



June 2013

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News from around the Diocese

A Letter from America

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Dearest Ones,
God bless St. Columba!

We have seen evidence of his presence in every corner of our travels, and we are especially grateful for the warm welcome we received at St. Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church in Portree on the breathtakingly beautiful Isle of Skye! Absolutely cosmic!!

We "met" Columba on our visit to Iona, and many of our pilgrims braved the rigorous trek to Columba's Beach there to see the spot where he and his companions first landed. Then the Cuillins called us to Skye and to St. Columba's Church where I had been privileged to visit ten years ago when the clergy of the Diocese of Delaware visited the clergy of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, our companion diocese. The Rev'd Michael Porteus and his wife Kate were with St. Columba's at that time.

Our visit in 2013 on Ascension Day when we celebrated the Ascension of our Resurrected Lord and His humanity into Heaven and His promise to send the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. This wonderful day allowed us to meet and greet Sister Elizabeth and this amazing congregation. Following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we were given a special musical treat by the talented young people of Portree, and our tummies were treated to an incredible array of delightful sweets and goodies prepared by the congregation.

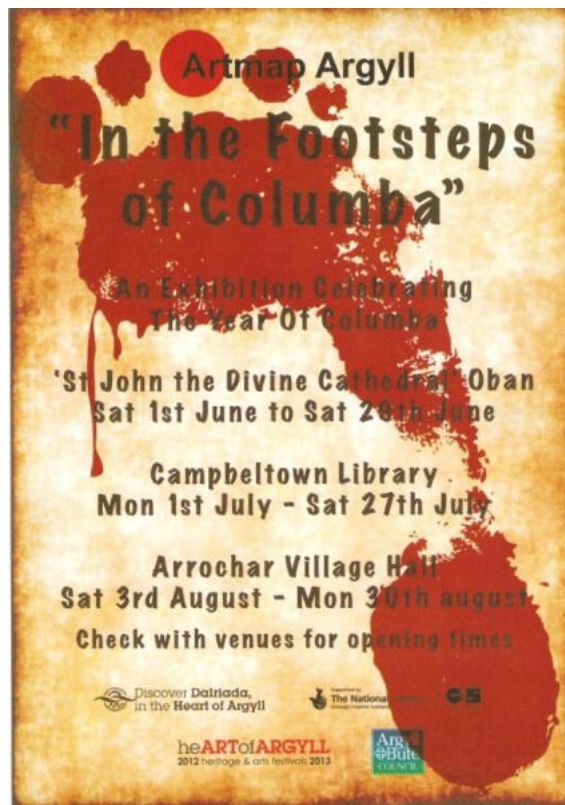
Having been well fed spiritually and physically, our coach driver bade us say farewell to you as we continued on our way to Harris/Lewis. On our way there, we came upon St. Columba's Isle and had a brief, rainy/windy, but meaningful stop there. We learned that it is believed that Saint Columba first visited Skye about

585AD. He was the patron Saint of the northern part of the island. The number of places that bear his name indicates the strength of his influence. Portree Bay was previously called St Columba's Loch. A small island in the bay is called "*Eilean Chalum Chille*". It is said that in North of Skye there were some thirty places of worship as well as monasteries dedicated to Columba.

We are back in the USA now, happily reminiscing about so very many memories of this pilgrimage to the Isles. Skye continues to call us, and we hope that one day we will return to Portree and St. Columba's Church. In the meantime, please know that you are in our hearts and minds and prayers as we praise God for the wonderful blessing of you! The Rev'd Jeanne Kirby-Coladonato

Our Pilgrims:

Sister Barbara Jean Brown; Sister Julian Wilson; Sister Sheila Sharpe, Deacon Elizabeth Anderson; Sister Kathleen Smith-Jones; Teri Smith-Jones; The Rev'd Margaret Sterchi; The Rt. Rev'd Franklin Brookhart; Susan Brookhart; Winnona ("Winnie") Wagner; Roger Wagner; The Rev'd Thomas Stout; Nancy Stout; Dawna Quittmeyer; Perla Rubi; The Rev'd Dee Renner, Deacon; The Rev'd Jeanne Kirby-Coladonato; Joseph ("Joe") Coladonato



Bishop Kevin on Iona

By following one of the links below, you can watch a video of Iona which features Bishop Kevin. The video was filmed by Edinburgh-based Matthew Davies, who works for the US based Episcopal Church. Filmed on Iona last October the video will be used as an educational resource for Anglicans and Episcopalians to learn more about the legacy of Celtic Christianity and the importance of pilgrimages to Iona. The video also features The Rev Nancy Brantingham, a priest from Minnesota and a scholar of

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2013/05/06/video-feature-iona-a-celtic-pilgrimage/> On the ENS site, select Multimedia, month May 2013 and then select Iona: A Celtic Pilgrimage

It is also available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gQoOYBRNj8>

St John's Cathedral, Oban



Welcome!

