



Number 66: March 2015

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News from around the Diocese

New Venue for Diocesan Conference & Synod 2015

This year, the meetings will take place at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Dunstaffnage, Oban PA37 1QA. The format has also changed slightly. The morning of the first day, Tuesday 10th March, will be for Clergy only. Laity are invited to lunch, following which the Synod Conference will take place. Both these sessions will be led by our guest speaker, Rev David Runcorn.

David Runcom, speaker, writer and spiritual director has been a vicar, theology lecturer and ministry development director.

He says:

These are exciting but easily confusing times for people of all faiths and none. Many of the familiar landmarks by which we navigate our paths through life are no longer there or have lost their meaning. How individuals and communities live and pray faithfully through such times needs much wisdom.

Don't miss this opportunity to work with David who is coming from Bristol to be with us on Tuesday 10th. (Clergy in the morning - everybody in the afternoon. Check the papers that have come to your Charge for details.)

The Diocesan Synod will be constituted at the Eucharist in St John's Cathedral, Oban at 5.45pm, followed by dinner at the Argylls hire Gathering Halls. The business meeting will start at 9.00am on Wednesday, 11th March at SAMS. All clergy and Lay Leaders are reminded to announce Diocesan Synod at all Sunday Services.

The Synod papers have been sent out to all members of Synod. If you are a member but have not received this 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.

Our Baptism

Our Baptism is a day we will always remember, full of candle lights and bubbles.

We chased the bubbles everywhere while Bishop Kevin told us what they represented. Bubbles are made of soap which we use to wash and clean and that was part of our Baptism. They also need air which was given us right at the beginning of creation and at our birth, and new birth, God's spirit was being given to us. The best part was the railway engine which ran down the church blowing out bubbles so the bubbles would reach everyone. We then had a competition to see if we could catch a bubble for if we did we would win £20, no one could catch one!

Bishop Kevin then told us bubbles were like faith, we couldn't grasp faith, like bubbles, but faith was there to show us just the next step of the way.

We were then baptised with water and anointed with oil to become members of the Christian family and everyone had candles. We had two special ones which we then took home. This was to remind us of the light of Christ within us and that would lead us.



Andrea and Holly with Bishop Kevin and Sr Elizabeth

After the service we had a lovely party and a super cake.
Thank you for a lovely day.
Andrea and Holly

Update from St Peter's and St Moluags in Stomoway

It's been an eventful time in Stomoway with a new Priest in Charge who has hit the ground running. No sooner had the violent storms abated when Reverend Terry Taggart and his wife Samantha arrived and began to circulate amongst the Church communities of St Peter's and St Moluag's. Reverend Sister Clare Lockhart had stepped into the breach during the vacancy and took the reigns. She was and continues to be, a blessing to both Church congregations.

St Peter's have managed to acquire the 'Holocaust' Memorial Peace candle which is one of only 70 commissioned in the UK. The candle was officially lit in a moving ceremony at the Castle College in Stornoway and in the search for a more appropriate setting where the general public could view it, it was suggested that due to the fact that St Peter's is open on a daily basis 7 days a week, it might be better there. The local media were also interested in this new addition to St Peter's and it was the subject of newsprint some days later.

The Ash Wednesday services at St Peter's were well attended. It was decided that two services should take place on the day at 12 noon and 6.30pm respectively in order to accommodate as many people as possible and this was clearly well received.

St Peter's now has a daily morning prayer between Monday's and Friday's and a Compline service every Wednesday evening.

Reverend Terry has put out 'feelers' within the Stornoway Inter denominational community in an effort to ascertain whether a 'clergy breakfast' could get off the ground. This would entail Clergy from all denominations meeting once a month for breakfast where friendship, community and new ideas could be circulated in relaxed surroundings. Initial responses have been encouraging and we hope that it will develop into a regular and popular gathering.

