

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

26th August 2021



Coronavirus guidance update

'Beyond Level 0'—Updates and Further Shared Experience

The churches of Brechin Diocese are continuing to approach the present phase of the pandemic carefully. This is a complex time and the media is full of reports of rising levels of Covid and government statements that restrictions might be required again. The Province and the Diocese will communicate as best we can what the changing situation may be. We are, however, still in 'Beyond Level 0', with very significant levels of relaxation possible in the Covid mitigations.

New 'FAQ's for the SEC

This week the Advisory group of the SEC has issued a new set of 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) this week: they are available at [Frequently-Asked-Questions-Version-10-25.08.21.pdf \(anglican.org\)](#) or on the Coronavirus update webpage <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>. The guidance and advice in these FAQs matches the approaches being taken in our churches and as discussed in recent drop-in sessions. For clarification or if you have any other questions please contact the bishop or the office and we will respond.

Masks in Churches

The requirement to wear a face covering while in the church building remains. Service leaders and music groups/choirs do not have to wear face coverings as long as they keep 1m distancing or use a screen. The congregation must wear face coverings to sing, even if they keep distancing. This is confirmed in the government guidance on <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

Other restrictions—advisory—no rush to change

As reported in the Bulletin last week, most churches are not making too many changes too soon. We have a mix of enthusiasm for and fear of change in our congregations—this is perfectly normal. Some churches are

making no changes until maybe September, to let the changes in the wider community settle in. Some churches have introduced some relaxations already.

Post-service Refreshments

Consumption of food and drink in a more 'normal' post-service refreshments has started in some churches. Face coverings are still being worn when not eating or drinking.



St Ternan's Muchalls share careful post service refreshments for the first time since March 2020.

There is no pressure at all for a church to resume any of these activities until they feel the time is right. If you need any guidance or advice on planning around ongoing restrictions please contact the diocesan office at office@brechin.anglican.org

Welcome to Fr Paul McLaren-Cook

This week, Bishop Andrew formally welcomed Fr Paul McLaren-Cook to the Diocese of Brechin as he presented him with a 'Permission to Officiate' in the Diocese at worship in Montrose. Fr Paul, who has moved to live in Montrose in retirement, was ordained in Australia



and ministered there, Malaysia, the USA and in the Church of England.

Since his arrival in Brechin, Fr Paul has been informally assisting at St Mary's and St Peter's in Montrose and also at St Ternan's Muchalls.

Glen 21 'Hybrid' Youth Camp

The 'Glen' SEC Youth Camp met in a hybrid format this year, with various meetings around Scotland. The camp finished with a streamed and 'in-person' eucharist in St Ninian's cathedral, led by Tembu Rongong and with Bishop Andrew representing the College of Bishops. For info on this camp or how to get involved, contact Mia Shanks our PYC rep via the Diocesan Office.



Closing eucharist and 'graduation' service in Perth

SEC Environmental Action

Overview of COP26

Have you heard about COP26 but are unsure what it is? Or perhaps you have heard of COP26 and would like to get involved, but are unsure where to start.

Speaking recently at the Ninewells Community Garden AGM, Dr Rebecca Wade outlines what COP26 actually is, what it is hoping to achieve and the challenges it faces, along with information on events and activities in Tayside. The presentation is followed by a discussion. You can watch the recording through this [link](#).

Grants for Renewable Energy Schemes: churches eligible to apply for costs of new heating systems to help achieve 'net zero'.

The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) is offering grant funding, advice and support to community organisations that want to decarbonise their community buildings by installing low carbon or renewable technologies, such as heat pumps or solar panels. Through a combination of grants and loans, CARES can fund up to

100% of the eligible project costs. This funding call will operate on a first-come basis.

Applicants must be constituted non-profit distributing community organisations, including organisations with charitable status, that are established and operating across a geographically defined community ('local community organisations') or faith groups.

Full information is on <https://www.localenergy.scot/funding/lets-do-net-zero-community-buildings/>

Please do explore this scheme as the SEC works towards our target of net zero carbon by 2030.

Envoy: An evangelism coaching resource by Church Army

Have you heard of Church Army's evangelism coaching resource called Envoy? You may have come across it under its former name Xplore or Reunion. They are currently recruiting for our September 2021 start and wanted to make it available to you and your network. If you feel it's a relevant resource to your network, they'd be very happy to speak to anyone or provide further information. It's all about learning to share your faith, and learning as part of a dispersed community.

Envoy covers all the things you'd hope to find in any evangelism course but what they add to the mix is coaching and a community so that each participant can have the help and the space to work out their evangelism for their own context. Envoy communities meet for 24 weeks (four sets of six weeks) and receive a weekly podcast with teaching for use in that week's session. Currently they are offering coaching for two age groups, 18-30 and over 30. Oh and it's completely free! To apply to take part or to arrange to speak to one of our team, visit www.Envoy.website

Online Worship for the SEC

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, will continue in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. Some changes to the format of this worship are planned: watch for future notices. 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/>