

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

19th August 2021



Coronavirus guidance update

'Beyond Level 0'—Updates and Shared Experiences to date (Masks Still Needed in Church)

The churches of Brechin Diocese are all approaching the new 'restriction-light' phase of the pandemic in a careful and thoughtful manner. It feels helpful to share some of the approaches being taken:

Masks in Churches—legal requirement

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.

Other restrictions—advisory—no rush to change

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 of the following 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.

Serving, processions etc.

Some churches are remaining as they were, and some have now reintroduced servers for the liturgy. Offertory and other processions (with careful hand hygiene etc.) have started in some churches. Hymn and service books have been resumed in some churches where week-by-week disposable papers had been used.

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

Welcoming the start of new ministries in Brechin Diocese

This past week, Bishop Andrew was able to license two lay ministers in charges in the Coastal Cluster and the Northern Cluster.

For St Mary's Broughty Ferry, Susan Rowe has been licensed as a Lay Reader. She was trained and ministered as a Lay Reader in Southwell and Nottingham Diocese and has been involved in the life of St Mary's for some years, finally moving permanently to Broughty Ferry in the past few months. Bishop Andrew was able to 'transfer' her as a Lay Reader to the Diocese of Brechin. As Francis and Helen Bridger will shortly leave St Mary's to return south nearer to family, Sue, who with her husband David has joined the vestry of St Mary's, will be a wonderful asset for the charge in vacancy.



Lay Reader Susan Rowe



New Eucharistic Assistant
Steven Coull

At the northern end of the diocese, Bishop Andrew authorised Steven Coull as a Eucharistic Assistant for St Ternan's Muchalls. The worship team at St Ternan's has a strong and committed membership and it is always good to see another member of the church volunteer to help with the worshiping life of the community. We hope to report soon that an ordained minister may be called to serve the northern charges, so Steven and the other eucharistic assistants at St Ternan's will be part of that team ministry.

To learn more about lay ministries in the SEC, please contact your local clergyperson. More information on possible ways to serve will also be shared in future bulletins.

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-netzero-community-buildings/](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.

Diocesan Environmental Working Group

Watch this space for more news on support and help in the diocese for churches engaging with ‘Net Zero Carbon’ by 2030.

St. Paul’s Cathedral Eco-group

Groups or individuals in the diocese are still very welcome to get in touch with the cathedral eco-group to share ideas - please email Julie the group convener at julie.curran7@btinternet.com

Recovery and Renewal: Submitted

Thanks to all charges who submitted applications for the SEC R&R fund. These have been collated and submitted to Edinburgh. We should hear in Sep/Oct what has been awarded. Thank you again!

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/>

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.