

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

Two week edition: 10th—23rd May 2021



Updated guidance on coronavirus

SEC Covid-19 Guidance Updated

The Advisory Group of the Scottish Episcopal Church has published new guidance on the calculation and display of the Physical Distance Based Capacity (PDBC) in church buildings, as pandemic restrictions are eased.

The Group has also produced an updated Frequently Asked Questions document.

Both of these resources are available here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>

When using the index of Advisory Group guidance documents, please always ensure you select the most recent version of each document. All documents are dated and ordered chronologically, with the most recent at the top of the list.

Physical Distance Based Capacity (PDBC)

The [Scottish Government Guidance](#) for ALL public buildings, including churches, requires that calculations are done to ensure that 2m distancing is maintained between households. Churches that have already re-opened have been doing these calculations already: that does not need to change. There does, however, need to be a sign displayed with figure for the capacity. We know, from experience, that this number varies depending on the household make-up of those attending worship. Single person households lead to a smaller capacity than multiple person households. This has been pointed out to the government, but as the guidance applies to ALL public buildings, some of which will need a simpler system for working out capacity, we have been left to try and work out a meaningful 'PDBC' number. The suggestion for the SEC is to work out the theoretical maximum number that could attend if, say, households of four made up the congregation. This will always be a bigger number than we can actually accommodate, but is a number that will never be exceeded. This isn't an entirely logical process to follow: but as the guidance states, this is to improve

public confidence in access to public buildings and applies to ALL public buildings.

A sensibly worked-out number for PDBC should be displayed by church building entrances from 17th May.

Other changes are happening from Monday 17th May for e.g. the numbers that can meet together indoors (was zero, now six people from three households) and outdoors (eight people from eight households). Sunday worship and other church constraints are not changed as we return to level 2 on Monday 17th.

For further guidance on PDBC signage or any other matter, please contact the Diocesan Office.

Farewell to John & Linda Skinner

Rev John Skinner and his wife Linda are leaving the diocese this week, as John moves on from his role as the priest in charge and transitional minister for Brechin, Montrose and Inverbervie. John's last official day is 14th May. Please keep the Skinners in your prayers as they return home to Eyemouth. Please also pray for the vacancy and process now starting to recruit a Rector for the charges.

Angus Creative Minds

This local charity, which was supported locally by the diocese as well as various other bodies, has curated an exhibition of work prepared as part of Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2021. The exhibition is the themes of "Reconnected and/or Normality?" and has drawn together artwork (see example below) inspired by experiences of the pandemic. If you visit the website: www.anguscreativeminds.net there are details about how you can also participate in the on-going exhibition.



Companion Links Round Up

Prayer Request for Dioceses of Iowa and Swaziland

Following the tragic death of Bishop Ellinah and with the impending retirement of Bishop Alan from Iowa, please keep both our companion dioceses of Iowa and Swaziland in your prayers as they search for new Bishops. The pandemic is making this process especially complex for eSwatini. We do understand that shortlists are coming together at present and we await their publication. We will share news as soon as possible.

Food Arrives at NCPs in Swaziland following Brechin support



Funds were sent successfully to the Diocese of Swaziland in eSwatini to support the various vital projects in the country. The 'Neighbourhood Care Points' NCPs have received food supplies for children. The photograph just received shows some of the supplies arriving last week.

COP26, Divestment and Investment for Climate Justice Webinar Available

Operation Noah, together with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, Christian Aid, Tearfund and Eco-congregation Scotland, hosted a

ANGLICAN COMMUNION WEBINAR

COP26, DIVESTMENT AND INVESTMENT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
BISHOP STEVEN CROFT



webinar on divestment attended by over 220 people on Thursday 25 March.

The webinar explored how Churches in the Anglican Communion can act for climate justice ahead of COP26 through fossil fuel divestment and investment in clean alternatives.

Operation Noah has made this available to watch on their website [here](#).

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2021: Thank you!

Many, many thanks for the donations received for the Lent Appeal this year, which will be split between the Scottish Association for Mental Health and the DEC Coronavirus Appeal. The total donated is:

£2,341.50

(This includes Gift Aid on direct donations). This is a wonderful total: thank you for your generosity!

Worship in the Pandemic

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](#)

If you are offering online worship and are not included in this list, please contact Elliott who can add you to the database.

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.