

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

2nd June 2021



Updated guidance on coronavirus

5th June change to levels:

Angus, Perth & Kinross & Aberdeenshire move to Level 1 (and congregations can now sing).

Dundee Stays in Level 2 (no singing just yet).

The First Minister's announcement on easing of restrictions has put a pause on Dundee City whilst the rest of the area covered by the diocese moves down a level. This takes effect from Saturday 5th June.

The key change for church activities is that congregational singing, while wearing face covering, is permitted in level 1, but not in level 2. In level 2 a small singing or music group, physically distanced, is permitted to sing.

This will be very frustrating for Dundee City churches: but hopefully the Covid rates in Dundee will come under control, the vaccination programme will continue or accelerate and the city will also be returned to level 1 in the near future. There have been weekly government reviews of levels throughout Scotland since lockdown ended some weeks ago.

There are no travel restrictions between level 2 and level 1 areas, so we can move freely throughout Scotland without any limitations based on levels.

There are some other changes in social interaction rules for level 1 areas. These numbers that can meet are:

- 6 people from 3 households in your home or theirs – and can stay overnight.
- 8 people from 3 households in an indoor public place like a café, pub or restaurant.
- 12 people from 12 households outdoors in your garden or a public place.

Other church activities affected include weddings and funerals. The government rules allow that 100

people (or the physically distanced capacity of the building) can now attend a funeral or a wedding, up from 50. Few church buildings can hold 100 people physically distanced at 2m, but the 50 cap has gone.

Please check the Scottish Government website here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/> to confirm the levels and restrictions in your local area.

The bulletin will continue to report on the changes to levels and what this means for churches on a week by week basis.

Scottish Episcopal Church guidance and resources are available here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>.

New priest for St Salvador's Dundee

It has been announced that Fr David Gordon will be appointed as priest in charge of St Salvador's church in the Hilltown area of Dundee. St Salvador's has been vacant since the retirement of rector Fr Clive Clapson in June 2020.

Fr David has been the half-time interim priest for the cathedral in Dundee during their vacancy, so after the new Provost is in post in June, he will start this half-time post in St Salvador's. Fr David will also continue as the half-time priest in charge of All Soul's Invergowrie. Both of these posts have a 'transitional ministry' element to



them, with work being done to assess and plan the future ministry of the churches and engage with the wider communities of Invergowrie and the Hilltown.

St Salvador's has been well cared pastorally over the past year for by visiting priests Fr Andrew Murphy and Fr Stephen Graham—and the wardens and vestry have done sterling work in supporting the church and its ongoing work with the vulnerable of the area.

Diocesan News: Elliott & Fiona Scarfe's new baby arrives safely

Bishop Andrew's PA, Elliott and his wife Fiona are now the proud parents of baby Ellinah Scarfe. Fiona Scarfe, born on Thursday 27th May at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Ellinah is a little sister for Lochlan, born last April.

Elliott will now be taking some paternity leave, but his emails and contacts will be monitored in his absence. For any queries or issues please contact Bishop Andrew directly on bishop@brechin.anglican.org or Dean Fay Lamont on flamont53@sky.com.

Diocesan Safeguarding—BBC Radio Report on Safeguarding children

The Rev Denise Herbert, diocesan safeguarding officer, wishes to share details of an important safeguarding issue. Radio 4's programme 'File on Four' recently reported on the devastating effect on children of online pornography which is said to be easily accessible. There are some sexually explicit details in the radio broadcast but it is an important programme for parents with young and teen children, for teachers and other interest groups.

The programme reports that it is known that children as young as eight years are able to access and look at this material. Guidance for parents, carers and others is signposted from the broadcast.

The programme can be found on BBC Sounds App or downloaded from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000w9vn>

Bishop Andrew 'in dialogue' with UK Anglican Bishops

On the 27 April 2021 a webinar was hosted by 'HeartEdge' out of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London with four UK Anglican bishops and Sam Wells in dialogue about the pandemic, division within the UK and the churches' potential roles in creating a positive environment.

The webinar was videoed and is now available to view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAltVQyA9wc>

Please do share the link with others who you think might appreciate viewing the conversation.

'Beyond Belief' on BBC Radio 4

A discussion on the Radio 4 'Beyond Belief' show on church and religion and what either might say about the Scottish Independence Debate. A recent survey showed that religious observance in Scotland showed half of those surveyed saying they have no religion. The question being asked in the programme 'is nationalism filling the vacuum?'

Those taking part Rev Doug Gay, lecturer in Practical Theology in the University of Glasgow, Peter Kearney, Spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, the Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth Provost of St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow, and Rev Kathy Galloway C of S minister and former Leader of the Iona Community. It is available at this link [Beyond Belief - Scottish Independence - BBC Sounds](#).

Worship in the Pandemic

In lockdown we can find ways to worship online. Many churches in the diocese are Zooming or gathering in similar ways—see link below. 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 each Sunday. This coming week (6th June) is from Brechin Diocese.



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/>

[Link to online services within the diocese](#)

If you are offering online worship and are not included in this list, please contact Elliott who can add you to the database.

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.