



**Number 68:  
May  
2015**

**Inside this issue:**

- News and Events from around the Diocese **1 - 6**
- Ecumenical and Other Church News **7 - 8**
- Contacts **8**

## News from around the Diocese

### Isle of Lewis

Holy Week at St Peter's in Stornoway was a hive of activity with 19 services taking place over the 7 day period. Attendances were impressive and visitors from other Churches commented on how busy the SEC was.

St Peter's has been successful in its bid to secure £23,600 from the 'Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund'. Our thanks go to Sally McKim and Don Catterall who were instrumental in ensuring that our application was detailed and comprehensive prior to submission.

St Peter's, Stornoway



St Moluag's Church in Eoropaidh reopened for the summer months with a Wedding to mark the occasion. 105 people crammed inside this beautiful little church to ensure the day was a joyful one.

St Moluag's, Eoropaidh

St Peter's celebrated St George's Day with plenty of colour and song. It was a truly 'English' occasion with wonderful hymns and typical English and Middle Eastern food at the fellowship which followed.

*Rev Terry Taggart*

### Easter Sermon preached by Bishop Kevin

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From the gospel of John which we have just heard, Mary Magdalene went and announced

to the disciples:

"I have seen the Lord"

"I have seen the Lord"

We are here this morning to echo Mary Magdalene's words "I have seen the Lord". We are here to echo Mary's words "I have seen the Lord" is that too simple or too difficult to understand?

The reason, the real reason, that we hear those words this morning, is that in Mary Magdalene's words, in Mary's story, in the garden; we have proof on this Easter morning, we have proof in that story, of the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ - too simple or too difficult an idea.

The Holy Spirit speaks to us this morning through that over familiar story so that we will leave this church, this morning, echoing those words - "I have seen the Lord" - too simple or too difficult.

Too simple - every one of us female and male, we are made in the image of God we carry that image within us of God, which Our Lord Jesus Christ took upon himself to show God is with us and to show you, me, we are of value, infinite value to God. And remember as soon as you begin to say female and male are not quite equal, sexuality is straight forward, disabled perhaps means not quite understanding. Say any of those things and the image of God within is diminished. Resurrection, new life, is being denied, say any of those things and you do not see

the Lord, you do not hear the Holy Spirit, you do not feel God with you – too simple, or too difficult.

Prove the resurrection – too difficult? an idea.

Mary Magdalene ran with the news “I have seen the Lord” – she saw God, Almighty God, the God of love, she saw the Lord God. She heard God’s Holy Spirit, he called her by her name “Mary”, she felt God with her, she wept and wept and wept.

But she never moved.

Read that text again when you get home and you’ll notice that Jesus speaks to Mary, she hears only the gardener. He calls her by her name quietly gently but confidently and Mary turns: - she turns her life around – too simple or too difficult.

She never moves, it’s not about shouting the length and breadth of the garden, she simply turns and recognises Jesus and remember as you hear the gospel stories throughout Easter tide. Remember Jesus is always described as having all the wounds of crucifixion on his body. She recognised him by His wounds and He said “Do not hold me”. Do not hold on to the wounds and the grief and the regrets and the disappointments and the hurts – do not hold me. There is resurrection, new life, new hope, new light through which to see our lives, to give us Hope in who and what we are, where we are. She never moved, her encounter with her Lord and God, her encounter with love which is accepting, understanding, brings the peace of being Held, knowing I am wanted – here is proof in the wounds, in the regrets, in the disappointments, in the loneliness, in the misunderstandings, in the hurts – do not hold on – see God as He is wounded but accepting, seeking you, new light on our experience – new life in Resurrection because remember resurrection is not resuscitation, don’t hang on, do not hold on to the regrets, look at them in the new light of – what might have been if only and oh it can make you laugh – There is resurrection in the laughter, which proclaims “I have seen the Lord”. Mary never moved – she simply turned – her life around. Too simple or too difficult.

Resurrection is new life not resuscitation, new life where we are, she never moved. God calls us by name, as Jesus said Mary, quietly, confidently. She saw God’s love, acceptance, peace in the very wounds of Jesus, but she never moved – too simple or too difficult.

