



**Number 65:  
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## News from around the Diocese Diocesan Conference & Synod 2015

**Notice is hereby given** that the Diocesan Synod will be constituted on **Tuesday 10th March, 2015** at the Eucharist in St John's Cathedral, Oban at 5.45pm. The business meeting will start at 9.00am on Wednesday, 11th March in the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Dunstaffnage, Oban PA37 1QA. Please note the new venue. **All clergy and Lay Leaders are reminded to announce Diocesan Synod at all Sunday Services.**

Formal notice has now been sent out to all members of Synod. If you are a member but have not received the mailing, please contact the Diocesan Office. Any member of the Diocese is welcome to attend Synod but it would be helpful to know in advance for catering purposes.

### Invitations out soon - make sure to book your places at the Diocesan Synod Conference

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 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 Argyllshire Gathering Hall. Our conference presenter 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 (starting with coffee at 9.30am) will be for clergy only then the afternoon will be for all (clergy, lay reps and others from charges) beginning with lunch at 1pm. All charges are invited to contribute their 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.

Our time together will include the launch of Year 5 of Building the Vision, 'Vision for Mission'. Further 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. 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.

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

### St. Columba's Church, Gruline, Isle of Mull Ecumenical Service 18th January 2015

In spite of the treacherous weather a most joyful event took place on 18th January at St. Columba's Church, Gruline - a joint service celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This was a "Songs of Praise" style service which has become the tradition over recent years when a member of each congregation introduced themselves, their church and their chosen hymn. They then either read a lesson or prayer or outlined their reasons for choosing this hymn. Each contributor spoke from the heart and the total effect was most moving.

The snow and icy conditions took their toll on numbers this year but nevertheless the little church at Gruline was still full with a congregation of 50 or so people.

Coffee/Tea and biscuits and friendly conversations then followed the formal part of the service.

Every church on the island had responded positively to a personal invitation both verbal and written proving beyond doubt there is a strong feeling of Christian Unity alive and well on the Isle of Mull.

*Jeff Fielding (Lay Leader, St. Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church, Gruline, Isle of Mull)*

### St John's Cathedral, Oban

The congregation of St. John's Cathedral joined with the Church of Scotland and Baptist congregations at Oban Parish Church to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is the first time all three congregations and choirs have worshipped together in this way and everyone agreed we were blessed indeed and we enjoyed a wonderful time together. It was a true sign of our unity in



Very Rev Nicki McNelly with the Church of Scotland and Baptist Ministers

Jesus Christ and the things we hold and value in common, whilst also respecting our differences. We look forward to hosting this event at St. John's next year.

*Very Rev Nicki McNelly*

### Lay Ministry Day

**Calling all lay ministers! Please keep Saturday 18<sup>TH</sup> April free for a day workshop.**

Does this mean me?

If you have any significant role in your congregation – lay reader, lay leader, lay chaplain, worship leader, pastoral assistant, lay preacher, musician – yes, this is for you.

Our customary spring lay leadership event will be expanded this year to include all lay ministers. We plan to focus on 'Faith in Older People\*', a topic relevant to us all. Whether we are planning worship or visiting the house-bound, we need to think creatively about the needs of our older fellow Christians, both in order to minister to them and to learn from them. (Numerical age is not necessarily key. Vigorous church members in advanced age are the backbone of some of our congregations. The 'younger elderly' may have more health challenges than their seniors.)

Details of the programme and the venue will be sent out nearer the time. Many of you are already on a mailing list for such events. If you do not normally receive mailings about the lay leadership days and are interested to attend, please discuss this with your priest in charge and contact the office to be added to the list.

\* [Faith in Older People](#) is the name of a Scottish charity whose name we have borrowed as our theme.

