

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

15th December 2020

Covid Update for Scottish Episcopal Church



Coronavirus guidelines

The SEC Advisory Group issued a minor update last week. We are all reminded to continue to take great care and avoid transmission of the virus between households. Christmas will be very different this year: be kind and gentle to each other and yourselves.

Bubbles: Government's permission for festive season "bubbles" said that household bubbles could attend places of worship together—however government guidance in relation to bubbles is that 2 metre distancing should be observed between households within the bubble. In a church setting, therefore, the concession in relation to bubbles makes little practical difference except that in levels 3 or below it allows a person in a bubble to attend a place of worship which is not their "normal place of worship". The maximum permitted number remains 50.

Levels: Angus local authority changed down to 'level 2' on 11th December. This makes no change to how worship or other church activities are conducted, but eases restrictions on e.g. hospitality businesses in Angus and also generally permits travel from Angus to other areas in Scotland at level 2 or below. At level 3 and below, it remains permissible for individuals to cross local authority boundaries in order to attend their "normal place of worship".

Choirs & Carol Singing: There is no change to Scottish guidance in relation to singing, choirs and carol singing all of which remain very restrictive. Carol singing outdoors is a possibility in level 0 or 1 areas only. Indoor carol singing by professional singers in level 0 or 1 is a possibility, but only where the singers in question are "professional" in the sense of earning their living from that activity. As all areas of the diocese remain in levels 2 or 3, sadly this Christmas carols will remain as cantored solos.

Summary of Diocesan Council Meeting— December 2020

Council met by Zoom on Wednesday 9th December 2020. The meeting reviewed previous minutes and progress on actions in the ongoing life of the diocese. An ongoing action to explore the 'digital divide' in the diocese (who could access e.g. online services/meetings and who could not) was in process. This will be picked up in the New Year.

The major substantive area discussed at this meeting was the proposed 'transitional ministry' project being started between St Ternan's Muchalls and St James' Stonehaven. The Bishop had submitted a paper prior to the meeting summarising the discussions and status of the project. Diocesan Council will be asked, at the first meeting in the New Year, to consider approving funding to help with the ministry costs of this project.

Council discussed the merits of the project against other interim or transitional projects where the end goal might seem more developed to begin with. There are a range of possible outcomes for ministry in this project and it could be that this 3 year transition may lead further to another transition. The merits of committing diocesan resource to the project were discussed with a range of views expressed. The risk for both charges and the diocese in funding this project was discussed. There were views expressed that this sort of mission project was what diocesan resources should be used for.

Housing was an issue to be resolved. With both rectories rented out, a suitable property would have to be rented or bought. The finance for this would be included in the project calculations, with options for purchasing to be explored with the diocese.

The meeting also reviewed possible budgets for the diocese for 2021. These are approved at the Diocesan Synod in March each year. Following the pandemic, the province has lowered the quota they request from dioceses. Council agreed that a reduction would be made to the quota that charges will be asked to pay for 2021, to help them to recover from the Covid-19 restrictions. The exact percentage reductions will be proposed in the budget to be drafted in the New Year.

Other items discussed included:

A £2,000 grant received from the SEC Global Partnership Committee for eSwatini. This grant will be used to provide food supplies to neighbourhood care points, particularly in rural areas where they are really struggling.

Planning for Diocesan Synod on 6th March 2021, which is very likely to be a virtual Synod similar to the recently held General Synod.

The next meeting will be on the 4th February 2021, 7.30pm, by Zoom.

Rev Canon Dr Joe Morrow Receives New Appointment



Joe in his uniform as Lord Lyon:
Photo credit the Courier

Rev Canon Dr Joe Morrow CBE QC, who is Lord Lyon King of Arms as well as many other appointments and is a valued priest of long-standing in the Diocese of Brechin, has been appointed Squadron Colonel of the 32nd Signal Regiment, (City of Dundee) Signal Squadron, it was announced last week.

This position is to promote local and community understanding of the Royal Signals and to provide continuity and consistency in the life of the Unit. He will be inducted into the position by the local Commanding Officer in mid-December. Colonel Morrow was quoted in the Courier as being honoured to take up this position and to serve in this capacity.

Faith in Community Dundee— Food Provision and Money Advice

Faith in Community Dundee has provided an updated Food Provision list for the Christmas and New Years period.

They have also provided an updated Money Advice leaflet that includes information on opening times for advice services over the festive period.

Please follow the links to additional information.

[Food Provision](#) — [Christmas and New Year](#)

[Money Advice](#)

Training opportunity for Pastoral Visitors—‘End of life skills for everyone’

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 the Brechin Bulletin. Contact within the Diocese is Peter Smart, Lay Reader, Brechin, Inverbervie and Montrose, smartpeterdr@btinternet.com.

SEC Online worship

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.