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News from Diocesan Synod Diocesan Synod Conference

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Bishop Kevin and the Ladies from Skye and Raasay

Right. I need to say this right at the start and then get over it: Conference and Synod this year took place on gloriously sunny days. The sea sparkled, the air felt intoxicating, and we were in a windowless hall. Windows on such a day may prove a distraction, but the lack of them is even worse. I hear rumours that a new venue may be found ...

As has become a welcome custom, we met round tables - tables on which little bowls of chocolates and grapes reposed. On Conference day, there was no allocation to a particular table, with the result that we were able to meet new people - new to the diocese, or simply new to us. Conversation with someone you've seen for years and never spoken to often reveals a completely different person from the one you expected - and it is this meeting and sharing that lies at the heart, I feel, of our Synod meetings.

In a way, you could say that our meeting shared some of the characteristics of the symbol from Holy Trinity, Dunoon (right) - a group of people, hands joined, around an Easter cross, looking outward over a sand tray that represented the sand in which Jesus wrote enigmatically in the powerful Gospel passage we discussed last year, which the people of Holy T saw as God's sand tray to draw our mission in. We met, we discussed the reflections guided for us by Anne Tomlinson, the Ministry Development Officer for Glasgow and Galloway.



What emerged was that the most effective form of ministry is to embody the Gospel in our own lives, letting Christ live in us. It is not only discussion - whether in churches or in windowless halls - that takes Christ into the world; we should aim to embed theological reflection into our everyday lives. (cont'd over)

Diocesan Synod Conference (cont'd)

By the end of the morning session, we were grateful for the freshly-baked bread that the people from Skye had brought as part of their symbol; this congregation provide weekly lunches for the needy and homeless as a feature of their mission.



It is worth remembering at this point that several people leave home insanely early to attend Synod Conference, and are very ready for their lunch! And, this being a personal reflection, I feel I must point out that the caffeine addicts among us would have had to drink pints of what was on offer as coffee in order to get any boost to their flagging energies: can I recommend the practice followed in Bishop's House of serving strong coffee and a flask of hot water?

As ever, the joy of Synod Conference was for me the chance to meet people. Whether it is standing outside in the sun at lunchtime, taking a walk up the hill with an infrequently-seen friend, sharing insights with someone new, or enjoying the company of dining companions at the dinner



Presentation by Canon Anne Tomlinson

- it matters not: to me, the discussions are the framework that allow you to avoid small-talk.

I cannot end without reference to the post-dinner entertainment. Each table was given a packet of spaghetti and a bag of marshmallows - if you've been on team-building exercises you may know what's coming. We had to build a tower. The idea is to plan and prototype, to cooperate and learn. When it comes after a jolly meal, things don't quite work out like that, but one tower was successfully completed and remained upright.



The Winning Engineers

We know there was an engineer involved, and we suspect that at least one of them had done this before. You'll be glad to know that we all cheered and clapped and departed in great bonhomie - leaving our spaghetti behind.

Christine McIntosh

Reflection for Action

Canon Anne Tomlinson's rich and thought provoking presentation invited us to take on board that theological reflection needs to become a habit in all of us if we are to become missionaries of the Gospel in daily life. She led us through the Emmaus road journey focussing on four **A's**:

Attention: what is God doing? What are we doing?

Analysis: asking questions about the meaning of what we observe 'recalling us to ourselves'

Alignment: Jesus interpreted the Scriptures to the companions – how do we 'line up what we do and what we believe?' What practices do we use e.g. creative forms of Bible Study, prayer etc

Action 'Our mission is not accomplished at the table in Emmaus. We have to get out on the road again.'

This cycle can form the basis of retreat in daily life:

Attention: noticing what is

Analysis: probing, penance

Alignment: altered discipline

Action: renewed action

Year 4 - Reflection for Action invites us both individually and as congregations to deepen our spiritual practice to underpin and direct our mission. Opportunities for retreats and quiet days will be provided both from the diocese and by congregations. Resources can be found in the book list at the back of this issue and on the Diocesan website. Alison Clark

Diocesan Synod Eucharist Sermon

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Gospel of John:

Jesus said: Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

The Todd River is in South East Australia. The Todd River is remarkable because the river flows all the time but most of the time it cannot be seen.

