



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. November, 2011 No. 58
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REMEMBERING NOVEMBER

Half-term is long over, the clocks have gone back, so it's darker evenings and it's November. A memorable month. Beginning on the 1st with All Saints Day (aka my son Mark's birthday) and ending on the 30th with St Andrew's Day we remember those whom the Church calls 'the Communion of Saints'. Revelation pictures them as a heavenly multitude in *'the holy city, the new Jerusalem: these are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God... and will be guided by their shepherd to the springs of the water of life.'*

These are the saints and martyrs, holy men and women, known and unknown who have kept the faith down the ages. Doubtless churches like Glencarse whose Patronal Festival we celebrate at this time have enjoyed their share, and it is our inheritance to do our best to follow them in our own day. Our big challenge is to grow the communion of living saints here, our congregations and in outreach into the community. That's the hard bit. But if Revelation is not to be written in vain, do people realise that God is with us and that we are His people, and that all things are being made new? Who are we encouraging through the ordeals of daily existence to the water of life?

Then on the 2nd, All Souls Day, we remember those who have died - all 'whom we love but see no longer' as our funeral prayer gently puts it, and a time to recall family and friends who have died in recent years. Many churches arrange special remembering services to which those bereaved in the past year are invited, enormously appreciated and well attended. Lighting a candle, recalling and saying a simple prayer have an enduring significance. We all grieve in different ways and at our own pace but it helps to know that others are there also, and that God never stops caring for us all. No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we are a new creation become members one another in Christ in a mutual belonging which transcends the apparent separation of death. I have of course contrasting memories of my time at Invergowrie where my family life began in 1981 and our daughter Jennifer's death in 1995.

(continued overleaf)

FROM THE BISHOP'S DIARY

November

- 1 General Synod Office, Edinburgh
- 2 All Souls, Invergowrie
- 3 I and C Board, Edinburgh
- 5 Festival of Remembrance, Dundee
- 6 St. Martin's Patronal Festival
- 8 Ecclesiastical Insurance, Gloucester
- 9 TISEC meeting
- 10 St. Mary the Virgin, Arbroath
- 11 Armistice Day Service
- 12 Diocesan Day for Vestries at St. Andrew's Church, Brechin.
- 13 Cathedral Evensong
- 15 and 16th College of Bishops
- 18 Lord Provost's Banquet
- 20 St. Mary Magdalene, Dundee
- 22 St. James' Vestry, Stonehaven
- 23 St. Salvador's Vestry, Dundee
- 29 Clergy Chapter at Bishop's House

Advent Clergy Chapter
Tuesday, 29th November, 2011
10am.

All Clergy are cordially invited to the

Bishop's House

for morning coffee, followed by

Advent Bible Reflection

led by Bishop Nigel,
ending with a simple lunch.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Bulletin Deadline - 16th of each month.

Please send news to:

office@brechin.anglican.org

17th Mission and Ministry Board, 6pm, Diocesan Office

23rd Diocesan Buildings' Committee, 2pm, Diocesan Office

29th Administration Board, 6pm, Diocesan Office

Then, with a bang, Bonfire Night arrives ('Remember, remember the Fifth of November') with the noisy and colourful fireworks so much enjoyed by children. The day after, 6th I celebrate the anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood back in 1977. Yes, I remember the happy occasion well but I was young then and I am still on the life-long journey of becoming a priest – and now as a Bishop.

From the 11th – 13th we keep the annual Remembrance-Tide 'lest we forget' the sacrifice of those in two World Wars (and many others) who fought for freedom, justice and peace. This is a significant time in Dundee's City Square and Caird Hall and elsewhere. For some older people memories seem all that remain, while for many, life is too complicated and sadly our memory is not what it once was!

But there are some things, especially people, whom we never forget, and in God's love we can find peace and happiness even amidst tears and regrets. Worryingly the continuing conflicts in Afghanistan present us almost daily with the loss of young British service personnel.

The Church season through November from All Saints to Advent is sometimes called the Kingdom season and the liturgical colour may transpose to red. We reflect on Christ's coming kingdom and the challenges it presents in the ordinariness of life – to choose the right path amidst confusing possibilities and mixed motives of family, work and Church. We are called to be a kingdom people.

