



Number 59: August 2014

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News from around the Diocese Baptism and Confirmations on Iona

Bishop's House recently celebrated as two people were confirmed and one of them baptised in the sea. These were Katie Edmundson, the grand daughter of Jeff Fielding, Gruline`s Lay Leader and Susan Lindsay who worked until recently at Iona Abbey. Total immersion in the sea was her request, and we had been looking forward to this for months.

However, on checking the state of the beach at Bishop's House the day before we were dismayed to discover that the tide was so low that it was way out beyond the sand with slippery green seaweed over smooth rocks a health-and-safety nightmare. Coupled with torrential rain on Sunday morning our plans seemed doomed. Bishop Kevin declared "I haven't come all this way not to do a baptism in the sea!"



Bishop Kevin baptises Susan

Miraculously the rain stopped in the nick of time and the sun came out, and Susan was thoroughly baptised, immersed three times in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as a crowd of her friends, with Katie and her family, watched from the beach.

Around forty five people attended the Eucharist in the Chapel, with a typically Bishop Kevin style inspiring sermon about the Holy Spirit involving coloured balloons.

An 83 year old friend, who travelled from Glasgow to support Susan, later said "That was one of the holiest moments of my life. I would have travelled a thousand miles to be there." *Joyce Watson*
Katie Edmundson, Bishop Kevin & Susan Lindsay



Exciting News from Arran

It looks as though our small congregation at St Margaret's, Whiting Bay, has a busy and hopefully productive month ahead. On Wednesday, 13th August, just after mid-day, Father Simon's "pop-up church" programme, which he described in his interview in this week's *Arran Banner* newspaper, is to be launched at the famous Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot. The idea is that as many of St Margaret's congregation as are available will assemble for our usual midweek said Eucharist in a room in the hotel, and invite the public to join us. They can take Communion or not as they wish, but we hope they will get to know us and what we are about, and perhaps stay behind with us afterwards for a pub lunch and further conversation. We are going to advertise the event by posters locally, and also in the *Banner*, and trust that we may get a good response (perhaps even a new member of the

congregation or two?) We also hope to benefit one or two local Anglicans who live too far away from Whiting Bay to attend our Sunday services regularly. The programme continues at two further hostelrys on the island at the end of August and in September. Please pray for a successful outcome!

Three days later, on Saturday, the 16th August, we are following up with a major event at St Margaret's itself. The occasion is the twentieth anniversary of our first service in our present building. All our friends and the general public are invited to call in from 2.00 pm for cream teas. There will also be an exhibition of our history, a second-hand book stall (and anything else we think of before the event!). Later that afternoon, at 4.30, we extend an invitation to all to join us for Evensong. We hope to have a small choir, and instrumental music provided by St Margaret's Recorder Group. Any visitors from the rest of the Diocese and beyond are of course heartily invited to join us at this hopefully joyful and auspicious event. If you can't be there, your prayers would be welcome.

John Roberts

Holy Cross, Portnacrois

Following the construction of the vehicle access last year, which has been such a boon in providing vehicle access to the main (rear) door for handicapped and wheel chair users, work has now started on a new, and much safer and illuminated, pedestrian access from the church to the car-parking area. This will avoid the present hazards of the very dangerous main road especially, but not only, in the dark after Evensong services.

Funds for these projects, as with the recent new Appin Car Park opposite the Kirk, were left by Brigadier Stewart, with his donation to the church being specifically "to maintain the churchyard (*where he and his family are buried*) in better than average condition."

This work is due to be completed about the end of the month.

Geoff White

Reflection for Action—Lochgilthead

Bishop Kevin and Alison Clark visited Christ Church, Lochgilthead recently to start Year Four of Mission Possible—Reflection for Action.

After a tasty lunch, a good proportion of the congregation spent an hour reflecting on the previous day's Gospel, reviewing their "Mission Possible" actions and



considering possible new initiatives to offer quiet space in the church and churchyard for visitors and members alike.

