

# Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

## 2nd February 2021

### Lent is Approaching: Planning for the Season in a Pandemic

The Bishop writes: 17th February is Ash Wednesday, the start of the season of Lent. The current pandemic restrictions make it hard to plan for in-person activities for Lent, but please do start to think about what might be possible this year.

Ash Weds—we may well still be unable to worship in our churches on the 17th, but online worship will be offered, including a Diocesan 'Zoom' service at 11am that day. Marking with ash crosses—imposition of ashes—may also be impossible, but some churches are marking paper or cloth with ash and sending them out to congregation members for a 'virtual' ashing. Look on Facebook for ideas!



Lent Courses & Small Groups—these can meet using Zoom, Facebook live, Whatsapp or other online tools. Please contact the diocese to be 'buddied' with some technically savvy people if you would like to try this but you are unsure of what to do.

Lent Appeal—there will be the usual 'Bishop's Lent Appeal' for charities/good causes. This is being finalised and should be ready to be shared in next week's bulletin. Donations by post or virtual means will let us support causes that badly need our help.

And please follow the lectionary and pattern of worship throughout Lent. The image of Lent as a wilderness feels quite appropriate as we continue to travel through the current lockdown. Resources on worship, prayer and reflection will be shared each week in the bulletin.

### New Bishop Elected for the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles

Announced this week by the SEC: In a historic first online episcopal election, the Diocese of Argyll & The Isles has chosen a new Bishop.

The Rev Canon Dr Keith Riglin was selected by the Electoral Synod from a short-list of three candidates, and will fill the vacancy brought about by the translation of the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson to the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway last year.

The successful outcome also means that the College of Bishops will now have a full complement of seven Bishops for the first time since 2016.

The Bishop-elect is Vice Dean and Chaplain at King's College London, where he is also a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

He also serves as Assistant Priest at St Anne's Church, Soho and as an Authorised Presbyter at Wesley's Chapel, London. He has been involved in the life of Argyll Diocese for over ten years and is a Canon of St John's Cathedral, Oban.

After his election, he said: "I am delighted and deeply touched to be elected as Bishop.

"This is such an important time for our communities and churches. I'm humbled by the confidence placed in me, and look forward to all that God may do."

Please keep Keith and Jen and all in Argyll and The Isles in your prayers as they prepare for this new season in their lives.

Read the full release at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/new-bishop-elected-in-argyll-the-isles/>



Canon Keith Riglin

### St Salvador's Dundee Food Programme Continues in Lockdown

Warden Martin Andrews updates us on the Food Programme at St. Salvador's, Dundee.

Providing support to the local needy through our Sunday drop-in and food bag distribution has been an important function of St Salvador's for years. When the first restrictions occurred last spring we had to scale back drastically to comply with social distancing rules. The highly valued social part of the drop-in regrettably had to cease as we could no longer allow crowds of clients in the church. For one week we continued to give out food bags, but only

from the church gate. Then the total lockdown hit, services ceased, and the Rector switched our resources to supplementing the daily food cupboard run by our neighbours and tenants, the Maxwell Centre. After the Rector retired in June we continued through the summer, with food bags and other items put out two days a week.



Bag distribution

Services reopened on Holy Cross Day (transferred to Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September), with the support of interim priest Fr Andrew Murphy SSC, and we also resumed food bag distribution at the church gate on Sunday afternoons. These moved into the porch (or narthex) for a while when the weather deteriorated, with both sets of outside doors open and people let through one at a time.



Volunteers sorting tins.

Now, in the second lockdown, we are again distributing bags and extra items on Sunday afternoons at the church gate rather than putting them out during the week, as this maintains continuity, ensures fairness and avoids potential disputes.

Numbers have varied over the year. Before the first lockdown we were getting between 60 and 90 clients at the weekly drop-in. Now,

without the social component and snacks, around 20 to 30 come for food bags, although we had about 70 at Christmas. Perhaps the availability of other food outlets has spread the burden a little, but we clearly still provide a vital service.

None of this would have been possible were it not for our hard-working stockman William Scotland, who, with the help of Richard Johnstone, has managed, sorted, purchased, transported and distributed goods on a weekly basis all year round, and under difficult circumstances.

We are eternally grateful for the very generous support of the local supermarkets, who collect food items from their customers and pass them on to us, notably ASDA Myrekirk, Morrisons and the Co-op.

Our CofS neighbour, Coldside Church, also has been very supportive, contributing its Harvest Festival donations. Other organisations, churches and individuals have made contributions of food and money and we are most thankful to them all.

## **Online Worship for the Whole SEC**

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each led by one of the College of Bishops, will continue in the form of a Eucharist broadcast at 11am through the current lockdown and beyond, as restrictions ease.

This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at:

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

## **Faith in Community Dundee— Food Provision and Money Advice**

Faith in Community Dundee continue to provide a Food Provision list for the Dundee area. This will continue—follow the link for the latest status. They have also provided an updated Money Advice leaflet that includes information on opening times as the new year starts. We will publish updates to this information.

Please follow the links to the information.

[Food Provision](#)

[Money Advice](#)

Further guidance and information will be supplied as any changes are notified. There remains great need for this help in Dundee—if you wish to support any of the projects listed in the sources above, that help would be greatly welcomed. If you are aware of any other sources of support in any of the areas covered by the diocese, please contact Elliott in the office and we can pass on the details.

## **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](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org). The Bulletin will come out each week for the foreseeable future with updates on Covid issues, news from charges and (hopefully) useful information for our communities.