Rev'd Terry Taggart

Candlemass at St Margaret's, Whiting Bay

As reported in January, St Margaret's had a very quiet Christmas season this year, with so many members of the congregation being away. So we made up for it by having a special "Carols for Candlemas" service (actually a week late, on the 8th February, since Fr Simon comes to Arran on the



second Sunday of the month, but it was still Candlemas for us in spirit and in retrospect). We couldn't on this occasion secure the services of the Arran Singers, but our regulars were nevertheless joined by members of other island congregations to make a decent sized gathering, and the singing was enough, if not to lift the roof off, at least to let passers-by know that we were giving a good account of ourselves. We had begun with the Service of Light, and the church continued to be lit throughout by the candles held by the congregation. The hymns ranged from a few Christmas and Epiphany items, to catch up on what we had missed out on, via

"Jerusalem the Golden", to the Taizé "Nunc dimittis" and "Tell out my soul", following on from the Candlemas Gospel. There were five readings interspersed with the musical items, and of course prayers, Candlemas responses and an address by Fr Simon. An especially enjoyable feature was the incidental music provided by our recorder players, Dorothy Campling and Michael Collins, who played a selection of short baroque pieces by Boyce, Couperin and Telemann at suitable junctures in the service. Afterwards, everybody enjoyed Christmas cake and a chat. Unseasonal? – nobody seemed to think so, and our visitors went away looking well pleased that they had come.

The church year is picking up now, we have resumed our Wednesday midday Eucharists, and we are looking forward to our Retreat on Cumbrae towards the end of March. After that, more Pop-Up Church, we hope.

John Roberts

St Kieran's, Campbeltown



Mindful of the approaching Synod, St Kieran's has managed to squeeze another two Reflection for Action Sessions into its schedule. On Sunday 22nd February the congregation revisited what it said in Year 1 of Building the Vision.

It looked at how it hoped the church would look like in three years' time. It reflected on what had been achieved since then, what had not been achieved and also on the reasons why, and it considered what action might still be taken. It was particularly helpful to get the contribution of Connor Chinn to this discussion. He brought the observations of someone still in school (Secondary 4) and this helped add a new angle to how things stand at present.

In a third Session to be held on the 1st March, the congregation will engage in a quiet morning led by Ken Eames from the Society of Friends (a group of people with more experience than most in learning how to be silent in the presence of God.) Ken lives locally, just a stone's throw from the church and he will bring much appreciated insight to the meditative process.

Our Ash Wednesday service was led by Canon Pagan. 9 people were present, including 2 from the Church of Scotland and 1 from the Roman Catholic Church. Such is the shortage of clergy in The Roman Catholic Church now, that Campbeltown no longer has a Sunday Mass but instead it has a service on a Saturday evening, celebrated by the priest from Lochgilphead.

David O McEwan

St John's Cathedral, Oban

The Congregation were delighted to welcome Elaine Garman, one of the Diocesan Ordinands. Elaine and her husband, Gordon, visited St John's before Elaine comes to spend more time with us over Lent, during which she will be leading a course exploring our relationship with the Holy Spirit, and Holy Week. Elaine and her fellow ordinand, Rosemary Bungard will be ordained Deacons in St John's Cathedral on June 27th.



Bishop Michael and Rev Nuhu visit from our Companion Diocese of Zanzibar

Bishop Michael Hafidh of Zanzibar and his Diocesan Secretary General, Reverend Nuhu Sallanya, paid a brief visit to the Diocese from the 17th to the 20th of February 2015. This was an excellent opportunity to meet representatives of our Companion Diocese, to find out more about them and to enjoy worship and companionship with our visitors; many members of our congregations across the Diocese were able to take part.

The visit began in Oban with a wonderful service of Choral Evensong in the Cathedral, attended by people from a number of different congregations, with the Rev'd Nuhu preaching and the two Bishops presiding. Evensongs are all too rare and this one was a real pleasure, with the choir at its best and an inspiring sermon.

This was followed by a presentation on the work being carried out to restore the Cathedral in Zanzibar; it is not just ourselves who have a Cathedral in need of care and attention – for those who missed the presentation, there is information on <http://www.zanzibarfriends.org/>. A collection in aid of the Cathedral Restoration Fund raised the magnificent sum of £1,062.

The evening was rounded off with a supper, including an impressive collection of desserts prepared by the Cathedral ladies – an opportunity for fellowship and making friends with Argyll and The Isles hospitality at its best!

The next day saw two Bishops and two Diocesan Secretaries debating in the rain and wind at the Oban ferry terminal whether a trip to Mull and Iona was wise – our spy driving one of the food delivery trucks suggested that there could be a real possibility of getting stuck! However, we had faith and got to Iona at the third attempt to berth the ferry. We cut short the planned visit because of threatened ferry cancellations, but were welcomed at Bishop's House, where one of the very earliest Zanzibari priests was ordained in 1894 by the Bishops of Nyasaland and Argyll and The Isles (why? Probably because Bishop Chinnery Haldane wanted to show off his new chapel, then only 2 months old). The visitors also admired the Makonde crucifix, given to Bishop's House to mark the links between the Diocese of Tanzania and Iona.

