

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

11th January 2022

Rev Mary Jepp starts as Priest for Muchalls & Stonehaven: 22nd Jan 2022

Mary Jepp will start her ministry as the priest in charge and transitional minister for St James' Stonehaven and St Ternan's Muchalls a week on Saturday, 22nd January. Mary is moving to Aberdeenshire from Portsmouth Diocese and was the SEC Rector of Kilmarnock prior to that.



Mary Jepp and husband Mike

Mary will have two licensing services to mark the beginning of this ministry, both on Saturday the 22nd January. These will take place as follows:

11am: St James' Stonehaven

3pm: St Ternan's Muchalls

Please contact the charges directly or the diocese (office@brechin.anglican.org) if you wish to attend—there will be limited Covid-safe catering on offer after the Stonehaven licensing.

'Transitional' Ministry in this context means that Mary, as well as being the full-time priest for these churches, will help them explore their history, context and future plans for mission and ministry. Mary will have special training and support in this transitional work.

Please keep Mary and her husband Mike and all in the charges in your prayers as they prepare for this new beginning in the Diocese.

Starting this week (16th Jan): Online pastoral care training open to all. See second page of Bulletin for details

It's a Wrap: Virtual Pilgrimage of the Holy Sites of Bethlehem for SEC



Rev Gary Clink writes: As we think in this Epiphany season of the Magi making their way to Bethlehem and the gathering and grafting of the gentiles to the tree of faith through the birth of the Messiah, St Salvador's, Dundee finished wrapping up its own virtual journey to Bethlehem late December – made not by camels nor caravans, but via Facebook and Zoom.



Imad leading an 'in-person' pilgrimage

Just prior to Christmas, 33 people gathered on-line to experience the nativity of the Lord through the expert guidance of Imad Nasaar, a tour guide based in Bethlehem and a long-standing friend of the Scottish Episcopal Church. We explored the holy sites of Bethlehem: the church of the Nativity, the Shepherds' Field, the tomb of Rachel and the Milk Grotto.

Our pilgrimage was well received, adding an additional 27 'likes' to St Salvador's Facebook page and

critically raised £300 as an appreciation for Imad and his family – a particularly welcome Christmas gift given the lack of tourists and pilgrims to Bethlehem during these Covid times.

If you would like to make a donation to support Imad and his family, you can continue to do so using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ChristmasPilgrimage> or by contacting Fr Gary (gary.clink@brechin.anglican.org) for details.

Brechin Diocesan Training Sessions: 'Pastoral Care' Training for lay members: starts this week



From Dean Fay. Following the successful Zoom training sessions held earlier this year, and as requested by some of those participants, the next training to be offered is three lay training workshop sessions on 'Pastoral Care'.

These will be held on Zoom on Sundays 16th, 23rd and 30th January 2022 at 2.30pm each day.

The titles for the 1hr 45min sessions are:

- Week 1 – The stories that form us
- Week 2 – The God who calls us
- Week 3 – The community that sustains us

They will be led on Zoom by the Rev Liz Crumlish, an associate of the Institute of Pastoral Supervision and Reflective Practice. We are very fortunate to get this input and I would be grateful if you could put these dates in your diary and as many people as possible would sign up for this.

If you could email flamont53@sky.com to register interest and Dean Fay will send you the ZOOM link for the sessions.

Covid-19: No Change this Week

There are no further changes in the government guidance for churches—care needs to be taken with the prevalence of the Omicron variant, by following the existing regulations and guidance: face coverings, hand hygiene, 1m distancing between households, getting the booster vaccine as soon as possible. Online church activities such as meetings etc. are ideal, but in-person, if judged necessary, are pos-

sible with great care. These changed measures feel like a backwards step in our journey through the pandemic but they are designed to keep worship and other church activities safe in the presence of the virus.



Please keep checking for any updates at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>.

Clergy and vestry secretaries will also be emailed with updates from the communications team at General Synod Office.

Online Worship in the Pandemic

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online every week. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, is continuing in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. This will continue beyond the pandemic.

This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details of each week's services at:

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

Companionship Diocese: Covid and political situation in eSwatini—help still needed

As reported before, the position in Eswatini remains very precarious. The help that Brechin Diocese provides, especially in funding the Neighbourhood Care Point (NCP) scheme, is greatly valued in the Diocese of Swaziland, especially now that matters are so hard in the country. If any churches are able to provide donations to support this work, please send them via the usual channels, or contact the [Diocesan Office](#) if you wish to know more details.

Many thanks to those churches that have been able to help with generous donations from special collections in the Christmas period. Your help is so, so important!

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

Email the office on office@brechin.anglican.org