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News from around the Diocese Confirmation on North Uist

At last the Feast of Christ the King (23rd November) had arrived - a date much anticipated by the congregation of St Brendan the Navigator on the Island of North Uist. This was a day that, for several months, we had been preparing for and looking forward to. Earlier in the year, I had discovered that Elizabeth Crichton, a student on the Art course at Taigh Chearsabhagh in Lochmaddy, wished to be confirmed, and I had made an initial enquiry of the Bishop. I know how busy the Bishop is, how scattered is the Diocese and how small the congregation here is; and yet I hoped that a confirmation could take place here since I knew it would be such an encouragement to all who come to the House Church here. So I was thrilled when I heard that the Bishop could come, and due preparations were put in hand. This included finding a local shepherd's crook for the Bishop to use as it is awkward taking a crozier in an aeroplane.



Elizabeth Crichton, Bishop Kevin and Rev Mary Lewis © Island News & Advertiser

And what a wonderful day it was! The service took place in my house on the west side of North Uist looking out over the Atlantic towards St Kilda. It brought together Episcopalians from North and South Uist and as we sang the first hymn, *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*, we looked out over the ocean with joy and thanksgiving. Bishop Kevin preached an inspiring sermon which included a history lesson on the Feast of Christ the King, as well as some profound thoughts on the meaning of faith. His assertion that "faith is not a fraudulent certainty" got everyone thinking! Then, as the Bishop laid his hands on Liz's head in confirmation, the low sun flooded into the room bringing an added dimension to our sense of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

The service was followed by a wonderful lunch contributed to by several members of the congregation. Liz was thrilled with her confirmation day and everyone felt encouraged by having the Bishop amongst us. As a congregation, we may be 'on the edge' of an island and a continent, but on this day we felt fully part of the family of the Church, enfolded into the Body of Christ.

Bishop Kevin summed it up by saying that it had been "a stunning day in every respect". Thank you to all who helped make it such a day and to the Bishop and to Elspeth for making the journey to be with us.

Rev Mary Lewis

St Peter's, Stornoway—Reflection for Action

At a lunchtime session on Wednesday 26 November, a small group of us at St. Peter's first chewed over some "hearings" - Ezekiel 34 :11-16; Ezekiel's vivid vision of God pastoring and feeding his desolate, exiled flock, Ann Morisy's reflection on the dramatic Apollo 13 story from her book *Bothered and Bewildered*, and a few paragraphs from Professor Ellen Charry's book *By the Renewing of your Minds*, on what kind of training it takes to be a Christian. After lunch we read John 10:1-15 together, where Jesus takes his turn to be the Good Shepherd and the Gate for the sheep. We followed this with a period of quiet reflection. How are we best equipped to seek and bring about good, hopeful action in our community? *Marion MacKay*

Sacrament House Wanted

The Congregation of St Columba's, Islay are looking for a "Sacrament House" in which to keep the Reserved Sacrament. Due to the altar being made of marble, it could not be screwed onto the altar but would need to be fixed to a wood lined wall. If anyone knows of such an item being available, please contact Canon Keith Pagan on 01586 830310.

New Warden of Lay Readers

Donald Shell of St John's Cathedral has been appointed as Warden of Lay Readers for the diocese. This involves working with the Bishop to support the ministry of our lay readers, to participate in discernment and selection for training of new lay readers and for the continuing development of our existing readers.

Donald moved to Oban in 2011 from Bristol where he was a lay reader, having trained in that diocese in the 1980s.

He is people's warden at St John's and has supported the Building the Vision initiative by leading discussion groups within the cathedral congregation.

He has also contributed to the life of the local community by a series of lectures to the Oban branch of the University of the Third Age on politics and constitutional

matters, subjects he studied, taught and wrote about during his career in the Politics Department of Bristol University.



Bishop Kevin & Donald Shell

Lay Leadership Day

The autumn lay leadership day was held at All Saints Inveraray this year and led by Bishop Kevin on the theology and practice of the Eucharist with particular attention to extended communion using reserved sacrament. It began with a study of John's account of the feeding of the five thousand. This generated enthusiastic and insightful contributions. The group studied the Scottish Episcopal Church liturgy for extended communion and Bishop Kevin encouraged those who lead such services to be confident in occupying the role. *Alison Clark*

Some comments from participants:

I found the day immensely helpful and supportive. The Bishop picked up on the very points that ...niggle away at my confidence in what I am doing and why.

