

Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

20th October 2020

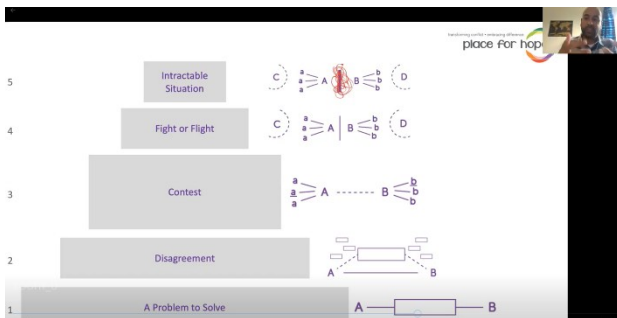
Diocesan Clergy & Lay Reader Training: 'Growing through Conflict'

Lockdown has prevented this year's usual programme of clergy and lay reader training but technology has allowed us to meet in new ways!



Abdul and delegates at one of the training sessions.

'Place for Hope', a Scottish organisation that works on conflict transformation, has been working with the diocese to deliver training modules by Zoom. Abdul Rahim, the PfH trainer, delivered sessions in September and October for a Foundation Day called 'Growing Through Conflict'. The Zoom sessions covered the normality of a certain level of conflict in



Abdul teaches about conflict escalation.

faith communities, some analysis of how the delegates might react in these situations and some basic tools for safely navigating tricky meetings and discussions. A further session with more advanced approaches is planned for the New Year, and a session on 'Scripture and Conflict' for November 2020.

A key learning point is that a certain level of healthy conflict is entirely normal in any community. All in leadership in churches can benefit from a level of awareness about and techniques for safely navigating this normal state of affairs!

Al—Maktoum College hosting the Dundee Online Open Lecture Series 2020/21

On **Thursday, 22 October** at 6pm Al—Maktoum College will be hosting the first in a series of lectures. Thursdays guest speaker Jamie Cooke, Head of RSA Scotland, will present 'Basic Income – Security in a time of pandemic'.

Jamie Cook is a leading advocate, media commentator, writer and speaker on the subject of Basic Income, working with partners, academics and policy makers in a range of different countries.

Basic Income is an old idea which has shot to the top of the political agenda across the world. Offering a chance to respond to the economic insecurity and precarity that many people experience, it also strengthens our ability to respond to a pandemic situation. In this talk, Jamie Cooke will explore the idea and how its introduction in Scotland could help to deliver security for all.

Additional Details and registration information can be found here: <https://www.almcollege.ac.uk/events/online-open-lecture-series-2020-21/>

Diocesan Council Meeting Report

A meeting of Diocesan Council was held by Zoom on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

Council reviewed actions from previous meetings. Reflections were given of the recent ordinations of the Rev Roxanne Campbell and Rev Gary Clink to priest and deacon respectively. A brief update was given on St Margaret's Residential Care Home – where there have been no COVID cases during the pandemic. Companionship links update: Council heard that £2,000 of support has been transferred to the Social Development Fund in eSwatini and an application to the Global Partnership Committee of the SEC has been successful and a further £2,000 has been approved for eSwatini projects.

The Council then reviewed papers on Diocesan Strategy & Transitional Ministry to inform a decision on supporting a 'transitional ministry' shared between Monifieth and Carnoustie. This is a three year project with a full time priest to care for the charges and

to carry out development work to identify a sustainable future. The discussion revealed a range of views, hopes and concerns over the detail of such projects e.g. a proposed one between Stonehaven and Muchalls. The Bishop is proposing that the cathedral Chapter will provide oversight to the Diocesan Strategy (including transitions), with regular review. Debate included the relationship between Mission and Ministry. A proposed three-year timescale for a transitional ministry will allow a new direction to emerge, but it is too short to resolve all issues. It will enable congregations to identify sustainable patterns for the future.

For the Carnoustie and Monifieth project, the annual cost of a full-time priest (stipend & pension) is £35,694 (2020 costs). This will be shared between Carnoustie, Monifieth and the Diocese. Estimates of total Diocesan funding that might be required for such projects over the next five years was discussed, and the specific amount needed for this project. A proposal from the Bishop, to commit designated reserves for the Diocesan contribution to Carnoustie and Monifieth, was carried unanimously by Council and the decision will be reported back to Diocesan Synod, hopefully in Spring 2021.

Other business, including a report on the state of the Diocesan finances, concluded the meeting.

Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board seeks Community Input

In June, Scottish Government announced the formation a Social Renewal Advisory Board <https://www.gov.scot/groups/social-renewal-advisory-board/>. The board wants to bank the policy and practice shifts seen during COVID-19 and use current practice and knowledge to focus on reducing poverty and inequality.

They are currently calling for ideas on how to change society for the better post-Covid. They have just launched an online space where community groups and organisations can share their ideas for positive change in society (based on the lived experience of organisations who have been working with those who experience poverty and inequality during the pandemic).

The Ideas Form and more information can be found here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-people-and-communities-call-for-ideas/> and the news release is here <https://www.gov.scot/news/rebuilding-a-fairer-scotland-after-covid-19/>

The deadline is **23rd October**.

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/>

St. Salvador's Dundee looking to sell gas cooker

St Salvador's is looking to sell their Falcon Dominator 6-burner gas range with double-size oven. It is suitable for a large kitchen or restaurant. It is currently installed in the church kitchen but is now too large for their purposes, and is shortly to be replaced as part of a kitchen refurbishment. More information can be found using the link below or by contacting Elliott at office@brechin.anglican.org.

Gumtree Link : <https://www.gumtree.com/p/range-cookers/falcon-dominator-6-burner-gas-range/1385619535>

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 to share? Please send to...

Elliott at office@brechin.anglican.org