

# Diocese of Brechin: Lockdown News Bulletin

## 4th May 2020

### The Bishop writes:

This is a bumper edition of the bulletin, with some 'spotlights' on what is happening in two of our churches in this very hard time. As this is the week after 'Good Shepherd' Sunday, we can reflect on the message that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has a calling to guide and protect us as we follow him as disciples. We can trust in God's love as we pray, support each other and act as signs of that love: in our homes and in the wider community!

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



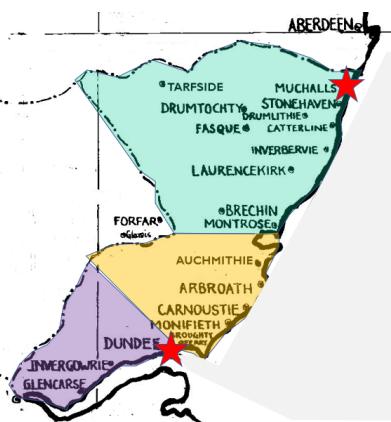
### Fr George Greig RIP

Fr. George Greig died at home on Friday 1st May, following illness over the past few weeks. Fr. George had just celebrated his 38th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on St. Mark's Day. George was born in 1928 and had a secular career in finance. His church career was all in Brechin Diocese. He was a non-stipendiary curate at St Mary Magdalene Dundee 1981-82, then Assistant Priest at St Mary Magdalene and St John the Baptist, Stobswell 1982-84. He was Locum Priest at St Ninian's Dundee in 1984-85. He was then appointed honorary chaplain at the cathedral from 1985-1998, with special responsibility for All Souls' Invergowrie (1985-88). On retirement he was then Assistant Priest at St Salvador's Dundee from 1998-2016, then held a PTO in the Diocese until his death.

Details of the funeral (which will be limited due to Covid-19) to be confirmed. Please keep George and his daughter Angela in your prayers.

### Spotlight on Brechin Church Communities in Lockdown

Each week we want to highlight one or two of our church communities and how they are finding this strange time of lockdown. All churches are



unable to meet for worship, but all are supporting each other pastorally. Some church members are able to offer voluntary help in the local community: this is good if safe and necessary to offer such help, but the key message for us remains to stay at home and save lives.

This week we have St Ternan's in Muchalls in the north of the diocese and St Luke's Café Church in Dundee.

### **Muchalls: Lockdown News from St Ternan's.**

The church is locked to all: the first time it has been closed on a daily basis for over 10 years. As well as missing the Sunday worship, several members of the congregation and general public are missing the ability to visit the church through the week for private devotions and prayer.

We are holding a morning service for all who can access the internet to live stream via Zoom on a Tuesday at 11am using the Scottish Episcopal Church "Daily morning prayer" Thanks to ordinand Gary Clink for setting it up through Zoom and leading us in worship

Members of the congregation communicate between one another by telephone/ email over a weekly basis to give support and help to one another. Most of us are of a certain age where we are classed as having to be in lockdown. It really means locked up!! We are therefore confined to our homes. Regards God Bless stay safe. George

### **Spotlight on Dundee: Lockdown News from St Luke's Café Church, Dundee.**

Lay reader Bruce Gowans writes: Life at St Luke's Café Church has changed (as it has for all churches). The video tool "Zoom" has been used for church (over 30 'attending') and a Thursday night 'Pirate Monks' men's support group. 'WhatsApp' communications groups have been set up for Church and Pirate Monks to share scripture, prayers and even just jokes! There are also lists of phone contacts just to keep in touch.

The church has also been able to be active in support in the crisis. Canon Kerry Dixon has led 'St Luke's Foodbank' in providing food to vulnerable people in our area. Following safe Covid-19 distancing practice and good governance the group has made up and

delivered food parcels: over 2,000 meals in 23 days! The congregation ‘met’ by Zoom a contact in India who is helping to feed 2 villages in lockdown. Funds were raised by the church to provide food parcels for 73 families! The church is finding it a real blessing to feel that they are helping to fulfil Christ’s urging and example to feed the poor and help the vulnerable – it’s a bit like a crisis has become an opportunity.

St Luke’s are keen to share their news: many church communities are small in number and resources, and it’s always good to know and rejoice when good things are also happening with other members of the “family”. A full report on St Luke’s Café Church in lockdown is available on the Diocesan Website ([click here](#))

## 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. 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 compline on Facebook.

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/>

There are also plans to offer midweek worship for the whole province: watch social media and the websites for details.

## Coronavirus Crisis Resources from Faith in Community Dundee: food and funding information

Faith in Community Dundee has gathered a comprehensive list of available funding resources and Food Provision for Dundee. These are ways organisations can access grants to help them work with anyone struggling during the Covid-19 crisis (and there are a small number of direct funds that people can apply for personally). 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 links:

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Food Provision](#)

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

## Companion Diocese of Swaziland: Lent Appeal for the “Bee Project”

The Bishop’s Lent Appeal for 2020 is for the Swaziland ‘Bee-keeping’ project to start up sustainable beehives in their forestry project. If you have collected any funds and these can be passed to Allan Duffus at the diocese, please do so! If getting collections is not possible with lockdown, please hold on and we will gather this together once we emerge from lockdown.



## 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)

## Weekly Prayer Points

- Continue to pray for the NHS, emergency services, care homes, essential services, cleaners, refuse collectors, school staff
- All those working in the food larders and food distribution in Dundee, Angus, the Mearns, Perth and Kinross
- All those remaining at home in social distancing or self isolation.
- Nursing homes—especially St Margaret’s Home in Dundee (which to date has had no cases of Covid)
- Our Bishops as they lead us and guide us
- Clergy leading a very different ministry
- For all those ill at this time of COVID-19
- For all who have died
- For all who mourn them