Over a glorious two days in May, the Provost and members of the congregation of St John's improved the outside of the church building by repainting the railings, constructing planters and filling them with flowers. Paint and planters were partly provided through a grant from Bid4Oban, the flowers by Homebase and the Rowantree Hotel surprised us by donating a gratefully received platter of sandwiches.



Having improved the welcome on the outside of the church, look inside at the welcome banners made by the children in various languages to coincide with Pentecost.

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.

Sharing the Vision – Mission Possible

One of the hymns we sing begins 'We have a Gospel to proclaim'. How does that make you feel? Confident? Nervous? As Episcopalians, we can be reserved in the way we express our Christian faith. However, as William Temple said 'The Church is the only organisation that exists for ..its non-members.' Mission does not have to mean knocking on doors or standing on a soap box in the town (or village!) square. But in order to fulfil our calling as individual Christians or as congregations, we need to discover our own way of sharing God's love.

Our visitors will soon be getting in touch to arrange dates for the Mission Possible sessions which will help us all explore how we are called to proclaim the Gospel. It can be as extrovert as an Easter procession or as gentle as opening the church for folk to come in and light a candle. By next spring, we hope that each congregation will have taken steps towards identifying their particular call.

Mission Possible is not a year's project which will end in March 2014 but an ongoing diocesan journey of discipleship and ministry. We will start by looking together at the Gospel stories that speak especially to us. As development officer, I'd like to pay tribute to the team of volunteer visitors who gift their time and thought to the diocese. I'm excited about what's to come and I hope you will be too. Alison Clark

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)

16th June High School of Glasgow Senior Pupils Featuring instrumental and vocal soloists from the Senior 6 Advanced Higher Music pupils. The School's **Senior Baroque Ensemble will also perform Bach and Handel.**

23rd June Elaine Gould—piano Aspects of Nature One of Scotland's best known pianists will play music by Beethoven, Liszt, Debussy and John Ireland which derived inspiration from various aspects of the natural world.

30th June Scottish fiddle old and new **Alastair Savage,** fiddle, Euan Drysdale, guitar & piano, Iain Crawford, double bass. A concert of traditional and contemporary Scots fiddle music featuring historic strathspeys and reels alongside melodies from present day Scotland

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. (£15 part of Classical Guitar Retreat. To book please contact CGR Director Matthew McAllister 07910 471486)

Faith in Action

This month focuses on **Peace & Justice**. This is an area where there is a huge number of organisations campaigning on single issues or a raft of matters. Many of them produce factsheets and other information about their particular area of interest. Almost all run campaigns that seek to involve others.

There are many local situations in the world where Peace and Justice issues dominate the agenda so keeping up to date with issues through the internet, newspapers and campaigns is useful.

Christians are called to find non-violent ways of conflict resolution and to pursue peace and reconciliation. In our own lives and as members of society we pray

A partnership of women's organisations in Scotland would like to invite you to attend:

“Elimination and Prevention of all Forms of Violence against Women and Girls - Bringing it Home”

The event will focus on the priority theme from the UN's 57th Commission on the Status of Women, the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and will consider how this affects women and girls in Scotland.

Thursday 6th June 2013
11am - 3pm
Augustine's United Church, Edinburgh
Refreshments will be provided

Free to all. To register, please email
nadine.jassat@scottishwomensaid.org.uk



Faith in Action (cont'd)

and work for the culture of non-violence. Christians recognise that war is contrary to the mind of Christ. Some Christians would follow the way of pacifism. Others would accept that there are just wars in which Christians can use violence and would seek ways to support the armed forces when they are engaged in such wars. Our churches affirm that both views can be held with integrity by Christians.

O Christ the light,
illuminate and cleanse the dark comers of the world where hang the cobwebs of
apathy and the dust of neglect;
shine on faces made grim by poverty and war; melt the icicles of despair and the
hard frozen wastes of selfishness;
and let your searching rays enclose the whole in one great radiance.
In Your name we pray. Amen

See www.anglican.scotland.org link on home page for more information and prayers.

Church Mission Society

“Change can happen” on female genital mutilation

In Kenya a fall in FGM offers hope, shows a new report from pioneering CMS mission partner

Hope for the campaign against female genital mutilation was boosted by a report showing that the practice in Kenya has been reduced by 10 per cent over 10 years.

The report by the charity 28 Too Many, which is led by CMS mission partner Ann-Marie Wilson, also highlighted the dramatic decrease in FGM among girls who have received secondary level education.

The report shows a dramatic decrease in the number of girls who are cut when they have received secondary level education – 54 per cent of girls with no education are victims of FGM, which reduces to 19 per cent for girls who have reached secondary school.

