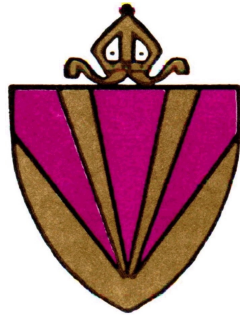


# **THE DIOCESE OF BRECHIN**

**Scottish Charity No SC016813**



## **DIOCESAN DESCRIPTION**

## Episcopal Election Profile - Diocese of Brechin

The Diocesan Profile tells the story of a small and cohesive Diocese which has been making steady progress in addressing the challenges which face it. Valuable work has been done in drawing together the Diocesan family of clergy and people into a mission-focused family. There is new optimism and confidence about the future.

The new Bishop of Brechin will become part of the College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church. We see this as a significant time in the life of our Church. Scottish society has become more secular and more open. This offers to the Scottish Episcopal Church the opportunity of building congregations and engaging with society in a way which was much more difficult in the past. We believe that this is a time of opportunity for us.

We suffer the challenges which face all churches in dealing with lack of resources, particularly since the recent economic downturn. But we are a church rich in resources of faith, spirituality and devotion, with strengths in worship and in shared ministry and with the commitment of talented clergy and laity.

I would be happy to meet with potential candidates who would like to discuss in more detail the challenges of this ministry.

+David

Bishop of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Primus

October 2010

The Diocese comprises the east of Scotland between the village of Glencarse (just outside Perth and on the A90) and the outskirts of the city of Aberdeen.

Geographically this is the smallest Diocese in the Scottish Episcopal Church (about the size of the Wakefield Diocese) but numerically matches a large English deanery, with 26 charges and 3083 persons of all ages belonging to the congregations. There is a Bishop and 14 Stipendiary Clergy (8 men and 6 women). In addition, 3 clergy hold Commissions, 5 have Warrants and 13 have Permission to Officiate. There are 14 Lay Readers (7 men and 7 women).

The Diocese is entirely self-contained and financially responsible with its own Administration Board. Though being small in terms of numbers of clergy and people poses a challenge for viability it has the advantage of allowing laity and clergy to get to know each other. Also historically the area has always been strong in Episcopacy.

Many of our churches are beautiful examples of Victorian Architecture. In particular, St. Salvador's Church in Dundee's Hilltown area is a fine example of a Bodley church. Originally built in one of Dundee's poorest areas, this church still serves local people, among them many of Dundee's disadvantaged.

The Cathedral Church of St Paul, located in Dundee's High Street, was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and boasts the tallest spire in the city. For a very long time St Paul's has taken on a role as one of Dundee's 'civic churches' used regularly by the City Council and the University of Dundee.

Further details can be found on our website ([www.thedioceseofbrechin.org](http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org)).

Newcomers have quickly found the Scottish Episcopal Church welcoming and familiar, the liturgy something they can relate to. Episcopalianism can be very strong in this area, and the Scottish Episcopal Church, as part of the Anglican Communion, carries with it a certain kudos. We are known and often admired for lively and striking liturgy, fine music, congregational liturgical involvement and democratic governance.

One of the most attractive features of Scotland is the warmth of its people, a slightly slower pace of life and a passion for community life, something one finds in full measure in the Diocese of Brechin.

**History of the Diocese of Brechin**

The Diocese of Brechin is the smallest Diocese of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It was founded about 1150 with the first mention of Bishop Samson.

William of Orange was proclaimed King of Scots in April 1689. The Scottish Bishops felt they could not renounce their loyalty to the exiled James VII and lost their opportunity for support from the new monarch. Episcopacy was disestablished in July 1689 as the form of church government of the Church of Scotland.

The Toleration Act of 1712 gave respite to Episcopalians, making Episcopal ministry legal provided they prayed for Queen Anne. The disaster of the 1715 Rising led to the first of a succession of repressive Penal Laws against Episcopacy.

The period 1720 to 1745 was one of relative stability for the Scottish Episcopal Church. There was a certain amount of resurgence during the 1730s as the civil authorities became more tolerant of the existence of Episcopacy. The disaster of the 1745 Rising saw a fresh set of penal legislation enacted against Episcopacy in Scotland. In the winter of 1748-49 the priests from Muchalls, Stonehaven and Drumlithie were imprisoned in Stonehaven Tolbooth for ministering to congregations other than their own families. Strong downward social pressures led to a steady decline in the Church over most of the country.

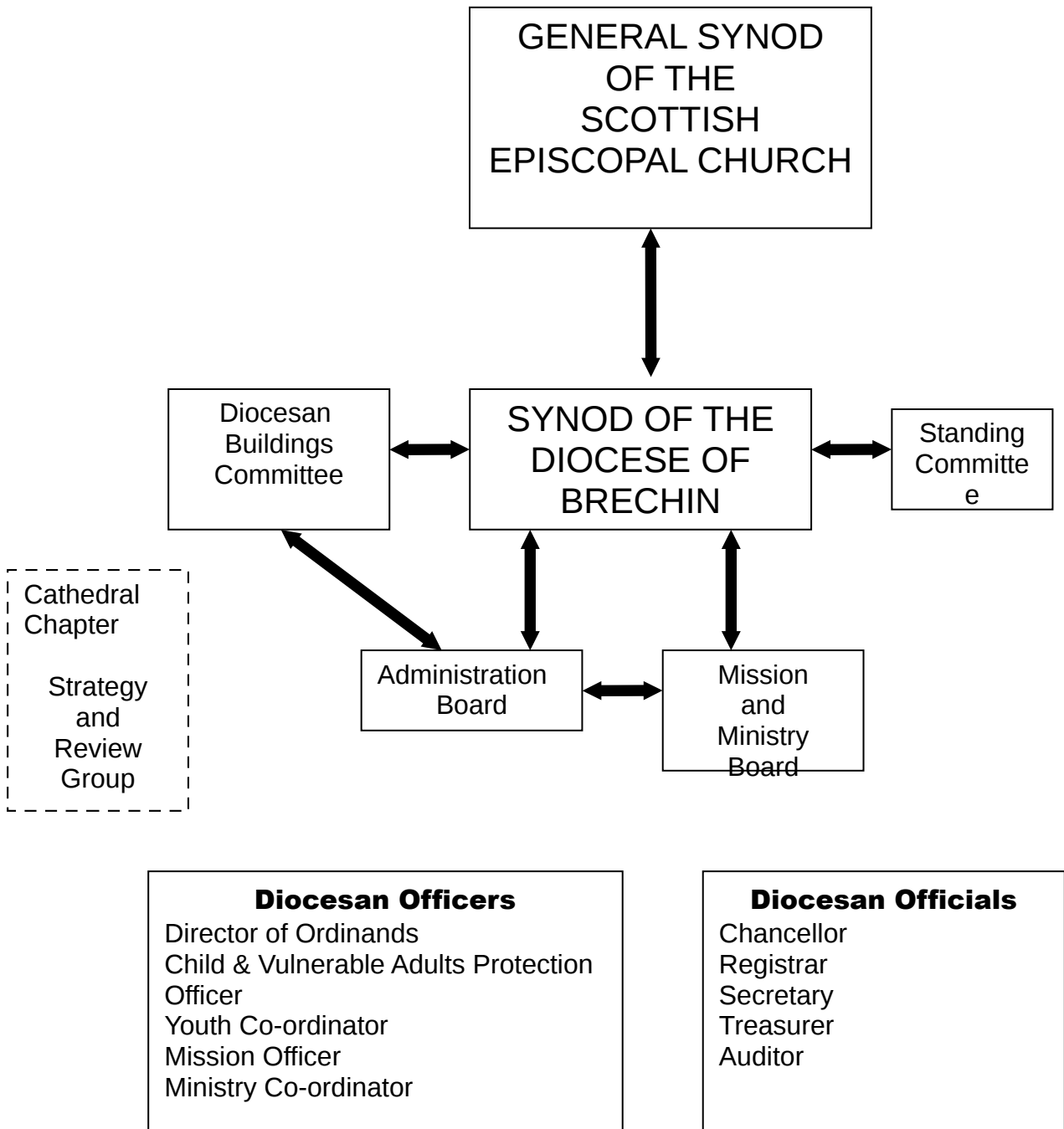
The death of Prince Charles in 1788 paved the way for the Scottish Episcopal Church to abandon finally its support for the exiled Stuarts and begin to pray for the Hanoverian monarchy. When the Penal Laws were repealed in 1792 there were still nine Episcopal congregations in the Diocese of Brechin.

The first signs of growth came with the establishment of new congregations at Catterline (1840) and Fasque (1846). The episcopate of Bishop Forbes was a major period of growth for the Diocese with three new congregations in Dundee, plus Broughty Ferry, Carnoustie, Cove Bay and Glencarse.