*"The challenge for older people is to make sense of life at a stage when loss and change occur more frequently and perhaps more painfully."*

Malcolm Goldsmith, founder of Faith in Older People

*Alison Clark*

## Licensing and Collation of Rev Terry Taggart

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus". Bishop Kevin preaching eloquently on Philippians 2:5-11 as he urges us to "be of the same mind". At 6pm Friday 23 January 2015, as he leads a splendid service for the Collation and Licensing of The Reverend Terry Taggart as priest in charge of St. Peter's, Stornoway and St Moluag's, Eoropaidh. Our assembled congregation gave a hearty "we do" as we stood to respond to Bishop Kevin's question "do you, the people of this charge commit yourselves to share with Terry in the ministry of this church?" And it was equally heartening to hear our visitors, including a number of non- Episcopal



Bishop Kevin with Rev Terry Taggart and his wife, Diocesan ministers and local ministers

Ministers pledge to support Rev. Terry and all of us in turn. Various members of St. Peter's presented Rev. Terry with some of the tools for the job - a Bible, Holy Oils, a Prayer Book, some bread and wine, keys. And Rev. Tommy Macneil, Martin's Memorial Church of Scotland, welcomed him, inviting him to join with "all who minister in Christ's name in these islands". A

celebration of the Eucharist followed.

After the service we and our guests adjourned to the nearby Caladh Inn where we enjoyed an excellent buffet, some wine, good company and much hilarity. A memorable welcome to Rev. Terry and Mrs. Sam Taggart".

*Marion MacKay*

## The Scottish Episcopal Institute

The Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) is the training agency for the Scottish Episcopal Church and forms people for service as competent and confident public ministers, whether as Lay Readers, Deacons or Priests.

You can help to build the future by investing in the ordinands today through the work of the SEI. Please give what you can so that we can equip the Church for its mission. Please send donations made out to "The Diocese of Argyll & The Isles" to the Diocesan Office, from which they will be forwarded.

Almighty God, giver of all good things, you showed your love for us by giving us your only Son: help us to show our love for you.

Grant us this Lent the vision to see where you are at work in the world, the courage to join in that mission and the desire to give in support of those seeking to train within the Scottish Episcopal Institute.

In the power of the Spirit we make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/>

## BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2015



## Update on the February visit to the Diocese from our companion Diocese of Zanzibar

Bishop Michael Hafidh of Zanzibar and their Diocesan Secretary General, Reverend Nuhu Sallanya, will be visiting the Diocese from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of February.

The itinerary for the visit is:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February (Shrove Tuesday)

Lunchtime: Meeting the Bishop and Diocesan Officers

5.30pm Evensong in the Cathedral

Evening – after service fund raising supper in the cathedral (funds being raised for the Zanzibar Cathedral restoration project).

Numbers for the supper by Feb 10<sup>th</sup> please.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February (Ash Wednesday)

Morning: visit to Iona (weather permitting)

Lunch with the Gruline congregation on Mull

Evening: Ash Wednesday Eucharist in St Columba's, Gruline, at which the Bishop will preside.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Morning – travel to Cowal region

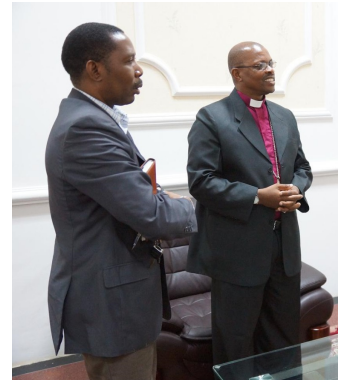
Afternoon – visits to local schools & sights around Dunoon & Cowal

Evening – service and social to meet the congregation of Holy Trinity Dunoon.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Morning – travel to Glasgow to prepare for return journey

Afternoon – return to London and Zanzibar



Nuhu and Bishop Hafidh



The main diocesan events are the evensong in St John's cathedral at 5.30pm on Shrove Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, and the following Zanzibar fund-raising meal in the cathedral. Nuhu will make a presentation on Zanzibar cathedral in this evening. All from the Diocese are warmly invited: please try to come if you can to fill St John's cathedral. Let the office know numbers for the catering by the 10<sup>th</sup> of February please.

