



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. February 2010, No. 39
Scottish Charity No. SCO 16813

From the Bishop's Desk

FEBRUARY

- 2nd 7.00pm. Candlemas at St. Salvador.
6th 10.30am. Edinburgh meeting.
7th 8.30am and 11.00am. St. Martin.
11th London. Lord Mayor's Dinner.
14th 8.00am and 11.00am. St. Mary Magdalene.
17th 10.00am. Ash Wednesday. Meeting at Brechin.
18th 9.30am. Business meeting in the office.
21st 11.00am. St. Laurence, Laurencekirk. First Sunday of Lent.
23rd 9.30am. CME Day at the Bishop's House.

February Meetings

- 3rd 2.00pm. DBAC.
18th 9.30am. Business Office.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

16th of each month.
Please send news to:

office@brechin.anglican.org

New Year Blues?

This hardly seems an appropriate title with which to start one of this year's Bulletins - but how strange it is that the turn of the year seems to bring appalling disasters especially on poor people. As if the Tsunami was not enough, there will be those in Haiti wondering about the nature and purposes of God.

I do hope that while individuals will be able to make a contribution to Christian Aid or the Emergency Disaster Committee - some churches will have held a special collection - or offered a contribution from their funds.

But as I write, this happened several weeks ago, only to be followed by that sad BBC TV Scotland documentary on the 'uses of Buckfast wine' - that's my shorthand title. Here was a programme that quoted the great and the good - including our own Bishop Bob in Aberdeen.

What the programme barely touched on - and it seems a bit strange - was 'why Buckfast?' - perhaps because it's powerful and cheap.

One of the problems with all this is, not that some people are alcoholic or just 'heavy drinkers', but that they may be living their lives in a context of acute poverty and misery. The bottle then becomes their consolation. It is nothing new.

I noticed that it is has been reported that Scotland will come out of recession later than other parts of the UK - but that Dundee will be later still.

Unless the underlying *causes* of poverty, crime and disaffection are tackled we are doomed to an endless cycle of misery. It means getting political in 2010 - but never forget that the church (and that means *your* church) has a part to play in the restoration of community.

- *Bishop John*

*******DIOCESAN TRAINING DAY*******

6th February, 2010, St Mary's Broughty Ferry

For those who **lead Intercessions** and/or **read Scriptures** and for those who are **interested in finding out** more about these ministries. It will be a day of teaching input, hands-on tasks and resourcing. There will also be an opportunity to share resources and ideas, to share fellowship and meet others in our Diocesan family. The day will commence at 10.30am with coffee being served from 10am. Hot drinks will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. The day will end at 3.30pm. Anyone interested please contact: **The Very Rev. David Mumford** at 01356-622708 **OR The Rev. Jonathan Bower** at 01382-805088 e-mail: jonathanbower@clergy.net

WHAT'S ON IN THE DIOCESE

St. Martin, Dundee

28th **Musical Soiree** (in aid of church funds), with music by Ken Stewart. 2.00-4.30pm. Tickets £4 (including buffet) may be obtained from the Vestry Secretary at 01382-825692.

St. Margaret, Lochee

9th Bingo in the Parish Room at 2.00pm.

St. Mary, Broughty Ferry

7th Candlemas Sunday. 11.00am. All welcome.

The Ark Nursery - Finance Director

The Ark Nursery was founded by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and is a charitable company that provides quality child care, situated in the centre of Dundee. It supports a range of charitable activities, including the ministry of the Cathedral itself. The Board of Directors is currently looking for a person with experience in finance or accountancy to provide a small amount of regular support as Finance Director. Further details of responsibilities and remuneration are available from Stuart Booker on 07958-447975.

JAMES GREGORY LECTURES ON SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Venue: Younger Hall, North Street, St. Andrews.

Time: 5.15pm followed by Reception until 7pm.

Date: Thursday, 18th February, 2010.