Pauline Revill

It was especially good to get together with other lay people who administer extended communion with their congregations, and to realise that, though those of us in far-flung ...parts of the Diocese may feel on our own at times, we are far from isolated



The Lay Leadership Group with Bishop Kevin taken by Elaine Garman

in spirit, and have the support of the Diocese.

The atmosphere of friendship and openness...was another great benefit, not easily quantified but tangible.

John Roberts

'Constructive and well-structured training session'

Margaret Lamb

We enjoyed the day very much! Why? Going to Inverary, meeting several new (to us) people, the session on the Communion. Thank you!

Maureen and Jeremy Rivers

The lay leadership days 'provide a time for lay leaders from each of the charges coming together and getting more of a feel for what it means to be a part of the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles. Whilst the Synod Conference can do some of that, because you are meeting in a small group as lay leaders, it is an excellent opportunity for a growth in understanding and fellowship.'

Elaine Garman

Requiem at Inveraray for the War Dead

Bp Kevin celebrated a Mass of Requiem on Saturday 8th November at All Saints, Inveraray. The St Maura Singers sang the Byrd Mass in 3 parts, and Alastair Chisholm also accompanied the hymns. The smoke rose to the roof, as the polyphonic lines twisted and turned, and the building glittered and sighed, in accordance with the intentions of the Bell-Tower's founder. Duke Niall Diarmid X gave (and personally collected rubble for) Inveraray's famous Bell-Tower, writing "*My intention is that Mass be .. said.. especially in Die Omnium Animarum (on All Souls' Day) for the repose of the soul of my cousin Ivar and of all from my lands and districts who have fallen in the War and for all the faithful Dead.*" The Scottish Association of Change-ringers rang a half-muffled quarter-peal, on the world-famous ring of 10, all dedicated to Our Lady and the saints of Argyll, and Mr Craig Lang opened the proceedings most fittingly on the pipes.

It is notable that the founder mentioned all the faithful dead, as this is sometimes misremembered, and Mr Neil Iain MacLean, Inveraray Session Clerk and citizen who remembers from his boyhood, filled in "He would have included the Germans as well". It seemed most fitting in this centenary year to honour these intentions, with the dignity which this building and the amazing music lent to our praying.

Fr Simon

On Saturday 8 November we celebrated a Service of Requiem for the Departed especially those killed in War as the founder of the Inveraray Bell Tower wished. The Tenth Duke of Argyll, Niall Diarmid, an anglo-catholic churchman, directed "that Mass be said especially in Die Omnium Animarum for the repose of the soul of my cousin Ivar and of all from my lands and districts who have fallen in the War and for all the faithful Dead". This year we managed to carry out his instructions although not exactly on All Souls' Day. A sung Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, and the glorious bells were rung half muffled to a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Caters immediately following the service. Thanks are due to Father Simon Mackenzie, Priest in Charge of All Saints, Inveraray,

for making the arrangements.

As always there is a story behind the event. The service time had to be brought forward to allow members of the choir to catch the last ferry back to Cumbrae. The ringers were unable to ring before the service because of other commitments and the distance that they had come. The band comprised members of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunblane and Aberdeen Cathedral bands. Lastly and by no means least one of the ringers was feeling unwell but managed to struggle through a quarter peal valiantly. The weather in Argyll was typically atrocious. Despite the warning lights flashing an increased risk of landslips over the pass known as "The Rest and Be Thankful" we all made it without mishap.

The ringers of the Scottish Association are a determined bunch when it comes to challenges like this!

Inveraray, Argyll. 8 Nov, 1259 Grandsire Caters Helen M Brotherton 1, Alex P Frye 2, Judith L Frye 3, Margaret Williams 4, Jennifer A Holden 5, Terry G Williams 6, Bill Brotherton 7, Jonathan S Frye 8, Simon J Gay (C) 9, Ruth M Marshall 10. First on 10: 2.
Terry Williams

Requiem Service at St John's Cathedral

A requiem service was held in St John's Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday at which the Bishop celebrated and preached. "The Last Post", played by bugler, John Kane following the two minutes silence was very moving.



Very Rev Nicki McNelly, Bishop
Kevin and James Kane

Remembrance Poem

I was moved to write this poem after seeing a small display of 1st world war artefacts donated by local families at the garden fete held at Wincle, Cheshire, UK. 31-05-2014. It was in memory of those hundreds of thousands young men from both sides of that terrible conflict who did not survive, and whose dreams were never fulfilled and whose potential in life was never achieved.

REMEMBRANCE POEM

We left with cheers my mates and I from around our neighbourhood.

