



Scottish Charity SC005375

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News from around the Diocese

New Priest for West Highland Region

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 in St Mary's Glencoe at 6.30pm. Due to the limited number of seats in the Church, please contact the Diocesan Office if you wish to attend.

St Columba's Juniors May 2017

Over the last 5 weeks we have been learning about refugees. The background for this was a Girlguiding project called "Step in My Shoes" which was created by a group of Senior section girls (older teenagers) from Glasgow. Dawn already had a connection with the charity The Highlands Supports Refugees and had knew about the collection centre at Conon Bridge .

St Columba's Juniors read stories about St Christopher helping people to cross the river, about Mary and Joseph taking baby Jesus to escape from King Herod to another country and becoming refugees themselves, about Jesus saying "love your neighbour as yourself" and about the Good Samaritan.

We started with Step in My shoes. We swapped shoes (go on- try this at home) to get a feel for what it is like to really walk about in someone else's shoes and to think about what it must be like to be that person. The "cross the river game" was a challenge – how do you get a group of people across a crocodile infested river when you only have one pair of boots and you can only cross twice in them for fear of soldiers spotting you. Thankfully the children cleverly sussed it out and no one got shot or gobbled up. A nother theme was Why Would You Leave Home?

We looked at pictures of families and children, destroyed homes and buildings and fields with no crops left. It must take a lot of courage to get in a broken boat to cross a dark and wild ocean for another country. We played a game about leaving home in a hurry– 10minutes to pack a rucksack before the soldiers came, a difficult journey (Fiona got shot on the way and the children had to go on without an adult) and then the difficult forms at the border control in a language we didn't understand. We thought about why Other People Matter. Jesus said, "love your neighbour as yourself" and all of the children wanted to help and care for others. We tried walking without shoes as lots of refugees have no shoes, lose their shoes or they break. We walked in stones, moss, bog, mud, ice and

lots of other nice and not so nice thing. Magnus and Rowan even tried climbing a tree in bare feet to escape from soldiers. Then we explored, We all Have Rights and Speaking Out, we learnt more about everyone is equal and every child has the right to be safe and have a home . Some of the children designed their own t-shirts making it clear how much they support refugees. Finally, Dawn organised a collection of clothes and shoes to go to the Refugee Centre for Highland. We spent a whirlwind session organising and sorting clothes and shoes and adding sweets into the pockets of the children's clothes and little picture tags to the shoes. Dawn will take the 29 bags (yes you did read that correctly !) across to the centre and we hope that our contribution will make some refugees have a little bit of happiness.



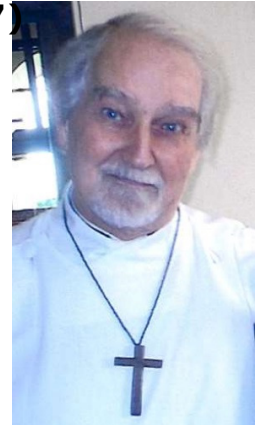
The children did a brilliant job of thinking, learning and working for refugees. Well done to you all for handing in shoes, clothes and bedding and to all of the children for being so enthusiastic. *Rev Rosemary Bungard*

The Rev. Kenneth G. Skipper (1934-2017)

Since the start of this century the Rev Kenneth Graham Skipper and his wife Christine played a busy role in the Islay community from their base in the Scottish Episcopalian St Columba's church at Bridgend.

Ken was born in Croydon in 1934. After Grammar school he became a reporter on the "Croydon Advertiser" before being called up for National service. With RAF Radar he served in Germany, Kuwait and Egypt, and it was during this RAF period that he was confirmed as an Anglican.

He went on to study at St Aiden's College in Birkenhead and his first curacy was in Hull in Yorkshire. There he met Christine McAlister during her librarianship training. She was from Northern Ireland, daughter of a Church of Ireland minister, in whose church they were married in 1971. After a second curacy in Scarborough, they moved to Dormanston near Doncaster. For the rest of his ministry Ken served as a priest in several parishes of Yorkshire. Ken managed to pursue his longstanding interest in photography, and was much involved in the Scouts and Air Training Corps.



However asthma forced him into early retirement and he, Christine and Daniel serendipitously relocated in 1997 to Islay's milder climate which improved his health. Shortly after their arrival the Rev. Keith Pagan, who had covered Islay and Campbeltown for the Episcopalian church retired, and Ken became a non-stipendiary priest-with-charge of St Columba's. As such he served the church for over seventeen years, becoming active in Islay, the Diocese and Province and serving on Synod and Committees. He resurrected his earlier journalistic skills to become the Editor of the Diocesan Magazine for a number of years, His sermons were always inspiring and challenging, and he managed to engage all; children were always welcome.

