



Brechin Bulletin

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Brechin Newsletter. September, 2010, No. 45
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FOLLOWING IN THE LIGHT OF FORBES

"Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light" was probably the first hymn I learnt at school. It's not much sung these days, but if you're of a certain age or older you will probably remember its ringing refrain, "you in your small corner and I in mine". There's always a danger in the church that we get so busy dealing with the nitty gritty of local concerns in our 'small corner' that we forget we are part of the bigger picture of the Diocese, of the Province, of the Church catholic or universal. One of the many functions of a Bishop is to act as a focus for unity within the Diocese and to inspire and lead us in the wider mission and ministry in which we all share.

Bishop John has done much over the past five or so years to draw us together as a Diocese and we shall have a chance to celebrate that and give thanks for his ministry when we come together on Saturday, 16th October at 12 noon in the Cathedral for his farewell Eucharist. But, another event that also gives us as a Diocese an annual opportunity to come together and celebrate, is the Bishop Forbes' Evensong. Alexander Penrose Forbes was Bishop of Brechin from 1847 to 1875. As well as being responsible for the building of what is now the Cathedral (it only became so in 1905), and a number of other churches in Dundee, Forbes remains an inspirational figure through his deep concern for the poor and his tireless work (armed with prayer book and a bottle of something cheering) among the slum dwellers of Dundee and beyond.

So, at a time when, over the next months, it will be even more important to pull together as a Diocese, let's all gather at this year's Bishop Forbes' Evensong on Sunday, 26th September at 6.30pm to celebrate our life together, to renew that commitment to work together and to give thanks to God for the life of an inspirational leader that can continue to encourage us in our life of prayer, mission and ministry, both in our 'small corners' and in the wider world. The preacher that night will be the former Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Idris Jones who, himself, was inspired by the life of Bishop Forbes and spent many years of his ministry in the Diocese of Brechin both in Dundee and Montrose. I look forward to seeing you there - lots of pure clear lights, after all, shine brighter than one - unless of course it is THE One!

The Provost, Jeremy Auld
Cathedral Chapter.

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

**Bishop John formally announced
his date of retirement as
Saturday, 16th October, 2010.**

**The Bishop's letter, recently sent to
all Clergy and Lay Representatives,
admitted to his own sadness at
departing early. In his own words,
"There was still much to be done".**

Meetings in September

- 9th Office Business 9.30am.
- 9th Standing Committee 7.15pm.
- 21st Ethical Banking 7-8.30pm (St. Ninian's, Dundee).
- 22nd Ethical Banking 7-8.30pm (St. Andrew's, Brechin).
- 23rd Diocesan Buildings Committee 3pm.
- 23rd Mission and Ministry Board 6.30pm.
- 29th Cathedral Chapter 12.30pm (Bishop's Office)

TOWARDS A DIOCESAN POLICY ON ETHICAL BANKING AND INVESTMENT

Many of you will be aware that at last year's Diocesan Synod, there was a considerable and useful debate concerning the position of the Diocese and our Churches within the Diocese, with regard to banking and investment policy.

There is no doubt that there are a number of views and approaches to this matter, but, after careful consideration by the Diocesan Synod, a motion for an informed discussion on our ethical stance, was adopted.

This is a complex area which, to many, often seems difficult to weave one's way through. The Diocese, however, is keen that all Vestries' congregations, where appropriate, and all others who feel that they wish to do so, shall be engaged in this discussion. I have already sent to you, under separate cover, on 22nd April, 2010, the motion itself and some suggested reading. The Diocese has now set up two evening meetings which will take place on 21st September, 2010 at St. Ninian's, Dundee, and on 22nd September, 2010 at St. Andrew's, Brechin. The meetings will start at 19:00 and finish at 20:30. May I remind you that these are open meetings, and we look forward to seeing as many as possible at them to advance this part of our Diocesan life.

There can be no doubt that the day-to-day running of a congregation has a major priority within our life, alongside concerns about theological and social issues. The issue of ethical bank and investment is an integral part of the day-to-day life of a congregation, and also helps us to understand our broader social responsibility roles as Christians within a worldwide setting.

