

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

9th February 2022

Online Worship from the Diocese of Brechin: Feb 2022

Two SEC online acts of worship have been broadcast from the Diocese of Brechin, both going live last Sunday, 6th February.

'Children's Chapel', a monthly broadcast for younger children, was hosted by Rev Roxanne Campbell and Rev Jim Benton-Evans, on the theme of the miraculous catch of fish from Luke's gospel (the reading for 6th Feb). A link to the Youtube recording is [here](#).



Rev Jim tells the story...

Also first broadcast on Sunday was the regular 11am Sunday Worship for the SEC, which came from St Mary Magdalene Dundee, led by Canon Kenneth Gibson with Roxanne (appearing again) preaching and members of the congregation reading and leading intercessions.

St Mary Magdalene Dundee



The Provincial Communications team, Donald Walker and Aidan Strange, coordinate the ongoing online worship programme for the SEC, helped by the many creative and now very experienced people throughout Scotland who are willing to help. The pandemic forced us to move to online worship, and we are now taking advantage of that experience to continue to offer different ways of including all. If this is of interest to you, contact your Rector or Elliott in the office to find out more. Details on SEC website [here](#).

Proposed New Future for St John the Baptist Church, Dundee

The former church of St John the Baptist, Dundee, which closed as a congregation in 2015, has been the home of the Diocesan Office since then, officially opening as the Brechin Diocesan Centre since 2017. In 2018 the large hall, part of the church complex, was rented to the Dundee (now Dundee and Angus) Foodbank. The future of the site has been the subject of much deliberation in the diocese, with options for outreach projects or new worshipping communities being explored at various points. In 2020, with the pandemic, the Diocesan Office was mothballed and a home-based 'virtual' Diocesan Centre has operated since then.



St John the Baptist Hall and Church from Albert Street

A proposal has now been made by Dundee and Angus Foodbank for the purchase of the whole St John the Baptist campus—the church buildings and both halls—for an expansion of their operation into, for example, a community café and advocacy centre for Stobswell, as well as the ongoing foodbank operation.

A full paper describing the situation and the process that Diocesan Council have gone through can be found at this [link](#). To summarise: Diocesan Council have decided to accept, subject to Canonical and legal process, the offer from the Foodbank. The use of the site will be a great benefit to the Stobswell local community and a fitting use of these buildings with their long tradition of a Christian presence in that area of Dundee. The liability for managing a Victorian church building is removed from the Diocese and central finances. Any residual funds after the sale of

the site has been completed and any other expenses addressed will be used by Diocesan Council to support Mission and Ministry projects in the Diocese.

The Diocesan Centre will continue to operate in a virtual mode, using space in churches in the Diocese as required.



Aerial view of the St John the Baptist 'Campus'

Various actions are now in hand to support the process of selling the site. A Canon 35 process has been started to deal with the ecclesiastical contents of the church—this news article is part of the consultation process to support this Canonical application. See the attached sheet with details of how to feed back your thoughts on the proposal. The sale of the church will require due conveyancing process and correct legal permissions.

A final service will be held in St John the Baptist to give thanks for all the years of ministry rooted in that community and to formally deconsecrate the church as a Scottish Episcopal Church place of worship. It is a sad and significant matter, to sell a church building, but the encouragement that this new use for St John the Baptist will bring to so many people can be a sign of light at the end of this church's life with us.

Interview with Bishop Ellinah

The late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland, participated in a podcast to celebrate her life for website "The African Passport" a few months before she died of Covid last year. The interview was not aired at the time, but was finally aired last week.

To listen to the podcast please follow the link below:

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-african-passport/the-african-passport-27-01-22?t=0s>

A special thank you to the Diocese of Swaziland for sharing this remembrance of Bishop Ellinah's life and influence with us.

Church Houses—Interlinked Smoke and Heat Alarms Now Required

From 'Inspires Online': The provincial Buildings Committee would like to remind churches that, as notified in April last year, the Scottish Government has introduced new regulations covering smoke and heat alarms in domestic buildings, including rectories. The new regulations are now in effect, from February 2022. To summarise, there should be:

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
 - One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
 - One heat alarm installed in every kitchen
- All alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked, that means when one alarm is activated all alarms will sound.

Where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance (such as boilers, fires (including open fires) and heaters) or a flue, a carbon monoxide detector is also required which does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.

Further details can be found [here](#).

Online Worship for the SEC

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.

As reported above, the services this week/month are hosted from Brechin Diocese—the intention is to involve more people at a local level in this work.

There are more details of each week's services at:

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

Any news to share in the Bulletin?



If you have stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin.

Email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org