



Number 38: November 2012

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News from around the Diocese

A Greeting from the new Dean of the Diocese

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: it is with great pleasure and not a little trepidation that I introduce myself to you as the new Dean of Argyll and The Isles. It is some time since Bishop Kevin asked if I would be willing to serve as your Dean, and now a few weeks since the official announcement was made that I am to be Dean Norman MacCallum's successor.

I have been the priest-in-charge of Holy Trinity, Dunoon and St Paul's, Rothesay since 2010 having previously served in the Diocese of Gloucester. Before this, I worked in the ship building industry and the armed forces. As well as continuing my duties



I am looking forward very much to working closely with Bishop Kevin and the Diocesan staff, and of course getting to know the many and varied communities within our beautiful but widely dispersed Diocese.

Many people have been asking me what exactly a Dean does. In the Church of England a Dean is the cleric with responsibility for a cathedral, and also the senior priest of a Diocese, under the Diocesan Bishop. In Scotland, a cathedral is the responsibility of a 'Provost.' My colleague, the Very Rev Nicki McNelly, is the Provost of St John's Cathedral Oban. The role of the Dean of a Diocese in the Scottish Episcopal Church is roughly equivalent to an English Archdeacon: both administrative and pastoral. A Scottish Dean, however, remains as the Rector of their existing Charges.

The administrative duties of a Dean include oversight of church buildings and inspection of the registers, inventories and records of congregations, and generally acting on behalf of and deputising for the Bishop when required.

The Dean also works pastorally with charges to help them in identifying how their ministry is to be grown and developed. When a Bishop retires, the Dean looks after the process of electing the new Bishop.

Several people have asked congregation members in Cowal and Bute how they will cope with losing their priest. I have reminded them that, as Dean, I am not moving. So, in answer to the question, 'Are you losing your priest, then?' the answer remains, 'No,' but there are many duties and responsibilities that will need to be juggled and managed to ensure that this answer remains true!

I look forward very much to meeting you, in my new role as your Dean.

Blessings, Dean Andrew

Bishop's House, Isle of Iona

A glowing report of Bishop's House was aired on Radio 2 last month after one of the Friends of Bishop's House emailed into the show with information. Catch it on the following link. The guest is Ruth Scott and she starts just after the 2:54 mark.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/i/b01mw5dh/>

Island Breaks

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

PROGRAMME 2012 - 2013

Saturday 1 to Sunday 2 December 2012 - Advent Sunday

From £116 Full Board for 2 days#

Spend the weekend at the College and join the congregation on Sunday morning for Sung Eucharist at 11am led by the Cathedral Choir followed by an Advent Carol Service at 3pm.

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

The Festival of Island Life— St Columba's Church, Isle of Skye

From the sowing of a small seed, grew something magnificent!

The idea of extending Sunday's Harvest Thanksgiving to a Festival covering the whole weekend with flowers and displays in celebration of Island Life multiplied in abundance. The enthusiasm, gifts and talents emerged from among us, and so the six-day



Pulpit Harvest



Sunday School window

The first obstacle of the need for new window sills, upon which to do the displays, was soon overcome by Tony and helpers. Then the ideas, gifts and talents flowed.

The first of the busy workers was the Sunday school who focused on the theme of the life of bees and our need of these creatures of God for our harvest across the continents.

The other displays included plough and hay, shepherds crook and creel to anchor, oars and sail, and the heart of island life. Then there is the Gaelic language and the old photos of life of yesteryear. The spinning and weaving of the sheep's wool and other sewing crafts, the odd bit of wood work and mountaineering were in place.

The attraction of the island to all who want to come to its silence and beauty were all there. The beauty of island music was also present, with the skill of the artist through paint and flower. All were displayed in splendour and much enjoyed by all.



The Font



The Harp

Behind the scenes were the helpers who not only transformed the church into its magnificent splendour but fed us handsomely on tea and cake and soup and rolls. So, thank you to everyone who contributed in any way by helping, lending items or giving their gifts and talents so freely. There needs to be a special thank you to Tony, Serena, Carol, Linda, Margaret and Eileen who were the backbone of this festivals success.

