

Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

11th May 2020

The Bishop writes:

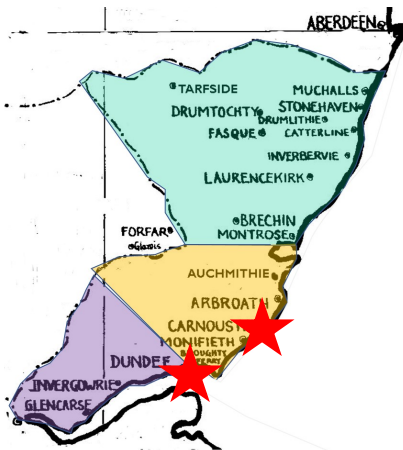
As lockdown continues we continue to support each other remotely and in prayer! This week's bulletin has some more spotlights on charges and some news and papers from further afield. Enjoy!

Bless you all: stay at home, stay safe and save lives!



Spotlight on Brechin Church Communities in Lockdown

As lockdown continues, all of our churches are keeping together and in contact in new and creative ways. In the spotlight this week we have St Ninian's in Dundee and Holy Rood, Carnoustie.



Spotlight Dundee: Lockdown news from St Ninians

Dean Fay writes: Many folk are encouraging and supporting each other and Roxanne and myself are serving and pastoring the folk of the congregation and wider community by phone, and other technological means. This helps us to establish need and try to meet it by various means especially prayer. We have started a weekly prayer meeting via Zoom.

We encourage participation in the Provincial Eucharist and in Canon Kenneth's Compline and we circulate the Sunday reading sheet with the news and prayer requests. Our Holy Week services delivered through Facebook and YouTube enjoyed a wider circulation than just the congregation.

Sharing the gospel in word and action is also at the heart of our ministry and our Family Support Group staff meet by Zoom every Monday and are encouraging families to follow the weekly programme as far as possible. Home Start have delivered Zoom ses-

sions on Healthy Choices and good fundraising (lots of crisis funds out there folks!) Staff are in regular communication with our volunteers and families and have distributed food and/or vouchers to families in need. We have a song and story session live on Tuesday at 11.00am and Roxanne has delivered live meditative sessions for the parents on taking time and space, all through our Facebook page. Our local Primary school is a Community Hub and we are able to support staff and children through this time. Some of our church families have benefited from a Hope Art box which we received through the school family worker.

Our Youth Group is having worship, teaching and fun fortnightly live on Facebook Messenger.

Everyone in Girl's Brigade missed their annual Glesk weekend but through Facebook and YouTube we produced some reminiscence videos of each day from last year with some challenges which brought not only the girls but ex-members together and we have a date for next year! With love from our community to yours. Fay

Carnoustie: Lockdown news from Holy Rood

Holy Rood church has been keeping in contact in new ways since lockdown started seven weeks ago: keeping community and spiritual life functioning in these new circumstances. The congregation has been receiving a weekly bulletin based on the Redemptorist Pew Sheet with reading. This has been emailed or posted out to those who struggle with electronic communication. Lay Readers Jean Fenwick and Edna Boffey, along with worship leader Grant Wilson have been writing a reflection to go in this communications sheet and Jean has been providing some prayer for every day of the week. The sheet shares notices and news from around the congregation, including requests for prayer for those who are ill or struggling in Covid-19 lockdown. The ministry team, including Rev Trisha Duffett-Smith, have been regularly phoning all the church members to keep in touch and support each other.



Holy Rood's door with the children's rainbows

(Author: Jean Fenwick was talking to the Bishop)

Safeguarding During COVID-19: Cyber Crime and Domestic Violence

The Rev Denise Herbert, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, writes: The media has reported a massive increase of domestic violence and cyber crime in Britain since the outbreak of Covid19.

The BBC has stated that calls to the National Domestic Abuse and other helplines have risen by 49% and killings doubled since lock down was introduced. Commonly this is unseen violence until it causes real physical injury and death. Following the 'surge' in violence, the BBC states that an MPs Report called for a government strategy on domestic abuse during the pandemic. MPs also said 'safe spaces', where victims can seek help, should be rolled out to supermarkets and other shops. The Home Office is said to be increasing funding to support helplines and online services and it has been reported that **Boots** will open a safe consulting room for women to use.

There is a massive increase in cyber crime being reported since Covid 19 where fraudsters send victims own passwords in 'sextortion' scam. On 23rd April 'actionfraud' reported that 9,473 reports had been received so far in April with 200 reports in the last week of the month. This sextortion phishing scam, continues to be reported to Action Fraud in high numbers. The emails contain the victims' own password in the subject line and demand a payment in Bitcoin to prevent videos being shared.

Keep safe and please speak to someone if you are feeling isolated, frightened or unhappy. Don't try and go it alone and feel you can tough it out. It doesn't always work and sharing any problems and asking for advice is not a sign of weakness – it is important. Do let me know, or the Bishop or the Provincial Safeguarding Officers, Donald Urquhart and Daphne Audsley if you have any concerns .

A link to a full article by Denise and helpful resources can be found [here](#)

Letter from Kate McDonald

The Rev Kate McDonald is a Pisky priest working for the Church of Scotland in Tiberias, Israel: since 2019 she has been a partner of Brechin Diocese. She writes: Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Greetings from the very quiet shores of the Sea of Galilee. I hope that you are all safe and healthy, and pray that despite this strange, often disorienting new reality we all find ourselves in, you may know the joy and the peace of our risen Lord this Easter

season.

We have been in lockdown here in Israel since mid-March, with additional stricter curfews around Pesach, Memorial Day, and

Independence Day (in the Jewish villages) and Ramadan (in the Arab villages). On Independence Day, Tiberias should have been full of tourists having barbecues on its beaches and enjoying water sports on the lake; instead the promenade was empty, and the town was absolutely silent. This has, of course, impacted the work of our partners, my work, and the work of our institutions, and I wanted to write to you with an update of the situation as it is here on the ground. Here is a brief overview of how some of our partners have responded to the crisis. ([click here](#))

Friends, thank you for your faithful prayers and continued support of our ministry here. I pray you will continue to stay safe and healthy where you are, and may God bless you and guide you through these days as we all seek to walk in the way of Christ.

Blessings, Kate

Church Life in Lockdown: Online worship

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship led by the College of Bishops every Sunday at 11am, with details at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

News to share?

Please share news of life in lockdown (via clusters or directly to the office). office@brechin.anglican.org

Weekly Prayer Points

- Continue to pray for the NHS, Care Homes, emergency services, and all key workers
- All those working in the food banks and food distribution
- All those remaining at home in social distancing or self isolation.
- Politicians—making difficult and vital decisions
- Clergy leading a very different ministry