Topic: **"God and the Big Bang"**

Speaker: The Reverend Dr. David Wilkinson who is the Principal of St. John's College and part-time Lecturer in Theology and Science in the Department of Theology at the University of Durham, England. His background is research in theoretical astrophysics, where he gained a PhD in the study of star formation, the chemical evolution of galaxies and terrestrial mass extinctions. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and holds a PhD in Systematic Theology. More information is available at: www.jamesgregory.org

ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP GATHERING

Saturday, 13th March - Closing date for booking, 26th February

Venue: Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

For further information about this, contact: Rev. Lindsey Sanderson, ACTS, 7 Forrester Lodge, Inglewood, Alloa. FK10 2HU

Phone: 01259-222361 e-mail: lindsaysanderson@acts-scotland.org

ALPHA SCOTLAND VISION DAY

6TH FEBRUARY, 2010

St. Paul's & St. George's Church, Edinburgh

400 delegates have already booked and more arriving daily! We have an inspiring programme indicated below. We will be officially launching a Scotland-wide year of prayer on the day, with our partners the Evangelical Alliance, Pray for Scotland and Care Scotland (more on www.scotlandprayer2010.org). We would love every local church to be a part of this so that prayer underpins everything we do. We believe the prayer track will be a fantastic way

for you and your church to be envisioned and helped with prayer inspiration and practical ideas and that the evening will be a strategic time together in prayer for Scotland. Why not ask a wider group from your church to come for the evening? To book for any track click on: www.thetalkofscotland.org

Programme

9.30 Arrive, Coffee

10.00 Welcome & Worship, Feedback from around Scotland, Testimonies, Interviews

11.30 Nicky Gumbel: Vision Talk

12.20 Kenny Borthwick: Response & Worship

12.45 Lunch

13.45 Seminar Tracks: Leadership, Prayer, Family Life

16.00 Karl Martin: Talk

16.30 Pete Greig & Kenny Borthwick: Prayer & Ministry

17.00 Free time

19.00 The 'Big If' Worship & Prayer Night with Pete Greig & Worship Central

21.00 Finish

THE BRIDGE PASTORAL FOUNDATION

Formerly known as the Clinical Theology Association, the BPF will hold its 2010 Annual Conference in St. Andrews on 12th (3pm) to 16th April (1pm). The Speaker will be Dr. Jim O'Donoghue, Director of The Spirituality of Counselling and Pastoral Care. This 4-day residential will be held at St. Leonard's College and will comprise of Plenary Sessions, Interactive Lectures and Workshops. The cost, which includes the **Conference Fee, Accommodation and Full Board** is £385 for non-members; £370 for members and those currently attending seminars. Further information may be obtained from the Chairperson of the Scottish Conference Planning Committee: Maureen M. Leggat at 0141-3345460 or e-mail: maureenleggat@yahoo.co.uk Application forms are available from: Angela Ryan at 01516-520429 or e-mail: info@Bridgepastoral.org.uk

MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

Steve Bell, the Director of Interserve in England and Wales, is contributing to a series of meetings in Dundee from the 11th to the 13th of February. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity to respectfully listen, be listened to, in order to develop and deepen mutual understanding and build friendships that allow further conversation. The programme is as follows: and further details may be obtained from John D. Clark at: johndrummondclark@googlemail.com

Thursday, **11th February** - 7pm - Dundee University Tower Extension Lecture Theatre.

"Knowing God and His Attributes" Steve Bell and Dr. Faidhil Milani.

Friday, **12th February** - 6.30pm - Dundee Central Mosque, 6 Milne Street, DD1 5BZ

"The Imam and the Pastor" a documentary film which brings to life the astonishing reconciliation between Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye at the Inter-faith Mediation Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. Followed by discussion and refreshments.

Saturday, **13th February** - 9.30 to 13.00 - Dundee Central Mosque

"Shaping the Future - the Role of Faith in Society" an opportunity for Christians and Muslims to share their faith and vision for Dundee, facilitated by Steve Bell and Imam Hamza. Followed by lunch.