Assisted by the Schroder family trust, one major legacy of Ken's tenure involved the reroofing, refurbishment and extension of the "Red church" (as it is known locally after its red roof tiles). Garden parties, a flower festival and organ recital were among the various fund-raising activities of the congregation assisted by the Roman Catholic one who also held services in St Columba's.

Ken was a member of the Church Leader's Fellowship, which involved all the denominations in Islay and Jura, and he was also active in the community as a chaplain to Islay High school, hospital visiting, involved in many committees and community affairs ranging from serving at the local filling station to acting as secretary of the annual Islay Music Festival, where a well attended ecumenical festival service was held for many years in Islay House. Ken also enjoyed listening to jazz (sometimes with a glass of Laphroaig), and he was always good company, but it was our loss that he was too late to take part in Islay's amateur theatricals of the previous century.

After his final retirement aged 80 in September 2014. Ken, Christine and Daniel moved to Lincolnshire to be nearer to the rest of the family, which by now included five grandchildren. He had hoped to pursue his Spanish skills which he had developed at the Argyll College in Bowmore, but sadly had to spend much of his well deserved retirement undergoing treatment for cancer. However, he was finally able to fulfil his ambition of once again owning and driving a 1947 Alvis TA 14 as he had enjoyed when in the RAF.

On 7 May he passed away peacefully at home in Skellingthorpe surrounded by his family. Preceded by a funeral in St Giles' church in Lincoln on 18 May, it was a comfort to his family, congregation and Islay friends that he had chosen St Columba's for his funeral here on 20 May, his final resting place now in the

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peaceful churchyard. A modest man, he would probably have been surprised by the full church. The floral arrangements were beautifully uplifting, and many memories were exchanged during the gathering afterwards in the Bridgend Hotel and its lovely spring garden. We all miss Ken and his family but are very grateful for the service and humorous friendship they gave to us and to those visiting the island.

He is survived by his wife, Christine, and their three children, Philip, Emily and Daniel, and his grand-children.

God bless you Ken and all your family.

Margaret Storrie & Lesley Barford

Rev Canon Hugh Lee

The funeral took place on June 1 of Hugh Lee, a Canon of the Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and The Isles and former Rector of Holy Trinity Church, where he continued to minister until very recently.

Hugh (as he always preferred to be addressed) was born in 1941. He studied for a BSc at St Andrew's, graduating in 1964, then trained for the ministry at Edinburgh Theological College. He was ordained deacon in 1967 and priest in 1968.

He served two curacies, one in St John's Dumfries, and one south of the border in St Alban's Diocese, at St Andrew's Totteridge. He was then appointed the Rector of St James the Less, Springburn, in 1973. In his thirteen years in Glasgow the church was compulsorily purchased and demolished, and a new church built, in Bishopbriggs (the present St James the Less). From Glasgow he moved, in 1986, to St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane Diocese, to be Rector of St Fillan's Crieff and St Serf Comrie and also, from 1989, St Angus Lochearnhead. For a brief time he was in charge of Muthill.

In 2001 he came to Argyll and The Isles and Holy Trinity Dunoon, St Paul's Rothesay and St Martin's Tighnabruaich. In his five years as Rector he also became Synod Clerk of the diocese, becoming a Canon of Oban and Cumbrae. He continued this role into retirement. On full retirement as Synod Clerk in 2014 he was made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of The Isles.

He leaves a widow, Christiane, as well as three children and several grandchildren.

These bald words convey little of the respect and love in which Hugh was held both in Dunoon and in the wider church. He will be remembered for his calm wisdom, his quirky sense of humour - and for the energy with which, in the early days of his ministry here, he revealed Holy Trinity to the wider world by cutting down several large sycamore trees that had previously concealed the building from shipping on the Clyde. He was a keen sailor, and frequently sailed his boat across to Bute to take the afternoon service in St Paul's Rothesay, where he was also Rector. Another feature of Hugh's ministry was the presence of his cats, who were known to attend services if the door was left unguarded.

Hugh loved music and was responsible for introducing the Russian choir Voskresenje to Dunoon - though he never did manage to pronounce any of the Russian names! The Russian musicians remember with fondness how he welcomed them into his house, exemplifying the hospitality that was an integral part of his faith.

Holy Trinity had to deploy additional chairs at his packed funeral service, which featured music that he had particularly loved as well as the pipes which he had played in his youth. Bishop Kevin preached, and he and Dean Andrew draped Hugh's cope over the coffin as it lay before the altar. As the Nunc Dimittis was said, Hugh's friend John McIntosh the organist played the Iona Boat Song, before the pipes played the coffin out to Highland Cathedral.

