

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 2nd February 2022

### Candlemas—2nd February—Is Christmas Finally Over?

Christmas, with the festivities a little muted by the Omicron variant, feels a long time ago, as we reach the festival of Candlemas in the church's year. The episode from the Gospel of Luke, where the child Jesus is brought to the Temple in Jerusalem for a 'dedication offering' to be made for a first born, and Mary is also to be ritually 'purified' following child-birth, is a familiar story. Old Simeon and Anna the prophet encounter this child, and they realise who and what the apparently ordinary child will be. Simeon feels his life can now end, as he has seen the salvation promised by God: the *Nunc Dimittis*, often said at funerals, is that Song of Simeon. Anna, on seeing this child, the Messiah, cannot help but share the good news with anyone who will listen. Two older, faithful people have their lives made complete by the encounter with the infant Jesus.

And there is a completion in our liturgical season of Christmas and Epiphany in this profound episode.



St Laurence's, Laurencekirk (2020): Photo Mary Swift

Many churches have the tradition of keeping the crib in place right through to Candlemas—one or two might even keep a Christmas tree (hopefully holding on to some of its needles) up to this point. The flow of preparation through Advent, joyous celebration for the twelve days of Christmas then profound revelations of God's purpose in Jesus, running from Epiphany to Candlemas makes a long and rich season for the church.

This is an entirely optional way of keeping a seasonal focus through the start of the year: but it does explain why the crib may still be there as February begins!

+Andrew

### New Rector for Broughty Ferry

The Revd Mark-Aaron Tisdale has been selected to be the new Rector for St Mary's, after becoming vacant last year when the Revd Dr Francis Bridger, Rector and the Revd Helen Bridger, Assistant Priest, moved to Derbyshire last year on Francis' retirement. The vestry, assisted by the Bishop and the Dean, ran a recruitment process with applications, touring the area, worship and interview. Mark-Aaron, currently the Rector of Glington, Etton, Maxey, Northborough and Peakirk, in the Diocese of Peterborough was the successful candidate from this process. Some final administrative work still has to be completed to allow Mark-Aaron to start his ministry in the Diocese of Brechin. Mark-Aaron is married to Çiğil (a Turkish name, pronounced "Chill", Mark-Aaron tells us) who is a Sales Operations Manager for Cummins, an engineering power firm. Mark-Aaron and Çiğil have an adult son, Winston-James.



Çiğil, Winston-James and Mark-Aaron Tisdale

Mark-Aaron is originally from the United States of America and was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served in the US Army from 1986-1997 then edited and taught English in Turkey. He trained for ministry in the Church of England at Westcott House, Cambridge, from 2000-2002 and served his curacy and first incumbency in the Diocese of St Albans. He then ministered in the Diocese of Oxford and spent time as a school chaplain, before coming to Peterborough Diocese and his present incumbency. Mark-Aaron has a great interest in pilgrimage, planning to follow several pilgrim routes on a long-planned sabbatical from ministry this summer before the move to Scotland. Mark-Aaron has carried out fund-raising parachute jumps and he enjoys motorcycling, music, hiking and camping. The plan is to institute Mark-Aaron as Rector of the charge on Saturday the 13th

August 2022. Please watch out for more details nearer the time.

The vacancy at St Mary's Broughty Ferry also resulted in a vacancy at St Martin's Dundee, as latterly that charge was also served by the Bridgers. That link has not been maintained, and a separate process for discerning the next phase of ministry in the charge on Derby Road is in hand between the vestry of St Martin's and the Bishop.

## **Interview with Bishop Ellinah**

The late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland, participated in a podcast to celebrate her life for "The African Passport" on SABC's Channel Africa a few months before she died of Covid last year. The interview was not aired at the time, but was finally aired last week.



Bishop Ellinah (Photo: Anglican Communion Office)

To listen to the podcast please follow the link below:

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-african-passport/the-african-passport-27-01-22?t=0s>

A special thank you to the Diocese of Swaziland for sharing this remembrance of Bishop Ellinah's life and influence with us.

## **Church Houses—Interlinked Smoke and Heat Alarms Now Required**

From 'Inspires Online': The provincial Buildings Committee would like to remind churches that, as notified in April last year, the Scottish Government has introduced new regulations covering smoke and heat alarms in domestic buildings, including rectories. The new regulations are now in effect, from February 2022.

To summarise there should be:

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
  - One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
  - One heat alarm installed in every kitchen
- All alarms should be ceiling mounted and inter-linked, that means when one alarm is activated all alarms will sound.

Where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance (such as boilers, fires (including open fires) and heaters) or a flue, a carbon monoxide detector is also required which does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.

Further details can be found [here](#).

## **'Thank you' for Brechin SEI Donation**

Retiring collections were made on January 22nd at the licensing services for Rev Mary Jepp at St James' Stonehaven and St Ternan's Muchalls—these collections were for the Scottish Episcopal Institute training fund, to support full time students training for the ministry. The excellent sum of £288 was raised: a very generous donation that has been very gratefully received by SEI. Thank you all who were so generous!

## **Online Worship for the SEC**

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online every week. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, is continuing in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. This will continue beyond the pandemic.

**Brechin Services:** Brechin Diocese will be providing two of these acts of worship in February. The 'Children's Chapel' for Feb has been assembled by charges in the diocese. This will be broadcast on Sunday 6th Feb. Also on Sunday 6th Feb the 11am Provincial worship will be from St Mary Magdalene's church Dundee, led by Canon Kenneth Gibson, supported by clergy and people of that charge.

There are more details of each week's services at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

## **Any news to share in the Bulletin?**

If you have stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin.

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