



**December 2012**

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## News from around the Diocese

### The Compass Course

Bishop Kevin has said in a sermon that we do not have a map for our Christian journey but we do have a direction of travel provided by God's compass who in Jesus said 'I am the Way'.

The Compass course explores our Christian faith as expressed in the worship and life of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Like the Christian life itself, embarking on the course was an adventure. I'm delighted to hear that people are enjoying and appreciating it.

We have a reputation as 'piskies' for being more reserved about talking about God. Many of you have expressed a wish to feel more confident about doing so. In my experience of the Building the Vision and Compass gatherings, once folk get together, they have plenty to say. Some are more comfortable talking about liturgy, buildings, Christian ethics and community involvement. And that's brilliant. Some actually talk about God!

What we hope is that this will become a habit: that God talk might feature at coffee time after church, at home, in the charity shop, at work. I hope the Compass course will refresh and inspire you whether you are a 'talker' or someone whose faith is more easily expressed in action. For those of you still to begin, the three sections are:

- Practising faith in Church
- Looking at Life
- Following Christ

There is however enough material for more than three sessions and the topics can be discussed at whatever level suits the group. Follow-up resources are available. Some charges are meeting on weekday evenings, others after the Sunday service. It's up to you.

At pre-Synod Day in March 2013 we will bring together our experience of 'Equipping for the Vision' whether that has been through Compass or other study and training.

The question for our focus is:

***What have you discovered this year that enables you to share the good news of God's love in your community?***

We'll be inviting your responses to this question in due course. Last year we enjoyed the variety of ways in which you presented your vision. We're looking forward to creative contributions.

Alison Clark, Congregational Development Officer



## Compass Course Reflections

### South - St Margaret's, Arran

St Margaret's last met with Elaine after Sunday Eucharist (and lunch) on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. We continued our study at p5 "the liturgy of the sacrament" and got as far as the end of p9 "where faith has made a difference to our understanding of life." We opened and closed with prayer.

The following are mainly my individual thoughts although I hope they reflect something of what we all shared: -

The Eucharist is particularly telling for in it we are bodily (as well as with our minds) on our knees with our hands outstretched to receive God's life as well as His forgiveness. We are telling this to each other as well as to God. We talked about how this helps us to overcome obstacles and irritations that may have built up between us.

We talked about how we can experience Jesus among us in unexpected ways, sometimes when we are fearful or despondent as in Jn 20:19-22. and this was linked with our groans which are at the same time the groans of the Spirit. To quote Dietrich Bonhoeffer "We do not understand God's ways. But he knows the way for us." Thus God is involved in (and sharing in) our suffering and the suffering of those we love. There was some discussion of personal experience here.

I think we all shared a feeling that this time had been worthwhile and had helped us to explore areas of our faith and doubts in a way that drew us together. We were grateful to Elaine for her sensitive leading of the discussion and prayers.

Michael Campling

### South - St Kieran's Campbeltown



Judith Macrae leads Compass Course at Campbeltown

The congregation at St Kieran's has had an established monthly slot for bible study and theological reflection as part of its services for over ten years now. Adopting the Compass Course therefore came as a natural addition to that. Since its distribution, the congregation has covered sections 1 and 2 of the course and it looks forward to completing the remaining part before Synod meets in 2013. The Lay Ministers have taken it in turns to open up the course for the rest of the congregation. In this way the task has been shared and there have been positive responses to this from the membership with excellent contributions being made which have been both serious and humorous.

David O McEwan

### North West - Peter's Stornoway

*the first session of the compass course was a huge hit! Great turnout and great participation. So very encouraging!*

### St John's, Oban

Last night, we completed our third evening following the Compass course, under the guidance of Alison Clark. Most participants had also been involved in the three meetings for Building the Vision last year which meant that we were, perhaps, more



at home with one another than we might have been. We are a mixture of cradle Episcopalians, those brought up in the Church of England, other Scottish churches and with no faith so together with our varied life experiences, we came from very different perspectives.