'... it was so relaxed; second, it was shared and positive; third, people seemed to be enjoying themselves, engaging with it, and expecting to be stimulated... In fact, it was FUN'

The Royal Highland Show



Bishop Kevin represented the Scottish Episcopal Church at the Royal Highland Show this year. He is pictured (r) at the Scottish Churches Rural Group Stand with Rt Rev John Chalmers, Moderator of the Church of Scotland

Bishop's House, Iona—Retreats available

Sanctus: a space to pray and play together through song

20 – 25 October 2014

Singing is a mind, body, spirit 'thing' and in the simple act of singing with others we come closer to ourselves, closer to others and closer to God. Our singing could lead us into community, movement, stillness, silence, pilgrimage, eating, intercession, action, laughter, tears... Drawing on music from the global church and the music within each of us, we will spend time learning songs, singing together, intentionally (and unintentionally) worshipping and praying, exploring Iona, as well as having time to be together and time to be alone. You don't need to submit an audition tape or qualification and you don't have to read music (although if you do that's great!). All abilities and voices are welcome. The only requirement is that you are open to learning new songs and singing with others! Only £395 per person for these five days, with all meals included.

[Not a] Retreat: a retreat for extroverts 25 – 29 October 2014

Putting the treat back in retreat! It's a retreat for those who don't do retreats. The thought of a silent meal time bring you out in a cold sweat? Feel like a misfit in the church? I used to think people who went on retreat just were not trying hard enough when it came to beach holidays. Explore what it means to be an extrovert in a retreat context. A big quiet island so we can talk lots and not disturb the quiet introverts. Time for space (and maybe even a little silence) but with others who, like you, have an extrovert nature. Opportunities for conversation, debate, creativity and laughter assured, meeting with the God of life in all its fullness, a certainty. And I promise if there is any silence there will be lots of opportunity to talk about it afterwards. Bring a bottle. £315 for the full retreat, with all meals included.

Contact Toben Lewis, Warden, [a] Bishop's House, Isle of Iona PA76 6SJ

[e] iona@island-retreats.org, [t] 01681 700 111

St John's Cathedral, Oban

St. John's has had a busy month with visiting musicians, our usual weekly coffee mornings and volunteer stewards / guides present during the week to welcome our many visitors. Mendelssohn on Mull ended their week's festivities with us on July 13th and we had a visit from Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint Andre de Colmar the following week.



Les Petits Chanteurs

Our coffee mornings continue to attract visitors from all over the world who enjoy the wonderful home baking donated by members of St. John's.

St Columba's, Portree— Festival of Island Life 2014

20th July to 3rd August

I would like to thank the many members of St Columba's community who over the two days of the 18th and 19th July who came together to create with great artistic flair this year's Festival of Island Life. This year the exhibition is to run for two weeks and I would also like to thank the many people who have volunteered to look after the exhibition on a daily basis.

As with the previous Festival in each window we tried to give a snapshot of Island life. This year we have included a WW1 memorial widow and the main floral display (expertly done by Margaret Greer) represents in this year of homecoming the wider family. Our Children's display is "a safe place to live" their home and community. With the rest of the windows representing a different facet of Island life from Music, Art, Handcrafts, Tourism, etc.

St Columba's, Portree— Festival of Island Life 2014 (cont'd)

I looked on with amazement as a selection of gathered objects were arranged together to create something memorable, you only have to look round St Columba's to feel very proud of our Island heritage and of our own efforts to portray our love for our home.

Eileen MacDonald



Crofting lores

Diocesan Retreat led by Bishop Kevin

The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, Her Lover – reflections on the story of Joseph and God's chosen people in slavery, exile, freedom and the promised land.

Monday 27 to Thursday 30 October 2014 at The College Cumbrae.

This year every congregation in the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles is involved in a whole year of Reflection for Action. We cannot share the good news of God's Kingdom unless we reflect, experience, know and recognise God's presence in our own lives. The 'stories' of scripture bring together reflection and experience, knowledge and recognition in very vivid ways which help us cope with our own experiences of slavery, exile, alienation and misunderstanding. This Retreat, will use the story of Joseph to help us recognise the peace which passes all understanding promised by Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, Her Lover – have much to teach us.

Registration forms may be downloaded from the website www.argyll.anglican.org/diocesan-retreat-2014/

or contact the Warden at the The College, Cumbrae for a hard copy. 01475 530353. The form includes an outline timetable for the retreat.

Places will be reserved for Argyll & The Isles participants until September when any remaining places will be open to all.

Grants are available to help with costs. Please contact the Bishop in the first instance.

