



Number 61: October 2014

Inside this issue:

News and events around the Diocese	1 - 4
News from the Province	5
Ecumenical and Other Church News	5 - 6
Contacts	6

News from around the Diocese Retreat for St Margaret's, Whiting Bay

Our programme of "pop-up church" on Arran reported in the last issue has continued with a most successful gathering at the Lagg Hotel in the south of the island. The congregation of twelve was our largest yet, and filled all the seating (easy chairs, very different from pews!) in the hotel lounge. As ever, the celebration of the Eucharist was inspiring. The programme continues for one last meeting at the Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash on 1st October before the winter ferry timetable closes in.



The Gathering at the Lagg Hotel

Present at the service in the Lagg were Canon Michael Kitchener and his wife. He has been offering to do something special for St Margaret's as part of our Reflection for Action programme, and over lunch we were able to sort out what. I am delighted to announce that there was unanimous

agreement among those present that he should lead a congregational retreat at the College of the Holy Spirit, Cumbrae, in November. It has been provisionally booked for 24th to 26th of the month, most of the congregation will be taking part, and we are all eagerly looking forward to it. Canon Kitchener has offered a choice of themes for the Retreat, but I will not anticipate which it is likely to be at this stage. I am sure there will be more to say in a future issue of the Newsletter. *John Roberts*

St John's Cathedral, Oban

What a busy month! It all began when a member of the congregation very kindly baked a beautiful cake to celebrate the second anniversary of the Provost's installation. David Pollard, Provost's Warden, said a few words and the cake was enjoyed by everyone. We held our first 'Café Church' with music and singing led by Hazel Polson. The small all age ecumenical congregation enjoyed worshipping in a relaxed atmosphere, singing, praying, colouring and chatting with the theme being

Creation - and there was cake! The Provost was invited to lead worship, along with Revd Ian McFarlane from the Baptist Church, at the Argyll and Bute Drum Head Service commemorating the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI. It was a beautiful day and well attended - there was no cake. The biggest event this month was the 150th anniversary of the original church. A Festal Evensong was held on Sunday 21st September with



Provost Nicki and Rev Ian McFarlane

Canon Allan Maclean, former Provost, preaching. It was a wonderful service thanks to the gifts of the choir and Norman Nicholson, choir master and organist. The reception following was outstanding, thanks to Jenny Moody and her band of helpers. Christine Marlow and associates arranged a mini flower festival which was



The Choir with the Dean, Canon Allan Maclean, Norman Nicholson and Provost Nicki



stunning and Sarah Campbell and others held an art exhibition. There are display boards showing photos of the current congregation and information from the archives on a variety of events held at St. John's over the years. Yes, there was cake! Finally our Harvest Festival was held, still surrounded by the beauty of the mini flower festival with many generous donations of home grown / made produce, including three large pumpkins grown by the Green Shoots Project at Glencruitten, which were auctioned following the service. After a quick lunch the Provost and Choir headed to St. James', Ardbrecknish for the annual Harvest Evensong. This service is infamous for the amazing

hospitality offered by the small congregation and, as usual, a wonderful afternoon tea was enjoyed by all following a beautiful service. Of course there was cake! Food from both services was donated to HOPE kitchen and the Lord's Larder in Oban.

St Peter's, Stornoway—Discussion on Same Sex Marriage

Marion MacKay, one of the members of the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles who attended the Provincial Cascade Process meeting in Perth earlier in the year, led a discussion on Same Sex Marriage within the Church at St Peter's, Stornoway.

Two posters were stuck on the wall (they don't have high-falutin wi-fi at St P's). One poster had questions :-

- 1) What do we need to know in order to discuss same-sex marriage?
- 2) What has shaped your views on same-sex marriage over the years?
- 3) What considerations should the SEC take into account when exploring whether to incorporate s-s marriage into church life?

The second poster had a map of the UK with major Scottish population centres marked, as well as "us" in the Western Isles. On either side of this map was a further question - What is? Scripture? interpretation? a liberal? justice? inclusion? marriage? civil partnership? culture? LGBT? What is? scriptural authority? a revisionist? an evangelical? compassion? homophobia? equal marriage? blessing? faith community? LGCM?

There was a brief presentation on all the above issues and terms, agreement that everyone would listen to and be respectful towards others and then an hour long discussion over lunch with everyone participating and some very different views being expressed.

The diocese intends to roll this process out in the near future.

Diocesan Retreat – Cumbrae 27th -30th October

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.

Do you feel isolated in your situation? Are you hungry for more Christian teaching? Or do you simply need some time out for reflection? Think about coming on the diocesan retreat.

