



**Number 47:
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News from around the Diocese Celebrating St Columba

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Clergy of all denominations attended a service in St Columba's Catholic Cathedral, Oban to mark the 1450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba on Iona.

Mary Magdalene, Hebridean-Style

As our Eucharistic prayer instructs us, '*Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and at all times*'. So under azure blue skies and with Mediterranean-like temperatures, thirteen of us gathered on the Barvas beach on Monday, 22nd July, to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene was a very important figure in the early days of Christianity. She travelled with Jesus as one of his followers and was present at two of the most important moments in our faith story: the crucifixion and the resurrection. Mary of Magdala was the first person to meet the Risen Jesus in the Easter garden and to announce his Resurrection to the apostles.



Rev'd Shona Boardman celebrates the Eucharist

Accordingly, she is referred to in early Christian writings as 'the apostle to the apostles.' And in honour of this courageous, strong, and faithful woman we prayed, (cont'd over page)

Mary Magdalene, Hebridean-Style (cont'd)

we sung, we listened to the geese on the water and the oyster catchers on the shore, and we celebrated the Eucharist. We gave thanks to God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all, that we are part of this good and abundant Creation.



First Apostle by Robert T. Pynn

*Now his body writhes
in pain: once it was my delight,
now it is my sorrow.*

*Blood drains from arms that held us close
now they are fixed and life has fled
from flesh and bone.*

*As we take him from wood to earth,
all is silent,
empty.*

*Passion surrenders to another love
that is not here
or there*

Rev'd Shona Boardman

*but rides the breath of a greater mystery
confounding
the infinite corpus of my desires.*

*No longer the object of my affections,
he has become the subject of my truth.
The memory of his love
no longer clings to my skin of my life.*

*He has dissolved the mirage
of separation and has poured
the pure new wine of
his presence into
the waiting chalice
of my heart*

Friends of Bishop's House, Iona



A boat trip was enjoyed during the recent annual Friends' weekend at Bishop's House, Iona

St Kieran's, Campbeltown

As a result of a congregational request, the music played before and after the church service is now announced and explained. This enhances the role music plays in worship and at the same time widens the understanding of how compositions are constructed and informs everyone about those who wrote them.



On July 14th Bishop Kevin and Elspeth visited us and shared in a congregational lunch after the service. It was a happy occasion and the Bishop spoke with passion about the importance of having ideas about religion but warning against the danger of those ideas developing into fundamentalist views.

Bishop Kevin and Elspeth with members of St Kieran's

By coincidence, it happened to be France's National Day so the opportunity was taken to frame the service with music from some of the "greats" in French organ music – Couperin, Alain and Guilmanet. David O McEwan

The Road we Travel on the Isle of Skye

Another milestone has been reached with the continued efforts from the willing band of volunteers, and the renovations of St Columba's Church Parish facilities well in hand.



The Bishop and the Lounge

Our Anchor Prayer Group, led by Sr. Elizabeth, prays for guidance for all the challenges ahead, and this included renovating the Rectory Flat, the Parish Room, and modernising the kitchen, which is now achieved.

The work wasn't easy, but done with great fun, fellowship and love, and we were blessed in having Bishop Kevin stay with us and give God's blessing on all our achievements.

The work isn't finished, but the team spirit has bonded many people together in Christian love and faith.

The vision for the future at St Columba's Church is becoming clearer. We thank you for your continued prayers, and ask that wherever you are, you will pray with us, each Friday at 12md. God Bless, Nan Cleghorn

Congratulations to Rev'd Ian Walter



Rev'd Ian Walter, pictured with Very Rev'd Nicki McNelly, marked the fortieth anniversary of his ordination as Deacon by celebrating the Eucharist at St John's Cathedral, Oban recently.

Ecumenical Friends on Bute

St Paul's Rothesay took part in the annual ecumenical service at the ancient church of St Blane at Kingarth on the southern end of the Isle of Bute. The chapel is a 12th century Romanesque building, now ruined, and is located on the site of a 6th century monastery. The list of Abbots goes back to the times of the Viking raids in the 8th century on the west of Scotland. Today's visitors are much more benign, and the members of all Bute's churches who gathered to worship on the 21st of July reflected on the many pilgrims and visitors who have encountered God in that wonderful place. The worshippers sang popular hymns of God's creation, of our calling to be the people of God and even safety for those on the sea, visible with the Isle of Arran from the open air worship.



Organised each year by the Church of Scotland on Bute, the event is well supported by all the denominations on the island. Sheila Murray, churchwarden from St Paul's, read a lesson from Acts: the meeting between the deacon Philip and an Ethiopian eunuch.

