



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Scottish Episcopal Church
Newsletter – 14 July 2021
From the Bishop



In the next weeks it is expected that the whole of Scotland will move to level 0, and then to 'beyond level 0'. We will experience a relaxing of the restrictions arising from the coronavirus at home, when out and about, and in church.

The social distancing requirement will reduce to 1 metre, so considerable adjustments will need to be made in church to the COVID seating arrangements and for each place of worship there will be a new Physical Distancing Based Capacity figure to be on display at the door. We will continue to wear masks in church, including when we are singing.

Now many of you will have been praying and longing for these changes. They will be welcomed with relief, a sign that we are gradually getting back to a more normal way of living. However, a good number of those of you in touch with me and the Dean have been expressing anxiety. In all of our churches there are those who are very nervous indeed about returning to collective worship. In addition, there are some for whom the double vaccine is not a sufficient barrier against the virus because of significant underlying health conditions. The possibility of catching the virus continues to bring a real threat.

Our encouragement to all is to be ready to welcome back to church, or to church for the first time, those for whom these steps changes are significant. Please do all you can to signal through word and action (so notices, masks and sanitising) that every effort is being made to keep people safe. From the beginning of the pandemic the Scottish Episcopal Church has done all it can to open our churches in ways which reassure everyone present that they matter, and that we are limiting our freedoms out of a deep and profound love for those among us who are the weakest and most vulnerable.

Clergy and laity who need advice about these things should contact either the Bishop or Dean. We will do all that we can to support you through these coming weeks of change.

Confirmation in Fraserburgh



On Sunday 20 June Brontë and Gabriel Watt were confirmed at St Peter's, Fraserburgh.

Brontë and Gabriel had been very well prepared for this important step in their faith journeys by their family, and by Revd Dr Keith Suckling. The church was as full as possible (in these restricted times), which was a great encouragement for those present.

The following Sunday was Keith's final service, before he and Helen moved to Northern Ireland.

It was very good to experience a church in great heart, thanks to Keith's faithful ministry.

Recovery and Renewal Fund

Churches across the diocese are finalising applications to the Provincial Recovery and Renewal Fund, as these have to be sent to the **Diocesan Office by Monday 26 July**.

In some places vestries have worked on the applications, in others the process has involved the whole church submitting possible ideas. However applications have come about it is encouraging to note how many churches are having conversations about what would assist them to recover from the effects of the pandemic on congregational life, and make plans for spiritual renewal.

Applications can be concerned with:

Recovery & Renewal of 'pre-pandemic' ministry

Online presence post pandemic

Social Action and Community Development in Post Pandemic Context

Care of clergy and church leaders

It is not too late for your church to prepare an application. Information has been sent to vestry secretaries.

'Let's get together' at Banchory – Saturday 26 June

What we did on a day out together....

On the first of these diocesan days out we gathered in the carpark at Milton of Crathes. It was a delight to be with old friends again after a very long time, and it was a chance to make some new ones.

Some were with us for the whole day, some popped in. Some came to join in the picnic lunch, some were with us, but ate lunch in a restaurant. Some came for a walk, some travelled around Crathes by car. What we can say is that those who came did all sorts of things, but were in some way or another a part of the day out.



We began by taking a ride on the train, then we walked through the woods to Crathes. After a picnic lunch we enjoyed the beautiful gardens.

We enjoyed good conversations and catching up on news.





For further information see flier or information on the diocesan website.

Provincial Services

Service links available from the Scottish Episcopal Church website, and on the Provincial Facebook page

Sunday 18 July – 8th after Pentecost

11am A service of Holy Communion from the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness.

Sunday 25 July – 9th after Pentecost

11am A service of Holy Communion from the Diocese of Brechin.

Sunday 1 Aug – 10th after Pentecost

11am A service of Holy Communion from the Diocese of St Andrew's Dunblane and Dunkeld.

Sunday 8 Aug – 11th after Pentecost

11am A service from the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

'Children's Chapel' is taking a break for the school summer holidays.

Other services

Details of services live-streamed or broadcast by churches across the diocese and province are available from the churches' websites and facebook pages.

This newsletter comes as a PDF,

and an on-line copy can be read on the Diocesan website.

Please send your news to me at : bishopanne@aberdeen.anglican.org