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## News from around the Diocese

### Confirmation at St John's Cathedral, Oban

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Easter Day at the Cathedral was made even more special by the confirmation of Geoffrey and Joshua by the Bishop.

### Easter Day Sermon preached by Rt Rev'd Kevin Pearson

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The gospel according to John, chapter 20, verse 16.

Jesus said to her "Mary"

Jesus said to her "Mary"

He called her by her name: Mary. Quietly but confidently: Mary. Quietly but faithfully: Mary. Quietly but excitedly: Mary.

Imagine she ran to tell the disciples "I have seen Jesus". And when Peter who denied and Thomas who doubted and John who regretted – when they said how do you know it is our Lord Jesus. Mary said:

"He calls me by my name".

"He calls me by my name".

As surely as the Bishop will call Josh and Geoffrey in a few minutes time to confirm their faith so the Lord Jesus calls me by my name, quietly, confidently, faithfully, deep, deep, within our hearts through the denials, in the doubts, with the regrets quietly, confidently, faithfully Jesus calls me by my name – there is the resurrection in our hearts and in our lives today. There is the power of Almighty God who shows himself in the love which makes sense of the denial, the doubt, the regrets, makes sense of who I really am. The story of Jesus' resurrection is the story of the Love which bursts out of the tomb of denial, doubt, regret. The tomb we hew for ourselves out of the rocks of our own personalities. Quietly, confidently, faithfully, the Holy Spirit stirs deep, deep, deep, in our hearts because He calls me by my name: Josh, Geoffrey, Norman, Lilian, Neil, Morag – He calls me by my

name.

Jesus said to her: "Mary". Quietly, confidently, faithfully but the excitement of Jesus' resurrection, the excitement lies in the quiet, confident, faithful love, love which is God, love which makes sense of the who and what I am. That is the joy of resurrection, that is the glory of this Easter Day, Alleluia the church's way of saying: Hooray because He calls me by my name as surely as Jesus said to her: Mary.

But what of Peter who denied, Thomas who doubted, John who regretted. He calls me by my name but what is my name?

Denial, cynic Peter denied; he was so disappointed, so lonely in the courtyard, so full of fear – we know when we are in a state of denial when we become cynical. Well if God is God then why doesn't He act and it's always He the cynic is the person who is determined never to be disappointed again, real denial we hide in the tomb of fear, welfare benefits are for scroungers, the Health Service is in melt down, banks are crooks. Face the fear, and burst out of the tomb. Jesus' resurrection shows, love is known, when we face reality: Of people on benefits but where are the jobs?, there are doctors who worry about their parents, carers who are not ashamed of incontinence pads, teachers who have their pupils' best interests at heart. Priests who say their prayers, quietly, faithfully, He calls me by my name to face the fear, engage with the world, quietly, confidently, faithfully. Resurrection.

Jesus said to her "Mary"

But what of Thomas the Doubt. There is the sign of God active in our lives. Doubt questions, which seem to cause such turbulence but read the Bible. The waters of chaos, the disciples running around not knowing what would happen next always the sign of the Holy Spirit is turbulence. Doubts, questions are like temptations they are individually tailored – Jesus, He calls me by my name.

Have faith in your doubts, God is with us, Have faith in your doubts, the story of Jesus resurrection is the story of Love which is stronger than anything we experience even death itself. There is our confidence, it is worth being faithful, have faith in your doubts there is the excitement of faith, love, resurrection.

He calls me by name: John the Regret.

Regret the what might have been if only.

John the only disciple at the crucifixion, John who reclined on Jesus' breast. Why so much fear at the physical nature of relationship.

John, faithful but at the foot of the cross, so many regrets, what might have been if only.

And yet by tradition Jesus from the cross said to John – Behold your mother. In the midst of the disappointment, failure, loneliness –

"He calls me by my name"

Quietly but confidently, faithfully, he calls the cynic Peter, Thomas the doubt, John, what might have been if only – but the excitement, the joy, the power of the resurrection lies in the Love, Love that is of God, Love which makes sense of who I am and the world in which we live.

