



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. January, 2011 No. 49
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GROW AND BE HEALTHY!

I recently read that the concern of the church in the 21st Century should be for Church health not Church growth. I don't really agree. And here's why!

Firstly there can be big churches that are not healthy. And there can be small churches that are not healthy. And in between those two extremes are churches of all sizes that might similarly not be healthy.

When there are poor healthy relations in congregations, a lack of vitality, a sense of just doing the same old thing, and no real sparkle then that congregation will gradually be withering away whatever its size. The same will be true of congregations where change is not being handled well and also where conflict and tension are not being carefully addressed.

In these situations newcomers will sense there's something wrong and won't return. Likewise the energy and enthusiasm of the 'regulars' will be depleted.

So on this basis good health and the pathway to developing and maintaining it are, to say the least, fundamentally vital for every congregation.

But we can't evade the need for growth. It has to be there in every congregation as well. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two and to report back on what they saw. They were invigorated and lit up by the signs of God's kingdom that they found. Likewise Jesus gave the command to 'go into all the world ... baptize and teach ...' and He meant that for everyone not just for the clergy.

And then He gave, and continues to give, gifts and talents to His people to live His life amongst those with whom we find ourselves. Lists of these gifts are there in about four places in the New Testament and the evidence is that God continues to give more and more to His church.

Why does God do this? So that His kingdom here around us may grow and expand and at the same time be healthy.

So therefore the church of the 21st Century must *both* be healthy *and* it must be growing. God requires this of us and He has given us the means to achieve it.

My encouragement to each of you therefore is to:

- work with and for your local church
- deepen your personal commitment and sense of holiness
- enrich that of others around
- and never be afraid to speak of it whenever you get the chance

My blessings to you in your enriching life of discipleship.

+Bob Gillies,
Acting Bishop.

Bulletin Deadline

16th of each month - Please send news to:

office@brechin.anglican.org

JANUARY MEETINGS

13th 6.00pm. Mission & Ministry Board 19th 12.30 pm. Cathedral Chapter
18th 6.30am. Administration Board 21st 10am-4pm Preparatory Committee

ELECTION UPDATE

Nominations have been received for the vacant office of Bishop of Brechin. The Preparatory Committee meets on the 21st of January to consider the completed questionnaires with a view to drawing up a list of those who will be invited for interview in February.

FAIRTRADE CLERICAL SHIRTS

A message from Hilary Moran,

Mothers' Union Provincial President for Scotland

Clergy are encouraged to buy Fair Trade Clerical Shirts and can do so by logging onto:

<http://www.fairtradeclergyshirts.co.uk> or
<http://www.reliantshirts.com>

They are available in all colours and sizes and support a worthy cause.

PRAY ANY WAY

SCRIPTURE UNION SCOTLAND

An event for children and families for worship, fun, teaching, prayer and opportunities to minister to one another

SUNDAY 23RD JANUARY

2.30 - 4.30PM

Macdonald Houston House Hotel
Uphall

EH52 6JS

Bring a Bible if you have one!

ALL WELCOME!

The event is free, donations accepted. To book a place download a booking form at:

www.suscotland.org.uk/prayanyway

Email the completed form to:

pray@suscotland.org.uk

or

Telephone: 01413-527632

PrayAnyWay is organised by SU Scotland and is a Pray for Schools Scotland event. For information, news, and to register your local school for prayer, see: www.suscotland.org.uk/pray

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a season of the Christian year when we focus on the coming of Christ. It's a time of waiting, hoping and getting in touch with our need for a Saviour. Western Christians begin Advent four Sundays before Christmas. In most traditions, Christmas Eve (at sunset) is both the end of Advent and the beginning of Christmas.

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' which means visit, coming, or arrival. Advent is a time to prepare for the two 'visits' of Christ: His first through the Incarnation, and His second as the reigning Lord.

The Advent Wreath reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ: The Patriarchs and especially Abraham, our father in faith; the Prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah; John the Baptist who proclaimed the Saviour; and Mary whose great privilege was to carry Jesus in her womb. One candle is lit each Sunday, the fifth one being lit on Christmas Day.

**The Primus,
on behalf of the Diocese of Brechin,
invites you to attend a Memorial Service
for Bishop John
on Saturday, 22nd January
in
The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
at 2.30pm**

REMINDER - ANNUAL RETURNS

Some statistical returns are **overdue** and you are reminded that **Schedules** should be submitted by 31st December to the Diocesan Secretary.

**MAY THE BELLS RING OUT WITH HOPE FOR
A NEW YEAR FULL OF PROMISE**

**FOR GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS,
SHARING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

AND

**CARING FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN
OURSELVES**

JOY AND PEACE TO YOU

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL