



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. March, 2011 No. 51
Scottish Charity No. SC 016813

LENT - A SEASON OF RENEWAL

Lent is almost upon us and although it begins this year almost as late as it possibly can, it still seems to me to have been a short interlude since the last one.

But a huge amount has happened in the life of our Diocese. We prepared ourselves to say farewell to Bishop John and Gill back in October and, I think, gave him a magnificent send-off in a service designed by him with deliberate echoes of his consecration and his time in the Diocese in both the choice of music and liturgy. Although we all knew deep down that he was not going to recover from his illness, it was a tragically short time before some of us from the Diocese made the trip to Peterborough for his funeral. However, it was then wonderful to see so many from the Diocese coming together for John's memorial which was, in a very real sense, a celebration of his ministry and life among us. Gill has since written to say how deeply moved she was by not only the splendour of the service, but the sheer numbers that gathered that day. For much of the time it is so easy to be taken up by our own domestic church life that we can forget that we are part of something bigger and coming together for services like that can be a reminder of the wider life of the church.

Lent, as a penitential season, reflecting that time apart that Jesus spent in the wilderness, has traditionally been largely about personal discernment and renewal but at this time of Episcopal vacancy, at a point when we are right in the middle of the canonical process for the election of a new Bishop, I would suggest that it is also a time for reflection on the wider life of the Diocese, of thinking beyond the 'you in your small corner and I in mine' mentality into which we can so easily default, and reflect upon where the Spirit is leading the church in this place and what qualities a new Bishop should ideally possess to help lead us further on that journey. Prayer is an integral part of that process and the Diocesan prayer for a new Bishop, I would commend as a focus for a wider reflection and prayer.

Gracious God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: hear the prayers of your people in this Diocese as we seek a new Bishop. Bring to us, we pray, a faithful pastor with vision and courage; one who will shepherd this flock and unite us in love and peace, so that your Kingdom may be advanced, and your people confirmed in their holy faith, and your unfailing love declared to the whole world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jeremy, Cathedral Chapter.

AN INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED SILENT RETREAT

Monday 24th to Sunday 30th October

This Retreat will take place at St. Drostan's Lodge, Tarfside amongst the beautiful hills and glens of Angus.

The cost will be £240 for full board and daily guidance with a trained Spiritual Director. If the cost seems excessive to you, there are various grants that can be accessed, so please let me know.

This year, priority will be given to those who can commit themselves to the whole retreat. After watching the BBC series, 'The Big Silence' last year, there were several people who expressed an interest in having such an experience for themselves.

If you would like to book a place, please send a deposit of £25 to Carole Phelan, Hilsea Cottage, 2 Loirston Road, Cove Bay, Aberdeen. AB12 3NS. Cheques should be made out to: 'Epiphany Group, Aberdeen'.

MARCH MEETINGS

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

5th 9.30am	DIOCESAN SYNOD - Chalmers-Ardler Church)	21st 10am	Preparatory Committee – Cathedral
10th 6.30pm	Mission and Ministry Board.	22nd-23rd	Faith and Order Residential - GSO
15th 6.00pm	Administration Board.	30th	12.30pm Cathedral Chapter

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE

MARCH

St. Mary Magdalene, Dundee

19th Coffee Morning 10am - 12 noon. Admission 50p.
Includes coffee/tea and scones with jam and cream.
Usual stalls and second-hand books.

St. Ninian, Dundee

20th Taize Service. 6pm. All Welcome.

THE BRIDGE PASTORAL FOUNDATION

2011 Annual Conference at St. Andrews from 11th - 15th April

A 4-day Residential at St. Leonards College - cost £414 for non-members, £399 for members. (Bursaries are available for those who request aid.)

Programme includes: Plenary sessions, interactive lectures, workshops, free time, social occasions, growth groups.

For more information contact Maureen Leggat: 01413-345460 or e-mail: admin@bridgepastoral.org.uk

Middle East Festival

Events are being held from Wednesday, 9th March to Sunday, 13th March at Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. EH1 1EL. Also Thursday, 17th March. The time for all events is 6.30pm-7pm to 9.15pm

Please see the Festival website for full details: www.mesp.org.uk

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

28th February to 13th March

As Fairtrade Convenor for the Diocese of Brechin, I ask your church to consider holding a coffee morning or coffee/tea after your service on a Sunday during these two weeks, or perhaps a Fairtrade Lunch using Fairtrade ingredients. Please take photographs of your event so that we can post them on the Fairtrade Foundation magazine (or *Grapevine* or the *Bulletin*) which will thus show the promotion of Fairtrade within our Diocese.

Catherine Weir

Diocesan Youth Action Group

2 New Activities Planned For Young People in the Diocese

The Diocesan Youth Action Group is planning the following activities for Young People throughout the Diocese.

Diocesan Youth Council

This group will plan future activities for Young People throughout the Diocese. We hope to meet 3 times a year to do the planning but also have fun & fellowship. The group is open to all Young People aged 12 – 18. Don't let the title of the group put you off. We'll think of a better name at our first meeting.

Diocesan Music & Drama Group

We are looking for enthusiastic Young People who have an interest in music and drama. You might like music but don't do drama or like drama but don't like music. It doesn't matter as this new group will cater for everyone. Come along and make new friends and have fun.

We already have some Young People who have shown an interest in these groups but we would like more to get involved. If you think you might be interested please e-mail the Diocesan Youth Action Group Convener, Steven Cassells, at stevencassells@blueyonder.co.uk for further information. We'll then decide where and when we meet.

Full information will be sent to each Congregation once the details have been finalised. We hope to have our first meetings in late March/April.

THIRD SUNDAY EVENTS: 20th March at St. Ninian's, Mid Craigie: 15th April at All Saints, Glencarse (to be confirmed). Start time is 6.30 for 6.45pm and finishing 8.15 to 8.30pm. If anyone would like to offer their hall for our April (Palm Sunday) meeting, please do let us know.

HELP NEEDED

If you are any good at general gardening jobs - weeding, pruning etc., your help is needed in the garden at the Bishop's house. As employing gardeners is costly, we propose having two gardening work parties in April (weather permitting!) on the 12th and 16th from 10am - 2pm. If you are able to come, please contact Judy Robinson (01382-645305) or e-mail (judy.robinson@virgin.net). If you can only manage an hour or two please do come. Coffee/tea will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch and any gardening tools you may have, as well as 2 strong black bags for rubbish. The Bishop's House is 5 Glamis Drive, but please park on Glamis Road to the north or south of the Blackness roundabout.

JAMES GREGORY LECTURES ON SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Thursday, 3rd March, 2011 at 5.15pm.

Younger Hall, North Street, St. Andrews.

"Can a Scientist Believe in Miracles?"

Prof. Sir Colin Humphreys, CBE

Lectures are free of charge and everyone is warmly invited to join the reception in the Younger Hall following the lecture.

Conference for Chaplains Working in Primary Schools

I feel there may be one or two members of Clergy working as Chaplains outwith Angus, who would be interested in this event. If so, I would be pleased to arrange for them to attend, if possible. Please let me know quickly if you wish to participate, and at which venue. **Pat Millar,** (pamillar@tiscali.co.uk) **SEC Rep., Angus Education Committee.**

Dates: 8th March at St. Andrew's Church, Arbroath. (9am - 12.30pm)
10th May at The Old Kirk, Kirriemuir. (9am - 12.30pm)

Programme includes:

- The roles and purpose of chaplains in the primary sector
- A presentation to consider the national perspective
- Example and sharing of good practice
- Discussion in schools' cluster groups and next year's focus
- An action plan

I am a mirror

*Hêmeis de pantas anakekalummenôi
prosôpôi tèn doxan kuriou katoprizomenoi
tèn autên eikona metamorphoumetha apo
doxês eis doxan - 2 Corinthians 3.18*

I am a mirror
Faced towards the wall
I bounce no sight.

I am a mirror
Angled into earth
I give no light.

I am a mirror
Stained and cracked and smeared
My glance is dim.

I am a mirror
Point me at my source
And I blaze Him.

This is the famous glass
That turneth all.

Prof. Timothy Chappell