Then Dean Andrew Swift, the Rector of St Paul's, reflected on what this means for all Christians: we are all called to share and explain our faith, even if we are 'on the rota' for some other task. The local Baptist church, Pentecostal fellowship and Roman Catholic churches were all represented.

The next of the regular ecumenical services on Bute is on the 18th August at 5.30pm, and is hosted by St Paul's. This service is a 'Songs of Praise' in the ornamental gardens opposite the church on the sea front, just beside the putting greens. This service will offer prayer and sung worship whilst exploring the background to some of the most popular hymns and songs that we sing as churches.

Bell ringing at Inveraray

The annual Inveraray Ringing Festival took place at the end of July, with nearly 60 ringers descending on the town for a full weekend of ringing these fine bells. They came from all over the UK, many making return visits and were rewarded by some magnificent Argyll weather – as well as some more typical Argyll weather!



On the Sunday morning, the traditional Festival service was held, providing an all-too-rare opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist in All Saints' and an even rarer one, in this Diocese at least, to have bells rung really well to summon us to the Eucharist. This year, the Celebrant was Rev'd Ian Walter, who had composed a new hymn to open the worship.

Everyone present enjoyed both the ringing and the Eucharist – it would be really good to have more from across the Diocese joining us next year. The Festival is usually the last weekend in July, so put July 27th 2014 in your diary now (check <http://www.inveraraybelltower.co.uk/> for confirmation closer to the time)!

The next occasion when the bells will be rung is rather special because it celebrates the 75th anniversary of the first full peal (3 hours) in 1938. The bell ringers who will be ringing the peal will come from all over the UK. Their leader, Chris Kippin, is the son of Charles H Kippin who conducted the 1938 peal. It takes place on Saturday 10th August, starting at 11am. For details see <http://forargyll.com/2013/07/4-hour-bristol-surprise-royal-as-75th-anniversary-peal-for-inverarays-all-saints/>.

Mission Possible - Year 3 of 'Building the Vision'



"Diocesan Visitors"
prepare for
Mission Possible
(picture courtesy of Christine
McIntosh [http://
blethers.blogspot.com](http://blethers.blogspot.com))

This year we focus on sharing our vision of how the news of God's love can be shared.

What is Jesus calling us to do?

How do we share the vision within the congregation?

How do we share the vision in the community?

As before, each congregation (or group of congregations) will have a visitor and, this time around, a local link person to convene discussions between visits.

Mission has been described as finding out what God is doing and joining in. We can 'do mission' in a variety of ways but it is first and foremost an attitude of mind and heart. Each congregation, guided by its visitor, will be asked to draw together thoughts and agreed actions in a simple mission plan. Identifying how to live a congregation's call *is* mission planning.

At the Diocesan Synod Conference in March 2014, congregations will be invited to share their Mission Possible story. This is for us all, not a one-off course, not a project that will end next March, but an on-going Diocesan journey of discipleship and ministry.

Our primary task as a church is the work of mission. ...

We are called to share with people the good news of Jesus Christ and of God's love for them. We are called to go and make disciples, to baptise and to teach.

The SEC Whole Church Mission and Ministry Policy

Mission Planning

Identifying how to live a congregation's call *is* mission planning. Each congregation will be asked to draw together their thoughts and agreed actions in a simple mission plan focussing on the three questions:

What we believe Jesus is calling us to do

How we are sharing the vision of God's Kingdom with each other

How we are sharing that vision with our community

Alison Clark, Congregational Development Officer

The Hiddenness of God



Diocesan Retreat 28th - 31st October

Led by Bishop Brian Smith

at the College of the Holy Spirit,
Isle of Cumbrae

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 is 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.

To book, contact the Warden, the College, Cumbrae on 01475 530353 or Cathedral_Cumbrae@btinternet.com or download the booking form from the Diocesan website (www.argyll.anglican.org). Dinner on Monday to breakfast on Thursday £174 (£189 with en-suite).

For further information or Diocesan grants, contact Bishop Kevin or Alison Clark through the Diocesan Office. Make sure of your place - only one more month for booking restricted to Argyll & The Isles .

We have recently received this certificate in recognition of the funds we sent last year to help persecuted Christians in Zimbabwe.



Lay Learning Study Group

The Diocesan study group will begin a new session on 10th September 2013, with John Roberts of St Margaret's, Whiting Bay as convener. New members will be warmly welcome.

This year's meetings will be based on "Reflecting with God: Connecting Faith and Daily Life in Small Groups", by Abigail Johnson, published by The Alban Institute, Herndon, Virginia, 2004. The subject matter of the book can be described as theological reflection, but intending participants should not be put off by the word "theological". This is not academic or abstruse. "Abigail Johnson's fine, wonderfully practical, book ... offers ... the opportunity to develop deeper awareness of ministry, a more mature faith, wisdom. She explains, step by step, how to create and nurture small gatherings of people, helping them to look at their lives and ask, 'Where does God fit into the picture?'" (Donna Sinclair, *The United Church Observer*) Copies of the book will be available at a small discount from the Diocesan Office in time for the first meeting.

It is intended that we will meet monthly, on the second Tuesday. The meetings will usually be by telephone, with face-to-face gatherings every six months or so. The first meeting on 10th September will be one of these face-to-face ones, and will take place in either Inveraray or Oban, depending on the wishes of the majority of the group.

Everyone's level of participation in the group will be up to them. It will probably be helpful if one of us each month feels able to prepare a brief report as a starting point for the discussion, but there will be no compulsion or pressure. The first meeting will be to establish the group, get to know each other, set ground rules, etc.

To find out more or sign up to the group, contact me, John Roberts, on 01770-302701, or by email at johnmetham@googlemail.com

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme

From April this year it has been possible for charities to claim a gift aid like "top up" payment on certain small cash donations. For many churches this will provide the opportunity to claim additional sums from HMRC when submitting Gift Aid claims.

More information regarding the Scheme (including how it is likely to apply to churches within the Scottish Episcopal Church and the additional record keeping that is required) is now available from the Vestry Resources website accessed from the top of the home page of the SEC website.

Charities Online

From 22 April 2013 charities have been required to submit Gift Aid claims to HMRC using its new Charities Online system. (There is currently a short transition period in which claims can be submitted using the old forms – but Charities Online is HMRC's preferred method and charities are being encouraged to register for it.) Further information can be found on the HMRC website. A short guide is also available.

Malcolm G Bett, Treasurer, Scottish Episcopal Church, Tel 0131 225 6357, Fax 0131 346 7247 treasurer@scotland.anglican.org Visit the SEC website at: www.scotland.anglican.org

"Deep Impact" Conference: 17th to 19th January 2014

The Working with Children in the Church Community Core Group (W2C4 Group) will once again be contributing a "Children's Stream" to the "Deep Impact" Conference in Aviemore. As in the last two years the Group is able to offer a limited number of grants to assist people to attend the Conference if their own congregations are not willing to meet any or all of the cost of attendance. This year the grants will be of £100. Bookings open in September with a reduced rate until 15th October. For more information on "Deep Impact" go to www.deep-impact.org.uk

CONTACT US

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

St Moluag's Diocesan Centre,
Croft Avenue Oban PA34 5JJ
Telephone 01631 570870

Fax 01631 570411

Email:
office@argyll.anglican.org

Administrator:
Dr Sue Pollard

Who's who

Bishop: The Rt Rev'd Kevin Pearson
Telephone : 01631 570870 (office) 562617 (home)
bishop@argyll.anglican.org

PA: Audrey Walton

Dean: The Very Rev'd Andrew Swift
Telephone : 01369 702444
dean@argyll.anglican.org

Provost: The Rev'd Nicki McNelly
Telephone : 01631 562323
ProvostOban@argyll.anglican.org

Diocesan Secretary: Dr Peter Kemp
Telephone : 01631 570870
secretary@argyll.anglican.org

Diocesan Treasurer: Jean Ainsley
Tel: 01631 567007
jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk
(and Managing Director of Island Retreats Ltd)

Diocesan Learning & Congregational Development Officer:
Alison Clark
Tel: 07974 744156 or 01700 500489
alisonclark52@gmail.com

Communications

NEWSLETTER

The September Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **29th August** 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	3rd - 30th August	In the Footsteps of St Columba (Arrochar Village Hall)
	15th October	Diocesan Finance & Property Board
	16th October	Diocesan Board for Mission and Ministry
	28th - 31st October	Diocesan Standing Committee
	23rd November	Lay Leadership Day

Faith in Action—August—The Elderly

The elderly are an all too neglected group within contemporary Scottish society. Although some elderly citizens enjoy an active social life, others suffer from acute isolation and worthlessness. To combat this latter tendency there is a wealth of things that you can do to help. See the SEC website for ideas.

Lord, We thank you for the gifts of Age, the wealth of memories; the peace of prayer; the wisdom that has grown beyond all striving to rest in your grace alone. When increasing frailty of mind or body threaten, be with us as living water in the desert, a rock to give shelter. In word and sacrament, in the fellowship of your people give us the assurance of your everlasting care. And to us give the grace to receive all that your love brings to us. Amen.