



**March 2014**

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## News from around the Diocese

### Bishop Kevin in New Zealand to Support First English Woman Ordained as Bishop



(Photo: Television New Zealand Limited)

Bishop Kevin was in New Zealand recently (22nd February, 2014) to support Dr Helen-Ann Hartley as she was made the 7th Bishop of Waikato, in the Anglican Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki, Aotearoa, New Zealand. Bishop Kevin is a family friend of Bishop Helen-Ann, and was excited to be able to travel to New Zealand to support her in her ministry. Bishop Helen-Ann is making news as the first English-born and English-trained female priest to be consecrated as an Anglican Bishop. The Scottish Episcopal Church allows women to be ordained as Bishops but, as yet, no such appointment has been made.

### St Kieran's, Campbeltown

At St Kieran's, Campbeltown, we have now completed all six activities in "Sharing the Vision". We took our time over this, working through it with one activity per month and letting all members of the Lay Ministry Team take turns at leading the discussions. Discussing our faith with each other is very much at the heart of how we work at St Kieran's and we find that approach to be very beneficial. We are looking forward to the Synod Conference and hearing how other congregations have got on in "Sharing the Vision". We are also pleased that discussion will continue into next year with "Reflection for Action".

As a result of Lesley Barford being appointed as our Secretary and Treasurer, we are now able to keep the church open under her supervision on two mornings per week. This is an important development, since visitors, especially in the summer months, often ask to see inside the building. We have also refreshed our table at the back of the church and cleared away material which has been lying unused or is out of date. Lesley has also created a



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**St Kieran's, Campbeltown (cont'd)**

space for young children to sit and colour in bible story sheets or read books from the bookstall. This has already been in use with visiting children coming to play the organ.

At the outside of the church we have commissioned a newsign bringing the information there up-to-date and we are making better use of the noticeboard on the church door with notices which can be altered easily every week.

David O McEwan



**St.Peter's Stornoway**

St.Peter's began a new ecumenical initiative this month. The inaugural meeting of a 'Women in Theology' group took place on Friday February 21<sup>st</sup>. The date was chosen to coincide with the weekend of Alison Clark's visit for 'Mission Possible'

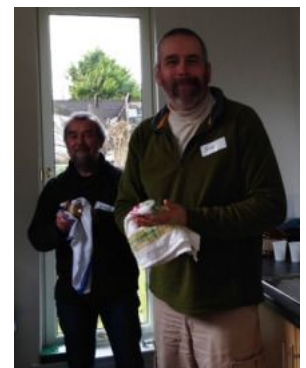
The meeting was the brainchild of Marion Mackay, our Lay Representative, and was well attended, both by members of St.Peter's, and women from Church of Scotland and Free Church congregations on the island.

Marion presented a fascinating overview of the influence and role of women in the church, highlighting in particular the work of such varied writers as Hildegard of Bingen, Christine de Pizan, Olive Winchester and Tara Isabella Burton.

There was much animated discussion on the themes presented, and suggestions for future study include the oral tradition of Celtic women saints, the work of Marilynne Robinson, and the writings of women within the Free Church in Lewis, at the time of the Prayer Revivals in the Nineteen fifties.



Bible Study & Clearing up



The evening proved to be an inspiring start to a wonderful weekend of Bible Study and discussion led by Alison Clark, as the congregation ponders on future plans for mission and outreach at St.Peter's.

Clare s.c.

**A 'Mission Possible' project at St Columba's Church, Isle of Skye**

At our recent Theological Reflection, we read and explored the scriptures that refer to the miracle of 'loaves and fish', in particular we chose Mark 8: 1-9, "There was a great crowd without anything to eat...and some of them had come from a great distance".

The 'Bread Basket', being the 'Mission Possible' project at St Columba's Church, is provided weekly in the Parish Rooms. Every Wednesday a hot meal is shared with many people, from all over the island, so much so, that extra tables have had to be brought in to meet the demand. Some of the people have travelled from distant parts of the island, not thinking to bring anything to eat with them.

People also share in the warmth, friendship, and craik (chat).

Sr. Elizabeth is available there for anyone seeking "spiritual" guidance.