And she wept, and wept and wept.

She felt God, she felt in herself the Passover which Christ has sacrificed for us, she never moved she turned her life around = Tears consist of two elements salt and water. The salt water of the Jewish Passover meal, symbolises the salt of affliction, pain, exile and the water of the Red Sea which brings the exiles Home. The Holy water I will use in a few moments time to bless us contains salt to drive out the devil to turn our lives around through the waters of baptism, new life, new perspective and new light; such Hope. Too simple or too difficult.

Mary wept and wept and wept; she went to the tomb because that was all she had left of Him, was grief and pain and disappointment. But quietly, confidently, gently He called her by her name: Mary, as He calls us. She never moved; she turned round and recognised Jesus and she recognised His wounds and His pain and His suffering, which was Hers and is ours.

Too simple or too difficult. Why doesn’t God act in Kenya, on an aeroplane, or what haunts me I had to stand to usher in the great festival at Christmas while mourning those whose presents were wrapped under the tree and were never opened. God is love of such depth and breadth that it gives freedom to humankind – we pray; but God weeps and weeps and weeps. Too simple or too difficult.

As Mary wept she heard Jesus call, she recognised him through His wounds which take our wounds to God's heart and soul and she felt God's presence in the tears which were of sorrow and then as He called, as she saw Him. She never moved but the tears turned to Joy. Resurrection new life, new light.

When the beloved dies, we see their lives in a new light the past difficulties are nothing. We bring to remembrance the affection, the warmth, being Held: Too simple or too difficult. As Jesus said: "Do this in remembrance of me".

In a few moments time we will renew our baptismal promises, we will be blessed with the waters through which Christ sacrificed our Passover and I will admit Ben and Bryce to Holy Communion.

And we will see resurrection, new life, see faith in a new light. There are those who say young people shouldn't receive Holy Communion until they understand. Change is always difficult – we've never done it like this before – the seven last words from the cross. Too difficult or too simple.

As you see Ben and Bryce admitted to Holy Communion, by the Bishop, who holds the office of the representative of the apostles in our day. Just remember, Mary Magdalene never moved but she turned her life around, she heard Jesus Holy Spirit, she saw God's Passover and she felt God's presence; Holy Communion so that we can say I have seen the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

+Kevin, Argyll and The Isles, April 2015

### **A Busy Spring at St Margaret's**



Retreat on Cumbrae,

As reported in the previous issue, a party from St Margaret's, plus the Revd Alan Spencer, a retired priest from St Andrew's – making twelve of us in all – went on Retreat to Cumbrae in March. The Retreat was led by Fr. Michael Kitchener, and was a significant and memorable first such occasion for the majority of the party, who had not participated in one before. Most of the time, we all observed silence, except for Fr. Michael's deeply interesting

and thought-provoking talks. We are profoundly grateful to him, and to David Todd and his staff for looking after us so splendidly.

We had no priest available for Holy Week, but managed a modest programme of our own. Good Friday saw a number of St Margaret's congregation taking part in the now regular annual Walk of Witness in Brodick, which begins at Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church and ends at the village Church of Scotland.

And then Easter Sunday came as a wonderful surprise for us, with 32 worshippers at the Eucharist in our little church that morning. They included a party from Oxford, who arrived in a minibus. As we are normally delighted to see any increase on our usual ten or twelve, this was an exceptional bounty. Arran is just beginning to experience the effects of CalMac's newly-introduced Road Equivalent Tariff, and there have been a few



Arran Good Friday Walk of Witness

negative ones for those who have found the ferry booked up, and been unable to find a place for their vehicles, but I have great hopes that St Margaret's may be among those to benefit from the increased influx of visitors this season.