Then to the civilisation of Gruline House for lunch with the congregation, before Bishop Kevin led an Ash Wednesday Eucharist in St Columba's, the ferry back to Oban and a quiet evening recovering!

Next morning the hectic schedule continued with a drive to Inveraray for a break in the journey to admire All Saints' and its impressive ring of bells – all climbed the tower to admire the bells in their chamber near the top. Then to Dunoon for more food, singing and a community welcome in a local school, followed by worship and social time with the congregations during which a further £400 was raised.

Finally, relief from the hectic schedule, but not before a final ferry trip, leaving Argyll and The Isles on a Western Ferry on the way to Glasgow Airport, with much greyer skies than were no doubt awaiting them back home off the east coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean.

We have heard from our visitors that they arrived safely home, having enjoyed their visit immensely. Nuhu has emailed

"by God's grace we have arrived home safely. Thank you for your prayer, it is true that we have had many new experiences, met and made new friends who we are going to maintain communication with them. The Congregation in Oban, Gruline and Dunoon were very much friendly to us and we very much enjoyed their companionship. Please pass our warm regards to all in the Diocese



Very Rev Nicki McNelly, Rev Nuhu Sallanya, Bishop Kevin, Bishop Michael & Very Rev Andrew Swift



Rev Nuhu enjoys supper with members of the Oban congregation



Bishop Michael & Bishop Kevin with the Makonde crucifix



Fr Simon Mackenzie with Bishop Michael and Rev Nuhu at the font in All Saints, Inveraray



Rev Nuhu and Bishop Michael await their ferry to Glasgow

especially to Bishop Kevin .

"We are very tired as you can expect and we have been sleeping since we arrived Yesterday at noon and today we attended Sunday Swahili service and passed your regards to the Cathedral congregation" and

"Thanks Peter for this good news of collections in Oban, God will make a way for us to secure the needful funds for the project. We are looking forward to welcome you and a team from Oban in Zanzibar in the near future" *Peter Kemp*

Lay Ministry Day

The Lay Ministry development day on Saturday April 18th is open to all and will be led by Mary Moffat of 'Faith in Older People' -St John's Cathedral hall. Maximum number 20 -first come first served! *Alison Clark*

Bishop's Lent Appeal

**Scottish Episcopal Church
DIOCESE OF ARGYLL & THE ISLES**



**The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson
Bishop of Argyll & The Isles**

**Diocesan Centre
Croft Avenue
Oban
Argyll
PA34 5JJ**

Telephone: 01631 570870 (office)
01631 562617 (home)
E mail: bishop@argyll.anglican.org

February, 2014

This year, all seven diocesan bishops have agreed that, in their Lent Appeals, they wish to support the training and formation of those entering the ordained ministry or licensed lay ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church. In commending my 2015 Lent Appeal to you, I do so alongside each of my fellow bishops in their respective dioceses.

2014 was a year of significant change in the Scottish Episcopal Church. It saw the creation of the new Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI), which replaces the former Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (TISEC). The ethos of SEI has a very intentional emphasis on formation - the shaping of a person for ministerial functions and ensuring that the person has sufficient maturity in Christ to carry those functions. The Rev Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson was appointed Principal of SEI in August and Dr Mike Hull joined as Director of Studies early this year. The role of the Rev Canon Dr Alison Peden, the Provincial Director of Ordinands, has also been expanded from one day per week to a two thirds role which will enable candidates to be accompanied from the early stages of the recruitment and selection process throughout the entire period of their initial ministerial education.

Changes in provincial structures, to create a new body called the Institute Council, to act as the governing body of SEI, received initial approval at General Synod 2014 and will come for final approval later this year. Once that process has been completed, SEI will be formally launched. Already, we are encouraged by the numbers of potential younger candidates exploring vocation and, funds permitting, we hope to be able to offer full-time training as a possible pathway for some in the future.