That is the faith, which Josh and Geoffrey will confirm in a few minutes time – The Bishop, the representative of the apostles in our day – Remember Josh and Geoffrey if people ask why you are confirmed, do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit, the resurrection, Jesus:

He calls me by my name.

And Josh and Geoffrey, you lead us this morning, you confirm our faith as young people who want to be part of this our community of faith. We will stand with you, always, always, this is your home, never ever be afraid or ashamed to ask any of us for help.

That is the excitement of Love, Love which is of God, Love which brings resurrection,

new light, new life, new hope bursts from the tomb, we can leave the past behind. God gives us as many second chances as we need because Jesus quietly, confidently, faithfully

He calls me by my name.

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia.

Bishop Kevin, Easter Day, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, Cathedral, Oban

## St Mary's, Glencoe



As a focal point to the Easter Services at St Mary's Glencoe their Rector, the Rev Adrian Fallows constructed this Easter Garden under the Altar.

Overseen by an angel St Peter sits inside the tomb (cut out of Ballachulish slate) staring at the empty graveclothes while St John peers in from the outside wondering "Who moved the stone?". On the other side Mary Magdalene encounters the Risen Lord. All the trees and plants are real.

All the figures except for the LLADRO Jesus were made by Rev Adrian's mother a number of years ago.

## St Margaret's, Isle of Arran

Everybody will be aware of the snow and consequent lengthy power outage that affected the southern part of the Diocese, including Arran, recently. As far as St Margaret's was concerned, this came at a particularly bad time for our plans for Holy Week. The Revds Tony and Pam Burdon – old friends who has been our "stipendiary oversight" when they were on Cumbrae – had arranged to come and take all our services from Palm Sunday to Easter. In the event, of course, they were unable to come over – their planned accommodation would have been without power or heating for much of the week, and in any case our little church itself was out of action while the electricity was off. As our congregation is distributed across the island, those from the western side would not even have been able to reach Whiting Bay. For instance, Dorothy and Michael Campling were trapped in their house at Sliderry for several days by a giant snowdrift. Fortunately for the congregation (though not for the Burdons, who had had to return over roads made difficult by the snow to Yorkshire) things were back to normal for Easter Sunday, and we were able to hold a reasonably well-attended service, with a number of visitors to the island present. Of course it had to be Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, where we had hoped to have a full Celebration with a priest (or priests). But, all things considered, we had good reason to be thankful. The island community excelled itself in the way in which neighbours, particularly the vulnerable, were looked after, and there were feeding stations or "soup kitchens" in the main villages (our own Janis

Gallagher did splendid service to the cold and hungry in Whiting Bay village hall, even staying up through the night where necessary). And it seems that nobody came to lasting harm, though sad to say Evelyn Mildred, a much loved and one of the longest-standing members of St Margaret's congregation, died during the week of the upset, though not it seems from any cause connected to the emergency. Her funeral was held in St Margaret's on the Monday following Low Sunday.

### **St Kieran's, Campbeltown**

On the second Sunday of Lent, Eva MacDonald slipped on the pavement outside the church and fractured her knee cap. Luckily, with a doctor in our congregation and plenty of helpers for support, Eva was able to get good treatment in the local hospital before being taken to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. It was with great sadness that we learned that her husband, Chris, had had a fall in the local Care Home and that he had passed away very suddenly while Eva was still in hospital. Chris was able to be visited just hours before he died and have the Lord's Prayer, Peace and Blessing said in his native Gaelic at his bedside. We extend our condolences to Eva and her family. At the funeral service, AnnMarie McLean sang the Lord's Prayer in Gaelic

The World Day of Prayer, with its theme of "welcoming the stranger", together with the Bible Study readings for February on the same subject, made a major impact on us and our congregational discussion at the beginning of February drew lots of useful observations about that, which everyone found very helpful. By good fortune we were able to put its theme into practice, when two American visitors appeared in church while we were discussing mission priorities with Dean Swift. We invited our visitors to share lunch with us which they duly did.

