



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. June, 2009, No. 32

Church growth and not decline

Bishop John

Many of you in our Diocese will be sorry to hear that the Provincial Conference—to have been held in the Autumn—has been cancelled. Too few delegates booked.

But the subject matter—Mission—is an important one, and it is my intention that we should hold our own one-day Diocesan Conference in the Autumn. We'll tackle the important subject of church growth.

I have to admit that for much of my ministry—and especially when times have been good—I have resisted the notion of 'numbers' or 'bums on pews'. I have always taken the view that this is not what the Gospel is about and at our peril we allow ourselves to be distracted from living the gospel of love among our neighbours. Although I haven't changed my mind, I do think we have to face some rather brutal facts.

In order for a church to grow, and to be able to sustain stipendiary ministry—even when that is shared—you need a 'critical mass' of people. With just the right number giving regularly, whether they attend church every week or not, that ministry can be sustained and replaced when necessary.

So what is the value of full-time stipendiary ministry? It can give a measure of stability where there is sometimes uncertainty. It can provide sustained teaching of the Christian faith, a resource for learning and leadership in ministry, borne from specialist training. More than this, stipendiary priesthood can mean that whatever the circumstances, there is always a priest around, dedicated to engaging with people at an in-depth human level, both in and outside a charge.

Jesus didn't set out on a ministry 'on his own'. He didn't work in grand isolation swamped by the needy or by well-wishers. He gathered around himself twelve individuals and more besides, who became that critical mass that would take the story out into the Roman world. It changed that world, and it can change our communities today.

So come the Autumn we'll be holding our own conference to which EVERY charge will be invited to send at least 3 people—including clergy. We'll hear from those who have had success, we'll hear some new ideas, and we'll share together in committing ourselves to growth—not for a distant future, but for now.

From the Bishop's Desk

June 2009

- 2nd Edinburgh - Curriculum Review
6.00pm Lady Kinnaird Trust.
- 3rd 7.00pm - Pre-Synod Meeting at St. Ninian.
- 7th 11.00am - St. Margaret, Dundee.
- 9th 9.30am - Office Meeting
- 11th to 13th
General Synod, Edinburgh.
- 14th 10.00am - St. Luke, Downfield.
6.00pm - The Cathedral Church of St. Paul - Installation of Canons.
- 17th Joint meeting of Bishops.
7.00pm - Post-Synod Meeting at St. Ninian.
- 19th 7.30pm - Meeting re Swaziland.
- 21st 11.00am - The Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

JUNE MEETINGS

- 3rd 7.00pm - Pre-Synod at St. Ninian.
- 9th 9.30am - Business Meeting.
- 11th to 13th - General Synod
- 17th 7.00pm - Post-Synod at St. Ninian.

Scotland and Poverty

Meeting on **Friday, 19th June at 7pm** in the St. Andrew's Church Hall, Brechin.
Guest Speaker: Morag Balfour (Iona community) All welcome to attend.

Bulletin Deadline - 16th of each month.

Please send news to:

office@brechin.anglican.org

Scottish Charity No. SCO 16813

NEW TO EPISCOPAL CHURCH?

Are you relatively new to the Scottish Episcopal Church or to the Anglican Communion?

Bishop John intends holding two evening sessions on

'Why we do what we do'

A question and answer session on some of the features of Episcopal worship, organization and practice.

This is intended for those who come from other Christian Churches. He hopes to hold these sessions at the Cathedral.

Please send your names to the Bishop's office. (01382) 562244

A lady rang the Bishop's office with an interest in participating in this but left no name or number—would she please ring again? Time and date are yet to be fixed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Cathedral of St. Paul, Dundee

Lunchtime Concerts

Saturdays at 1pm. Tickets cost £3.50 and £2.50 (at the door). Tea/coffee is served.

June 13 Derek Buchan - Piano.

June 27 Cantiones Sacrae - vocal ensemble.

