



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter.
Scottish Charity No. SC 016813

April 2011, No. 52

Live for a Change

As I sat down to write this message I spotted this book on my bookshelf. It is written by Francis Dewar early in 1985 with the foreword by Gerard W. Hughes who says, "Live for a change answers an urgent need. In a nuclear age of high technology we fell, helpless, hopeless and powerless as individuals against the death-dealing nature of our world economy and the threat of nuclear annihilation."

What could be more appropriate as we watch our brothers and sisters in Japan struggle with the effects of natural disaster and possible nuclear catastrophe and as we live our Christian lives in Lent?

Most of us struggle daily with our Lent disciplines, feeling we ought to do more and yet feeling that however much we do we can't change the world. We pile a good heap of guilt on ourselves and instead of our Lenten journey being freeing and enabling it merely serves to make us feel more wretched.

When Jesus read out his manifesto (Luke 4:16 - 30) in his hometown synagogue he was filled with the Holy Spirit and was single-mindedly focused on the task ahead. He might have been affected by the aggression which came from his friends, family, colleagues, work mates, old school friends and neighbours as they ran him out of town but he didn't just walk away he walked away purposefully towards his goal.

What is our relationship to this young man tossed out of his home synagogue because he made people feel uncomfortable? A memorable character from an old book or walking with his people, the body of Christ, alive in today's world?

To be the body of Christ means we may be much different from the way the world would like us to be. We may even have to be different from the way we would like to be. The church which takes on Christ's mission may not be popular, just as he was not popular but the world needs to see Christ clearly and that means it needs to see the church clearly. We may be the only Christ it will ever see.

With God's help we can change the world for good a little bit every day. Together we can build stronger more generous communities, communities where people care for one another, communities where my actions affect and transform the lives of others for the better. For as the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus, so it is upon us to "preach the good news to the poor...release to the captives... sight to the blind.... and liberty to the oppressed."
Canon Fay Lamont, Cathedral Chapter

GARDEN WORK PARTY

Further to last month's appeal in the Bulletin, there has been a change in the days.

If you are any good at general gardening jobs - weeding, pruning etc., your help is needed in the garden at the Bishop's House.

As employing gardeners is costly, we propose having 2 gardening work parties in April on Saturday 9th and Tuesday 12th from 10am to 2pm.

If you are able to come, please contact Judy Robinson on 01382-645305 or by e-mail:

judy.robinson@virgin.net

If you can only manage an hour or so, please still come. Coffee/tea will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch and any gardening tools you may have, as well as 2 strong black bags for rubbish.

The Bishop's House is at 5 Glamis Drive, Dundee. DD2 1SW. Please park on Glamis Road, just north or south of the Blackness Road roundabout as there is very little parking space at the house.

NO MEETINGS IN APRIL

Bulletin Deadline - 16th of each month.
Please send news to:
office@brechin.anglican.org

Prayer for a new Bishop

GRACIOUS GOD, you know the needs of your Church in every place: hear the prayers of your people in this Diocese as we seek a new Bishop. Bring to us, we pray, a faithful pastor with vision and courage; one who will shepherd this flock and unite us in love and peace, so that your kingdom may be advanced, your people confirmed in their holy faith, and your unending love declared to the whole world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE

APRIL

St. Mary the Virgin, Arbroath

15th Spring Fayre. 10am—12 noon.

St. Andrew, Brechin

3rd Mothering Sunday. 10.30am. Join us for our Family Eucharist Service.

St. Margaret, Lochee, Dundee

9th Spring Fayre. 2pm—4pm.

19th Bingo in the Parish Room. 2pm.

St. John the Baptist, Dundee

3rd Choral Evensong. 6pm. All welcome.

17th Lift High the Cross. 6pm. A service of music and readings for the start of Holy Week. All welcome.

St. Ninian, Kingsway East, Dundee

17th Taize Service. 6pm. All welcome.

Can you help this little person?



St. Ninian's Stay and Play Family Support Project

is looking for volunteers on a Monday between 9am and 4pm to do a variety of jobs.

- help play with the children
- interact with the parents
- serve and clear away food
- set up and tidy away play space.

If you can spare an hour or two, please contact Fay Lamont on 01382-453818 or 07931-222092 or e-mail: fay.lamont@sky.com

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN YOUR CHARGE

The Diocese has recently purchased a number of resource books which will be available on loan. There are to be 3 evening sessions within the Diocese to which you are invited. Come along and explore the resources, share ideas, and look to the future. Whether or not you have children in your church, come along. Be encouraged! Be inspired! All are welcome. Please contact the Revd. Angela Hughes at 01241-853303 so that she may have an idea of numbers. All meetings are from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

Tuesday, 5th April: St. Mary and St. Peter, Montrose

Thursday, 14th April: St. Ninian, Dundee

Thursday, 5th May: All Saints, Glencarse

LOST PROPERTY

A black woollen scarf, with fringes, was left at Chalmers Ardler Church after Synod on Saturday. If anyone has lost this, and wants to claim it, please contact Fay Lamont on 01382-453818 or 07931-222092.

'SCOTS'

THE SCOTTISH CHURCHES ORGANIST TRAINING SCHEME

An invitation to past, present and future members and to local organists and keyboard players to take part in a **Training Day**. One was held in Edinburgh in January, another in Largs in February and those still to come are:

18th June at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Elgin: **24th September** at St. James the Great Episcopal Church, Cupar: and **19th November** at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Stirling.

'Scots' exists to find and encourage emerging organists as well as to assist those already in posts who wish to develop their skills. Participants work at their own pace towards three successive certificates, but with meetings with an Adviser who is an experienced organist and church musician.

For registration and further information contact Susan Wilson, Membership Secretary, at 01592-874748 or e-mail: sdwilson@hotmail.co.uk

HOW IS YOUR VESTRY?

Vestries are vital. Their role is central and their proper functioning critical to the wellbeing of any charge. Therefore, it is essential that those elected to a Vestry are properly equipped for their responsibilities.

The Education Action Group of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway has produced a work book to offer training for Vestries within the Diocese.

It is intended to supplement the materials available elsewhere in the Province, namely the 'Guidance and Resources for Vestries' to be found on the Provincial web site.

Rev. Canon Fay Lamont, our Diocesan Mission Officer, is offering to help your Vestry, or better still, regional grouping of Vestry members together to use this material here in Brechin Diocese. This would consist of 4 x 90 minute sessions at a time and place to suit you.

For more information or to enter a note of interest, please contact: Canon Lamont on 07931-222092 or 01382-4538818 or e-mail: fay.lamont@sky.com

The **Brechin to Emmaus** booklet was distributed at Synod on 6th March. This little booklet is the outcome of the church visits done by the members of the *Church in Society Action Group* over the past 2 years. Copies (usually 4) were given to Rectors or Lay Reps, who will pass them round the Vestry and Congregation for reading and discussion!

So that as many as possible can read the booklet it is available as a pdf file on the *Diocesan Website* <http://new.thedioceseofbrechin.org>. At the home page, click on the 'publications' tab at the top of the page - you'll find it under 'Brechin to Emmaus Booklet' near the bottom of that page.

Tricia Paton.