



**Number 56:
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News from around the Diocese

Bishop Kevin Visits Dunoon

Bishop Kevin came to Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon to commemorate the completion of conservation of the church building and renew the licenses of the team of church members who assist in the worshipping life of the church.

The church conservation, carried out during 2013, was funded largely by grants awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland. Local fundraising, other grants and donations also supported the work to repair water damage and conserve the 1850s building for future generations.

Bishop Kevin brought the original bishop's staff that Bishop Alexander Ewing carried when he consecrated Holy Trinity on the 11th September 1850.

Bishop Kevin rededicated the church in a special service, scattering water from the church's stone font onto congregation and repaired fabric alike. The building, which was extended in the 1890s, had suffered for many years from water ingress, rotting of wooden structures, peeling of paint, decay of electrical systems and generally poor structural repair. The work programme, carried out by W H Kirkwood of Greenock, will have cost in excess of £300,000 when the final snags have been addressed and all work finally signed off later in 2014.

Bishop Kevin, in his address during the Eucharist, held a lit candle and told the congregation that the vulnerable little flame of the candle was a sign of having 'just enough faith' – and as the whole congregation lit their candles, the combined light of all those 'just enough faiths' would shine out from the hilltop to the south of Dunoon for all to see. The living faith of a church community was acting out the words of the Nicene creed that Episcopalian congregations say every week. For the sermon and lighting the congregations' candles the new eco-friendly LED lighting system, installed as part of the conservation project, was temporarily turned off.

As the 'lay team' were relicensed, the bishop asked for blessings for all those that served, preached, lead children's work and services and all the many activities that go to make up the vibrant worship in Holy Trinity. The ministry in Holy Trinity is shared between many people, lay and ordained, a strong, modern pattern of church life. After a busy Sunday morning, filled with the rededication of the church, renewal of baptismal vows, relicensing of the lay team and joyful Eucharistic worship, the Bishop and congregation shared a lunch in the social space in the back of the church building.

Plans are now being developed for toilet facilities, improved car parking and access and other improvements to the Dunoon church site.

Very Rev Andrew Swift



Holy Week at St Margaret's, Isle of Arran

We at St Margaret's were especially blessed this year in Holy Week, and not only with the superb weather. The Revd Canon Dr Michael Kitchener came over from Argyll on the Wednesday, and he and his wife Christine stayed with us until Sunday. This meant that we had some quite exceptional services, beginning with a simple said Eucharist on Wednesday afternoon. This was followed by a full sung Eucharist on the evening of Maundy Thursday, followed by Stripping of the Altar, Prayer Watch, and a simple Compline. Our Good Friday Liturgy included the St John's Passion, but was slightly shortened to allow participation in the annual ecumenical Walk of Witness in Brodick, on which Fr Michael joined us.

On Saturday evening, Fr Michael celebrated the First Eucharist of Easter for us, beginning with the lighting the Paschal Candle from a fire beside the church porch, and including four of the prescribed readings, renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Eucharist itself.



All these services from Wednesday to Saturday were attended by a small group of faithful, but were none the less moving and inspiring for that. But on Easter Day, there was a (for St Margaret's) large turn-out, including a good number of children, which alas we do not often see. A wonderful end to the week before Fr Michael and Christine set out for the Lochranza ferry back to Kintyre. I include a photo of Sunday's congregation clustered around the font which had been used during the Eucharist for the Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

John Roberts

We Are an Easter People, and Alleluia is Our Song

Mid-Argyll did its best to live up to St Augustine's command this Easter. **All Saints, Inveraray** celebrated with a Vigil on Holy Saturday night, with song, smoke, hot dogs and beer. And plenty of Scripture. By amazing grace, a conjunction of musical talent turned up from Australia, and Cairndow, and a gloriously ecumenical event unfolded, with Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic, and (even) Episcopalian representation. One of All Saints' treasures is its font, dating from Reformation times. Though now firmly cemented one way up, it actually has hollows carved on both sides, for Catholic and Protestant baptisms. Parson McNiven, when taxed with latitude, is said to have retorted, that The Gates of Heaven are set so narrow, that they need widening up a little for poor mortals. As the Paschal candle glimmered, and the incense rose to the rafters, the altar seemed to smile back happily at us, perhaps remembering the glory days of Duke Niall.

St Columba, Poltalloch burst into unaccustomed song, with a fully sung Merbecke setting of the Prayer Book liturgy, an organist having appeared unexpectedly from the shores of Loch Sween. Suddenly, the Reformation seemed to have a great deal more to recommend it.