Once or perhaps twice a year, the river erupts and suddenly the waters gush forth and the river bed is suddenly, literally, in full flood. When the river erupts and flows, the whole community leave what they are doing, the local high school pupils line the river banks to celebrate the sight of the water, to celebrate the life giving water which brings growth, cleansing, hope, often in the midst of incredible drought.

And there are years of drought when the waters do not appear - but the Todd River flows.

Geologists, geographers will tell you about water tables and shifting sands but the community along the banks of the Todd River wait and watch and hope because they know the river flows and it is that knowledge which makes real to us Jesus words: "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty."

The Todd River is the perfect example of what we mean by spirituality. The Todd River is the perfect example of what Lent is all about, knowing that the living waters of God's love flows through our lives whether we always recognise that fact or not and using the days of Lent, the discipline of Lent to go deep, deep, deep into our hearts our very being to recognise the Holy Spirit of God alive, active in who I am and why I am the way I am. To go deep, deep, deep, into our hearts and our very being is why we meet here tonight. We line the banks of the Todd River with Hope. Hope that we will see, recognise, experience God and it is that Hope which makes sense of the psalmist's words we sang only minutes ago -

"Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well and the pools are filled with water."

There is the call to Holiness, Wholeness, Health that is life with God, which flows like the Todd River, ready to bring growth, be creative, to bring experience of life and God, which passes all understanding and yet, and yet, is ours.

That is the legacy of Nelson Mandela's 27 years on Robyn Island. I have quoted many times over the last months the never to be forgotten sight of Nelson Mandela on his release, facing the world's media and after 27 years, the man - Mandela was utterly, utterly present, himself - who am I and why am I the way I am. That's where Forgiveness, Reconciliation, the Truth Commission came from. (cont'd over)

The Todd River flows deep, deep, deep within our internal wilderness of doubt, confusion, depression. In this celebration of the Eucharist, every time, we receive Holy Communion, we are told we make real, we experience Jesus words, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty" they are the words of which the very ritual speaks, calls to our remembrance, resurrection, of Hope, of eternal life which helps us recognise the truth of the psalmist "Who going through the vale in misery use it for a well and the pools are filled with water".

There is the psalmists call to Holiness, significantly, on this night, as our Diocesan Synod begins and as we enter a new phase, a new year of Building the Vision of God's Kingdom in our Diocese of Argyll and The Isles. Significantly, after an inspirational conference day in which we have begun a new phase of reflective living and action. Significantly, on this night we hear, receive, recognise Jesus call to Holiness, Spirituality, and Truth.

Holiness is what that wonderful story of Rachel and Jacob is all about. When the psalmist used the word Holiness she/he used it in terms of what we would call integrity. The integration of every aspect of our life and thought, emotion and desire. The great story of Rachel and Jacob at the well, the reason the Old Testament stories are such a fund of inspiration. These stories are stories of very flawed characters, like me. And yet deep, deep, deep within they know the call of the Holy Spirit to seek God to be with God while being utterly, utterly themselves but in moments capable of noble, holy deeds. Jacob opened the well for Rachel. She was a woman, he should have ignored her and she should have waited. Nobly he facilitated her drawing water but was that only because he found her attractive - motivation is never pure and yet we are called to Holiness, which is why spirituality is so important, constant reflection, seeking the waters of the Todd River of Holiness flowing deep, deep within.

But it is spirituality not novelty. It worries me when people say I enjoyed that service. That is not what worship is about. Candles, incense, our ritual, call to remembrance the living water we do not always see, recognise, experience but which speaks to us of the things that are eternal. That's what the glorious passage of Philippians is all about Our Lord Jesus Christ 'emptied' himself so that we might enter into the very mind of Christ, Son of God who is God, that is the Truth.

