



Number 64: January 2015

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News from around the Diocese Diocesan Conference & Synod 2015

Our diocesan synod conference will be held on Tuesday 10th March with the synod following on Wednesday 11th. This year the working sessions will be held at the SAMS (Scottish Association for Marine Science) conference centre - PA37 1QA. The Eucharist and dinner will be held as usual at St John's Cathedral and the Argyll Gathering Hall. ALL those attending the synod conference and/or the synod are invited to the dinner: numbers needed at the diocesan office by the end of February.

Our conference presenter this year is the Rev David Runcorn, author of books such as 'The Road to Growth Less Travelled: Spiritual Paths for a Missionary Church'. He will lead us in a series of reflections on scripture entitled 'Singing in a Strange Land'.

The morning session on Tuesday 10th will be for clergy only then the afternoon will be for all (clergy, lay reps and others from charges) beginning with lunch at 1pm. You will receive detailed information, including advice on transport, in the customary mailing.

Our time together will include the launch of Year 5 of Building the Vision, 'Vision for Mission'. The main work on this will take place at the Synod on Wednesday. You are asked to make sure that your congregation is represented by the person who will co-ordinate the work on your congregation's mission. The lay rep will of course be involved but the vestry may send an additional person to be the main contact. Again, all numbers to the diocesan office by the end of February.

Reflection for Action

At the Diocesan Synod Conference on 10th March, all charges are invited to contribute your experience of Reflection for Action in the following way.

Agree on a word or phrase which sums up this last year for your congregation.

Present it on a poster or simple banner (we're not talking major embroidery projects - but then again don't let us stop you!). A simple cardboard placard will be just fine.

You may speak to it in ONE sentence.

This will allow us a brief space for feedback and an opportunity to introduce ourselves to our presenter the Rev David Runcorn.

If you still wish to plan a reflection session or quiet day, please contact Alison on 01700 500489 or alisonclark52@gmail.com

New Priest for Episcopal Church on Lewis

The Revd Terry Taggart is to be the Scottish Episcopal priest for [St Peter's Stomoway](#) and [St Moluag's Eoropaidh](#). Terry, originally from Glasgow, was formerly a Detective Sergeant with Lincolnshire Police then a mediator with the Ombudsman Services whilst entering ordained ministry. He is married to Samantha and they have two sons, one daughter and two Westie dogs. The Rt Revd Kevin Pearson,



Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, will license Terry as the priest in charge of the charges on the 23rd of January 2015. Please keep Terry, Sam and all the family, as well as the people of Lewis in your prayers as they prepare for this new and exciting ministry

Bishop's Visit to Arran

We have had a quieter time at St Margaret's, Whiting Bay, since the return of the CalMac winter timetable at the beginning of November. This has made it more difficult for Father Simon to get across from Lochgilphead, and forced the cancellation of the year's service, which was to be held at the Arran Distillery in



Lochranza. Never mind, I am sure that plan will be revived in the course of 2015, along with visits to further hotel venues. However, there was one event that enlivened our winter season: Bishop Kevin and Elspeth paid a much appreciated visit to St Margaret's on the weekend of 6th-7th December. Although the numbers able to attend the Eucharist on the Sunday were fewer than would be expected in the months of better weather, it was an occasion we will cherish, socially and spiritually, with the inspiring sermon we have come to expect from Bishop Kevin. A picture of Bishop and congregation is appended.

Christmas and New Year are a time on Arran when many people are away visiting family on the mainland, so that in some previous years it has not even been possible to hold a service on Christmas Day, but this year several members of the congregation stayed on the island, and a programme of worship was able to be arranged with the help of our Treasurer, Mary Boughton, to whom thanks are due. There was no Carol Service this year, but we plan to make up for that with a special event at Candlemas, when Father Simon plans to be with us again, and we may even enlist the services of a volunteer choir. Watch this space for further news!

John Roberts

Christmas at St John's Cathedral



From Darkness to Light

Congregation, visitors and locals alike. The quiet reflection of "Silent Night, Holy Night" helps to still the chaos of more materialistic preparations and set a better path towards Christmas Day. Thanks to the Provost for all the work she puts in to arranging these services.

Bishop Kevin explains the Nativity Scene



Godly Play in Oban

20th February - Discovery Day, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten

21st February - Making Materials Day, St John's Cathedral

Further information from admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk

Visitors from our Companion Diocese of Zanzibar

During February, we will have two visitors to the Diocese from our companion diocese of Zanzibar: Bishop Michael Hafidh and the Diocesan Secretary General, Nuhu Sallanya.

They will be in Scotland from Monday 16th to Friday 20th February and will begin their visit with an event in St John's Church, Edinburgh at which there will be a presentation about the Cathedral Restoration Project. The Zanzibar Cathedral is a World Heritage Site and the restoration project is an international one. The Edinburgh event will be open to all.

On Tuesday 17th they will meet Diocesan Officers in Oban and in the early evening there will be evensong in the Cathedral followed by a fund raising pancake supper hosted by our Cathedral. Funds raised will be given to the Zanzibar Cathedral



Zanzibar Cathedral

Restoration Fund. These Oban events are open to the whole Diocese, although there will be a charge for the supper and numbers will be required in advance.

On Ash Wednesday, weather permitting, they will visit Iona, followed by a lunch to meet the Gruline congregation and an Ash Wednesday Eucharist in St Columba's, Gruline, at which the Bishop will preside.

On Thursday 19th, they will travel to Dunoon to meet the Cowal and Bute congregations, before flying back to Zanzibar on Friday 20th.

Precise details are still being worked out and will be publicised via the Website and the next Newsletter at the end of January. *Peter Kemp*

A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Benedict

Thursday 24th to Wednesday 30th September 2015. Norcia, Subiaco, Monte Cassino - Led by Bishop Martin Shaw.

St Benedict, who founded a monastic system in the 6th century, had a such a profound affect on the Christian Church as a whole, but also on culture throughout Europe. The Anglican Communion itself owes much, particularly in its worship and spirituality, to Benedict and his abiding influence.

The cost of £839 is only guaranteed until Monday 26th January 2015.

If you are interested in taking part in this pilgrimage, please contact PAX TRAVEL 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU 0207 485 3003 Email: info@paxtravel.co.uk If you want to talk about more detail of the pilgrimage, please email Bishop Martin amartinshaw@gmail.com

Walking the John Muir Way

During ten days in June 2014 Eco Congregation Scotland Environmental Chaplain, Trevor Jamison, walked the 135 miles of the John Muir Way, stretching from Helensburgh to Muir's birthplace in Dunbar.

Trevor is available to speak with groups in churches about why he decided to mark the life and work of



this Scot-born pioneering American environmentalist in this way, and what he discovered along the route. If you would like to have Trevor come to your group with this illustrated talk please contact him to arrange a date. 0131 240 2274 or 0131 667 1788 trevor@ecocongregationscotland.org

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Diocesan Diary

20th January	Diocesan Finance & Property Board
	Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry
23rd January	Licensing of Rev Terry Taggart in Stornoway
27th January	Diocesan Standing Committee
16th-20th February	Visit from Bishop and General Secretary of Zanzibar
10th March	Clergy Day / Diocesan Synod Conference
10th March	Diocesan Synod Eucharist
11th March	Diocesan Synod
18th April	Lay Ministry Day

Communications

NEWSLETTER

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

Book Corner

'The Vows of Silence' by Susan Hill



Technically crime fiction, this novel is a good deal more than that. It explores family issues including matters of religious faith. Quite refreshing to find a piece of mainstream fiction that doesn't shy away from Christianity.

Alison Clark