

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

1st December 2020

Diocese of Swaziland wins Environmental award



Bishop Ellinah with the award.
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Congratulations to our companion-ship diocese in Southern Africa! The Diocese of Swaziland has won the Environmental Active Faith Based organization in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) as Awarded by Ministry of Tourism and Environment Affairs.

Planning for a Christmas: Bubbles

There are no major changes to the church guidance for this Christmas: worship can continue, but with the same restrictions. One change for us is 'festive bubbles'. The effect of this is that where a bubble has been formed by up to 3 households, that bubble may attend a service of worship together. There is no change to the cap on the maximum numbers permitted to attend services.

Where churches are operating an advance booking system for services, a bubble, where practicable, may sit together. However, care should be taken, even within such a bubble, to reduce the likelihood of virus transmission between households.

Training opportunity for Pastoral Visitors—'End of life skills for everyone (EASE)'

Pastoral visitors, are you keen to gain a wider understanding of end-of-life issues, the ways in which they can affect the unwell person, their family, friends and neighbours, and how to relate more comfortably and confidently to people in this situation?

Angus Health and Social Care Partnership are launching a short course in the new year, which you can join from the comfort of your own home. The programme will run for four consecutive Tuesday evenings, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, by Zoom, starting in January. This participative course will be led by Elaine Colville, Senior Palliative Care Nurse, and Sally Wilson, Integration and Improvement Manager, ASHCP.

You are welcome to attend whether you live in Angus or any other area covered by the diocese.

An electronic copy of the flyer for the programme is attached to this edition of Lockdown News. Contact within the Diocese is Peter Smart, Lay Reader, Brechin, Inverbervie and Montrose, smartpeterdr@btinternet.com.

Friends of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.

News from the new charity set up to support the development of the Cathedral for the Diocese of Brechin: Friends of St Paul's.

The charity constitution was accepted by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and registration was achieved on 13th May 2020, with a registration number of SC005019. The amended constitution was duly signed off (under Covid restrictions) in September 2020.

There have been some hold ups: Due to 'lockdown' restrictions, the banks have not been in a position to open new bank accounts. Other ways of doing this have been explored without success. As regards planning for the proposed programme of events, this is impossible at the present time, as no public gatherings can be held anywhere outside of Sunday worship.

In the light of all this it was decided, with some reluctance, that the recruitment and activities of the 'Friends' be put 'on hold' until such time as a bank account can be opened for memberships and donations. It was noted that it could be another year before things are anything like back to normal, but committee members are looking forward to keeping in touch, and planning for action in the future.

We shall be back soon – watch this space!

Scottish Episcopal Child Poverty Fund

Earlier this year the Scottish Episcopal Church launched a fund to help to target child poverty in Scotland. Grants of up to £5,000 have been made available, on successful application, for a pilot period of one year for congregational programmes specifically focused on the alleviation of the effects of child poverty.

The initiative followed discussion on child poverty at General Synod 2018. The church recognises that child poverty is a wide-ranging and complex issue and encourages its congregations to work with other partners whether ecumenically, with other faiths or with secular groups/agencies. The papers for General Synod 2020 show that the budget set for this fund has not been used: so please be encouraged to apply for eligible projects.

The Fund is managed through the Church in Society Committee of the SEC, on behalf of the Mission Board. In July 2020, the Acting Convener of the Church in Society Committee, Rev Elaine Garman, said of the Fund: "We are encouraging a diversity of initiatives to seek funding. We wish to aid those who are in need, enabling them to access resources and opportunities, and empowering them to use their skills and gifts. With the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are aware that many families may be struggling to make ends meet, and we particularly encourage congregations to look at how they can assist their communities at this time, and invite them to seek funding from the Child Poverty Fund."

The criteria for selection are:

- Identification of a real need in the community
- Probable impact of the programme directly improving the circumstances of children and families, and/or indirectly through education and campaigning
- Probability of the proposers being able to deliver the work envisaged
- Development of community links, fostering engagement with the broader community
- Must be led by an SEC congregation or diocese

Partnerships with other churches and/or community groups are encouraged

Application forms for the Child Poverty Fund are available from the Scottish Episcopal Church website. Guidelines for organisations interested in applying to the fund can be found here on the [SEC website](#).

For further information contact Miriam Weibye, Church Relations Officer, at churchrelations@scotland.anglican.org

Clothes Bank at St Luke's Dundee

The nature of the pandemic and 'level' restrictions has changed from the height of the lockdown earlier this year but there is still a great deal of need in our

towns and cities. St Luke's continues to run their food and clothes bank.

People in need of clothes phone 07434614378 to make an appointment to come. Self-referrals pay £3 and can take up to ten items of shoes and clothes or £5 and can take ten items per family member. Referrals from social work, school or churches etc allow recipients to take 10 items without charge. We have a wide range of clothes and shoes available. We still need clothes rails if anyone has some spare.

If you can help with donations, cash or any other matter for the clothes bank or the food project, please make contact with Kerry by email on the address kerry.dixon@churcharmy.org or use the phone number above.

Church Life in the Pandemic:

Online worship

Many churches have resumed in-person worship even as the pandemic continues. In 'Level 4' of the government restrictions (into which much of the West and Central areas of Scotland have been placed), in person worship is limited to a maximum of 20 and no-one can cross a local authority boundary to attend, so some churches have opted to suspend worship whilst in level 4.

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online which can support such congregations as well as their own, now well-established, online offerings. The provincial worship will continue indefinitely even as we have a blend of ways of worshipping. The services, which are led by SEC bishops, clergy and lay members from around the Province, are broadcast on Sundays and take the form of a Eucharist at 11am.

There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at:

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

Planning is in hand for Advent and Christmas services that will also be broadcast and available for public access.

News to share? Please send...

If you have any events, ideas with worship or anything else to report, please send copy to Elliott at office@brechin.anglican.org. The Bulletin will come out each week for the foreseeable future.