Truth is a journey not a destination. The God of Abraham praise as through the howling wilderness our way pursue. Truth is a journey, that the Samaritan woman at the well was invited to pursue with Jesus. She was an outcast but Jesus accepted, forgave, reconciled her to the two great questions of the spiritual life, to the great call to Holiness, to the journey of truth encapsulated in the questions who am I and why am I the way I am.

Whenever as a church, a community, a congregation we face great issues of gender, sexuality, morality. When passions are high and there are those who will leave if we do and those who will leave if we don't. Truth is a journey not a destination. We seek the mind of Our Lord Jesus Christ - why am I the way I am in passion through which we hear Jesus words - "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty".

The Rt Rev'd Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

'They do things differently there'

It is fascinating to visit other diocesan synods and see how they do things. And especially that of Argyll and the Isles. Because of the exigencies of geography, ferry timetables and travel costs, that diocese runs several events over the 'synod triduum': a diocesan conference on a matter of mission and ministry, the Chrism Mass, a pre-synod dinner, synod itself, and a post-synod CMD day for

clergy.

I was privileged to attend the first three of those events this past week, and now back home, am reflecting upon the value of their practice.

The pre-synod conference and allied (non-liturgical) festivities take place in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, and the venue is well named. I observed a diocese which makes it possible for people to meet and chat at leisure; to share stories of their practice over meals; to renew old friendships and form new bonds of affection.



Elaine Garman and Rosemary Bungard, Ordinands



Bishop Kevin

The residential component of the arrangements is clearly pivotal as far as relationship-building is concerned. Due to a bad cold, I wimped out at the end of the pre-synod dinner and retreated to my B and B and Lemsip, but it was clear that the conversations which had occurred over (a sumptuous) dinner were going to be continued in various coffee shops and hostelryes around Oban.



Pre-Synod Dinner at the Gathering Halls

Taking time for listening and conversation – for getting to know your interlocutor as a fellow human being – always results, I maintain, in a more dialogical process, a less confrontational debate. I would have loved to have been able to stay for the next day's synodical deliberations to test my hypothesis and conduct a cost-benefit analysis on this residential way of doing synod.

My intuitive response is to offer three cheers to Argyll and the Isles for its way of doing things, and to take some good learning (and recommendations) away from that experience.

Well, all except the Bishop's 'party game' at the end of the pre-synod dinner which involved marshmallows and the engineering of flying buttresses made out of spaghetti. Now that is an idea which I am **not** recommending to Glasgow and Galloway!

From the blog of Canon Anne Tomlins on <http://md.glasgow.anglican.org/>

Charge to Diocesan Synod

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel is a film released in 2012, which initially I thought, was remarkable only for the fact that for once, Maggie Smith did not play an elderly Dowager Countess. Initially I watched the film and thought it was light and entertaining but trivial. Several months later wanting something light and entertaining, I watched the DVD again and I was struck by the mantra used by the young hero of the film. He is the classic sort of tall, dark, handsome man I used to see in my shaving mirror, howsoever.....Throughout his various adventures and vicissitudes his constant reflection is, "Everything will be alright in the end and if it is not alright it is not the end".

Constantly in the office, as I lose the mobile phone signal on an island or by Loch Awe. Constantly I comfort myself with what I think would make a good strap line for our Diocese:

Everything will be alright in the end and if it is not alright it is not the end – which gives me a very firm base from which to make my report to Synod.

One of the purposes of this report is to look back at the year and I would like to begin by thanking all those who serve on committees in our Diocese and who facilitate the ministry of our whole Diocese. I would especially like to record my thanks to the Diocesan Officers and to the office staff, Sue and Audrey. We are richly blessed in our Diocesan Officers and staff who constantly remind me in word and deed that everything will be alright in the end and if it is not alright it is not the end.

That is indeed true of Mission, Ministry and Money in our Diocese. Reports can be very difficult to follow and so in an attempt at brevity and clarity I will answer three basic questions under the headings of Mission, Ministry and Money.

And the three questions are –

Where have we been?

Where are we now?

Where are we going?

In Mission:

Where have we been?

Mission is an attitude of mind which seeks to make God's Kingdom real for the communities in which we find ourselves. Building the Vision of God's Kingdom, for God's Kingdom, in God's Kingdom. And remember our mission is about Building the Vision because a Vision is realisable, a fantasy is not.

We began the Building process by each congregation identifying their own building blocks which make real God's love in their place, their community, their own congregation. We went on in Year 2 to equip ourselves for our Mission in the Compass course basic Christian learning for discipleship, which is designed to help us all be more confident in sharing our faith. And notice I said is designed to help us, because the material is there and I know one or two groups who are revisiting that material which is helping meet felt needs. In this past year we have been looking at how we share our faith through our own stories.

There is still a great deal of cynicism around – we've done it all before, Mission 21, MYCMi, Partners in Mission. At which point in the conversation I remind myself that the cynic is the person who is determined never to be disappointed again. These comments and conversations tend to develop in the same way, we are not getting any younger, no more people are coming to church, we have no more money.

Mission is an attitude of mind which finds the very idea, the very concept of God, exciting. So exciting that life with God becomes the motivating energy in

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our own lives, we search deep deep deep for the love that is of God. Remember the Todd River, flows whether it is visible or not. If we seek Holiness the very desire to be with God, then our spirituality becomes the conduit of God's love in our lives and that Truth communicates itself through energy and enthusiasm for the things that are of God.

That is what attracts people, that is what our communities are crying out for , that is what people are prepared to commit to financially.

If we put the money and the numbers first we will fail but if our worship and our prayer life is the conduit for God's life; which flows like the Todd River, most of the time unseen, then the rest will follow. That has always been my experience.

Where are we now?

Building the Vision this year will centre around our reflective practise in daily life, which brings us closer to God, because we are in for the long haul and we need to know the definite difference between Novelty and Spirituality. Everybody asks what it is that fills churches, is it publicity, is it music, is it electronic gadgetry. And everybody wants a gimmick, a novelty. Those things so quickly lose their attraction, even, especially, the Bishop. Entering the fourth year of the episcopate, reading between the lines in magazines or often there in black and white – the Bishop always. And I think, well, I don't actually but I get the message.

At my consecration the Dean of Windsor quoted Philip Larkin's poem on church going, which points out that those outside the church often recognise this church as a place of seriousness. There is a yearning in that poem which you can feel in many of our communities.

Our Scottish Episcopal Church in Argyll and The Isles can answer that yearning. The sacramental life of our church, our preaching, our respect for scripture. This is the conduit for the life giving water which Our Lord Jesus Christ promised to the spiritually thirsty. Remember the Todd River and remember our liturgy speaks of the things that are eternal that water the soul.

Where are we going?

Deep into God's life and things are not alright because it is not the end.

The reason we constantly reflect on where God is in our own lives, in the life of our congregation, our Diocese. The reason to reflect is we are in for the long haul and we are laying the foundations now for the vibrant life of our Diocese in 25 years time.

And so to Ministry

– Where have we been?

Over the past years Argyll and The Isles has gained insights from ministry in many forms, lay and ordained. Non stipendiary ministry, post retiral ministry, local collaborative ministry. These insights are an essential part of Building the Vision of God's Kingdom here in Argyll and The Isles and make a massive contribution to the excitement of where we are now.

And where are we now?

The Diocese has two ordinands in training who will be ordained in 2015 and will serve non stipendiary curacies in the Diocese.

Shona Boardman left to return to Canada in January and Father Simon Mackenzie joined us in Mid Argyll. Mid Argyll is a very significant development in our Diocesan life not least because Father Simon has oversight of Arran and is drawing the whole area together.