On the 20th we reach the Sunday before Advent, traditionally 'stir up' Sunday when we think of Christmas puddings and Christmas preparations in the coming days: the old Prayer Book collect prays that being so stirred 'we made bring forth good works plenteously.' It is also now celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King when we ponder the sovereignty of Jesus Christ in the world and in our lives today. As baptized Christians each of us belongs to the royal priesthood of the people of God worldwide. The Gospel reminds all would-be disciples that the blessed are those who are not defeated by their weakness, sadness or poverty of faith for the '*reward is great in heaven*' for those who persevere. In our failures we shall find God. '*Blessed are the poor in spirit*' says Jesus '*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*' or as another translation puts it: '*Blessed are those who know their need of God.*'

Then finally, on 27th November, we reach Advent Sunday, the liturgical colour changes again to penitential purple. We are reminded that Christians are called to be those who have hope: an expectation that God will come as judge to seek out and save those who are lost by sending his Son in the miracle of Christmas. By then Christmas festivities will be in view and the whole Christian year will have begun all over again.

The rhythm of remembering is one of the great joys of a Christian life and in the churches of our diocese we do so gladly. We especially give thanks for our mission and ministry together praying for each other as the gathered saints of the Church.

God of holiness,

Your glory is proclaimed in every age;

As we rejoice in the faith of your saints,

Inspire us to follow their example

With boldness and joy;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



BISHOP'S CONTACT DETAILS

The Bishop's e-mail is now active
and he can be contacted at:

bishop@brechin.anglican.org

or

Phones: **01382-641586** home

And **07974-402449** mobile

Day of rest: Friday

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee

Saturday lunchtime concerts at 1pm. £4, £3 (concessions) and £2 (children). Coffee/tea served after each concert.
12th Strathmore Singers.
26th Joseph Fleetwood, Piano.

St. Ternan, Muchalls

5th Bonfire Coffee Morning. 10.30-12.30. Entrance £2.50.
Stalls include: home baking, crafts, tombola, cards etc.

St. Mary Magdalene, Dundee

5th Coffee Morning. 10am-12. Usual stalls. Entrance 50p.

St. Mary the Virgin, Arbroath

5th Coffee Morning organised by the Angus Gold Drama Group. 10am - 12 noon. Entrance £1. Books, bric-a-brac, baby clothes, raffle, tombola and Rikki Craig will be there to do caricatures.
26th Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning. Your contributions in suggestions/gifts will be greatly appreciated.

St. Mary and St. Peter, Montrose

13th Evensong and Benediction. 6.00pm. All welcome.

St. Margaret, Dundee

19th Xmas Fare. 2.00 - 4.00pm.
Also - 2nd December: Prize Bingo Evening. Doors open 7pm.

St. Martin, Dundee

19th Christmas Fayre. 11am - 1pm. Adults £1.50, Children £1 (includes refreshments & free raffle). Tombola, bric-a-brac, home baking etc.

Holy Trinity, Monifieth

26th Christmas Coffee Morning. 10am - 12 noon. Usual stalls. Adults £1.50, Children 50p. All most welcome.

St. Ninian, Mid-Craigie

27th Taize Service. 6pm. All welcome.

Celebrating 70 years at St. Ninian's

A book and disc showing the variety of ministry and service in word and picture, given by the people and priests of St. Ninian's to God and to the communities it serves. Cost £5.. Available from Cate Weir on 01382-815652 or catedomm@btinternet.com

THE CLAREMONT TRUST

The Claremont Trust supports groups giving practical expression to their faith in Scotland and overseas, e.g. innovative faith-based efforts to tackle social need and promote inclusion locally.

The Trust welcomes application from any faith group. The resources are slender, around £6,000 a year in grants of not more than £1,000. Constructive and radical enterprises which work towards a fairer world are its priority.

Further information from: The Secretary, Mrs. Chris Fulcher, 23 Langholm Street, Newcastleton. TD9 0QX. : e-mail: chris@pcmanse.plus.com. Phone: 02387-375242

DUNDEE NATIVITY 2011

Planning has begun for the evening when Dundee's Christmas Lights are switched on. The Nativity for the second year running, is part of the contribution by the city's churches to the programme for Christmas Light Night on 25th November. As part of the celebrations, there will be a Nativity Play in the area of the Overgate, beside the Steeple Church at 7.15pm. This is being jointly organised by the churches of Dundee in association with Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland. It is a wonderful opportunity to take Christ into the streets and remind people in Dundee of what Christmas is really about!

