

# Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

## 1st June 2020



## Updated guidance on coronavirus

### No Change in SEC Church Life for Government 'Phase 1' Easing of Lockdown

Phase 1 of the Scottish Government easing of lockdown was announced last week: there are no changes to present College of Bishops restrictions on church opening and access: read at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/no-change-to-bishops-guidance-at-phase-1/>

The SEC Advisory Group is developing guidelines and a process for the College of Bishops to allow the possibility of individual prayer in churches during Phase 2. Further guidance will be produced in good time for "extended groups" meeting in churches in Phase 3.

### Clergy Changes May/June 2020

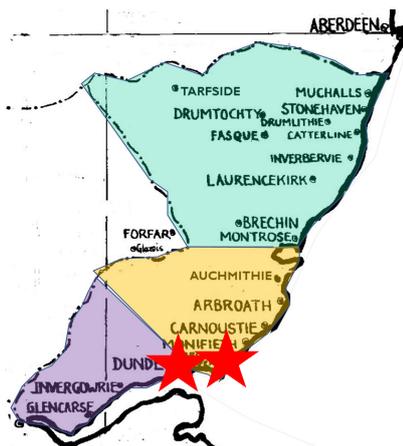
Rev Canon Kenneth Gibson has finished as the priest for Holy Trinity Monifieth and will be licensed as full-time Interim Rector at St Mary Magdalene Dundee this Friday 5th June (by Zoom).

Fr Clive Clapson has retired as of 1st June 2020 as Rector of St Salvador's Dundee.

More details of these changes will follow in an edition of 'People News' later this week.

### Spotlight on Brechin Church Communities in Lockdown

As lockdown continues, all of our churches are keeping together and in contact in new and creative ways. In the spotlight this week we have St Mary's, Broughty Ferry and some ecumenical work in Dundee.



### News from St Mary's, Broughty Ferry

No sooner had we hosted an "official" community opening of our reordered building in early March, than Covid-19 forced us to close our doors. We look forward to the day when we can reopen and use the premises as we envisioned, and in the meantime we're focussing upon care and prayer.

As many charges have done, we set up a telephone tree to ensure that congregants are contacted at least weekly by a team of lay callers, and this is running well. Alongside contact from the clergy, this enables people to feel supported and remembered, even if they cannot yet be seen in person.

Face-to-face contact has become for many of us a screen-to-screen experience. Each fortnight a group of us gather via Zoom for a coffee morning (alternating with St Martin's, meaning that Francis and Helen are getting plenty of Saturday caffeine!) and we have started a weekly Zoom service of Morning Prayer, which each fortnight is followed by a discussion group. Our first topic (ongoing) is exploring what it means to be church without a building. What do our bricks and mortar mean to us, and what do we mean to each other and our surrounding community without our usual four walls? This has proved food for thought and timely debate.

Alongside this, we are maintaining a ministry of the Word. Each week Francis sends out by email or by hard-copy delivery a substantial reflection on the Sunday Gospel passage. This is also posted on the St Mary's website. We support this with a daily e-mailed 'Hymn for the Day', using YouTube clips plus a short devotional commentary from Helen. Our congregation is encouraged to join in the SEC weekly Eucharist or, for those who are not online, worship broadcast on TV and radio. Roughly 50% of our folk do not use computers.

Although Zoom events are password protected and require an invitation, we are pleased to welcome friends of congregation members who wish to join us. Hence our last morning prayer included a congregant in Spain and a newly-made friend in Ottawa!

We hope that this time to deepen our devotional lives and sense of belonging will strengthen us all for ministry as and when we step into the 'New Normal'.

**Rev Dr Francis Bridger & Revd Helen Bridger**

## **Some Covid Ecumenical Work in Dundee**

Rev. Roxanne Campbell and the Very Rev. Fay Lamont have been working with RockSolid at Douglas and Mid-Craigie Church with their food provision.

Rev. Roxanne writes:

Lockdown has proved challenging for many families across the city. In the East End especially the related unemployment and obtusely slow and rigid Universal Credit application process have left some families in difficulty. Not all companies have had the resources to be able to access the Government Furlough Scheme and even for those that can sometimes employees are taking a 20% pay cut that decimates an already over-stretched budget.

Fay and I have been working Neil and Audrey at RockSolid in the task of Food Provision for the East End of the City. In partnership with Dundee Bairns, Social Bite and Dundee City Council daily lunches are provided for around 200 households per week. The Community Food Larder, in partnership with FareShare and Local Supermarkets, runs on a Wednesday and Friday serving around 100 households per week. Parcels and lunches are delivered to those who are isolating, or otherwise vulnerable, and others collect from the Church. Of course in order to make this happen a lot of work goes on behind the scenes. Deliveries are received and sorted through - ambient foods are stored for food-parcels. All food is date checked and fresh food is either appropriately stored for food-parcels or is offered at the Food Larder. Boxes need to be flat-packed for the recycling and the church building needs to be kept clean and tidy and in good repair - no small task!

We also have to ensure that those visiting the food larder observe social distancing and that food is not 'out' for too long so that it does not spoil. At the food larder one person speaks to those in the queue - getting a sense of how people are and giving a listening ear. Another ensures that social distancing takes place and a 'runner' goes back and forth from fridges to table replenishing the fresh items as required. As well as working with external agencies, we are also reliant on donations from individuals and organisations. We have been so grateful for the support of various people in the diocese in donating food and toiletries and financial support in the form of a very generous donation from the Vestry of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee. Thank you so much to all for the material and prayer support for this work - we absolutely could not be continuing without this.

## **A Message for 16-17 year-olds**

Gavin Oldham OBE, is a long-standing lay member of the General Synod in England, and for 18 years was a member of its Assets Committee. He would be very grateful for your help in getting an important message to 16-17 year-olds (born from 1 September 2002) in the Diocese of Brechin. He writes:

Almost all of these young people will have an individual Child Trust Fund account, typically worth over £1,000. They are allowed to take control of their account from age 16, and to access their funds from age 18 (the oldest will reach this age on 1 September this year).

However, one third of these accounts, although being safely administered with account providers, are lost to their young owners and their families, as 'Addressee Gone Away'. The Share Foundation which runs the Department for Education's Child Trust Fund and Junior ISA schemes for looked-after young people throughout the UK, has worked closely with HM Revenue & Customs to set up a recovery process by which these young people can find their account. There are no fees or charges applied at any stage to the young people or their accounts - the service is entirely voluntary, and one of the major account providers, RBS, is helping to cover costs. The money in their Child Trust Fund accounts, plus free life skills courses which we provide alongside the search process, will make a real difference for their start to adult life. An explanation of the process can be found here: [www.sharefound.org/missingmoney](http://www.sharefound.org/missingmoney)

Registration page: <https://findCTF.sharefound.org>

## **Church Life in Lockdown: Online worship**

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship. Most weeks two services will be:

- Thursday—'Service of the Word' at 6.30pm
- Sunday—Eucharist at 11am led by the College of Bishops

Details at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

## **Prayer Points**

- The NHS, Care Homes and all key workers
- Food banks and food distribution and all volunteers supporting them.
- A safe easing of lockdown in the UK and Scotland.
- Politicians — called to make difficult and vital decisions with integrity
- Clergy leading a very different ministry
- All those who have died in this difficult time
- Those who mourn them