



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. July/August 2010, No. 44
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Taking a Break...

- Bishop John

I remember a wise old teacher telling me once that children—never mind the teachers—need a long break from each other and school during the summer. It was a time not only for recovery, but the children needed this for the sake of their health.

One of the things the Church of England does (which is good) but which the Scottish Episcopal Church does not do (which is bad) is have a real break from endless meetings during the summer.

Following the Church of England's General Synod in early July, the whole operation seems to slow down; boards and committees often cease from their labours—recouping and recovering for September and the beginning of the Autumn 'term'.

The reason I think this is good is that it gives everyone a rest. Hard working bodies need this, till the Autumn, Winter and Spring when the relentless rounds of meetings are in full swing again.

But the SEC doesn't seem to do any of this. Following the General Synod, boards and committees often seem to plough on during the summer months, with no rest from each other.

Yet what we teach in the church is that rest and especially spiritual rest and reflection are very important. We encourage quiet days and retreats, and reflection on our lives. So we need to slow down and quieten down. We don't set a good example by continuing to rush around making decisions on finances, building projects, and plans for our future. If we don't have the break we become stale, and if we become stale we are not moving forward.

Of course there are many institutions that cannot stop work, and where the round of meetings has to go on, but we should, in the church, take up our own recommendations that a pause for quietness helps business along.

Perhaps your vestry and other committees, if they do not already do so, could take advantage of a time of quiet. Reminding ourselves that at the heart of our business—we actually call for rest in God.

Back to Church Sunday

I am delighted that 8 churches are participating this year in Back to Church Sunday on 29th September, and have ordered their resources. It's not too late to put it in your church diary and make a wee bit of effort to invite people to come that day. After all, invitation is a Gospel principle! For more information contact Canon Fay Lamont.

Scottish Marian Pilgrimage - Saturday, 14th Aug.

High Mass of the Assumption in veneration of Our Lady of Wedale. 2.30pm at Lady's Acre, Stow.

*Further details and transport arrangements from:
David Mumford: 01356-622708*

From the Bishop's Desk

JULY

- 4th St. Margaret, Dundee. 11.00am.
- 18th St. Martin, Dundee. 8am and 11am.
- 25th St. James, Stonehaven. Eucharist and Confirmation. 10.30am.

AUGUST

- 3rd Admin. Board Meeting. 6pm
- 12th Business Meeting. 9.30am.
- 15th Holy Rood, Carnoustie. Evening Eucharist and Confirmation. 6pm.

FORMER PROVOST IN NEW POST

Lindsay McKenna, formerly Provost of the Cathedral, will be inducted as Priest-in-Charge of a Parish in Catford, Southwark Diocese.

Please remember Lindsay in your prayers.

Housing Needed!

Matthew and Jennifer Hoskin are a Christian Canadian couple moving to Scotland in September, 2010. Matthew will be doing his Masters at the University of Edinburgh. They are seeking accommodation in an affordable, bright, one bedroom flat within walking distance of the University. If you know of any suitable housing, please contact Matthew at: matthoskin@yahoo.ca

Bulletin Deadline

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

Meetings

3rd August Administration Board. 6pm.
12th August Business Meeting. 9.30am.

Notice

The Bishop's Jumper has been found!

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH GOD SUNDAY

Sunday, 29th August marks the start of a new school year, a significant milestone in the lives of our young people.

Back to School with God Sunday is just about that - inviting God to be part of school life, and affirming support for those who are part of the local school community. It is an opportunity for churches to hold a special service and to encourage on-going prayer for local schools throughout the year.

SU Scotland provides resources and ideas from this (rather long!) website: <http://www.suscotland.org.uk/pray/back-to-school-with-god-sunday>

Available are service outlines, children's material and an all-age talk with Powerpoint illustrations. If the 29th is not suitable, feel free to use the materials another day.

