

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

25th February 2021



Coronavirus guidelines

Update: First Minister's Statement on Route out of Lockdown, 22 Feb 2021

The First Minister made a statement on the route map for Scotland to emerge from the present state of lockdown on Tuesday of this week. The framework document can be downloaded [here](#). From a place of worship perspective, this means:

- Easter weekend (precise date to be confirmed—but just before 5th April) - easing of restrictions in 'level 4' allowing limited worship in churches. As before, this is limited to a maximum of 20 people attending with all the restrictions and safety constraints that were in place at the end of 2020. Congregation members cannot cross a local authority boundary to worship.
- Three weeks later, 26th April 2021, a planned return to a full geographical varying 'levels' model of restrictions. The hope is that 'level 3' would be the default for all of Scotland, which would mean the limit on worship would be 50 people and the congregation could cross local authority boundaries again.

These dates are conditional on the Covid-19 statistics continuing to be in control. If the virus increases drastically, the timing of restriction easing may be longer.

Easter Planning: the possibility of re-opening for Easter Sunday is a positive, but the limit of 20 people and the restriction on travel across local authority boundaries may mean that churches choose to remain closed for another few weeks until 'level 3' or lower applies. There is no pressure for any church to open until the clergy and vestry are entirely happy that they are ready.

When a church decides that they are ready to open, the church should be cleaned and made safe and all those involved in administration and delivery of worship prepared to support this work.

Opening for Private Prayer, with a suitably staffed church, can also be assumed to be allowed once in-person worship is permitted: i.e. from the date around the 5th April as announced by the Scottish Government.

Please let the bishop know of your plans to re-open once you make a decision: If you opened for worship back in 2020 you do not have to re-submit applications but please do follow the safe re-opening guidance as the buildings have been empty for some weeks.

Please also take care with this decision: do not rush to re-open until all involved are ready to take up their roles once again.

Diocesan Synod 2021

The annual Brechin Diocesan Synod will take place on Saturday 6th March 2021—and for the first time it will be 'virtual', taking place on the video conferencing software 'Zoom'. Diocesan clergy and lay representatives have been invited, along with various people who serve on Provincial boards and committees. All are welcome to attend as observers: contact Elliott in the office if you wish to attend and he can send you the Zoom link.



'In-person' Synod in March 2020

The agenda and papers are available for download from the resources page of the [Diocesan website](#). Business at the Synod will include discussing a motion from the General Synod in Dec 2020 starting a process for the SEC to become carbon neutral by 2030. The Synod will also review work on changes to the Canon for electing bishops. Reports will be received on mission and ministry in this last, very un-

usual year, as well as the usual business of finance reports on the past year and budget and quota for the year ahead. Diocesan Quota will be reduced next year to help charges who may be feeling financial pressure after so much constraint in the pandemic.

Candidates are sought for various posts: open to anyone from the diocese are three posts as 'Alternate Lay Representatives' for the General Synod in 2021. These attend if the existing elected reps are unable to attend. If you are interested in standing as an alternate for General Synod, contact your local clergy, lay rep or Elliott in the office and they can guide you on how to be nominated.

Please keep the delegates and business of the Synod in your prayers. This body makes key decisions that affect the support and ongoing life of all our churches, especially important as we, hopefully, emerge from the present lockdown restrictions.

Leading Intercessions Workshop

In this latest Diocesan training session on key roles in worship leading, we explore leading intercessions. We hope to cover not just what words we say but our preparation and delivery so that we can truly help our intercessions reach the hearts and minds of all the people.



Whether we are experienced in leading intercessions or are thinking about it this session will give an opportunity to reflect on our practice and share some of our ideas.

The days of following set forms of words have given way to a variety of approaches which can enrich our services. Leading a congregation in prayer is quite a responsibility which can seem both daunting and joyful. Come and share more.

Sunday 28th February at 3.00pm by Zoom led by Carole Phelan of the Epiphany Group. Carole has worked with us before and is known to many.

To sign up please contact Very Rev Fay Lamont - flamont53@sky.com or message or text and she will send out the Zoom link.

Invitation to Lenten Quiet Day

All Souls' Invergowrie, are hosting a Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday 13th March via Zoom. It will be led by Brother Joseph Emmanuel, Franciscan Friar at

Alnmouth Friary, Northumberland. There may be space for others who wish to attend.

The day will begin at 10am with Morning Prayer and an address from Brother Joe. As would be the case, were we able to go away for such a time of quiet and reflection, there will then be time for us all to do what we need in order to sustain ourselves spiritually, whether that be going for a walk, spending some time reading, reflecting, praying, etc. We will come back together in the afternoon with more input from Brother Joe. The day will conclude with Evening Prayer and will end at 4pm. Brother Joe will also preach for All Souls the following day at our Zoom Service on Sunday 14th March, the 4th Sunday in Lent.

If you would like to be part of this Quiet Day, please email david.gordon@brechin.anglican.org to register for a place and receive a Zoom link.

Dundee Women's Festival

Dundee Women's Festival is coming up from 5-14 March with a range of online activities - all free. These events are open to all wherever you live, locally, in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK and across the world. The full programme can be downloaded [here](#)

Online Worship

In lockdown we can find ways to worship online. Many churches in the diocese are Zooming or gathering in similar ways—see link below.

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 through the current lockdown and beyond, as restrictions ease.

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/>

[Link to online services within the diocese](#)

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. The Bulletin will come out each week for the foreseeable future with updates on Covid issues, news from charges and (hopefully) useful information for our communities.