

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

6th October 2021

Bishop Forbes Evensong 2021: 10th October—6.15pm, St Paul’s Cathedral Dundee



Bishop Mark (Photo: SEC website)

The Most Reverend Mark Strange, the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, is the preacher at this year’s Diocesan celebration evensong in thanksgiving for Bishop Alexander Penrose Forbes.

Provost Elizabeth Thomson and the congregation of St. Paul’s Cathedral invite all to this Choral Evensong on Sunday 10th October at 6:15pm. Clergy and lay readers are especially asked to attend, and are invited to robe and process as part of the service: choir dress.

The Provost writes, “This year the service will be sung by the Cathedral Choir, so that we can be sure we can follow the guidance and the singers have enough space. Next year, we should be able to arrange for a festival choir for the occasion, drawn from across the Diocese as in the past.

The service will be followed by refreshments. I am very much looking forward to seeing you, especially as it wasn’t possible to invite everyone in person when I was installed as Provost in June. Please pass on the invitation to your churches.”

Bishop Alexander Penrose Forbes founded St Paul’s, now the cathedral in Dundee, and is often regarded as the founder of the modern-day Diocese of Brechin, so this evensong close to the anniversary of his death (8th October) is a ‘Patronal Festival’ for the cathedral and the diocese.

For clergy & lay readers robing: in St Roque’s Hall (accessed inside the cathedral), lower level; choir dress (cassock, surplice, scarf, hood if you like); please be changed and ready by 6pm.

Institution of Jim Benton–Evans as Rector of Brechin and Montrose with Bervie

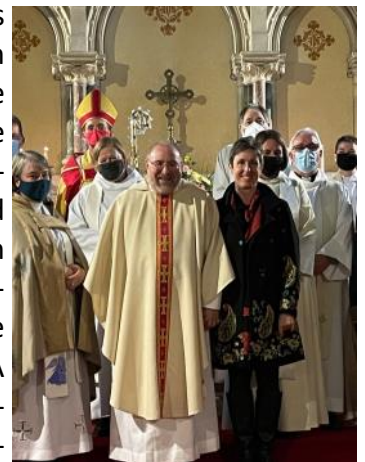
This past weekend saw the beginning of the ministry of the Rev Jim Benton-Evans in the Diocese of Brechin as he was instituted as the Rector of St Mary’s and St Peter’s Montrose with St David of Scotland, Inverbervie and St Andrew’s Brechin. Jim was instituted separately in each of three charges, to reflect the very different contexts and communities that each of the three churches serves.

Jim wondered if this was a record for the number of institutions held to start a ministry?



The first service was Saturday 2nd October, in the morning, in Montrose. Jim was instituted and played ‘With a Little Help From My Friends’ on his ukulele. The congregation and guests, including the Lord Provost of Angus, enjoyed stovies, puddings and chat after the service.

The second service was on Saturday afternoon in Brechin. Jim and Claire were welcomed by the congregation of St Andrew’s and other invited clergy and guests. Canon Lyndsey Downs, the Rector of Banchory (left in the photo) preached again. A reception in the Mechanics Institute in Brechin followed.



The third service was a first in modern times in the Diocese of Brechin: Jim was instituted in a service of welcome on Sunday 3rd October in St David of Scotland in Inverbervie. The congregation and ecumenical guests gathered in the small tin church building in Aberdeenshire to welcome their new priest.

The Bervie congregation had refreshments and home baking following the service.

At each of each service Jim and Bishop Andrew thanked all who had done so much to support the charges through the time of vacancy.



Jim celebrates in Bervie

Jim and Claire, who will live in the Brechin Rectory, have come from the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. They are looking forward to meeting more people from the Diocese and settling in to their own beautiful corner of the Diocese as their ministry starts.

Climate Challenges

Weekly Climate Challenge

The Eco-group from St. Paul's Cathedral are launching a weekly climate challenge in the lead up to COP26, the Climate Change conference being held in Glasgow in November 2021. People are encouraged to take part in weekly challenges that will be on a variety of different topics. They ask you to make at least one change each week to reduce your climate impact, learn more about the climate crisis and the COP26 UN Climate Conference, reflect on our own responses to the climate crisis, pray for those most impacted by it and pray for the success of the conference.

The flyer attached with the bulletin contains practical steps you can take to reduce your climate impact, starting this week with food.

“Sign a Wind Turbine”

Another symbolic action we can take is to have your name added to a wind turbine in the Dogger Bank Wind Farm—offered by the operator SSE as a sign of urgency for success at COP26. Details are here: <https://www.sse.com/cop26/sign-the-turbine/>

Dundee City COP26 Events

Dundee City Council is hosting events running up to the start of COP26. The full events schedule can be found on their website.

<https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sustainable- Dundee/dundee-cop26-events-programme>

Afghan Refugee Response Update: How can we offer help?

This has left the news cycle but remains very relevant for us all.

A good network has already been established in Dundee to support the previously re-settled Syrian refugee families, supported by a Scottish Refugee Council staff member. They are now looking to gather support for Afghan refugees arriving in the area. The Support Network for Afghans arriving in Scotland has a Google form (link below) to capture offers of help and generates a standard response from the generic mailbox, to put it into a ‘holding’ position until the Scottish Refugee Council knows more about where people will be resettled and their needs. The link to the form for offers of help: [Support Network for Afghans arriving in Scotland \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/forms/d/1K...).

There is also this link: [nine ways you can help](https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/nine-ways-you-can-help) from the Scottish Refugee Council with further general information about how people can help with Afghan refugees. Churches in any area who might want to offer help could fill in the Google form and the general information in the second link should be useful for anyone wishing to know more.

Voluntary Action Angus is working to help Afghan refugees who are being settled in Arbroath. Contact St Andrew's Brechin who have held a Harvest Appeal if you wish details. Any more details of schemes to help will be shared when we know them.

Some financial appeals for the refugee crisis can be found at:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/afghanistan>

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/afghanistan-emergency-appeal>

<https://act.refugeecouncil.org.uk/donation/refugee-crisis-appeal>

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

Please send news and photos to Elliott in the office at office@brechin.anglican.org.

Upcoming local events in charges can be shared by the office via email—the Bulletin will advertise Diocesan events or events that are of interest to all in the Diocese.