

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

20th July 2021

New Ministries in Coastal Angus and Dundee Hilltown: Welcome!

We would like to welcome and thank the priests reported last week as they begin their new ministries in the diocese.

On Saturday 10th July Rev Martin Allwood was licensed as the Priest in Charge of Holy Rood Carnoustie and Holy Trinity Monifieth. Two services were held, one in each of those distinct communities. Martin (shown here with his wife, Colleen) came to Brechin from North Yorkshire, where for seven years he was Rector of the Street



Benefice of four parishes with seven churches. Martin, who was born in eSwatini and grew up in South Africa, trained for the ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford, and ministered in Suffolk before Yorkshire. He is looking forward to getting his sea kayaks out into the sea off these Angus communities.

Martin has been licensed as the priest in charge of the two churches, and also has a 'transitional ministry' remit to work with the churches to develop and explore sustainable future patterns of ministry.



On Sunday 11th July, Fr David Gordon was licensed as the Priest in Charge of St Salvador's Dundee. David (pictured with wife Ann and daughter Beth) is also the priest in charge of All Souls' Invergowrie in the diocese and has been the 'Interim Priest' for the cathedral during their recent vacancy.

David was an NHS chaplain in Dundee for many years before returning to pastoral ministry in 2020. David

trained for the ministry at Edinburgh Theological College and served in the SEC in Aberdeen and Alexandria (near Glasgow) before entering chaplaincy. David also has a 'transitional ministry' brief for the two churches he will now serve, as they explore what their future ministries may become.

Bishop Andrew said, 'It is heartening to be starting more transitional ministries in the diocese—the diocese is committed to supporting this new approach for helping churches find a long-term path for ministry, mission and renewal. These experienced priests will be welcomed and supported as they get to know their new congregations and work with them over the next few years to find these communities' gifts and calling from God.'



Coronavirus guidance update

Level 0 for All Areas in the Diocese

We are now in level 0, with all churches able to sing and (if you wish) able to reduce distancing in churches to 1m. Vestries are deciding when the time might be right such a change—it is perfectly fine to remain at 2m spacing for the moment for caution. Face coverings must still be worn by the congregation and contact details taken.

At a 'drop-in' session last Friday, some clarification questions were asked. They are shared here:

Q: Funeral Test and Protect details - some crematoriums are no longer taking contact details as it is now optional for 'funerals'. Does the same apply for churches?

A: It has always been voluntary for churches to record details. Please keep doing this, for the moment, for public health assistance at this time of transition.

Q: Can altar servers serve again and sacristans resume duties e.g. preparation of the elements.

A: Servers should not do 'close' serving (handing elements, lavabo etc.) but careful crucifers/thurifers are possible. Sacristans preparing elements has been permitted in the SEC advice for some time – face covering & hand hygiene.

Q: Govt guidance says that 'religious life event' ceremonies, such as baptisms can form part of 'wider

congregational services'. Can we do baptisms out-with congregational service?

A: The norm remains to carry out baptisms etc. in a main service, but as this is 'guidance', any local decision to respond pastorally and have a service at other times should be sensible with full mitigation, distancing, contact tracing etc.

Q: Can we use hymn books rather than week-by-week sheets?

A: Yes, the SEC guidance has been changed to reflect that a return to the use of hymn books and permanent booklets, while higher risk than single use sheets, could be locally risk-assessed and adopted.

Q: Do we still have to 'staff' open church buildings?

A: This guidance has not yet changed.

Diocese of Iowa: Revival 2021

The Diocese of Iowa invites us their Revival 2021 worship event. Join them for vibrant worship, music, and testimony from across the diocese and from the companion dioceses in Brechin (Scotland), Nzara (South Sudan), and Swaziland (Eswatini) plus the guest preacher, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. A recording will be available for those who will be unable to watch it live.

More information is available through the event

[Facebook page](#) or online at

<https://www.iowaepiscopal.org/revival>

St. Paul's Cathedral Eco-group

The St. Paul's Cathedral Eco-group reconvened in May and has been meeting regularly since then. We are planning to mark the period leading up to the November United Nations international climate conference (COP26) both in worship and in inviting members of the Congregation to join us in a short challenge aimed at reducing our personal carbon footprints. Groups or individuals in the diocese are very welcome to get in touch and share ideas - please email Julie the group convener at julie.curran7@btinternet.com

Prayers for Southern Africa

Please pray for the situation in eSwatini where civil unrest and violence continue. Communications with our Companion Diocese of Swaziland have become intermittent and reports from the country are very

worrying. Please pray that their government and other agencies in Southern Africa will work for peace and to protect the vulnerable.

This week we have heard that South Africa itself also needs our prayers as violence and unrest also breaks out in that country neighbouring eSwatini.

'Recovery and Renewal' Fund

Guidance notes have been sent out to vestry secretaries and clergy for the SEC 'Recovery and Renewal Fund' – a fund discussed at General Synod last year to help charges grow and recover from the pandemic. This fund will allow small grants to be made from GSO, via Diocesan Offices, in various categories to assist charges in recovering from the pandemic and in renewal/development e.g. improving digital communications. Each Diocese will take applications and triage/integrate them into a diocesan proposal. Applications will be made this August for review and payment in the autumn.

To assist, the Diocese will be holding another Zoom 'drop-in' session on Sunday, 25th July at 3pm, to clarify the scheme and provide guidance for possible applications. Contact clergy/vestry secretary or the diocesan office them for details.

Online Worship in the Pandemic

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. This coming week the service is from Holy Rood, Carnoustie, with Martin Allwood and a team from that church. 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.