Alexander Penrose Forbes (1847-1875) is the great central figure in the more modern history of the Diocese of Brechin. He carried out a ministry in the Dundee slums, establishing new churches and was a tireless social reformer. Bishop Forbes' most visible memorial is St. Paul's in Dundee, which he built in 1855 and which became the Diocese's Cathedral in 1905.

In common with most denominations, the Scottish Episcopal Church reached its maximum size in the early part of the twentieth century. St. Mary Magdalene's in Dundee was the largest congregation in Scotland. The Second World War proved to be a watershed period but despite rural depopulation, none of the rural churches has been closed, although many are now part of linked charges.

Adapted from The History of the Scottish Episcopal Church ([www.thedioceseofbrechin.org](http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org))  
by Dr. David Bertie



## **Diocesan Synod**

The Synod is the ruling body of the Diocese, chaired by the Bishop and made up of all clergy in the Diocese, Diocesan officials and lay members.

The Synod normally meets on a Saturday in March in Dundee. Should there be extraordinary business to be addressed, such as matters from *General Synod*, then a *Special Synod* is held in the autumn. This just deals with those particular items. This is usually a short evening meeting and rotates around the congregations.

During the year its business is carried out by two Boards and two Committees, as shown on the previous page. The Conveners and members are appointed by Synod. Conveners are appointed annually.

## **Mission and Ministry Board**

This Board is responsible for matters dealt with by the Faith & Order Board, the Information & Communication Board, and the Mission and Ministry Board of the *General Synod*.

It carries out its business primarily through the activities of its Action Groups:

- Communication
- Church in Society
- Development & Training
- Youth

In addition to the Action Group Conveners, the Board's membership consists of Convener, Bishop, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer and Convener of the Administration Board.

The Diocesan Mission Officer and the Diocesan Ministry Co-ordinator are co-opted members.

## **Administration Board**

This Board manages the business of the Diocese. Having responsibility for matters such as:

- Business sent to Dioceses by the Administration Board of *General Synod*
- Finance
- Diocesan Property
- Administering grants and loans
- Maintaining Diocesan statistics
- Assessing the state of charges prior to filling vacancies
- Arranging Synod business
- Appointment of salaried staff and their terms of employment
- Carrying out such other duties as Synod may see fit.

Its membership consists of Convener, Bishop, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, Convener of the Mission and Ministry Board and 4 other members (lay and clergy).

## **Diocesan Buildings Committee**

This is set up in accordance with Canon 35 (Of the Structure, Furniture and Monuments of Churches, and the Due Care Thereof) and Canon 50.9 (to consider and determine proposals relating to all changes to the fabric of Church Buildings).

Its membership consists of Convener, Dean, Diocesan Secretary and 7 other persons with expert knowledge of architecture, ecclesiastical artefacts and liturgy.

The Committee has two main, and clearly defined, areas of responsibility (see below). The transaction and conduct of business for each area of responsibility is kept and managed quite separately.

Under Canon 35 its responsibility is to

- i) receive and process applications for any proposed changes (by introduction, alteration, or removal) to the structure, ecclesiastical furniture or ornaments, monuments, mural tablets or painted windows within any Church used for public worship or any scheme of redecoration or alteration of lighting or heating.
- ii) provide advice to charges on all matters relating to compliance with Canon 35.

The committee normally conducts its Canon 35 business through formal meetings and reports directly to Synod.

For the property inspection responsibility it:

- i) carries out and follows up Diocesan property inspections ensuring that all charges in the Diocese are inspected every five years.
- ii) routinely inspects and reports on properties owned by the Diocese
- iii) ensures that the Diocesan Review of Charges is carried out every three years.

For property inspections it reports to the Administration Board.

## **Standing Committee**

This Committee is responsible for acting in an emergency on behalf of the Diocesan Synod or its Boards. In the case of the election of a Bishop it is responsible, under Canon 4, for compiling a Description of the Diocese together with future plans and intentions for the work of the Diocese.

Its membership consists of Bishop (Chair), Dean, Conveners of the two Diocesan Boards, Diocesan Secretary and Lay member appointed by Synod (with an alternate).

## Other bodies

In addition to the Boards and Committees of Synod there are two further groups.

**Cathedral Chapter.** The Chapter is recognised as the Council of the Bishop in all matters connected with the exercise of his office in the Diocese. It offers pastoral and policy advice.

The Bishop shall summon and hold Meetings of the Chapter at his discretion or on a written request from the Provost or Rector, or from two of the Canons.

The Chapter consists of the Rector of Saint Paul's and four other Canons who shall be:

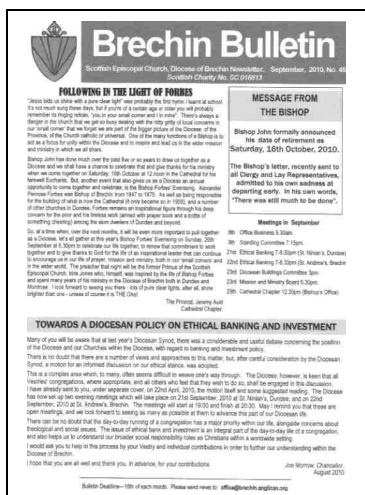
- The Dean of the Diocese *ex officio*
- The Synod Clerk *ex officio*
- Two instituted or licensed Presbyters in the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop.

In the absence of the Bishop, the Dean of the Diocese shall preside, and failing him, the Provost, or if the Bishop be Provost, the Rector.

**Strategy and Review Group.** This was set up and chaired by the Bishop to develop a strategic plan for the Diocese and carry out Quinquennial reviews of mission and ministry. It reports to the Administration Board.

## Communication

Communication with congregations is by the Brechin Bulletin, published monthly from the Bishop's Office, and Grapevine, the magazine of the Diocese of Brechin, which is published three times a year.



The diocese has its own website at [www.thedioceseofbrechin.org](http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org)

Diocesan Boards and Committees report annually to Synod where members can question the Conveners and chairs on any relevant matter.

There is good communication between Boards. The Bishop, Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer sit on both Boards. There is also a reciprocal arrangement between Conveners where each sits on the other's Board.

The Bishop brings to the Boards relevant matters from the Chapter, while he is responsible for informing Chapter of issues raised by the Boards which he feels to be of interest to them.



## **Mission**

*'Go and proclaim the Kingdom of God'* (Luke 9:60b)

The Diocese of Brechin shares with the wider Anglican Communion the understanding that the initiative in mission is God's not ours. We are called to serve God's mission by living and proclaiming the good news of salvation and the Kingdom. The church, the people of God are, in the power of the Spirit, a sign, a foretaste and an instrument of the Kingdom of God.

The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board is charged with offering direction and motivation to the Diocese and the charges, recognising that both have their parts to play if we are to engage fully in the journey of God's mission, which is the task and calling of the church.

The Bishop dealt with the complexities of reviewing, revising and modernising structures and systems within the Diocese. As a result of this, the Diocese is now in a strong organisational position and ready to move forward on mission.

The Diocese looks to the new Bishop to play a full and active part in developing and implementing mission strategy and recognises that this will have to be resourced in terms of time, people and funding.

### **Working Towards a Diocesan Mission Strategy**

A Strategy & Review Group was convened in 2009 to review and develop a Diocesan mission policy, based on a revised set of over-arching aims appropriate to our time and place in Scotland, the SEC and the wider community.

This Group was led by the Bishop who reported its activities to the Administration Board. Various thoughts on aims and objectives had been suggested and drafted, but not finalised. The intention was to provide guidance which, while not overly prescriptive, would help individual charges to discover for themselves what their own appropriate and specific targets might be, within a framework of sharing resources, sharing faith and sharing heritage.

Within this small Diocese, there is a range of types of charges in urban and rural areas, and this variety helps shape the Diocese.

There are:

Single charges, which provide stipend for a Priest - either full time or part time

Linked charges, which provide stipend and share a Priest

A mission charge, unable to provide stipend, but meeting mission and stewardship objectives

Community outreach posts e.g. University and Hospital Chaplaincy

## **Stewardship**

Work on Stewardship is on-going both at Diocesan level and within individual charges. There is a group ready to help congregations who ask for assistance in looking in more depth and detail at questions and issues related to Stewardship. The leader of this group is responsible to the Mission and Ministry Board.

## **Work with Children and Young People**

The remit of the Mission and Ministry Board's Action Group for Youth covers young people between the ages of 12 and 25.

There is concern in the Diocese, as there is across the Province, about the low numbers of younger children attending church services and activities. There has been discussion about the possibility of appointing a Children's Officer who would take responsibility for developing this work across the Diocese.

## **Companion Links**

The Diocese has long established links with the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa in USA and the Anglican Diocese of Swaziland in Southern Africa.

These have offered opportunities for sharing ideas and support and for collaborative projects. Exchange visits happen fairly regularly and friendship and support links are established in several congregations.

## **The Mission & Ministry Board**

The Mission & Ministry Board is well established and meets 5 times a year. It reports to Synod and liaises with the Administration Board.

