

Brechin Bulletin

26 March 2026

Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch gives Harris-Forbes Lecture for Diocese and University of Dundee

The Diocese of Brechin and the University of Dundee hosted the combined Forbes Lecture with the Harris Lecture. The eminent church historian Reverend Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch gave a wise and witty talk entitled *Christianity and sex: history's unsettling of many settled facts*. To a busy lecture hall in the university, he explored the history of scripture and the cultural contexts of the ancient near east, the Greek and Roman cultures on the development of Christian attitudes and values towards sexuality.



Reverend Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch (Photo: A Swift)

Professor MacCulloch was also reminded of his very Scottish heritage, with his grandfather training for ministry in Edinburgh and serving on Skye and for many years in Bridge of Allan. Diarmaid's father also trained for ministry in Edinburgh then served in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway before joining the Army Chaplaincy service in the Second World War. Diarmaid was born in Kent and studied in England from Scottish roots.

This event is the latest development in the Forbes Lecture, commemorating Bishop Alexander Penrose Forbes, the Victorian founding bishop of the Diocese of Brechin from the mid 1800s. Partnership with the University of Dundee while they navigate their many challenges is a way of showing support for this vital educational institution in the City of Dundee.

Celebration Evensong: 5pm, 29th March at St Paul's Cathedral Dundee for Canon Michael Turner

The Cathedral evensong on the evening of Palm Sunday will include a celebration of the ministry of Canon Michael Turner, who served as Rector of Laurencekirk and nearby charges for over 40 years, and has been an honorary canon of the Cathedral since 2013. All very welcome!

"Evening Series" at St. Paul's Cathedral: The Eras of Taylor Swift on Friday 27th March at 7.30pm

The St Paul's Cathedral Evening Series continues with The Eras of Taylor Swift on Friday 27th March at 7.30pm. The night will see the space transformed with atmospheric lighting and the sound of string quartet music filling the building, performed by the outstanding Lumbre Quartet. Tickets are now live via the link :<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-pauls-cathedral-dundee>

St Paul's looks forward to welcoming you in for what will be another memorable series of evenings.

Chrism Mass in the Cathedral Maundy Thursday (2nd April) at 11am

The Diocesan Chrism Mass with renewals of vows and promises will be held on Maundy Thursday at 11am. All are very welcome to attend this Diocesan celebration, especially all clergy, lay readers, lay worship leaders and all who hold Bishop's licences are very welcome to attend and robe and process for the service. Clergy: white stoles.

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2026—DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

Bishop Andrew is inviting churches and individuals in the Diocese to support the DEC's ongoing Middle East Appeal. The UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC—an umbrella body for the major UK charities) <https://www.dec.org.uk/> and their local partners have been working tirelessly to support families impacted by conflict in Gaza, Lebanon, the

West Bank and Syria. The present war will only make such matters worse.

More details of the appeal and how to support are at <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/middle-east-humanitarian-appeal>. Please either give directly, or pass to the Diocese after Easter and we will pass that on.

Diocesan Safeguarding Conference

The Diocese of Brechin held a Provincial Safeguarding Conference on 19 March at Holy Trinity, Monifeith. The training was delivered by John Wylie, Provincial Safeguarding Officer, and Daphne Audsley, Assistant Safeguarding Officer assisted by Rev Denise Herbert, the Diocesan Officer.

The conference and workshop sessions were well attended by clergy, PVG coordinators, Lay Readers, Lay Worship Leaders and other interested office holders. An excellent overview of the principles of safeguarding was presented, along with detailed sessions on developments in the PVG scheme and work that clergy vestry can be involved in helping all be safe in our church communities.

For those clergy and others doing 'regulated work' who were not able to attend the event follow up training in being planned for after Easter.

The Provincial team of John and Daphne announced at the end of the day that they are both moving on from their roles in the next few weeks and that new officers will be appointed to ensure their vital service is maintained for all churches and dioceses.

For any safeguarding concerns, contact your charge PVG coordinator or priest for advice on how to address any issues, via the team in Edinburgh.

Rev Canon Dr Ian Michael RIP

The Rev Canon Dr Ian Michael died on Tuesday 10th March. He studied at Aberdeen and Oxford Universities and was a Maths lecturer at Dundee University from 1965 until 1977, including the change from Queen's College to University status in 1967.

He trained for ministry at Cambridge and was ordained in 1979. He served in the Diocese of Birmingham, and for six years, from 1982 to 1988 was Vice-Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee. Following further ministry in the Church of England he retired in 2003 to St Andrews and worshipped at All Saints' St Andrews church.

His Requiem Mass will be on Friday, 10th April at 11 am at All Saints' Church, St Andrews.

2026 Energy Footprint Tool Now Open for Completion: Please Open the Email and Complete Now!

The 2026 Energy Footprint Tool response period has now opened. The EFT is an important tool in the SEC journey to Net Zero. All charges have been contacted with details as to how to complete a response.

The deadline to have your responses completed is 1 June. Get in touch with Jack Nevin with any questions 'jackn@scotland.anglican.org'

St Andrews University presents the James Gregory Lectures on Science & Human Flourishing: If It Feels Natural, Is It Right? A Theological Response. April 13th at 5.15pm.

This lecture will take place at 5:15pm, on April 13th, 2026, Booth Lecture Theatre (Medical and Biological Sciences Building).

Brian Brock is Professor of Moral and Practical Theology at the University of Aberdeen and a leading voice in contemporary Christian ethics. His work explores the intersection of theology, disability, technology, and the moral formation of Christian communities. Trained in systematic and moral theology, he has taught and lectured internationally, contributing to scholarly and ecclesial conversations on what it means to live faithfully in a rapidly changing world.

Brock is the author of several influential works, including *Wondrously Wounded: Theology, Disability, and the Body of Christ and Christian Ethics in a Technological Age*, which examine how the practices of the Church shape moral imagination and discipleship amid modern cultural pressures. Alongside his academic work, he is deeply committed to the life of the Church, frequently speaking to clergy and lay leaders on discipleship, suffering, and the transformative vision of the Gospel.

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 **18 May 2026**. Please note that the deadline for grant applications and Canon 35 matters for this meeting is therefore **11 May 2026**. Contact the office for more information.