Diocesan Blog

Last month we announced the arrival of the [blog](#) on the diocesan website. It would be really helpful to know if anybody is (a) reading it (b) thinks it worthwhile. You can do this by leaving a comment in the box provided. It will not appear right away because all comments are submitted for moderation. (This is not censorship but to protect the site from any spam.)

In our scattered diocese, some of us can feel isolated at times. The blog offers a possible forum for sharing views and experiences. Do have a look and leave a comment if only to say you've read the post. The CDO officer will then know she is not shouting down a well!

General Synod –Report on the Issue of Same Sex Marriage

General Synod 2014 of the Scottish Episcopal Church included reports and discussions on the ongoing issue of how the church approaches same-sex relationships, equal marriage and the massive recent shifts in society's attitudes to these matters. An attempt was made, from the floor of the house of the synod to start a debate on synodical change to allow equal/same-sex marriage – the attempt failed, but still received majority approval. The 'Cascade' process held in Pitlochry was reported on, and showed a set of respectful, listening behaviours



The Primus addressed General Synod

that is hoped will allow future discussions and debates to be conducted in a positive and healthy manner. The Argyll and The Isles reps at Pitlochry reported [here](#). At the conclusion of the synod table discussions on same-sex relationships, the Primus made a statement of his intention for the church

– presented [here](#) – which outlines the desire to have options, canonical and otherwise, for GS 2015 to consider. There will undoubtedly be debates in Edinburgh and diocesan synods on whether the church wishes to allow our churches to hold equal/same-sex marriages. In Argyll and The Isles we will be flowing the ‘Cascade’ process out to the charges, to allow us to discuss these controversial matters in a constructive and positive manner. Material on both the method for ‘Cascade’ as well as guidance towards content (theological, social, canonical etc.) for equal marriage issues will be provided by the diocese, supported by the team of people who attended Pitlochry and will champion this process within the diocese (see Pitlochry report above). The timescale for these discussions will be based around diocesan synod and General Synod timescales: over the next few months. We hope that the discussions will have a clear purpose: to determine the degree of consensus that exists within our diocese and within each charge on permitting equal marriage as part of the life of our church. There is almost certainly a divide on these issues in every charge in the diocese – and everyone’s views, experiences and attitudes are to be respected, listened to and taken into account in the formal church processes. For more information, contact Dean Andrew (in the first instance)

Peacemaking Sunday - 21st September

This year United Nations Peace Day and the churches’ Peacemaking Sunday come together on Sunday 21st September. This will also be the first Sunday after the referendum. Churches pray for peace all the year round but an annual focus is very important. It gives an opportunity to pray for those caught up in specific conflicts. The churches’ ministry of reconciliation can be reaffirmed.

Some local churches join together with an ecumenical or interfaith vigil or service. Religion should be seen as a power for reconciliation rather than conflict or division. Some churches mark it by special prayers and hymns and a sermon emphasising Christianity’s overwhelming preferential option for non-violence and Jesus’s blessing on peacemaking. (Matthew 5:9)

Uniting for Peace are producing special worship resources for this Sunday. If you would like a copy, please send £5 (cheques payable to ‘Peace services’) to the Rev. Brian Cooper, 144/1, Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH9 2AN (0131-446-9545)

It would be helpful to the Provincial Church and Society Committee to know how many churches are planning to mark this day. If possible, if you are undertaking some activity, please let the Rev. David Mumford know at 9, Castle Street, Brechin, Angus DD9 6JW or email dmumford@phnecoop.coop; 01356 622708.

Interfaith Scotland - Project Worker & Assistant and Events Organiser



Details of both posts can be found on <http://interfaithglasgow.org/get-involved/vacancies-and-volunteer-opportunities/> Scottish Charity Number SC029486.

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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 **25th August, 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 the Scottish Episcopal Church newsletter or the magazine at links from the website as above.

Diocesan Diary

23rd August	Reflection for Action Visitors' Meeting
25th October	Installation of Rev Hugh Lee as Honorary Canon of Cumbrae
27th-30th October	Diocesan Retreat
8th November	Protection Training
15th November	Lay Leadership Day

Book Corner

'The Road to Growth Less Travelled' Spiritual Paths in a Missionary Church by David Runcom



Used Stamps Wanted

Stamps will be sent to "Stamp Out Leprosy" very soon. If you wish to recycle yours in this way, please drop them off at the Diocesan Centre asap.

