



February 2014

Scottish Charity SC005375

**Number 53:
February
2014**

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News from around the Diocese

Diocesan Synod 2014 – Wednesday, 12th March

Notice is hereby given that the Diocesan Synod will be constituted on **Tuesday 11th March 2014** at the Eucharist in St John's Cathedral, Oban at 5.30pm. The business meeting will start at 9.00am on Wednesday, 12th March in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. **All clergy and Lay Leaders are reminded to announce Diocesan Synod at all Sunday Services.**

Formal notice has now been sent to all members of Synod. If you are a member but have not received the mailing, please contact the Diocesan Office.

Any member of the Diocese is welcome to attend Synod but it would be helpful to know in advance for catering purposes.

Diocesan Synod Conference Alert! Tuesday, 11th March

Across the Diocese, Mission Possible is going forward in different ways and with a focus particular to the local situation. Whatever stage you are at, please come along to the Diocesan Synod Conference (formerly known as the Pre-Synod Day) and share your story, 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

Charges are invited to **send up to four people including the lay rep.** Some will be invited to make a short presentation (7 minutes maximum) and all will have space on display boards on which to show responses to the questions and any photos. Maximum space equivalent to 2 A4 pages. Your chance to be creative! Please let us know if you are preparing a presentation. Full details will be coming to each charge and in the March newsletter but if you have any questions, contact Alison Clark on 01700 500489 / alisonclark52@gmail.com

St John's Cathedral, Oban

Provost Nicki McNelly recently presented Irene Main with a certificate from the Royal School of Church Music in recognition of 60 years service in the Cathedral Choir. Although a number of other members of the Royal School of Church Music have served equally as long in church choirs, none had before spent the entire time singing in a single church. A buffet lunch followed to celebrate this event and Irene's significant birthday.



St John's Cathedral, Oban (cont'd)

Members of St John's met for an informal discussion between sessions of "Building the Vision" and then held their last formal session with Alison Clark in January. They look forward to the new theme of "Reflection and Action" starting later this year.

The Vestry spent a day together in Inveraray, facilitated by Alison Clark. The leaves on this tree represent the skills and gifts that individuals felt they brought to the role— although some needed encouragement! As there was a big changeover



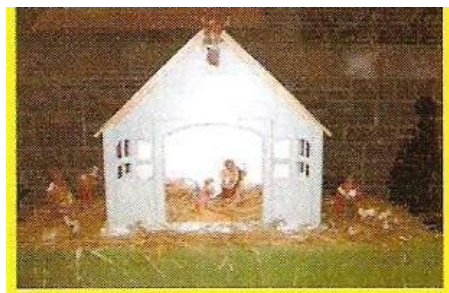
of people on the vestry at the last AGM, this was a very worthwhile



day, giving people the opportunity to learn more about each other and the role of the vestry.

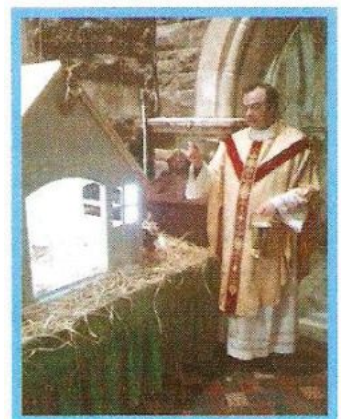
St Andrew's Church, Fort William

On Sunday 22nd December, our Sunday School children joined us at the beginning of the service to light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath then went to the hall where they made beautiful ornamental wreaths of their own and masks of Mary, 2 Kings and a shepherd. Near the end of the service they returned wearing the masks and hung the wreaths on the Christmas tree, which Hamish Loudon and friends had decorated so beautifully. Their teachers, Ann McDougall and Kathy White, are to be commended for all their hard work with the children each time Sunday School meets.



A brand new, beautiful stable made by our Alternate Lay Representative, Peter Davis, wearing his day job cabinet maker hat, was constructed to house a new set of figures bought through money raised from the sale of prayer cards and bookmarks which are administered by Jean MacLeay.

The stable was illuminated by electrician, Andrew Cameron, son of our chorister, Eileen Cameron, and straw was provided by Eileen's other son, Christopher. Though the numbers attending may have been reduced, due to the stormy weather, the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve began on a high when our Rector, Revd Alexander Guinness blessed the crib, using a new sprinkler set bought with money from the sale of candles. A real team effort from the congregation! Christmas Day welcomed visitors, as well as our own members, who had braved the elements to attend.



During Advent and the Christmas Octave members of the congregation have been donating groceries for Lochaber Food Bank which has recently been set up in Fort William through the Trussell Trust. We are very grateful to all who have supported this worthwhile cause. The donations will be presented to the Food Bank on the 6th January to mark Epiphany when the Wise Men gave their gifts to Jesus.

