

Brechin Bulletin

19 June 2025

Canon Michael Turner Celebrates 40th Anniversary as Rector of Laurencekirk

The Reverend Canon Michael Turner had a special celebration on Sunday 8th June as he celebrated his fortieth anniversary as the Rector of the Aberdeenshire charges of St Laurence Laurencekirk, St Andrew Fasque and St John Drumlithie with St Palladius Drumtochty.



Canon Michael Turner and his 40th anniversary as Rector cake following the celebration eucharist at St Laurence Laurencekirk. (Photo Swift)

Michael has served the Diocese of Brechin in Kincardineshire under six bishops, having been instituted by Bishop Ted Luscombe in June 1985.

Before Michael came to Brechin Diocese he was the Rector of Kirkwall and Stromness on Orkney, and prior to that he ministered in Winchester and Birmingham Dioceses in the Church of England, having trained for the ministry in Chichester in the 1960s.

Bishop Andrew and Mary joined Michael and the congregations for a celebration eucharist for Pentecost at St Laurence, Laurencekirk, followed by a congregational lunch with a 40th anniversary cake (see above).

Michael also made the announcement at the service that he would be retiring from his ministry as Rector of the charges later this year. More details of that will follow in due course.

Trinity Confirmations at St Paul's Cathedral Dundee

Trinity Sunday saw a celebration eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee, with confirmations of two cathedral members and licensing of lay eucharistic assistants to serve the congregations.



Provost Roxanne, Emmanuel (with consent), Bryn, Linda, Clint and the Bishop following the eucharist and confirmations (photo M Swift)

Bishop Andrew presided and preached (on the Trinity), then confirmed Emmanuel Arun and Clint Bolik, to mark this stage in their journey of discipleship. Both were presented with certificates to mark the planting of a tree at Backmuir forest to the north of Dundee to mark the occasion, part of the Anglican Communion Forest environmental initiative.

At the same service, Bryn and Linda Richardson were given their licenses as eucharistic assistants, joining the team that support Provost Roxanne in worship each Sunday.

Confirmation in the Scottish Episcopal Church is a rite by which baptism is re-affirmed and a person can mark a stage in their own journey as a Christian. The candidate is anointed and prayers for the Holy Spirit to be with them are offered. The Bishop leads the ritual of confirmation, in common with usual Anglican practice.

If anyone wishes to explore confirmation, please discuss with your local priest who can explain what this means in more detail and how a confirmation is arranged. It is a joyful time of celebration: much recommended!

Extra Synods Planned for Bishop Election Canon Changes

Extra 'Zoom' Synods are being held in each of the seven dioceses as well as an extra General Synod on 9th September to allow some urgent changes to be made to the SEC Canon for the election of bishops, Canon 4. All Brechin Diocesan clergy and lay reps: please watch out for dates being proposed for this meeting to gather diocesan views on the changes. GS reps: please try and join the meeting on the 9th September. These should all be short meetings.

A change to the voting procedure and a change to allow a sensible delay to the start of a bishop election process are required. The voting procedure is needed before Edinburgh Diocese starts its electoral process this autumn: hence why extra synods are being called at such short notice. Thank you to all reps for your support and for all that you do!

Bishop's Lent Appeal: final call

If any charges or individuals have collected funds for the Bishop's Lent Appeal, supporting the USPG Gaza & West Bank Crisis appeal fund, please send these to the Diocesan Treasurer (via your charge treasurer if you wish).

The news last week from Gaza of further bombing at the Al Ahli Hospital directly affects the appeal. This hospital is part of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, directly supported by the funds raised by the USPG Lent Appeal.



A view of patients being treated in the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, supported by the USPG Lent Appeal (photo USPG)

Below is a message for us from Carol Miller of USPG, who attended the General Synod in Edinburgh:

"I would like to offer an update on the work of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza with which USPG is partnering. This is our USPG Lent Appeal, but it is part of a relational commitment we have with Archbishop Hosam, with the Diocese and with the people of the province. It is ongoing and we don't anticipate an end to our assistance as long as the crisis continues.

"The USPG Lent Appeal will boost their reserves for the long road ahead, with hopes to rebuilding and restoring lives. "

Please do support this appeal if you have not already had a chance. You can still give directly to USPG at <https://uspg.org.uk/current-appeal/>.

Upcoming Music and Events being held in the Diocese of Brechin:

Teddy Bear Parachute Jump: Postponed

Due to the weather warnings for Saturday the Teddy Bear Parachute Jump at Balmossie Fire Station, supported by St Mary's Church Broughty Ferry, had to be postponed. Please watch this space for scheduling updates for when the jump will go ahead

Rock Choir concert at St. James': Saturday 21 June at 7pm

St. James', Stonehaven will host the Rock Choir on Saturday 21 June starting at 7pm. Tickets are available at the door for £10 or by telephone via Paula 07710529694 or Jane 07821191211 Entry cost includes a glass of wine/tea/coffee. Raffle tickets will also be on sale.

Pisky Session at St. Mary's and St. Peter's Montrose: Thursday 26 June at 7.30pm

The next Pisky Session concert hosted by St. Mary's and St. Peter's will be the musical talents of Maaïke Siegerist and Jonni Slater. Tickets are available at the door for £10. For more details contact Rev Canon Jim Benton-Evans at 07702842727 or jimbenton-evans@gmail.com.



Any news or upcoming events to share in the Bulletin?

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