I would ask you to help in this process by your Vestry and individual contributions in order to further our understanding within the Diocese of Brechin.

I hope that you are all well and thank you, in advance, for your contributions.

Joe Morrow, Chancellor.
August 2010

WHAT'S ON IN THE DIOCESE

Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association
(SECMA) (Links)

Summer Event to take place at St. Ninian's Church, Kingsway East, Dundee. DD4 7RW
Tuesday, 31st August from 2 - 4pm

Speaker will be the Reverend Denise Herbert who will tell us about the care of marginalised children at St. Raphael's Orphanage, Grahamstown, South Africa. There will be a 'Bring and Buy' stall in aid of SECMA-funds - tea and biscuits will be provided.

A Musical Afternoon

St. Martin's Church, Derby Street, Dundee, DD3 6RL
Wednesday, 13th October from 2-4pm

Following their success at Invergowrie last year, we look forward to another enjoyable performance by the Ferryport Fiddlers. The group covers a range of ages and abilities, providing a varied programme.

Back to Church Sunday

St. Mary and St. Peter, Montrose
Sunday, 26th September, 2010

Also including their Harvest Festival Service at 11am.
Followed by refreshments.

The Sale

St. Andrew's Church, Brechin on Saturday,
25th September at 10am.

Usual stalls, raffle grand mystery prize and much more.

Bingo Afternoons

St. Margaret's Church, Dundee

On Tuesday 31st August and 28th September at 2pm,
in the Parish Room.

'Let's Make Jesus the Talk of the Town'
AlphaScotland presents

An evening to be inspired and reach your community on Wednesday, 1st September
St. Andrew's Parish Church, Arbroath from 7 - 9.15pm
Cost is FREE. For more details and to book contact:
Alison Davie (01241-431135) or e-mail:
office@arbroathstandrews.org.uk

Fun Day for all the Family

Carlogie House, Carlogie Road, Carnoustie
All Proceeds will go to the Princess Royal Trust,
Carlogie House Respite Facility

Admission: FREE. Saturday, 4th September, 2010
11am - 3pm

Come along and join the fun - Cake and Candy Stall,
Bottle Stall, Tombola, Face painting, Nail Art, Bouncy
Castle, BBQ, Refreshments Tent, Beat the Goalie,
Bingo, Giant Slide and much, much more!

Doors Open Day

Scotland's largest free Annual Architectural
Event being held on Saturday, 18th September
In the Kincardine and Mearns area.

Fettercairn Fasque, Fettercairn Distillery, Fettercairn
House will be open - as will our own churches of St.

Andrew, Fasque and St. Palladius, Drumtochty.

Women's Retreat

St. Drostan's Lodge, Tarfside 24th - 26th September.
Contact Rev. Ursula Shone: 01356-626087
E-mail: u.shone@btinternet.com

PEACE DAYS 2010 - SEPTEMBER 19-21

The **INTERNATIONAL DAY of PRAYER for PEACE** on 19th September offers the opportunity for faith communities to hold worship and prayer vigils on peace-related themes. Please include Prayers for Peace in your church. Leaflets are available from David Mumford and he would appreciate your informing him if you are doing something specific.

Trusts

The Scottish Cot Death Trust

This Trust was formed as a national organization in 1985 with its aims to raise funds to support research into the causes of cot death, to support families bereaved by cot death and to educate the public and professionals about cot death. The Trust (this being its 25th Anniversary) ask you to include babies and families who have been victims of cot death in prayers of intercession in churches throughout Scotland on **Sunday 5th September**.

The Claremont Trust

This Trust exists to help those involved in projects, but who desperately need help and encouragement. It is a small ecumenical body which seeks to

help constructive and radical projects in Scotland and abroad, both within and outside the Church. This year, it has given grants to a group which supports drama workshops at HMP Greenock; to Faith in Older People which seeks to enhance the quality of life for older people throughout Scotland; to a project in India to educate women in 4 villages on their rights to their land, on farming and on livelihood issues, which also includes extensive training. For further information or a grant application form contact the Secretary: Mrs. Judith Fairley, 15 The Row, Letham, Fife. KY15 7RS. To contribute the Trust, contact the Treasurer: Mr. Norman Kerry, 57 Raeswood Gardens, Crookston, Glasgow. G53 7LD.