Organiser, Allan Webster would love to see all people from across the city get involved. He is calling for actors, singers, musicians - so if you are interested, please get in touch with Allan at **01382-458764** or at e-mail:

allan.webster@wpcscotland.co.uk

BEING HUMAN—'OUT OF THE SILENT CHURCH'

A Conference presented by **Solas**

On Wednesday, 19th November, 2011

St. Peter Street, Dundee 9.45 am - 5.15pm

Registration required at: www.solas-cupc.org

Speakers: Mark Roques, David Robertson, Os Guinness

Book now at: <http://tinyurl.com/3kzgo2x>

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE IN SCHOOLS

Maximising its Potential

Half-day Seminars (9am-12.30) in the following areas:

17th November:, Holburn West Church, Aberdeen, 24th January, Stirling and 13th March, Ayr. Each seminar is limited to 50 places. Cost is £99 + VAT. For further information contact Lauren or Gail on **01315-561500** or visit: GSHannah@mackayhannah.com

Speakers: Ewan Aitken, Church of Scotland and Ken Coulter, Glasgow Outreach, Scripture Union Scotland.

DIOCESAN VESTRY DAY

Saturday, 12th November, 2011

in

St. Andrew's Church Hall, Brechin

from

10.00am to 4.00pm.

Please send names of those planning to attend to Jean at the office: office@brechin.anglican.org

The day will be led by Nick Bowry, Convenor of the Provincial Personnel Committee, to look at good practice in supporting clergy in the light of current secular and church guidelines.

Open to all vestry members, including clergy. Try to ensure that 1 or 2 vestry members attend.

Bishop Nigel will be there as a learner also!

WOMEN - A MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Dundee University Muslim Message Society presents an interfaith Seminar to be held on Tuesday, 8th November, 2011 at 7pm in the Dundee University Tower, Extension Lecture Theatre. The event is open to all, no prior booking required and refreshments will be served. The Speakers are: Dr. Rebecca Masterton, lecturer in Islamic Mysticism and Sarah Snyder, lecturer in Christian Theology and Hermeneutics

What faith communities can do to STOP Domestic Abuse

The Scottish Women's Aid STOP campaign was launched in November 2010, and aims to engage with communities across Scotland to highlight our shared responsibility for ending domestic abuse. It recognises that by standing together we can make it clear that domestic abuse is not acceptable in our communities. An important strand of this campaign is working with faith communities, enabling them to build their capacity to challenge such abuse. This campaign builds on and joins with some of the excellent work already undertaken by faith communities by:

- connecting people
- providing resources
- building activism

Domestic abuse can affect survivors not just physically, but emotionally, psychologically, financially and spiritually. Faith leaders and communities can be a significant resource and a protective factor for those affected. They also have an important role in prevention work – raising awareness and ensuring that the community challenges domestic abuse. Domestic abuse occurs in all communities and across all faiths. As such it is everyone's issue and faith leaders, organisations and community members can play a vital part in addressing it. Many people of faith are already doing just that. Join us by saying STOP. Show your support by pledging to do one thing to stop domestic abuse at <http://togetherwecanstopit.org> See also the [10 things faith groups can do](#) and list of [links and resources](#) on the website.

10 things faith communities can do

- Develop a statement at your place of worship which highlights that domestic abuse is contrary to the teachings of your religion and promote this on posters, in leaflets and faith community newsletters.
- Ask those with responsibility for leading prayers at your place of worship to pray for those experiencing domestic abuse and to help them understand that it is not their fault but the responsibility of the perpetrator.
- Check whether your place of worship has a domestic abuse policy that links to its child protection and adult support and protection policies. If so, encourage those with responsibility to receive training on domestic abuse.
- Ask for, or organise, domestic abuse awareness events at your place of worship.
- Make links with other faith communities working on this issue and arrange an interfaith event as part of the **16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women (25th November – 8th December each year)**.
- Write letters and articles about domestic abuse, the Scottish Women's Aid 'Together we can stop it' campaign and any other initiatives you are involved in for your faith community newsletter or website.
- If you think someone at your place of worship might be experiencing domestic abuse, make it possible for her to tell you or someone else. You can get advice about how to go about this from your local Women's Aid group or the Domestic Abuse helpline **0800 027 1234**.
- If you think someone at your place of worship might be perpetrating domestic abuse or condoning it, challenge this. You can get advice about how to go about this from the White Ribbon in Scotland campaign.
- Promote helpline numbers in your faith community leaflets and newsletters, posters and websites. Contact your local Women's Aid group to find out how you can support it.

Scottish Women's Aid is the lead organisation in Scotland working towards the prevention of domestic abuse. It plays a vital role [campaigning and lobbying](#) for effective responses to domestic abuse. The website has been developed for Scottish Women's Aid by [Do Good Advertising](#) and [James Hambly](#). Text by Shirley Henderson and Scottish Women's Aid. Charity No SC001099. Recognised as a charitable organisation by the Inland Revenue in Scotland © 2010.