A few days later the cleaner at one of the local hotels spoke to me about the anxiety he and his wife were experiencing regarding their son who was patrolling the waters of the Indian Ocean, keeping boats safe from pirates. He had lost his Gideon bible and was seeking spiritual help. Fortunately there was a spare New Testament with Psalms in St Kieran's. He now has that.

In March we said our farewells to Ann Boulton, our Newsletter editor and worship leader. Jane and David Mayo threw an evening party in Ann's honour, complete with party games. It was a memorable occasion and Ann was given a presentation cheque from the congregation.

The heavy snow later in the month caused a blackout of power and the service on Palm Sunday had to be cancelled.



Witness Gatherers at Campbeltown

On Good Friday, however, local churches held a service at the Campbeltown Cross and formed a Procession of Witness up Main Street to St Kieran's, where they joined in a Devotional Service. Twenty seven people attended, joining in Proclaiming the Passion and £100 was raised for the Unicef appeal for Syrian children. AnnMarie McLean sang "Do Lamh a' Chriosda" (Your hand O Christ) as part of the service.

Easter Day, by contrast, was sparsely attended, but there were visitors and the church was tastefully decorated with flowers. After the service, tea, coffee and simnel cake were enjoyed by those present. David O McEwan

## Holy Communion in the Everest National Park



The Provost of St. John's Cathedral, The Very Revd Nicki McNelly, has recently returned from a fundraising trek in Nepal. She was raising money for AGE (A Genuine Effort) Nepal, a school for children with neurological disorders in Kathmandu and her Cathedral, the highlight of which was a service of Holy Communion at a height of 3876M near Tengboche Monastery, which is en route to Everest Base Camp. Surrounded by Yaks, Sherpas and prayer flags with a congregation of 12 the service took place as the sun rose over the Himalayas



## Lay Leadership Day

The Lay Leadership Day on April 13<sup>th</sup> April was entitled 'Read, Pray, Move'. These twice yearly days are open to all in significant positions of lay leadership. Lay readers are expected to attend as part of their ongoing development.

The April day followed on from last autumn's event which focussed on the role and tasks of the worship leader. This time, by request, we engaged in practical exercises on reading the lesson and offering intercessions which were then incorporated into a mid-day Eucharist. One of the important aims of the day was to provide leaders with some tools for encouraging people in their congregations to greater participation.

Christine McIntosh deployed her unique method of testing audibility and intonation by inviting readers to deliver the text from behind a barrier, otherwise known as shutting them in a cupboard. No lay leader was harmed in this experiment! Alison Clark set folk to work writing intercessions, each pair contributing one of the elements traditionally covered – the church, the world etc. These were then offered as the intercessions at the Eucharist. There is of course plenty of prayer material to draw upon, including the forms in the SEC liturgy. However, even if writing prayers from scratch is not your thing, having a go in a workshop setting can focus the mind on what we're actually doing when we pray.

Bishop Kevin led us in a moving experience of Eucharist, made more so by the fact that we had brought our morning's work and fellowship to the altar. We went on to look at how to lead gracefully and thoughtfully so as to promote an atmosphere that enables an encounter with God. There is, sadly, no photographic record of the Bishop demonstrating how **not** to move around the sanctuary!

As our lay readers and leaders will be among those in the forefront of 'Sharing the Vision - Mission Possible', the afternoon provided an opportunity to experience the opening activity. If you want to know what that was about, come along to your own Mission Possible event when it is announced.

Alison Clark

### **Christ Church, Lochgilphead**

The Easter Fair was held at Christ Church, Lochgilphead, as a fund raiser for the Church & Rectory Renovation fund. At the moment we don't have a Rector so our nineteenth century rectory is standing empty. It is a beautiful building; though in much need of repair and restoration, hence the need for fundraising activities.



Marquees in the Rectory garden

The Easter Country Fair grew out of the Christmas Fair which had been so successful.