## Human Trafficking

The Scottish Episcopal Church has long campaigned to eradicate the scourge of human trafficking. We are pleased that the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill has now been introduced to the Scottish Parliament. It will introduce measures that should **increase the likelihood of successful prosecutions in relation to human trafficking and also ensure better support for survivors of trafficking.**

The majority of people who are trafficked are women and children, many of whom who are forced into commercial sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking does not just exist because its victims are vulnerable - it exists because there is a demand for commercial sex that traffickers exploit for profit. Forced prostitution is a major driver of modern slavery and trafficking, so ending the demand for paid-for sexual services would make a real difference. Legislation to criminalise

the person who purchases sex, rather than the person prostituted, (the so-called 'Sex Buyer Law or Nordic Model') was introduced in Sweden in 1999 where it has had a positive impact in terms of reducing levels of human trafficking and the exploitation involved in prostitution. Such legislation has now been adopted by Norway, Iceland, Canada, and very recently Northern Ireland.

The Action of Scottish Churches Together (ACTS), through the Anti-Human Trafficking Group have in the past supported efforts to criminalise the purchase of sex and now church members and congregations are asked to support a Sex Buyer Law for Scotland by writing to their MSPs today. To kick start this campaign the ACTS group are writing a letter to the First Minister asking her to add the Sex Buyer law as an amendment to the proposed Human trafficking Bill; this letter will be signed by faith leaders and organisations who support this. ***Most importantly, we can inform you that the Most Revd David Chillingworth and Bishop Kevin have added their signatures to the letter.***

The template of a letter and some further information that you may want to incorporate into a letter of your own wording is provided here (below). It is preferable to write your own letter if at all possible, as MSPs are more impressed by different letters, but sending this template is fine if you don't want to do that.

I do hope that you will support this campaign to end, or at least reduce, this heinous crime.

*Jacci Stoye (SEC Rep serving on the Anti-Human trafficking group).*

#### **Text for the Action**

Thank you for supporting this letter writing campaign to ask our political representatives to ensure that the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill includes measures that will criminalise the purchase of sex. The Church of Scotland and the Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group believes that this will help to quell demand for prostitution with a consequential reduction in trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

Please feel free to use or adapt this letter, or to write using your own words.

#### **Letter template**

Dear Xxxxx,

I am pleased to note that the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill has been introduced in the Scottish Parliament and wish to support the Scottish Government's efforts to make Scotland a place that is hostile to those criminals who trade in the lives of our fellow human beings.

The majority of people who are trafficked are women and children, many of whom who are forced into commercial sexual exploitation. As you will be aware, this is the most frequent form of exploitation to which trafficked people are subjected. Sex trafficking does not just exist because its victims are vulnerable - it exists because there is a demand for commercial sex that traffickers exploit for profit.

I am writing to urge you to consider supporting an amendment to the Bill as it currently stands to include measures to criminalise the purchase of sexual services - sometimes known as the Sex Buyer Law or the Nordic model. Such legislation was first passed in Sweden in 1999 and has been found to have had a positive impact in terms of reducing levels of human trafficking and the exploitation involved in prostitution. Following its success in Sweden, this approach has been adopted in Norway, Iceland, Canada, and now most recently in Northern Ireland. It would be good to see Scotland incorporate the Nordic model within its anti-trafficking legislation, with funding to support women to leave prostitution, in ways that are appropriate to the Scottish context.

I believe that this would make an important contribution to tackling modern slavery and hope that you will give this proposal your careful consideration and support.

Yours sincerely,

Xxxxxxx

## CONTACT US

The office is staffed  
9.30am-2.30pm  
Mon-Thurs

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## Diocesan Diary

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 March Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **23rd February, 2015.**

**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** "Surprised by Hope" by Tom Wright recommended by Donald Shell, Warden of Lay Readers

### Lent study recommendations

The Reflection for Action materials may be used as a Lent study. Contact Alison Clark for a copy of the resource notes.

'Walking and Praying with Christians of the Middle East' is this year's study from CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland). Materials may be downloaded from the website <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/688>

The Return of the Prodigal Son' a Lent course adapted from Henri Nouwen's book - a deep exploration of the story as experienced through contemplating Rembrandt's painting.