However, FGM remains as a deeply entrenched practice in some areas and continues to affect the lives of millions of women and girls. Though FGM is not a religious requirement, many communities have strong beliefs that it is – a myth 28 Too Many is keen to dispel.

Ann-Marie recently spoke at the UN Commission on the Status of Women on the issues for religious communities around FGM.

The new report is a summary of the current situation regarding FGM in Kenya and provides an accurate basis from which future change can be measured. Dr Ann-Marie Wilson, 28 Too Many founder and executive director, spoke of her experience with communities practising FGM.

"When I visited a Masai community in 2011, I met two women who, as young girls, were educated at school about the dangers of FGM. When they were aged 10 and 12, they found out they were going to be cut, and so they ran away.

"After being reunited with their parents, they continued their education without fear of FGM. Now a teacher and a health worker, the women have taught their community about FGM and have seen the practice abandoned. No girls have been cut in their village for more than seven years."

"This is how change can happen. Our research shows that, with the right support and interventions, FGM can be reduced and eventually eradicated from Kenya but it requires strong leadership, long term action plans and sustained funding. If this happens there is a good reason to hope that future generations of Kenyan girls and women will live free from FGM."

Contact

28 Too Many For media enquiries: Louise Robertson on 07957 805354; louise.robertson54@gmail.com

CMS Jeremy Woodham, Communications, jeremy.woodham@cms-uk.org 01865 787451

Bishop's Lent Appeal

Thanks to all who have contributed so far. To date we have raised just over £2,000 towards sponsoring the secondary education of two girls. Please send your donations to the Diocesan Office as soon as possible.


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

International Anglican Women's Network

The April edition of the IAWN magazine is available online at <http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/newsletters/index.cfm>. The focus is UNCSW 57 whose priority theme was the elimination & prevention of violence against women. As well as attempting to give a vibrant sense of CSW57, resources have been included in this News letter to support ongoing work in each Province.

The International Anglican Women's Network newsletter



IAWN Coordinator Ann Skamp asks 'Dare We Hope?'
April 2013
Issue 8

This year's UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW57) met at a time when global media stories highlighted violent attacks against women and girls. Communities were outraged, and demanded full justice and assurances that women and girls be safe and afforded full equality, dignity and respect in all aspects of life.

This context reinforced the priority theme of this UNCSW: The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. It also highlighted that the work of such elimination and prevention can no longer be only for women and girls but is an issue for people in all societies and communities.

The Elimination and Prevention of violence against women and girls

"The world is watching... they want to know, "Where is the justice? Women's bodies are a battle ground - seven out of ten women report that they have suffered physical and or sexual violence."

Director of UN Women Michelle Bachelet, Opening Session, CSW57

As the Anglican Communion delegation joined with all the other delegations at UNCSW 57 we wondered whether this increasing call for the elimination and prevention of such violence signals a change across the world.


Awareness is a first step in this work of elimination and prevention of gender based violence. We have seen some real progress across the Anglican Communion. Action by the Women's Network as well as the Family and Francophone Networks have seen commitments taken both by the Primates and the Anglican Consultative

As we live into what it means to be people of the resurrection, **dare we hope** that women and girls will more and more live their lives in safety and freedom from fear of all forms of violence?

Dare we hope that from these times women, men, girls and boys will seek to live lives in which their relationships are marked by mutual respect and dignity?

Dare we hope that we are witnessing the reign of God breaking into our lives and communities as we take seriously what it means to know each other as being made in the image of God?

Let us all do all that we can day by day to live and work in ways which bring to reality this transformational Christ within us, between us and around us!



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Visit us at <http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org>

Sea Sunday

This year, the Mission to Seafarers will hold Sea Sunday around the world on July 14th.

There are over 1.3 million seafarers, on whose work we are all dependent. A part from the very obvious dangers of working at sea, seafarers face long periods of isolation and absence from their families. The work is hard, the hours long and the pressures often very great.

In August this year, the new Maritime Labour Convention will come into force. This international agreement will help ensure that improved levels of welfare provision will play a significant part in improving the lives of all seafarers.

Sea Sunday packs, including posters, sermon notes, prayers and material suitable for children can be downloaded from the website www.seasunday.org. The theme this year is the Good Samaritan.

CONTACT US

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9.30am-2.30pm
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 **24th June** 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 - 20th June	In the Footsteps of St Columba (St John's Cathedral, Oban)
6th - 8th June	General Synod
12th June	Diocesan Study Group
25th June	Finance & Property Board
25th June	Mission & Ministry Board
1st - 27th July	In the Footsteps of St Columba (Campbeltown Library)
9th July	Standing Committee
3rd - 30th August	In the Footsteps of St Columba (Arochar Village Hall)
28th - 31st October	Diocesan Retreat