

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

18th November 2020

The Changing Covid-19 Situation in Scotland: Where are we now?

The restrictions that all of us are living with are changing as the winter approaches. These will affect many aspects of life and, understandably are causing a certain amount of anxiety. This note explains some aspects that relate to church life specifically.

Worship

Worship is permitted at all levels of the government system, with the present levels of mitigation kept in place. Facecoverings must be worn, distance kept, a cap on numbers operated, use of hand sanitising, a ban on congregational singing: they are all major constraints but that allows to continue to meet and worship. At levels 2 and 3 we operate just as we have been since July when we were permitted to re-open. There are further limits on numbers at worship at level 4.



Travel between Levels

'Level 3' and 'level 4' areas have a ban on all travel in or out except for essential purposes. The Scottish Government have issued guidance on what is 'essential' at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-travel-and-transport/>. This includes:

- if you are a minister of religion or worship leader travel to your place of worship
- (to or from Level 3 areas, but not Level 4) travel to your normal place of worship

This means that, for example, people who live in Angus could worship in Dundee (or vice versa) even though both areas are at level 3. If Dundee was elevated to level 4, congregation members from Fife, Perth and Kinross or Angus would not be able to come to worship until the level returned to level 3. This relaxation reflects the major mitigations that we have put in place to



allow worship to take place and the government believe that we are working very well within those constraints and the comfort and spiritual good that worship offers.

Meeting indoors and outdoors

There are major limitations on meeting indoors in place until level 1 or level 0 is reached. For all level 2, 3 or 4 areas no indoor meeting is allowed in private homes. We can meet one other household in a public space (like a café or restaurant) or outdoors, but keeping 2m distance at all times. Meetings, like vestry or annual meetings, are not permitted under these rules.

The future?

It is hard to predict how long it might take until our church lives start to return to something like pre-pandemic conditions. The news of vaccine development is encouraging and there is much talk of restrictions now to allow more freedom at Christmas. But for the moment we have to take great care to protect the vulnerable in our communities and follow the rules and guidelines for all safe activities in our church communities.

A New Vacancy in Brechin Diocese: Carnoustie & Monifieth

Last Friday an advertisement was placed in the 'Church Times' for a priest to serve the SEC churches in Carnoustie and Monifieth, the Church of the Holy Rood and Holy Trinity.

Holy Rood Carnoustie has been vacant for nearly two years since the short ministry by the Rev David DeVerny and Holy Trinity Monifieth has been vacant since the summer when Canon Kenneth Gibson moved to be Interim Rector at St Mary Magdalene, Dundee.



Holy Trinity Monifieth

The churches worked together a few years ago in a traditional 'linked charge' but that arrangement ended not entirely successfully.

The post advertised is for a 'Priest in Charge' and 'Transitional Minister' - the role involves settling the shared ministry between the charges, building up the strong lay teams in both churches and working on the mission and ministry of both churches in their different communities. The churches are sharing the costs and ministry, with the financial support of the Diocese to assist in getting the ministry started.



Holy Rood Carnoustie

Please keep both church communities and any potential candidates for the post in your prayers.

For more information please click [here](#).

Clothes Bank at St Luke's Dundee

The nature of the pandemic and 'level' restrictions has changed from the height of the lockdown earlier this year but there is still a great deal of need in our towns and cities. St Luke's in Downfield, Dundee, has been very active through lockdown and into the current phase, working in this area.

Canon Kerry Dixon reports: As well as the food bank St Luke's now has a clothes bank running. People in need of clothes phone 07434614378 to make an appointment to come. Self-referrals pay £3 and can



take up to ten items of shoes and clothes or £5 and can take ten items per family member. Referrals from social work, school or churches etc allow recipients to take 10 items without charge. We have a wide range of clothes and shoes available. We still need clothes rails if anyone has some spare.

If you can help with donations, cash or any other matter for the clothes bank or the food project, please make contact with Kerry by email on the address kerry.dixon@churcharmy.org or use the phone number above.

Voting continues for Dundee City Participatory Budgeting

Voting is open for Dundee Participatory Budgeting (PB) 2020. PB allows groups to apply for funding to start or develop projects that benefit the local community, and the public can then vote to decide which projects receive funding.

The focus this year, with the effects of the pandemic, is bringing people together and community wellbeing. There are 13 projects applying for funding this year and each person can vote for up to five projects.

Details of how to view all of the project pitches and vote can be found on the Dundee PB 2020 Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/dundeeepb/> or you can go directly to <https://cos.communitychoices.scot> to view the projects and vote.

Everyone in Dundee is able to vote. Voting closes on 22 November and results will be announced on Friday 4th December.

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/>

News to share? Please send...

If you have any events, ideas with worship or anything else to report, please send copy to Elliott at office@brechin.anglican.org. The Bulletin will come out each week for the foreseeable future.