

Brechin Bulletin

4 December 2025

Four Confirmations and a Retirement at Stonehaven and Muchalls

There was a celebratory joint Sunday service at St James' Stonehaven last Sunday (30th November) with confirmations in the congregation and farewells (for the moment) to Canon Mary Jepp on her retirement from full time stipendiary ministry.



Canon Mary, the confirmation party and Bishop Andrew during the service at St James' Stonehaven (Photo Paula Fogiel)

Both congregations, St Ternan's Muchalls and St James' Stonehaven, gathered for the celebration. St Ternan's had wished Mary well on this milestone in her ministry the previous week, presenting her with gifts at her final service up at the Cookney-based church.

The four candidates for confirmation were given bibles from the "Far and Wide" ecumenical charity shop, and certificates to mark the planting of trees for each of them in Muirhead Wood, part of the Woodland Trust. These trees are dedicated by the Diocese as part of the 'Communion Forest' Anglican environmental project .

Following the service a reception was held in the Church Hall, with an abundance of food and drink and the presentation of gifts to Canon Mary and her husband Mike.

Mary will continue for some months as a part-time 'House for Duty' priest for the charges, starting in the New Year.



Mary receives gifts from Prof Peter Sharp (Photo A Swift)

Christmas Concert with the Dundee Symphony Orchestra at St. Mary's Broughty Ferry: Saturday 6 December 2pm

Join us at St. Mary's, Broughty Ferry on Saturday 6th December at 2pm to enjoy a concert of seasonal music by the Dundee Symphony Orchestra. Entry is by donation and the concert will be followed by mince pies.

The proceeds will be shared between Mary's Meals (one of St. Mary's Broughty Ferry's designated charities) and the Dundee Symphony Orchestra.

St Mary Magdalene's Christmas Tree Festival: 5 – 7 December

All are welcome to come to St Mary Magdalene's for their Christmas Tree Festival. The festivities begin with the magical switching-on of their outdoor Christmas tree at 6pm, a perfect start to an evening of seasonal cheer.

Afterwards, step inside the church to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies, and take in the sight of six beautifully decorated Christmas trees, each representing local charities and our own church family.

The festival will take place on the following dates:

Friday 5 December – 6pm – 8pm

Saturday 6 December – 10am – 3pm

Sunday 7 December – 12.30pm – 3pm

Admission to the Festival is free. There will be refreshments, Christmas activities for children and a small selection of stalls. Come and share in the joy, community spirit, and Christmas sparkle!

Lunchtime Concert at St. Mary Magdalene's: 10 December, 12.30pm

The last lunchtime concert of 2025 at St Mary Magdalene's Church will take place on Wednesday 10th at 12.30 pm. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be available from 12.15 followed by a programme of carols from around the world performed by the church choir. Admission is by donation .

The Scottish Episcopal Institute Annual Advent Series 2025

Rev Prof Swarup Bar will present a series of four talks in Advent 2025 on '19th–20th-Century Indian Christian Theologies' on Mondays 8, 15 and 22 December 2025 at 5pm. The first session was held on Monday 1 December on the subject of the context for the development of Indian Christian theologies.

The remaining sessions are:

2. Monday 8 December: Indian Renaissance and Christian theology
3. Monday 15 December: Interfaith dialogue
4. Monday 22 December: Indian traditional Christologies.

The Advent Series can be accessed through the SEI Youtube page with the first session from 1 Dec available [here](#).

St James Stonehaven: Christmas Coffee Morning, Saturday 6 Dec 10–12noon

Held in St James Church Hall. Tea/Coffee tickets £3.00.

TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, CRAFTS, KNITTING AND PRESERVES, HAMPER RAFFLE, CAKE AND CANDY

Tree of Life: In the church yard from 1st December in memory of your loved ones.

Baubles will be available for the tree in the hall during the coffee morning and in the church until Christmas or you may bring your own and place it on the tree.

An Advent Calendar Poetry Study

Catherine Black is a member of Holy Trinity/Church of the Holy Rood within the Brechin Diocese. She This year she has completed a study book for advent that contains a collection of 25 of her poem alongside a daily bible reading and reflection. Each day allows the reader to take a short time out to reflect on their personal faith journey as they prepare and wait in anticipation through Advent.

Hard copies will be available mid November but you can pre order by emailing at cathe-rine.black09@icloud.com Purchase price is £8 per book. Postage and packaging is an extra £2 with discounted postage on bulk orders on request. ALL profits from the first 125 books sold will be donated to Holy Trinity, Monifieth's Starfish projects.

"Wilbur & Rosie" Trilogy Available

Lay Reader Bruce Gowans has written a trilogy of books, illustrated by Ian Hall, about a vegetarian wolf called Wilbur and a little girl called Rosie. The stories are suitable for children aged about 4-8 with lots of illustrations.

Further information on the books and how to purchase can be found through their website: gowanshall.co.uk

People who enjoyed his previous book Horace the Helpful Hog will enjoy these too.

Diocesan Deadline Reminders

Charge Annual Returns to be Recorded and Returned Please

A reminder to clergy and vestries to now complete the Annual Return, due by **10 December**, and also complete the annual Diocesan Schedule, due by **19 December**, and return these to the Diocesan Office at office@brechin.anglican.org. Many thanks!

For Canon 35 (Building Change) and Grant Applications: Meeting Date for the Diocesan Buildings Committee

The next meeting of the DBC will take place on **19 January 2026**.

Please note that the deadline for grant applications and Canon 35 matters for this meeting is therefore **12 January 2026**. Contact the office for more information.



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.

Holding Christmas events or Services: please share details with the office for the Bulletin or on the Diocesan Website.