

Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

22nd July 2020

Dundee Cathedral Advertises for new Rector/Provost

The Scottish Episcopal Cathedral Church of St Paul's Dundee has advertised in the Church Times and Provincial Website for their next Rector and Provost. The Church Times made this post their 'Job of the Week' in last week's listings.

Job of the week

Rector and Provost

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH Diocese of Brechin

A leader on our journey to love God, love each other and love

Since Jeremy moved to Woodstock in January the Cathedral with the bishop has been continuing in their discernment by carrying out a congregational questionnaire and creating a profile for this post. The lockdown has delayed and complicated the process a little, but work has continued. You can access the profile here: <http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org/vacancies/entry/rector-and-provost>.

Please keep the process, any possible candidates and the wider cathedral community in your prayers over the next few weeks and months.

Phase 3: Planning continues for limited re-opening of churches for communal worship

Churches of all denominations and other places of worship across Scotland are starting to consider whether they should re-open for Phase 3 worship. No church is under any pressure to do this before they are ready: it is a local decision. The guidance (which presents quite an onerous set of tasks) is at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/phase-3-guidance-gathering-together-again/>

In the Diocese of Brechin St James' Stonehaven held the first worship on Sunday 19th July, and got an excellent write up in the Press and Journal: churches starting again, even within major limitations, is a news-worthy matter for the press. St Mary Magda-

lene in Dundee, under the leadership of their lockdown appointed Interim Rector, Canon Kenneth Gibson, are planning to re-start today (22nd July) on their Patronal Feast, St Mary Magdalene's day. Various other churches in the Diocese are planning to resume worship later in July and into August.

It is very important to re-emphasise that churches do not have to resume worship at this stage in Phase 3: for many it will be correct to continue to wait, to offer online worship and/or other forms of pastoral care and connection. People who are shielding should not attend church services until the Scottish Government eases the restrictions on their activities.

Coastal Cluster: St Mary's Arbroath re-opened for private prayer

The 'New Norm' has started to take hold for the people of St Mary's, Arbroath and St Peter's Auchmithie. St Mary's opened its door for private prayer the first day allowed by the Scottish Government, under direction from the College of Bishops (arguably the first in Scotland, opening on



Monday 22nd June at 10am – a whole two hours ahead of the televised St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland in Edinburgh and two whole days ahead of St Mary's RC Cathedral also in Edinburgh (go Brechin diocese!)



St Mary's is now open 7 days a week from 10am – 12noon and is equipped to accommodate up to 8 people at a time for private prayer. A volunteer is always present, the church is

cleaned appropriately after each visit and social distancing measures are now in place and fully operational. Visitors so far to the church have come from various denominations, it's been interesting to see how Christians have been brought together by this crisis.

Plans for Phase III corporate worship are currently being explored, including the placement of seating and the adoption of a one-way entry and exit system. The negative effects of Lockdown on people's mental health, anxiety about leaving the house and concerns about the future are prevalent - so pastoral care continues in the form of regular contact, both by the rector and through the 13 small groups who pray for one another and keep in contact via phone.

A number of painted 'remembrance pebbles', brightly coloured with the names of loved ones have been left outside the church. A notice has now been put up stating that all pebbles will be brought into the church and placed beside the war memorial for safe keeping. The names of the deceased will be included in St Mary's All Souls' service on 2nd November and a candle lit in their memory.

Further details of activities can also be found on the St Mary's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/st.marysarbroath/>

God bless – Rev Pete Mead, Rector of St Mary's and St Peter's.

SEC Guidance for Churches: Frequently Asked Questions for Phase 3 of Lockdown Easing

Please keep checking the SEC website for updates for our churches on re-opening buildings and for pastoral guidance from the College of Bishops. Website: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>



The SEC has now produced a set of 'FAQ's to help churches understand what is and is not possible in the current Phase of easing. These can be found at: [https://](https://www.scotland.anglican.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-sec-churches-in-phase-3-of-the-scottish-government-route-map-out-of-lockdown/)

www.scotland.anglican.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-sec-churches-in-phase-3-of-the-scottish-government-route-map-out-of-lockdown/

Face Coverings: a FAQ...

Q: Do we have to wear face coverings in church services? A: You are not mandated by Government Guidance to wear a face covering as a member of the congregation, although you may choose to. The Government Guidance for places of worship includes: "In enclosed spaces, where physical distancing is more difficult and where there is a risk of close contact with multiple people who are not members of your household, you should wear a face covering... The wearing of face coverings must not be used

as an alternative to other precautions including physical distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene." The SEC guidance suggests face coverings will be worn e.g. by welcomers and the priest at the distribution of communion as these interactions in less than 2m may or will occur. Some churches might judge that for safety, due to local physical constraints or size, face coverings should be worn as the congregation arrive/depart or during more/most of the service. Distancing & hand hygiene are key!

Ecclesiastical Insurance Fundraising and Grant Help

Ecclesiastical Insurance has produced a grant and fundraising hub to offer practical support and guidance to help churches during this uniquely challenging time. Initially these resources will focus on keeping your fundraising going during COVID-19 and guidance on applying for grants. Further fundraising resources will be added to this website over the weeks ahead.

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising/>

Church Life in Lockdown: Online worship

The Scottish Episcopal Church will continue to offer 'national' worship online even as some live worship starts to become possible: this will continue indefinitely even as we start to plan for physical gatherings. The two services will be:

- Thursday—'Service of the Word' at 6.30pm
- Sunday—Eucharist at 11am

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

News for the Bulletin

If there is anything you would like to share from your church, requests for help or other items of new for future bulletins contact Elliott on office@brechin.anglican.org

Prayer Points

- The NHS, Care Homes and all key workers
- Food banks and food distribution and all volunteers supporting them.
- For all who are shielding.
- Politicians — called to make difficult and vital decisions with integrity
- Clergy leading a very different ministry as churches start to plan for the next phase
- Those who have died