General Synod 2014 received the proposals regarding SEI with enthusiasm and the Bishops also indicated then that we would act in concert with our Lent Appeals in 2015. Members of Synod gave practical voice to their enthusiasm by offering personal financial contributions there and then. In acting together in the 2015 Lent Appeals, all the bishops hope that the Scottish Episcopal Church as a whole will similarly be willing to support this important work.

Yours sincerely,

+K Argyll and The Isles

Lent Study

If you have still to choose a book for your personal reflection during Lent, how about Desmond Tutu's 'In God's Hands'. It's the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book and the theme for the Sunday Worship services on Radio 4.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ensay-May 30th, 2015



The Chapel on Ensay

The annual pilgrimage to Ensay will be led by the Bishop on Saturday 30th May this year. Transport to the island will be by private boat from Leverburgh, and there will be time to explore this attractive island before and after the service.

Spaces on the boat are limited and will cost about £25 per head - reservations as soon as

possible, please, to Joan Kemp, joan.kemp@cantab.net, 01631 566963. You will be responsible for arranging your own travel to and from Leverburgh.

Further information on the chapel can be found on the Diocesan website at <http://www.argyll.anglican.org/churches/harris/christ-church-ensay-2/>, while information on Ensay itself can be found on <http://www.theflyingmonkblog.co.uk/2012/09/26/ensay-house/>

We look forward to welcoming as many as possible on this visit. Further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

'The Stones Cry Out': - Restorative Justice for Survivors of Violence, Exploitation and Abuse in Christian Contexts.

A week in community at The Abbey, Isle of Iona—Sat 25 April to Fri 1 May 2015
A Challenge for the Church— too often, when victims disclose sexual violence, exploitation and abuse perpetrated by clergy or in other Christian contexts the Church compounds their experience of rejection, suffering and trauma. This week will be an opportunity to explore and develop a radical model of restorative justice. Further information from Alana Lawrence alawrence@4-5.co.uk or Lesley Orr lesleyorr14@btinternet.com . Subsidies are available.

For The Love Of.....

why we need to take climate change seriously

This year, the Scottish Episcopal Church is joining with organisations, businesses, members of the public and some famous faces to highlight the things they care about that are, or will be, affected by rising global temperatures.

This is part of a broader campaign, *For the Love of ...*, which recognises that everyone loves something that is threatened by climate change. It asks people to share what these things are, and to join together to demand climate action, for the sake of all the things that matter most, both here in Scotland and further afield. *What do you love?* You can share your ideas at www.fortheloveof.org.uk.

In February you can join with people across the country to 'Show the Love' for the things that matter most. Church services focusing on environmental and moral issues will take place across the country on 15th February, using *For the Love of...* resources prepared especially for the occasion by Eco-congregations Scotland <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/for-the-love-of/>



CONTACT US

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

St Moluag's Diocesan Centre,
Croft Avenue Oban PA34 5JJ

Telephone 01631 570870

Fax 01631 570411

Email:
office@argyll.anglican.org

Administrator:
Dr Sue Pollard

Who's who

Bishop: The Rt Rev'd Kevin Pearson
Telephone : 01631 570870 (office) 562617 (home)
bishop@argyll.anglican.org

PA: Audrey Walton

Dean: The Very Rev'd Andrew Swift
Telephone : 01369 702444
dean@argyll.anglican.org

Provost: The Very Rev'd Nicki McNelly
Telephone : 01631 562323
ProvostOban@argyll.anglican.org

Diocesan Secretary: Dr Peter Kemp
Telephone : 01631 570870
secretary@argyll.anglican.org

Diocesan Treasurer: Jean Ainsley
Tel: 01631 567007
jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk

Diocesan Learning & Congregational Development Officer:
Alison Clark
Tel: 07974 744156 or 01700 500489
alisonclark52@gmail.com

Diocesan Diary

10th March	Clergy Day / Diocesan Synod Conference
10th March	Diocesan Synod Eucharist
11th March	Diocesan Synod
23rd-25th March	Clergy Development
18th April	Lay Ministry Day
30th May	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ensay
27th June	Ordinations in St John's Cathedral, Oban

Communications

NEWSLETTER

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

Annunciationtide Festival—Saturday 28th March, 2015

The Church of Saint Saviour, Keir Street, Bridge of Allan, FK9 4AY.

10.30am – 2.30pm

Stations of the Cross, Sung Eucharist and Liturgy of Healing!

Preacher: Revd Canon Dominic Ind

bring your own packed lunch (drinks provided) more details from 01475

