

# Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

## 27th April 2020

### The Bishop writes:

Dear brothers and sisters: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

This latest lockdown bulletin comes as we start our sixth week of the changed life that COVID-19 has forced upon us. Even as the news is full of discussions about how lockdown might start to end, we are still being told to stay in our homes to save lives. The NHS continues to work to protect and care for those ill with the virus and with the many other illnesses that people continue to suffer. It is a confusing and hard time for all, even before strange suggestions for virus cures or fake news circulates on social media.

As Christians, we are still travelling through the Easter season, seven weeks of celebrations and joy as we thank God for gift of new life in the Risen Jesus Christ. That can feel a mismatch with the reality of a confusing and anxious world. Worry and uncertainty about the health of family and friends, future security of employment, what Scottish society is going to be like in the weeks and months ahead: all of that feels out of synch with the Alleluias of Eastertide!

Trust in God: God does not change, the message of new life, of human value, of hope and light in the message of the gospel: these all remain the same, whatever happens in the world. The work being done by so many Christians and churches to support those in need (directly, or by financial support), the ways that communities are still connecting and supporting each other through lockdown, the many examples of prayer and faith in the time of COVID: all of these bring Easter hope even as lockdown continues.

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



### Companion Diocese of Iowa - Bishop's Birthday

Bishop Alan Scarfe of the Diocese of Iowa is celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday this Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020).



### Raising Funds to Feed Dundee: New "JustGiving" Page to Donate and Help



COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD PROVISION

Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action are working with local emergency food providers in Dundee (including church projects) to ensure communities are provided for during this time of COVID-19. Supported by [Faith in Community](#) and [Dundee City Council](#), voluntary organisations throughout the city, which have amassed a pool of volunteers, are helping the most vulnerable receive food and medication in response to the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Now having created a strong community response, food projects and larders are calling on the wider Dundee community to [donate to support this effort](#).

Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action Chief Exec Eric Knox said "The emergency food provision across the city is vitally important to supporting the communities in Dundee. This funding will go directly to support volunteers and volunteer sector organisation to deliver much needed food to the most vulnerable adults and children across the city. This will be a real lifeline for people in unbelievably difficult times."

Working with existing organisations who are shaped around local needs Alexander's Community Development has been selected as a central distribution hub for local food projects allowing a joined-up approach to the response needed.

Funds raised via [www.justgiving.com/campaign/cv19fooddundee](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cv19fooddundee) will be distributed across existing food providers to extend the reach of provision across Dundee.

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

In lockdown we cannot meet as church, week-by-week. Our church communities continue to offer support by phone, email and other remote contact means. Some church leaders and members are able to volunteer to support vulnerable people in the wider community.

Our worshipping life has almost entirely gone online. Online worship is on offer in many places (in Scotland and the wider world!) - and something can be found for all: I would encourage you to find something that works for you. Watch out for Canon Kenneth Gibson's compile on Facebook (and please pass back details of things you find that work for you so we can share them).



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/>

## **Companion Diocese of Swaziland: A message from Pat Millar, Links Officer**

Dear Friends,

As you will know, the Covid19 virus has arrived in Africa and our Companion Diocese is now affected. Many people there are unemployed and many others are casual or itinerant workers: the lockdown means that they have no income and no Government support. There are now serious food shortages and, while the Diocesan team there are working hard to support those most vulnerable, they have few resources at their disposal. We are sending £1,000 to-

day - and will have very little left in our diocesan Swaziland Companions' fund once that goes.

If any churches in our diocese have funds designated for our Companion Diocese of Swaziland, now would be a very good time to let us have them. I'm sure this additional and acute need will continue for some time and we are not able to initiate any new fund-raising events just now.

Cheques should be made out to Holy Trinity Church as usual and sent to me; my address details are in 'the red book' or are available from Elliott at the Diocesan Office.

If you want to contact me, please note that my email address is now:- [patriciamillar2509@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamillar2509@gmail.com) Mobile - 07734800968 Home - 01382 532972.

My thanks and stay safe.

Best wishes, Pat

## **News to share?**

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

## **Dean Fay Offers Weekly Prayer Points**

- NHS, emergency services, care homes, essential services, cleaners, refuse collectors, school staff
- All those working in the food larders and food distribution
- The Westminster and Holy Rood Parliaments as they continue making big decisions, Parliamentary scrutiny is vital so pray for Government leaders and councillors as they seek to lead us and guide us to defeat the virus
- Our Bishops as they lead us and guide us
- St. Mary Magdalene congregation as they seek the way forward after Rev David Shepherd's retirement
- Give thanks for Fiona and Elliott Scarfe in the birth of their baby - Lochlan Alan Scarfe
- For all those ill at this time of COVID-19
- For all who have died
- For all who mourn them