St. Ninian's has done this for the past 3 years and found it to be a great way of encouraging children, young people and adults to prepare and lead the worship. Their chosen day is the Sunday before school staff start; this year, 15th August. The local teachers have been encouraged by the prayers of their local church.

For more information or help, contact Canon Fay Lamont on 01382-453818 or e-mail:

fay.lamont@sky.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING JULY AND AUGUST

JULY

Holy Rood, Carnoustie

3rd Monthly Book Sale and Coffee morning in the Church Hall. From 10am.

St. Drostan, Tarfside

11th St. Drostan's Pilgrimage. 1pm - Picnic lunch: hot and cold drinks provided, bring your own food. 2pm - Pilgrimage to cross stone and site of the old church. 3.30pm - Eucharist. 4.30pm - Tea. 5.15pm - Evening Prayer. Come along and join us for some, or all, of the day.

St. Mary Magdalene, Dundee

22nd St. Mary Magdalene's Day. Eucharist at 12noon at the church, followed by lunch. If you intend to have lunch please phone Judy Robinson: 01382-645305.

AUGUST

Holy Rood, Carnoustie

7th Monthly Book Sale and Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. From 10am.

St. Margaret, Lochee, Dundee

21st Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. 10am.

St. Ninian, Dundee

15th Back to School Sunday Family Eucharist. 11am.

And St. Ninian: JUNE

26th Summer Fete. 1 pm to 4pm.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2010

ST. DROSTAN'S LODGE

TARFSIDE

SEPTEMBER 24th - 26th

Leader - The Rev. Ursula Shone

THEME

The Lord says,

"I am about to do a new thing"

(Isaiah 43 v.19)

Cost £50

Further details and booking form from:

The Rev. Ursula Shone

01356-626087

E-mail: u.shone@btinternet.com

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Caring for Seafarers around the world

SEA SUNDAY - 12TH JULY, 2010

Sea Sunday is the day when churches around the world come together to remember seafarers and the important work they do. You can download all the material you need to hold your own service at: <http://www.seasunday.org/home> or locally you can contact Michelle Gavine at: mgavine@hotmail.com or Commander Jim McRae at:

jim.mcrae@mtsmail.org

KEEPING FAITH IN SCHOOLS: GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

A One Day Conference being held on Wednesday, 29th September, 2010 at the King James Thistle Hotel, Edinburgh.

Keynote Speaker: Mike Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Scottish Government.

Chair: Councillor Ewan Aitken, City of Edinburgh Council and Church and Society Council, Church of Scotland.

Featured Speakers include:

Patricia Watson, HMIE National Specialist for Religious and Moral Education.

Scott Duncan: Development officer for RME, Learning and Teaching Scotland.

Ken Cunningham CBE: General Secretary, School Leaders' Scotland.

Councillor Peter MacKenzie: Convenor, Committee for Education, East Lothian Council.

Michael McGrath, Director of the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

Dr. Alastair Noble: Educational Consultant for CARE in Scotland.

An invited representative from the Islamic Society of Britain.

This one-day national conference will bring together stakeholders involved in the delivery of Religious and Moral Education and Religious Observance to discuss the future of faith in schools and explore how teachers, pupils, carers and parents can get the balance right.

- How can schools avoid alienating children with religious beliefs if Religious and Moral Education and Religious Observance do not play a more central role in schools?

- How can schools avoid alienating children with no apparent religious beliefs when dealing with RNE and

Observance issues?

- Is a celebration of shared values in a school meaningful, or a dilution of Religious Observance?
- How do we ensure faith, inclusion and practice are included in a school day, and what do teachers, pupils, parents and carers need or want to fulfil this?
- Are the final outcomes and experiences for RME sufficient to enable teachers to help young adults develop the skills of religious understanding, tolerance and empathy which are so crucial in today's diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-faith society?

For more information contact:

Gail at 01315-561500

or visit www.mackayhannah.com

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE - 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2010

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE - 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

Please include prayers for peace in your church that Sunday. Leaflets are available from David Mumford. Please let David know if you are planning on doing something special on these days.