

# Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

## 24th September 2020

### Update on Coronavirus Restrictions and the Church: from Bishop Andrew

You will have seen that the nations that make up the UK have all introduced tighter restrictions as the rate of virus infection has been rising. In Scotland, the biggest change is the ban on social visiting to other people's homes. This is a hard, hard thing for us all to face, after all the months of lockdown and restriction. No longer being able to visit family or friends is a big price to pay for the health and safety of the country and that price is what the government is asking us to pay. The impact on our state of mind and ability to keep going will be immense.

Churches were not mentioned in the recent changes: our activities in church buildings are not affected by the enhanced restrictions. All the hard work that has gone into safe re-opening of many churches has made gathering for worship a safe and important part of spiritual life and health in Scotland. All of you who have opened: well done on such a careful and well thought through process.

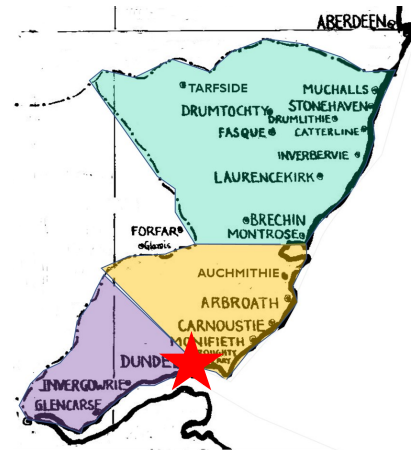
Following clarification from the Scottish Government, in some circumstances, visiting in people's homes is also still permitted. For a vulnerable, isolated, maybe housebound church member, receiving a pastoral visit from a cleric or a trained and supervised pastoral visitor is allowed. Home communion, if that is your tradition, can be taken on such a visit. This activity falls into the 'work purposes, or for the provision of voluntary or charitable services' exception to the ban. Meeting or visiting each other in our homes for any other reason cannot now happen. Any clergy or pastoral visitors who are anxious about visiting, for any reason at all, should not feel they have to carry out this work. As ever: please be gentle on yourself and kind to each other.

We have been able to gather online and, recently, in person to worship our loving and living God. We should give thanks to all that God has given us and the light and support and protection that being disciples of Jesus can bring, even in a pandemic. Trust in God: the pandemic will pass.

Bless you and keep safe

+Andrew

The latest SEC guidance is at this [link](#)



### Spotlight on the 'Tay Cluster':

#### St. Salvador's Patronal Festival

St. Salvador's Dundee, in the Hilltown area, has reopened our doors for worship this past Sunday at 11:00am with a celebration of Holy Cross, our Patronal Festival. Fr Andrew Murphy, a non-stipendiary priest newly licensed in the diocese, was the celebrant.

St Salvador's has been vacant since June when Fr Clive Clapson retired and moved to Haddington, so a great deal of work has been done to continue their food work and get ready for worship in a Coronavirus safe manner.



At lockdown, the church had to stop the well-established food cupboard project, where several dozen people came into the church on Sunday afternoons to

receive food and fellowship. Food was still gathered from collection points at local supermarkets and fed into other existing Covid-compliant food distribution points in the Hilltown.

The full range of services normally offered at St Salvador's has also not been able, yet, to resume due to safety and hygiene constraints.

Discussions are now under way with the bishop over the recruitment process for a new Rector. Please keep this process in your prayers.

## **Weekend Ordinations 26th & 27th September 2020: How to access the livestream services**

With government regulations limiting the number of people allowed to attend the ordinations this weekend both services will be live streamed through Facebook. Rev. Roxanne Campbell's service will be available on St. Ninians Facebook page while Gary Clink's service will be available through the Cathedral's Facebook page. The details of times and links are shown below. Electronic copies of the liturgy books will also be available from the pages.

**Ordination of Rev. Roxanne Campbell to the Priesthood : 2:00pm, Saturday 26 September available through [St. Ninian's Facebook page](#)**

**Ordination of Gary Clink to the Diaconate: 3:00pm, Sunday 27 September available through [St. Paul's Cathedral Facebook page](#).**

Please continue to pray for Roxanne and Gary as they prepare to respond to God's call on their lives in loving service as priest and deacon.

## **Need a Break? Time in the Glen...**

Why not spend some peaceful, quality time with your family at St Drostan's Lodge in lovely Glenesk?

(NO INTERNET, NO MOBILE PHONE, NO TV!)

**St Drostan's are offering a 20% discount (£20 per person/night instead of £25) for members of Brechin Diocese.** This has now been restricted to match Government Regulations to just one household. The dates available, are from 17<sup>th</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> October.

If Interested please contact Rev Jane Nelson, [stdrostanbook@btinternet.com](mailto:stdrostanbook@btinternet.com) or telephone 01569 730967

## **Abelour Children's Charity Provides Urgent Assistance Fund**

Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund can provide cash grants to help families with children (aged 21 and under) who are suffering extreme hardship, including the impact of the Coronavirus.

Applications must be endorsed and submitted by a sponsor, acting in their professional capacity. This support is usually via cash grants to assist with a range of needs, such as food, prepay power cards, clothing, bedding, or other essentials. Due to limited funds and high levels of applications, the average

grant we give is usually around £50 per child. For more information please visit the following: <https://www.aberlour.org.uk/service-category/urgent-assistance-fund/>

## **Church Life in Lockdown: Online worship**

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues 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, which are led by SEC clergy and lay readers from around the Province, are:

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

There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

## **Words of Encouragement:**

"He will not falter or be discouraged till he establish justice on earth." Isaiah 42:4

We hear a lot about burnout these days in the service professions: social workers, teachers, police officers, pastors, medical workers, and more. When your work focuses on serving people in distress, it's difficult not to become distressed too. It can be unsettling to pour your heart and soul into helping others, and in the end to see little improvement and receive little gratitude. With this in mind, we realize that Jesus is profoundly remarkable: "In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth."

Are you faltering or discouraged, or are you supporting someone who is? You don't need to be a service professional to experience burnout. Families often face wearying times. And working to love people in our communities who are grieving, dealing with broken relationships, or experiencing mental health struggles takes a toll on everyone.

You and I are not Jesus; rather, we are called to be his followers. Because he does not falter or become discouraged, we can give ourselves permission to feel discouraged. And we can surrender our discouragement to him; we can let that part of us die too, and we can trust that at the right time (even a long time from now) we will be replenished and able to continue serving as his followers again.

*Dear Jesus, when I am discouraged, fix my eyes on you and grant me the grace to be restored. Amen.*