

Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

5th August 2020

Greetings from Bishop Andrew

Welcome to this latest bulletin for the Diocese of Brechin. As a diocese, we continue to support each other in a time of pandemic, even as some churches start to resume 'in-person' worship with many safety restrictions in place. Please remember to keep all church communities in your prayers as they explore how their lock-down life may be able to change.

We also have the bitter commemoration this week of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Rev Denise Herbert has offered a paper exploring this anniversary and how it fits into the church year.

Finally, as many clergy and lay leaders take time for holiday in July and August, I pray that all will find refreshment and return refilled for their task of leading our churches. Bless them and all of you!



Tay Cluster: Baptism news from St. Ninians, Dundee

On Sunday, August 2nd, the people of St. Ninian's celebrated the baptism of Lochlan Alan Scarfe, son to Elliott and Fiona Scarfe.

Lochlan's grandad, our companion Bishop Alan Scarfe of Iowa, officiated and also experienced the efforts we are making in regathering for our worship safely.



Bishop Alan and Lochlan

Along with the joy of baptising his grandchild Bishop Alan said, *"I was very impressed with the careful setting up of the church during these difficult times. Nametags (for families, couples, or singles) were clearly marked on grouped chairs. The greeters led people to their chairs and young people helped sign in everyone who attended. Sanitisers were available on entry and for the coming and going to the altar rail for communion. Everyone observed the 2 metre distance protocol. I was espe-*



Sanitising station before the altar during communion.

cially pleased to be able to handle Lochlan as he is young enough to be exempt from physical distancing rules. It was wonderful for Donna and me to share the moment with Fiona's mum and family members. Thank you to Bishop Andrew and Dean Fay for allowing me to take part in the baptism; an important milestone in our family life."



Scottish Episcopal

Institute Prayer Cycle

The SEC's theological education institute, SEI, has produced their 2020-2021 prayer cycle. This cycle covers the staff, students, and council for SEI. Please keep them

all in your prayers. This is now available and can be downloaded from the Diocesan website.

<http://www.thedioceseofbrechin.org/resources/by/category/sei-prayer-cycle>

75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and the Feast of Transfiguration

6th August will mark the 75th anniversary of the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima. On this same day, we keep the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

Rev. Denise Herbert helps us to explore the profound juxtaposition of these two coinciding dates in her full article below: [Hiroshima and Transfiguration](#)

Bank Fraud Warning

From Rev Denise Herbert, Diocesan Protection Officer (Safeguarding): Officers in North East Fife are continuing their investigation and warning the public to be on their guard following several recent high-value bank frauds.

In the last three weeks, three people aged 62, 74 and 84 from the St Andrews area have been the victim of high-value frauds. In each of these cases the victims have received telephone calls from someone with a reported local accent, purporting to be from the fraud team of their local bank branch and appear to be calling from a genuine bank telephone number.

Community Sergeant Matt Spencer from St Andrews Police Station said: "I would ask everyone to be on their guard from any type of online or telephone scam.

"The criminals who use these sophisticated tactics, go to great lengths to appear legitimate including making it appear they are calling from a genuine bank telephone number. It is important to remember that a genuine caller from your bank would never ask for your banking or personal details as they already have it. Your bank will not ask you to transfer money during an unsolicited call nor will they ask you to allow them access to your online or telephone banking, so if asked, politely end the call. It is best to call your bank back on a number you have sourced yourself, ideally using a different phone, or attend at your local branch for advice. If you are unsure, end the call and ask a friend, relative or the Police for advice. Any victims of these crimes or anyone with concerns regarding calls they have received should contact their local police station through 101. If you are in any doubt that the call is not genuine then please end the call, your bank will understand."

Face Covering Update: 4th August

From the SEC on 4th August: "People have had more experience of wearing face coverings on public transport and in shops and similar settings and so public perceptions of wearing face coverings are changing. The Scottish Government guidance for places of worship recommends the wearing of face coverings where physical distancing is compromised, the Advisory Group has decided that it is appropriate to strengthen guidance to **encourage the wearing of face coverings by all worshippers attending public worship or individual prayer.** [Read here.](#)

Funding Support from Allchurches Trust and Ecclesiastical Insurance

Allchurches Trust has launched a new grants programme – Hope Beyond - aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to meet changing need within their communities as the longer term impact of Covid-19 becomes clearer.

<http://www.allchurches.co.uk/what-we-fund/hopebeyond/>

Ecclesiastical Insurance has produced a grant and fundraising hub to offer practical support and guidance to help churches during this uniquely challenging time.

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