Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. January, 2012 No. 60

Scottish Charity No. SC 016813

A Leap of Faith

First, a Happy New Year to all Bulletin readers. I hope the family and holiday season was enjoyable, and that your resolutions are intact and your hopes are still alive for the unfolding year.

At the Vestries Training Day at Brechin last November I said that my hope was for the Diocese of Brechin 'to be the most improved diocese in the Scottish Episcopal Church in 2012'. The scribe wrote 'best diocese' on the flip-chart! However I was careful to say *improved* because I believe this is do -able across our churches – each charge should be growing the congregation numerically and spiritually, and looking for fresh ways to be an outward-facing Church. For example, getting involved with a local school or a community issue. Even by small steps continuous improvement is energising and self- reinforcing.

So we cannot always wait for people to join us nowadays, we need rather to find them where they are. This requires a degree of risk-taking, road-testing of new things and nerve-holding not always congenial to churches, to clergy and congregations.

Therefore during 2012, in addition to the usual round of church festivals and services, I would particularly welcome invitations to public events around the diocese where our church is contributing something interesting. I have some ideas that I can undertake as Bishop in the city and region and I am working on our media profile but the best ideas are usually quite local.

2012 is a Leap Year so such a Leap of Faith approach seems appropriate. It is also an Olympic Year centred much on London and its new stadiums. The UK Christian focus on the Games is entitled 'More than Gold' (1 Peter 1.7) reminding us that 'going for gold' is not just about winning gold medals and celebrity status but about each Christian aspiring to the gold standard of living a genuine and faithful life. The long jump has a long run-up to achieve lift-off and athletes and Christian disciples certainly need to prepare well for life's races.

Reaching the gold standard and becoming the best may take us in Brechin Diocese a bit longer.... but until then why not at least aim to have an item at your Annual Meeting later this year where you honestly report on 'How we grew in the past year.' I will certainly be asking myself that same question.

+Nigel

FROM THE BISHOP'S DIARY

January	
6	Epiphany Eucharist, St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.
8	Holy Trinity, Monifieth.
11	Dundee Citizen of the Year Awards.
12	Mission and Ministry Board.
15	St. James, Stonehaven.
17	Provincial Director of Ordinands.
	Administration Board.
18	Abertay University, Dundee.
19	St. Mary Magdalene Vestry, Dundee.
22	Preach, Magdalene College, Oxford.
26	Diocesan Trustee meetings.
	Holocaust Memorial at Caird Hall, Dundee.
28	St. Salvador's Vestry, Dundee.
29	St. Mary and St. Peter, Montrose.
	Confirmation, St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.
30	Lancaster University.

Bulletin Deadline - 16th of each month.

Please send news to:

office@brechin.anglican.org

JANUARY MEETINGS

12th Mission and Ministry Board in Diocesan Office at 6pm.

17th Administration Board in Diocesan Office at 6pm.

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. John the Baptist, Dundee.
8th 6pm. Epiphany Carol Service followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Holy Trinity, Monifieth
29th 6.30pm. Christingle Service with refreshments and quiz to follow.

St. Ninian, Mid Craigie
22nd 6.00pm. Taiize Service. All welcome.

St. Ternan, Muchalls
29th 10.30am. Candlemass Christingle Service.

SECMA (LINKS)

The Diocesan Branch of SECMA are to hold a **LUNCH** on Wednesday, 18th January at St. Ninian's Church, Dundee at 12 noon for 12.30pm. The speaker will be Hilary Blyth (new SECMA Secretary) and there will be a Bring and Buy Stall to raise funds. If you wish to come please contact you church Rep. or telephone Rosemary Eddy on 01382-667119. All welcome including non-members.

Iowa Bishop to visit next month

Bishop Alan Scarfe from our companion diocese in Iowa, USA will be visiting us in the Diocese of Brechin 20-28th February 2012. A programme is being co-ordinated by Pat Millar and Bishop Nigel. In particular there will be a **Diocesan Event on Saturday 25 February** when Bishop Alan will present mission and ministry insights from the Diocese of Iowa. Please keep the date free in your diary and come along – it's open to all. Further details of Bishop Alan's programme will appear in the February *Bulletin.*

Confirmation at Cathedral Sunday, 29th January at 6pm

Bishop Nigel will be Confirming at the Cathedral at the end of the month when candidates from anywhere in the diocese may be presented. This may suit some individuals and charges who wish to join together in a combined occasion.

Incumbents should indicate numbers and personal details to Jean Kelty in the diocesan Office by **Friday, 20 January** please.

A New Year Prayer

Dear Lord, please give me a few friends who understand me and remain my friends; a work to do that has real value, without which the world would be poorer; a mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed; an understanding heart, a sense of humour and time for quiet, silent meditation and a feeling of the presence of God; the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to recognise when they come. Amen.

MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The information below has been circulated to all Vestry Secretaries who have been requested to pass it on to their Priest/Treasurer/Vestry members.

1 Applications for Building Grants and Loans are available from the Diocesan Treasurer. Closing dates for application forms for 2012 are: 21 Feb., 24 April, 17 July, 11 Sept., 6 Nov. and 25 Dec.

2 Allchurches Small Grant Scheme application forms are available from the Diocesan Secretary. There is still some money available. Application may be made towards the cost of helping churches engage with their communities in mission and outreach. All projects must be linked to the church's Mission Strategy. They may be used for equipment or other resources and/or used towards buildings to help in engaging with the community.

3 Dunderdale Fund for the Endowment of Charges application forms are available from the Diocesan Treasurer. Closing date for submission is 29 February. Application may be made towards the cost of helping churches engage with their communities in mission and outreach. Grants will be paid in the form of a single payment. All proposed projects must be linked to the church's Mission Strategy. They may be used to develop work with children and young people; facilitate new forms of worship; support social action; help with systems of communication.

4 Fees for services conducted by visiting clergy because of a vacancy, holiday, sickness or any other cause, must be paid. From 1st January, the fees for a single Sunday service will rise from £30 to **£40.** Additional services will remain at **£15.** Travel expenses must always be paid at the standard rate of **45p** per mile.

Companion Dioceses Link Officer appointed

Mrs Pat Millar has been appointed by Bishop Nigel as Companion Dioceses Link Officer for the Diocese of Brechin. Pat will act as our key communicator and co-ordinate our relations with Swaziland and Iowa. Bishop Meshak's retirement and Bishop Alan's forthcoming visit here make 2012 an important time. Pat has been pro-active in both diocesan links and is known by many people. She will be gathering a small Companion Links Group for the work which we greatly value in this diocese.