The work of the Mission & Ministry Board is vital to the Diocese in seeking to offer direction, guidance and motivation.

The structure of the Mission & Ministry Board was streamlined in 2008, to reduce the number of groups and the overlap among these and to revitalise the work. The Board's composition and Action Groups are as previously stated. Action Group Conveners are required to report to the Board at each meeting.

Although the Bishop appoints the Diocesan Mission Officer and the Diocesan Ministry Co-ordinator, they attend Board meetings and bring particular and valued knowledge and understanding to the work of the Board.

Congregations have been asked to put a Mission Strategy in place and to review it annually. The mission and ministry of congregations are reviewed on a five yearly cycle and at a time of Interregnum.

## **Strengths**

Across the Diocese, congregations respond to human need by loving service through, for example, pastoral work within congregations and the wider community, projects in areas of urban poverty, special fund raising activities and assistance for our companion Diocese of Swaziland.

The revised structure of the Board is more effective. Action Groups have clear remits and are working to establish priorities and bring more focus to their activities.

Brechin is a small Diocese and so the Bishop is accessible and knows, and is known by, the people. The closeness between the Bishop and congregations enables a focus of unity.

As previously mentioned, the Diocese is now in a sound organisational position and ready to move forward on mission.

The Diocese has good active clergy and lay members, with a wide range of experience and expertise, who are willing to engage in the work of the various charges, Committees and Boards.

## **Challenges**

Significant reduction in income from investments, along with increases in stipend and pension contributions, means that resources are stretched and must be managed prudently. Many congregations are struggling to meet stipend and quota with little money or energy left for other activities.

Resources must be available to the new Bishop to support development of mission.

Many charges are presently on stipend support. This is mainly on a decreasing basis apart from one charge, which is on long term stipend support. The Province does not see stipend support as a long term option and so the aim must be to get as many charges as possible to be self funding.

Some charges have a narrow view of mission, with a focus on growth in numbers and income. Others need help to develop the skills and confidence to enable them to engage successfully in mission that reaches out to the wider community.

It is recognised that traditions can sometimes create barriers to change and the demographic of age in a congregation can affect active involvement in some aspects of mission.

Although the Diocese is small, systems of communication need to be reviewed to ensure that there is more effective sharing of plans and established good practice. There is often a mismatch between the written policy, strategy or proposal and the reality of what is understood, and is happening in practice, at congregational level.

## Hopes

It is hoped that

- the work of the Strategy and Review Group towards production of a Diocesan Mission Strategy will be resumed, completed and implemented.
- building on recent revisions, the Mission & Ministry Board Action Groups will develop a more focused and proactive approach to their involvement in the growth and development of mission across the Diocese.
- the established Quinquennial reviews will help congregations to identify 'next steps' on their mission journey and that the Strategy and Review Group, along with the Diocesan Mission Officer and the Mission and Ministry Board, will continue to offer specific support.
- the Mission & Ministry Board will be able to continue to offer some financial support for training and development and publicise this resource more widely.

It is the hope of the Diocese that congregations will

**B**e a sign of God's kingdom

**R**espond positively to a changing world

**E**ncourage growth in faith, family and finance

**C**reate confident Christians

**H**elp others in partnership

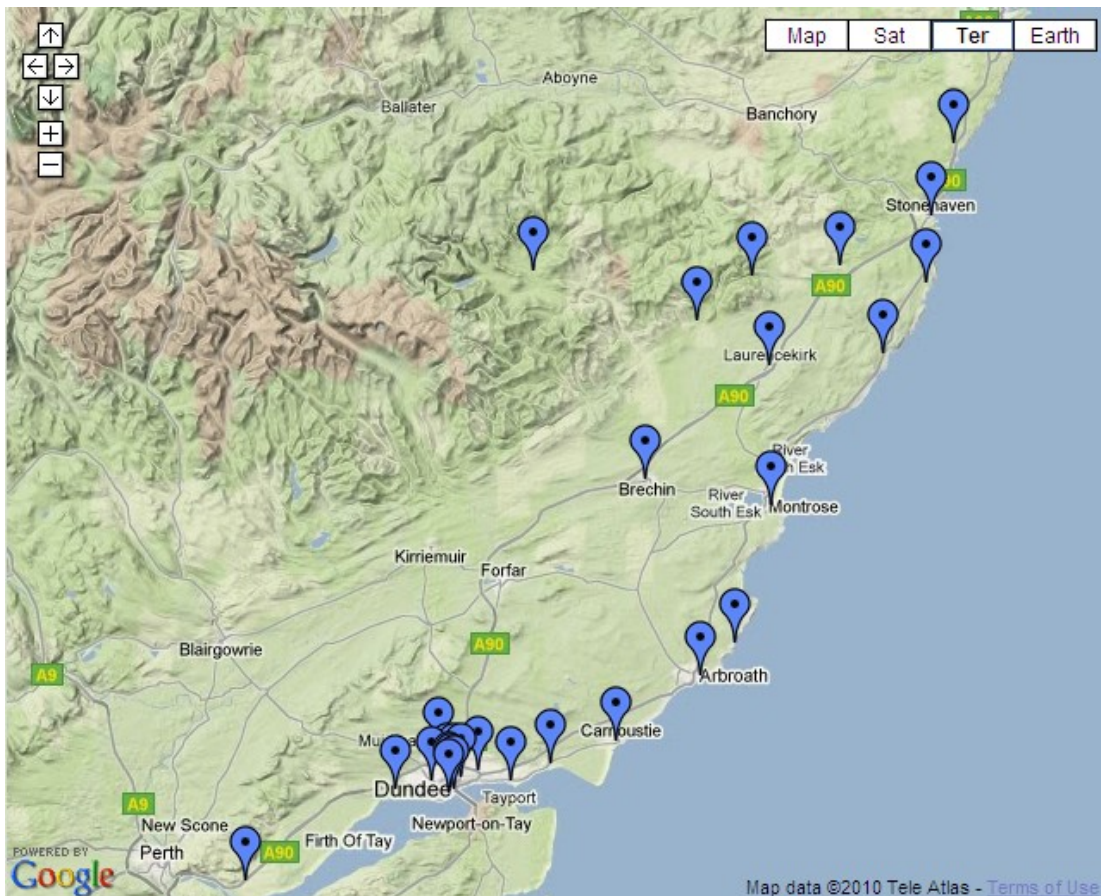
**I**dentify priorities for mission and ministry

**N**urture community.

**Geographical description of the Diocese**

In compiling the following factual profile of the Diocese we have concentrated on information we believe will describe the area. This information should be read together with the information available on our **Diocesan website** ([www.thedioceseofbrechin.org](http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org)).

Figure 1 shows a map of the Diocese with the locations of the 28 churches (including the Cathedral and 2 chaplaincies). This is taken from an interactive version on the website ([www.thedioceseofbrechin.org](http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org)) where a more descriptive portrait of the Diocese with photographs will be found.



**Figure 1: Map of the Diocese** (<http://thedioceseofbrechin.org/index.php?page=map>)

As can be seen from the map the Diocese consists of one principal city, Dundee, and several small towns. The population of these communities, as at the 2001 Census, is shown below.

City or Town	Population in 2001
Dundee	155,000
Arbroath	23,000
Montrose	11,000
Stonehaven	10,000
Brechin	7,000

While the churches are spread quite widely, travel between towns is quite easy with the dual-carriageway A90 connecting Dundee, Brechin and Stonehaven. The travel time from Dundee up to the northernmost church in the Diocese by road is approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

Dundee has only a small airport, although with flights to London. Edinburgh and Glasgow airports serve destinations in the UK, Europe-ex-UK and the USA.

There are also good and frequent rail links between the main centres in the Diocese and frequent train services both to Glasgow and to stations on the east coast route to London.

The ethnic mix of the area is mostly White British, with the population of Dundee being more diverse than in the rural areas.

While the area has a strong Episcopalian tradition, the SEC is a minority denomination in Scotland.

## **DUNDEE: The Cathedral Church of St. Paul - Castlehill, Dundee DD1 1TD**

### **Description of Charge**

St. Paul's Cathedral, in the heart of the city, is perched on the rock that was the site of Dundee's medieval castle. It is an impressive lofty building designed by the well-known Victorian architect, Gilbert Scott.

Like most city centre churches, the Cathedral is a gathered congregation and, although relatively small, is incredibly diverse. Made up of all ages, it is truly international due to its proximity to the city's two universities. There is a small but active Young Church which meets during the main Sunday Eucharist and an active adult congregation involved in many aspects of the life of the city as well as a project in Swaziland. The Cathedral is known for its liberal and inclusive ethos reflected in its congregation and also in its liturgy and music. Concern for peace and justice, care for the environment and for the marginalised of society are at the heart of the Cathedral community.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The Cathedral has had a difficult history in recent years resulting in three different Provosts in a five year period. However, the congregation has held together and the sense of community has been strengthened. The liturgy and music have continued to develop through the work of the Pastoral Musician and successive Provosts as has the ministry to the homeless living in hostels or on the streets around the Cathedral. The present Provost has also established pastoral links with the High School of Dundee and has been appointed Honorary Chaplain to the University of Dundee. The St. Paul's Cathedral Ark Nursery, providing full-time nursery care for children 0-5 years, has continued to develop and grow.

