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News from around the Diocese

Isle of Ensay—2013 Pilgrimage



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Almost a century ago, the ancient chapel on this remote uninhabited island was restored. For some time it had been used as a byre, and it's probably this that saved it from ruin.

On the morning of Monday **22nd July**, a party organised by the nearest Episcopal Church, Christ Church, Harris, intends to sail across the Sound of Harris from Leverburgh to hold two services in The Chapel – The Eucharist and Evensong. The first boat back to Leverburgh is scheduled to connect with the last ferry to N Uist, which leaves at 6:30pm.

Ensay is both a Holy Place and an evocative, unspoiled wildlife paradise.

There is a charge of £25 to cover the cost of the hired vessel. If you would like to come, please send a cheque for £25 (payable to Christ Church, Harris) to PeterGeorge, Croft 7, Urgha, Harris, Eilean Siar HS3 3BW. Bookings must be received by 7th July.

All enquiries to xcam.siar@gmail.com or please leave a message on 07762 468135

St Kieran's, Campbeltown

The Saint Columba celebrations were especially meaningful in Campbeltown, since tradition suggests that St Kieran was a tutor to Columba. At morning worship therefore, three of the hymns used Irish melodies and Irish music was used to frame the service through the organ voluntaries. In the evening, the open-air, ecumenical gathering at St Columba's footprints at Southend was particularly well attended this year and representatives from St Kieran's were involved in the scripture reading, the Gaelic Benediction and in supporting the service. The Irish coastline was clearly visible, just 12 miles away. The celebrations concluded with light refreshments in the church hall.

The June meeting of the South Kintyre Ministers' Fellowship was held on the Island of Gigha. Anne McIvor, the Church of Scotland minister there, welcomed representatives and friends from Southend, Carradale and Campbeltown, together

St Kieran's, Campbeltown (cont'd)

with the Youth Worker attached to Lome and Lowland Church of Scotland. The purpose of the visit was to see the Bible Garden which she had created in the extensive grounds of the church manse. It is hoped that visitors will be attracted there and that the various scenes depicted from the bible narrative will enliven their faith.

David O McEwan
(Campbeltown)



South Kintyre Ministers' Fellowship on Gigha

Saint Columba's Pilgrimage— Isle of Skye

Saint Columba's Isle, Skeabost.

According to tradition, during Saint Columba's first visit, he was accompanied by a group of Monks, including Scanlann. When Columba returned to Iona, Scanlann stayed on Skye. His small cell on the island in Snizort, dedicated to Saint Columba, became the '**Cathedral of the Isles**'. This site is not only a sacred burial ground, but was also a major ecclesiastical centre on the Isle of Skye, and the seat of the Bishop of the Isles from the 10th up to the 16th century.

Twenty-eight chiefs of the MacNicol or Nicolsons lie buried in holy ground on St. Columba's Isle. This seems to indicate the important role that the MacNicol clan played in the life of the Church.



Cathedral of the Isles, Skeabost

Today, on the 8th June 2013, a dozen people from St Columba's Church, in Portree, gathered together to share a memorable time beside the ancient ruins of this monastic site.

We were truly blessed, to hear the scriptures read by Sr. Elizabeth. Nan Cleghom-Redhead accompanied the hymn singing 'Put Peace into Each Other's Hands', (Irish melody St Columba) and also played 'God our Creator' to the tune Highland Cathedral.

The sun shone, the birds sang, and a gentle breeze added to the spiritualness of this Holy Place.



St Columba's Picnic

Ted Redhead offered Prayers and Thanksgiving to the Lord for a truly Blessed day, and for the sumptuous picnic feast that was enjoyed by all. Grateful thanks to everybody who truly helped to make it a memorable day, especially 6 year old Mark, and his football game. England 10 Scotland 5!!

St John's Cathedral, Oban

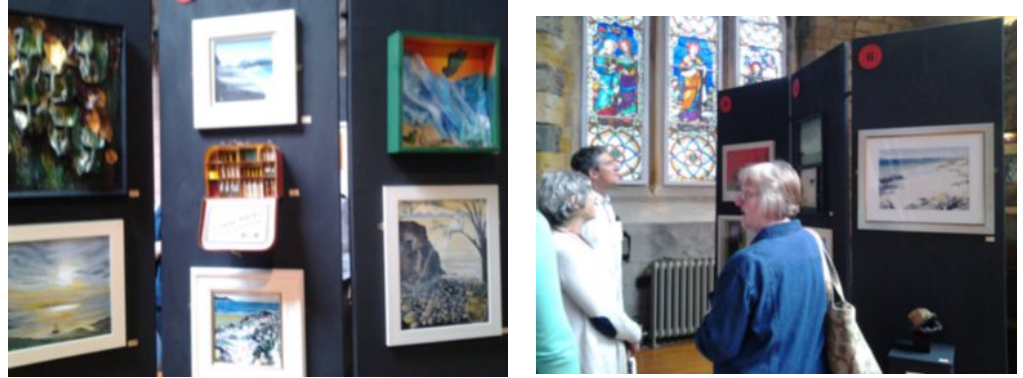


St Columba's Day was celebrated in the Cathedral with a special service including an abundance of "Columban" hymns and the Choir Anthem, "St Columba of Iona" written by the Choirmaster, Norman Nicholson. The Collect was read in Gaelic as well as English and the Old Testament Reading and Epistle were read by our own Colum, named after the saint on whose day he was born. A wall hanging painted by Isobel Smith to commemorate the event adorned the Narthex. At the side of the Church was an art exhibition, "In the Footsteps of St Columba" (please see next page)