Does the word 'retreat' scare you? It's very much a part of the Anglican tradition and can take a number of forms. We will hear talks given by Bishop Kevin on his theme and spend time in silence in the peaceful environment of the College and Cathedral on Cumbrae. For those who enjoy a walk, there will be time to go off around the island or along the seafront. The offices of morning and evening prayer are observed together with a daily celebration of the Eucharist. The beds are comfy and the food is good. Money a bit tight this year? Contact the Bishop with a view to a subsidy towards the cost.

You can book by downloading the form from the diocesan website <http://www.argyll.anglican.org/diocesan-retreat-2014/> or by phoning the College on 01475 530353.

Ester in Tanzania



September 2014

Dear Sponsor

In Moshi the children have only four weeks off school for summer break and an equal time at Christmas. So for them the holiday now seems a long time ago. What do they do during this long break from school? Those who have any family, or good friends, whom they can visit for a spell, do this. About ten of the children remain at MCCC for the whole of the break. Christine Heckman, who used to work at the Centre, came back for a few days and took some of these children away for short trips.

However, for all of the children, the highlights are the weeks of camp. They don't go to camp but camp

comes to them, this year run by a GLO team and headed up by Allison Hill, one of our trustees. Fun, games, Bible stories, singing and craftwork combine to make a pleasurable holiday for the children. The children we support but who live at home in the community also come in to the centre for camp. Here is a short report from Allison:

This summer saw our 12th annual MCCC camp, with around 40 primary school age children attending - those from the community programme joined with those who are residential for an action-packed week of activities - sports, Bible stories, quizzes, and crafts to name but a few.

There were twelve GLO team members from Scotland and these were ably assisted by several of the MCCC young people who acted as translators and leaders. The maturity of the Tanzanian young people and their willingness to be involved was one of the most encouraging aspects of my visit this year. Richard acted as the main translator and Zawadi was also a great help. Irene, Eliza, Rebecca and **Ester** were also helpers this year. Several of these young people shared their testimonies during camp. The activities were centred around a World Cup theme - with a daily football tournament causing much excitement and competition. During that week seven children made the decision to join 'Jesus' team' and gave their hearts to Him.

We ran another camp during the second week of our time there. This was for older children who had links with Scripture Union. Several of these teenagers indicated that their faith had been strengthened through camp.

One exciting new development at MCCC is the appointment of Lucia Kishia, as administrator at the Centre, a former child at MCCC and now a graduate.

If you are hoping to send a card and/or small gift to your child for Christmas, look out for the last posting date: it will be in November!

Your support and prayers are important, so thank you.

On behalf of the children, the staff in Moshi and the UK trustees.

Karen Caswell

From the Bishop's Lent Appeal of 2013, The Diocese of Argyll and The Isles is sponsoring Ester through two years of secondary education which she would not otherwise have been able to undertake. We have received a copy of her annual report which shows that she has done well in most subjects. She is 23rd in her class of 177!

Thanks to all those who brought stamps. To the Diocesan Centre. It certainly seems worth the effort of removing them from the envelope!

A new collection has now been started. Please drop your donations off at the Diocesan Office.



Transforming lives in India

Kadirul, 14, is a patient at Premananda Hospital in Kolkata. His father died a few years ago and his mother struggles to raise him and his 10-year-old brother.

Kadirul has never been to school and spent the last few years as a shepherd, bringing in the money needed to support his mother and brother. Three years ago he was playing with his friends when he injured his foot. The wound did not heal and he was having problems walking.

A fellow villager suggested he made the seven-hour journey to The Leprosy Mission's Premananda Hospital in Kolkata as they were experts in foot ulcers. (It later transpired that this man had been treated at Premananda Hospital for leprosy but because of the stigma surrounding the disease in India, he did not want to reveal to Kadirul and his family that he was leprosy-affected.)

At Premananda Hospital Kadirul tested positive for leprosy and was given multidrug therapy. Tragically, although the drugs cured his leprosy, the disease had already taken its toll on his body leaving him with 'clawed' hands and feet that were prone to injury as a result of leprosy-caused nerve damage.

It was at Premananda Hospital that Kadirul realised that he had little hope of becoming a farmer as labouring would lead to further disability in his already numb feet. But despite being barely able to grip a pen due to his 'clawed' hand, Kadirul jumped at the chance of learning to read and write from a hospital volunteer during his stay at Premananda. He is motivated to continue his studies after hearing that he could be accepted onto a course at The Leprosy Mission's vocational training centre in Bankura where he will have the opportunity to train to do a skilled job. This was previously beyond Kadirul's wildest dreams and, for the first time, he is looking to a bright future.



A record-breaking year for Stamps and Collectables!

2013 was a record-breaking year for The Leprosy Mission's Stamps and Collectables team. Thanks to your loyal and faithful support, we have raised a six-figure income with a total of £122,610.

