

Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

23rd June 2020

Welcome

...to this edition of the Brechin Lockdown Bulletin. Phase 2 of Lockdown easing has started in Scotland, but this means minimal change for the lives of our churches. Please continue to keep safe and concentrate on personal distancing and hygiene measures in normal life! The worshipping and pastoral lives of our churches is continuing well even as we remain limited in what we do in our communities. Bless you all as we continue this journey...



+Andrew

COVID-19 Update: Revised Phase 2 Guidelines for the SEC

Last week we advertised the new guidelines developed for the SEC as we anticipated Phase 2 of the Scottish Government lockdown easing. The Government announced a partial set of Phase 2 last week, so this confirms what is now different:

From 22nd June: Churches can open for individual prayer. This requires staffing and management of visitors, social distancing, cleaning and other safety measures to be followed. A plan, approved by the Vestry, must be submitted for approval by the Bishop. And remember: because churches CAN open does not mean they HAVE to open.

From 22nd June: Funerals with very limited attendance can take place in churches. Again, an approved plan for staffing and management of the church must be approved by the Bishop.

From 29th June: Weddings MAY be able to take place outdoors, with limited attendance. Discuss any such possibility with the Bishop.

From 29th June: People from more than one household can meet in church to record or livestream worship. All must observe social distancing and hygiene measures.

We cannot yet enter another household for e.g. pastoral visiting, so the guidance issued last week that said this might be possible has been revised. Pastoral visiting is NOT YET possible.

The Scottish Episcopal Church guidelines are published on the SEC website:

Emerging from Lockdown: Phase 2 Guidance <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Phase-2-Revised-Guidance-Version-2-19.6.20.pdf>

Pro forma Phase 2 Plan for Vestries <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Pro-forma-Plan-for-Reopening-for-Individual-Prayer-Version-1-12.6.20.docx>

Pastoral guidance for various aspects of church life are also presented in a revised paper from the College of Bishops: Pastoral Guidelines for Phase 2 <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Pastoral-Guidelines-for-Phase-2-Version-2-19.6.20.pdf>

Phase 2 of the Scottish Government easing is a modest change for the lives of our church communities: but it IS a move in the direction of careful easing of lockdown restrictions. Phase 3, to follow at some point in the next few months/weeks, might offer significant changes on e.g. the conduct of worship in our churches, but this will almost certainly demand major changes in how we gather and how distance and hygiene are managed at our services. Watch this space for more information!

Churches start to plan for Individual Prayer Opening

It is important to re-state that no church HAS to open in Phase 2 of the lockdown easing, and several vestries have rightly identified that the process of managing this access is very onerous and decided that they will wait for later phases before re-engaging with any in-building activities. Some churches in the Diocese who feel they can offer this service have started to plan for how they might be able to manage limited times to be open.

As of 23rd June 2020 two churches have submitted plans to the bishop to open for staffed and managed individual prayer plans.

The decision to remain open or closed is very particular to each congregation and their context. Vestries have been approaching this exercise with wisdom!

News From Diocese of Iowa

Our companion Diocese of Iowa has been offering worship in several churches with physical distancing, face coverings and other major changes to way they worship.



Picture of St. Andrew's, Chariton, Iowa

This may be a glimpse towards what our own worshipping future may be in later Phases of the Scottish Government lockdown easing. Please keep our companions in Iowa and in Eswatini, the Diocese of Swaziland, in your prayers as the pandemic continues.

Obituary of Canon John Rogan

A few weeks ago we had an obituary for Canon John Rogan, once the Provost of St Paul's Cathedral Dundee. An excellent full obituary has been published this week in the Church Times. A photograph © Church Times is below. The obit can be accessed at

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/19-june/gazette/obituaries/obituary-canon-john-rogan>



Coronavirus Crisis Resources from Faith in Community Dundee: Food and Training Information

Faith in Community Dundee has gathered a comprehensive list of available Food Provision for Dundee.

The food provision links are projects running in Dundee that are offering help to people struggling with food poverty or provision in isolation. These projects receive donations of food or money and provide food to people in need. Generally, these projects have the volunteers they need to operate: the local authority third sector agencies or national projects are a mechanism to offer volunteering resource if you are able and wish to.

They also included a link to training that was designed by the British Red Cross for anyone who is responding to the coronavirus outbreak. Whether you've been deployed by a charity or have decided to lend a hand to a neighbour, it tells you what you need to know to look after yourselves and others. The information is at the following links:

[Food Provision](#)

[British Red Cross Training for Coronavirus Volunteers](#)

Other schemes are operating in Perth and Kinross, Angus and Aberdeenshire: check local authority websites and the Courier for details!

Church Life in Lockdown:

Online worship

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship. Most weeks two services will be:

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

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

There are also live online worship services at the Cathedral, St Mary Magdalene, St Luke's, & Holy Trinity Monifieth. Online content is shared by many other churches too.

If there is anything you would like to share in future bulletins contact Elliott on office@brechin.anglican.org

Prayer Points

- The NHS, Care Homes and all key workers
- Politicians — called to make difficult and vital decisions with integrity
- Food banks and food distribution and all volunteers supporting them.
- Clergy leading a very different ministry
- A safe easing of lockdown in the UK and Scotland.
- All those who have died in this difficult time
- Those who mourn them