St. Drostan, Tarfside

July 12 **St. Drostan's Annual Open Day and Picnic.** 2.30pm service, followed by a picnic. Tea and coffee will be provided, bring your own food. We will be pleased to show you our facilities at the Lodge for your future visits. For more information, contact Rev. Jane Nelson: 01569-730967 or e-mail: stdrostanbook@btinternet.com

Holy Trinity, Monifieth

June 13 **Summer Fete.** Saturday from 10am to 12 noon. Admission: £1 for Adults, Children 50p. All welcome.

St. Margaret, Dundee

June 7 **Bring and Buy** following the morning service.

St. Mary the Virgin, Arbroath

June 19 **Quiz Night.** 7.30pm in the church hall. Stovies and oatcakes will be served at half time. Entrance £10 per team of 4. Make up your team and book your place. Please encourage your friends to participate. First prize £40. Second prize £10.

July 25 **Summer Fayre.** Requests for help and contributions will be made in due course.

BIELD BARN EXHIBITIONS

The recently refurbished Bield Barn will be used for 3 Art Exhibitions this year.

Bield Artist and Art Facilitator **Melitta Bosworth** will exhibit a series of paintings covering her first 18 months of being at the Bield. The opening night is **Friday, 19th June** and her work will remain on display in the Bield Barn throughout the summer and can be viewed whenever the Bield is open.

Perthshire Open Studios event offers the unique opportunity to get to know your local artists and makers. In the studios you will find a variety of artwork including paintings, sculptures, photographs, stained glass, woodwork, ceramics, jewellery, metalwork and much

more. 18 artists with connections to the Bield will take part in this exhibition from **Saturday, 5th September to Sunday, 13th September** (excluding the 10th and 11th due to other Bield programmes). You are welcome to come and browse. Tea and coffee are available as are tours of the Bield, at set times.

'Pots & Baskets' Exhibition and Workshops. A joint exhibition in the Barn Gallery involving the Scottish Potters Association and the Scottish Basketmakers Circle. Being held from **Friday, 9th October to Sunday, 25th October** from 10.30am to 5pm daily. Workshops and demonstration times will be announced at a later date.

GLENALMOND 2009

The Scottish Episcopal Youth Weeks this year are to be held at Glenalmond College, Logiealmond, Perthshire on **Sunday, 2nd August to Saturday, 8th August**, and **Sunday, 9th August to Saturday, 15th August**.

Application forms may be obtained from your respective Rectors, or on the website: www.scotland.anglican.org Application forms (for one week only) must be signed by your Rector and sent in by

8th June

The cost is subsidised, but each Vestry is asked to contribute £90 towards each applicant who must also pay £110 for his/her chosen week. If anyone has difficulty paying, the Bishop may be able to help.

INSTALLATION OF CANONS

during

Choral Evensong

on

14th June, 2009

at

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Dundee

6.00pm

The Reverend Dr. John Cuthbert

will be installed as

Synod Clerk and a Canon

of the Diocese of Brechin

and

The Reverend James Milne

will be installed as an Honorary Canon

of the Diocese of Brechin.

All are welcome

CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

"Frenzy 09"

Saturday, 6th June at The Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh.

Doors open 12 noon. Ticket costs: U16 - £30, Adults - £40.

Telephone: 08708 748748 to purchase tickets.

www.frenzyfrenzy.com or www.officialfrenzy.com

IN CHRIST ALONE

Featuring **Keith and Kristyn Getty** with the **Dundee Gospel Choir and Orchestra** and special Guest **Stuart Townend**.

Caird Hall, Dundee on Sunday, 28th June at 7.30p.m.

Ticket prices: £14, £12 and £10 with £3 off all seats for students under 16, and the unemployed. Group Bookings - One free ticket with every block of ten purchased. Tickets available at the City Box Office (01382-434940), www.cairdhall.co.uk or at Wesley Owen, Dundee and CLC Bookshop, Dundee.