



Scottish Charity SC005375

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News from around the Diocese Announcement of Licensing Date

Bishop Kevin will license the Reverend Amanda Fairclough as the Priest in Charge of the West Highland Region and Lead Evangelist of the Church Army Centre of Mission on Thursday 20th July 2017. The service is planned to take place in St Mary's Glencoe in the evening of that date. Precise details will be released nearer to the date. Please keep Amanda and the people of the West Highland Region in your prayers as they prepare for the start of this significant new phase in their ministries.

Amanda writes:- I come from a town called Prescott near Liverpool, where – apart from the time I spent studying physics at Manchester University – I have lived all my life. I trained as a chartered accountant and have always worked in Liverpool or Manchester, in recent years running my own small accountancy practice from home.



Having such strong connections to my birthplace, it was surprising to

find myself "coming home" when I first visited Glencoe just over twenty years ago. I've been coming back for holidays several times a year ever since. Naturally, I love the Western Highlands – who wouldn't? Over time I've also come to love the people who live there and I've often visited one of the West Highland Region charges when on holiday.

My journey with God started at university, but it was some years later before I became a regular churchgoer. I returned to my childhood parish church one Easter morning and went back every Sunday thereafter. As time passed, I was confirmed, started taking on readings and intercessions and was eventually entrusted with the coffee rota. Proving myself dependable with this important task, the vicar suggested we speak about ordination, and thus I learned the dangers of volunteering.

During my training, I was a lay curate at Holy Spirit Church in Dovecot, on the eastern edge of Liverpool, before ordination in 2010. I served my curacy at St Margaret's in Orford, Warrington – a church dedicated to a famous Scottish saint. For the last few years I have been licensed to the Warrington East Team, principally serving at the Church of the Ascension, Woolston. The photograph shows them giving me a leaving present two years ago; rather prematurely as I was back again two months later. They are currently coming to terms with the fact that, this time, I will not be coming back.

Likewise, I am taking on the change from part time, self-supporting ministry to a full time stipendiary role and moving three hundred miles to Glencoe. It is both daunting and exciting to go through such big changes, but it sets the theme for the challenges that the West Highland Region face over the coming years. I'm looking forward to helping the people continue to grow together as a worshipping community and to reach out to the community around us. And it's a privilege to be tasked with setting up the Centre of Mission in partnership with the Church Army.

My journey following God's call is taking me from one home to another. Please pray for those I leave behind and those who will welcome me into their midst. I look forward to being a part of the diocese and to sharing the famous Highland gift of hospitality.

Good Friday Beach Clean

For lent this year, the Sunday school at Holy Trinity Dunoon decided that, instead of giving something up, we wanted to do something positive to benefit our community. So this year on Good Friday the Sunday School and their families gathered at the West Bay in Dunoon to perform a beach clean along the front. We worked our way along the beach



from the swing park to the Yachtsman Café and back picking up all the litter we could find, doing our best to make the area as nice as possible for all the dog walkers and kids who use the beach on a regular basis over the summer. This resulted in 4 large bin bags of litter being filled up, containing everything from cotton bud sticks (of which there were hundreds), cans; bottles of Irn Bru; plastic in all shapes and sizes to metal pipes and roofing lead which were taken to the recycling centre. Our favourite find was a dead Dog Fish – a small member of the shark family! Our least favourite find was the large amount of dog poo spoiling our beach. We would like to thank the Grab Trust who helped by providing us with the litter pickers, gloves and other resources to allow us to safely clean the beach. Afterwards we all went back up to the church for hot cross buns and some of Grace's delicious cream egg cakes. We then took part in an Easter egg hunt around the church grounds where a fierce competition to find all of the 200+ Easter eggs took place. Everyone had a really great time and we thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially Molly the collie who loved playing in the water and chasing sticks along the beach. *Peter Swift*

St Peter's & St Moluag's, Isle of Lewis

The Mothering Sunday service at St Peter's was enhanced after a very generous donation of 60 bunches of daffodils were received from the Tesco and Co-op Stores in Stomoway. Everyone left armed with daffodils and smiles on their faces.

Holy Week at St Peter's in Stornoway and St Moluag's in Eoropaidh was as busy as expected, with services taking place every day across both Churches. A 6am dawn service on Easter Sunday was topped off by hot rolls and sausage with tea/coffee for those brave hearts who set their alarms to travel from all parts of Lewis and Harris to attend. The main Sung Eucharist service saw each member of a full Church congregation depart with a chocolate creme egg.

As usual, St Peter's and St Moluag's congregants were extremely generous in giving towards the Bishop's Lent Appeal. The exact amount collected has still to be confirmed.