The theme was Country Living and the ground floor exhibitors were displaying furniture and vintage accessories. Upstairs, period clothes and needlecrafts, art and flower arrangements vied for attention whilst out side in the grounds a marquee housed a superb assortment of delicatessen goodies, another was home to plant stalls and the church craft guild and book stall were in another.

The organisers were like swans, very serene on the surface but paddling like fury underneath, making sure things went smoothly, ironing out the odd mishap, topping up the loo rolls, checking that all the visitors knew that there were stalls upstairs, down stairs, in the ladies chamber, as well as outside in the marquees, putting the ramp down at the back step for a wheel chair, and so on.



There were some bigger dramas 'back stage'. The main one being that on Saturday the commercial grade electric barbecue kept tripping the electricity, so a gas one was rustled up for Sunday, but the poor trip-switch had been overworked and so decided not to work at all on Sunday. For much of the Fair that day we had no electricity at all. Soup was off the menu but by dint of having a very, very, very long extension lead, Bill Hanbury, Chairman of the Vestry provided electricity to the hot water urns by plugging it in to the church, running it all the way around the outside of the Rectory & in through a window. Tea and coffee was back on and many of the

visitors were none the wiser.

We had hoped to get about 500 people over the weekend. Imagine then our delight when over 500 people came on the Saturday alone! In the end we had almost 800 people in total. Sunday was a much quieter day but the stall holders reported that sales were as good as, if not better than the day before, many people had returned to buy things they had missed previously, or because they had already eaten them and needed replacements!

May 2013

Buoyed up with the success of the event we have decided to have another one! A Mid Summer Fair the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June, and then there might be a Harvest Fare, and of course come November it'll be the Christmas Fair again! We're making great use of the empty rectory!

Kate MacDonald

## Clergy Training in Oban

Bishop Kevin and some of the full time clergy team met in Oban for a training event as part of their Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD). Canon Ann Dyer, the rector of Haddington, led the group into a time of 'Theological Reflection' on Lent, Holy Week and Easter, followed by an exploration of the first two years of 'Building the Vision' in the diocese.

The clergy team aim to provide support and encouragement for the many Scottish Episcopal communities throughout the diocese with a balance of traditional charge-based ministry and wider oversight and facilitation. Training, models of leadership, clarity on programmes & projects and helping congregations to find their strengths and abilities all came out of the conversations over the 48 hour period.

Further training and support days are planned for all clergy, lay leaders and others involved in the mission and life of the diocese. Dean Swift

## Holy Trinity Church Dunoon Flits for Renovations

### – April 2013

The Scottish Episcopal Church congregation in Dunoon has moved to allow urgent and major renovation work to take place in their 1850s church, sited above the West Bay on the edge of Bishop's Glen. The Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland are funding most of the work on this historically significant building (as reported in Dec 2011 when the outline award was made).

The congregation has spent the last 18 months fundraising, applying for grants and working to develop the conservation and restoration plans, and have now been officially awarded the final grants to let the work take place.

New floors, window restoration, roof repairs, drainage, lighting system and major masonry and other repairs will take place over the next few months. The town will get used to a vision of scaffolding and workers up above Broomfield and the West Bay.

The congregation cannot worship in the church while this work goes on, so the Church of Scotland in the



High Kirk have been kind enough to allow their Episcopalian brothers and sisters to gather in the High Kirk Hall in Hanover Street on Sunday mornings for the duration of the project. This is, in a sense, coming full circle, as the High Kirk Hall was St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Mission Hall from the 1890s until 1955 when it was sold to the High Kirk. The Home Guard used the building in the early part of the war: there is still a rifle range in the cellar. The Ministry of Food also used the building until the 1950s, and many locals still remember getting their orange juice from the place. The High Kirk are also renovating the facilities in the hall, with a new meeting room, kitchen and disabled toilet being installed to allow greater community use of the facility.

