

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

10th September 2021

(The Bulletin is taking a break: next edition, week beginning 27th September)

Climate Vigil at St. Paul's Cathedral Dundee: Saturday 25th September

A vigil will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral, High Street Dundee, DD1 1TD, on Saturday 25th September, from 2PM to 4PM.



All are welcome to drop in and pray for those most impacted by the Climate crisis; for the success of the forthcoming United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) which will be held in Glasgow in November; and to reflect on the need for change.

There will be some activities for all ages as well as prayer stations around the Cathedral.

Covid Contingency Planning - Coping with Positive Tests and Isolations

With high levels of Covid around Scotland, can all charges pay attention to contingency planning for worship and other church events. Recently, a positive Covid test in the Cathedral choir required major re-planning for Sunday worship. People in key roles (clergy, worship leaders, musicians, office holders etc.) should plan how they will communicate a problem if they test positive or are required to self-isolate whilst they await a Covid test. If services have to be changed or cancelled at short notice, please plan how this will be communicated in advance.

Ordination of the Rev Gary Clink as a Priest: 25th September.

Gary Clink will be ordained priest by Bishop Andrew in St Mary's Arbroath at 3pm on Saturday 25th September. Gary is serving as a curate in St Mary's and St Peter's Auchmithie. Please keep Gary, Rev Pete Mead his training incumbent, the charges and Bishop Andrew in your prayers as they prepare.

Afghan Refugee Response Update: How can we offer help?

Rev Roxanne Campbell has researched some of the possible responses to Afghan refugees who may be settled in this area. She has been exploring in Dundee but the links below should work for anywhere in Scotland.

A good network has already been established in Dundee to support the previously re-settled Syrian refugee families, supported by a Scottish Refugee Council staff member. They are now looking to gather support for Afghan refugees arriving in the area. The Support Network for Afghans arriving in Scotland has a Google form (link below) to capture offers of help and generates a standard response from the generic mailbox, to put it into a 'holding' position until the Scottish Refugee Council knows more about where people will be resettled and their needs. The link to the form for offers of help: [Support Network for Afghans arriving in Scotland \(google.com\)](https://supportnetworkforafghans.org/).

There is also this link: [nine ways you can help](https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/nine-ways-you-can-help/) from the Scottish Refugee Council with further general information about how people can help with Afghan refugees. Churches in any area who might want to offer help could fill in the Google form and the general information in the second link should be useful for anyone wishing to know more. Any more details of schemes to help will be shared when we know them.

Some financial appeals for the refugee crisis are:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/afghanistan>

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/afghanistan-emergency-appeal>

Aberdeen and Orkney Update

Bishop Andrew writes: You may have read in the press that allegations are being made about matters in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. The College of Bishops have been working informally for some time to assist the Bishop and the Diocese, but have now made a decision to step back and initiate

Canonical processes for the Diocese. These processes should allow a process of mediation to be established and any other steps required for the safety and protection of all.

Please be assured that the SEC is a church where allegations of bullying and harassment are taken very seriously and fair, just and impartial processes are available to ensure that all involved will be treated fairly. Please keep the situation in your prayers.

Summary of 6th July 2021 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Council reviewed matters arising from the 25th May meeting, including the possibility of producing ID cards for diocesan clergy for visiting/access to e.g. care homes and hospitals.

The Council reviewed progress in Mission and Ministry around the diocese. One charge had reported anxiety over their finances due to the pandemic, so Council approved some financial support measures for a three-month period (June to end of August). Further help will be offered as required, and the charge was taking all reasonable steps to improve their position. A reminder may be needed to all charge treasurers to contact Allan Duffus if they have any such anxiety.

The recent changes to clergy 'terms' were reviewed, including planned future increases of stipend and increased norms for time off each week. It was noted that one size does not fit all, but clergy employment allows great flexibility.

Vacancies and recruitment in the Diocese were reviewed, noting that Elizabeth Thomson is now installed as Provost in the Cathedral, David Gordon had started as transitional minister at St Salvador's Dundee and Martin Allwood was about to start as priest for Carnoustie and Monifieth. A Rector had also been recruited for Brechin and Montrose with Bervie. Graham Nevin, a retired priest, was being commissioned for pastoral care of St Margaret's Dundee, and interviewing was being planned for Muchalls and Stonehaven.

Companionship Links were discussed, especially focusing on a very dangerous and worrying situation with civil unrest in eSwatini and the King (an absolute monarch) responding heavy-handedly. The Bishop agreed to write to the Foreign Secretary in Westminster and the Archbishop of Canterbury expressing our concern and lobbying for action.

Council reviewed the status of Diocesan buildings, especially the St John's/mothballed Diocesan centre,

to explore future options.

Finance was reviewed (in addition to the Mission/Ministry areas above), with areas of e.g. Mission and Ministry support operating to budget. A scheme is being piloted with one charge who were struggling to find a treasurer to do all treasury roles and prepare accounts. A firm of accountants, supported by the Diocese, were doing the cashbook and other paperwork, with a local rep. in the charge. This will be reported on later.

Governance: Council established a 'Diocesan Environmental Working Group', to provide a focus for SEC carbon-zero initiatives in the Diocese. Recruits to this group will take Provincial guidance and help charges engage with it. Finally, Council (in the spirit of working towards carbon-zero) decided to continue to meet on Zoom rather than in-person.

Job Opportunity with Faith in Community Dundee

Over the past 11 years Faith in Community has worked with many faith communities across Dundee, supporting them to develop new and exciting initiatives to tackle poverty in local communities, building on the incredible assets already in the community.

They are excited to be looking for a Community Development Worker who will continue this work alongside faith communities in Dundee with the opportunity to develop new connections and work alongside faith communities in the surrounding areas. This is a fixed-term post which is currently funded for 6 months. Closing date is 15th September.

The application pack, with further information about this post, is available to download at:

[Community Development Worker \(Faith Communities\) - Google Drive](#)

Online Worship for the SEC

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, will continue in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. Some changes to the format of this worship are planned: watch for future notices. 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/>

News: send to Elliott in the Office