



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. December, 2011 No. 59
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LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Against the background of a Recession many people will approach this Christmas with a profound sense of anxiety, about their jobs, homes and prospects. Businesses, pension funds, public sector workers see prospects eroded. The highest number of young people for decades now cannot gain employment. For those at the sharp end any vision of a better Scotland or a fairer society can seem remote and unaccommodating.

Yet the Bethlehem inn found room for a newly arrived couple with nowhere to stay. They must have felt very uncertain and anxious. The Christmas story draws us into the generosity of God's big response for our broken world. Bethlehem was not perhaps expecting the Son of God, the saviour of the world. But Jesus always comes, whether the world is ready or not, to challenge hopelessness, terror and complacency with grace and love. As our 1982 Scottish Liturgy says: 'He made His home among us that we might for ever dwell in You.'

Of course for children and grown-ups alike Christmas is about cards, presents and family get-togethers. This year as home-alone grandparents Anne and I are looking forward to joining the residents of St Margaret's Home in Dundee for lunch on Christmas Day. Whatever you are doing remember also those for whom Christmas is a lonely or difficult time.

Across the diocese our churches will again provide occasions for worship and enjoyment in their local communities. And many infrequent churchgoers and visitors will come. The Christmas season gives us a tremendous mission opportunity to touch the lives of all kinds of folk who come to our Christingle Service, candlelit carols OR Midnight Mass and hear again the familiar words of the Christmas story and its enduring message of an accommodating God:

***Holy child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
Come to us abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel***

Dr. Nigel Peyton
Bishop of Brechin

FROM THE BISHOP'S DIARY

December

- 1st Ecclesiastical Insurance, London.
- 4th St. Ternan, Muchalls.
- 8th Lancaster University.
- 10th Clergy Christmas Party at Bishop's House.
- 11th St. Margaret, Dundee. University of Dundee Carol Service, St. Paul's Cathedral.
- 12th Safeguarding Meeting.
- 15th Charity Carol Concert, St. George, Hanover Square, London.
- 18th St. David of Scotland, Inverbervie. Cathedral Carol Service.
- 22nd Cathedral Christingle Service.
- 24th Midnight Mass, St. Paul's Cathedral.
- 25th St. Mary, Broughty Ferry. Christmas Lunch at St. Margaret's Home
- 26th December to 7th January
On leave with family.



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

MEETINGS

There are no meetings scheduled for December
Jean Kelty will be out of office from 12th to 28th December inclusive

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE



Holy Trinity, Monifieth

18th 9am Sung Eucharist. 6.30pm Carol Service.
24th 10pm Christmas Eve Eucharist.
25th 9am Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day.

St. Martin, Dundee

24th 7.15pm Christmas Eve Service. Carols and Holy Communion. Refreshments in hall following the service.
25th NO SERVICE.

St. Margaret, Dundee

2nd 7pm doors open for Big Prize Bingo. 7.30pm Eyes down! Raffle prizes to be won, and refreshments available.
24th 5.30pm Children's Service and Blessing of the Crib.
10.30pm Carols by Candlelight. 11pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity.
25th 10.30am Sung Eucharist.

St. Ternan, Muchalls

11th 4pm "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas, narrated by Alan Ireby with String Quartet accompaniment. Tickets £8. Telephone: 01224-733583, Carol Masson.

St. Ninian, Dundee

9th 4pm. Lighting of Community Christmas Tree by local poet Gary Robertson, with carols and refreshments.
11th 6pm. Carols and Christingle led by Girls' Brigade.
24th 11pm. Christmas Eve Eucharist.

St. John the Baptist, Dundee

27th 6pm. Advent Carol Service for the 3 Churches. Advent Carols and Hymns. Everyone is most welcome.
1st January, 2012: First Sunday after Christmas
Joint Service for the Linked Charges at 10am
8th January: Epiphany Carol Service at 6pm followed by refreshments.

CAN YOU HELP ME PLEASE?

COME, STAY AND
PLAY WITH ME
ON MONDAYS AT
ST. NINIAN'S



Everything is set up between 8 and 10am and cleared away between 3 and 4.30pm. The boys and girls come with their parents and we get lots of different things to do, but we need more helpers.

PLEASE can **YOU** spare a few hours any time to come and join us on Mondays? You can enjoy a great free lunch too!

Please phone: 01382-453818

BREAKING BARRIERS

FRIDAY 2ND TO SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 2011.

AT

TULLIALLAN POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE, FIFE

A dynamic weekend conference bringing together young Christians and Muslims in Scotland: exploring beliefs and practices, reflecting on Scripture, finding common ground.

- Delegate fee is £25 which includes 2 nights' accommodation and all food.
- Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.
- For more information contact Iain Stewart at: istewart@cofscotland.org.uk

STAGING OF UNIQUE PLAY

In

DUNDEE

On 29th November at 7.30 pm in THE BONAR HALL, University of Dundee,

BY

The men of JERICHO HOUSE who have written, and will perform, the play that has as its title
"A THIRST FOR LIFE"

The men, who are all recovering alcoholics, have chosen this powerful way of looking at themselves, and with humour and pathos give us some insight into their lives. Jericho House Alcohol Recovery Unit, Scottish Charity No. SCO169909, 36 Artillery Lane, Dundee is a house of Multiple Occupancy whose service users help each other, together with trained staff, to overcome their addiction to alcohol. They use the adapted 12 step programme of AA. The House is made up of individual flats where the men can stay for 6months to 1 year. It is purpose-built accommodation to help those in need to recover from their addiction to alcohol... **BUT** It needs help with funding! Please come along to the BONAR HALL and support this brave endeavour by a group of men who have been to hell and are on the way back. Tickets cost £3 (which includes a drink and finger buffet) may be purchased on the night at the door.

Tricia Paton.