



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. March 2010, No. 40
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*From the
Bishop's Desk*

LENT DISCIPLINES

MARCH

- 3rd Edinburgh meeting.
- 6th Diocesan Synod. Chalmers-Ardler Church. 9.30am.
- 8th Edinburgh - Faith & Order Board.
- 9th Edinburgh - as above.
- 11th Mission and Ministry Board meeting. 6.30pm.
- 16th Administration Board meeting. 6pm.
- 21st St. Ternan, Muchalls. 10.30am.
- 22nd Edinburgh - I and C Board meeting. 11.30am.
- 23rd Edinburgh - Ministry Development Committee meeting. 10.30am.
- 28th Palm Sunday. St. Salvador. 11am.

FAITH IN COMMUNITY DUNDEE

Over the past year, Faith in Community Scotland has been working with a group of people in Dundee on proposals to establish a small community development team to support faith groups developing anti-poverty work in the city. The launch of Faith in Community Dundee took place on **THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY at 12.15PM at THE MARK HENDERSON CENTRE, ANN ST., DUNDEE.** Coffee and displays of local work were available from 11.30am. If you would like to receive further information, please contact George Gammack at **01382-778636** or Fay Lamont at **01382-453818**. E-mails: **fay.lamont@sky.com** and **ag_gammack@tiscali.co.uk**

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

March Meetings

- 6th Diocesan Synod
- 11th Mission and Ministry Board
- 16th Administration Board

I was in a restaurant the other day with my daughter enjoying a relatively simple meal when eventually the chocolate mints came round with the coffee. She automatically picked up a mint and devoured it with relish.

She had not consumed it all when a look of absolute horror crossed her face. She clamped her hands to her mouth, and said, 'Oh - I'm supposed to have given up chocolate for Lent!'

While my daughter might not describe herself as a particularly religious young lady, she had genuinely made an effort at self-discipline, and now here she was, distressed by her own lapse.

I told her it didn't matter; a lapse was understandable; old habits die hard; she must simply keep trying for Lent which, at the time, still had six weeks to run!

If we take up any discipline - at Lent, or at any other time - one or two lapses will not ruin everything. We're probably out of our comfort zone and it's very hard to maintain a new regime - look what happens to New Year resolutions!

The one time a new discipline always works is when it's forced upon us with no alternatives: loss of a job, sudden ill-health, or family tragedy that changes routines forever.

No chance of lapses here; now you have to live in a different context. But it's always something given - and we have to ask the question; 'so how do I learn to adapt and re-shape my life. . . ?'

We could always try asking the same, even when we give up the chocolate!

Bishop John

Reading for the Season of Lent?

The Archbishop of Canterbury recommends Lucy Winkett's Book, *Our Sound is our Wound - Contemplative Listening in a Noisy World*. Continuum, £9.99 and if you haven't had a chance to read it, Abbot Christopher Jamison's wonderful book, *Finding Sanctuary*, Phoenix, 2006 is perfect for Lent.

Bishop John

Prayers From Platform Seven

The Bishop hopes to lead a discussion series, based on his *Inspires* articles. This will consist of his readings of the articles, followed by discussion.

**In the Cathedral
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
during Holy Week.**

All welcome - but it would be helpful if the Bishop's Secretary could be made aware of those who would be interested. The series will be in the evening - time to be decided.

Telephone (01382) 562244 - morning only.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March 2010

St. Ninian, Dundee

26th Feb - Quiz Night. Teams of 4/5 are welcome. £2 per person, supper included. 7.30pm.

28th Feb. - Taize Service. Meditation on Jesus - The Wilderness? 6pm.

2nd Lent Study Group. 7- 8.30pm each Tuesday to 30th March. Enter by side door on Longtown Road. Theme: *Count your Blessings*.

3rd Coffee Evening for Haiti. Organized by the Girls' Brigade. Tickets £1.

7th Joint Lent Service with Douglas Mid Craigie. Meditation on Mary Magdalene - Soul Sister. 6.30pm.

28th Taize Service. Meditation on Peter - The Weakest Link? 6pm.

St. Mary Magdalene, Dundee

27th Coffee morning. Various stalls: baking, nu-2-u, gifts, tombola, preserves, prize draw and books. Admission still only 50p!, includes tea/coffee and scones with jam and cream. 10am to 12 noon. You can't afford to miss this! Everyone welcome.

Holy Rood, Carnoustie

6th Book Sale and Coffee morning - in the Church Hall. From 10am. Entry by donation.

St. Andrew, Brechin

Holy Week will be a joining with Brechin Churches Together in having a series of services to which all are cordially invited:

29th Brechin Cathedral. 7pm.

