



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. February, 2011 No. 50
Scottish Charity No. SC 016813

INEQUALITY

The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke in his Christmas Day sermon of the importance of mutual dependence and trust between human beings.

He said that, 'solidarity with one another in our society and in our world' would help to overcome future uncertainties. 'Faced with the hardship that quite clearly lies ahead for so many in the wake of financial crisis and public spending cuts ... how far are we willing to bear the load together?

'We can and will as a society bear hardship if we are confident that it is being fairly shared; and we shall have that confidence only if there are signs that everyone is committed to their neighbour, that no one is just forgotten, that no interest group or pressure group is able to opt out.'

Yet figures show something different. Top executive and directors' pay was estimated to have risen by 55% last year by the Income Data Services and even the lowest estimates put the rise at well over 25%. The average FTSE 100 chief executive now earns £4.9m a year, or almost 200 times the average wage.

Ordinary wages and salaries increased by below the rate of inflation and so in real terms most people will be slightly worse off.

The Family and Parenting Institute reckons that expectant parents and families with new babies, families with parents in part time employment and larger families on low incomes will be especially hard hit when cutbacks in benefits and public services are taken together. Those whose rent will not in future be covered by their housing benefit will also lose out.

The United Kingdom is becoming an increasing unequal society. This leads to people at the bottom of society living in poverty in the midst of a wealthy country, deprived of the resources needed to enable them and their families to flourish. Significant inequality threatens the solidarity and mutual responsibility, the importance of which Rowan Williams was stressing. It leads to the rich having a lower sense of responsibility for the poor. Significant inequality is fed by and leads to dispositions of covetousness and greed which go against kingdom values.

'There should be no poor among you ... for the Lord will richly bless you ... if only you fully obey the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 15:4-5). The continuing existence of poverty both in this country and throughout the world is a sign of sin - of how far short we fall of being the kind of people and the kind of societies that God wants us to be - and, through His Son, has given us the grace and power to become.

At present we seem to be going the wrong way.

David Mumford,

Dean

Bulletin Deadline: 16th of each month

Please send news to: office@brechin.anglican.org

February Meetings

There are currently no meetings in February.

Ordination

Please pray for Joyce Mumford who is to be ordained by The Right Revd. Dr. Robert Gillies, Acting Bishop, on **Saturday 26th February 2011** at 2.00pm in St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.

Candlemass

The Annual Candlemass service at St. Salvador's Church, Dundee will be held on **Wednesday 2nd February 2011** at 7.00pm. This is the congregation's annual civic, academic and religious festival celebrating Our Lady's patronage of the city of Dundee.

As in previous years, the service will take the form of a Solemn High Mass with the ceremonies of Candlemass. "Cantiones Sacrae" - Tayside's leading Renaissance Choral Group - has again accepted an invitation to sing a setting of the Mass.

The guest preacher will be The Right Revd. Dr. Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway.

A reception will be held in the parish hall afterwards.

St. Mary's, Broughty Ferry

Saturday 12th February 2011

3.00pm - 5.00pm

St. Mary's Singers

Recruitment Day

Come and worship

in a quiet space

TAIZE



Sunday 13th February 2011

All welcome

St. Ninian's (Mid Craigie)

Scottish Episcopal Church

6.00pm

Diocesan Synod

Please remember in your prayers all members of the Brechin Diocesan Synod who will be meeting on **Saturday 5th March 2011** in Chalmers Ardler Church, Dundee, starting with a Eucharist at 9.30am.

Memorial Service for Bishop John

A memorial service, conducted by the Primus, took place in the Cathedral on Saturday 22nd January. Bishop John's widow, Gill, and their children Anna and Tim were joined at the service by colleagues and friends from across the Diocese of Brechin and the wider Scottish Episcopal Church; the Lord Provost of Dundee and the Provost of Angus; local MSPs; the Bishop of Iowa and representatives of other church denominations. Tributes were given by The Revd. Canon Trevor Pitt, Bishop Mark, The Revd Canon Fay Lamont and The Revd. Canon William Burke.