

Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin – 20th April 2020

Message from Dean Fay: Dear friends,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

I saw a cartoon this week of a conversation between God and the devil. The devil said to God: *“Well, through Covid-19 I have managed to shut all of your churches. On the contrary said God: “I have managed to open one in every home.”* We have the rare opportunity to be blessed with an amazing selection of online worship, free and of every liturgical shade if we desire to do so. I have noticed that by the comments on Facebook many people who would not normally come to church have been tuning in. That is mission!

I recall a woman who had not long moved to Dundee being stopped at a set of traffic lights and commenting on a beautiful church. Sadly, she died very suddenly not long afterwards, and her family came to the church for her funeral. That is mission!

During this time of lockdown, we may be afraid that we are not “working” as we would normally “work” especially some Priests who may feel guilty. However, thinking back to last week where Bishop Ted wrote: *“A great Anglican priest of the nineteenth century, a contemporary of Bishop Forbes, memorably described the work of parish ministry in three words — Prayer, Grind, Love.”*

All of us, priests and people can pray during lockdown and as someone once famously said “Prayer is work and work is prayer.” That is mission!

Grind is the continual day to day work of living. All the boring jobs that we have been putting off, looking after family and the constant care for one another by phone, text, email and a myriad of other social media. That is mission!

The greatest love of all is that one lays down his life for his friends. Jesus’ resurrection is the most awe-inspiring event in the history of the world. It is not just that Jesus came back from the dead there are other occasions in Scripture where that happened but the unique thing about Jesus’ resurrection is that it is permanent—Jesus is still alive! Jesus overcame death forever to give us real hope. Death no longer has the finality it once had. Like Jesus, we will all die but because of Jesus, all who follow him will one day be raised back to life. That is mission!

Be encouraged to do mission – pray, grind and love. Stay at Home and Stay Safe!



Online worship

Many churches are continuing to offer online worship for congregation members and all are encouraged to find something that works for you. Please tell us about things you find so we can share them. The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer ‘national’ worship each Sunday at 11am, with details at:

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

A good way to see the services in on YouTube – search for ‘Scottish Episcopal Church’ - <https://www.youtube.com/user/scottishepiscopal>. Copies of the liturgy are also posted.

David Gordon – Remote Chaplain Support to Louisa Jordan Hospital

David Gordon been asked by the newly appointed Lead Chaplain at the Louisa Jordan Covid-19 hospital at the SECC to provide remote Pastoral Supervision for the Chaplains who will be working there. With Bishop Andrew’s permission he has accepted.

Lockdown Food Projects – for self-isolation and ongoing food poverty

There are many Dundee projects to help with food poverty and food access issues during lockdown. Faith in Community Dundee are collating a list of projects that can help. From their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FaithinCommunityDundee> :

FREE FOOD PROVISION UPDATE FRIDAY 17TH APRIL

To hopefully make things easier, information on all food provision in Dundee can now be found at the link below. It covers every ward - Lochee, West End, Strathmartine, Coldside, Maryfield and City Centre, East End, North East, The Ferry, and Foodbanks and projects which operate city wide.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zluOXDpGyq7wZ2L3r83qXmy4_xVg550BTaFNJQVGWjk/edit?usp=sharing

SEC involvement: Canon Kerry Dixon is looking after one of these projects from St Luke's Church – Rev Roxanne Campbell is helping Neil Campbell and the Rock Solid team on their project. Please share and/or use the information at the link above.

Angus, Kincardineshire, Perthshire: do you have any information about similar help available in those areas? If you know, please pass this on so it can be shared.

Dee Gates RIP – Member of the Cathedral & Former Diocesan Architect

Long-time member of the Cathedral community Dee Gates died suddenly at the end of March. Dee was very active in the Cathedral community and much loved. Before transition, she originally trained as an architect and had been both a community architect in Dundee and Diocesan Architect. As such, she had worked on many projects in the Church and in the community over the years. Her funeral took place on Friday 17th April in Perth Crematorium. It was led by the Very Revd. Hunter Farquarson, Provost of St. Ninian's Cathedral in Perth. It was live streamed, so some of us were able to participate remotely. Our thoughts are with Dee's son, Phillip, and his family. We pray for them and, of course, for Dee. We will have a memorial Service for Dee in the Cathedral when we are able.

Obituary: The Rev Canon John Rogan RIP

Canon John Rogan, formerly Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, has died in Bristol (April 2020). News of funeral/memorial arrangements) will be shared once received.

Canon Rogan was born in 1928. He served curacies in Manchester and Sheffield diocese, serving as an industrial chaplain during the latter. He then served as the secretary of the Church of England Industrial Commission from 1961 to 1966. In 1966 he was appointed Vicar of Leigh in the Diocese of Manchester, then Rural Dean in 1971 and an honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral in 1975.

In 1978 he was appointed to be Provost of St Paul's Cathedral Dundee, following the departure to the USA of Donald Guthrie (who has been Bishop Ted's successor as Provost). John led the cathedral for five years, working with the team of curates (including at various times David Shepherd, Hugh Magee, Iain Hardie, Jonathan Eades, Joe Morrow and Kathleen Dall (as a deaconess)). A major appeal for restoration of the cathedral fabric was launched in his time and he was also the Provost who launched in the cathedral the 'Orange Book' Experimental Liturgy in Modern English, subsequently revised to become the 1982 'Blue Book'. John left Dundee in 1983 to be residentiary canon at Bristol Cathedral and Social Responsibility Advisor for Bristol Diocese. He remained in that post for ten years until retirement in 1993.

Please keep John and his family and friends in your prayers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.