

Brechin Bulletin

18 July 2024

Pilgrims from Brechin, Montrose & Bervie spend time on Iona

Twenty-two pilgrims from Brechin, Montrose and Inverbervie had a wonderful five days staying at Bishop's House on Iona last week. Led by Rev Canon Jim Benton-Evans, they journeyed, ate, prayed and laughed together, exploring the island, enjoying worship in St Columba's Chapel and at the Abbey and some even went puffin-spotting on Staffa.



The pilgrims at Bishop's House on Iona (photo J Benton-Evans)

Canon Jim said, "Huge thanks to Robbie and all the staff of Bishop's House for making the stay so enjoyable and stress-free: we are already looking at dates for 2026!"

Bishop Andrew to be Acting Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway in their episcopal vacancy

The College of Bishops have asked Bishop Andrew to be the Acting Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway when Bishop Kevin Pearson retires at the end of August 2024. Every member of the College of Bishops carries out certain Provincial duties as well as their Diocesan responsibilities: this acting bishop role is one such duty that most bishops will undertake at some point in episcopal vacancies.

Bishop Andrew will, of course, still be the Bishop of Brechin while he takes on this additional Provincial duty. With the support of Diocesan staff and officers in both Glasgow and Brechin, his hope is that Brechin Diocese will not notice a difference! The Bishop will spend a few planned days in Glasgow and Galloway each month, as well as supporting some Sundays and other events in that Diocese.



The United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway (in green)

Bishop Andrew said: "The election of a new Bishop is a key time in the life of the wider Scottish Episcopal Church as well as the Diocese concerned, so I am happy and willing to help our sisters and brothers in the west of Scotland as they navigate through these times of significant change."

Installation of Canon Theologian at St Paul's Cathedral Dundee: 25th August Celebration Evensong

As previously announced, the Rev Professor David Brown, Professor Emeritus of Theology, Aesthetics and Culture at the University of St Andrews, has been invited by Bishop Andrew to take up the post of Canon Theologian at the Cathedral in Dundee.



Rev Prof David Brown and Bishop Andrew
(Photo Mary Swift)

The Canon Theologian helps the cathedral and dio-

cese with preaching, lectures and other ways of enriching the theological life of the communities of Brechin Diocese.

David will be installed at a special service of evensong at the cathedral on the 25th August at 5pm. This service will also be a 'farewell' to Provost Elizabeth Thomson as she moves on from the cathedral to take up her new post as Provincial Director of ordinands. There are also potential plans for some other new Canons to be installed that evening: watch this space for details in the next few weeks.

Prayers for Companion Link Churches and the wider State of Iowa

Canon Pat Millar, Companion Links Officer, received a message copied below from a Companionship friend in the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, part of our long-standing three-way link between Eswatini, Iowa and Brechin Dioceses.

"We've been experiencing some significant river flooding in Iowa over the past week or so. So far none of our churches have been affected but lots of people have had homes and belongings destroyed. Keep Iowa in your thoughts and prayers as the waters continue to move down the rivers."



Flooding in 22 counties in Iowa (Photo Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds)

There is extensive news of the awful flooding in Iowa in communities alongside the rivers. This latest weather crisis follows extensive damage and disruption caused by tornadoes only a couple of months ago. They are having a hard and worrying time. Please include this specific concern for our Iowa Companions in your Intercessions over the coming weeks as they work to support families and communities in the aftermath of these floods.

We have had a Diocesan link with Iowa for over 40 years: prayer remains a foundation between us.

Upcoming Vacancies in the Diocese of Brechin: plans for support and recruitment

The Cathedral in Dundee will officially become vacant on 1st August as Provost Elizabeth Thomson moves on to become the Provincial Director of Ordinands, responsible for selection and recruitment of clergy and lay readers for the Scottish Episcopal Church. As previously announced, Rev Roxanne Campbell, presently priest in charge for St Martin's Dundee and Priest for Outreach at the cathedral will care for the cathedral as Interim Rector for the vacancy. A recruitment process for the new provost, with the vestry working with the bishop, will start immediately, with an aim to appoint next Spring/Summer.

Several churches in Brechin will become also vacant in the next few weeks with changes of job and clergy moving on. These churches will be supported by priests acting as 'Interims' in their pastoral lives and while work takes place to review ministries and then recruit new priests. The charges and interims are:

- All Souls' Invergowrie—Very Rev Fay Lamont
- St Margaret's Dundee—Very Rev Elizabeth Thomson
- St Martin's Dundee—Rev Mark-Aaron Tisdale
- St Salvador's Dundee—Rev Gary Clink

The Bishop would like to thank all the vestries and the Interims for being willing to work together to support these church communities to their next phase of healthy ministry. Any vacancy and change in ministry can be a time of anxiety—the plan is to build up on all the good work that has been taking place in these charges as we seek new clergy to care for them.

Plans are being developed with the Diocese and the charges for future ministry for the churches in Dundee city—watch this space for information as these plans progress.



Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have details of upcoming events, stories and photos of events around the diocese, please email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org.