



### Number 71: August 2015

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## News from around the Diocese

### The Spirit is Moving in our Lives

Life at St Columba's Portree has taken on many paths. The missionary initiative of Bread Basket continues to allow our church to reach out and share God's love with others. Many friends have been gained from many differing church traditions but the one thing we have in common is we are all following Christ. This coffee cup fellowship is soon being extended through a crafty chat group to meet local needs.

We cannot reach out to others unless we are fed ourselves, so we for the past eighteen months, have developed another ecumenical group through our quarterly Quiet Days led by myself or Marcus Ridsdill-Smith. These take place in various differing locations which is greatly appreciated. So we are not only fed by the Word and Spirit of God through the led meditations and by breaking bread together but our souls rejoice in the beauty and peace of our island.

We are also engaging in developing a theological reflection group. This initially has been led by Sr Elizabeth and Rev Dr Fred Baillie provoking many deep questions about our faith so we can honestly explore and share our doubts and the roots of our faith in God.

To enhance our prayer and praise together we are going to have a Praise Evening. Nothing more feeding can be than to sing praise to God. This will be in addition to our regular Taize Hour which goes on from strength to strength thanks to Morag Henrikson and Dave Parker.

To also feed our growing number of children we have also begun to develop the use of Godly Play during the School holidays to supplement the creative Sunday School which they attend term time.

St Columba's is a church of many talented people so through all our activities and pastoral care a whole network of God's love among us has developed.

Our missionary statement is obvious 'Go and make disciples of all people'. The Spirit is our guide and leader in this place.

*Sr Elizabeth*

### St Margaret's, Whiting Bay

As for the rest of you near the West Coast of Scotland, the weather on Arran has been mixed, but that has not put off a good number of visitors and holidaymakers from attending our Sunday services. As a result, despite several members of our regular congregation being away on the mainland, our numbers have kept up.

With the Kintyre ferry running to its summer timetable since Easter, Fr Simon has been able to get across regularly, and our "pop-up" programme has started up again. The April service at the Arran Distillery had to be cancelled due to an unfortunate accident to a member of the Distillery staff, and the May event was subsumed into the regular half-yearly meeting of all Fr Simon's Mid-Argyll congregations in Skipness. A Eucharist was held in the local parish church, and we were joined by many members of the local Church of Scotland congregation: a truly memorable occasion. Afterwards we adjourned to the nearby Seafood Cabin for our meeting and lunch.

At last, on 17<sup>th</sup> June we had a true "pop-up" at the Corrie Hotel (currently in the process of restoration), and on 22<sup>nd</sup> July we held one at the Kildonan Hotel on the beautiful south coast of the island, with glorious weather and views of Pladda and Ailsa Craig. That service was very well attended, with visitors from St Mary's

Cathedral in Glasgow and East Kilbride as well as Fr Simon's goddaughter joining the St Margaret's regulars.

Next on our programme is not a "pop-up", but an August Event on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>, which I hope visitors from the mainland may want to come to. We are praying for a good day and a good number of visitors.

*John Roberts*

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay, Arran

invite you to join them for their

**Summer Festival**

on Saturday 15th August

2 pm Cream Teas, Brass Band, Dramatic Entertainment by the Congregation

4.30 pm Evensong

*finishing in good time to catch the 6.25 pm ferry back from Lochranza to Claonaig*

**St Columba's, Islay**

It is 10 months since Rev Ken Skipper retired and he and his family will shortly be moving to Lincolnshire. We will miss them but wish them every blessing in their new home. We have managed to hold monthly Eucharist services since Ken's retirement, Ken officiating at a couple of them and Canon Keith Pagan, our priest before his retirement some 17 or so years ago, travelling from Campbeltown for several services. We have also been blessed with an Easter Day service taken by Canon Tim Morris, accompanied by his wife Irene, who travelled from Berwick on Tweed to be with us and twice by Rev David Sayle, accompanied by his wife, Heather, who chose to spend their precious holiday entitlement with us as David is Vicar of the Holy Ascension Church in Upton, Cheshire. He said we might remember him from the BBC 'Chester Zoo' programme! We are now looking forward to visits from Rev Giles Dove and Rev Peter Varney.

