a local organically grown fruit and vegetable project.

SECTION EIGHT

OVERSEAS LINKS

The diocese enjoys close links with the Dioceses of Swaziland and Iowa; links which are both spiritual and worldly. We are all spiritually nurtured because each Sunday, in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our two sister dioceses, and they pray for us. And then there is the love and friendships that have developed as a result of visits, at Episcopal level and by groups of laity, to each other's dioceses.

We have been privileged to extend hospitality to Bishop Meshack Mabuza and Lucy from Swaziland and to Bishop Alan Scarfe and Donna from Iowa, as well as to church choirs, individuals and groups of young and older people. All of these visits have produced enduring friendships. In addition, some churches have links with other countries. A number of groups, and individuals, have also travelled from the diocese to our sister dioceses, with several trips being to Swaziland where it has been possible to assess the level of need and to check on the progress of the projects the diocese supports.

Currently not all churches in the diocese have overseas links, although some have had contacts in the past. However, some of the churches have active links with Swaziland, Iowa and other countries:

St Paul's Cathedral

- Raises funds for St Augustine's school, Mpaka, Swaziland
- There is contact with the Church of the Good Shepherd, Nablus, Palestine.

St John the Baptist, Dundee

- Linked with Christ Church, Burlington, Iowa
- Funds schooling of a child in Palestine
- Sends parcels each month to Swaziland
- Money is sent to support projects in Swaziland
- Funds the schooling of Bishop Meshack's niece

St Margaret's, Dundee

- Links, through exchange of hospitality, with Trinity, Waterloo, Iowa and Uppsala in Sweden

- Raises funds to support Jacaranda House, Swaziland

St Mary's Broughty Ferry

- Funds raised to support St Augustine's school, Mpaka, Swaziland
- Money sent to Swaziland for other diocesan projects
- Active branch of SECMA (Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association)

St Martin's, Dundee

- Contact with Trinity, Waterloo, Iowa
- Support given for child's schooling from the Pasture Valley Nursery, Swaziland
- Funds sent to Jacaranda House, Swaziland

St Salvador's, Dundee

- Funds support for a child in Mozambique, through the World Vision project

St Ninian's, Dundee

- Sends clothes and books regularly to Bishop Meshack
- Girls' Brigade has raised money for Jacaranda House, Swaziland

All Souls', Invergowrie

- Had a joint fund raising venture to improve the accessibility to their church and the provision of a toilet for the disabled and basic sanitation in the church hall, in Nairobi, Kenya. All of which was done through "Practical Action".
- Sponsors a child in the Philippines through the "Signpost International" programme.

All Saints', Glencarse

- Has links with an orphanage in Kenya and are actively looking into building links with other local initiatives to support work in Africa.

Holy Trinity, Monifieth

- Has the “Starfish Project” that supports five separate ventures in Swaziland. The funds are gathered in through a number of fundraising events and an envelope scheme, with some £3000 being raised in one year. One member of the congregation has visited Swaziland three times in the past four years.

Holy Rood, Carnoustie

- Has an informal link with Newton Church, Iowa
- Raises money for Rwanda, Africa and the Street Children of Brazil.
- Gives support to Holy Trinity’s “Starfish Project”.
- Sponsors a child in Malawi, Africa

St Andrew’s, Brechin

- Has links with Jacaranda House, Swaziland, through a member of the congregation who worked there as a volunteer.
- The previous Rector, Sidney Fox, was Rector at Red Rock, Iowa, although this link has not continued.

St Mary and St Peter, Montrose

- The Rector has some links with Kenya and Uganda.

SECTION NINE

FAIR TRADE

Some years ago there was a campaign to make the Diocese of Brechin a *Fair Trade* one. Once the churches signed up and met all the criteria, the Fair Trade Foundation granted its **Fair Trade Certificate** to the Diocese of Brechin in 2005. Since then each church is monitored annually to make sure it is adhering to the terms of the certificate. Consequently, in a great variety of ways congregations work hard to keep that qualification:

- Churches use *Fair Trade* tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits and juice; also bananas.
- *Fair Trade* catalogues, which have a superb selection of goods, are available.
- *Fair Trade* items are used for raffle and tombola prizes.
- *Swazi* jams, chutneys and sauces are sold.
- Some churches have a *Fair Trade* stall on a number of occasions during the year at which fair trade goods are sold. Any funds raised go to TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE.
- One church, in conjunction with other Christian Churches, distributed *Fair Trade* chocolates to all local businesses to thank them for their support.
- Another church has a shop, “The Rainbow Shop”, that sells *Fair Trade* items.
- “Big Lunches” for *Fair Trade* are held.
- *Fair Trade Fortnight*, held in the last two weeks of February is widely celebrated with a variety of stalls selling *Fair Trade* products. *Fair trade* lunches are also held.

SECTION TEN

THE FUTURE – WORKING TOGETHER

One of the aims we set out for this exercise was that we wanted it to be a celebration of the commitment to the work of the Church of congregations throughout our diocese. And we are confident that we have presented an accurate snapshot of those many ways in which people in the diocese go about being Christ in their communities.

It was a privilege for us to undertake this task on behalf of the Mission and Ministry Board at the behest of Bishop John. And we feel sure that we can all be proud of ourselves, our Rectors and Ministry Teams knowing, as is evidenced by this little booklet, of the hugely important role the Scottish Episcopal Church plays in the life of all the people who live and work in this north-east corner of Scotland.

BUT.....That's not it!

Sure, we can give ourselves a pat on the back, but what about the future? Bishop John's challenge to all of us (and our second aim) was to use this material as a springboard for moving forward; for getting us to take a long, hard look at ourselves and our churches; to be energised into trying new ways of doing things; to set ourselves free from the shackles of "it's always been done this way".

Here are a few thoughts as to how we might work together in the future:

Music and Services

- Consider varying the types of music and times and days of services, for example: Family Services on Saturday.
- Form a peripatetic choir.

Community/Ecumenical Outreach

- The "Food Cupboard" at St Salvador's provides 12 – 20 bags of food that are distributed weekly to the needy. This could be a project that other Dundee churches might consider supporting.
- There are plans to develop a centre at St Paul's Cathedral from which trained experts will go into the wider community to offer training and support to parents and carers of children in their early years of development.

Young Church

- Rev. Angela Hughes is organising three evening sessions in various parts of the diocese to look at the resources she has been able to purchase for those working, or hoping to work with, young children in Sunday Schools.
- She also plans to organise a “Godly Play” day (after the ‘resources sessions’)
- She also plans to start “Messy Church” at Holy Trinity, Monifieth. Information about this will be available at the ‘resources sessions’.
- We all know that our young people are our future and that we must nurture them. Surely then, the diocese should consider appointing a full-time, paid, professional Youth Worker. Or, perhaps we could share one with a neighbouring diocese.

Overseas Links

- It would be great if we could aim to have each church in the diocese linked to a church in both Iowa and Swaziland so that ideas, information and photographs, amongst other things could be shared. Thereby creating the opportunity to offer support in so many ways.

Our Church Buildings

- Think about your church’s unique points and how you might exploit them, for example, as a concert venue; as part of a local tourist trail.
- Make use of the media.
- Use social network sites, such as Facebook and Twitter.

And Finally

- It is our hope that we might use of a Questionnaire, used by the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, to gain further insight into future paths that the Diocese of Brechin might want to travel.

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Inevitably, in a publication of this kind there will be omissions and mistakes, for which we apologise.

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Tricia Paton

CONTACTS

We want to keep the information in this booklet up-to-date. So, we would be very grateful if you – Rectors and Vestries – could keep us informed of any new changes, developments, ideas in your churches.

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