### **What the congregation does well**

The Cathedral's liturgy and music continue to draw people to St. Paul's. The standard of music is excellent and most visitors to the Cathedral comment on the warmth of the welcome they receive. The Cathedral provides a place of tranquillity in the midst of a busy city and many casual visitors and 'regulars' feel a sense of peace after spending time here. The Cathedral also has a very strong sense of community and the sense of pastoral care among the congregation is very strong.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

We wish to develop our ministry to children through the establishment of a monthly children's service; the establishment of a children's choir and developing stronger links with the local schools. We wish also to develop our ministry in a more structured way to the homeless and also to raise the profile of the Cathedral as an arts and music venue. As far as the plant is concerned, a major project will be the provision of disabled access, relighting and reflooring the building and the rebuild of the Cathedral organ. The creation of a proper welcome area providing more space for Traidcraft activities and post service gathering is also on the agenda.

**ARBROATH: St. Mary the Virgin - 2 Springfield Terrace, Arbroath DD11 1EL**

### **Description of Charge**

Arbroath is situated on the east coast of Scotland in easy reach of Dundee. It has a population currently of about 25,000 and is the largest town in Angus, a very rural county with rich farming between the coast and the hills of the Angus glens. Though fishing, engineering and weaving were all at one time important, the town has little industry left and unemployment is higher than average. Tourism still brings people to the area in summer.

St. Mary's Church was built in 1854. The spire is a prominent landmark on the skyline of Arbroath, and we have been working hard to make the church profile equally prominent in the minds of the local population as we seek to contribute to the life of the community in ways we are able, not least in charitable donations to local organisations.

St. Mary's is a large spacious stone church, seating up to 250, with fine stained glass but little else artwork. There are 130 households (about 200 individuals) on our roll and, while the age profile is generally elderly, there are two or three young families who attend regularly. Over the course of a month possibly ninety individuals will receive communion. Home Communion is taken monthly to about a dozen elderly and infirm members. Our hall is used regularly by three or four different community groups.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

There has been much emphasis on the building and fabric which have required a lot of attention. The church interior has been redecorated, and on the exterior, new notice boards and railings, new guttering and resurfacing of the driveway have all added to the welcoming feel of the church. Upgrading the amenities in our hall has attracted more groups to use it.

Distribution of a monthly magazine by a group of volunteers, who also act as a Pastoral Visiting group, has helped the sense of cohesion within the congregation. Regular fund-raising and social events has also helped the congregation grow together.

We have added some non-Eucharistic services and prayer times into our diet of worship each month and an increasing number of people come along to those. We have regular ecumenical study groups with members from two Church of Scotland congregations.

### **What the congregation does well**

St. Mary's congregation is very committed to the church and the care of the building, so that fund-raising to do the necessary work is very successful. Visitors comment on the warmth of the welcome which they receive, and it has been said by some that the church has quite a different feel (in a positive way) than it had previously (10 or 20 years ago). The people of St. Mary's are very generous in giving to local charities and one or two of the congregation help with organisations run by other congregations in the town. They are also generous in allowing the Rector to be involved with local organisations as part of his ministry.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

It is important that we should attract more people of all ages into our congregation and we will pay particular attention to the families whose children have recently been baptised.

There is more to be done on the fabric as identified in the recent Quinquennial inspection and the property committee will prioritise the programme of work.



## **AUCHMITHIE: St. Peter's - Auchmithie DD11 5SQ**

### **Description of Charge**

St. Peter's is a small, simple but attractive church, linked to St. Mary's Arbroath, though its maintenance is the responsibility of the Diocese and the local Vestry. The church was bought from the Church of Scotland in 1982 and serves as a village church in Auchmithie, originally a fishing village of about 120 houses, and is open to all denominations for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Weekly Sunday services alternate between evening and morning with a Eucharist on the first and second Sundays of the month and what is referred to as a family service on the other Sundays. A small number (anything up to 6) of dedicated people attend and singing is accompanied by electronic recording.

On Christmas Eve, a congregation of almost 100 folk from the village gathers for a Carol Service and the local children are usually involved.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

For a while a number of Primary School age children were attending and we involved them in the service; but, having moved on to Secondary Schools and become teenagers, they no longer attend. A programme of work on the building and fabric has been carried out.

### **What the congregation does well**

The people of St. Peter's offer a warm welcome to anyone who comes to our church and the building is made available for use when village events are taking place e.g. for the biennial HAAR Festival which marks the traditions of the original fishing community.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

It is not easy to know how to expand the life of the church in this small village other than to continue offering a welcome as described above.

**BRECHIN: St. Andrew's - Argyll Street, Brechin DD9 6JL**

### **Description of Charge**

Worship at St. Andrew's is of moderate Catholic tradition. The average Sunday attendance is around 25-30. At 8am the 1970 Liturgy is used (Scottish Prayer book in August) and at other times the 1982 Liturgy. The 10.30am Sunday Eucharist is the main service. There is a choir. At present there are midweek Eucharists on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday with a Solemn Eucharist with incense on Thursday evenings if it is a holy day. There is a supportive Women's Guild.

The church, church hall and Rectory are in reasonable condition. There is a full time Rector (who is also Dean of the Diocese), two non stipendiary Priests and a Lay Reader. St. Andrew's is both a Fair Trade and an Eco-congregation.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The church hall was refurbished in 2008 and since then usage has increased. The Brownies are among the frequent users. Weekly Sunday School facilities have been introduced although the take up is irregular. The impact of major repairs to the Rectory, a new church heating system and the credit crunch mean that the charge is uncertain about being able to continue to afford to pay a full time Rector. A stewardship campaign is currently being run. A mission committee was established in 2009 and this has had an impact on how people are welcomed and on forms of worship.

Brechin Churches Together is now a strong source of ecumenical working and the Rector chairs this body.

### **What the congregation does well**

Community involvement: St. Andrew's has a strong ministry to the residential homes in Brechin. The Rainbow Shop (which also sells Fair Trade goods) continues to raise money for improving the facilities that St. Andrews can offer to the community. It is a clear church presence in the High Street.

St Andrew's, both as a church and through its members, plays a strong role in the wider life of the local community. There is a regular presence in most of the local schools and the church is represented on the local Brechin Partnership and on the Brechin Community Council.

Worship at St. Andrew's is reverent and relaxed and the church is lucky to have a range of preachers. There is a bi-monthly newsletter, Newscast, which is posted to everyone on the congregational roll.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

Perhaps the biggest opportunity will come from new housing in Brechin and the challenge of encouraging incomers with a previous link to the Anglican Communion to engage with their faith and with St. Andrew's.

2011 will be the time for a decision about the shape the Rainbow Project facility will take - the church is hoping to raise sufficient funds for a major extension to the church hall.

Over the next few years St. Andrew's hopes to work more closely with neighbouring charges.

## **BROUGHTY FERRY: St. Mary's, Queen Street, Broughty Ferry DD5 1AJ**

### **Description of Charge**

St. Mary's is mostly an elderly congregation. Most members are near or of pensionable age and we have a shortage of young families. Despite this, most members take an active part in the life and work of the church.

On Sundays worship follows the following pattern:

8.30am Said Eucharist (Scottish Prayer Book)  
11am Holy Eucharist (Scottish Liturgy 1982)  
6pm Evening Prayer (wide range of resources used)

Monday - Thursday

8.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday

10am Eucharist (Scottish Prayer Book)

Thursday

10am Contemporary Worship

Most worship opportunities are followed by coffee and fellowship. Members of the congregation assist at most of the services and are active in the local community.

The community of Broughty Ferry is just over 13,000 and growing and is also served by five Church of Scotland parishes, one Baptist and one Roman Catholic. These, together with a few Methodists, form the Broughty Ferry Churches Group which have worked together over many years in Holy Week and Easter and in running weekly lunches for Christian Aid.

### **Significant Changes in the last five years**

Our previous Rector moved to another parish in November 2007 after a 37 year ministry. We coped reasonably successfully during an Interregnum with help from the Bishop and the Diocese. This lasted until February 2009 when we appointed a Rector who filled the requirements we had from the congregation. Most of the congregation enjoy the fresh, new atmosphere and the joyful nature of the services. We have a new, highly skilled musician as our Director of Music Ministry who is developing a broad approach to music, including the use of St. Mary's as a concert venue.

