

# Brechin Bulletin

## Christmas and New Year Edition

### Christmas and New Year Greetings from Bishop Andrew

As 2025 draws to a close, may I share Christmas greetings and prayers to all of you in the Diocese of Brechin and all of our friends throughout the world. 2025 has been another year of joys and challenges in the lives of our churches and in the wider world.



The crib at St James Stonehaven (Photo M Swift)

The year has been such a hard one in the world, with the violence of war in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel-Palestine and so many other parts of the world. I am urging support for the DEC appeal <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/middle-east-humanitarian-appeal> for Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria, areas devastated by violence of this past year.

Closer to home, this has been a year of change here in the Diocese of Brechin, with an ordination, clergy retirements and new ministries starting. As I meet you, week by week, the lives of our church communities continue to be rich and wonderful signs of God's love and grace. There have also been changes in the wider Scottish Episcopal Church this year, with a new Bishop elected in Glasgow and Galloway and the Diocese of Edinburgh is vacant as I write. There are also major developments ahead with a Provincial strategy to help us, as we continue to work towards Net Zero, to grow and learn and become stronger as a denomination.

As Advent draws to a close and you celebrate Christmas and may your journey be peaceful and gracious. And I pray that our New Year 2026 celebrations will lead us into a year of peace and justice for all the world.

Peace and blessings for Christmas and the New Year!

### Christmas Celebrations in the Diocese

Christmas Celebrations and Carol Services are being held in our places of worship. A guide to the many joyful occasions throughout the Diocese has been gathered and can be shared with all. The details of services taking place throughout the Diocese can be found on the website <https://brechin.anglican.org/christmas-services-around-the-diocese/>

If you have any events that have not yet been shared, please send them to Elliott in the office ([office@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org)).

### Christingle Celebration Service at St. Ninian's, Dundee

Dean Kenneth writes, 'A full church gathered to share in our lovely Christingle Service on Sunday evening. The girls from our Girls' Group led us in reading scripture, prayers, and carol singing. We concluded by gathering outside for the switching on of our Christmas tree lights. A most beautiful and moving service appreciated by all who attended.'



Christingle Celebrations at St Ninian's Dundee (Photo, with consent, K Gibson)

### Advent Calendar Poetry Study: A 'Thank You' from the Author

Catherine Black writes, 'Thank you to the 42 people from the Diocese of Brechin who have purchased 53 of my Advent Calendar Poetry study books. I have been amazed by the response from family and friends across the UK who have helped support one of our Starfish projects in ESwatini that Holy Trinity,

Monifieth, has established with our companion link Diocese. This has enabled me to make a generous donation to support the education of a talented student recommended by the Bishop in ESwatini.

Each donation to these projects makes a huge difference and it has been a privilege over the years to help support some of these projects with my family as they have grown. I feel that it is a responsibility to support local and also support our companion links who have less than we do. Knowing that all the money reaches the projects without admin fees like many of the larger charities allows me to feel that more people are being supported.

Within the diocese there are many opportunities to support within our local area and abroad. I am grateful to those who have supported this venture through buying a book to help others but also to the many positive comments I have received over the last few weeks. I have been told that the book is, 'Thought provoking', 'challenging', 'making a difference to their daily life' and more. It has also been heartwarming to see some people who are unsure of their faith taking time to explore God within their lives during this time of waiting in anticipation.

I have 22 copies of this first print left. If you feel you would like a copy. Please email at: [cathe-rine.black09@icloud.com](mailto:cathe-rine.black09@icloud.com). It will be reprinted at some point next year in time for Advent 2026.

May you be blessed as you continue your journey through Advent and may the light of Christ shine within you as you share his love with others.

## Wilbur & Rosie Trilogy

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: [gow-anshall.co.uk](http://gow-anshall.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 by Friday 19th December.**

A big thank you to those charges who have already submitted their Annual Returns. If you have not sent in your Congregational Return please do so as soon as possible. Submission of the Diocesan Schedule is

to be completed by **19 December**. The Annual Returns can be sent to the Diocesan Office at [office@brechin.anglican.org](mailto: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.

## NET ZERO Portal: resources to help churches to work towards Net Zero

The SEC Net Zero portal is available on the Provincial website, and contains resources and much more to help churches as they work towards better sustainability and reduced carbon footprints. Access this vital resource at <https://netzerochurch.scot/>

## Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) 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 1, 8, 15 and 22 December 2025 at 5pm.

1. Context for the development of Indian Christian theologies (available online)
2. Indian Renaissance and Christian theology (available online)
3. Monday 15 December: Interfaith dialogue (available online)
4. Monday 22 December: Indian traditional Christologies.

The Advent Series can be accessed through the SEI Youtube page with the first two sessions available [here](#).

## A Very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year from the Brechin Bulletin!

