

St Andrew's News
from
The Scottish Episcopal church,
Brechin.



September, 2018

LETTER FROM DEAN FRANCIS, INTERIM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE.....

MELLOW FRUITFULNESS (AND ALL THAT STUFF)

I don't know about you, but I have mixed feelings about autumn: I love the ever-changing colours, the crisp mornings, the leaves piled up, the varieties of light. Having once lived in a part of the world where there were almost no discernible differences between the seasons, the sheer colourfulness of autumn strikes me afresh every year.

But then there's the other side: the blustery winds, the intermittent rain downpours, and perhaps above all, the sense that we will soon be hunkering down for a long, grey, damp and chilly winter. You see what I mean – mixed feelings: autumn can mean so many things.

Maybe the best way to see it is to realise that autumn – like spring – is a “hinge” season. It marks a transition and in doing so points to new possibilities. Winter, after all, has its own beauty. And beyond it lies the season of new life and renewal.

The seasons, of course, have often been used as a metaphor for the life of the Christian Church. And for many people, it feels as if we are at the moment truly in autumn, or even winter, as we see congregations shrink and finances struggle. (This is true for every mainstream denomination, by the way.)

It's at this point that we're tempted to batten down the hatches and simply keep on, keeping on, much as we've always done.

But I want to suggest that at times such as these, the first thing we should do is see them as “hinge” moments that point us towards opportunities for re-imagining and positive change. For us at St Andrew's, this has already begun as we work together with our friends at Montrose to plan for future shared ministry.

Autumn, then, speaks to us in all kinds of ways. And I'm delighted that at our congregational meeting at the start of September, we clearly recognised this positively and decided to embrace, rather than fear, the future. So let's keep on moving forward as we trust God for whatever he has in store.

Wishing you every blessing,

Francis Bridger

Our New Bishop's Big Day.

Unity and Accord – rare commodities these days – were promised in full at the recent consecration of the Very Right Reverend Andrew Swift as the 55th Bishop of Brechin, in St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, on Saturday, the 25th of August.

Ministers and clergy of many faiths and charges, heard him publicly declare to uphold the principles and duties of the office to which he had been elected: to proclaim the Gospel; to support all who follow in the way of Christ; to be merciful to the poor and strangers and to devote himself to the reading of the holy scriptures. These promises were accepted by the large congregation of 'The People,' which also included civic and secular dignitaries, with the assent of: 'We Do.'

The Order of Service booklet handed to all on entering the cathedral, guided us through the service. It showed the source of the readings, prayers and music. The acclamations from the clergy and congregation were clear for all to see and follow, with the responses highlighted, including (for the musically inclined) the tonic so-fa - a wee practice beforehand with the choirmaster, really helped!)

The forthright sermon given by the Bishop of Ripon (Diocese of Leeds) called on us all to give Andrew our full support in his work and to spread Christ's word.

The Laying on of Hands, led by the Primus, gathered all the Bishops together for the Vesting and Anointing of the newly-ordained Bishop and then the handing-over of the symbols of office: the Episcopal Ring, the Pectoral Cross and Mitre and, finally, leading him to his Seat. Moments of reflection followed, ending with The Peace.

The ceremony continued with the Liturgy of the Sacrament (much akin to the Blue Book that we use) but the Lord's Prayer had music from the Russian Orthodox Church! An invitation to take Communion was offered and this was performed with courtesy and solemnity while the choir sang a motet and anthem.

'The Thanksgiving, Sending Out and Dismissal were followed by the hymn 'Crown Him With Many Crowns' to the tune diademata sung with great gusto by the choir and congregation, followed by Widor's Toccata, Organ Symphony No 5. For those who wished to socialise after the stimulating afternoon there was a Welcome Reception in the Marryat Hall, at the invitation of the Bishop and his family.

Let's hope the wishes and aspirations of the clergy and congregation on this day, and in particular those of Bishop Andrew, come to be and offer a brighter future for the people and churches in these parts !

Derrick Rose

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all church and prepare 9th of September. bountiful harvest summer.



those who helped to clean the for our Harvest Festival on the We have certainly had a this year as a result of the hot

Three big boxes of dried goods were taken to the Brechin Pantry following our service and I am sure these will be much appreciated.

It was lovely to welcome our new Bishop who led the Harvest Festival. Those who stayed for the delicious lunch, were able to chat with him and his family. Hopefully, we will have the pleasure of Andrew leading us in worship on many occasions.

The Open Doors Day on Saturday 8th only attracted one visitor which was very disappointing. Next year we will need to review how this event is publicised.

Derrick celebrated a 'Big Birthday' recently and a cake was shared following the Shared Lunch.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
DERRICK!

Diocese of Brechin

Lay Ministries' Study Day

Healing Ministries

to be led by

Rt. Rev. Dr Robert Gillies,

retired Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney.

Saturday, 13 October, 2018.

9.30 am - arrival and coffee

And, thereafter,

10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Church of St Mary and St Peter,

Mid Links, Montrose.

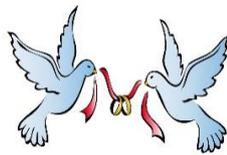
**Bishop Bob Gillies will offer us his extensive experience of
Healing ministries, being a writer and speaker on the subject.**

Although this is nominally the next in our Diocesan series of Lay Ministries' Study Days, we welcome all who are interested in the subject, Ordained and Lay, whether already engaged in Healing Ministry or keen to find out more.

For further information or to arrange to attend, please e-mail Dr Peter Smart, Warden of Lay Readers, smartpeterdr@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

Northern Consultation Meeting.	Saturday, 6 th October, 10.00-2.00p.m. St Andrew's Hall. 1
Linked Charges' Meeting.	Thursday, 18 th October 7.00pm. - St Andrew's Hall.
A Day to Remember, Fashion Show.	Saturday, 3 rd November, 2.00pm. Church.
Explorer's Planning Meeting.	Thursday, 8 th November, 4.00pm. Hall.
Church A.G.M .	Sunday, 18 th November, Following the Morning Service.



An Event for Your Diary.

Wedding Fashion Show, Saturday, 3rd November.

It is planned to hold our own special event, featuring a range of lovely wedding dresses worn by members of our own congregation and friends. Joe Wishart from Montrose, has kindly agreed to act as Compere. All Funds raised will be for our Church, the Explorers and Brechin Brass Band. I have now been promised about twenty dresses from friends and members of the congregation so things are beginning to come together. Please tell your friends and family about the event so we have a good turn-out .If you have a wedding dress that you could lend, that you or someone you know has worn, please contact Liz, Jenny or Margaret. The event will be held in the Church with bubbly and wedding cake afterwards.

It is hoped to organise a GRAND RAFFLE before the event. You may be asked to help sell tickets!!

CONTACT NUMBERS

During the Inter-regnum, please contact Dean Francis for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Emergencies and other Pastoral Matters - 01382 739035. He will be assisted locally by Liz Howson – 016474 810289

For matters relating to the Church Hall: Margaret Watson - 01356 62550. For matters relating to the Church building: Jim Watson – 01356 62361

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