For the moment, the 'nomadic' Episcopalian congregation, under the guidance of

their priest, Dean Andrew Swift, are setting up and dismantling a church on the badminton court each Sunday morning. Andrew said,

"It is an exciting time for Holy Trinity as we see the work starting to restore our gothic revival church to some of its former glory. Our heartfelt thanks go to the High Kirk for their hospitality. The congregation of Holy Trinity have worked very hard to get us to this point, and we are looking forward very much to a drier, repaired church for our worship and other community events. The next phases of development: a toilet, improved heating, better parking and so forth: well we will address those over the next few years. We are committed to making this place fit for the worship of God and fit to enhance our local community."

Holy Trinity has been a Scottish Episcopal Church since 1850, with links to the Earl of Glasgow, William Gladstone and significant Victorian gothic revival architecture.

### **Scotland's Garden Scheme**

The garden at Drim na Vullin in Lochgilphead will be open for charity under the auspices of 'Scotland's Gardens' on Saturday 18th and **Sunday 19th May** this year 2 pm–5 pm. 40% of gate takings will go to the local Episcopal Christ Church, which is currently without a rector and in serious need of funds for the renovation of its Victorian rectory. Anyone who would like to come will be very welcome and will be supporting a worthy Church cause.

The garden of some five acres lies along the valley cleft of the Cuilarstich Burn at the back of Lochgilphead, with a fine waterfall at the top. It is chiefly planted with rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and other trees and shrubs. stoutish shoes recommended, not high heels. Entry fee £3.00. Teas will be served, and there should be sales tables for plants and home baking.

To reach Drim na Vullin drive up the main street of Lochgilphead to the parish church, with clock tower, at the top and turn right up Manse Brae. Drim gate is about half a mile up hill on the left, just past the end of a high chain-link fence. Please park on the road and walk in as there is very little turning space in the drive."

### **A Discussion on the Diaconate**

Members of Diocesan Synod were asked to discuss in Indaba groups the paper on the Diaconate produced by the Diaconate Working Group of the Faith and Order Board. The results of this exercise were collated by Alison Clark and are available in the resources section of the Diocesan Website (<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/synods-occasions/>)

### **Bishop's House, Iona**



It is with both excitement and relief that we present these photos of the nearly-finished extension to the South gable end of Bishop's House. This extension is relatively small in terms of its footprint but huge in terms of its impact to what we can offer our guests. Keeping our occupancy rate at 23 guests, but adding two more bedrooms, has allowed us to now offer 7 single and 8 twin rooms. Single rooms are often in high demand here, and altering some of our former twin rooms to spacious singles will make a great improvement in guest comfort. This build has also added another bathroom upstairs which





will be much appreciated. Our guest lounge, previously a bit too cosy for a house full of guests, is now bright, spacious, and airy with plenty of room for growth and a variety of activities. And, finally, a porch has been added to the front of the house which we are all very excited about and adds a nice focal point to our main door.

We will have an Open House afternoon on **9 May**, to which all are invited for teas, cakes, and tours. If we can't welcome you at Bishop's House then, we certainly hope to at some point in the near future. Toben Lewis, Warden

### **The Bishop's Holiday**

We do hope that Bishop Kevin will be careful on his forthcoming holiday abroad. Judging by this extract from the *Blackburn Standard* of July 9<sup>th</sup> 1887 the natives are not always friendly where visiting Bishops are concerned!

The Bishop of Argyll and the Isles being on a visit to Algeria, made an excursion to Bouzarea, where, on a height in an Arab cemetery, he, with his son, was leaning over the wall, and, with a map spread out before them, father and son were trying to identify the places in the splendid panorama before them. Brigadier Peretti, noticing them, arrested Bishop Chinnery-Haldane and his son, marched them off to the gendarmerie, searched them, and sent them on foot to Algiers in the custody of five gendarmes. Here the captain of the arrondissement let them out on bail till the next morning, confiscating their things. The Bishop referred the matter to Sir Lambert Playfair, the British Consul, who at once saw the French Governor-General, and after some days an ample apology was tendered to the Bishop, and the Consul-General has reported the facts to Lord Salisbury. The Bishop has received many letters of sympathy.

