

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

9th February 2021

Update on Covid-19 Restrictions: no change in February 2021



Coronavirus guidelines

The SEC Advisory Group on Covid met last week to take stock of the Scottish Government's two-weekly review of lockdown, on which the First Minister reported to Parliament on 2 February. This article is based on the statement emailed by the Advisory Group last week.

The First Minister confirmed that the existing lockdown is to continue "at least until the end of February", and so there is no change in the position. (The next fortnightly review by Government is due on **16th February** and the Advisory Group will meet again at the end of that week to assess any further news.

As lockdown continues, we are ever-conscious of the importance of people keeping **connected** within local church communities. It is encouraging that there are many and varied ways in which such connection is being fostered and maintained within congregations. Many of our churches in Brechin are offering Zoom or other forms of online worship: the link in the 'Online worship' article below has our list of these services.

We are all very aware that there are people who are unable to connect digitally so we encourage clergy/congregations in their endeavours to keep connected generally and also to continue to be mindful of those who may be feeling particularly isolated and anxious at this time. Please do all you can to remain connected as this phase of lockdown continues and help in any way you can to support all the members of our church and wider communities.

Keeping you all in prayer—keep safe and well.

+ Andrew

Lent Planning: the Week Before Lent

This is the last week of the little piece of 'ordinary' time that lies between Candlemas and Ash Wednesday (17th Feb for 2021). These days can be thought of a time of preparation for the penitential season that lies before us. In this pandemic, where it is so much more complicated as we cannot gather for worship or discipleship or social events, preparation is even more important

Bishop's Lent Appeal—this year the appeal reflects the balance of local and global impacts of the ongoing pandemic. The funds raised by the Appeal will be split between two causes:



1. **DEC Coronavirus Appeal** (Disasters Emergency Committee is an umbrella of major UK charities working around the world, e.g. Christian Aid, Oxfam etc.). In the UK we have the NHS and other support structures to help with response to the virus, but this appeal (which has already raised £34m since last year) is working to help areas of the world where the lack of any such infrastructure makes the impact of the pandemic unimaginably worse. <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/coronavirus-appeal>



2. **SAMH** (Scottish Association for Mental Health) who work in Scotland with people of all ages to support them with mental health crises. The impact of lockdown and other restrictions is having a major impact on mental health in Scotland. This charity works in communities throughout Scotland providing vital mental health support. <https://www.samh.org.uk>

Please collect/save what you are able and send this in to the diocese via charge treasurers after Easter. If you Gift Aid, give directly and let us know please!

Lent in a bag?

A creative idea for helping church members in lockdown travel through this Lenten season is for churches to provide resources that can be used at home (and maybe in online gatherings too). There are many ideas out on social media, but one that might be worth exploring (even this close to Lent) is individual bags with resources for each week in Lent. An example is <https://buildfaith.org/lent-in-a-bag/>. This link was shared by our companion diocese of Iowa: please look at their excellent section for more resources:

<https://www.iowaepiscopal.org/lent-resources>



Image from 'Buildfaith.org'

Dundee University Chaplaincy series - "One People: Many Philosophies"

The Chaplain at Dundee University, the Rev Dr Fiona Douglas, is launching a new Chaplaincy series: One People: Many Philosophies. Professor A.C. Grayling CBE FRSA FRSL, philosopher, author and Master of New College of the Humanities, London will give a talk entitled - 'Humanism'. Prof Grayling is Vice-President of Humanists UK and an associate of the National Secular Society. He is regarded as one of the 'New Atheists' in the UK, along with e.g. Richard



Prof Grayling: image from Eventbrite page

Dawkins. As Christians, it is healthy to engage with any religious or philosophical position, so this talk may present interesting challenges and insights to us as people of faith. Book with the link below.

Thursday 25 February 2021 17:00 – 18:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chaplaincy-series-one-people-many-philosophies-tickets-138922865029>

Online Worship

In lockdown we can find ways to worship online. Many churches in the diocese are Zooming or gathering in similar ways—see link below.

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each led by one of the College of Bishops, will continue in the form of a Eucharist broadcast at 11am through the current lockdown and beyond, as restrictions ease.

This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at:

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

[Link to online services within the diocese](#)

Faith in Community Dundee— Food Provision and Money Advice

Faith in Community Dundee continue to provide a Food Provision list for the Dundee area. This will continue—follow the link for the latest status. They have also provided an updated Money Advice leaflet that includes information on opening times as the new year starts. We will publish updates to this information.

Please follow the links to the information.

[Food Provision](#)

[Money Advice](#)

Further guidance and information will be supplied as any changes are notified. There remains great need for this help in Dundee—if you wish to support any of the projects listed in the sources above, that help would be greatly welcomed. If you are aware of any other sources of support in any of the areas covered by the diocese, please contact Elliott in the office and we can pass on the details.

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 with updates on Covid issues, news from charges and (hopefully) useful information for our communities.