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT **ISLE OF CUMBRAE**

Join a retreat in the stunning setting of The Cathedral of The Isles. Come as an individual, a couple or a small group and be part of a midweek or weekend retreat led by the Warden. Weekend retreats are 3 nights - Friday to Monday. Available: 8th to 11th October. Midweek retreats are 4 nights - Monday to Friday. Available: 13th to 17th September and 27th September to 1st October. Prices: Weekend £160, Midweek £215. 10% discount for sharing. Clergy and Theological students may qualify for assistance from the Warden's Discretionary Fund. More details available from: 01475-530353 or e-mail: cathedral_cumbrae@btconnect.com

LIVING BEYOND LOSS

2nd National Conference on Bereavement in a Healthcare Setting to be held in **Dundee on 2nd and 3rd September**. Your registration and the full programme for this exciting conference is available on the website at: www.ncbhs.org.uk This conference is a major opportunity for all those who work in health or social care or whose work brings them into contact with people who are facing their death, or struggling to come to terms with the death of a relative or friend.

Visit to Swaziland

All being well, I plan to travel to Swaziland on 25 October '10 and to stay for just over two weeks. My main purpose is to visit the six local neighbourhood projects that **Holy Trinity Church, Monifieth** helps to support through its **'Starfish Projects for Swaziland'**.

You may be interested to know that Holy Trinity's current Starfish Projects are:

- St Augustine's Children's Centre for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), at Mpaka, which we, along with several other churches in our diocese, have supported over a number of years.
- Two voluntary, parish Home Based Care (HBC) teams - one rural and one urban - which care for terminally ill people at home. These women volunteers often have to work without even basic resources such as disposable gloves, or proper shoes to walk the long distances to visit sick people in remote areas. We provide some funds for medicines and other basic supplies.
- A senior pupil in her final year at school. We have paid for her schooling for almost three years now, to allow her to complete her secondary education and we also provide regular funds for her grandmother to help buy some groceries for the family.
- A young boy who has complex disabilities and additional support needs. We have helped enable him to access an orthopaedic clinic and rehabilitation programme run by Cheshire Homes. He currently attends twice a week with his grandmother. We will help to provide funds for a wheelchair if it is required.
- Ekukhanyeni and Ekukhangeni are small, poor, outreach parishes in very rural parts of the country, which struggle to provide support for the proportionally high number of orphans and vulnerable children in their surrounding areas. For the past two years, we have provided some funds to help buy basic food supplies for these children.
- A women's craft group. The members of this group are all women whose lives are affected by HIV/Aids. They meet regularly both as a personal support group and also to try to provide for themselves and their families by growing food and making jams. In addition, they try to generate some income by making craft items for sale - not always too successfully. On my last visit, I introduced them to knitting fashionable, striped/patterned socks and to simple patchwork & quilting. They enjoyed the new activities and I plan to continue that workshop approach on this visit. Women are encouraged to engage in income-generating projects by the aid agencies.

On my last visit, I took 300 stainless steel spoons, to try to help reduce the cross infection rates among the children, who were fed at the parish kitchens and ate their meals with none-too-clean fingers. This time, in addition to taking infunds raised to help support the projects for the next few months, I plan to take:-

- About 200+ toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste for the children. A member of the Iowa group, which visited Swaziland in 2008, was a dentist and he carried out dental checks on children in the communities visited. I was there at the same time and shared some visits with the group. The children's dental health was a concern. I have most of the toothbrushes and toothpaste already.
- Sewing resources for the women's craft group. I don't intend to take much fabric as it is heavy and I want to encourage the group to use African fabrics. I will take such things as glass headed or flower headed pins, needles for hand and machine sewing, decent quality threads, thimbles, tape measures, chalk & marking pencils, good sharp scissors, rotary cutters & spare blades, self-healing cutting mats, quilters' plastic rulers and square rulers, and accessories such as decorative beads.