At **Christ Church, Lochgilphead** the sun blazed down so fiercely on the Paschal fire, and the gorgeously hand-painted Paschal candle radiated such beauty, that your correspondent can remember no more. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Fr Simon Mackenzie

St Columba's Church, Isle of Islay

St Columba's congregation had a quiet Easter this year. We had to cancel our Maundy Thursday Eucharist as our priest, Ken Skipper, had had to travel south at short notice to visit his brother who was recovering from a heart operation. He managed to get back, catching the last ferry into Islay on Easter Saturday. The congregation had met together with the Roman Catholic congregation to fill the

church with flowers and arrange the Easter Garden earlier in the day. Easter Day loomed bright and sunny – one of those magical days.

Unusually, we did not have any visitors this year but the service was an uplifting one, shared by the birds nesting in the roof who made a good attempt at the hymns and tortoiseshell butterflies fluttering around the communion table. St Columba's church is a special, holy place.

Lesley Barford



The Easter Garden

Christ is Risen!



There were services at **St John's Cathedral** throughout Holy Week ranging from the formal Maundy Thursday Eucharist and washing of feet to the informal Godly Play children's service on Good Friday. For me, the most moving were the simple meditation provided by the reading of the Passion interspersed with Spirituals sung by Oliver Brewer, a perfect way to remove all the trivia bouncing around in your brain and

consider the real meaning of Easter and the sun rising over McCaig's Tower as we celebrated the Eucharist at dawn beautifully represented the Resurrection.

St Columba's Church, Isle of Skye Holy Week

Yet more last minute painting and decorating of our parish premises, by Archie, Beth and Nan in readiness for the start of Holy Week at St Columba's Church.

We were truly blessed to have had Rev Dr. Keith Riglin stay in the Rectory Flat and to officiate at all our Holy Week Services, ably assisted by Judith, Brian and David.

We are reminded that Chrissanne, voluntarily ensures that the Rectory Flat is available for the use of visiting clergy.

The 'Washing of Feet' on Maundy Thursday, the Remembrance of Christ's Death on Good Friday, and the Lighting of the New Fire during Saturday evening's Vigil.

Easter Day was happy and joyful, as we celebrated that Jesus had risen from the dead. He was Alive! St Columba's church too was alive and vibrant with colourful floral decorations, tastefully done by Margaret, Chrissanne, and Beth.

Fiona and the Sunday school displayed their hand made clay models depicting the Easter message, and their presentation of the Easter Message during the service.

The Celebration of the Eucharist was well attended. (The congregation included many of whom were visitors to the island, so much so that extra chairs were needed!)



Following the service Dr Riglin invited the congregation to join in the Easter Egg Hunt and participate in the 'crazy golf' course that had been laid out by Fiona and the Sunday school.

To cap the happy day, some of the congregation wore an Easter Bonnet!

Skye was [referred](#) to by the [Norse](#) as skuy (cloud), skýey or skuyö (isle of cloud). or more traditional in Gaelic as Eilean a' Cheo (Island of Mist) However, during Holy Week, the island was blessed with blue skies and warm sunshine.

"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24 -

Nan Cleghorn Redhead

St Kieran's, Campbeltown

"What makes mission possible? You do." so "Take a chance on me."

That is a question and an answer given by Anne Tomlinson at the Synod Conference in March, coupled with the title of an Abba song. Since the implementation of Mission 21 in 1999 and before that, St Kieran's, Campbeltown has followed all of that advice. It has taken chances. It has taken risks. It has encouraged people to become involved in ministry. It has given people the chance to have hands-on experience in their local situation and that has paid dividends! What makes mission possible? You do!

Two people at St Kieran's who got a chance of starting in ministry in that way – Bobby Sommerville and David Tomlinson, went on to become priests in the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of England respectively. Six people out of a pool of less than 20 have gone on to lead services and have grown enormously in spiritual stature and confidence as a result. St Kieran's offers "learning on the job", perhaps the best kind of learning there is! It's a bit like trying on the clothes before you buy them.

The same could be said of the church's music. Lots of young people have been given the chance by St Kieran's to become involved in the ministry of music by learning to play the organ. They just have to have a basic skill and be prepared to try that out. They are given a chance. These skills build confidence, provide help when the regular organist is not available and are of use in other churches apart from St Kieran's. On the first Sunday of Lent, 2014, Iona Renton made her debut at St Kieran's, playing four Gaelic voluntaries at the beginning of the service and repeating one of them at the end.

In addition she accompanied two of the hymns – "There is a Redeemer" and "Soften my heart". Iona was only seven years old and started piano lessons just 15 months previously. The congregation gave her generous applause after the service for her outstanding playing.



