



**Number 62:  
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## News from around the Diocese Hugh Lee Installed as Honorary Canon of Cumbrae



Rev Joyce Watson, Canon Joyce Pow, Canon Keith Pagan, Canon Hugh Lee, Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Very Rev Nicki McNelly, Very Rev Andrew Swift and Canon Alexander Boyd

It was one of those wonderful occasions for which the Cathedral of The Isles has become noted. A gale was blowing; ferries all up the West Coast were disrupted or cancelled; the rain had been falling all night - but on Saturday 25th the gale was from the west and didn't affect the Cumbrae ferry; the sun appeared miraculously at midday; the choir - drawn, as is the custom, from elsewhere and all requiring to travel long distances - were all on time for their rehearsal and the organist, Jonathan Cohen from London, was there on the bench waiting. Add to this a gathering of clergy in a variety of copes and as many candles as the Cathedral could hold - you get the picture?

All this effort and all this splendour were in recognition of the work and ministry of one man - Canon Hugh Lee, formerly Rector of Dunoon and Synod Clerk of the diocese. And no man deserved this recognition more, for Hugh has been tireless and fearless over the years in his work for the welfare of the diocese - work that has continued far past the age when normal mortals think of putting their feet up and doing what they please. His quest for the truth has led him down difficult paths, but throughout his ministry in Argyll he has always been an approachable and honest mentor, a sensitive and spiritual priest.

So the service was a joyous Choral Evensong, using the traditional Prayer Book form and suitably splendid music, including Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer" (that's the one with "O for the wings of a dove" in the middle of it) and Bruckner's "Locus Iste". The Dean preached - and this chorister has to say that it's the very first sermon she has heard from the choir stalls in its entirety, thanks to judicious use of the sound system - and Bishop Kevin presided and installed Hugh. Hugh's family were there - what did his grandchildren make of it all? - and people made the most of not one but two terrific bunfights at lunchtime and after the service.

As the service drew to a close, Hugh welcomed his old friend Bishop Idris, who was in the congregation, and told us all how much this honour meant to him - not simply a canonry arising from his job, but one conferred on him as an individual. By the time Bishop Kevin pronounced the final blessing we were all grinning like guests at a particularly joyous wedding.

It was that kind of day, really.

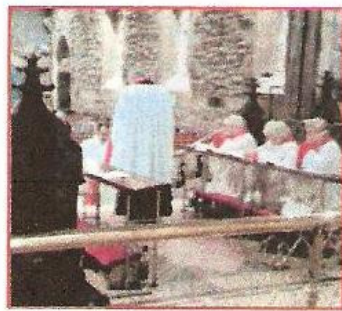
*Christine McIntosh*

**St Andrew's, Fort William**

While the summer months have brought some sadness there has been time for celebrations, joyous ecumenical events, fun-filled fundraising and charitable giving as well as being able to welcome many, many visitors from far and wide to our beautiful church.

On a happy note, in May we celebrated—with triple chocolate cake—the belated 80th birthday and return to good health following major heart surgery of one of our sidespersons, Donald MacIntyre. Later in May our annual ecumenical Pentecost Walk saw a large, cheery group walk from the Salvation Army Citadel to St Mary's R.C. Church then to Duncansburgh Macintosh Church of Scotland before concluding at St Andrew's where, after the address, hymn and prayer, our usual hospitality saw everyone refreshed with tea or coffee and lots of tasty home baking.

In early June we sadly lost our Treasurer, Mr Mike Wardle, who was also one of our choristers following a year of declining health and increasing immobility.



Fr Alexander renews his vows

On 29th June, the anniversary of his ordination, our Rector, Alexander, renewed his ordination vows led by Canon Gerald Kaye. During the renewal Alexander prostrated himself as he had done in Inverness Cathedral in 1985. There were some concerns that, with his dodgy leg/hip, he might not be able to get back up without assistance but fears proved unfounded!

July and August saw the return of Soups. It had been agreed that we would do Soups on only one

day per week for 9 weeks but add a Baking stall to try and 'compensate', even sending 'volunteers' down to the lych gate to tempt passers-by. We were delighted with the result and the money has already been earmarked towards costly repairs, due to begin in October, to our west wall and baptistery roof to try and get rid of our 'indoor waterfall' which is badly eroding the stonework. We also had a successful Sales table and Book Stall to raise money for improvements to the grounds at the front of the Church.

During September we collected foodstuffs for Lochaber Foodbank as part of our Harvest Thanksgiving. The Congregation responded magnificently.

At our Harvest Thanksgiving Service our small but enthusiastic Sunday School very kindly presented beautiful baskets of fruit and vegetables to be distributed to the elderly.