On Sunday 29th December 6 year old Lewis, resplendent in his full kilt regalia, was baptised during the 10.45a.m. service. Lewis has been visiting Fort William from his home on the east coast of Scotland during several summers, staying in his grandparents' caravan at Glen Nevis. The family has come for Soups during our summer fund-raising and Lewis even took one soup recipe to his school where his class made and enjoyed it. His family asked if the Rector would baptise Lewis as they have always received such a warm welcome and this he was more than happy to do. A special cake was produced in the hall to mark the occasion after the service. One nameless humorist in the congregation suggested that instead of baptising Lewis in the font the Rector could just stand him under one of the many leaks in the Baptistry instead! We hope once the better weather comes in Spring we will see the end of the waterfalls – and an improvement in jokes!!

In 2014 we also look forward to the return of our organ's Great Soundboard which has been away for repair for several weeks. In its absence Campbell Low and Liz Loudon have both done sterling work in leading us on the keyboard each Sunday. We wish Liz well in her forthcoming hip replacement operation.

On Sunday 12th January we welcomed the return of Mrs Maureen McKellar from Dunoon to lead us in the first session of Mission Possible, the next stage of Building the Vision. There was much discussion about the passage from the Bible which inspires us. We have another visit from Maureen booked for Sunday 2nd February.

St Columba's, Portree



Christmas Day Family Service

Our talented Sunday School have had a busy time making preparations for celebrating Christmas Day at St Columba's Church. Their beautifully painted pictures and banners, added and enhanced the Christmas decorations throughout the church.

On Christmas Day the congregation were treated to a Nativity Play called 'Out of Time', which was produced by the Sunday School children.

Fiona was busily working behind the scenes, whilst Jim and Martin produced the sound effects. There is little wonder that the Donkey, played by Jack, took fright and left the stage! Other members of the cast included Iona, Eilidh, Ciorstin, and Molly, all who were given a rapturous applause by an appreciative congregation. This all took place within a wonderful Christmas Service which was well attended. On behalf of St Columba's Church congregation, Sr. Elizabeth presented gifts to Fiona, and the Sunday School as an appreciation for all the work that is done throughout the year. Thank you Fiona. Nan Cleghorn

Book Corner

The Heart's Time - a poem a day for Lent and Easter by Janet Morley. Wonderfully varied selection with thoughtful commentary and

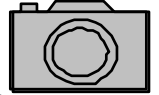
suggested reflections. If you have a book you would like to share with others, please send the details to Alison Clark (alisonclark52@gmail.com)



Attention all Young Folk!

Application forms for Provincial Summer Camp are now available and if you haven't already seen them, you can find them on the following link: [http://www.scotland.anglican.org/media/organisation/boards_committees/pyn/downloads/Glen14.fom .pdf](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/media/organisation/boards_committees/pyn/downloads/Glen14.fom.pdf) If you have any difficulties contact Sue in the Diocesan Office. Bursaries are available to help with the costs.

Please note that there is an early bird special and if you are quick you can secure your place at last year's prices!



Pictures Needed

Do you have any digital photos of events which have taken place within this Diocese? The Province are looking for pictures with which to populate the new website. It would be good if these could include Argyll and The Isles. Pictures should not be posed. In the first instance please send any offerings to the Dean (dean@argyll.anglican.org)

Hope for 2014

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says, " There are many things about which we should be prayerfully concerned as we enter 2014. The life of the world is still stained by war, hunger, injustice and suffering of all kinds. Our New Year Resolutions are doomed to fade quickly under the pressure of events. But Christian faith affirms that new beginnings which are rooted in recognition of our failures and shortcomings can be the start of a new and forgiven life. New Year can be a time for setting right our relationships with apology and reconciliation. We can set aside the feeling of helplessness which dulls our optimism and our energy for new challenges. The world needs that hope—may you find those blessings in 2014"

Reprinted from [inspires online](http://www.inspires.org.uk). Sign up for news about the Scottish Episcopal Church at <http://www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe>

Godly Play

Making Materials Day—Saturday 22nd February 10—4 Edinburgh

Build up your own materials in a cost effective way. We provide the materials, you do the rest and you don't need to be a budding artist.

Godly Play Scotland Centre, Duddingston Kirk Manse, Old Churchy Lane, Edinburgh.

Cost £15 a light lunch is included. The cost of materials you make is extra.

If you would like to come along, e-mail admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk

Adventures in Faith

a Service of the Diocese of Edinburgh

See the new programme of events in the Adventures in Faith newsletter at www.edinburgh.anglican.org. Articles include Children's Spirituality, Retreat in Daily Life, Faith in Older People and Singing Spirit into our Lives.

Food for Thought

The Scottish Episcopal Church and Christian Aid have come together to launch a brand new cookbook for Lent 2014. All donations will go towards furthering the work of Christian Aid. The cookbook also includes prayers, bible studies and thought-provoking stories from Christian Aid's partners and projects that the SEC supports overseas. Copies will shortly be sent to all congregations.