30th St. Ninian's. Mass at 10am. Also, Baptist Hall at 7pm.

St. Margaret, Dundee

9th Bingo in the Parish Room. 2pm.

20th Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. 10am.

Holy Trinity, Monifieth

20th April: A concert is to be held, by the Carnoustie Choir, at St. Mary's Church, Broughty Ferry. Admission by donation - in aid of Holy Trinity's Swaziland Projects.

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Dundee

Lunchtime concerts: Adults £3, Children £2. 1pm.

6th Martin Aelrid, Tenor. Recital includes some of Puccini's arias.

20th Pure Brass - Brass Quintet. One of Scotland's finest virtuoso brass ensembles with a programme to delight all.

CONFERENCES/INVITATIONS

- 1) **Come and Sing Concert** of Mozart's Requiem will be held on **6th March** at St. Mary's Cathedral, Gt. Western Rd., Glasgow. An on-the-day rehearsal runs from 2-5pm and the concert commences at 7.30pm. Cost for singers is £13 (£9.50 concession) and audience tickets are £10 (£8). Music will be available for hire on the day. A flyer and registration form is available at the website: www.waverleycare.org The event is in aid of the **Waverley Care's** work with adults and children in Scotland who are living with, or affected by HIV and/or Hepatitis C.
- 2) Annual Gathering of the **Eco-Congregation Scotland** on **20th March** at Stirling Baptist Church starting at 10am. Keynote address to be given by **Alastair McIntosh**, author of "Hell and High Water" To register and participate, contact Aniko Schuetz at 121 George St., Edinburgh. EH2 4YN or e-mail: aschuetz@coscotland.org.uk
- 3) **The Domestic Abuse Strategy in Scotland:** 10 years on - What's been achieved? What's still to be done? A one-day conference on **28th April** in Edinburgh. Contact 'Jane' at 01315-561500 for more information.

A Taize Service - What is it all about?

It occurred to me in a blinding flash that each month we invite people to our Taize Service and perhaps some people may not know what it is all about. So... by way of explanation:

Three times a day, everything on the hill of Taize stops: the bells call everyone to church for prayer. In the middle of each common prayer, there is a long period of silence, a unique moment for meeting with God. Peaceful communion with God can do without words, maybe not even thoughts.

How is it possible to reach inner silence? Calming our souls requires a kind of simplicity: silence means recognising that my worries can't do much. Silence means leaving to God what is beyond my reach and capacity. A moment of silence, even very short, is like a holy stop, a sabbatical rest, a truce of worries. Remaining silent, we trust and hope in God. When words and thoughts come to an end, God is praised in silent wonder and admiration.

The church is made beautiful and welcoming. The space is

arranged very simply with low lights and lots of candles to create a prayerful atmosphere. Some may wish to pray while kneeling or sitting. Once the prayer has begun, there are no technical announcements or explanation to interrupt the flow.

Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly. All are welcome to come to St. Ninian's to experience this quiet time. We hope that you will want to come back, but there is no obligation. We begin at 6pm and spend 45minutes to 1 hour worshipping and waiting on God.

Rev. Canon Fay Lamont

DIOCESAN MISSION OFFICER

Some weeks ago while visiting a church I was asked, "What does the Diocesan Mission Officer do? We've never heard of it before." I was appointed by the Bishop for 8 hours a week to take forward the Diocesan Mission Strategy. This work is done in partnership with Bishop John, the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board and the Diocesan Strategy and Review Group which is part of the Administration Board. Taking into account the wider strategy of the SEC reports on 'Journey of the Baptized' and 'New Century, New Directions' gave the following job description. To:

- 1 Encourage and develop the Diocese to have a mission focus in all its work, and a vision of shared ministry.
- 2 Work with congregations in identifying ways to develop their life of worship, witness and fellowship; and ensure resources are available to them for this development.
- 3 Support and facilitate local collaborative ministry projects in the Diocese.

I have been involved in:

- 1 Reviews with a number of Vestries.
- 2 Running the course, "The Purpose of Your Church" with one congregation.
- 3 Visiting several clergy, inviting them to share their views on Mission.
- 4 The organization of the Diocesan Conference on "Growing Towards a Thriving Church".
- 5 LCM Reviews.
- 6 Organizing "Back to Church Sunday" across the Diocese.

I would like to help encourage more congregations to explore and carry out their missionary task. I strongly believe that we need to commit ourselves to growing thriving local churches because the local church is the focus for mission and that it is the Diocese's job to help provide the resources to help them do this. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions, would like more information, would like me to speak to you or a group from your church, or have any suggestions to help me do the job better.

Fay Lamont, Diocesan Mission Officer.