Iona plays the organ in St Kieran's

It is important for individual congregations to spot opportunities, to be "fleet of foot" and to take the initiative. That helps others and gets results. Many people get overly anxious about liturgical correctness and hang back from involvement in the church as a result. Andrew Williamson, however, a truly visionary priest, taught us in St Kieran's that it was OK if we made mistakes in church services. If support was needed, it would be given. If encouragement was sought, there would be a generous response. If trust was required, the risk would be taken.

If we are going to build any sort of vision in the Episcopal Church we need to take risks. Statistically, insurance companies tell us that a church is a very low-risk organisation. About 0.001% of accidents happen in church compared to 20% in cars. Is that telling us something about the church's unease about taking risks? So, let's take some chances. Let's take some risks in ministry." What makes mission possible? You do, the congregation of men and women – the only interpretation of the gospel." That is what we were told at the Synod Conference and, as the song says, "Take a chance on me. That's all I ask of you honey. Take a chance on me".

David O McEwan (David is the Lay Chaplain at St Kieran's, Campbeltown and has been involved in Lay Ministry for over 42 years)

Celebration of Lay Ministry

- When: Saturday 7th June 2014
- Where: The Cathedral, Oban
- Time: 12 noon
- Service: Sung Eucharist
- Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson
- Purpose: To celebrate Lay Ministry in all its forms

Who is invited: You are

On Saturday 7th June at 12 noon in the Cathedral at Oban, Bishop Kevin will preside at the Eucharist, during which Pastoral Assistants will be recognised and authorised. The Pastoral Assistants have undertaken training during the last year and are drawn from several congregations. This gives the Diocese, the opportunity to celebrate all lay ministry within our congregations. Those who are Lay Readers and Lay Leaders will have the opportunity to renew their own promises to serve. The invitation to celebrate discipleship and service is to all those who contribute to the life and worship of our congregations. Musicians have very particular gifts but so do those who assist at the altar, read in church, arrange flowers, make coffee etc etc. This is a Diocesan celebration of our lay ministry and of being disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr Anne Tomlinson led our last Diocesan Conference day and is well known to many of our congregations. Anne works closely with Alison Clark in the field of ministry and congregational development.

The Eucharist will be followed by lunch in the Cathedral, to which everyone is most welcome. Obviously for catering purposes clergy and lay leaders need some idea of numbers attending so please let them know locally and they will inform Dr Sue Pollard at the Diocesan Office.

This is a very significant Diocesan celebration to which all are welcome on Saturday 7th June at 12 noon in the Cathedral at Oban.

+Kevin, Argyll and The Isles

Diocesan Retreat - 'The Cook, the Thief, his Wife and her Lover'.

This year the Diocesan Retreat will take place from Monday 27th -Thursday 30th October, on Cumbrae. More details will follow. Contact the College (01475 530657) to secure a place.

Godly Play Discovery Day—Oban Saturday, June 14th

Discovery Days let you find out a little more about Godly Play; allowing you to see and experience a Godly Play session and to find out a little of what Godly Play is and how it works. Please contact admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk to book a place.

Bishop's Lent Appeal

FORWARD
Safeguarding rights & dignity

Please send your donations for this very worthwhile cause to the Diocesan Office as soon as possible. Please make cheques out to the "Episcopal Diocese of Argyll & The Isles".

Book Corner

Practicing Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, discernment and Moments of Grace by Nora Gallagher

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Mon-Thurs

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Communications

NEWSLETTER

The June Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **26th May, 2014.**

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

TWITTER Hashtag #AaTI

FACEBOOK Please 'Like' the Facebook page for Argyll and The Isles.

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

7th May	Pastoral Visitors' Course 2
31st May	Pilgrimage to Ensay
7th June	Celebration of Lay Leadership
12th -14th June	General Synod, Edinburgh
14th June	Godly Play Discovery Day
24th June	Diocesan Finance Committee
24th June	Diocesan Mission & Ministry Board
1st July	Diocesan Standing Committee
27th-30th October	Diocesan Retreat

Caring for the Elderly in Scotland

21st May, Edinburgh

The Scottish Government's Reshaping Care for Older People programme sets out a long term strategic approach to providing care that can deliver future care for older people in Scotland. The strategy lays out a national framework for local partnerships to develop joint strategies & commissioning plans. Providing the right care for our older people in Scotland is a challenge. This conference will explore what needs to happen next to ensure care is delivered, when needed to a high standard across Scotland. Contact 0131 556 1500 www.mackayhannah.com