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The Claremont Trust

The Claremont Trust is a Scottish charitable trust which seeks to support groups which give practical expression to their faith in the life of society in Scotland and Overseas, for example small innovative faith-based enterprises seeking to tackle social need and promote inclusion at local level. The Trust is ecumenical and was founded on strong convictions of Christian social responsibility. It welcomes applications from any faith group. The Trust also supports initiatives of groups which are working towards a fairer and more just world. Its resources are comparatively slender, and it distributes around £6,000 each year in grants of not more than £1,000. Constructive and radical enterprises which work towards a fairer and more just world are its priority.

Requests for application forms should be addressed to the Trust's secretary:
Rev Chris Fulcher, St Blaas's Manse, Southend, Argyll PA28 6RQ
Tel.01586 830504 chris@pcmansse.plus.com

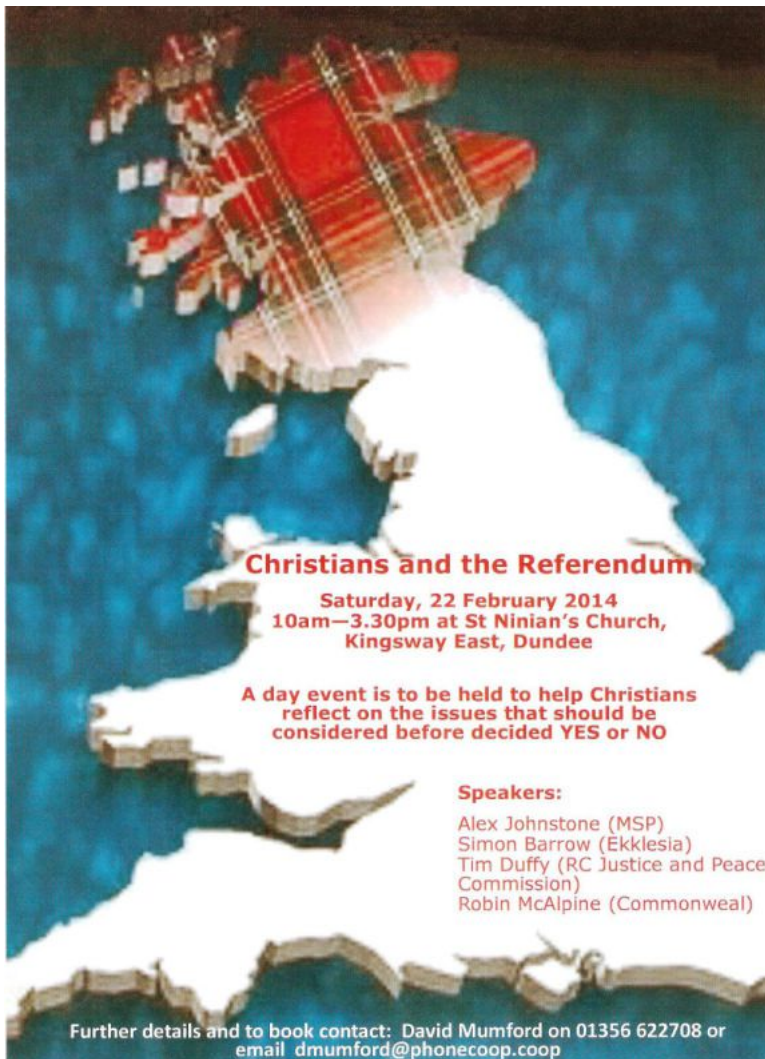
Human Rights in Scotland—Annual Conference

Understanding the Challenges and Embracing the Opportunities

Tuesday, 4th March, Thistle Hotel Glasgow

Citizens Advice Scotland's Lauren Wood, Access to Justice Policy Officer will share CAS experiences and discuss the direct effect of welfare reform in Scotland. The experienced speaker platform will discuss how value and standards of human rights need to be better understood. *Can human rights have a larger influence on how public sector bodies are run in Scotland?*

Further information from www.mackayhannah.com



Christians and the Referendum
Saturday, 22 February 2014
10am—3.30pm at St Ninian's Church,
Kingsway East, Dundee

A day event is to be held to help Christians reflect on the issues that should be considered before decided YES or NO

Speakers:
Alex Johnstone (MSP)
Simon Barrow (Ekklesia)
Tim Duffy (RC Justice and Peace Commission)
Robin McAlpine (Commonweal)

Further details and to book contact: David Mumford on 01356 622708 or email dmumford@phonecoop.coop

CONTACT US

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

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Communications

NEWSLETTER

The March Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **24th February 2014**.

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

11th March	Synod Conference & Synod Eucharist
12th March	Diocesan Synod
13th March	Post Synod Clergy Day
5th April	Lay Leadership Day
7th June	Celebration of Lay Leadership

The Real Easter Egg Campaign

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one with the Easter story in the box.

The original Real Easter Egg has 3 crosses on the box, comes with Mark's Resurrection text in the lid, a 24 page Easter storybook, milk chocolate egg, buttons and a donation to Traidcraft Exchange. More information at www.realeasteregg.co.uk