Next week sees the return of our "pop-up church" programme with a Wednesday lunchtime service at the Arran Distillery. There will be further monthly "pop-ups" until the winter ferry timetable makes them impractical in October. *John Roberts*

## St Andrew's, Fort William

On Mothering Sunday the Sunday School treated the ladies of the congregation to beautiful floral gifts. On Palm Sunday the children learned about Stations of the Cross based on a book created especially for them from photographs of St. Andrew's own Stations of the Cross. They also learned more about Holy Week and Easter Day



and had an Easter egg hunt after all the hard work was done.

Work on the outside baptistry area of St. Andrew's was delayed. The stonemason has now managed to complete the removal of the old pointing and replace it with more suitable material. We will have to conduct a rolling programme of building work which would make the Forth Road Bridge blush!

Before Easter, our organ tuners came as the Great was not working over middle C and to investigate an unpleasant smell. We are no longer allowed to use the organ as water had penetrated it internally and was causing it to rot, hence the odour. This meant we were unable to have organ music on Easter Sunday, much to our great disappointment. Before we can even contemplate restoring the organ we have to repair the walls below the spire. As all the work will be costly and long term the Vestry has decided to look at a digital organ. Once building repairs are completed satisfactorily and finances have been built up again then we will look to restoring the organ to its former glory with an expensive total rebuild. This is only one part of a **very long-term plan** of restoration and renovation of St. Andrew's Church.

During Lent 'Stations of the Cross' was well attended each Friday, much to the Rector's delight. On Easter Day we had a very welcome number in our congregation, at both services, including visitors from the other side of the world. Despite being accompanied by only a keyboard there was some very hearty singing. Instead of 'giving up' for Lent the congregation generously 'gave' for Lent in the form of many, many items for Lochaber Foodbank, Money was also donated to The Bishops' Lent Appeal.

We have reluctantly decided that we cannot do Soups, even one day a week, during the summer this year, much though we desperately need the money for all our repairs. We are planning to have a Coffee Morning with stalls in August.

At Pentecost Bishop Kevin will preside at our main service then he and his wife, Elspeth, will join the congregation for lunch in the hall and the opportunity to socialise. In the evening St. Andrew's Church will start the annual ecumenical Pentecost Walk then the congregation will move to Duncansburgh/Macintosh followed by St. Mary's and finish at the Salvation Army Citadel.

While St. Andrew's Church building itself is a bit sad at the moment the congregation is trying to remain upbeat and focus on restoring the church to its usual splendour and well-deserved A listing as well as looking to maintain and reinforce the ecumenical links in the community of which St. Andrew's is a strong supporter.

*Rev Alexander Guinness*

## Easter 'Experienced' in Dunoon

A team of local church people, led by Holy Trinity Dunoon, delivered the 'Experience Easter' project for the fourth time in Dunoon Grammar School. The project tells the story of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, in a series of stations with story and activities at each of them. The intention is that the students have a chance to relate their own experiences of life, relationships and emotions into this critically important part of the Christian tradition.



The Dunoon project has extended Experience Easter from a church primary school-based project, developed in the Church of England, into something which Scottish teenagers in a state school can encounter the powerful story with a variety of different media and styles.

The illustration shows the Rev Paul Beautyman, youth advisor for the Church of Scotland Argyll Presbytery, telling a group about Good Friday and

God sharing in the pain of the world.

For more information or if you would like guidance on how to use this project in your setting, contact the Children and Youth Officer, Mary Swift (<mailto:mary@familyswift.org.uk>)

## St John's Cathedral, Oban

The Congregation of St John's have been spoiled for choice this Lent and Easter. Our temporary Curate, Elaine Gaman, offered a short course, "May I have this dance?" exploring our relationship with the Holy



Spirit. The Provost led a quiet retreat on Iona, on "Prayer as Relationship". Then, during Holy Week there were many services to suit all. Some were up very early on Easter Sunday watching the sunrise as the Eucharist was celebrated in McCaig's Tower at the top of Oban then the Bishop preached at the main Easter Sunday service.

May is almost upon us and with it, the start of the weekly coffee mornings and welcoming visitors to the Cathedral.



## Lay Ministry Day

Our April Lay Ministry Day – 'Faith in Older People: Keeping Connected' was led by Mary Moffett and Helen Welsh from the charity 'Faith in Older People'.