[Oh to have been a fly-on-the-wall during some of those meetings!]

Polly Hamilton

### **Bishop's Lent Appeal**

Thanks to all who have contributed so far. To date we have raised just over £1000 towards sponsoring the secondary education of two girls.

## **Clergy Holidays on the Isle of Skye**

Dear Clergy,

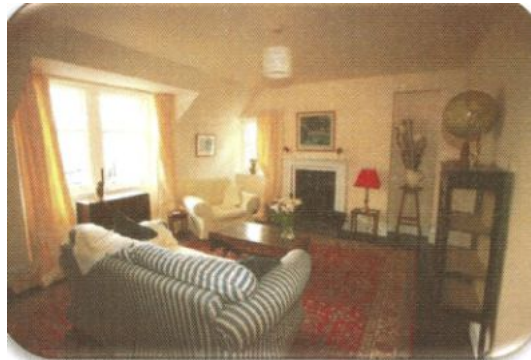
Fancy a visit to Skye?

Right now the congregations on Skye and Raasay are without a Rector. Some Sundays, retired clergy in the area celebrate the Eucharist; Bishop Kevin comes as often as he can; other Sundays are lay led. But the hope is that clergy from further afield will join in too. Skye is an extraordinary place to visit and the congregation of St Columba's, Portree are doing all they can to make clergy welcome.

Last month, I was the first priest to be welcomed in the newly renovated rectory. I spent a fortnight on Skye, to journey through Holy Week and celebrate Easter with the congregations. So, I'm writing to let you know what to expect and to encourage you to consider a visit to Skye in the coming months.

As I arrived, I saw a flurry of activity in the window. A whole team of people were standing in the rectory kitchen breathing a sigh of relief that they had finished decorating the flat and wondering when (oh when) the electrician would come to connect the cooker. I had been warned that there had been unavoidable delays in the renovation and it was all feeling a bit frantic. I had said, 'so long as there's heat and water. It will be fine.' But there was so much more than heat and water.

The flat is beautiful. The team had thought of everything. There were pictures on the walls, beautifully draped curtains, flowers on the table and breakfast in the fridge. I looked around in amazement, thinking of how different this felt to moving into a rectory .. and deeply grateful for the care and hospitality that the congregation was offering. As the day went on, I kept being surprised by the



little things. There was cling film and foil. There were spare light bulbs. And best of all: there was a hot water bottle waiting in the exceedingly comfortable bed.

Welcoming priest for Holy Week is a brave thing. Welcoming a priest who greets you by teaching a song asking you to march around the church singing Hosanna, is a very generous thing indeed.

All week, I tested the congregation's comfort zones. We sang a capella. We rearranged the worship space. We washed feet, and filled the stoop, and there were times of deep stillness and beauty. A group of 10 people remembered the Last Supper and kept watch, as the dark came alive with prayer. By Sunday, there were 60 of us and it was altogether lighter and brighter, Young church was busy, Easter bonnets were abundant, and there was a good deal of laughter and joy. On Tuesday, we got to begin again: welcoming Easter on Raasay with the first Eucharist for five months, as well as with an abundance of chocolate and well prepared crafts for the children.

During the course of the week, people welcomed me into their homes and into their lives. We talked about 'how it used to be' and how it needed to be now if the church wanted to engage with young people. We spoke about personal concerns and signs of God's presence. We even spoke of the relationship of liturgy theology and improvisational theatre — and that is not a conversation that happens everyday. Once again, the congregation showed themselves willing to receive a priest and to offer them trust and care.

I hope you will consider a visit to Skye. The congregation of St Columba's, Portree and St Michael and All Angels, Raasay will make you welcome, and when the sun shines and the lambs leap, it is utterly delightful. And who knows... if you are very lucky, you might get a day of piping and drumming in the church and parish rooms too (brr-att tat tat, brr-att tat tat; flee to Staffin, do).

Rev Kimberly Bohan



The Rectory Flat at St Columba's Episcopal Church, Portree is now available for clergy holidays on a self-catering donation basis. The suggested donation is £150-200 per week, £250 per week in winter months.

