



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. December, 2009, No. 37
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God with Us

Advent and Christmas bring well-known phrases to our ears through the Advent and Christmas Collects. Most familiar are the opening verses of the Advent Collect:

*Almighty God, give us grace
to cast away the works of darkness
and put upon us the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life in
which your Son Jesus Christ
came to visit us in great humility. . .*

This Collect, perhaps more than any other, spoken in the dark days and nights of early winter, reminds us that God is revealed, not simply through the words of prophets and wise men, through words on a page or on the lips of preachers, but in the life of a particular human being.

The struggle to understand this human life, to appreciate what it means to be faced with a God who is with us in the life of another person, Jesus, is one of the challenges of being a Christian today.

Yet it is precisely this that is asked of us. We are not called to accept or digest a full panoply of religious dogma - though the Nicene Creed can be daunting to many - nor to sign up to articles of faith that might challenge a learned theologian, but we are called upon to engage with the story of the man Jesus Christ, with its curious asides, its sometimes bewildering accounts of life and its stretched demands on our imaginations.

And that is because this is a real story about a real person who arrives in a particular place at a particular time in human history, and who calls us to follow him. A way of life that is still challenging, utterly relevant, rooted in the rest of humanity. The Advent collect talks about 'this mortal life'. That's life as we live it now—precisely where we find God in Christ.

WORLD AIDS DAY - 1st December, 2009

Started on 1st December, 1988, World AIDS Day is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. The theme for 2009 is: **Universal Access and Human Rights**. According to UNAIDS, there are now 33.2 million people living with HIV, including 2.5 million children. Around half of those who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. In the UK there are 80,000 people living with HIV, and over one quarter of those with HIV do not know they are infected. World leaders have pledged to work towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, recognising these as fundamental human rights. Valuable progress has been made, yet greater commitment is needed around the world if the goal of universal access is to be achieved. In low- and middle-income countries, less than half of those in need of antiretroviral therapy are receiving it, and too many do not have access to adequate care services. For more details you may access the website: www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm

From the Bishop's Desk

DECEMBER

- 8th Administration Board. 6pm.
- 13th St. Margaret. 11am.
- 13th University of Dundee Carol Service. Cathedral Church of St. Paul. 5pm.
- 20th Holy Trinity, Monifieth. 100th Anniversary. 10.30am.
- 20th Cathedral Church of St. Paul Carol Service. 5pm.
- 24th Cathedral Church of St. Paul. 11.30pm.
- 25th Cathedral Church of St. Paul. 10am.

WORD LIVE

How would you like the **Word of God** delivered straight to your inbox, your Ipad or your mobile phone every day? Then click:

www.wordlive.org and sign up. Good to chew over first thing in the morning or to look at on your way to work or the shops. Comes with commentary, discussion forums, worship songs and much more.

PUBLICITY

Blank postcards with the Episcopal church sign (Pub sign) may be obtained from the General Synod Office at a cost of 10p each. For a few pence more you can overprint these and place them in public places in your community, especially in hotels, B and Bs, libraries etc. **GO ON - GET YOUR CHURCH NOTICED!**

Bulletin Deadline - 16th of each month.

Please send news to:

office@brechin.anglican.org

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH

Aberdeen and Orkney Diocesan Mission Committee are offering this conference to churches in the north. The venue: Swallow Hotel, Aberdeen. Dates: 10-13th January, 2010. Cost: £300 **Booking slips available from your Clergy**. £75 Deposit required with registration, balance due by 4th January. You can also register with Canon John Walker, 01467-620470 or e-mail: jwcan@tiscali.co.uk

RETREATS

The Diocese is allocated a small amount of money each year from Provincial Funds to help encourage and fund people going on retreat. Preference will normally be given to first-time retreatants. A report of how the funds were used will be asked for in due course. Application forms can be obtained from: Mrs. Pat Millar, Convenor of Development & Training, Mission and Ministry Board, 25 Tay Street, Monifieth, Angus. DD5 4BG or by e-mail: pamillar@tiscali.co.uk

NEW GRANTS

available from

ALLCHURCHES TRUST

The Diocese of Brechin, in conjunction with AllChurches Trust, is offering, during 2009/10, small grants up to £1,000. Application may be made towards the cost of helping churches engage with their communities in Mission and Outreach.

All projects must be linked to the church's Mission Strategy. They may be used for equipment or other sources or used towards buildings to help in engaging with the community. A report on how the funds were used will be asked for in due course. Application forms may be obtained from: Miss Hilary Gibson, Diocesan Secretary, 45 Tullideph Rd., Dundee. DD2 2JE or by e-mail: hgibson45@btinternet.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

St. Mary, Broughty Ferry

1st World Aids Day. Special time in 'Sacred Space'. 7pm.
13th Santa Service. This is a special service with a collection of special goods to support the work of SMILE INTERNATIONAL. 11am.