St Columba by Isobel Smith

St John's Cathedral, Oban



Part of the Art Map exhibition

Diocesan Retreat— "The Hiddenness of God"

The Diocesan Retreat will take place this year from Monday 28th October till Thursday 31st. led by Bishop Brian Smith, former Bishop of Edinburgh.

The idea of 'the Hidden God' has always been part of our religious tradition. In Isaiah we read *'Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel.'* We encounter the theme in the differing reactions to Jesus in the Gospels. It a theme central to reformed theologians such as Martin Luther, and catholic philosophers such as Blaise Pascal. It resonates within the writings of the twentieth century writers Paul Tillich. We sense it in the recent blog comment of this year's Gifford Lecturer, Steven Pinker, *"If I am so lucky I will address the Almighty as Bertrand Russell proposed to do: "O Lord, why did you not give us evidence?"*

During the retreat we shall seek to reflect within this tradition from a devotional point of view.

Places may be booked by contacting the Warden of The College, Cumbrae on 01475 530353 or by emailing Cathedral.Cumbrae@btconnect.com Dinner on Monday to breakfast on Thursday is £174 (£189 with en-suite). Booking will be restricted to Argyll & The Isles folk until September when the retreat will be open to all comers. Do make sure of your place. If you have never been to the College, Cumbrae, you can be assured of a warm and comfortable welcome. Check out the website www.island-retreats.org and if you have never been on retreat and would like to know more, please contact Bishop Kevin or Alison Clark through the Diocesan Office.

The Cathedral of The Isles, Cumbrae

There will be a Fund Raising **Gala Day** on Saturday, **27th July**. All donations and help will be most gratefully received. Contact Jill Corcoran on 01475 530041 or e-mail frank.corcoran@virgin.net.

Music for a Summer Afternoon—Sundays at 3pm (admission free excluding 7th July)

7th July **Roland Dyens**, guitar This virtuoso French classical guitarist and composer brings a sensitive and colourful performance, encompassing a broad range of musical styles and featuring his trademark improvisation, for which he is world-renowned.

14th July Simon Harden, organ A concert by an internationally famous young organist who has trained in Berlin and Hamburg as well as his native Dublin. Having won prizes at Alkmaar and Lausanne, he has performed throughout Europe. A memorable recital!

21st July Grace Mo, piano The Chopin Circle of Scotland presents an enthralling recital by this internationally acclaimed Canadian pianist, recently awarded the title of "best concert master" of the Rimsky Korsakov Conservatoire, St Petersburg. She will present late Chopin masterpieces and give the premiere of the Nocturne in B flat minor by contemporary Scottish composer, Henry James.

28th July Telemann Ensemble One of the finest groups in Scotland performs a delightful programme of British neo-classical music by Holst, Walter Leigh and Herbert Murrill. Unusual but accessible music with a 1920's tang.

4th August Joseph Long, piano A recital by this virtuosic young Scots pianist including music by Chopin and Liszt, but celebrating especially the bicentenary of their astonishing but mysterious French contemporary Alkan (1813-88)

Further information from the Warden 01475 530353; cathedral_cumbrae@btinternet.com or visit www.island-retreats.org

"My Name is Macbeth" by The Walking Theatre Company

This production took place recently in the grounds and buildings of Christ Church, Lochgilphead. The following review is by Alex Hamilton of that congregation.

And so to Argyle, and thence to the grounds of Christ's Church just outwith, at Bishop's Town. There to see the Mummings, strolling players which had fetched up there, and were to perform 'The Historical, Extraordinary, and Lamentatious History of King MacBeth, and His Violent and Bloody Death', also known as 'My Name is MacBeth' which indeed we did know, it being writ large on an hoarding.

A select band of gentlefolk had assembled at the chosen hour, and I was much dismayed to perceive that there were but three players to perform this historical tragedy, where I wondered were the cohorts and minions, the nobles and leaders of the various factions, and was remonstrating with my companion at the lack of dramatic forces or indeed any forces, when I was forcefully hushed by my companion as the entertainment commenced.



Members of the Walking Theatre Company perform "My Name is MacBeth" in the grounds of Christ Church, Lochgilphead

Invited to follow my lord MacBeth, played by a well set up young man, bearded and of good bearing, and indeed he did have many kingly virtues and manners despite him not yet being King, off round the grounds at Bishop's Town we set, following the

player who led us through the opening of the story as well as the tree lined paths and meeting another character did greet him as MacDuff, though in truth the part was played by a comely wench, I believe such parts were known as 'breeches parts' and I did perceive that she did fill them better than any man I know of. This 'fellow', addressed as MacDuff, was to be our guide it seemed, through the intricacies of the plot.