AND none of this amazing exhibition will be lost! A CD, and USB memory stick format, of the Festival is in the process of being made available for sale. Watch this space! Sr Elizabeth

Singing and Dancing to the 'Music in the Aisles'



The Jaggy Thistles Harvest Concert

There was much singing and dancing in the Aisles at the recent St Columba's Harvest Festival Concert, which was part of the week long 'Harvest Festival Celebration of Island Life'.

Rev Canon Robert Breaden welcomed the audience who were entertained with music and song, in a varied programme from Tara Danter and Sylvia Ladlow, and Neil playing the Organ with the children of the

Jaggy Thistles Band of Dunvegan Primary School, and the delightful Gaelic singing of the Portree Primary School.

The appreciative audience were also treated to music from Dougie Strachan and the Sky and Lochalsh Brass, John Cameron and John McGillvray playing accordions, and with Donnie (and Jock) on drums, which encouraged some of the audience to (literally) dance in the Aisles!

To quote an elderly member of the congregation in the audience, " I have been coming here for many many years and I have never seen anything like this before" when asked did he approve? His reply was "definitely, it is wonderful".

Bounteous Harvest Festival refreshments were provided by the ladies of St Columba's congregation during the Interval.

Heartfelt thanks to Rev. Robert Breaden and the many people who helped to make this a truly Harvest Festival Concert.

God Bless you all, Nan Cleghorn-Redhead.

Argyll and The Isles Diocesan Retreat 2012 - Hope in Small Things

The Diocesan retreat gathered in the College of the Holy Spirit in Millport, on the Isle of Cumbrae, to be led in the annual silent retreat by the Reverend Canon Ann Dyer, Rector of Haddington. Ann is also a very experienced and internationally renowned theological educator and spiritual director.

The delegates entered silence after a chatty and welcoming meal on the first evening, remaining in silence for 48 hours. Ann drew the retreat together with a series of addresses on the theme of 'Small Things,' each address using passages from scripture and a series of fine art images to draw the delegates into their reflections.

Ann used a massive range of material, with poetry, music and art from Vermeer to Van Gogh to the contemporary work of Scots artist John Bellany. The skill of the artist in drawing meaning and fine detail into a work matches the fine detail of God's purposes and actions in our own lives and in the lives of the Christian communities in which we live and serve. The placing of details, the rich theology of the old masters, the raw energy of contemporary art, all these can help the spiritual enquirer in making sense of their own humanity and their relationship with God. The theme of 'Small Things' drew the group into the detail of the paintings, looking at expressions, gestures, the details hidden in background.

Through her reflections, Ann brought a sense of hope for even the small most humble church community. In a geographical area like Argyll and The Isles, there are so many small, faithful communities scattered over the wilderness, each carrying on the Episcopalian tradition in their own setting. It is easy for people to start to feel burdened or barren or hopeless.



Avenue of Lime Trees in the
Grounds of the
Cathedral of The Isles

From the seven addresses given over the retreat, one example was based around the parables of the mustard seed and the sower. These agricultural parables remind us all that there are seasons whilst seeds of faith, generously scattered by God, rest in the cold ground. Winter is even necessary to allow literal seeds to flourish, to clean away diseases and create the right conditions for growth.

This may well be followed by harvests, quite possibly for completely different people, many years later. The seeds of faith and church that we sow we may never see come to fruition, just as those who planted this avenue of lime trees at the cathedral never got to see them in their glorious 2012 autumn maturity.

The setting of the Cathedral of The Isles and the College of the Holy Spirit was wonderful for these days of spiritual reflection and peace. The staff provided wholesome meals and a warm welcome for the silent group, and the pattern of daily worship held in the cathedral was a time of stillness, peace and closeness to God, from Morning Prayer through to Compline last thing at night.



Cathedral of The Isles

The retreat is held annually in October, with limited spaces available. If you would like to know more or to enquire about attending next year (and confidential financial help is available from the Diocese for anyone who wishes to attend) please contact the Office in Oban for more information.