The recently refurbished, centrally heated flat sleeps six.

For bookings or further information please contact Mrs Chrissanne McInnes, [holsstcol.pertree@btinternet.com](mailto:holsstcol.pertree@btinternet.com); 01470 613135. For information on the church see [www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk](http://www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk)

### The Big Lift

Former RAF serviceman, Ben Greer, son of Margaret and Don Greer from Skye (Margaret is the Lay Rep for St Columba's ) is taking part in a major fundraising challenge to raise money for charities which help the bereaved families and loved ones of those killed in the current conflict in Afghanistan.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Peterborough Ben began a walk of 440 miles (one for every British service person to have died in Afghanistan). In fighting kit, Ben is also carrying a weight of 100kgs to simulate the weight of a soldier being evacuated from the battlefield.

Ben's schedule will take him to 100 different locations in the UK, in each of which he will walk approximately 4.4 miles and he hopes to finish his challenge named "The Big Lift" on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July at The Cenotaph in London.

Next month will see Ben walking in Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Elgin and Inverness with walks in this Diocese (**Fort William and Portree**) scheduled for **Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>** before he heads to Glasgow and Edinburgh and then heading South again.

Donations can be made via "The Big Lift's" fundraising page ([www.thebiglift.co.uk](http://www.thebiglift.co.uk))

Ben completed six tours of Afghanistan during 2006-2010 and as a Chinook helicopter crewman was involved in many casualty evacuations.

### Faith in Action

This month, we are asked to consider Aid Agencies, particularly Christian Aid.

You may wish to try the following:

Pray for the work of Aid Agencies locally, nationally and internationally.

Donate to Christian Aid, remembering to Gift Aid if appropriate.

Participate in Christian Aid Week

Get involved with one of Christian Aid's national fundraising events.

Make your will a will to live by setting up a legacy with an Aid Agency

Apply for a subscription to the quarterly magazine, Christian Aid News

Use your gifts and skills for the benefit of an Aid Agency by volunteering.

Change to AquaAid watercoolers who give a large cut of their profits to Christian Aid

Sponsor a child. See [www.anglican.scotland.org](http://www.anglican.scotland.org) link on home page for more information and prayers.

## Church Mission Society

Does it really matter if the world knows Jesus? That's the question the Church Mission Society set out to answer last year and now the results are available in a six and a half minute film. The film features the stories of deaf and disabled people in Tanzania, marginalised indigenous people in Argentina, families in one of Hull's most deprived areas, former Hindi prisoners being baptised in a Nepali jail. Further information and to watch the film go to [www.CMS-uk.org](http://www.CMS-uk.org)

## Royal Highland Show—volunteers needed

It's not too late to sign up as a volunteer to work on the Churches in Rural Scotland Stand at the Royal Highland Show this year. The Churches Stand is currently hosted by most of ACTS member Churches and is an ecumenical event. If you would like to be part of the team for one of the four days 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June this year at Ingliston Show Ground, Edinburgh please contact Shona Paterson, 01259 222362; mobile: 07817848207 Tel: General Office: 01259 216980 Website: [acts-scotland.org](http://acts-scotland.org) as soon as possible.

## Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards

The awards are open to all clergy in Anglican Christian faiths and aim to provide financial support to members of the clergy for sabbatical breaks and projects undertaken in 2014.

Over the years the projects supported have ranged from studies into modern religious practices and the challenges faced by the Church of England due to increasingly multi-cultural congregations, to pilgrimages, retreats and quiet time for religious reflection. This year's sabbatical plans are just as varied and include study visits ranging from Cameroon to Russia to learn about religion in other cultures, physical challenges on foot and on two wheels to raise funds for charity and test one's physical strength, a personal pilgrimage to retrace a family member's World War II steps, and a crash course in social media among many others.

Our lives seem to have become increasingly busy in the 21st century, so it's becoming harder and harder to fit in time for personal development and reflection. Such development and reflection, however, are vital for our clergy to continue to perform their important role in our society.