Margaret and Chrissanne plan and prepare the healthy meal, with help from Barbara, Beth, and other volunteers. As Sr. Elizabeth says, "The Lord has performed miracles with what we have, and so far we haven't run out of food"  
Nan Cleghom

## **Exploring our Missional Leadership – An event organised by the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.**

As a result of attending January's meeting of the Provincial Mission and Ministry Board, in Edinburgh, as your Diocesan Representative – I happened to be in "the right place at the right time" to be invited to attend this event by one of its organisers. The Rev Canon Anne Tomlinson is well known in our Diocese and thought that it would be a good opportunity for some intra-diocesan sharing of resources.

The event was led by Bishop Graham Cray. Bishop Cray was appointed C of E Archbishops' Missioner and Leader of the Fresh Expressions Team in 2009. Before that he was Bishop of Maidstone and 'Bishop for Mission in the Diocese of Canterbury' for eight years; prior to which he was Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge. He is known as a gifted communicator who has spoken on Evangelism and Mission throughout the world.

Using the "Great Commission" from St Matthews Gospel, Bishop Cray talked with an emphasis on "Disciple Making and Holistic Mission" and how the purpose of mission is discipleship. Without mission there is no discipleship and without discipleship there is no mission. All worshipping Christians, with their own doubts and struggles, form the rhythm of church life and in their worship comes the inner strength to go out into the community to live the Christ-like life which has an impact even if that is only as providing a Christian presence for the next generation.

By pointing out that a local church earns its own reputation, Bishop Cray asked us to consider whether our own congregations had become living "Time Capsules" separate and irrelevant to the community around us. We are not to hide away from our local community but to go out and find how we can be relevant to the society and culture that exists now – a process that may require a congregation to step outside its comfort zone and be forced to grow in trust in God.

Mission, discipleship and righteousness (which he was defining as "Justice and Love") are the 3 strands that need to be plaited together to be effective in society. We need to accept that society today has a huge section of "non-churched" people and that by going out to them and investing our time, energy, love and support we may be asked questions about why we do what we do – which is an opportunity to share our faith and belief in the Loving Kingdom of God.

To sum up, Bishop Cray encouraged those present to let Jesus Christ prayerfully lead us to where we can do good, to listen to where we are called to be and to hear what our mission is to be.

Catriona Beel

## **Diocesan Synod 2014 – Wednesday, 12th March**

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

Papers have now been sent out to all members of Synod and will soon be available on the Diocesan website. Any member of the Diocese is welcome to attend Synod but please contact the Diocesan Office to aid catering.

## Countdown to Diocesan Synod Conference - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Your Charge will have received the letter inviting up to 4 members including the lay rep, to come to the Diocesan Synod Conference. Our guest presenter is Canon Anne Tomlinson who will explore the theme, 'Reflection for Action'.

Come 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

You may do this by making a short creative presentation and/or by taking some display space for photos etc. – up to the equivalent of two A4 pages. If you have chosen an 'iconic' object to represent your Congregation's calling, do bring that along.

If you plan to make a presentation to the conference please get in touch with Alison on [alisonclark52@gmail.com](mailto:alisonclark52@gmail.com) or through the office.

## Holy Week and Easter Weekend with the Bishop at Cumbrae

A week of worship, music and prayer in The Cathedral of The Isles. Choral Evensong will be sung by the Cathedral Choir each day from Monday to Wednesday. There follows the traditional services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil on Saturday culminating with Easter day services all celebrated by the Bishop of Argyll and The Isles and sung by the Cathedral Choir directed by Alastair Chisholm with organist Jonathan Cohen. Further information and booking forms from the website or ring 01475 530353

<http://www.island-retreats.org/ministry.html>

## Bishop's Lent Appeal



**FORWARD** (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development) is an African Diaspora women led UK-registered campaign and support charity dedicated to advancing and safeguarding the sexual and reproductive health and rights of African girls and women. We work in UK, Europe and Africa to help change practices and policies that affect access, dignity and wellbeing. We tackle [female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#), [child marriage](#) and related rights of girls and young women.

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female circumcision or female genital cutting, is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons."

It is estimated that approximately 100-140 million African women have undergone FGM worldwide and each year, a further 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk of the practice in Africa alone. Most of them live in African countries, a few in the Middle East and Asian countries, and increasingly in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada.