Fr Terry was recently asked to 'stand in' at a prayer meeting for the Church of Scotland Minister at the High Church in Stornoway. There then followed a Q&A session about all matters Scottish Episcopal. This was well received and a wonderful opportunity to further cement ecumenical relations as well as make new friends and hopefully dispel any myths held about Episcopal Worship/Liturgy. A very generous donation of £25 was offered which was kindly received for our 'Sanctuary Window Appeal'.

Several members of the St Peter's Congregation are now volunteering their services to assist some of the newly established Syrian families who have settled in Stornoway. Some of the ladies currently attend a 'Knit and Natter' session which is held at St Peter's Church Hall every Tuesday where they are able to make new friends and also to improve their English language skills. The St Peter's volunteers have also helped out on some 'away days'.

Unfortunately St Peter's was recently the subject of a theft where person(s) unknown entered the Church and forced the padlock on a donations box,

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removing the cash contents (approx £28) therein. St Peter's is open daily between 9am - 6pm and although security measures are in place re valuables etc, it is difficult to anticipate when someone could enter and force a padlock. The matter was formally reported to the local Police however, there has been no news to date as to who may have been responsible. Reaction to the theft from the local community was unanimous in its disappointment that such an offence could take place in a place of worship. *Blessings Always, Fr Terry Taggart*

St Margaret's Whiting Bay

So the long winter, of small numbers in church, and often awful weather, is over. Easter was a delightful wake-up from all that, with a good turnout in the "pews" (actually we have chairs) and the most welcome presence of some children. More visitors have also started to come, though in ones and twos so far—hopefully that will pick up as Arran enters what is shaping up to be a record tourist season. And we have other things to look forward to, including a pilgrimage from Fr Simon's other congregation at Christ Church, Lochgilphead, on 7th May. Later on, we are eagerly anticipating a wedding and two infant baptisms in St Margaret's—rare events indeed. Our programme of monthly "pop-up" services is set to be revived over the Summer, too. Regrettably, our proposed spring congregational Retreat at Cumbrae has had to be postponed, hopefully until later in the year, as the numbers were simply not forthcoming.

I hope the next edition will contain updates on some of the above events, with no doubt a photograph or two. *John Roberts*

Easter service of St Brendan the Navigator



Holy Week and Easter in Kintyre

During Holy Week in Kintyre there were plenty of opportunities to find expressions of religious belief. Throughout the week there were daily Prayer Breakfasts at 7.30am in the Lorne and Lowland Church of Scotland. These are always well attended. On Maundy Thursday the Salvation Army hosted a Passover Supper. This too attracted a good number of people. Holy Communion was celebrated at Clachan and at Carradale Churches of Scotland on the same day. On Easter Day, in addition to all the usual services in the various churches, there was an early service at the ancient ruined Celtic chapel at Keil near Southend while at a'Chleit, Muasdale, there was early morning Easter Worship followed by a breakfast in the Church Hall. At Peninver Village Hall the Community Church held an Easter Day service followed by Believer's



Baptism in the sea there. This was reported as front-page news in the local paper- a powerful example of Christian witness.

On Good Friday the Salvation Army held a service at 3pm, the Community Church held a service of reflections around the cross at 7pm while at 7.30pm the Churches of Scotland gathered together for a united service at 7.30pm and at 8pm there was a service of reflection at Southend Church.

On the morning of Good Friday the open-air service at Campbeltown Cross attracted a good crowd of people who then moved up Main Street in a Procession of Witness behind a large wooden cross to St Kieran's for its annual Devotional Service. The church was full for this and the remembrance began with three pieces of organ

music – the “Prelude in B Minor” by Chopin, “Nimrod” by Elgar and “A bright star in Cepheus” by Phil Cunningham. The Old Testament Lesson, the Epistle and the Reading of the Passion were all shared amongst the visiting church representatives and the address was given by Steve Fulcher of Southend and Carradale. Rona Campbell (Primary 7) from Castlehill School, sang “All



in the April Evening” and played “Share my Yoke” on the Flugel Horn. The children’s corner was also patronised by some of the young people present.

Living our Vision –Year 1 From Membership to Discipleship

Our Purpose is to advance the mission of our church by deepening our commitment as disciples. Those who attended the Diocesan Synod, will have heard an outline of the plans for **Living our Vision**. These included an important invitation to the **Lay Leadership Day on June 3rd**. Read on to find out all about it.

March – June 2017

Membership and Discipleship: Is there a difference?

Congregations are asked to consider this question as preparation for the sessions that will take place later in the year. Discussions could take place, for example, at coffee after the Sunday service.

A group leader from each charge or group of charges will be asked to attend the lay **leadership training day which will take place on Saturday June 3rd to be led by the Rev Joan Lyon**. The day will focus on the skills for leading small groups. In addition to the current lay leader who usually attends, you are encouraged to identify any others who would welcome further development in group leadership skills. Each congregation will receive a copy of the material for Year 1 ‘From Membership to Discipleship’.

