

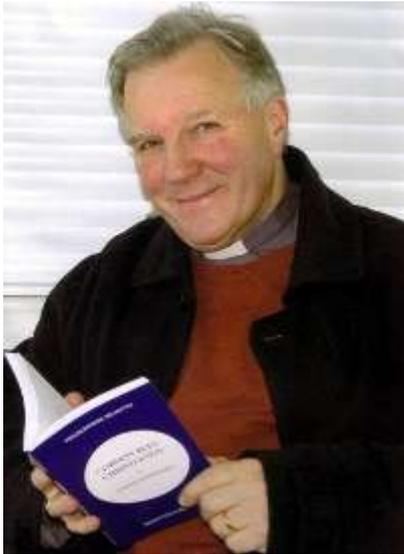
Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

30th March 2021

Rev David Shepherd RIP

1942-2021

The Rev David Shepherd died on Saturday 27th March 2021 following an extended time of illness. He retired as the Rector of St Mary Magdalene's Scottish Episcopal Church on Easter Day 2020 after over 40 years' service to that church and nearly 53 years of ordained ministry in the Diocese of Brechin.



David with one his many novels

David started his ordained ministry as a curate at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, in 1968, and his ministry at St Mary Magdalene started in 1979. He built up and maintained that worshipping community and their building in the heart of Dundee through four decades. David was an active and involved member of the wider

Diocese of Brechin in all this time, serving on boards and committees.

David was Bishop Ted Luscombe's first curate when Bishop Ted was Provost of St Paul's Cathedral and +Ted was the bishop who instituted him to St Mary Magdalene's. After David's retirement on Easter Day 2020, Bishop Ted wrote the following tribute:

"I can remember clearly the day of David Shepherd's Institution in June 1979. The church was dark and dismal, and many of the lights were not working. Neither he nor I could have imagined that it was the beginning of a ministry that would last more than forty years. It really was an act of faith.

"The great pity is that we are not meeting in Saint Mary Magdalene's to mark his retirement. Otherwise, we could have seen for ourselves the miracle that, under his guidance, has transformed it into the place of beauty that it now is. But — of great importance though that is — the building is not the Church. The Church is people. And it was to their care that David was instituted all those years ago. Saint Peter was never licensed as Rector of a Scottish Episcopal Church, but he did receive from the Lord

the same commission that is given to every minister of God's word and sacrament — "feed my lambs; tend my shearlings; feed my sheep."

"So many christenings in Saint Mary Magdalene's! — The Baptismal Register shows no less than eight hundred and sixty lambs nourished and in their baptisms given the grace to lead Christian lives. And even in these recent months there has been more nourishment, in the shape of a splendidly produced volume of Bible stories for children.

"And then the shearlings, those young and sometimes wayward, members of the flock. In those halcyon days in Saint Paul's Cathedral in the seventies. Who could ever forget David's Sixty-Nine Club, with a hundred and fifty young people meeting in the hall every week! His six years as Chaplain to Anglican Students in the University of Dundee, some of whom have remained in touch.

"“Feed my sheep.” —The ordinary day-to-day of the flock. Visiting, teaching, preaching, comforting and ministering to them to the end. Nearly thirteen hundred funerals, nearly all of them loved by their Shepherd, and loving in return.

"Beyond Saint Mary Magdalene's, David's Hospital Chaplaincy has been exemplary. You knew that if he was asked to visit, it would be done. And then, Saint Serf's Retirement Home in Newport. His sixteen years Convenorship saw a major extension built, the books balanced, and a home of which the Church was proud.

"A great Anglican priest of the nineteenth century, a contemporary of Bishop Forbes, memorably described the work of parish ministry in three words — Prayer, Grind, Love. That has been the mainstay of David Shepherd's ministry, immensely supported by the love and faith of his wife, Patricia.

"Now he is retiring from the active (sometimes, perhaps, too active) ministry, we can echo the words of the Psalmist, "He fed them also with a faithful and a true heart, and ruled them prudently with all his power."— A good reason for thanksgiving, a cause for a Te Deum laudamus.

The funeral service for David will be under Covid-19 constraints, but details of time and livestreaming will be published. Please keep Patricia and the family and all at St Mary Magdalene's Dundee in your prayers.

Maundy Thursday - Chrism Mass & Renewal of Ministerial Vows

A service will be held on Zoom on Maundy Thursday (1st April) for clergy, lay readers and all other 'lay ministers' to renew their ministry vows. This service (which usually takes place in the cathedral on that day) is always open to anyone to attend, especially those who have a lay ministry within our churches.

All eucharistic assistants, lay worship leaders, pastoral visitors and others who are authorised by the bishop in their ministry are warmly invited. They will all have an opportunity to rededicate themselves to these ministries in an act of affirmation.

This service was held on Zoom in 2020 in the first lockdown, so it feels poignant to be planning for a virtual format again this year. Some churches might be open by Maundy Thursday, but the restrictions and risks associated with clergy and lay ministers travelling to Dundee from all over the diocese means that the Zoom option is the only practical way to meet. The bishop will lead the act of worship (and will renew his own ordination vows as part of the process).

1st April at 10:30am via Zoom

Elliott has sent out the Zoom link by the usual diocesan email communications.

RSCM Holy Week services online

Recently the Royal School of Church Music held a three rehearsal choral training session online to prepare music for Holy Week and Easter. Singers from all over the world took part and were invited to make and submit video recordings of themselves which have been collated to make a choir for four online services. These will be broadcast on the RSCM's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/rscmcentre>) at the following times:

*Jesus' agony, betrayal and denial – Tuesday
30th March, 18.30 BST*

*Jesus' trial and crucifixion – Wednesday
31st March, 18.30 BST*

*Jesus' death and burial – Friday 2nd April, 18.30
BST*

Jesus' resurrection – Sunday 4th April, 18.30 BST

Further information and a booklet to accompany the services is available on the RSCM website www.rscm.org.uk

Worship in the Pandemic

In lockdown we can find ways to worship online. Many churches in the diocese are Zooming or gathering in similar ways—see link below.

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each led by one of the College of Bishops, will continue in the form of a Eucharist broadcast at 11am through the current lockdown and beyond, as restrictions ease.



For Holy Week there is a special programme of services, detailed at the same link. These will be:

Maundy Thursday—6.30pm Zoom eucharist followed by Zoom vigil.

Good Friday—12noon Stations of the Cross; 2.30pm Passion narrative

Easter Day—11am—eucharist with the Primus

This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

[Link to online services within the diocese](#)

If you are offering online worship and are not included in this list, please contact Elliott who can add you to the database.

As churches (hopefully) re-open in Holy Week we will try and share details here and on the diocesan website.

News to share? Please send...

If you have any events, ideas with worship or anything else to report, please send copy to Elliott at office@brechin.anglican.org. The Bulletin will come out each week for the foreseeable future with updates on Covid issues, news from charges and (hopefully) useful information for our communities.

The next Bulletin is planned for week beginning 12th April 2021. Have a very Happy Easter!