The awards for 2014 are now open for applications until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Judging of the applications will take place in November and awards will be made during December 2013. To find out more about the Ministry Bursary Awards, eligibility criteria and to download an application form, please go to [www.ecclesiastical.com/mba](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/mba).

## Reshaping Care for Older People in Argyll & Bute

Tuesday, 28th May, Corran Halls, Oban

Reshaping Care for Older People requires collaboration, commitment, enterprise, innovation and stamina. Success has as much to do with shifting attitudes and expectations as it has about shifting resources. Achieving these aims requires all of us to work together; to resolve differences and transcend traditional boundaries; to recognise shared aspirations and responsibilities; and to share our skills, talents and resources.

This flagship event provides the unique opportunity for key stakeholders to come together including NHS, Local Authority, independent and third sector organisations. The event will include workshops, exhibitions and presentations.

Further information from [nhs.abrcop@nhs.net](mailto:nhs.abrcop@nhs.net)

## New Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme

This new scheme, which started on 6th April, 2013, allows congregations to claim Gift Aid on small cash donations of £20 or less up to a total of £5,000 per year. Find out more from the Church of England website at [www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/smalldonations](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giftaid/smalldonations)

## Scottish Womens' Convention

**FREE Event**



**The SWC Wants to Hear From You!**

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Employment              | Welfare Benefits |
| Caring Responsibilities |                  |
| Health                  | Education        |
| Communities             | Housing          |
| Safety                  | Referendum       |
|                         | Justice          |

**Who are we?**

The purpose of the SWC (Scottish Women's Convention) is to communicate and consult with women throughout Scotland. By using the voices of women the SWC ensures that key decision makers listen to the concerns and issues facing women in Scotland today.

By coming to our events, you can be part of this important network.

This means that the Government is able to hear **YOUR** voice, along with that of other women. **YOU** are able to have an impact on key policy decisions which affect your day-to-day life.

**These issues impact on women throughout Scotland.**

**Tell us what's happening in your area.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Kyle of Lochalsh  
Broadford

**23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
Portree

(Venues and times to be confirmed)

For more information or to register to attend (for catering purposes only), please email [info@scottishwomensconvention.org](mailto:info@scottishwomensconvention.org) or call 0141 339 4797.

[www.scottishwomensconvention.org](http://www.scottishwomensconvention.org)

## Godly Play Scotland

**3 Day Training Course—12th-14th June**, Godly Play Centre, Duddingston Kirk Manse, Old Church Lane, Edinburgh EH15 3PX

Designed to give a better understanding of both the theory and practice of Godly Play. To find out more about the course contact Alex on [alex@godlyplayscotland.co.uk](mailto:alex@godlyplayscotland.co.uk). To register contact [Sheila.rogers@talktalk.net](mailto:Sheila.rogers@talktalk.net)

### Discovery Day

**Aberdeen 25th May** 10-4 St Andrew's Cathedral, 28 Kings Street, Aberdeen AB24 5AX (Please register at [admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk](mailto:admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk))

### Making Materials Days

Paisley 1st June Holy Trinity & St Bamabas, St James Place, St James Street;  
Aberdeen 24th August Queens Cross Parish Church, Albyn Place  
(Please register at [admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk](mailto:admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk))

## CONTACT US

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

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## Who's who

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## Communications

### NEWSLETTER

The June Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **28th May** 2013.

**WEBSITE** [www.argyll.anglican.org](http://www.argyll.anglican.org)      [www.island-retreats.org](http://www.island-retreats.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>



## THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY: ENERGY

Shedding some light on the energy challenges facing church property in the current climate

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Stirling Baptist Church

£45 per delegate

9.30 to 15.30



The conference will be of interest to community groups, congregations, professionals, fabric convenors, religious organisations and individuals with an interest in church buildings. The speakers will give practical information with examples of solutions to the various problems facing those responsible for church buildings today.

Organised by the Church Buildings Renewal Trust SC025005