The topics ranged from practical tips about clear communication both visual and auditory, to a theological understanding of people with dementia as full members of the body of Christ. It provided a foundation for possible future events focussing in detail on creating appropriate worship experiences for older people including those with dementia.

'The two leaders gave good presentations and guided/controlled the gathering in a way which did not feel at all controlling. ...The natural daylight light in the sanctuary during the afternoon Liturgy of the Sacrament, led by Bishop Kevin, was a bonus and rounded off the day in an uplifting way.'

'an inspirational day...very rewarding and one of those days which opened my eyes to possibilities I had never imagined.'

## Vision for Mission

Everyone who attended the afternoon session of our diocesan synod should have received a 'Vision for Mission' pack. An electronic version was subsequently sent out to allow copies to be made for congregations.

The material includes a timetable. This is to encourage you to begin right away, not only to avoid a last minute scramble but because the process is designed not as a tick box exercise but as an experience of ongoing discernment and action. The first steps are intended to be completed by August 2015.

As throughout 'Building the Vision', congregations may ask for a visitor to facilitate discussions, particularly perhaps for Steps 3 & 4. Many of you however will have the resources and confidence to work through the process yourselves.

The vestry is responsible for submitting your plan (an example is in the pack) to the

Dean and to the Congregational Development Officer by the end of January 2016 but 'Vision for Mission' is intended to involve the whole congregation. If you have not already done so, please appoint a key person or group to take this forward. If this is all news to you, speak to your vestry secretary or lay rep.

We are being a little more directive about the *process* in this 5<sup>th</sup> year of Building the Vision but the *content* of your mission plan is for you to decide as you reflect together on what God is calling you to do in your situation.

Thank you for your encouraging response to our presentation at synod. Dean Andrew joins me in commending 'Vision for Mission' to you. *Alison*

[alisondark52@gmail.com](mailto:alisondark52@gmail.com); [dean@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:dean@argyll.anglican.org)

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ensay-May 30th, 2015**

There are still a few places left on the boat from Leverburgh. Please contact Joan Kemp, joan.kemp@cantab.net, 01631 566963 as soon as possible. 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/>

### **Bishop's House, Iona - Clergy Retreat**

A retreat for clergy will be held at Bishop's House, Iona from Tuesday 1st September – Friday 4th September 2015.

Arranged by the Diocese of Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, it will be led by led by The Very Rev Dr Ian Bradley, Principal of St Mary's College, University of St Andrews, with poems, prayers and reflections based on his shortly to be published book: 'Spiritual Landscape of Argyll'. Cost: £275

For further information, and to apply, contact Alicia Rootes, Diocesan Secretary, [office@standrews.anglican.org](mailto:office@standrews.anglican.org) or 01738 443173.

For more information about Bishop's House, visit: <http://www.island-retreats.org/iona.html>.

### **Warden of the College of The Holy Spirit, Isle of Cumbrae**

For the last five years David Todd has been Warden of the College of The Holy Spirit at the Cathedral of The Isles on the Isle of Cumbrae. He was taken on in 2010 to improve the financial stability of the retreat house and to bring in new business. He has achieved a remarkable amount in the five years with the College a good stable business and the Cathedral in good shape. He leaves at the end of May to return to Edinburgh to work in the arts as a freelance arts management consultant. He is to be licensed as a Lay Reader by the Bishop of Edinburgh on the Feast of Corpus Christi in Old Saint Paul's Church. The sincere gratitude of both the Diocese and the Directors of Islands Retreats Limited (IRL) go with him.

Cynthia Constable, one of the Directors of IRL with a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry, has agreed to act as Warden of the College until a new permanent Warden can be found. The Directors of IRL are actively looking for someone who is willing to commit to another five year term to consolidate and build on David's ministry of hospitality.

There will be a Choral Evensong on Wednesday 13 May at 3pm to say farewell to David. A buffet lunch will be available at the College at 1.30pm. All are welcome. If you would like to join the lunch please let the College know before Wednesday 6 May by emailing [cathedral.cumbrae@btconnect.com](mailto:cathedral.cumbrae@btconnect.com) or telephoning [01475 530353](tel:01475530353).

