

Brechin Bulletin

9 October 2025

Retirement of Rev Canon Michael Turner as Diocese of Brechin Aberdeenshire Rector for Forty Years

Sunday 28th October was the final Sunday for Canon Michael Turner as he retired as the Rector of St John the Baptist, Drumlithie with St Palladius Drumtochty, St Andrew Fasque and St Laurence, Laurencekirk.



Michael after his final service as Rector (Photo David Clark)

Michael has been the Rector of those Aberdeenshire charges since June 1985, so celebrated his 40th anniversary in post earlier this year. Michael was the longest serving active incumbent in the Diocese of Brechin and probably in the Scottish Episcopal Church. He also celebrated 57 years as a priest and 58 as a deacon in 2025. He was made an Honorary Canon of St Paul's Cathedral Dundee in 2013 in recognition of his years of service in the Diocese.



The reception with congregation, ecumenical and other friends (Photo David Clark)

His final service was attended by congregation members, ecumenical and other friends, and was followed by a reception in the Laurencekirk Masonic Lodge. Michael received presentations of a framed print of his churches and Beattie Lodge, his home for the past 40 years, and a print of a Mearns landscape.



Michael presented with the framed print of his Charges and Rectory (Photo David Clark)

Michael will initially live on in the Rectory as he starts retirement, and the Diocese and representatives from charges are working on ongoing pastoral cover and plans for a review on the future ministry in the area.

News from the Anglican Communion: Appointment of Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury

From Scottish Episcopal Church Facebook: The Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally has been appointed as Archbishop of Canterbury. She is the first woman to be given the role in the history of the Church of England.

The current Bishop of London – where she was also the first woman to serve in that position – will become the senior bishop and leader of the Church of England, and will serve as the head of the global Anglican Communion, which consists of around 85 million people across 165 countries.



Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally. Photo SEC website

Primus Mark Strange said, "On behalf of the Scottish Episcopal Church, I warmly welcome the appointment of the Rt Rev and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. This is a historic appointment. The Scottish Episcopal Church honours the ministry of women, and it is therefore a great delight to see that for the first time, the *primus inter pares* of the Anglican Communion is a woman. I have met Bishop Sarah at various Anglican Communion events and at the Church of England's General Synod, and I look forward to working together with her for the flourishing of the Anglican Communion across these islands. As a Church, we assure her of our prayers and friendship as she prepares for her new role."

This is the first time that a woman has been eligible for the role, because female bishops were not consecrated by the Church of England when the previous Archbishop of Canterbury was chosen 12 years ago. They now make up almost one third of all bishops in England.

Bishop Andrew wrote on Facebook: "Delighted to welcome the news of Bishop Sarah's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury. A wonderful affirmation of the ministry of all ordained women in Anglican churches! I look forward to seeing and hearing and participating in the next years of shared ministry in these islands and the wider Anglican Communion. And praying for her as she prepares to start this challenging ministry!"

Memorial Service for the Revd Robert Breaden: 25th October

A thanksgiving for Robert's life and 37 years of ministry at St Mary's Broughty Ferry will be held on Saturday 25th Oct at 3pm at St Mary's Church. The eulogy will be given by Rev Canon John Cuthbert, former Rector of Arbroath. Robert was very well known both at church and in "the Ferry" so spread the word and all are invited to the service. His wife Glen is expecting to be there.

The St. Paul's Evening Series: Friday 10th October, 7.30pm

Come to St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee for From Stage to Strings with The Lumbre Quartet on Friday 10th October. Join us for an evening of unforgettable musical theatre favourites, re-imagined for strings, in the stunning setting of St Paul's — an unforgettable evening.

Follow the Cathedral on social media for more de-

tails, and book tickets online at the following web address: www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-pauls-cathedral-dundee

Training events from 'Prospects Across Scotland'

Prospects Across Scotland's popular course 'Autism in the Church Family' will be running again on Monday 27th October 7-9pm. If you are interested in knowing more about autism and faith — this is for you. A look at understanding autism, sensory processing, how autistic people feel, connect with and understand the world, communication, support and resources for church. There will be stories, time for questions and resources provided. All the details & tickets can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1577664640409?aff=oddttdtcreator>

They are also offering a short free session titled 'Offering bereavement Support to Adults with Learning Disabilities' that will take place on Monday November 3rd at 7.30-8.30pm. You can register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1577717137429?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Diocesan Autumn Synod 25th October at St. Ninians

The Autumn Diocesan Synod is on Saturday 25th October—this Synod covers Money and Mission each year, as we approve the Diocesan Budget for 2026 and set the quota allocations to be requested from charges.

All clergy and lay representatives who are required to attend: please put that in your diaries and RSVP to the office. Refreshments and lunch will be provided for the Synod.

Anyone who wishes to attend and observe this meeting of the Synod is very welcome, but again please let the office know for catering.



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.