

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

12th April 2021

Death of HRH Duke of Edinburgh

The Scottish Episcopal Church has expressed deep sadness at the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, at the age of 99. On behalf of the College of Bishops and the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus, said: "We send our love and prayers to Her Majesty and her family on this sad occasion, as they mourn the loss of such a significant figure who has been at the heart of the British Royal Family for more than seven decades. We give thanks for the Duke of Edinburgh's long and faithful role as consort to the monarch, and for his steadfast love of his Scottish home at Balmoral as well as Scottish traditions. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy in the shape of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the youth development programme he founded which has made an enormous difference to the lives of millions of young people here and around the world." The Primus is also sending a message of condolence to Her Majesty The Queen, on behalf of the Church.

A period of National Mourning has begun. In line with current COVID 19 restrictions, the Scottish Episcopal Church will not be opening physical Books of Condolence. Church members can be encouraged to make use of online Books of Condolence and it is expected such a book will be available on the Royal Household website www.royal.uk.

New Provost Announced for St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee

Bishop Andrew and the vestry of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee are delighted to announce that the next Provost of the Cathedral is to be the Revd Canon Dr Elizabeth Thomson. Elizabeth is currently Sub-Dean and Canon Missioner of Derby Cathedral, a post she has held since 2014.

In Derby she is responsible for helping the cathedral connect with the city and community, for communications, and for a wide range of duties as part of the cathedral clergy team. During a recent vacancy she led the cathedral as Acting Dean.

Bishop Andrew said, "We are all delighted that Elizabeth will be joining the diocese and the cathedral this summer. In the blended recruitment process we created she came over both online and in-person as a person with great spiritual depth and

the capacity to find a fresh vision for the cathedral and its community. She will be coming to Dundee as, hopefully, the pandemic begins to have less impact on church and city—the opportunities that this time will present are an exciting time for this new ministry to begin."



Elizabeth studied English at the University of Oxford, graduating MA and then as a Doctor of Philosophy. She was a teacher of English in Edinburgh and Somerset before training for ministry. She trained for ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge, was ordained in 2003 and served her curacy in Somerset. Following her curacy, she became team vicar of St Mary's, Witney, in Oxfordshire.

Elizabeth said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed Rector and Provost of St Paul's. I am very much looking forward to meeting the Cathedral's congregation and community, working with new colleagues in the Diocese of Brechin, and engaging with all those connected with the Cathedral in Dundee.

"There is no need to say that the past year has been difficult for everyone. It has meant re-imagining how we live and how we worship. I hope we will be able to draw on what we have learned and take it with us, so that as we are able to gather again we can also serve our community in new ways. My hope and prayer is that the life of the Cathedral will flourish and that its roots in love and service will be strengthened."

Elizabeth grew up in Edinburgh; she has been working her way steadily north again and is looking forward to being closer to family and friends in Scotland. In her spare time she is an extensive reader, a keen walker, and a bad gardener.

Rev David Shepherd RIP

The recording of the funeral service of Rev David Shepherd, former Rector of St Mary Magdalene, Dundee, is available to view online through St. Mary Magdalene's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Mary-Magdalenes-Church-Dundee-106047664164665>

The late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya receives Lambeth Award.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has awarded the late Bishop Ellinah with the Langton Award for Community Service. The award was given for her outstanding leadership in the area of sustainable development and Creation Care in the Diocese of Swaziland (Eswatini).

Read more about the awards [here](#).

Diocesan Archivist Honoured by Queen

Diocesan Archivist, Dr. David Bertie, has been honoured this year by the Queen as a recipient of Royal Maundy. Recipients of Royal Maundy are selected because of the Christian service they have rendered to the church and community.

Dr. Bertie has been Diocesan Archivist for the Diocese of Brechin since 2013. His book *Scottish Episcopal Clergy 1689-2000* (published in 2000) is now the standard reference work on Scottish Episcopal clergy, while his *John Skinner: Dr Bertie's Maundy Money purses Collected Poems and letter from the Queen.* (published in 2005)

was the first new edition of that priest-poet's work for 150 years. More recently, Dr. Bertie has published *The Heraldry of the Bishops of Scotland* (2018) and *The Heraldry of the Ecclesiastical Deans of Scotland* (2021).



Church Army launches "Faith Pictures"

We are pleased to share the launch of Faith Pictures, the free resource from Church Army to help Christians of all traditions talk about their own story of faith with confidence, ready to run online or in person. Faith Pictures is six sessions long, each one building on the last to help Christians to see where God has been present in their lives, how they can talk about that confidently, and how God is active in the world around us and wants us to join in with Him. Download Faith Pictures for free at resources.churcharmy.org/resources/faith-pictures/

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.

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.

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.