## Statement to the Anglican Consultative Council from the Anglican Communion Delegation to UN CSW 59

Elaine Cameron has circulated the statement from the UN Commission on the Status of Women 59. Our SEC delegate is Emily Alldritt. One thing in particular stood out for me – the fact that 50% of the world's children do not have their birth registered. *'The lack of an official identity through statelessness or failure to register children at birth may result in denial of access to basic needs including education and health care, and many other benefits of citizenship.'*

The conclusion of the statement appears below.

*"We cannot afford to take baby steps any longer. Now is the time for bold, giant steps." - Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka*

CSW59 has issued a succinct challenge to the global community: Planet 50/50 by 2030, or in other words, full gender equality by 2030. We are, at our best, capable of bold, giant steps, and women of the world are demanding that now is the time for all of us to be at our best.

The Anglican Communion has already committed to this principle in the form of the fourth Mark of Mission: "to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation." We, the Anglican Communion delegation at CSW59, invite the whole Anglican Communion to "step up" to the challenge of Planet 50/50 by 2030 and to take seriously the church's mission to stimulate and support the social change required to achieve such a goal. This will require courage, prayer and deep discernment within our churches as we work to put our own house in order as well as urging the wider community to work to enable women and men everywhere to be recognised as equal in the eyes of God, and for the structures of church and society to reflect that equality in every aspect of life.

This means the full inclusion of women at all levels of decision-making and leadership in the church, the careful stewardship of the earth's resources, and zero tolerance for violence in all its forms. Full inclusion requires that our churches continue to speak truth to power in regard to human trafficking and the economic and political policies that allow it to flourish. It means that our churches must continue to challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices that prevent women from accessing the healthcare they need. It means that churches use their connections with grassroots communities to educate local people about the importance of registering the births of all children, and advocate with governments which deny, revoke or fail to facilitate citizenship to their people.

These issues will present different challenges in different contexts, but the urgency is universal.

*Alison Clark*

### Nepal Earthquake Appeal

Psalm 23

Lord, who is our shepherd,

We pray for the people of Nepal in this time of want.

Guide those who grieve to still waters; restore their soul.

Lead those who are searching to the right places.

Comfort those who are trapped in the darkest valley of fear.

May generosity and compassion overflow in response

so that goodness and mercy may follow all

who will live in the shadow of this earthquake.

May they dwell in secure houses and

know healing and protection all their life long. Amen.

[www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/nepal-earthquake-appeal/index.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/nepal-earthquake-appeal/index.aspx)

## CONTACT US

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## Diocesan Diary

13th May	Evensong at Cumbrae
30th May	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ensay
2nd June	Pre General Synod Meeting
10th–13th June	General Synod, Edinburgh
18th June	Friends of Iona Weekend
27th June	Ordinations in St John's Cathedral, Oban

## Communications

### NEWSLETTER

The May Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **25th May, 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.

## Argyll Convention 2015 Tuesday 4th to Thursday 6th August

Oban in Scotland's West Highlands is hosting a new Christian conference. This is its third year.

### BIBLE TEACHING – GOD SPEAKING – CHRIST HONOURING – CHRISTIANS SHARING

Mornings 10.00 – prayer; 11.00 – 'The True and Living God' – Alasdair Paine; Afternoons 2.00 – Steadfast Global (persecuted Christians); 2.00 – Christians Against Poverty – Alison Paton; 2.00 – Care for the Family – Fiona Marks; Evenings 7.00 for 7.30 – 'The Glory of Christ' – Sindair Ferguson

Venue: Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban PA34 5NZ

Followed by a songs of praise on Friday 7th in St John's Cathedral at 7.30

No charge or registration – funded by donations – Charity No: SC044282

Find details on Facebook or the website [www.argyllconvention.com](http://www.argyllconvention.com) email: [argyllconvention@gmail.com](mailto:argyllconvention@gmail.com)