The time has come to arrange our programme of services from October this year. We offer to pay the car/passenger ferry fees, one night's accommodation, and clerical fees and before advertising again in the Church Times, I wonder if any of our own Diocesan priests would be interested in offering their services. Please contact me if you are able to help: [lesleyabarford@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyabarford@gmail.com). *Lesley*

**Wartime enquiries in Campbeltown**

In May this year at Caix cemetery in France, 8 Canadian soldiers were buried with full military honours. Nine years previous to that, 14-year-old Fabien Demeusere, had been digging in his back garden in Hallu, France, 120 kilometres north of Paris. His digging uncovered the remains of unidentified Canadian soldiers who had fought in the Battle of Amiens in August 1918. Fabien's home had been built on what was a battlefield, After painstaking research and DNA testing the remains of eight soldiers were eventually found, but only four were positively identified.

One of the soldiers was Lachlan McKinnon who had grown up in Campbeltown, where he had worked as a butcher. In 1913 however Lachlan moved to Canada. When war broke out he enlisted with the Canadian forces, returning to the U.K. in 1915. Before going to fight on the continent, he married a girl from Glasgow. Private McKinnon was seriously wounded in his left leg while serving as a rifleman on the Somme front in 1916 before finally losing his life shortly before the end of the war.

In May, the Diocesan Office passed on a request from a descendent asking for a photograph to be taken of the gravestone on which he is remembered. This stone



was eventually identified in Kilkerran cemetery. Further information about Lachlan's parents was gathered. His father and mother had both been native Gaelic speakers from Mull and Islay respectively. All of this information and more was received with gratitude by the surviving family in Condom, France.

In the same month, a further request came via the Diocesan Office to try to identify a marriage which had taken place in St Kieran's in 1942. During World War 2, Campbeltown had been the site chosen for secret submarine warfare. Lieutenant Adriaan van Sorge had been serving in the Dutch navy and while under training at HMS

Nimrod in Campbeltown he met and married Margaret Mackinlay who was serving in the WRENS here. The wedding took place in St Kieran's on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1942. In June, Adriaan's and Margaret's son and daughter-in-law, Adriaan and Aty, visited St Kieran's and took photographs here and elsewhere in the town where service personnel had been billeted. Adriaan and Aty, who live in Arnhem, also found an entry in the Church Visitors' Book of a parental visit made in 1970, something which gave them much satisfaction.

*David O McEwan (Lay Chaplain)*

### **Gaelic in Campbeltown**

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2 visitors from Rotherham in England attended the morning service at St Kieran's. Having investigated the Diocesan website, they knew that the Peace would be shared in Gaelic in the church, so they had done their homework and came prepared, having listened to the sound files at [www.argyll.anglican.org/resources/spiritualworship](http://www.argyll.anglican.org/resources/spiritualworship) resources/gaelic/gaelic-in-the-sec-liturgy/. It is now 10 years since the passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act. Enshrined in the Act is the aspiration that Gaelic should enjoy equal respect with the English language in Scotland. St Kieran's has lent its support to this aspiration since its inception.

*David O McEwan (Lay Chaplain)*

### **St John's Cathedral, Oban**

St John's has been very busy this summer. The Prayer Group meet on the first Tuesday of the month; Coffee mornings take place every Thursday providing a welcome place of respite and friendly word for many visitors. In addition to our regular services there is Café Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month and Evensong continue on the last Sunday of the month. Hymnia, one of Denmark's best choirs sang in the Cathedral recently, donating the collection to St John's. As requested by the Diocese, a Congregational meeting was held to discuss where we had reached in Building the Mission compared with where we were at the beginning of our journey. At this gathering, we also discussed the options for the future of St John's with opinions passed back to the Vestry to follow up.

Looking to the future, "A Turning Point"— a small group exploring the Christian faith through the Pilgrim course will be meeting on Wednesdays beginning in August and we have our Thanksgiving weekend—"God is Generous" on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September, further details to follow. Further information on any of the above from The Very Revd Nicki McNelly 07825 440580 / 01631 562323 [nicki.mcnelly@googlemail.com](mailto:nicki.mcnelly@googlemail.com)



### **Book Corner—** Burnt Shadows – a novel by Kamila Shamsie

Unfolding in four sections, the novel traces the shared histories of two families, from the final days of the second world war in Japan, and India on the brink of partition in 1947, to Pakistan in the early 1980s, New York in the aftermath of 11 September and Afghanistan in the wake of the ensuing US bombing campaign.