Mid Argyll is also significant in that when advertised we had eight full serious applications, we short listed four people and of those four, three are now in the Province. Father Simon with us and two others in other Dioceses.

Father Adrian Fallows has announced he will retire next year and this is giving us the opportunity to begin working with the West Highland Region, not only to sustain

congregational life but to build on Father Adrian's work in the future.

There are several people who have approached me, interested in God's call to ministry in our Diocese.

And so where are we going?

Into very exciting times. The Holy Spirit is active in Argyll and The Isles, there are times when I think she is working over time.

Lay leadership is obviously pivotal to our work as a Diocese and over the next couple of years we hope to build in real development training.

In a sense this begins this year on Saturday 7th June when we will have a Diocesan celebration of all lay ministry here in Oban. Dr Anne Tomlinson will preach.

And so the Money -

The sacrament of seriousness. A sacrament the outward and visible sign of God's inward and spiritual grace.

Money the sacrament of our seriousness in wanting to know God and in wanting to make God's love known and so where have we been? -

Through very difficult times.

Diocesan Quota has increased significantly for many charges over the last couple of years but I'm assured by our Diocesan Treasurer and Finance Committee that increases will not be so great after 2015.

There is no room for complacency, we do not have limitless resources unfortunately and we are heavily dependent on Provincial funding.

But where are we now?

Moving significantly towards financial reality in many of our charges. That reality involves the recognition that we are part of a whole, which is our Diocese and our Province of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Remembering that money is the sacrament of seriousness then the recognition involves financial contribution but also Diocesan resources. And what I mean by that is we have had several situations over the past couple of years where there have been difficulties in quota payments or accounting problems. Many of these situations need not have arisen, certainly resolution would have been achieved earlier if the charges concerned had sought Diocesan advice and help earlier.

And where are we going? -

As I said earlier if our priorities are God centred then money is the sacrament of seriousness and finance will be less of an issue than it has been. It will never be easy but it must never be allowed to be the defining issue of our community life. And it will not be that defining issue if we genuinely seek God in all that we do and in all that we are.

We are working to lay the foundations for the future of the lives of all our charges. Significantly the work and mission of our Diocese has been remarked upon and commended in all our applications.

The Rt Rev'd Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

A Lay Perspective

A Diocesan Synod is the meeting in which, at least once a year, the Lay Representatives of each charge sit down with their Clergy to discuss with the Bishop the current state and future direction of the Church and to hold the Diocesan Management Committee (Diocesan Standing Committee) to account for its conduct of affairs. The Diocesan Synod of the Combined Diocese of Argyll and The Isles thus brings together people from the Western Isles, Skye, Mull and the Inner Hebrides, and the mainland from Lochaber to Kintyre, not forgetting the islands of the Clyde, Arran, Bute and Cumbrae. It is a fascinating group of



A Lay Perspective

people both lay and ordained, of all ages and backgrounds and is organised and supported by the Staff of the Diocesan Centre under the guidance of the Diocesan Secretary, Dr Peter Kemp. This year the meeting took place in the Argyll Gathering Halls, Oban, commencing with a Diocesan Eucharist in the Cathedral of St John the Divine on the evening of Tuesday 11th March 2014 and continuing business the following day. The meeting was preceded by a Diocesan Conference on 11th March on the theme of "Reflection for Action" on year 4 of Building the Vision, and was followed by a Clergy development day on Thursday 13th March.

Much of the business of the Synod concerns the day to day issues of appointments to and reports from the various groups, at Diocesan and Provincial level, that maintain the activity of the Church in carrying out the mission and ministry of God's word at home and abroad. One important message from the Standing Committee was the importance of charges keeping key information, such as Quinquennial Reports on property, up to date. Over one quarter of these are now overdue while over half of all charge returns of basic statistics are still awaited, as is data on Vestry Training, electrical testing and Constitutions, some of which are known to date from the 19th Century. Without this vital information it is impossible for the Diocese to provide the basic support which charges need. There are three particular topics which merit further report and comment, however, these being the Bishop's Report, the Treasurer's Report and the item for discussion in the afternoon session, the Church's attitude and response to issues around same-sex relationships.

