

# Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

## 16th September 2020



### Report on Diocesan Council Meeting

Brechin Diocesan Council is the group that manages the day-to-day business of the diocese. The Bishop chairs with the Dean, Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer ex-officio as members. The other eight members (four lay and four ordained) are elected by Diocesan Synod.

Council met, by Zoom, on Wednesday 2nd September, the first official meeting since lockdown. Business has been conducted by email and a 'drop-in' for Council did take place in June.

'New' members of Council, elected at the March Synod, were welcomed and previous minutes reviewed. Mike Duncan, Diocesan Secretary, gave an update on progress with the revised Diocesan constitution. Various decisions made by email in lockdown were also ratified, including the lockdown mothballing of the diocesan centre, underwriting a provincial loan for a charge and the appointment of Elliott Scarfe as the new Bishop's PA.

Mission: the limited activities possible in the 'clusters' in the diocese were discussed. The situation in our companionship diocese of Swaziland (eSwatini) and support we have been to able to provide was presented by Canon Pat Millar.

Ministry: the COVID-19 response in the charges of the diocese was reviewed and the various vacancies/ministries that have ended and started were also presented. The sudden death of Lay Reader Carole Spink was noted. The status of 'transitional' ministries in the diocese was discussed.

A financial overview was presented by Allan Duffus, the Treasurer. Savings have been made in many areas of diocesan expense in lockdown. Charges have been reporting if they have had any cashflow issues with the pandemic: to date no major issues have arisen in the diocese as the situation continues.

Finally, the bishop reported that St Margaret's Nursing Home in Dundee, part of the diocese, has managed to avoid any cases of COVID-19 in the pandemic. Carole Spink had acted as chaplain to the home: new arrangements would be needed.

The meeting closed in prayer.

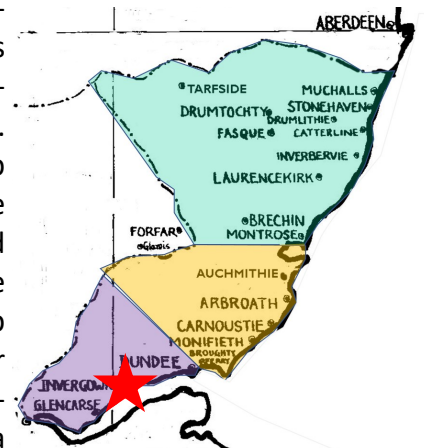
### Rev Denise Herbert writes in Holy Cross Week on the 'Tree of Life'

Denise has written a piece for the week of 'Holy Cross Day' (14th September) on the pandemic, encounter with trees and their importance to life and the Christian tradition. Please follow the link below to read her item:

[Link to full paper](#)

### Spotlight on 'Tay Cluster': All Souls, Invergowrie Reopens for Communal Worship

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August was a significant day for All Souls'. Not only was it the first service in the church building since March, but also Rev David Gordon's first service as Priest-in-Charge. It was good to be back worshipping with others. As one of the group who worked out the precautions required to keep everyone safe the new set up was already familiar to me. The congregation received a note detailing what



to expect the week before and my perception was that everyone took things in their stride. By this time most people are used to wearing a face mask and sanitising regularly as a matter of course. Having movable seats meant it was easier to set out the seating to comply with social distancing by removing seats rather than cordoning off rows. This gives the impression of fewer restrictions, although there are fewer seats to choose from. The feedback from those attending was positive, both about being back in the building and the new Priest-in-Charge.

John Parry, Vestry Secretary

As the newish Priest-in-Charge, it was exciting to prepare for the reopening of All Souls for communal

worship after months of worshipping together via Zoom. All Souls is such a beautiful building and to hear the bell being rung, inviting folk to worship, felt really significant after such a long silence. It had been an important, collaborative process preparing the building together and working on our protocols which we submitted to Bishop Andrew asking for his permission to proceed. It was also a humbling experience leading my first Service in All Souls since becoming Priest-in-Charge. While it has been very good to connect with one another via Zoom and telephone calls, there is no substitute for being together at the Lord's Table in the church of which we are members.

David Gordon, Priest-in-Charge

## **Take your Granny to the Glen!!**

Why not spend some peaceful, quality time with your family at St Drostan's Lodge in lovely Glenesk?

(NO INTERNET, NO MOBILE PHONE, NO TV!)

**St Drostan's are offering a 20% discount (£20 per person/night instead of £25) for members of Brechin Diocese**, this is restricted by Government Regulations to two households, maximum six people in the Lodge at one time.

The dates available, are from 17<sup>th</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> October.

If interested please contact Rev Jane Nelson, [stdro-stansbook@btinternet.com](mailto:stdro-stansbook@btinternet.com) or telephone 01569 730967

## **Applications open for Dundee's Participatory Budget 2020**

This process is open to new and existing projects helping communities connect during this uncertain time. You can apply for any amount between £500 - £2000 and the public will vote for the projects they'd like to see funded! Applications close on **Friday 18th September**. Click the link below to download our application pack, which explains the application, pitching and voting process – we're doing it a little differently this year under the circumstances! [Link](#)

You can also email us at [dundeebcos@gmail.com](mailto:dundeebcos@gmail.com) for more information or an application.

Please also feel free to share with your contacts.

## **Printer Ink Needing New Home**

John Parry, from All Souls, Invergowrie, has some printer ink that he would like to offer for free. They are for use in a number of Canon Pixma Series printers and coded 526. There are 12 ink cartridges, 4

black, 3 Magenta, 3 yellow and 2 cyan. If interested please contact Elliott on [office@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org)

## **Abelour Children's Charity Provides Urgent Assistance Fund**

Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund can provide cash grants to help families with children (aged 21 and under) who are suffering extreme hardship, including the impact of the Coronavirus.

Applications must be endorsed and submitted by a sponsor, acting in their professional capacity. This support is usually via cash grants to assist with a range of needs, such as food, prepay power cards, clothing, bedding, or other essentials. Due to limited funds and high levels of applications, the average grant we give is usually around £50 per child.

For more information please visit the following: <https://www.aberlour.org.uk/service-category/urgent-assistance-fund/>

## **Church Life in Lockdown: Online worship**

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online even as some live worship starts to become possible: this will continue indefinitely even as we start to plan for physical gatherings. The two services, which are led by SEC clergy and lay readers from around the Province, are:

- Thursday—'Service of the Word' at 6.30pm
- Sunday—Eucharist at 11am

There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

## **News for the Bulletin**

If there is anything you would like to share from your church, requests for help or other items of new for future bulletins contact Elliott on [office@brechin.anglican.org](mailto:office@brechin.anglican.org)

## **Prayer Points**

- For all dealing with 'clusters' of Covid-19 cases in Scotland and throughout the world.
- The NHS, Care Homes and all key workers.
- For those still anxious and isolated.
- Food banks and food distribution and all volunteers supporting them.
- For those being ordained this Michaelmas