*Through its succession of seemingly disparate, acutely observed worlds, Burnt Shadows reveals the impact of shared histories, hinting at larger tragedies through*

*individual loss*. The Guardian 2009

Hiroshima Day is August 6<sup>th</sup> <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/h/hiroshimaday.asp>

### Isle of Lewis

The 'Hebridean Celtic Festival' more commonly known as the Hebfest took place over a 3 day period in Stornoway on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July. As a result of this massive and highly successful annual event, the town's population more or less quadrupled with people travelling from all corners of the United Kingdom and further afield. The weather was kind and reports indicate that a great time was had by all. St Peter's entered into the festive spirit by laying on Cream Teas for the weary traveller who needed a place of quiet and peace to rest. As our Church is open throughout the day, it is a popular tourist attraction for all faiths and denominations, as our visitor book indicates.

We are also pleased to announce that Ms Marion MacKay, our Lay Rep, has just been accepted to formally begin training in September for Licensed Lay Readership. Marion, who is a hugely popular and active member of our Church congregation, had to attend an interview in Inverness with the Diocesan Warden of Readers Mr Donald Shell and the Warden of Readers from a different Diocese. This positive outcome will prove to be of great benefit to both St Peter's and St Moluag's in the years ahead as she will work closely with the Priest in Charge Fr Terry as part of a growing Ministry Team. Blessings always, *Fr Terry Taggart*

### Festival Weekend at Christ Church, Lochgilphead

#### 6th—9th August to celebrate the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at Christ Church.

**Patronage Festival** (Thursday), **Flower Festival** with awards presented on Saturday morning, **A Murder, A Mystery & A Meal!** (Saturday evening) and much, much more. For information & entry details please contact Kate MacDonald [K80@mail.com](mailto:K80@mail.com) 01546 830020 or Brian Blench [brianblench@gmail.com](mailto:brianblench@gmail.com) 01546 606818 or follow the link below.

<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Festival-poster.pdf>

### Diocesan Retreat - Monday 19th to Thursday 22 October 2014

**The Diocesan Retreat will be open to all comers at the end of August. Book now to be sure of your place.**

#### Christian Mindfulness - A Wellspring for Mission

Sister Carmel Byrne, Garden Cottage Spirituality Centre, Kilgraston, Bridge of Earn, will lead the retreat and will be available throughout the three days to help those who find the experience challenging or those who are making a retreat for the first time.

Booking forms may be downloaded from the diocesan website home page or booking made by contacting The College, Cumbrae 01475 530353, [Cathedral.Cumbrae@btconnect.com](mailto:Cathedral.Cumbrae@btconnect.com)

### Virtual Study Group

I have been approached about reconvening the virtual study group which ran successfully for several years. A group which numbered between 6 and 8 people 'met' by phone conference with two 'real' face to face meetings in the year. The focus varied. Sometimes we engaged in study, for example of New Testament Interpretation, the level being roughly equivalent to 'access' level for higher education. At other times, we were more like a book group sharing our responses to texts on spirituality and discipleship.

If there is enough interest for a new group, the members themselves could initially discuss their preferences about the focus and frequency of meetings. (Fortnightly seemed to work well.) We would then take advice on a suitable text or study guide to read together. I would envisage beginning in September.

The meetings provided a space where people could share their views and responses and the ensuing fellowship was arguably as important as the actual learning. If this interests you, please get in touch to chat about it. We would need a minimum of 6 people for the group to be viable.

Contact Alison Clark 01700 500489 [alisonclark52@gmail.com](mailto:alisonclark52@gmail.com)

### **Looking for help to fix your roof?**

Earlier this year, the government awarded grants worth a total of £30million to 502 listed places of worship across the UK to meet the costs of urgent repairs to roofs and rainwater disposal systems under the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund. The grants were in the range £10,000 to £100,000. Only one church in Argyll and The Isles was successful, unfortunately, in this first round.