It is hard to believe that a bunch of used stamps can help transform the lives of people affected by leprosy. But the fact is that it can! It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be provided to people in desperate need. Please continue to remind family, friends and those you regularly meet with to save their stamps and other small collectable items we are able to use (see overleaf). We would also be grateful if you could consider others who may be able to get involved - the local school, high street businesses, church groups and organisations. The more the merrier!

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to receiving further gifts of stamps and collectables.

Phil and Sallie Jarman

PS. Please note our new telephone number is 01733 516694



We welcome donations of ALL types of stamps - even the most common. Please note, it is better for stamps to be left on their backing and not be soaked off. We recommend they are trimmed with a maximum of 5mm of single thickness paper border around each edge.



Very many thanks for your kind support through these gifts. It is much appreciated.
 Sorry for any delay in reply we have been away.
 Phil Jarman

Book Corner

"At Sea with God" by Margaret Silf has been highly recommended by Rev Joyce Watson. Margaret Silf is a respected writer and retreat leader.

Protection Training

The Provincial Protection Officer, Donald Urquhart and the Assistant Officer, Daphne Audsley are providing training at St John's Hall, Oban on Saturday 8th November from 11am to 2.30pm. All clergy, lay leaders, protection coordinators vestry members and others carrying out regulated work are strongly advised to attend. Please let the Diocesan Office know of your availability for catering purposes.

There is now a Protection page on the Scottish Episcopal Church website (www.scotland.anglican.org) with access to numerous resources. On the Home Page, select "Who we are" and scroll down to "safeguarding".

The Referendum

Speaking on behalf of the College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Primus, the Most Rev David Chillingworth, says "The people of Scotland have decided that Scotland will continue to be part of the grouping of nations which make up the United Kingdom.

"The Scottish Episcopal Church is an historic Scottish Church. Our story is interwoven with the story of Scotland. We commit ourselves to working with all the people of Scotland as our relationships with our neighbours continue to evolve.

"We hold particularly in our hearts and in our prayers today those for whom this decision brings a feeling of hopes dashed and vision lost. With our partner churches and all in the faith communities, we pledge ourselves to work for reconciliation and pray for healing in our community."

The SEC website gives details of resources produced by 'A place for Hope' for reconciliation following the Referendum <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/reconciliation-following-referendum/>

The Committee for Relations with People of Other Faiths encourages members of the Scottish Episcopal Church to participate in research being undertaken by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has approached Interfaith Scotland to ask if faith communities across Scotland might help in a major call for evidence that it is undertaking. The questionnaire seeks to assess the role that a person's religion or belief, or lack of it, plays at work and when using services. This major call for evidence is part of a three year programme to strengthen understanding of religion or belief in public life, to improve knowledge of what happens in practice and to make sure that the laws which are in place to protect everyone's right to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect are effective. It follows a change in the law, so that discrimination on the basis of religion is now recognised in law. The Commission is interested in hearing about both good and bad experiences, to better understand the role religion plays in public life: both how religion has contributed effectively in shaping a workplace, and how people might have felt discriminated against because of their religion, or lack of it. Episcopalians might have a rich set of experiences to offer on how public life has been shaped by faith - how an employee or manager's faith has contributed to the ethos and delivery of an organisation, for example, and we would encourage you to use this opportunity to document those.

The questionnaire must be completed by October 14th and can be found at www.equalityhumanrights.com/r. Go to the Home Page and then select Projects - Religion or beliefs.

70 Munros to Mark 70 Years

In 2015, Christian Aid turns 70. That's 70 years of working with partners in solidarity; 70 years of struggle to overcome poverty; 70 years of believing that the mountains of inequality corruption and justice can be moved.

"I have been to the mountaintop"

On our 70th anniversary, we invite you to the mountaintop with us—70 mountain-tops in fact. We aim to climb 70 Munros throughout 2015.

Martin Luther King's words from his final sermon invite us to not only look back at the past but to the future. We hope that as we venture into Scotland's wilderness, as we connect with nature and each other, we will get a refreshed view of how the world can be, where all are free from the scandal of poverty. We would love to raise £70,000 from this challenge. Reflections, material for discussion and prayers will be available.

www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/trekking/70-munro-challenge

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Communications

NEWSLETTER

The November Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **27th October, 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

14th October	Diocesan Board for Mission and Ministry Diocesan Finance & Property Board
21st October	Diocesan Standing Committee Island Retreats Ltd - Annual General 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

Godly Play

3 Day Accredited Training -	Wed 24th - Fri 26th June, Edinburgh
Godly Play Circle -	Tues 11th November, 7.30 pm, Church of Scotland Centre, Oban
Going Deeper into Advent -	Sat 25th October, Glasgow, Sat 1st November, Edinburgh

Going Deeper into Easter & Lent - Sat 28th Feb followed by making Easter Eggs

Contact admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk