

Diocese of Brechin: News Bulletin

28th April 2021

Change to COVID guidelines for Places of Worship



Updated guidance on coronavirus

Relaxation of certain restrictions relevant to places of worship took effect on 26 April, notably in relation to the cap on numbers permitted to attend communal worship services. Details and links:

Church capacity

The previously cap of 50 people was removed when all of Scotland enters Level 3 of the Covid-19 restrictions system, and that places of worship with adequate capacity will be able to accommodate an attendance higher than 50 people provided social distancing guidelines can be adhered to. For many churches this makes no difference as their physical capacity would not allow a number as high as 50. For larger buildings where the capacity, especially given households attending, this may be an advantage.

Advice on how to calculate the maximum capacity for the building is also being developed and further advice will follow on this.

Occasional offices—weddings and funerals—can now also have 50 attending in the congregation, an increase from the previous 20.

Full details of this change on 26th April are at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>. Some of the links from this guidance remain in a 'draft' state: if in doubt contact your diocesan office or the Advisory group via GSO.

On 17th May other guidance and requirements on e.g. signage related to capacity in church buildings will come into effect. The Advisory Group intends to issue further guidance to support these changes. Discussions are ongoing between churches and the Scottish Government on these and other issues of relaxation of restrictions.

Hospital visiting

The Scottish Government has also published updated guidance on hospital visits, including a section on Spiritual Care.

A letter sent to faith and belief leaders and representatives by Jason Leith, National Clinical Director, is located [here](#).

The letter highlights the expansion of NHS Visiting Guidance as well as the introduction universal Covid testing.

The revised Government guidance on hospital visits, with Spiritual Care guidelines on page 22, can be accessed at the following link: [Visiting Guidance for Hospitals in Scotland](#).

News for Francis & Helen Bridger

Francis and Helen Bridger have announced that they will be leaving the Diocese of Brechin in September 2021. Francis will be retiring as Rector and Helen finishing her time as priest in St Mary's Broughty Ferry and St Martin's Dundee. The Bridgers will have served Broughty Ferry for the past ten years and St Martin's for circa seven years. Francis and Helen will be moving to nearer family in England.

Please keep the Bridgers and the churches that they serve in your prayers as they prepare for this next season in their ministry and journeys.

Online Lay Training Workshop: "Being a Server Today"

Sunday 9th May 2021: 3-4pm

Have you been missed as a server during lockdown?
Have you missed serving?

Servers play a key role in SEC liturgy: but why is that?
Our next Lay Training Workshop will help to answer this question. It will explore not only why we have servers but how they serve.

The workshop will be led by Mike Duncan, a server at the cathedral and our Diocesan Secretary.

Been a server for ages? Bring your experience!

Would like to learn? Bring your questions!

Email Dean Fay: flamont53@sky.com for the ZOOM link.

continued

COP26, Divestment and Investment for Climate Justice Webinar Available

ANGELICAN COMMUNION WEBINAR

COP26, DIVESTMENT AND INVESTMENT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

JOIN the movement to care for God's creation and ALL God's people (Gen 22). Don't stop!

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
BISHOP STEVEN CROFT

ANGELICAN COMMUNION ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK | OPERATION NOAH | christian aid | tearfund | eco congregation Scotland

Operation Noah, together with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, Christian Aid, Tearfund and Eco-congregation Scotland, hosted a webinar on divestment attended by over 220 people on Thursday 25 March. The webinar explored how Churches in the Anglican Communion can act for climate justice ahead of COP26 through fossil fuel divestment and investment in clean alternatives.

Operation Noah has made this available to watch on their website [here](#).

Dundee University Chaplaincy series - "Christianity: past its sell by date?"

29th April: 5-6pm

The Chaplain at Dundee University, the Rev Dr Fiona Douglas presents the latest in the "One People: Many Philosophies" series. The Moderator of the



General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, The Right Rev Dr Martin Fair will present this online talk with a challenging title. Dr Fair has been a minister in Arbroath for almost thirty years and is coming towards the end of a year as the 'virtual' moderator of the Church of Scotland from 2020-2021. Please book for this exciting event at the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chaplaincy-series-one-people-many-philosophies-tickets-149107525623>

Church Army launches "Faith Pictures"

We are pleased to share the launch of Faith Pictures, the free resource from Church Army to help Christians of all traditions talk about their own story of faith with confidence, ready to run online or in person. Faith Pictures is six sessions long, each one building on the last to help Christians to see where God has been present in their lives, how they can talk about that confidently, and how God is active in the world around us and wants us to join in with Him. Download Faith Pictures for free at resources.churcharmy.org/resources/faith-pictures/

Worship in the Pandemic

In lockdown we can find ways to worship online. Many churches in the diocese are Zooming or gathering in similar ways—see link below.

The Scottish Episcopal Church continues to offer 'national' worship online. A Sunday service, each led by one of the College of Bishops, will continue in the form of a Eucharist broadcast at 11am through the current lockdown and beyond, as restrictions ease.



This service has an option to hear the worship by telephone for those without internet access. There are more details and downloads of previous weeks' services at:

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

[Link to online services within the diocese](#)

If you are offering online worship and are not included in this list, please contact Elliott who can add you to the database.

News to share? Please send...

If you have any events, ideas with worship or anything else to report, please send copy to Elliott at office@brechin.anglican.org. The Bulletin will come out each week for the foreseeable future with updates on Covid issues, news from charges and (hopefully) useful information for our communities.