

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 2nd November 2020

### Scottish Government Covid 'Levels': what they mean for church

As of 2nd November 2020, Scotland is operating under a five 'level' system. While the levels make significant differences to e.g. the hospitality industry, for most church activities in most levels there is no significant change to church life. At level 4—which at present doesn't apply anywhere in Scotland, there are further restrictions on numbers able to attend worship and ban on travelling to/from worship in lower level areas. At level 0, which also does not apply at present there is a relaxation in meeting people indoors and in numbers at weddings and funerals.

Travel is restricted in or out of level 3 and level 4 areas, but the Scottish Government have said that clergy can travel across such boundaries to lead worship. They have also said that congregation members can cross a level 3 boundary (in or out) to attend worship. A level 4 boundary cannot be crossed by congregation members. This guidance changes the SEC note issued last week.

There are also changed constraints in children's and young people's work and also outdoor events. Revised guidance is coming out from the SEC Advisory group to amplify these and any other new constraints.

### Tay Cluster: St. Paul's Cathedral Pastoral Support in Lockdown

The St Paul's Cathedral Pastoral Care Team have been busy throughout the pandemic making sure those who are on the congregational roll continued to feel in touch with the church community. As lockdown was announced, the congregational roll was quickly divided up between the eight members of the team and each person undertook to keep in touch with 14 households during the last seven months.

My 'flock' included some people I knew from Sunday worship, others whom I thought I might know from Sunday worship (but wasn't sure) and then a few whom I really had no idea what they looked like at all (nor they me). After seven months of regular phone calls, I now feel I know them all quite well and it has been a privilege to share something of their

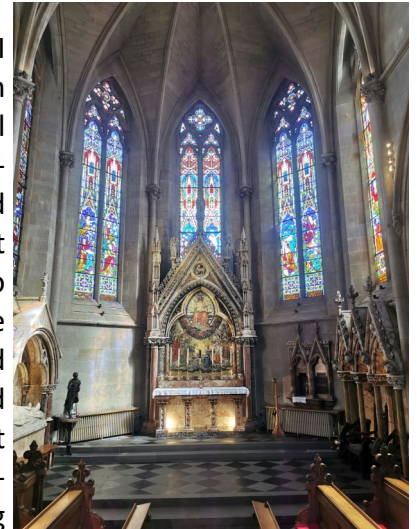
lives during the isolation of the pandemic. It is fair to say that everyone has struggled with the government restrictions, the associated isolation from family and friends and the uncertainty of the future regardless of their own domestic situation. A few I was in touch with lived alone and felt particularly worried about the future; others had family around them but still felt isolated from their work colleagues and their friends.

As a pastoral carer I have learnt much about myself as well as others in this unprecedented and worrying time. It was nice to get to know others in the Cathedral beyond the group I would normally interact with and to feel appreciated for making contact and keeping

in touch. It was also nice to share others' concerns and offer empathy and support by just being there to listen. Often people shared the same concerns each time I phoned and apologised for doing so, but I was happy to listen again and again. As the weeks went on and the restrictions eased, people's worries didn't go away, they simply changed and continue to do so.

The only thing which has been certain in the last seven months is the uncertainty. Some people found that their worlds changed beyond all recognition on 23rd March and their immediate sense of isolation was terrifying. For others, life-structures remained and contact with friends and colleagues continued, but in a different way. As the weeks went by, I was humbled by the strength showed by some who were devastated at the beginning of the lockdown. Their positivity shone through in the phone calls as people told me how they had resorted to gardening or cycling and found that they loved it.

The Pastoral Care Team has also had to face devastating life events during lockdown, with the loss of our own family members and challenges with caring responsibilities. The Team was completely rocked by the sudden death of Carole Spink – our Team coordinator, and a pastoral carer in her own right. In all



this, we drew strength from each other, offering support, love and care.

As the world grapples with the second wave of the pandemic and the future continues to be frightening and uncertain for many, the role of the Pastoral Care Team remains critical in maintaining stability within the Cathedral community - showing that God's love is infinite and has no dependence on circumstance.

Denise Jackson

## **Obituary for Bill McFawns**

Bill McFawns was a Lay Reader and good friend to all at Holy Trinity Monifieth. He was licensed in 2001 having trained with Edna Boffey and Judith Edmond.

As well as preaching and leading services Bill, with his late wife Dorothy, played a big part in all the social activities of the church. They organised Summer Fetes and Christmas Fayres and also loved spending time at St Drostan's Lodge at Tarfside.

Since Dorothy's death last year, Bill became increasingly incapacitated, but he bore it all with stoicism and his characteristic dry sense of humour.

He will be much missed.



Linda Walls Lay Reader

## **A Covid Poem from St. Ninians** **Coming of Covid (to a family in St. Ninian's)**

The world is very different and changes have been afoot,  
we are making sacrifices, as is everyone has, it's true.

But up to now we have been fine.  
the rest of the world has been in line.

We've made the most of the lockdown measures  
and memories made always treasured.

But now it's different, it has hit home,  
and tough times are real, we are alone.

The virus is here, it's closer than close,  
our girl has it, she feels exposed.

Worry, anxiety, what does it all mean?

Normally hard times on family we lean.

However it's not possible during this time  
isolating, waiting, we are not fine.

But through this time although it's been tough,  
we cannot help but feel the love.

We are so lucky to have our family and friends,

their love and kindness shows no ends.

But most of all we have to say,  
our faith has helped us along the way.

In times of doubt and in times of fear  
in God we trust, he holds us near.

So, to end this message what we're trying to say  
to get through hard times to God we pray.

## **Voting begins for Dundee City Participatory Budgeting**

Voting is now open for Dundee Participatory Budgeting (PB) 2020. PB allows groups to apply for funding to start or develop projects that benefit the local community, and the public can then vote to decide which projects receive funding.

The focus this year, with the effects of the pandemic, is bringing people together and community wellbeing. There are 13 projects applying for funding this year and each person can vote for up to five projects.

Details of how to view all of the project pitches and vote can be found on the Dundee PB 2020 Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/dundeepb/> or you can go directly to <https://cos.communitychoices.scot> to view the projects and vote.

Everyone in Dundee is able to vote. Voting closes on 22 November and results will be announced on Friday 4th December.

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

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online even as some live worship starts to become possible: this will continue indefinitely even as we start to plan for physical gatherings. The two services, which are led by SEC clergy and lay readers from around the Province, are:

- Thursday—'Service of the Word' at 6.30pm
- Sunday—Eucharist at 11am

There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

## **News to share? Please send to...**

Elliott at [office@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org)