

Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

26th August 2020

Greetings from Bishop Andrew

Welcome to this latest bulletin for the Diocese of Brechin. The pandemic continues to constrain and change our lives, especially with the impact of 'clusters' of cases in various areas in or near the Diocese. Many of our churches have now returned or are planning to return to 'in-person' worship—but we must take great care in all we do as the Covid-19 virus is still present in Scotland and is still very infectious and dangerous. Physical distancing, limits on numbers, avoiding congregational and choir singing, communion in only one kind, face coverings: all of these measures keep us safe but make worship and gathering as Christian communities feel very different.

And I am conscious that there are still many who are anxious about a return to any form of meeting: those with underlying health conditions, the older or more vulnerable, those who struggle to be able to wear a face covering for any sort of reason. As the Body of Christ in the world, the church's call includes care for the most vulnerable of our members. That care includes the continued offering of online pastoral care, worship by 'Zoom' and 'YouTube' and the many other ways that church has been able to manifest itself in the past few months.

The pandemic and its restrictions may well be with us for quite some time to come: please keep all those affected in your prayers, and let our lives as Christian disciples show the care and gentleness towards those who are vulnerable:

"Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.""

John 13.35



Update on the Devastating Storm in Iowa - from Canon Pat.

I want to share edited extracts from Bishop Alan's latest letter to his diocese, as our Companions there face widespread devastation from the derecho, which swept across parts of Iowa a week ago. It will

explain why our Companion Diocese of Iowa has been added to our list of Prayer Points.

Bishop Alan writes:-

Many of us in Iowa are entering hurricane, wildfire and tornado season alongside the steady pounding of COVID 19.



The 'derecho' heading for Cedar Rapids, Iowa

We may have been looking for tornados, but hadn't even imagined a 'derecho' – a land hurricane. Within 20 minutes, we felt and saw the devastation such massive winds can create.

Homes, businesses, vehicles, trees, power lines and transport links have been destroyed and many are left without belongings, shelter, food and access to support. Power is only now being restored in some areas.

The churches are working hard and reaching out to people through Zoom links involving clergy and lay leadership groups. Congregations are supporting neighbourhoods with offers of shelter and donations of food and supplies, and utility workers from across the country are working alongside local first responders.

The Diocese of Iowa has funds designated for Relief and Development and can provide grants to help congregational response efforts already underway - and immigrant support organisations are taking a lead on provision of 'culturally informed disaster aid.'

*If you have not seen the **Episcopal News Service** report, I refer you to it with thankfulness for their coverage. With gratitude, we are the focus of the prayers and support of the church world-wide.*

Please hold our Iowan Companions in your thoughts and prayers and include them in intercessions.

My thanks and best wishes,
Canon Pat Millar
Companionship Links Officer

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!

<https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1STyx65obR9Zb2X0eco0XrnwFeu8BL9Fn>

You can also email us at dundeeperc@icommunity.org for more information or an application.

Please also feel free to share with your contacts.

Many thanks

Danny Ogierman, Faith in Community Dundee

Coronavirus Crisis Resources from Faith in Community Dundee: Food Provision 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. The information is at the following link: [Dundee Food Provision](#)

Funding Support from Allchurches Trust and Ecclesiastical Insurance

Allchurches Trust has launched a new grants programme – Hope Beyond - aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to meet changing need within their communities as the longer term impact of Covid-19 becomes clearer.

<http://www.allchurches.co.uk/what-we-fund/hopebeyond/>

Ecclesiastical Insurance has produced a grant and fundraising hub to offer practical support and guidance to help churches during this uniquely challenging time .

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising/>

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

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
- Food banks and food distribution and all volunteers supporting them.
- For all who are anxious at any return to work or social life
- Politicians at national and local level — called to make difficult and vital decisions with integrity
- Clergy leading a very different ministry as churches start to plan for the next phase
- Our Companions in the Anglican Diocese of Swaziland as they face the added challenges of Covid-19 and extreme food shortages across the country.
- The people of Iowa as they recover from the devastation of the 'derecho', the land hurricane that caused so much devastation.