June 2017 – February 2018

The themes for exploration are ‘Learning’, ‘Following’, and ‘Witnessing’. Leaders may choose to cover the material at a one-off event or in sections, for example over lunch after a Sunday service, or at a weekly study group. A booklet for participants and a leaders’ guide will be made available in hard copy and online.
*

As a congregation you are carrying out your own mission plan. As part of the ‘Witness’ element, the Bishop has the following task for you. By the end of Year 1 (before Synod 2018), you are asked to invite people from your local community to join you for a discussion on a topic of mutual interest. You will listen to their views and share your Christian perspective on the topic. In doing so, you will make it clear that this is not a recruiting ploy but an offer of hospitality and an opportunity for mutual learning.

* 1 copy of each to congregations, who would be expected to print the required copies for participants. Where facilities are not available, the office may be able to help.

The Loch

A Swedish style thriller was filmed in the Highlands last summer using Glencoe Rectory as the Police Station. This is due to be broadcast on ITV1 on Sunday nights at 9pm over 6 weeks beginning on Sunday, 11th June.

Coming home to God

Argyll & The Isles Diocesan Retreat
October 2017

Monday 23—Thursday 26 October 2017

Led by Alison Clark

What does 'home' mean to you? The psalmist says... 'I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever'. During our time together we will explore through scripture and reflection what it is to dwell with God and for God to make a home in our hearts.

Jesus said, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.' John 14:23

This will be a silent retreat punctuated by short talks, a daily celebration of the Eucharist and the opportunity to join in the Cathedral's offices of morning and evening prayer. If you would like more information or if you are making a retreat for the first time and would like to discuss it, do get in touch with Alison or with Bishop Kevin, through the diocesan office 01631 570870.



Alison Clark was formerly congregational development officer of the diocese. She will be available during the three days for individual conversation for anyone who wishes.

Rural Mental Health—Information for Churches

New research highlights mental ill health issue in rural Scotland

Connecting people in their communities is something that the new **National Rural Mental Health Forum** is seeking to do. Jim Hume, the convenor/manager of the Forum for Support in Mind says:

"The research findings from the rural mental health survey now give us the evidence to help us to tackle mental ill health in rural Scotland. We know that one in four Scots suffer mental ill health at some point in their lives, and now we know that tackling mental ill health in rural Scotland has its own challenges.

Mental ill health can be more difficult to tackle in remoter parts of Scotland. The National Rural Mental Health Forum is in a unique position to help rural communities tackle through the outreach of the rural organisation members of the Forum, the expertise of mental health organisation members and this ground-breaking research.

Mental ill health can be prevented and can be treated, especially with early intervention. The Forum and its members are keen to take action by raising awareness in rural communities and normalising talking about mental ill health."

For further information on the **National Rural Mental Health Forum** please contact Support in Mind Scotland's convenor/manager Jim Hume – jhume@supportinmindscotland.org.uk

For details about the survey findings, please contact Prof Sarah Skerratt at SRUC – sarah.skerratt@sruc.ac.uk

For information about **how rural churches can help** or to **share details of what congregations are already doing** please contact Scottish Churches Rural Group member of the Forum, Rev Lorna Murray – revrat1999@yahoo.com

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9.30am-2.30pm
Mon-Thurs

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Diocesan Diary

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| Saturday, 3rd June | Lay Leadership Day |
| Thurs, 8th-Sat, 10th June | General Synod, Edinburgh |
| Monday, 19th June | Island Retreats Board |
| Tuesday, 20th June | Diocesan Standing Committee & Finance & Property Board Diocesan Board of Mission & Ministry |
| Thursday, 20th July | Licensing of Rev Amanda Fairclough as Priest in Charge of the West Highland Region and Lead Evangelist of the Church Army Centre of Mission |
| Mon, 23rd-Thurs 26th October | Diocesan Retreat |

Communications

NEWSLETTER

The June Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by **Monday, 29th May 2017**.

WEBSITES 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.

eco

congregation Scotland

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an environmental movement helping local groups of Christians link their faith with environmental issues, reduce their carbon footprint, and engage with the community.

The Very Rev Nicki McNelly spoke on the subject at Diocesan Synod. She explained how there was something to offer every church context. It was not the nearly impossible task of making church buildings more environmentally friendly but to encourage individual congregational members and community members to reduce their personal carbon footprint.

Registration was free and simple. Members of Synod were given a Registration Form to complete and Congregations encouraged to register.

Further information is available from www.ecocongregationscotland.org; Eco-Congregation Scotland, 121 George St, Edinburgh EH2 4YN; manager@ecocongregationscotland.org; 0131 240 2274