

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

10th June 2021

Installation service for Canon Elizabeth Thomson, the new Provost for St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee: 19th June at 3pm

Bishop Andrew is delighted to inform all in the diocese that Canon Dr Elizabeth Thomson will be instituted as Rector and installed as Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee on Saturday 19th June at 3pm. Elizabeth is moving back to Scotland after some years of ministry in the Church of England, most recently as Canon Missioner and Sub-Dean of Derby Cathedral.



Elizabeth with the tomb of 'Bess of Hardwick', another 'Elizabeth' in Derby Cathedral

The service of installation is taking place with the current limitations on numbers and worship from the pandemic. Attending 'in-person' is only possible for those already invited and/or confirmed by the cathedral admin. To allow all to share in the celebrations, a livestream of the service will be accessible on the cathedral Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsdundee>

Please do join in with this celebration at Elizabeth arrives and is welcomed into her new role in the Scottish Episcopal Church. There will be many opportunities for meeting her in person over the next years of ministry as we move on (God willing) from the present constraints of the pandemic.

And of course, please keep Elizabeth and all in the cathedral community in your prayers as they prepare for this next season in their mission and ministry.

Advanced Notice: Licensing of Priest for Carnoustie and Monifieth

Bishop Andrew can confirm that the services of licensing for the Rev Martin Allwood as priest in charge of Holy rood Carnoustie and Holy Trinity Monifieth will take place on Saturday 10th July. The detailed planning is still underway, but there will be 'in-person' services at both churches that day. The intention is to livestream these services to let a wider congregation than the number-limited services take part in the celebrations. 'In-person' attendance will only be possible for those invited by the vestries.

Please keep Martin, his wife Colleen, and all those in the congregations and communities of these Angus towns in your prayers.



Updated guidance on coronavirus

Some more changes: Revised Bishops' pastoral guidance & government relaxation on recreational activities in church buildings

Revised guidance on pastoral and liturgical matters have been issued by the College of Bishops. These can be found at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>. This update brings the guidance up-to-date with the current state of levels in Scotland and offers some very minor amendments in the guidance on worship. This guidance has not changed in any fundamental way, but has some changes in emphasis to reflect the months of experience that churches now have in Covid safe worship.

There has been a major change in government guidance on recreational activities in church halls <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/pages/other-permitted-uses/> states:

"Recreational and social groups

“Organised adult indoor activities, such as those run by recognised charitable, not-for-profit and political organisations and properly constituted clubs can take place in Levels 2-0. This does not include ad hoc or informal social activities which should still follow the rules on gatherings appropriate to that setting (indoors or outdoors). One off social events such as birthday parties are still not permitted at these levels.”

Some questions are being asked by churches about the possibility of resuming church social activities, such as receptions, outdoor parties etc. The relaxation above is for regular scheduled social activities, rather than ‘one-off’ events, which we can confirm that these are under the usual ‘social interaction’ rules for level 2 (Dundee) and level 1 (other parts of the diocese) areas. This is an increasingly complex system to understand and apply, so for information, the numbers that can meet under the government regulations are:

Level 2 (Dundee):

- 6 people from 3 households in private homes.
- 6 people from 3 households in an indoor public place (e.g. in a church hall etc.)
- 8 people from 8 households outdoors.

Level 1 (Other areas in the diocese)

- 6 people from 3 households in private homes.
- 8 people from 3 households in an indoor public place.
- 12 people from 12 households outdoors.

Discussions are ongoing about the resumption of in-person business meetings e.g. vestries. Some other charities and churches have started developments in this area as the ‘levels’ have reduced over the past few weeks—we will send out information once the SEC policy on resumption of these meetings has been confirmed.

Please access the Scottish Episcopal Church guidance and resources which are available here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/coronavirus-updates/>.

General Synod 2021

The SEC General Synod is taking place this week (Thursday 10th and Friday 11th June). Please keep the Brechin Diocesan representatives and all attending this important meeting, being held on Zoom, in your prayers.

Diocesan Safeguarding—BBC Radio Report on Safeguarding children

The Rev Denise Herbert, diocesan safeguarding officer, wishes to share details of an important safeguarding issue. Radio 4’s programme ‘File on Four’ recently reported on the devastating effect on children of online pornography which is said to be easily accessible. There are some sexually explicit details in the radio broadcast but it is an important programme for parents with young and teen children, for teachers and other interest groups.

The programme reports that it is known that children as young as eight years are able to access and look at this material. Guidance for parents, carers and others is signposted from the broadcast.

The programme can be found on BBC Sounds App or downloaded from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000w9vn>

Worship in the Pandemic

In-person worship has resumed in the majority of SEC churches, with limitations, and some churches livestream this worship. In addition, 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 each Sunday.



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/>

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.