Hugh's passing leaves a huge gap in the life of Holy Trinity and all those who knew him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

By Christine McIntosh, Di Tennent, Andrew Swift. (photo by Christine McIntosh)



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

On the 3rd of May there was a private meeting held at St Peter's Church in Stornoway, to share opinions and questions regarding the proposed change to Canon 31 which will soon be discussed at the up and coming General Synod. There was a respectable turn-out to the meeting which was chaired by Fr Terry, during which a range of questions, suggestions and concerns were put forward. It was apparent that whatever happens at Synod, there will be a wide range of emotions and



Fr Terry, Rev'd Canon Sr Clare and Dr Neil Davis

questions to address and we pray that this is carried out in a manner that will allow the Scottish Episcopal Church to hear everyone's voice.

On the 21st May we presented The Rev'd Canon Sr Clare Lockhart with an Apple iWatch to mark (belatedly) the occasion of her being installed as an Honorary Canon of St John's Cathedral Oban. After much research and secret communiques, we were satisfied that Sr Clare would enjoy the technical wizardry that the Apple Watch brings (other similar brands of watch are available :-)) Dr Neil Davis delivered a very poignant presentation speech to a much loved and important member of the Ministry Team here on the Island of Lewis.

Blessings Always, Fr Terry Taggart

Green Martyrdom

Dear Friends,

Nothing is so beautiful as spring' - wrote the poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins.

As I walk through the castle grounds in Stornoway, the trees overhead form a canopy of burgeoning leaves of that fresh young green we only see in May.

A song from a childhood game echoes in my head; 'How green you are! How green!'

An object was hidden in the room. One child would look for it while the others sang, louder or softer as the seeker drew near or moved away.

This week we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, and look forward to the Feast day of the Patron of our church in Portree, St. Columba.

For the church in the West, the primary colour of Pentecost is red, signifying the tongues of flame descending on the apostles, symbolising too, the heat of divine love and the wildfire spread of the Holy Spirit.

But for other Christians, for example, the Orthodox Church, the Pentecost colour of the Liturgy is green

Green is the colour of renewal and refreshment, reminiscent of pastures and still waters, so the sanctuary is decorated with fresh young branches, and Eucharistic vestments of green are worn.

The Celtic monastic tradition speaks of three forms of martyrdom;

The Red martyrdom is when a Christian shed his blood for Christ, and the white martyrdom is when one leaves home and country for the sake of Christ. We see this white martyrdom in the life of our Patron Saint Columba. He sailed away from Ireland with his companions, in the words of the hymn; 'For they seek a better country, than their own Hibernian shore, and the music of their children soundeth sweetly, evermore.'

In our own time, we watch with anguish, helplessly, the cost of discipleship for our fellow Christians in the Middle East, many of whom have shed their blood for Christ, and whose daily suffering expresses the terrible reality of these concepts.

But there is a third martyrdom, the green martyrdom, which perhaps, for now, is God's call to all of us here. The Celtic tradition sees this as the call of those who

stay at home, living their ordinary lives in the Imitation of Christ. This is the daily dying to self required of us, moment by moment, as we remember Jesus' words about taking up our cross. This is the journey inwards to the depths of our being that each of us must make if we are to become the people Our Lord would have us be. Sometimes of course, we feel a spiritual deadness, a reluctance to say our prayers, and may even be tempted to go off on our own tack, away from the weekly gathering for worship in the Eucharist which is so essential for our spiritual growth and wellbeing.

It is encouraging to read in the lives of the saints how they often struggled in this way. The words of George Herbert can be of great comfort.

' Who would have thought my shrivelled heart
Could have recovered greenness ? It was gone
Quite underground.'

He likens this time of spiritual dryness to the leaves of flowers - dying they return to nourish the roots. So the Lord of Power, the Holy Spirit 'kills and quickens', He prunes and refreshes us in our inmost being, that place where our soul encounters Him, if only we are alert and alive to this work of the Holy Spirit.

But let the Jesuit priest and poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, have the last word on the eternal wellspring, source of our hope.

'And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
...Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.'