And what a lewd and bawdy performance there followed, were it not done with such subtlety it might well have caused offense but such was the exuberance of the performance, played as a sort of universal Punchinello, being all things to all men, that no such offense was caused, and this despite being exhorted to imitate opposing armies in mock battle, we I realised, were to be the missing cast! And so it proved, as audience members were invited to become missing characters, which with degrees of confidence they readily performed.

The principle parts were excellently portrayed with such skill that one might have been in a playhouse, rather than standing under God's own heaven, accompanied by the racket of jackdaws and the shrieking of gulls. Lady MacBeth, with much sly insinuation did play upon MacBeth's fears and ambitions, such that he became but a pawn in her own power play. I was much taken with this actress, who it seems is principle player in a variety of dramatic conceits. Her machinations prove successful and foul and bloody murder is done by hapless MacBeth, I fear that should this have been enacted there were those in the audience who might have fainted clean away such was the skill of the actor.

As might be supposed, such bloody deeds are met with other such deeds and MacBeth was suitably slain by the MacDuff character though in truth I can not remember if this be the case it being some time since I read this play, but it mattered not, all was done with splendid gusto. The final agonies of this drama were enacted in the Christ's Church, lit by candles; the encroaching shadows lending much to the conclusion of this exceedingly well acted drama, and it was with much satisfaction that we repaired to our lodgings.

Security Warning

Please check your church security. A church within this Diocese was recently broken into at night and items stolen! Please ensure that there are photos of all valuable items for identification.

Another church within the Diocese has had its wiring condemned! Wiring should be checked at least every ten years whether or not this is a condition of insurance. And, of course, PAT testing of portable electrical equipment should be undertaken regularly.

Vacancy: Priest in Charge for Mid Argyll and Arran

Following in St Columba's Footsteps...

Do you have a vision for mission in local church communities? Are you called to minister in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland? If so, we invite you to consider joining us on our journey.

To learn more about this exciting and stimulating opportunity, download the profile from the Diocesan website www.argyll.anglican.org. Request an application pack from Ros Box, vestry secretary. 01546 602026 ros.box@nhs.net. For an informal discussion, please contact the Diocesan Office.

Applications close 12th July.



General Synod

General Synod was held in Edinburgh last month. The papers are available on the SEC website, www.scotland.anglican.org and draft minutes will also be available on this site very soon. This Diocese was represented by a number of Clerical and Lay people who may be able to give first hand reports. Please contact the Diocesan Office for further information.

Back to Church Sunday—29th September, 2013

Packs are available to order via the Traidcraft website. Please visit the BTCS website (www.backtochurch.co.uk) to find out more. As a quick reminder, this is what is in the packs this year: 50 BTCS invites; 2 A4 posters, 1 A3 poster, A "Best Bits" DVD (with an introduction from ABC Justin Welby)

Packs cost just £25 (including P&P) Do please get in touch if you have any questions, **Back to Church Sunday Team** tel: 0845 859 0006 e-mail: team@backtochurch.co.uk w: www.backtochurch.co.uk

New Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme

This new scheme, which started on 6th April, 2013, allows congregations registered for Gift Aid to claim further Aid on small cash donations of £20 or less up to a total of £5,000 per year. The SEC guidelines will be available shortly. In the meantime, contact the Diocesan Treasurer or Secretary or find out more from the Church of Scotland website at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/13607/Gift_Aid_Small_Donations_Scheme.pdf

Child Welfare in a Digital Age: Evolving technologies, emerging risks and developing responses.

Wednesday, **25th September** COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh.

Today's children are the true digital natives. They are growing up in a world where the internet, mobile phones and computer games are features of daily life.

Having a 'wired' childhood provides tremendous new opportunities for our children; but it also presents new risks. And for those tasked with child development and welfare, new challenges—how do we help our children get the balance right.

This event will provide a platform for discussion. This conference is relevant for all who work with children and young people or those who develop the technology and software they use

Contact Donna on 0131 556 1500 or see www.mackayhannah.com

Scotland 2020:

Realising the opportunities of an ageing population

Thursday, **3rd October**, 2013

The aim of this inaugural summit is to encourage a shift in focus—from the challenges provided by an ageing population - to the opportunities.

It will seek to outline visions of a future (the Scotland of 2020) where our older generation are realised as net contributors and consumers in society. Participants will be encouraged to:

Consider and debate policies and services that are likely to enable Scotland's population to age more productively.

Explore how the resources—the skills, expertise, time and goodwill of our older men and women can be better fostered to the benefit of businesses, families, communities and, of course, older people themselves.

More information from www.mackayhannah.com

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Mon-Thurs

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Communications

NEWSLETTER

The July Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **29th July** 2013.

WEBSITE www.argyll.anglican.org 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

ONLINE INSPIRES

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

Diocesan Diary

1st - 27th July	In the Footsteps of St Columba (Campbeltown Library)
9th July	Standing Committee
22nd July	Pilgrimage to Ensay
3rd - 30th August	In the Footsteps of St Columba (Arochar Village Hall)
28th - 31st October	Diocesan Retreat