The Bishop's Report was built around the three key themes of Mission, Ministry and Money and in each case he sought to explore where we have come from in the four years of his episcopacy, where we are now and where we are headed next.

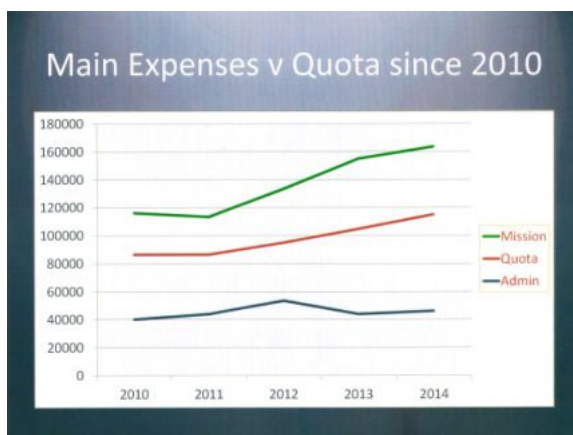
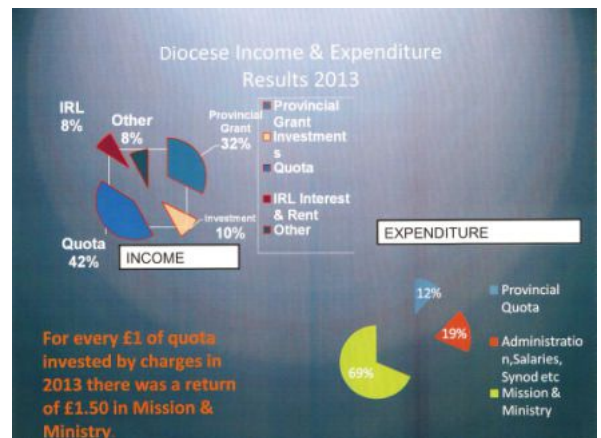
Mission in the Diocese has been guided and developed, over this time, by the process of "Building the Vision". He noted how it had begun with an effort among the scattered charges of the Church to construct a real, not fantasy, vision of themselves and their communities, how we had battled the persistent cynicism of people who believed they had seen it all before and were determined "never to be disappointed again" and how, out of these negative attitudes had now grown the realisation that we have something positive to say, for we are the People of the Resurrection. He urged us to project this positive image to our communities and to show how, by our practice of worship and prayer in our daily lives, we were "being with God". His

message was that by focussing on that, the money and people would follow. The next step was to prepare for the long haul, in the next year by developing the discipline of daily reflective practice which would nourish the soul and lay the foundations for our sustained growth in God.

On Ministry he outlined key recent appointments, emphasising the interest that the Diocese was now generating throughout the Anglican Communion. The Holy Spirit he believes is to be seen "hard at work" throughout the Diocese in the training and development of new ordinands and in the development of lay ministry, which will be celebrated in a special service in the Cathedral of St John on 7th June. The vacancy in Mid Argyll, after three years of development work, generated eight excellent applicants, from which a short list of four had produced not only a first class appointment in Father Simon MacKenzie, but also two other priests now working elsewhere in Scotland. This, he believes, demonstrates that the Diocese is helping to deliver renewed confidence in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Introducing the themes that would be developed more fully by the Treasurer, the Bishop noted once again his belief that giving was the "sacrament of seriousness". He urged charges to focus on the priority of God's work, believing that the money would follow, rather than focussing at the start of every project on the money issues. Proof that this is working already, is to be seen in the way that the Diocese is moving away from dependency on Provincial aid, to a situation where the Diocesan lead on projects and plans is readily finding Provincial support.

