

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

27th January 2022

Rev Mary Jepp Licensing Services

Mary Jepp was licensed as the priest in charge and transitional minister for St Ternan's Muchalls and St James the Great Stonehaven on Saturday 22nd January 2022. Two separate services took place, with Stonehaven in the morning and Muchalls in the afternoon.



Stonehaven: Mary celebrates the eucharist
(Photo: Mary Swift)

At Stonehaven local guests included the Lord Lieutenant for Kincardineshire, Alastair Macphie and Rev Sarah Smith, local Church of Scotland Minister who gave a greeting from ecumenical colleagues. Clergy from around the Diocese attended, with the Dean, Fay Lamont, reading the license before Bishop Andrew licensed and installed Mary in her stall. Mary celebrated the eucharist and at the end, Mary and husband Mike processed out with the altar party, followed by a wel-



Stonehaven: Mike Jepp, Dean Fay, Mary and the Lord Lieutenant
(Photo: Mary Swift)

come and Covid-compliant bowl of soup and a sweet in St James' church hall.



Muchalls: The Chancellor reads the licence
(Photo: Mary Swift)

In Muchalls that afternoon a different gathering welcomed Mary. Muchalls tend to look to Portlethen, Newtonhill and other areas of Aberdeenshire up towards the Aberdeen City boundary. Rev Hugh Conkey from the Church of Scotland gave an ecumenical greeting from the Presbytery of Kincardineshire and others in ministry in the area, A Deputy Lieutenant of Kincardineshire, Henry Irvine-Fortescue, was present, along with Councillor Colin Pike from Aberdeenshire Council. Mary's licence was read by the Chancellor, Sheriff George Way, be-



Muchalls: The Altar party gather outside
(Photo: Michael Turner)

fore Bishop Andrew licensed and installed her in another priest's stall. Mary celebrated the eucharist again with this new community.

Mary will live in a newly purchased Rectory in Stonehaven but will be present in both of the areas

around both of the churches as she leads the church communities. Mary will be taking the Scottish Episcopal Church 'Transitional Ministry' training courses in March 2022 and onwards, to support her in guiding and helping these northern charges in the diocese on to their long-term and sustainable future.

Please keep Mary and Mike and the vestries and congregations of both churches in your prayers as this new season in their life begins.

Covid-19: 1m Spacing for Choirs Again

The Advisory Group for the SEC has advised that it is appropriate from Monday past (24th Jan) to revert to a position broadly similar to that pertaining in early December, before the introduction of the Government's Omicron-related restrictions. There is a government recommendation that distancing in churches might be continued (unlike last December) but this is a matter for local judgement. Please contact the bishop for any help with this judgement.

A further change this Friday (28th January) is that choirs/celebrants again only require 1m distancing to sing/speak without face coverings (changed back from 2m).

The Group also now advises that refreshments, if suspended in December, can be reintroduced. Masks should continue to be worn during refreshments except when individuals are eating/drinking.

Some church members may still be anxious at the relaxation of social distancing. There may be merit in making some seating in churches available on a distanced basis. 'Yellow Shield' badges (shown below: available from ASDAs) or lanyards for those wishing to have space could also be used.



'Please Give Space' Badge. Photo: Metro

The usual public health messages for all church members still apply: all church members are strongly encouraged to take lateral flow tests before attending any act of worship. All church members should also be encouraged to have their booster vaccination if they have not already done so.

A revised version of the Covid FAQs is being posted to the provincial website this week to reflect these matters. Please keep checking for any SEC updates at the Covid page <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>.

Cathedral eco-challenges



From 'The Rock', the cathedral e-newsletter: New Year's Resolutions: Turn over a new leaf with the Gardening challenge - overhaul your Food, Energy, or Transport - or just Live Simply. The Eco Group's five sets of Climate Challenges are up on the Cathedral website for you to download.

<https://www.saintpaulscathedral.net/eco-group/>

Online Worship in the Pandemic

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online every week. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, is continuing in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. There is also a monthly 'Children's Chapel' recorded. This will continue beyond the pandemic.

Brechin Services: Brechin Diocese will be providing two of these acts of worship in February. The 'Children's Chapel' for Feb has been assembled by charges in the diocese. On Sunday 6th February the 11am Provincial worship will be from St Mary Magdalene's church Dundee, led by Canon Kenneth Gibson, supported by clergy and people of that charge.

This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details of each week's services at:

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

Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin.

Email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org