There will be a further round later in 2015 for work to be carried out in 2016; this second round will allocate a further £25million. In the first round, the time allowed between announcement and closing date was very short, and this may well be the case for the second round. Therefore, if you think you may be eligible to apply, it is worth starting to get to work now:

1. Check the website for details: <http://www.lpowroof.org.uk/>
2. Get the paperwork in order, especially your quinquennial report and a professional opinion on the urgency of repairs
3. Consider how much you can contribute – there is no formal matching contribution but a commitment to spend your own money probably helped the first time around
4. Get a professional adviser – ideally a conservation accredited architect or surveyor – lined up
5. Seek informal advice from the Diocesan Secretary or Dean

Hopefully we will be even more successful in the second round of funding.

*Peter Kemp, Diocesan Secretary*

### **Music for a Summer Afternoon - Cathedral of the Isles, Cumbrae** 31May–27 September Sunday afternoons at 3pm

2nd August Jane Guy contralto, Tom Hay clarinet, Alastair Chisholm, piano

9th August Christopher Guild, piano

16th August Leslie MacLeod, Harpsichord

23rd August Katharine Laurie Jones, soprano; Alastair Chisholm, piano

30th August Michael Jones & Andrew Johnston, pianos

Special Concert 7.30pm Thursday 27th August Jonathan Cohen and Alastair Chisholm, pianos

Special Summer Music Course 26th–28th August—One Piano or Two

Further information from The Warden, The Cathedral of The Isles, Millport

Email: [cathedral\\_cumbrae@btconnect.com](mailto:cathedral_cumbrae@btconnect.com) Tel: 01475 530353

### **Congregations Encouraged to Support Initiatives Agreed at General Synod 2015**

The Church in Society Committee received approval from this year's General Synod to encourage congregations to join Eco-Congregation Scotland (ECS) and to work collaboratively with other concerned organizations on issues of climate change by exploring ways to engage with local "green" initiatives and to consider both personal and congregational impact on the climate. Eco-Congregation Scotland has excellent resources for congregations including worship materials and an Eco Chaplain, Trevor

Jamieson, who is more than willing to meet with congregations and/or preach. See [www.ecocongregationscotland.org](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org) or call on 0131 240 2274

The General Synod also commended those Scottish Episcopal Church congregations which pay the Living Wage, including to part time and temporary staff, and urges all congregations to pay the Living Wage to all staff by 2016.

In addition, General Synod welcomed the establishment of the Churches Mutual Credit Union (CMCU) in February of this year and urges member churches to support the CMCU by making its work and the financial support it offers known to members in parallel with continuing their support for local credit unions.

The Liturgy Committee has completed its work on a *Service of the Word* which is now an approved liturgy of the SEC and has been added to the Schedule to Canon 22: *Of Divine Worship and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church*. This service is of particular use for those congregations who do not have a priest regularly leading the worship or for ecumenical services and brings with it a wealth of resources that can be used in other services. The *Service of the Word* will be available in hard copy from the General Synod Office and also downloadable from the SEC website.

The Provincial Overseas Committee has been renamed the Global Partnerships Committee (GPC) and General Synod approved the GPC motion that members of the Scottish Episcopal Church be encouraged join the Scottish ecumenical initiative, promoted by Christian Aid, in praying for Israel/Palestine on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of every month. This initiative was supported by a motion which called for the recognition and support of the Pope's recent recognition of the State of Palestine and his call for reconciliation.

### **Prayers for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month**

As well as praying as an individual and with others in your own church community you can join with others on the following dates and time:

- 24 August 7-9pm: Abbotshall Church of Scotland, Kirkcaldy
- 24 September 7-9pm: St Kentigern's Church of Scotland, Kilmarnock
- 24 October 10.30am-12.30pm: Selkirk United Reformed Church, Selkirk
- 24 November 7-9pm: Knox United Free Church of Scotland

### **Join with SEC members and other Stop Climate Chaos Scotland members to march for climate action**

2015 is a crucial year in the fight against climate change. This December, world leaders will meet at the UN climate talks in Paris to negotiate an international deal to limit global warming.

A fair and ambitious agreement is vital, but whatever is agreed in Paris, it won't encompass everything needed to reduce global emissions and help those in poorer countries who are already affected by the impacts of the changing climate. At the same time as pushing hard for the best deal possible in Paris, we must also keep up the pressure at national, regional, local and community levels: where change is actually put into practice.