Taking this forward, the Treasurer noted the practical ways in which Diocesan action was furthering God's work, from the use of last year's Lent Appeal to fund the secondary education of two schoolgirls in Malawi and Tanzania, to the success of the Diocese in attracting Provincial support for specific developments such as



funding visitors to support Building the Vision, the work of our full time Development Officer, Allison Clark, Pastoral Visitor Training, and the Living the Vision project in Skye, which now holds out the tantalising prospect of being able to sustain a full time priest once again on the island. Argyll and The Isles now attracts just over a quarter of all the Scottish Episcopal

Church Grants for Ministry, reflecting the importance attached by the Province to the work of the Diocese. At the same time we spend around two thirds of our budget on Mission and Ministry within the Diocese.

The key message is that the quota should be viewed as an investment, not a tax on charges, since, for every £1 of quota levied, charges receive back £1.50 in

support from the Diocese. A further piece of good news is that, while quota increases have recently been steep, the rate of rise is expected to fall slightly in the next few years. Island Retreats Ltd, the Company which runs our two retreat houses in Iona and Cumbrae has had a poor year but has still managed, as predicted, to return £20,000 to the Diocese in Rent and Loan Repayment.

In the afternoon the Synod took the first steps in the process that the church has put in place to explore issues around same sex relationships in the light of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships Bill (Scotland). This passed its final hurdle in the Scottish Parliament on 4th February 2014 and, subject to Royal Assent, is expected to be enacted later this year. This process, which is being guided by a special committee of the General Synod, will go through a number of stages this year before, if necessary, bringing forward proposals for changes to our Canons at a future date. Informed by a paper from our Primus, the Diocesan Synod was asked to consider what issues this process should take into account and what areas of agreement and of disagreement could be identified even now, as well as trying to capture basic attitudes to the issues and expected outcomes from the process. From this brief discussion at Synod it is possible at this early stage to discern only some very basic outlines of the way the debate will go. On the one hand there was a very clear and positive welcome for the Bill. Many at the Synod want to do more to demonstrate that we recognise the need for equality for those among us who find that, made in the image of God as we all are, they can only fully experience the joy of sexual fulfilment and the support of a lifelong bond through a same sex relationship. Concern was expressed that we should fully explore all the consequences intended and unintended, including the effects on children and families, but a significant group at the Synod felt that the church guided in this unknown territory by the Holy Spirit, should take a positive and supportive attitude to this legislation and to implementing it in our practice. There was on the other hand, not surprisingly, a very strong opposition to this view which was clearly an expression of deeply held beliefs among deeply reflective colleagues, many of whose attitudes were underpinned by close attention to scriptural guidance. The good thing about the process is that, since it is a characteristic and joy of our church that we can somehow accommodate very wide polarities of opinion and sustain vigorous debate on many issues without rancour, the end of the session saw all joining in the blessing with equal enthusiasm and in the clear expectation of further lively discussion and debate in the months to come. This is an issue on which we all have opinions and a debate in which I hope that you will all join. (The results from the Indaba session are on the Diocesan website)

The General Synod will meet in Edinburgh on 12th – 14th June 2014 and the Diocesan Synod will reconvene on the 10th March next year.

Lay Representatives' Reports to Charges

During the Synod there was a short time for discussion of the best way in which to inform the members of the Congregations of the proceedings of Synod. Best practice was considered to include a report by the Lay Representative to their Charge within a Sunday Service, possibly within the "Sermon slot" a report to their Vestry as soon as possible after the event and a further report to the Charge Annual General Meeting later in the year. In addition, items could be mentioned in the local Newsletter or Pew Sheet and website.

Dr Mac Armstrong has kindly agreed to allow the above report to be used by other representatives. A copy will be sent to all Lay Representatives and it will also be put onto the Diocesan website. Of course, this Newsletter could also be circulated more widely than usual.