Last time, I took lots of knitting needles and crochet hooks. I may take a few more of these this time, along with some crochet cottons. I've taken knitting wool in the past, but it is very bulky to pack easily. I do have a selection of crochet cottons ready to go. I hope to collect some of the sewing resources mentioned from quilter friends who have spares. Others I will probably have to buy before I go, since they're not readily available in Mbabane or Manzini. If I have enough money, I may be able to buy a second portable sewing machine for the group when I get there.

If you think you might help with any of these small sewing items, do get in touch.

Please do not ask me to carry other items for you this time. I did that on the last two visits and, last time, I was asked to pay an excess baggage charge of over £200. I managed to talk that down to just over £70, but it was still expensive - and stressful - and I won't risk that again!

However, if you have mail, or messages, or even some funds that you would like delivered to particular places, or if there are projects that you would like me to try to contact/visit, I will do my best to help.

My telephone number is: 01382-532972 and my e-mail is: pamillar@tiscali.co.uk

Pat Miller
Convenor, Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY AND PEACE

4 William Black Place, South Queensferry, Edinburgh. EH3 9PZ

The following two events are offered in September: Venue for each: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. EH1 2JL

The Facilitator of each event is the Rev. Prof. Stephen G. Wright. He has been working for over 20 years with a charity, (The Sacred Space Foundation) which, among other things has specialised in the spiritual care of those in crisis. He brings a deep experience of this work to this masterclass.

1. Event: **The Problem of Evil**: the Role of the Spiritual Director. A masterclass for Interfaith Ministers.

Date: Friday, 24th September.

Description: Is evil real? Does it exist as a separate entity from good, as dark from light? How is it related to the shadow in the unconscious? What is the right response of the spiritual director when confronted with people experiencing this aspect of spiritual crisis? What can help and heal and what can make things worse?

2. Event: **Burnout - A spiritual crisis**: response and prevention. A one-day seminar for ministers and those who support them.

Date: Saturday, 25th September

Description: Ministers burn out. Ministers counsel people who burn out. Yet often little is known about this painful experience and how to handle it. This seminar will explore what burnout is, how to stop it happening, how to help ourselves and others when it does. Burnout is always a spiritual crisis and requires spiritual solutions.

Cost for **each** seminar: IMA members £55; Non-members £75; Seminary Students £35. Each day commences at 9.30am (registration) then continues from 10am to 4.30pm.

Places are limited, please make early contact to reserve your place. For a registration form contact Neill Walker at: mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk or www.eicsp.org or telephone: 01313-314469.

HOLY LAND INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

Mr. Howard Taylor, Deputy Director of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (who is also very deaf himself) is coming to Scotland in September and Anne Pattullo has volunteered to try and help him find some church-related speaking engagements. She has also taken on the task of finding obsolete hearing aids which can be sent out to Jordan - any contacts or advice in relation to this would be most welcome. Her telephone number is: 01337-858236.

The school was set up by Brother Andrew, the Director, 30+ years ago in the town of Salt. The school, which comes under the Diocese of Jerusalem, is run by Evangelical Episcopalians and is really the only facility working with the deaf community in the Middle East. The school also provides training for teachers who teach deaf children how to sign. There are also community outreach projects which benefit the local communities, and also serves as an informal, but positive link between Christian and Muslim peoples.

130 children board at the school and there are 20 day pupils. Most of the children are Muslim, many from Bedouin families, ranging in age from 3 to 23 years. The British Embassy in Jordan is donating a mobile clinic so that (the very poor) people in outlying districts can have access to hearing aids. Brother Andrew and his school are very well thought of, and much respected in Jordan, and the Jordanian Royals are enthusiastic supporters.

Should you be interested in meeting/welcoming Howard to your church, please contact Anne Pattullo.