We had lively discussions each evening and have considered our position as individuals, as a church and as members of the SEC. We have been given the chance to strengthen our individual spiritual lives and, with the arrival of our new Provost, we have the opportunity to fortify, and increase our confidence in, our church community and from that our mission in the local neighbourhood and beyond.

Sue Pollard

### **South - St Paul's, Rothesay**

So far, we have enjoyed three sessions of this course, however, Session 2: 'Looking at Life' proved so interesting and inspired such diverse opinions that it was extended over two days of discussion.

Very Rev. Andrew Swift has always emphasised during all our discussion and learning debates that there are no right or wrong answers to any of the topics. An individual's ideas mature as one's life experiences influence our thoughts and feelings. With this in mind, each one of the participants feel they can express their own opinions no matter how controversial they might prove to be, although, so far, no one has violently disagreed with any points that have been expressed, even although people have differing understandings of Christian principles and doctrines. Session 1: 'Practising Faith in Church' was of particular interest to those participants who had not been brought up in the Scottish Episcopal tradition, and for those of us who have, we had to dust down learning from Confirmation classes.

So, we look forward to our final, [ or will it be? ] session this Wednesday.

This has been a very well put together booklet, offering much food for thought and discussion, and very well gently guided by our Priest in Charge.

Margaret Lamb

### **A Date for your Diary—26th January**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2013: Installation of Dean Andrew Swift and Provost Nicki McNelly as Canons of the Cathedral of The Isles, Cumbrae.

All welcome

### **Christmas Holidays**

Please note that the Diocesan Office will close on 20th December, re-opening 7th January although we will check e-mails and the answer phone from time to time.



**'They also serve...'**

**- Lay Leadership Day Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November**



Bishop Kevin

In spite of featuring the 'Lectionary Pub Quiz', the Lay Leadership Day took place not in a nearby hostelry but in the hall of St John's Cathedral. The Bishop's roles included that of quizmaster and host. Well, he has been heard to say that the diaconal ministry continues to be part of priesthood and episcopacy - on Saturday that meant serving out the soup!

The Lay Leadership Day takes place twice a year and is open to all who have a significant role in leading worship in our congregations. It includes those who lead services week to week in places where there is limited clergy cover. The gathering is an opportunity to reflect on how we do things and to resources ourselves for the task.

Those who come say that they greatly appreciate the chance to get together and share experiences.

On this occasion, we explored the topic of what we are actually doing when we worship. (answer: a range of things including participation in the life of God, joining in the praise of heaven and earth, receiving and responding to God's gift, forming and sustaining community.)

Alastair Chisholm from Cumbrae was interviewed on his experience of leading and co-ordinating worship at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit; John McIntosh led a taster workshop on singing the psalms using plainchant and responsorial psalms; and Di Tennant and Christine McIntosh demonstrated one alternative approach to the traditional sermon.

The plan for next time (Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> by the way) will be to continue and deepen our exploration of how we worship and to incorporate into the Eucharist some of the practical skills we address.

**Diocesan Synod**

Diocesan Synod will take place as usual in the first week of March with Pre-Synod Day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> followed by the Synod Eucharist in St John's Cathedral. The business of Synod will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. All members of the Diocese are welcome to attend but it would be helpful if you could let the office know so that we can cater appropriately.

**Continuing Ministerial Development**

Dean Andrew reflects on the second full-time clergy gathering, held in November. Bishop Kevin and most of the full-time clergy of the Diocese gathered recently at the College of the Holy Spirit on Cumbrae to explore our mission and ministry in the Diocese. Much of the talking and listening was about the vital role of teams in the Scottish Episcopal churches of Argyll and The Isles.

The non-stipendiary and retired clergy of the Diocese are vital to the pastoral and sacramental life of the church, and the many and varied lay teams are the backbone of all of the charges in our widely dispersed Christian communities. The oversight of all our worship and ministry is rooted in our Bishop (we are an



Episcopalian church after all) and the full time clergy share in this oversight in our own allocated areas and charges.

The clergy discussed the relationships between each other, the Bishop and the teams and colleagues that we serve with. It felt vital that we were able to talk about the pressures and stresses of ministry in our wilderness Diocese, as well as sharing the many wonderful things that we could see that God was doing in us and through us! As the Bishop said many times, 'The angels are on our side!' The group also discussed some of the difficult issues that the church faces and will face. The outcome of the Scottish Government consultation on same-sex marriage may have an impact on the realities and expectations of church life.



Bishop Kevin David Todd (Warden)  
Rev'd Adrian Fallows  
Very Rev'd Nicki McNelly  
Very Rev'd Andrew Swift  
(Picture taken by Rev'd Shona Boardman)

The continuing move towards gender equality at every level in the church also has practical and pastoral implications. The College of Bishops considers such issues, so Bishop Kevin was keen to hear the views of his clergy and in the charges.



Bishop Kevin

As well as the business of the time on Cumbrae, vital aspects of this time were fellowship and shared worship. The regular pattern of the Daily Office, said in the choir of the Cathedral of The Isles, soaked all in prayer and scripture. The food, beautifully and plentifully provided as ever by the staff of the college, made for a comfortable and enjoyable time of training.

In the future, thought will be given to the depth and breadth of 'Continuing Ministerial Development' for all those engaged in ordained ministry and lay leadership in the Diocese. There is much work ahead of us, and much to be achieved, but we can take heart that, 'The Angels are on our side!'

### Island Breaks

The College of The Holy Spirit, The Cathedral of The Isles, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae KA28 0HE

#### Monday 23 to Saturday 29 December 2012 Christmas at the Cathedral

From £284.50 Full Board for 5 days#. The Warden is hosting a house party for Christmas in the College again this year. Book now to avoid disappointment. Information Sheet and Booking Form available

**Friday 28 at 3pm December 2012 Christmas Carol Service** The Cathedral Choir sings Christmas Carols.

#Ensuite discount & supplement for sharing room

To book accommodation contact the College on 01475 530353

or email cathedral\_cumbrae@btconnect.com

## FAITH IN ACTION 2013

The *Faith in Action* leaflets for 2013 are now on the SEC website and are easily downloadable. The leaflets include prayer suggestions which could be part of your Intercessions for the month as well as ideas for actions which either individuals or groups within your congregations and communities could become involved with. By having all the topics and the leaflets available for 2013 on the SEC website it means that you can plan ahead and prioritise the topics you may wish to engage with. Feedback after you have used the leaflets is welcome, so please contact [churchrelations@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:churchrelations@scotland.anglican.org) with any comments or suggestions for additional resource material or contacts. There shall be a monthly reminder in *inspires* online for each of the forthcoming topics.

## Truly Called.....Two a discussion document fro the Scottish Episcopal Church on Deacons and the diaconate

REMINDER— Responses required by 31st January 2013. This document can be found under the resource section of the Mission & Ministry pages on the Provincial website which provides a link and a brief description. Hard copies are available from the Diocesan Office. Please send written responses—either individually or as a collation of your group's discussion to Elspeth Davey, Church Relations Officer, GSO 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE or e-mail to [churchrelations@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:churchrelations@scotland.anglican.org).

## John Payne

Many of you will know, or know of, John Payne who has worked on a part time basis in the General Synod Office for the last few years. His field of operation has principally been in relation to charitable compliance including guidance on accounting regulations etc. He also worked extensively for us in connection with the transfer of St Serf's Residential Home.

For the last year, John has worked with us for one day a week but will be retiring on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

John has served us well over the last few years. He is not being replaced as such and any queries which might have been directed to him should, in future, be passed to the Treasurer Malcolm Bett in the first instance.

## Shelter Scotland

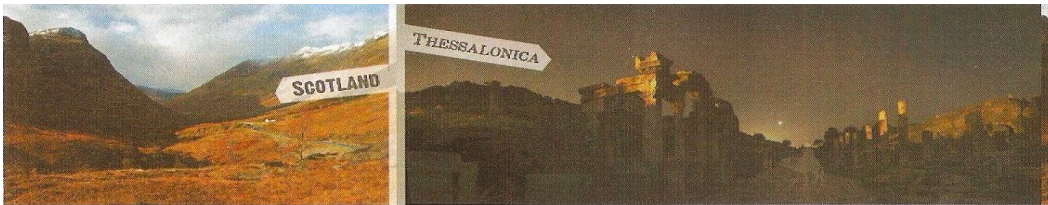
**CHRISTMAS  
EMERGENCY**

75,000 of our children  
will wake up homeless  
on Christmas morning.

**DONATE NOW**

#shelterkids

Cheques payable to Shelter Scotland . Send to Shelter Churches Fundraising, Shelter Scotland, Freepost EH136, 4th Floor Scotiabank House, 6 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh EH2 4AW. [Scotland.shelter.org.uk](http://Scotland.shelter.org.uk) 0344 515 2130



## A DAY OUT IN THESSALONICA

INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE HOW OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY  
RELATES TO THE EARLY CHRISTIANS IN THESSALONICA

**DATE:** Saturday, 2nd February

**TIME:** 12 Noon

**VENUE:** Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban

**RSVP:** provostoban@argyll.anglican.org 01631 562323

*A Day Out in Thessalonica*  
is an initiative of The Methodist Church in Scotland (SC038098)

### Oban Hospice Limited— "Light up a Life" 2012

Friends of Oban Hospice once again invite you to remember someone special by sponsoring the lighting of the Hospice lights for the trees sited at Corran Halls Gardens, Oban. Each sponsor's dedication will be recorded in the Light up a Life Book which will be on display in the Corran Halls at the Switch on Ceremony to be held on Tuesday, 11th December at 7.30pm. Thereafter the book can be viewed in the public library. Telephone 07717240659 c/o ABC&R, 120 George St, Oban PA34 5NT

### Advent/Christmas Resources

#### 'Come All You Faithful – An Advent Journey with the Palestinian People'

The World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland along with ALTERnativity and Christian Aid have published this new resource for Advent. Suitable for daily individual and weekly group use. Copies available from [agrahame@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:agrahame@cofscotland.org.uk) Cost: £5. Sale or return facility available.

#### 'Keep Christ in Christmas' stickers

The Keep Christ in Christmas campaign asks people to put a sticker on all our mail leading up to Christmas. It is important not only to remind ourselves but also others of the real meaning of Christmas. Stickers are available at £1.50 per pack of 100 from George McAleenan, Scottish National Secretary, Catholic Men's Society. Contact: 01698 842846 [georgemcaleenan@gmail.com](mailto:georgemcaleenan@gmail.com)

'TOGETHER TOWARDS LIFE' – Reflection materials for Advent 2012 are now available for free download from the ACTS website: To download, click on the following link: <http://www.acts-scotland.org/images/stories/advent2012-together-towards-life.pdf>



Us, the new name for USPG is supporting the people who work on tea plantations in Sri Lanka this Advent. Further information and donate at [www.weareUs.org.uk](http://www.weareUs.org.uk) 02079212200.

O God you come to us at Advent with judgement yet with hope: Forgive our part in all that spoils your world. With our sisters and brothers in Sri Lanka give us insight to discern your way. And courage to build a world where justice and love walk hand in hand. Amen

## CONTACT US

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## Communications

### NEWSLETTER

The January Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **17th December** 2012.

**WEBSITE** [www.argyll.anglican.org](http://www.argyll.anglican.org)

**FACEBOOK** Please 'Like' the Facebook page for Argyll and The Isles.

**TWITTER** Hashtag #AaTI

**THE WIDER CHURCH** Find out more about the Scottish Episcopal Church at [www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)

### ONLINE INSPIRES

Sign up for news about the Scottish Episcopal Church at <http://www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe>

## Diocesan Diary

22nd January	Diocesan Finance & Property Board
26th January	Installation of Dean Andrew Swift and Provost Nicki McNelly as Canons of the Cathedral of The Isles, Cumbrae
31st January	Diocesan Standing Committee
5th March	Pre-Synod Day
	Diocesan Synod Eucharist
6th March	Diocesan Synod
13th April	Lay Leadership' Day
22nd-25th October	Diocesan Retreat