Reflection for Action—Reading List

Some further materials on the methodology and practice of Theological Reflection

- | | |
|---|---|
| Cameron, Helen, Reader John and Slater, Victoria. | <i>Theological Reflection for Human Flourishing</i> SCM (2102) |
| Chadwick, Charles and Tovey, Philip. | <i>Growing in Ministry: Using Critical Incident Analysis</i> Grove Pastoral Booklets 84 Grove Books Cambridge (2000) |
| De Bary, Edward. | <i>Theological Reflection: The Creation of Spiritual Power in the Information Age</i> The Liturgical Press Collegeville (2003) |
| Gallagher, Nora. | <i>Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith</i> Vintage Books (1999)
<i>Practicing Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, Discernment, and Moments of Grace</i> Knopf New York (2003) |
| Graham, Elaine, Walton, Heather and Ward, Francis. | <i>Theological Reflection: Methods</i> SCM (2005) and <i>Sources</i> (2007). |
| Green, Laurie. | <i>Let's Do Theology: A Pastoral Cycle Resource Book</i> Mowbray (1990/2009) |
| Johnson, Abigail. | <i>Reflecting with God: Connecting Faith and Daily Life in Small Groups</i> Alban Institute (2004) www.alban.org |
| Killen, Patricia O'Connell and de Beer, John. | <i>The Art of Theological Reflection</i> Crossroad New York (2002) |
| Kinast, Robert. | <i>Making Faith-Sense: Theological Reflection in Everyday Life</i> Liturgical Press Collegeville (1999)
<i>What Are They Saying About Theological Reflection?</i> Paulist Press (2000) |
| Mahan, Jeffrey, Troxell, Barbara and Allen, Carol. | <i>Shared Wisdom: A Guide to Case Study Reflection in Ministry</i> Abingdon (1993) |
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| Pattison, Stephen, Thompson, Judith and Green, John. | "Theological reflection for the real world: time to think again" pps 119-131 in <i>British Journal of Theological Education</i> 13.2 (2003) |
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| Tanner, Kathryn. | "Theological reflection and Christian practices" pps 228 - 242 in <i>Practicing Theology; Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life</i> Miroslav Volf and Dorothy Bass eds. Eerdmans Publishing Grand Rapids (2002) |
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See also: *Contact Volume 146* (2005), a volume of the Journal of Practical Theology and Pastoral Care, devoted to Theological Reflection

Congregations Volume 30 (1) (Winter 2004), the Journal of the Alban Institute, which is devoted to the use of TR in parishes (entitled "Theology matters: how congregations reach for God").

Lay Leadership Day—Saturday, 5th

Preaching the Word

The guest presenter at the Lay Leadership Day in Oban on April 5th will be Kennedy Fraser, Lay Reader in the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway.

The mailing has gone out. If you have not yet confirmed your attendance or have not received the programme, please contact the Diocesan office.

Lay Leadership Day—Saturday, 7th June

The life of the Church within this Diocese is heavily dependent upon lay support in all its different guises. It is hoped that representatives from across the Diocese will attend this celebration of Lay Ministry at which Canon Anne Tomlinson will preach. All are welcome but it would be helpful if you could inform the Diocesan office for catering purposes.

Ensay Pilgrimage
Saturday, 31st May

Bishop Kevin invites you to join him for the annual pilgrimage to the chapel of Christ Church on the island of Ensay (Sound of Harris) - a unique opportunity to visit this remote and beautiful place.

Transport by boat from Leverburgh - £25 per person.

Further details, please contact:
Joan Kemp: email: joan.kemp@cantab.net, tel: 01631 566963

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Mon-Thurs

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Communications

NEWSLETTER

The May Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **22nd April, 2014**.

WEBSITE www.argyll.anglican.org www.island-retreats.org

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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

31st March—2nd April	Continuing Ministerial Development
5th April	Lay Leadership Day
8th April	Standing Committee
7th May	Pastoral Visitors' Course
7th June	Celebration of Lay Leadership
12th—14th June	General Synod, Edinburgh

Bishop's Lent Appeal

Labels for collection jars and Gift Aid Declaration forms are available from the Diocesan Office.

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