As a result of immigration and refugee movements, FGM is now being practiced by ethnic minority populations in other parts of the world, such as USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. FORWARD estimates that as many as 6,500 girls are at risk of FGM within the UK every year. <http://www.forwarduk.org.uk>

Collection labels are available from the Diocesan Office.

## Lay Leadership Day

The next Lay Leadership Day will be on Saturday **5th April** at St John's Cathedral Oban when the focus will be on preaching. Our guest presenter will be Kennedy Fraser, a lay reader in Glasgow & Galloway Diocese. We will also hear from some of our own leaders about their experience of preparing and delivering sermons. More details will be sent in due course but please put this date in your diary. This will be the last training opportunity before the service in **June 7th** when we will be celebrating lay ministries.

## Investing in Peace

Come and hear about- and pray for- the lives of those supported by our partners in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as Syria. Monday, **24th March**, 7-9pm, Palmerston Place Church, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AA.

Christian Aid Scotland, the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church are committed to working together in this area and, in particular, to praying for peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory on the 24th day of each month, as part of the global ACT Alliance prayer initiative.

For more information contact: Christian Aid Scotland on 01412217475.

## Workplace Chaplaincy Introduction Day

For those interested or involved in workplace chaplaincy. Monday, **10th March**, 10am—4pm at St George's, Tron, 163 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2JX. The day will include The role and structure of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland; What is workplace chaplaincy?, Essential chaplaincy skills and how to use them, Opportunities and pitfalls, Planning for success, An introduction to further training. For further details or to book a place contact Catriona Parkinson info@wpcscotland.co.uk, 01314412271

## Argyll Convention 2014 - Christ Redeeming and Returning

Launched in Oban in 2013, the Argyll Convention focuses on the Bible and on Christ, but with an eye for the world around.

It's at holiday time! - **5th to 7th August**—and children's work is during the morning sessions.

Richard Bewes, writer and broadcaster, reminds us '*The Time is Near*' with a study of Revelation 21-22. Hector Morrison, Principal of Highland Theological College, speaks about '*Christ Redeeming, Rising and Reigning*' from Isaiah 53. Children's writer Carine MacKenzie is coming to help families with '*The Gospel in the Home*'. Plus a look at the 1950 Lewis revival; and the Bible at work now—from the Scottish Bible Society. Find details on Facebook or the website [www.argyllconvention.com](http://www.argyllconvention.com)



Pilgrimage of trust on earth Weekend in Edinburgh **15-16th March**  
with a brother of the Taizé Community

"Towards a new solidarity" - sharing our experiences, with meals and prayer including: Lenten Prayer around the cross 7pm, Saturday, **15th March**, Old St Paul's Episcopal Church, 39 Jeffrey St, EH1 1DH

Details and contact: [www.taize.fr/edinburgh](http://www.taize.fr/edinburgh)

Directions : <http://www.osp.org.uk/index.php/contact/location/>

**Continuing Formation Seminars** at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey Women's Pilgrimage Towards Justice and Peace; Green Churches: Ecology, Theology, and Justice in Practice; Seeking Renewal of Spirit and Fullness of Life for All Creation as Witnessing Communities; Building an Interfaith Community; Evaluating Ecumenical Formation for Migrant Church Leaders. More information can be found at <http://institute.oikoumene.org/en/study-at-bossey/continuing-formation>



## CONTACT US

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## Communications

### NEWSLETTER

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

**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>



### Book Corner

For group discussion

York Lent course 'Build on the Rock' <http://www.york.courses.co.uk/>

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

**Parables and Possessions** based on a report from Scotland on a 'right relationship with money'. <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/649>

For individual reading

'The Heartbeat of God - finding the Sacred in the Middle of Everything': Katharine Jefferts Schori'

'The Heart's Time - A Poem a Day for Lent and Easter': Janet Morley

'Into the Silent Land - The Practice of Contemplation': Martin Laird

### Diocesan Diary

11th March	Synod Conference & Synod Eucharist
12th March	Diocesan Synod
13th March	Post Synod Clergy Day
31st March—2nd April	Continuing Ministerial Development
5th April	Lay Leadership Day
7th May	Pastoral Visitors' Course
7th June	Celebration of Lay Leadership
12th—14th June	General Synod, Edinburgh