20th Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by minced pies and mulled wine. 4pm. Funds raised will go to our Home and Overseas Project.

24th Christmas Eve around the Tree. 4pm.

25th Christmas Day gathering at the Crib. 10am.

St. Andrew, Brechin

30 Nov. Patronal Festival. Solemn Eucharist at 7pm.

13th Ecumenical Candlelight Carol Service with St. Drostan, Tarfside at Lochlee Parish Church, Glenesk. 3pm.

14th Brechin High School String Ensemble Concert at St. Andrew's Church. 7pm. Admission by donation.

20th Christingle Service. 4pm.

Holy Trinity, Monifieth

28 Nov. Christmas Fayre. 10am - 12 noon.

29 Nov. Evening Service for Advent. 6.30pm.

All Sunday Services are now 9am Sung Eucharist **except:**

20th Centenary Service lead by Bishop John. 10.30am.

24th Carols - 9.30pm. Christmas Eucharist 10pm.

25th Christmas Day Eucharist 10.30am.

St. Ninian, Mid-Craigie

29 Nov. Advent Taize. 6pm. Followed by Advent Supper.

1/8/15 Dec. Advent Study in the Sunday School Room. 7.30-9pm.

11th Lighting of Community Christmas tree. 4pm.

13th Carols and Christingle. 6pm.

24th Midnight Service for Christmas Eve. 11pm.

St. Salvador, Dundee

20th Cantiones Sacrae Carols by Candlelight. 7.30pm. Admission by ticket.

24th Christmas Eve. Midnight Mass of the Angels. 11.45pm.

25th Christmas Day. Dawn Mass of the Shepherds. 9am. Mass of the Incarnate Word. 11am.

26th St. Stephen. Mass at 10am.

28th Holy Innocents. Mass at 10am.

29th John, Apostle and Evangelist. Mass at 7pm.

1 January Naming and Circumcision of Our Lord. Mass at 10am.

St. Martin, Dundee

24th Christmas Eve Family Service followed by light refreshments. 7.15pm. All Welcome.

25th Christmas Day - No service.

27th Service 11am only.

St. Ternan, Muchalls

20th The Festive Players present "Two Tales for Christmas": "The Three Travellers" and "The Littlest Angel". 4.15pm. Cost £8 (includes glass of mulled wine). Contact Carol Masson at 01224-733583 or Sue Muir at 01569-731875.

RURAL FUTURES

The Diocese has been invited to ask people to attend a conference on Rural Futures. This is being organised by the Church of Scotland and is on Wednesday, 9th December at the Church of Scotland Offices, 121 George Street, Edinburgh. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Rev. Elizabeth Campbell, Convenor of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board. The Diocese would also like to appoint someone to be a representative for rural issues. Again, please contact the Convenor if this is something you think may be your calling. Contact: lizziecampbell@o2.co.uk or phone: 01569-764264.

THE ARTS CHAPLAINCY IN SCOTLAND

Presents

Advent

An examination of the season of Advent through Poetry, Literature and Art.

The Chaplaincy, University of Dundee on Saturday, 5th December.

10.00-10.30 Gather and Coffee 2.45-3.15 Plenary Session

10.30 Advent through Poetry 3.30 Depart.
Rev. Prof. David Jasper

11.30 Advent in Literature.
Rev. Dr. Scott Robert

12.30-1.30 Lunch

1.45 Advent in Painting
Rev. Dr. Donald Orr.

There is no charge for the day, but contributions to the costs of coffee, tea etc. are most welcome.

[http://www.dundee.](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/general/campusmap/)

[ac.uk/general/campusmap/](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/general/campusmap/)

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

17 Ancrum Road, Dundee

Come and Sing for Advent

Saturday 12th December from 1pm until 5pm

Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever wanted to sing in a choir? Please come and join us at any point in the day, either to join the choir or as the congregation.

1-2.30pm: Adult Practice. 2.30-3pm: Tea/Coffee & Conversation
3-4.30pm: All Ages Practice. 4.30-5pm: Break (bring a snack)
5pm: Service followed by refreshments

For further information contact the Rev. Dr. Annalu Waller: awaller@computing.dundee.ac.uk or telephone: 01382-644570 (h); 01382-388223 (w)

St. David of Scotland, Inverbervie

St. David's Vestry and Congregation appreciate and wish to thank all Clergy and others who have helped during the interregnum. They are looking forward to welcoming the Rev. Canon Steve Collis as their new Rector.