

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

7th April 2022

Covid Summary: as of Monday 4th April

A reminder: as of Monday 4th April it is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering in places of worship. All are very welcome to continue to wear face coverings if you wish, for your own personal protection, but it is no longer mandatory. There are still fairly high levels of Covid in the wider community in Scotland (although numbers appear to be easing) - so please continue to exercise care. There are now very few fixed government restrictions that churches MUST follow, so all churches are judging the pace at which it feels safe to reintroduce many of our pre-pandemic practices. The advice from the SEC is still being updated to reflect this new and complex phase.

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir in SEC Churches in Dundee

Strathclyde University Chamber Choir, conducted by Alan Taverner BEM, will be giving a concert and joining in with worship in Dundee this coming weekend: 9th & 10th April 2022.


Formed in 1980, the Choir attracts Members from the University and beyond to rehearse and perform a repertoire which ranges from plainsong and renaissance music, to the a cappella staples of the 20th century and contemporary works. The Choir has toured widely in the UK and abroad, and undertakes annual periodic mini-residencies in North British Cathedrals, singing the major choral services in place of the regular Cathedral Choir. The Choir has recorded for BBC Radio 2, 3 and 4 (including a live broadcast), and released a CD of romantic Scottish part songs and settings of Robert Burns. In 2010, the Choir completed a five-year project to give the first performances of a series of eleven new communion motets composed by James MacMillan. First heard in the context of the Celebration of University Mass, the Choir also gave the concert debuts of these Strathclyde Motets. Since its recent return to public performance in the Autumn, the Choir has sung liturgies, presented public concerts, and participated in the premiere performances of Nitin Sawhney's 'About Us' at the Unboxed Festival in Paisley Abbey.

9th April: Concert in St Paul's Cathedral

The first event in Dundee is a free lunchtime concert in the Cathedral at 1pm on Saturday 9th April. This concert will reflect the varied range of styles and genres

that the Chamber Choir present. Please do come and support!

Some members in the Diocese may recognise a former Cathedral chorister, Kay Gordon, who currently sings with the Choir.



stsalvadors.com

St Salvador's Church, Dundee, DD3 7EW



High Mass for Palm Sunday

Communion Service in B-flat major
Charles Villiers Stanford

The Passion according to Matthew
Plainchant with choruses based on music by Tomás Luis de Victoria

sung by
Strathclyde University Chamber Choir
Directed by Alan Taverner, BEM

Sunday 10th April 11am



10th April: High Mass for Palm Sunday in St Salvador's and Evensong in the Cathedral

St Salvador's Dundee is welcoming the Choir for their High Mass this Palm Sunday 10th April at 11am. The Choir will also be singing Choral Evensong in the Cathedral at 6.15 pm that same day.

Chrism Eucharist: 11am, Thursday 14th April—Cathedral

The annual 'Chrism Eucharist', where oils for ministry are blessed and distributed, and ministerial vows for clergy and lay leaders are renewed, will take place in-person for the first time in three years. The service is on Maundy Thursday in the Cathedral in Dundee at 11am. All clergy, lay readers and those with an authorised lay ministry (worship leaders, eucharistic assistants, pastoral visitors etc.) are very welcome to come and renew their promises. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a packed lunch—coffee and hot cross buns will be provided. Please be ready to go by 10.45am—robing for clergy and lay readers in the Cathedral Lower Hall.

Environmental: Action for Carbon Audit of Churches—25th May 2022

The recent launch of the toolkit by the SEC includes a request that an initial analysis of the 'energy footprint' of our churches for 2021 be carried out by the 25th May, and submitted to the Province. <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/news-and-issues/towards-net-zero-2030-toolkit-and-checklist/>. We suggest this is an action for charge treasurers to gather the utility bills for 2021 and, with the cleric or charge environmental group (if you have one), to enter this data into the '[Energy Footprint Analyser](#)' provided by the Province. Please contact the Diocesan Environmental Group (via [Elliott](#)) for details/guidance if needed. Some more details will be shared after Easter.

Season of Pilgrimage: 2022 onwards

From Rev Denise Herbert: This Province-wide Season was delayed because of Covid restrictions although some of the Dioceses have managed to do some things. Pilgrimage is one way of engaging with our Creator God - there are so many ways we can in our Pilgrimage of life. May we draw your attention to a BBC 2 programme called Pilgrimage : The Road to the Scottish Isles on Fridays at 9 pm. The multi-faith or none group are following St Columba and it could be interesting to see what they discovered on their particular journey. It is hoped that Brechin Diocese will be able to engage with the concept of Pilgrimage this summer. Please watch this space for details.



'War in Ukraine: Church Response

The war in Ukraine, now with atrocities by Russian troops on civilians coming to light, and the withdrawal of the invaders from the some areas and an intensification in others, continues to dominate the news and our thoughts and prayers. The refugee crisis caused by the war continues to demand resources, especially in the countries around Ukraine. Below are some pointers on how we can respond.

Pray for Peace

Most importantly: Please pray for peace in Ukraine. In the busyness of cost-of-living crisis and all the oth-

er concerns we might have, the news from Ukraine can become just one of many things needing our prayers. As the new evidence of Russian atrocities mounts, pray that all combatants act in accordance with international law, and pray that politicians do all they can to work for peace. Pray for all victims of this horrific violence in Ukraine.

Donate money for refugee support

The bigger appeals include the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (an umbrella appeal for [major UK aid charities](#)). Donate personally or with any church collections at:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), also heavily involved in local aid activities for Ukraine can be supported via:

<https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/where-help-is-needed/ukraine-situation/>

Refugee support—developing schemes

The UK response to refugees from Ukraine is slowly giving visa-based access to safety in the UK. There has been a massive response from potential 'hosts' in the UK, far in excess of the applications and visas granted. An action we can take, as well as offering such hosting if you are able, is to lobby the Westminster government to improve their response to the situation.

Online Worship for the SEC

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online every week. A Sunday service, each from one of the Dioceses, is continuing in the form of a service broadcast at 11am each Sunday. This will continue beyond the pandemic. There are more details of each week's services at:

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



Any news to share in the Bulletin?

If you have stories and photos of events around the diocese, we would love to share these in the bulletin.

Email Elliott Scarfe in the office on office@brechin.anglican.org