It would be all over for Christmas, we were led to understand.

We were all jovial, laughing and cheerful, waving to the crowd as we kept in step behind the big brass band.

But that was not to be in that ground of twisted rusting wire.

The smoke and shells and screams of broken men, lying in that knee deep mire.

Their scattered limbs and crimson blood, lost forever below that thick brown mud.

The rain the rats the sodden clothes, the forlorn look, the grey ashen face.

In their short young lives what had they ever done so wrong, to deserve this god forsaken place?

There was a crash, a blinding flash. My end was swift. And as I began to rise.

I left below me those shattered men and all their helpless cries of. Gasss! Gasss! Gasss!

A telegram was duly sent, which my parents they did receive, the message was quite brief, it simply read.

We are sorry to inform you but your three sons are missing, believed dead.

Those few lines brought a mother so much pain and filled her eyes with tears.
The passing of time did not heal those scars it was still the same after many, many, years.

I meet many souls from many lands as I pass above these now green fields that once were so barren and so bare.

Below I see a multitude of poppies, one for every soul that left his broken body there.

They too are looking for their friends, there's Pierre and Fritz Chuck and Guy They to ask the same as I. Why! Oh Why! Oh Why!

And above that hell on earth the place they called the Somme.

I am still searching for my Uncle Stan, my cousin Jack, and my two brothers Bob and Tom.

Authored by. Rod Hughes.

Book Corner

For Advent, you may like to look at the range of suggestions in the Wild Goose publication website: <http://www.ionabooks.com/books/advent-christmas.html>
You can order direct through the Wild Goose Publications website or support your local bookshop if you have one!

For those who don't use the internet, I've picked out two suggestions:
'Cloth for the Cradle', a wealth of worship resources for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany from the Wild Goose Worship Group, and for personal reading/meditation 'Good News of Great Joy' by Neil Paynter and Peter Millar, Reflections for Advent from members, associates and friends of the Iona Community around the world.

Alison Clark

Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)

The Faith and Order Board is seeking a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church to succeed Helen Hood, currently Convener of ACTS, who will stand down as the SEC's nominated Trustee of ACTS at the AGM in June 2015.

This is an opportunity to play a central role, along with the other trustees and key representatives and leaders of the nine Member Churches of ACTS, in the development of successful ecumenical activity and movement towards greater Christian unity in Scotland.

A strong interest in ecumenism is essential. Previous experience as a charity trustee would be helpful, but induction and further training as appropriate are provided. ACTS' Trustees attend five all day Trustee meetings a year, plus three Members' Meetings, one of which is residential over two full days.

For more information please email churchrelations@scotland.anglican.org

Clergy – do you need financial help with a sabbatical?

The Alastair Haggart Bursary Fund

In memory of Bishop Alastair Haggart a bursary fund was established by his family. The fund exists to help the financing of sabbaticals or other similar leave of absence for clergy and full-time ministers of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

A committee will convene in January 2015 to make the next award. Awards totalling up to £4,156 will be made. Individual circumstances, financial resources, and the nature of the sabbatical and its usefulness to the wider church, are taken into consideration when making the award. To apply for the bursary please complete the application form over and send it to: Alastair Haggart Bursary Fund, c/o Scottish Episcopal Institute, Forbes House, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE

Applications must be in by **6 January 2015**

If you would like an electronic copy of this form or any further information about the fund please contact the SEI office at the address above on 0131 243 1347 or email institute@scotland.anglican.org

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Diocesan Diary

20th January	Diocesan Finance & Property Board Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry
27th January	Diocesan Standing Committee
10th March	Diocesan Synod Conference
11th March	Diocesan Synod

Communications

NEWSLETTER

The January Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **5th January, 2015**.

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.

White Ribbon Day

By the time you read this, we will have entered the 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women that runs from 25th November -10th December. The International Anglican Women's Network and the Mother's Union marked this by a conference in Perth on 22nd November. It included a presentation on White Ribbon Day which aims to engage men in tackling violence against women and the importance of taking a stand during the international 16 Days of Action campaign to 'break the silence' which has existed for too long. For more information on White Ribbon Day go to <http://www.whiteribbonScotland.org.uk/> Scottish Domestic Abuse helpline 0800 027 1234 (24 hours) [Men's Advice Line](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk/) on 0808 801 0327, Monday-Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, or [Abused Men in Scotland](http://www.abusedmeninScotland.org.uk/) on 01383 62 44 11, every evening from 7pm-10pm