### **What the congregation does well**

Many people are included on our rotas. We are good at providing a ministry of hospitality. Each baptism is followed by a cake and wine. Food at any social occasion is always good and plentiful. Our congregational giving is good considering the age of the congregation. HOSP (Home and Overseas Project) raises money for charities at home and overseas by having monthly hunger lunches, run by different groups in the church, after the 11am service on Sundays.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

We would like to see the faithful family of St. Mary's begin to reflect the broader community. This will mean offering opportunities to come to faith and be nurtured in the faith in ways that are accessible and culturally relevant. Our work among young families also needs further work and development.

We would like to see a congregation continuing to care for others, willing to help in the life and work of the church, and working together to keep faith in Christ as an important part of our lives.

**CARNOUSTIE: Holy Rood - Maule Street, Carnoustie DD7 6AB**

### Description of Charge

We are a relatively small congregation who represent a cross section of the local population. We tend to, on average, be middle aged, often active retired and reasonably comfortable in terms of finance and housing. Nevertheless, as in the community around us, there are also a number of younger families and there is a lively Sunday School and Young Church People Group - numbering approximately 7 and 4 respectively in terms of regular attenders and a few more in each on special occasions. The congregation averages around 45 on a Sunday with a small group who regularly attend on a Wednesday morning. Our worship is fairly traditional - focused around the Eucharist.

### Significant changes in the last five years

The most significant change has come about with the appointment of a new Rector in March 2009, and the linking with Holy Trinity, Monifieth at that time. We are still in the process of learning to work together with each other, whilst also maintaining our outward focus and community involvement.

### What the congregation does well

We have a very good choir and our liturgy, although mostly fairly traditional, is well done. We are a welcoming church, reaching out to everyone in the community as well as those within our own congregation. We also have well developed links with the other churches in Carnoustie through the Ministers' Council. We have a very popular, and well attended monthly Book Club / Coffee Morning. This draws people from all sections of the community and is eagerly looked forward to by all each month.

### Hopes for the next five years

One of our primary aims has to be concerned with getting our finances onto a firmer footing and, of course, learning to live and work with our link charge in Monifieth. In general this will probably be achieved as we look outwards and work towards serving our community more and more. We hope to start up a new 'Pram' Service in the near future, aimed at drawing some of the young mums from the town into the church community.

**DUNDEE: St. John the Baptist - 116 Albert Street, Dundee DD4 6QN**

### **Description of Charge**

St. John the Baptist Church is a small inner city congregation located in an area of Dundee with many social and economic problems. As long as can be remembered, the congregational members have cared for each other and this has become more important during our recent long Interregnum. A Sung Eucharist (1982 Liturgy) takes place each Sunday at 9.45am, with lay people reading the lessons and leading intercessions. Evensong (1929 Prayer Book) is sung on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. A small but enthusiastic choir leads the congregational singing at the Sunday services. The Eucharist (1970 Liturgy) is also celebrated each Thursday at 10.00am. In addition to the regular Sunday and Thursday services there are also a number of special services held throughout the year. There is close co-operation with other denominations in the area with joint services being held at various times during the year.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The most significant change to our life has been the introduction of a new link with our sister congregations of St. Margaret in Lochee and St. Martin in the Hilltown area of the city. This link is very much in its infancy with the appointment of a new full-time stipendiary Rector on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010, with each congregation, albeit retaining their independence, contributing an equal share of the costs associated with the post.

In 2005/2006 work was completed on a £400,000 restoration programme which enabled the Church to be restored to its original décor and some re-ordering to take place. The opportunity was also taken to upgrade and modernise the physical linkage between the church buildings and its two associated halls. This work has not only improved the appearance of the church but also provides excellent hall facilities including a new kitchen, toilets and a lift for the disabled.

### **What the congregation does well**

St. John the Baptist Church has a tradition for maintaining a high standard of worship each Sunday. We are one of the few churches in the Diocese that continues to hold Sung Evensong on a regular basis. Our Advent and Epiphany Carol services, along with other special services during the year, are attended by members of other congregations.

Being located within the heart of the community, much of what we do is clearly focused in that direction. In 1999 the congregation established the Boomerang Project which continues to provide an identifiable centre within the local area that stimulates community involvement and development. Current activities include a lunch club for the elderly, a befriending service, a parent and toddler group, a dance group, keep-fit group, Tai-Chi group, youth clubs and IT training to name but a few. Social evenings and holiday trips twice a year are also arranged for those who access the services of the project. The project currently employs ten people in various roles, working to support the local community. The church building is an essential part of this community and provides a ready vehicle for both volunteering and participation.

We are concerned for the welfare of others throughout the local and wider community supporting a child through the Bible Lands Society, projects in Swaziland, the annual shoebox appeal run by Blytheswood and other community initiatives. St. John the Baptist is linked with the congregation of Christ Church, Burlington in Iowa and there have also been visits by congregation members to our other link Diocese of Swaziland. Members of the congregation are also very involved in the life and

work of the Diocese and we are well represented on both the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board and Diocesan Buildings Committee.

### Hopes for the next five years

Our aim is to continue to worship God in this place with open hearts and minds where we can continue to serve the local community through Boomerang and in other ways. Some areas for future development include:

- Scope to work with the large number of university students who now live in the area, as well as engaging with other young people and faith groups. There is the possibility of forging links with the local Primary and Secondary Schools.
- Providing support and assistance to the large number of lone parents living in the area.
- Providing support to the elderly in the congregation and also the wider community.
- Developing our communication with the wider community through our website and other modern means of communication.
- Scope to develop our musical tradition and to explore how we might best attract and welcome new members of all ages into our congregation.

St. John the Baptist Church is blessed with excellent facilities and the aim will be to see how these can be put to their best use for the benefit of the congregation and wider community.

## **DUNDEE: St. Luke - St. Luke's Road, Dundee DD3 0LD**

### **Description of Charge**

The congregational age varies between 51 and 88 with a regular congregation of 16. The "warmth" of the welcome afforded by the congregation is commended by visitors and considerable freedom exists within the service setting. Members have gathered from different Christian backgrounds to form a unique fellowship of believers open to all those who seek Jesus.

The Priest is supported by a hardworking Vestry, a Lay Reader, an organist and a contemporary worship leader. A group meet weekly for bible study, praise and prayer. St. Luke's is fully represented at the Diocesan Synod. The Licensing of a Priest to the ministry at St. Luke's signals a new chapter in the life of St. Luke's.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

Following the retirement of a former part time Incumbent in late 2006, St. Luke's operated on the Local Collaborative Ministry model with the Vestry and whole congregation setting annual objectives, refurbishing and letting the Rectory, refurbishing and developing our hall facility, and conducting Alpha courses and outreach activities. This period in our history is featured in the L.C.M. booklet published by the General Synod Office 2008 ("Small is beautiful... and effective!").

The success of fund raising projects and receipt of a substantial legacy has enabled the appointment of a part time Priest in 2010 to lead and co-ordinate the work and mission of the fellowship. Congregational Sunday worship was maintained by a combination of congregational members and Lay Readers conducting Services of the Word or a Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament and with the regular support of Clergy and Lay Readers from the Diocese. Much responsibility lay with Vestry members who took on the work of administering and leading the fellowship, supported by the Bishop and an Interim Rector. Efforts have culminated in an improved suite of buildings and a firmly bonded community. Importantly, our acknowledged need for a leader has been facilitated by the Induction of our new Priest whose primary objective is to lead and facilitate outreach into the local mission field.

### **What the congregation does well**

The congregation is noted for its warmth and friendliness and services are characteristically more "free" in their structure than is often found in the Diocese. There is a very high level of congregational participation in the formal elements of worship. The congregation has shown good ability to manage its ecclesiastical and secular affairs despite small numbers and an ageing profile and has managed to perform successful outreach in Alpha courses and community events.

Strong bonds of friendship and trust have developed, enabling many apparently insuperable tasks to be overcome.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

St. Luke's recognises that our profile in terms of finances and human resources requires that we grow or face extinction as an independent fellowship. To this end we have embarked upon a strategy for growth, the most significant aspect of which has been to harness sufficient financial resources to support a part-time stipend for a period of 3 years.

Under the stewardship and leadership of our Priest, our aim will be to embark upon a 3 year Mission Plan to expand the kingdom of God in our area by innovative and consistent outreach and, by this means, also grow our finances to a point where continued part time or full time ministry can be supported.

**DUNDEE: St. Margaret - 17 Ancrum Road, Dundee DD2 2JL**

### **Description of Charge**

We are a small congregation with a core group of people who have worked hard to maintain the church during the recent Interregnum. We offer modern liturgical worship in a traditional setting. The 1982 Liturgy is used at our services - Sung Eucharist on Sunday at 10.30am and holy Communion on Wednesday at 10.00am. The Prayer Group meets on a Tuesday at 10.00am.

We are a caring congregation that values pastoral visits and has a particular ministry to the elderly and housebound in our community. We are a welcoming and friendly congregation that enjoys meeting together socially.