On 27th September we held a Coffee Morning in aid of Erskine in memory of the start of World War One 100 years ago. Apart from teas and coffees with beautiful baking, we had a Raffle Table full of



marvellous prizes, a Baking Stall, groaning with goodies and also a Children's Lucky Dip. It was very, very successful and raised a fantastic £1,000 for Erskine.

**Notice: Patsy Fallows RIP**

We are sad to announce the death of Patsy Fallows, wife of the Revd Adrian Fallows, rector of the West Highland Region charges in our diocese. Patsy died in hospital in Inverness on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October following a short illness. The family thank everyone for their support in terms of prayers, messages and cards. Please continue to pray for them at this difficult time. A Memorial Service will be held at St Mary's, Glencoe on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm.

## Rev Ken Skipper retires

It was an emotional Eucharist service on September 28<sup>th</sup> at St Columba's, Islay – Ken Skipper, our retiring, 'retired' priest, who has served us faithfully in all aspects of ministry for the past 16 years, took his last Eucharist Service before he finally retired from all his priestly commitments. Members of the congregation, accompanied by Sue Blockey from the Mull congregation, who has known Ken for many years



Rev Ken and Christine Skipper

as she and the Islay and Arran Diocesan representatives have together enjoyed David and Vanessa's Kilpatrick's wonderful hospitality at their home in Kilninver. We had a 'bit of a do' after the service – sandwiches, scones, crispy cakes and a special cake made by my granddaughter, Emma. We presented Ken and his wife, Christine, with a basket of 'goodies', including an identical duck decanter to the one that David had often used at dinner at Kilninver, a 'Memory Book', and a bouquet of flowers. We wish them all health and happiness as they plan to move south again. We now go forward in faith. We hope to start the completion of our new extension very shortly and I am trying to organise a rota of visiting priests. Any help in this respect would be greatly appreciated.

*Lesley Barford, Vestry Secretary (07771 926328)*

## St Columba's, Portree



For the second year, we have celebrated our Harvest Festival service in the round, led by Sr Elizabeth, this format has proved very popular with all, especially the children.

## St. Peter's, Stornoway

At our most recent Women in Theology evening, 20 October, we considered "By the Renewing of Your Minds; the Pastoral Function of Christian Doctrine" (OUP 1997) and a follow-up book, "God and the Art of Happiness" (Eerdmans 2010). Both books come from the lucid mind and pen of Professor Ellen T. Charry, Distinguished Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, USA. Marion Mackay gave a paper outlining Professor Charry's thinking on "human flourishing from a Christian perspective . . . God wants us to flourish, in which case theology, which teaches us to know God, must nourish human lives". But how do we explain doctrine in such a way that it helps Christians be transformed by Christ's life and therefore flourish? In the ensuing (ecumenical) conversation, we discussed how churches could renew their capacity to enable believers to "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds", as Paul longs for in Romans 12:2. How do we practise the theological art?

*Marion MacKay*

## Diocesan Retreat

On Monday I headed off in the usual damp and windy October weather I've come to associate with going on our Diocesan Retreat. A group of fellow hardy retreatants gathered at the College of the Holy Spirit to be led by Bishop Kevin through that wonderful story of Joseph in the Book of Genesis.

From an arrogant favoured son to becoming Pharaohs' trusted right hand man. We followed Joseph through his imprisonment, his journey with God, his reconciliation

with his brothers and being in the position to re-settle his extended family in one of the best grazing places in Egypt.

In the "profound silence that was experienced" to quote +Kevin, we were given Thoughts to mull over and Spiritual Exercises to stretch both our brain and our faith.

Tying in with year 4 of the Building the Vision programme (Reflection for Action) we were challenged to pay Attention, Analyse, Align and be Active as we reflected on Joseph's story and how it relates to us, our congregations and our own individual mission and ministry.

A "teaching Eucharist" on Tuesday was followed on Wednesday by a wonderful service in which one of the retreatants, Elaine Garman, was Confirmed. (see photo)



Bishop Kevin with Elaine Garman following her confirmation

I think it is safe to say a great time was had by all and our thanks went to David Todd and his team for their excellent care and good food.

On Thursday morning, I left Cumbrae feeling spiritually nourished, refreshed and totally loved by God. I'm already looking forward to the next Retreat.

*Catriona Beel*

Autumn recharge

Just what the priest ordered. Well, even if you didn't have a spiritual prescription for topping up the Diocesan retreat did just that. We had thought provoking inputs from the Retreat Director, who this year was Bishop Kevin. As ever we were well fed physically and generally looked after by David Todd, Warden and his staff. All in all - recommended.

*Elaine Garman*

The retreat was a special time of silence and peace; the services in the cathedral, the talks given by the Bishop, the hospitality of the College, all contributed to encourage and inspire us in our life with God.