Join hundreds of thousands of people in capital cities around the world marching for climate action as the UN climate talks in Paris begin. Take part in the **Scottish march for climate action in Edinburgh on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November**.

The Scottish Episcopal Church is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition which is organising this family-friendly march.

For details of the event, go to: [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-climate-march](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-climate-march)

## Develop your skills and knowledge on climate issues

If you're interested in finding out more about the Paris climate talks and how you can make your voice heard, come along to one of the SCCS training events at the end of September. Events will happen in Dundee, Inverness, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Selkirk. Find out more at [www.stopclimatechaos.org/paris-training-weekend](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/paris-training-weekend)



**You'll be amazed when you see the difference you've made!**

## Could you join us and help put God's love into action?

For over 100 years, CBM (formerly Christian Blind Mission) has been transforming the lives of people with disability, their families and communities in the poorest places of the world.

CBM seeks Christian voluntary speakers and preachers with excellent communication skills, to create opportunities and talk, on an ad hoc basis, about the linking issues of faith, and development to the impact of CBM's work in the developing world.

They are also seeking people able and willing to create and drive fundraising activities within their local area, working with them, throughout the year.

If you'd like to become part of the team and you'd like to support CBM by speaking or fundraising in your community, or by becoming a CBM church ambassador, CBM would love to hear from you.

For further information, contact CBM at [volunteer@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@cbmuk.org.uk)

## Church Buildings Renewal Trust Conference - 4 September

This year's Church Buildings Renewal Trust (CRBT) annual conference, "New Wine in Old Wineskins", is on Friday 4 September at St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen.

The conference will aim to offer a fresh perspective on the wider use of church buildings, and will have geographical focus on the Aberdeen area. Clergy, vestry members, building / fabric committee members and local professionals are welcome to attend.

For further information, visit the CRBT [website](http://www.cbrt.org.uk/).<http://www.cbrt.org.uk/>

## Who is God? Everything you wanted to know about God but were afraid to ask

Who or what do we mean when we speak about 'God'? In this Aberdeen Academy of Theology autumn series, Professor Tom Greggs will explore the ways in which the Bible and Philosophy describe and image God; the particular and distinct Christian understanding of God as Trinity; and the ways in which we talk about God today in the context of a complex religious and secular world.

To attend all three classes costs just £45/£30 and booking is now open on

<http://www.store.abdn.ac.uk/browse/extra/info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=9&catid=310&prodvarid=499> Further information from [clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk), 01224 272138



Celebrate Harvest this year with a Shropshire-based charity that helps families in rural Africa to feed themselves. Self Help Africa is offering a **FREE** Harvest

Resources Pack which includes a poster, a talk, prayers, stories from Africa and activities for all ages. To order your free pack and any extra materials, please call Jo Darlington on 01743 277170 or email [harvest@selfhelpafrica.org](mailto:harvest@selfhelpafrica.org). You can download resources directly from [www.selfhelpafrica.org/uk/fundraise/churches](http://www.selfhelpafrica.org/uk/fundraise/churches). Self Help Africa can also arrange for one of their Church Ambassadors to come and speak to your church during your Harvest service or at another time.

## CONTACT US

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## Diocesan Diary

31st August	Vision for Mission—steps 1-3 to be completed
17th September	Diocesan Synod Working Party
13th October	Diocesan Finance & Property Board Diocesan Board of Mission & Ministry
19th—22nd October	Diocesan Retreat
14th November	Lay Leadership Day

## Communications

### NEWSLETTER

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

## Christian Aid 70th Anniversary Conference—Edinburgh—Saturday 3rd October

We work through local partners overseas to deliver our work, because we believe they're best placed to understand the causes of poverty and the solutions to it. Three of our partners in Bolivia, South Africa and India will share news of their work. Directors from our international and humanitarian teams will also attend, as well as representatives from some of our sponsoring churches.

Together we'll explore our work on fighting the injustices of poverty—with an emphasis on gender, climate change and land.

To register your interest, e-mail Amy Menzies ([amenzies@christian-aid.org](mailto:amenzies@christian-aid.org)), Christian Aid Scotland events officer, 0141 241 6138