We are a thinking congregation that seeks to respond positively to the changing needs and life styles in our community and to wrestle with issues facing the wider world.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

Our previous Rector, who was with us for eight years, moved to Glasgow eighteen months ago. Since then we have been in an Interregnum, with our services being conducted by a number of local very supportive ministers. In August 2010 our new Rector joined us from Lincoln and we are now part of three linked charges in Dundee with St. John the Baptist and St. Martin. We operate independently whilst equally sharing the costs of a Rector.

Over the past 2 years the community use of our Church Hall has steadily increased, including the Guides and Brownies who occasionally join us for special acts of worship.

The programme of restoration of the Church has continued with new lighting being installed last year. The Rectory was also upgraded for the arrival of our new Rector.

### **What the congregation does well**

Our congregation has particular strengths in linking with the local community through events such as coffee mornings, Christmas services, Bingo nights and our pastoral care.

We are a very welcoming church and we never miss an opportunity to eat drink and be merry and so share our fellowship and support for each other.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

We recognise we need to grow as a congregation and our aim is to do this by finding new ways of attracting and welcoming people to our church.

We are looking forward to working with the other linked charges and exploring the possibilities and opportunities that the link offers.



**DUNDEE: St. Martin - Derby Street, Dundee DD3 6RL**

**Description of Charge**

St. Martin's is a small congregation in the Hilltown Area of Dundee. Two services are held on a Sunday, at 8.30am (1970 Liturgy) and 11.15am (1982 Liturgy). There is also a service on Tuesday at 10.00am (1982 Liturgy). We have a small Sunday School of 7 children; generally 4 attend on a regular basis. The church hall is extensively used for a variety of groups - Pipe Band practice, Tea Dances, Line Dancing and, of course, for our own fund raising events.

**Significant changes in the last five years**

Following the retirement of our Non-Stipendiary Priest in December 2008, we have recently linked with St. John the Baptist in the Stobswell area of Dundee and with St. Margaret in Lochee, Dundee and have together appointed a new Rector to serve across all three churches. While each charge is responsible for meeting one-third of the cost of the Rector's salary, pension, expenses etc., payable from a "Linked Charge Bank Account" we still operate our churches and Vestries independently, with each Vestry responsible to their individual congregations.

**What the congregation does well**

The day-to-day tasks of running the church are widely distributed among the congregation who are all very supportive of each other and always willing to tackle anything. Members of the congregation are generous in their support of local charities and those further afield e.g. the church and individual members of the congregation support children through school from The Pasture Valley Children's Home in Swaziland.

**Hopes for the next five years**

The original church was replaced in 1971 during redevelopment of the area which is once again undergoing a fairly major reconstruction. The two multi storey blocks surrounding the church are due to be demolished imminently and it is hoped that with the new housing earmarked, this will attract more families to the area who can be welcomed to the Church. As a predominantly ageing congregation we recognise our need to grow and attract newcomers to St. Martin's.

We are also looking forward to developing our collaboration with our two linked charges and to the opportunities and possibilities this brings.

**DUNDEE: St. Mary Magdalene - Dudhope Crescent Road, Dundee DD1 5RR**

**Description of Charge**

St. Mary Magdalene's Church has a congregation of around 600 in 348 households. Within that number we have 48 elderly and housebound, 177 young parents and 167 children under 12. We have a good choir singing traditional Anglican music. We use the 1970 Liturgy at our main Sunday service. We have an active Young Church, a monthly Study Group, a Women's Guild and Country Dancers. The church has a Pastoral Assistant. A lively and informative magazine is delivered free to all households 8 - 9 times a year.

**Significant changes in the last five years**

St. Mary Magdalene's has tried to maintain high standards of worship and pastoral care, to increase our numbers and maintain the morale of our people. We feel that we have largely succeeded in our objectives. However, this has become more of a challenge as we no longer have a Curate.

**What the congregation does well**

Our primary objective is caring for our people - God's people. We do a lot of visiting and home communions. We do many baptisms, weddings and funerals. We have a policy of saying "Yes" to everyone and welcoming strangers. Our worship, which derives from our pastoral work, is designed to be beautiful, thought-provoking, prayerful and enjoyable - with something for everyone - especially the children. We have a growing choir. About 100 people do "things" in and for the church. We try to make full use of our talents.

**Hopes for the next five years**

We look forward to having the affection, encouragement and support of a new Bishop to spur us on in our work. We have sown so many seeds; we would like to see some evidence of a harvest! We would like to steadily increase the size of our Choir, Young Church and congregation over the next five years. We would like the Diocese to recognise the value of young theological students testing their vocation and training for ministry in St. Mary Magdalene's - with a view to energising the Diocese and making good things happen. We would like to play our part in building the Diocese and making it a more joyful part of God's Kingdom.

**DUNDEE: St. Ninian - Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 7RW**

### **Description of Charge**

St. Ninian's congregation serves the 6 major housing schemes north of the Kingsway in the East End of Dundee. These hold a large population in the worst 10% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. St. Ninian's has always taken its UPA designation very seriously and has tried to find ways to make God real in the local situation.

St. Ninian's is an enabling church where there is extensive use of lay gifts, reading, playing music, administering the chalice, leading prayers, leading bible studies, participating in the healing ministry, pastoral care, ministry to young people and to the elderly and in leadership. Worship often includes themed services such as Back to Church Sunday, Back to School Sunday, Mission to Seafarers and all-age worship. We offer an evening service once a month in the Taize style of quiet reflection.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

We are no longer linked to St. John the Baptist and the present Priest in Charge also acts as Bishop's Mission Officer. The local Church of Scotland has united with a neighbouring Parish Church and closed its building leaving us as the only active Protestant church in the Mid Craigie/Linlathen community. We have good relationships with the neighbouring Church of Scotland team and also the local RC clergy and have occasional joint services during Lent and Advent.

We continue to try to upgrade our buildings to meet legislative and mission requirements and have installed a new fitted kitchen and redecorated it, redecorated and equipped our ancillary rooms, added a sound system and had the exterior of the building repainted. The major cost of these works has been covered by local community grants. The grounds are also of high quality and regularly maintained and, along with a down lighter on the tower cross, make us highly visible on the city's ring road. The Church House is regularly maintained to a modern, comfortable standard with secondary glazing fitted.

We are excited about the significant change in our weekly attendance rising from an average of 8 to an average of 35. Working on active stewardship principles we have encouraged regular financial giving through FWO and Standing Order and the giving of time and talents. We now meet weekly for prayer and the Lay Leaders Team meets every 2 months to plan the action of our 3 year Mission Strategy and advises the Vestry which meets every 10 weeks.

### **What the congregation does well**

We believe the local church must serve its local community and be ready and willing to meet its needs and so we believe that we do outreach and engagement with our community well. Many people within

the community regard St. Ninian's as their local church and so there is a large contact through baptisms, weddings and funerals.

We have a publicity leaflet placed around the community; we feature on the community map and have an up to date website. Our strongest outreach at present is our youth ministry. Weekly, through Girl's Brigade, we have the opportunity to provide 'church' for around 45 girls and to build relationships with their families and also through our After-School Club for senior pupils. Our Priest is very involved in both High School and Primary School communities as a chaplain doing class work, assemblies and, with a youth minister, runs a weekly Quest Club. Our Family Project gives us an opportunity to encourage and support young parents. Weekly Midday Prayer is lay led at MidLin Day Care, our local Day Care Centre begun by the churches, and gives the opportunity to be 'church' for those who are unable to get to Sunday services. With the help of transport we have also encouraged some to come back to church.

We strive for excellence in worship and have an active and lively Sunday School and Crèche where the activities are tailored to each age group.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

To become:

- *Confident Christians - as Disciples of Christ*
- *Successful learners - continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers*
- *Responsible citizens - working for justice and peace, honouring God in all Creation*
- *Effective disciples - proclaiming the good news by word and deed, serving Christ in all people.*

**DUNDEE: St. Salvador - St. Salvador Street, Dundee DD3 7EW**

### **Description of Charge**

St. Salvador's is a congregation gathered from all over the Diocese and beyond who come to worship in this Bodleian architectural jewel and who value a traditional Anglo-Catholic context. On Sundays and some Holy Days the High Mass is celebrated using the Scottish 1970 Liturgy, BCP and Missal. Low Masses are generally celebrated using the Scottish 1982 Liturgy. BCP Evensong with Benediction is offered regularly. The traditional rites of Holy Week and Easter are conducted. The church is often used for recitals and concerts. The congregation comes from diverse backgrounds and there is a wide age range. There is also a network of support for St. Salvador's outwith the congregation, Diocese and Scotland that supports its distinctive ministry in one of the country's urban blackspots. Whilst eager to maintain traditional values, the congregation functions as part of a diverse Diocese, with respect for those who in good conscience differ from us.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The present Rector has been in place since 2005 and has maintained the traditional worship and teaching that give St. Salvador's its liturgical and theological distinctiveness. The congregation's considerable ancillary facilities have been much used by a wide variety of local groups, most of which seek to enrich and benefit the neighbourhood and city in some way. Valuable contacts have been made with the city's African community. Nearby housing redevelopments have brought many children into the neighbourhood, a number of whom we have befriended and who have attached themselves to us. On Sunday afternoons our volunteers provide refreshments, friendship and prayer for many adults whose lives are blighted by homelessness, poverty and/or addiction. Approximately 30 food parcels are distributed every week. Through World Vision we support a child in Mozambique.

### **What the congregation does well**

Our strengths are traditionally didactic, liturgical, musical and pastoral. To these has been added our outreach to local children and the needy.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

As part of a broad church, we would like to continue in our distinctive tradition within it. The continuing redevelopment of the Hilltown in Dundee will bring still more people to live in the present "brown field" areas almost literally on the church's doorstep. This will give the congregation of St. Salvador's a wonderful opportunity to continue discovering and serving Jesus among our neighbours of modest means and abundant challenges.

## **GLENCARSE: All Saints - Glencarse PH2 7LX**

### **Description of charge**

All Saints, Glencarse is situated 8 miles from Perth at the southernmost tip of the Diocese. It has a small but vibrant congregation scattered throughout the Carse of Gowrie (roughly the area between Perth and Dundee). The community is rural with a number of land owning families and village residents. Within the congregation there are young professionals who work in Dundee and Perth and some who even commute to London. There is a mix of ages represented, ranging from a small but enthusiastic Sunday School and a number of young people, to middle-aged, retired and elderly folk.

There is one worship service on a Sunday at 10:30am, with Saints and seasonal festivals celebrated throughout the year. Average attendance is 28 with 80-100 at Christmas and Easter. However, there is in excess of 75 on our role who attend semi-regularly (monthly or bi-monthly); a feature of the lifestyles of many in the congregation.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

All Saints has had two Incumbents over the past 5 years; one from 2005 and, after an 18 month Interregnum a new Incumbent and her family arrived from Australia in February 2010. During the recent Interregnum the congregation 'stepped up', recognising the importance of All Saints, Glencarse in their lives and in the community.

### **What the congregation does well**

The community is good at supporting one another well (the Interregnum demonstrated this) with a number of social and community building events taking place throughout the year i.e. garden openings, charity events, village fayres (along the Carse). Many of the congregation are well connected to their various village communities. We have strong ties with our local Church of Scotland in St Madoes, holding a number of joint events, picnics, services (World Day of Prayer, Christmas and Remembrance services) and recently a school holiday programme.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

All Saints is a healthy congregation who are ready to look outwards to impact the local communities. We are discerning the gifts of this particular charge with a view to seeking opportunities to reach out. There is also a focus on growing children and family ministry. We hope to expand our ministry to local Primary Schools.

## **INVERBERVIE: St. David of Scotland - Victoria Terrace, Inverbervie DD10 OPS**

### **Description of charge**

Our small church and small congregation make up for size with a welcoming building and a congregation offering more than enthusiastic fellowship for regulars and visitors alike. We draw our small congregation from all the surrounding villages and we are all involved with our local communities, taking to others our firm Christian values.

With our building having had a new roof and been painted inside and outside in the last year and with our part time Rector whom we share with St. Mary and St. Peter's Montrose just completing his first year with us, we feel blessed to continue and strengthen in the months and years to come.

We are proud to share our church with our local Roman Catholic congregation who use our building for Mass each Saturday evening.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The congregation has continued faithfully in public worship and in supporting each other and the wider community through prayer and action. Following our previous Rector's retirement and an Interregnum, we are now very happy to work with our new Rector.

### **What the congregation does well**

We worship God and we offer the church as a space for prayer and worship.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

We would like to develop greater involvement with local groups and education forums.

## **INVERGOWRIE: All Souls - Main Street, Invergowrie DD2 5BA**

### **Description of Charge**

All Souls' is situated in Invergowrie, a village of about 1,000 households on the Western margin of Dundee (but in the County of Perth). The population consists partly of people who have lived there all their lives and partly of people who have moved there in order to work in Dundee. Ninewells Hospital and the Scottish Crop Research Institute are major local employers. The thriving local Primary School (over 200 pupils) serves the village itself, and part of the West End of Dundee.

All age groups are represented at an average Sunday Eucharist (Scottish Liturgy 1982) with about a quarter of our communicants usually children. We celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays (with a variety of traditional and modern music) and on Wednesdays.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The number of people joining us during the past five years has not kept pace with the number moving out of the area. There may be potential for long term growth resulting from the fact that, during the last year, a number of young families have approached us for baptisms.

The Ministry Team is much smaller than it was five years ago. The Church Army Evangelist is now planting a new congregation elsewhere in the area, the Lay Reader has moved to Shetland, the Non-Stipendiary Priest has joined the Cathedral Team, and the Priest in Charge works as a supply teacher in order to alleviate the burden of ministry costs on the congregational budget. The result of these changes is that our ministry, though financially less vulnerable, is less varied and flexible than it was. In particular, there is a reduced provision of a Eucharist on Wednesday mornings, and no regular contact with the Primary School.

### **What the congregation does well**

We continue both to develop the ministry of the whole church, and to enjoy a close ecumenical relationship with our neighbours in the Church of Scotland (the only other congregation in the village). We make a practice of visiting people who have moved into the area recently in order to welcome them to the village and provide them with information about the churches. We also have a close and constructive relationship with the Invergowrie Inn, which is the venue for our weekly study group, monthly folk music sessions, annual events such as Quiz Aid and the Christmas Big Sing, and occasional fund raising dinners. We have 'bring and share' lunches on a few regular occasions during the year and make use of the lodge in Glenesk for congregational and youth weekends. Two of our young people have become devoted attenders of the SEC youth week at Glenalmond.



### **Hopes for the next five years**

We would like to see both spiritual and numerical growth. Our current efforts have born fruit but we need to make much more progress. Our biggest opportunity for Ministry and Mission is to listen to the needs of people, both within and beyond the church, and to correlate those needs with the gifts which are already present in the church.

**LAURENCEKIRK: St. Laurence - High Street, Laurencekirk AB30 1BH *with***

**DRUMLITHIE: St. John the Baptist - Church Road, Drumlithie AB39 2YS**

**DRUMTOCHTY: St. Palladius - Drumtochty AB30 1TP**

**FASQUE: St. Andrew - Fasque, near Fettercairn AB30 1DN**

### **Description of charges**

The rural congregations of Laurencekirk, Drumlithie, Drumtochty and Fasque share a Rector and also similar characteristics. The history of Laurencekirk and Drumlithie goes back centuries. Drumtochty and Fasque were built privately and gifted to the Diocese in the second half of the last century. The congregations are small and generally middle-aged to elderly, but they are friendly and caring. There is a Sung Communion at Laurencekirk each Sunday and monthly at Drumlithie, Drumtochty and Fasque. The orders include the 1662, 1970 and 1982 Liturgies, all using the 3-year lectionary and with hymns sung to pre-recorded music. Friendly relationships exist with other denominations and there are regular ecumenical services.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

There has been a gentle diminution in numbers over the last five years — as much due to people moving away as to death. This has, however, been tempered by some new people moving into the district. At present there is no Junior Church due to absence of young people. Financially we have kept our heads above water, largely assisted by donations from weddings at St. Palladius' Church, Drumtochty.

### **What the congregations do well**

These friendly and caring congregations support each other personally and among congregations. There is high level of commitment of church members which is demonstrated by the care of the churches and their environs and successful fund raising activities.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

A significant number of weddings have continued to take place at Drumtochty and the new owners of Fasque House envisage developing that property for social occasions, which may well mean weddings taking place in St. Andrew's Church. We would like to see an increase in the congregations and to endeavour developing links with local schools. In the meantime there should be sustained involvement with the local care homes.

## **MONIFIETH: Holy Trinity - 99 High Street, Dundee DD5 4AB**

### **Description of charge**

We are a small congregation of 51 households, with about 86 members of all ages. Average attendance on Sundays over two services is about 34, with 4 children in Young Church and a higher proportion of men than normal. We have 24 members in Links and 6 in Cursillo. We are a small but welcoming, loving and supportive congregation. We participate in most Diocesan and Provincial events as well as being actively involved with the local Roman Catholic and Presbyterian congregations and the life of Monifieth community in general.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The most significant change has been our move from operating as an LCM congregation with no resident Priest-in-Charge to learning to work as a linked Parish (with Holy Rood, Carnoustie) and a shared Rector, non-resident in Monifieth. There is a Ministry Team consisting of the Rector, 2 Lay Readers and a retired Priest, with 5 Action Groups, each with a remit for specific tasks.

### **What the congregation does well**

We try to make the church and hall available for the community when at all possible. We are an inclusive congregation with a welcome to all people who come through the door. We keep the church clean, heated in winter and open during the day, which is appreciated by church members and others in the community.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

We would hope through service to the community to see our church family grow and prosper and to attract more families and young people. To this end we hope to get a "Messy Church" initiative up and running.

## **MONTROSE: St. Mary & St. Peter - Mid Links, Montrose DD10 8HD**

### **Description of charge**

There has been a church on the present site of St. Mary's & St. Peter's for 282 years, although the present building dates only from 1857. It is situated in the Mid Links area of Montrose and sits within its own churchyard. The congregation is a successor to the congregations of a Qualified Chapel and a Scottish Episcopal Church who amalgamated in the 1920s.

The church is led by the Rector who is part time and there are no assistants. The congregation is most welcoming. We regard ourselves as inclusive and non-judgemental. Our main services are Eucharistic, with one Sung Eucharist on Sunday and one said on Wednesday. Morning Prayer is said on Monday and Tuesday at 10.15 am. Average Sunday morning Communicants are 40 to 45, with 12 to 15 on a Wednesday. Once a month we have an evening service of the Laying on of Hands, Anointing with Oil and the Eucharist. Our worship is perhaps best described as "middle of the road", accommodating a "broad church" congregation. We use the 1982 Liturgy (Blue Book), and our worship is enhanced by a small but enthusiastic choir. There is considerable lay involvement in our worship, especially with the readings and intercessions.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

A large proportion of our congregation is in the 40 - 70 age groups; our Sunday Club is busy and has a well supported regular attendance of 6. Several of our lay people have recently become more involved in keeping in touch with, and visiting, members of our congregation who are unable to attend services and Communion is taken to local Residential homes and to communicants in their own homes.

The church is well known in the community and strives to have a good ecumenical relationship with other churches. There is a successful and active Churches Together Group in the town; our Rector is involved in schools' Chaplaincy work and is a Governor and Trustee of the local Young People's secure unit.

### **What the congregation does well**

We are trying to develop a caring attitude towards all people in our community, church goers and non church attendees, Christians and non Christians. This is being done by being an active part of the Montrose Council of Churches and reaching out to our community. We strive to maintain a supply of food for the needy in the community and we have contacts with local public houses and hotels which support church functions and the Sunday Club. Our Church Newsletter is widely distributed.

The building and its surrounding area have been well cared for. We attempt to be very welcoming to those who enter our church.

### **Hopes for the next five years**

Over the next few years, given the size and make-up of the Montrose community, we see growth as continuing to be gradual but positive. We are particularly keen to encourage the growth of the Sunday Club but it is also noticeable that people who have not attended any church for a long time are attracted by our "open door" and our liturgy.

We must work to bring in new families and young children. With the creation of space at the back of the church and possible further developments we hope to be able to put on more activities, make more of our space and get people over the church doorstep. We have already strengthened our communications and hope that the introduction of our new website will encourage more interest.

### **MUCHALLS: St. Ternan - Muchalls AB39 3PP**

#### **Description of charge**

St. Ternan's is the most northerly church in the Diocese of Brechin. The present church was built in 1830 and extended in 1864, replacing smaller buildings which were built adjacent to Muchalls Castle, after the repeal of the Penal Laws, records date back to the Revolution Settlement of 1698. The present congregation comes from the three main coastal villages and from the area to the west of the A90. St. Ternan's is designated a Local Collaborative Ministry with the entire congregation working to further God's mission in the North Kincardine area. The majority of the congregation are involved in community activities, recognised by the large number of the local community who support St. Ternan's fund raising activities - garden fetes, concerts, ecumenical Bible studies etc. The church links with others denominations in the area for the World Day of Prayer, an annual ecumenical service, and has links with the local Primary and Secondary Schools in the area.

#### **Significant changes in the last five years**

The most significant change to the life and work at St. Ternan's over the last 5 years has been in becoming a Local Collaborative Ministry congregation. The members have become more fully involved in the life of the church from leading worship, pastoral visiting, schools visiting, and becoming more aware of the need to spread the Gospel of Christ in the local community in deeds and words. It has brought new life to the congregation with members carrying out activities that they never realised they had the abilities to do.

#### **What the congregation does well**

To the best of the congregation's abilities they further God's mission, Jesus' Gospel and hold the faith here in North Kincardineshire. The congregation have been very forward thinking in recognising that if they did not improve the facilities at St. Ternan's they would not be able to attract new members. The congregation are particularly good at welcoming visitors. The church is kept open through the week with a rota of members who live near the church opening and closing it daily. Everyone works and socialises well together. For creature comfort a new bio mass heating system that burns wood pellets has been installed supplying heat to the church, Rectory and to the new extension. The Rectory was completely modernised in 2002.

#### **Hopes for the next five years**

An extension consisting of kitchen, toilets, (including a disabled toilet) and a meeting room built adjacent to the Church is almost completed and will be formally opened in November 2010. St. Ternan's is well placed to take advantage of the people who will be moving into this area over the next

decade. The facility is being well advertised for local community use. A new town of 4,000 houses is planned 3 miles to the north of the church and there is continual development in the coastal towns and to the villages to the West of the Church.

We have, in this last year, introduced different forms of Sunday service at special times of the year e.g. Mothering Sunday, Back to Church Sunday, Harvest and Christmas in an attempt to encourage more people to join us. We will be building on these and looking at other ways for the community to become more involved with the life of the congregation. The extension also means that if families with children join the congregation there is now a facility for Sunday School. We hope that a new minister will be appointed in due course to work with Team St. Ternan and continue with our mission to love and serve the Lord, to love our neighbours as ourselves and to spread God's Gospel in the communities in which we live and work.

**STONEHAVEN: St. James the Great - Arbuthnott Street, Stonehaven AB39 2JB *with***  
**CATTERLINE: St. Philip - Catterline, near Stonehaven AB39 2UN**

### **Description of charges**

The present Church of St. James the Great was founded in 1875. Stonehaven is the main county town of Kincardineshire and the Mearns, 15 miles south of Aberdeen and is fast becoming one of Scotland's most popular coastal towns. Originally a fishing village built around the High Street, Stonehaven has grown to a population of around 11,000. Many of its families were brought to the area in relation to the oil industry. There has been a strong Episcopalian tradition among the indigenous inhabitants of the 'Old Town'.

The church is a grade A listed building. We have a weekly worshipping congregation of 40-50 people and the church is open daily.

St. Philip's, Catterline has been closed for a few months while refurbishment has taken place and we now have access, water and a toilet facility which is disabled friendly. We are hoping to develop the use of the building further. At present there is only one Sunday service held each month on the second Sunday at 5pm.

### **Significant changes in the last five years**

We are no longer linked with St. Ternan's, Muchalls and we have a new Rector.

### **What the congregation does well**

We are a welcoming congregation and can put on a good spread for social occasions!

### **Hopes for the next five years**

We would like to see a growth in the children's Sunday Club at St. James' and the development of a more varied use of St. Philip's.

**TARFSIDE: St. Drostan, Glenesk, via Brechin DD9 7YX**

**Description of charge**

St. Drostan's is the fourth Episcopal church to be built in Glenesk. It was built in 1879 by Lord Forbes in memory of his brother, Alexander Penrose Forbes, Bishop of Brechin. The church is an Incumbency, currently held jointly with St Andrews, Brechin. It has its own constitution which originally dated back to 1877, but which has recently been updated to take account of requirements the Provincial Model Constitution.

Located in the church grounds is St. Drostan's Lodge, a self catering establishment, sleeping 17 persons, which provides low cost accommodation for groups and families of all denominations in the heart of Glenesk. The church business is managed by a committee chaired by the Non Stipendiary Rector. An NSM who is part of the St Andrew's, Brechin Ministry Team has responsibility for St. Drostan's Lodge bookings.

Evensong is held at 2.30pm on the second Sunday of the month between Easter and October, and groups using the Lodge also hold their own services from time to time. There is also a Eucharist on Easter Day and on our Patronal Festival.

The Church is open to visitors at all times and is well known as a place of peace and spiritual tranquillity.

**Significant changes in the last five years**

Since the Installation of the new Rector in 2007, the Church has been involved with the local rural Primary Schools and additional persons have been recruited to the Vestry. The church is also an active member of the interdenominational group, Brechin Churches Together and a very successful joint annual picnic and pilgrimage has been inaugurated to coincide with our Patronal Festival.

The Lodge has been improved and more widely publicised, resulting in increased usage by both families and church groups of all denominations. The revenue from the Lodge is used to maintain the Church, Lodge and the tenanted Parsonage.

**What the congregation does well**

We relate to the life of the rural community and we successfully manage the self catering Lodge.

**Hopes for the next five years**

We hope to continue to explore possible links with other charges and to continue our mission by improving the facilities at St. Drostan's Lodge.