A Swift, October 2012

Gift Aid

Earlier this year HMRC updated its guidance on Gift Aid declarations. There has been a revision to the required wording on all future Gift Aid Declarations. Further details can be found on the Vestry Resources website or directly from the HMRC website. HMRC has advised that any new Gift Aid Declarations signed after 31 December 2012 **must** include the revised wording. Please ensure that your Gift Aid Declaration forms / Gift envelopes etc have been updated as required. (There is no requirement to obtain fresh Declarations from individuals who have current continuing Declarations in place.)

Vestry Resources website A new website providing a range of resources to assist and inform vestries is now available. The website can be accessed directly at www.vestryresources.scotland.anglican.org or via the link from the main SEC website.

Vestry Training—Entrusted to Govern

Edinburgh diocese is hosting a day workshop for vestries on **Saturday 17 November** 10.30am – 3.30pm at the General Synod Office, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EE. The workshop will be led by the Rev Duncan Munro (an ordained priest who has worked in parish ministry, education, industry, and management consultancy and is an experienced Director and charity Trustee). The workshop is open to participants from any diocese.

In addition to presentations on each main topic, the programme will include individual and group-work sessions providing opportunity for questions and discussion.

Session 1 will examine the role of governance and its relationship to leadership and management, and also consider specifically Christian insights into the role of governance and the way it is practised.

Session 2 will consider the role of a charity trustee and the duties that the role entails as defined by the Scottish Charities and Trustee Investment Act (2005).

Session 3 will look more specifically at the role and responsibilities of a Vestry, looking at the legal framework as well as the role of governance in relation to the mission and ministry of the local church.

Session 4 will highlight the hallmarks which identify an effective governing Board and consider steps to develop the effectiveness of Vestries and contributions as a Vestry member.

Cost: £20. Coffee and tea will be served. Please bring your own lunch

To book please contact: Elspeth Strachan, *Adventures in Faith*, Edinburgh Diocesan Centre, 21a Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EL;

adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org Tel: 0131 346 9089

Millennium Goals

During General Synod, Millennium Development Goals Number 2 (Achieve Universal Primary Education) and Number 3 (Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women) were identified for particular attention and support this current year. Synod endorsed the renewal of support for the men and women across the world who are working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by confirming its support of Diocesan Companionship Links and the mission and aid agencies. Small travel grants are available from the Overseas Committee and SECMA to help those giving their time to help projects overseas. In the first instance, contact the Diocesan representative on the Overseas Committee, Catriona Beel catriona08@btinternet.com 01546 602082.

SEC Pension Consultation

A consultation document has gone to all current serving members of the SEC Pension Fund and Vestry secretaries. General Synod 2012 received a report on the triennial actuarial valuation of the Scottish Episcopal Church Pension Fund as at December 2011. That valuation disclosed that there was a continuing deficit in the Pension Fund, albeit reduced since the previous valuation. However, the valuation also indicated that the cost of providing future benefits had increased materially.

The General Synod therefore asked for a consultation within the Church on the affordability of the current benefit provision and on possible changes to pension benefits with a view to a report with recommendations being made to General Synod 2013.

The Diocesan Finance Committee has produced a simplified guideline which will shortly be circulated to all Charges.

Any interested party who has not received the consultation report should email PensionsConsultation@scotland.anglican.org

Scottish Churches Utility Group

Paying too much for your electricity, gas, oil or LPG?

Join the largest group in Scotland dedicated to reducing Church energy costs.

The Scottish Utility Group is a free, no obligation purchasing group helping churches and not for profit organisations save money and control their energy costs.

Churches, halls, manses and similar premises can benefit from participation.

Further information from Scottish Churches UtilityGroup, Alpha Centre, Innovation Park, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4NF , 0844 809 4852 help@churchenergy.com www.argyleuk.com



Save the Children

As Christmas approaches, you are asked to join Save the Children's Christmas Church Appeal to raise money for those children who, on Christmas Day, will wake up to a world of hunger, disease and poverty. Fantastic resources are available to shape your Christmas Service, including suggested readings and prayers, a selection of short films and a collection of stories.