*Jean Evans*

### **The Haven—Cowl Gathering**

Holy Trinity Dunoon was again heavily involved in the ecumenical 'Haven' project at the Cowl Highland Gathering in August 2014. The café tent on the hill in the stadium was run for the third year offering a covered, family-friendly seating area at the gathering.



All the proceeds from the café are donated to the Cowl Hospice, and the project is funded by the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Argyll and The Isles, Island Retreats Limited (the diocesan company running our retreat houses) and other local churches in the Dunoon and Cowl area.

Holy Trinity and all the local churches are keen to provide practical help at the gathering, and to benefit local charities at the same time. The space also lets the general public meet the local churches in a friendly and helpful way. Information and displays on the sponsors, local churches and Christian activities were on display in the tent for anyone who might be interested. All churches in the area have information included.

The café was staffed by people from several churches in the town, and project managed by Colin & Pat Sibley from Holy Trinity.

The project is an example of 'presence evangelism', where churches raise their profile outside of their church buildings and normal worship pattern by taking on

social or other action to benefit the wider community and to build links between church members and members of the public. The activity is not overtly evangelistic, although people are on stand-by with suitable experience and printed materials to address any faith-based queries that may arise during the project.  
*Very Rev Andrew Swift*

## **New Children & Youth Officer for Argyll and The Isles.**



Mary Swift has been appointed as the new Children and Youth Officer for the diocese, following in this role from Sue Pollard. Mary, who lives in Dunoon, will also take part in the Provincial Youth Network and the Children's Network. Mary's husband is Dean Andrew Swift, the rector of Cowal and Bute, so she is very familiar with the diocesan team!

Mary has a passion for helping children and young people take their place as part of the church family: young people are not the future of the church, they are the church now.

Mary has been a Christian children's leader for nearly fifteen years, leading children's programmes in churches in Bristol, Oxford, Gloucester and now in Scotland. She is an accredited 'Godly Play' storyteller, and has worked for many years in teams going into local schools to tell the Christmas and Easter story to young people. She has even worked as an educational officer in Gloucestershire, giving road safety classes throughout the county to young people from 5 years old to college students.

Mary wants to help churches throughout our diocese, whether children attend or not, to make sure that we can offer a welcome to young people if and when they do join us. She will also work to communicate between children's workers and contacts throughout Argyll and The Isles, sharing good ideas, offering encouragement and even a little funding to help get projects started.

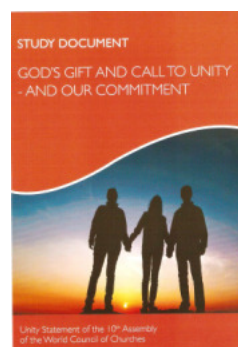
To contact Mary with any requests for information or resources, or to let her know what children's & young people's activities are running in your church, please email her at [mary@familyswift.org.uk](mailto:mary@familyswift.org.uk), or call 01369-702444.

Sue Pollard was Diocesan Youth Officer for the last 11 years during which time she arranged pilgrimages to Colonsay, Raasay and Cumbrae and held a further three Diocesan Youth Events. In addition she was a Leader at the annual Provincial Youth Camp and Diocesan representative on the Provincial Youth Network.

## **Unity Statement of the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches**

Each Assembly of the World Council of Churches produces a Unity Statement—a short reflection on the unity of the Church as both God's gift and God's calling. The Statement from the Assembly in South Korea in 2013 is now offered to churches for their consideration. The Scottish delegates have issued the Statement with some questions for reflection which are particularly suitable for ecumenical study.

The document is available on the Scottish Episcopal Website at <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Study-booklet.pdf> -



## **New Scottish Water Exemption Scheme**

Under this scheme, charities with gross income of under £200,000 would be exempt and those with gross income of £200-300,000 would have a 50% exemption. It would also be necessary to make an annual request for exemption. 'Guidance will appear at <http://www.business-stream.co.uk/water-rates-charges/water-charge-exemption-scheme>'

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<b>Diocesan Diary</b>	8th November	Protection Training
	15th November	Lay Leadership Day
	17th November	Standing Committee
		Island Retreats Ltd AGM

## Communications

### NEWSLETTER

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

**WEBSITE** [www.argyll.anglican.org](http://www.argyll.anglican.org) [www.island-retreats.org](http://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](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)

### ONLINE INSPIRES

Sign up for the Scottish Episcopal Church newsletter or the magazine at links from the website as above.

## Book Corner



'Bothered and Bewildered - Enacting Hope in Troubled Times' by Ann Morisy who was our presenter at the Synod conference of 2013.

## Porvoo Prayer Diary 2015

The latest Porvoo Prayer Diary can be found on the Diocesan Website. Find the link on the Home Page. Contact the Diocesan Office for hard copies.

## Congratulations!

The Warden of Bishop's House, Iona, Toben Lewis and Sarah MacDonald were married recently by Rev Joyce Watson. We wish them both well.