Aaron from Liberia, saved from malnutrition

£50 could buy warm blankets for ten children in the UK to ensure they get the sleep they need to develop and concentrate at school

£250 could save the lives of five children suffering from severe malnutrition.

Visit savethechildren.org.uk/church-appeal for more information. 020 7012 6400

Argyll Voluntary Action

From November, anyone working in or with, including volunteers, the third sector (voluntary, community, social enterprise) will be able to 'drop in' to the Voluntary Sector Surgery at Argyll Voluntary Action offices, 21 High St, Oban. The surgery will be an open door from 10am-12.30pm on each date, held monthly.

For 2012, the dates are 27th November and 20th December. From 2013, dates will ordinarily be the last Friday of every month.

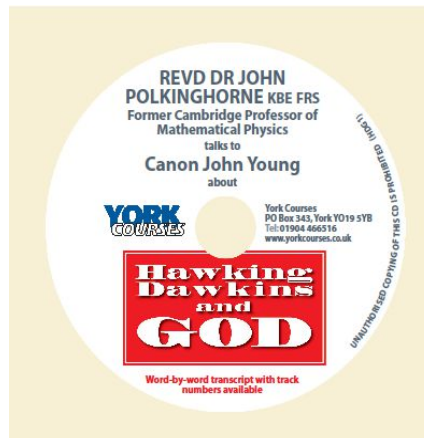
We promise that the kettle will be on and we will do our best to answer queries as soon as possible. We can also ensure that concerns, suggestions, views are communicated through the Third Sector partnership.

So drop in, say hello, and ask questions. 01631 564839

Hawking, Dawking and God

York Courses have just released "*Hawking, Dawkins and GOD*", a 65-minute CD Conversation featuring **Mathematical Physicist Revd Dr John Polkinghorne KBE, FRS**. At this time of lively debate with atheists it's good to have a CD in which a leading advocate for the Christian faith makes a strong and persuasive case. In a recent review the Bishop of Hull, Richard Frith, wrote: "This is a brilliant CD!"

"I have a great respect for Stephen Hawking. He is certainly a very, very important scientist ... His picture of God as the Creator, and the meaning of the doctrine of creation is: Who lit the blue touchpaper of the Big Bang to start it all off? And that's not what Creation is about. Creation is about why is there something, rather than nothing? God is as much the Creator today, as God was 13.7 billion years ago, when the Big Bang happened. And Steve doesn't really take that on board. So, if for example, in about the middle of A Brief History of Time he says: if there was no datable beginning to the Universe - which is what his highly speculative cosmological theory would say - what room then for a Creator? Well, of course, the obvious theological answer is: every room!"



Available from www.yorkcourses.co.uk (Tel: 01904 466516) priced at £5 including free 2nd class postage and packing. A word-by-word transcript of the CD is also available.

What Matters Now.... For Children's Ministry in Scotland



Aberdeen—Saturday, 10th November Milton Doubletree Hotel

Edinburgh—Saturday 24th November St Paul's & St Georges 10am-4pm

Organised by the Children in Community Group of Action of Churches together in Scotland. A day conference of speakers, conversations and workshops to inform and inspire.

Book at www.acts-scotland.org or Sanctus Media, 11 Emgarth Road, Bo'ness EH51 9DP.

CONTACT US

The office is staffed
9.30am-2.30pm Mon-
Thurs

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Communications

NEWSLETTER

The December Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday 26th November 2012. We would particularly like to hear about the Compass Course in your area.

WEBSITE www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk. Check out the developing website at 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

ONLINE INSPIRES

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

Diocesan Diary

24th November

Lay Leaders' Day

Bield at Blackruthven

November

Saturday, 3rd Developing Consciousness

Sunday, 4th Enneagram Workshop

Saturday, 17th Journey into Healing

Friday, 30th—Sunday 2nd Poetry Weekend

December

Saturday 15th 2nd Half of Life

Sunday 16th Icons of nativity

www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

01738 583238