Sr. Clare

Pilgrims Visit St Margaret's

Members of the congregation of Christ Church, Lochgilphead, visited Arran on a pilgrimage on Wednesday, 10th May, and joined worshippers at St Margaret's for a midweek Eucharist celebrated by Fr Simon, Priest-in-Charge of both congregations. Upon arrival at the church, the visitors were greeted by a Bronze Age warrior in the person of Fr Adrian Fallows. Fr Adrian normally spends Wednesday lunchtimes in the summer season introducing tourists to life as it was lived in those distant days at the reconstructed Bronze Age dwelling in the grounds of Brodick Castle. Fortunately he



was able to join us on the 10th. After the service, at which Fr Simon celebrated and preached, everybody repaired to the Lagg Hotel in Kilmory, Arran's oldest hostelry, for a convivial lunch. This can be seen as the launch of our programme of "pop-up" services, monthly on Wednesdays as long as the seasonal ferry service from Kintyre continues. More of that anon. The next week or so promise to be busy, as we are

expecting a wedding and two infant baptisms, as I will be reporting next issue. The accompanying photograph shows members of the two congregations outside St Margaret's.

This month also saw an important event in our unfolding spiritual life. On 14th May, Fr Simon included a Service of Healing in his celebration of the Eucharist. This was something of profound and moving significance that I am sure will become part of our regular programme. At the moment the intention is to hold such a service once a quarter.

On a very sad note, the congregation has lost another faithful member. Christine Iutz died suddenly on the weekend of 7th May, and her cheerful presence will be greatly missed. She had attended our Easter Eucharist and seemed in full health then, so the news came as a shock. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband Victor and son Michael. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. *John Roberts*

Mission to Seafarers Scotland

Please send all Sea Sunday collections and/or any donations, along with the gift aid envelopes to Mission to Seafarers Scotland, 109 Avalon Gardens, Linlithgow Bridge,

Linlithgow, EH49 7PL **Please do not use the freepost envelope.**

Music for a Summer Afternoon 2017

The concert season in the Cathedral on Cumbrae starts on Sunday 25th June with the Telemann Ensemble and continues over the summer with a variety of performers. There are also four Friday evening recitals to celebrate the magnificent recently restored Bösendorfer concert grand piano. In addition there is a musical course "Four hands, One Piano or Two" (Wednesday 16th—Friday 18th August) and a Classical Guitar Retreat (Wednesday 5th—Monday 10th July). More information is available from Cathedral of The Isles and College of the Holy Spirit, College Street, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae; 01475 530353; office@cathedraloftheisles.org

Greetings from across the pond!

I am reaching out to you from Wenatchee, Washington, in the far northwest corner of the United States, to share the news of a 6-night spiritual retreat I am leading at Bishop's House on the Isle of Iona. It is being held from October 14-20, 2017 entitled **On Sacred Ground: A SoulCollage® Pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland.**

In 2013, I had the good fortune of attending a retreat at the Bishops House led by Rev. Joyce Watson, to celebrate St. Columba's 1450th anniversary of his arrival - it was a wonderful experience. Ever since, my dream has been to lead a retreat there, and I am delighted that it is actually coming true this fall. Happily, Rev. Joyce will be serving as our Chaplain for the week.

My website link gives a full description of the retreat, as well as a link to on-line registration: <http://sallyfreed.com/on-sacred-ground> Registration is open to both women and men, age 18+, and space is limited to 15 guests.

God bless, Sally Freed

A Letter from the Dean

11th June 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Scottish Episcopal Church General Synod 2017 — Marriage Canon Debate & Vote Outcome

You may have seen press coverage that the SEC General Synod in Edinburgh this week approved a canonical change to allow same-sex marriage to become part of our church's life.

This has been debated and discussed at diocesan synods and in our charges over the past few months. Some are strongly in favour, some very unhappy about such a change, many have no strong view. An important question is, however, "What does this mean will now happen?"

The Synod vote was passed by a clear majority of all present at the meeting. Over 80% of the laity, from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and contexts, were in favour. Just over 2/3rds of the clergy also supported the motion. Of the six bishops, four approved, one abstained and one voted against the motion.

The motion allows those clergy who wish to be able to solemnise marriages between people of the same sex to "opt-in" to be nominated by the Bishop to do this. The Bishop is required to have a formal minute from the vestry before they do this, so they can judge if it would be appropriate in a particular church or setting. There are significant protections for clergy, vestries, organists, flower arrangers and anyone else who is not happy with the new addition to our definition of marriage.

It feels important to note that all those who voted "for" and "against" the measure remained for the subsequent Synod business: as a Christian community we remained together even with the very great disagreements that exist in this matter. I hope and pray that we can continue this gracious and wise togetherness in our diocese and churches. One view has not "won" and another "lost"; both views on same-sex marriage now co-exist with integrity and honesty in our church, and the motion passed reflects this equality of views.

Other provinces and churches may well take this as a model for their own debates on this matter. Our brothers and sisters in the Church of Scotland are now, after General Assembly 2017, creating what looks like being a very similar model for that denomination in the next couple of years. Same-sex marriage will become part of the life of many Scottish churches where they feel this should be part of their life and theology.

What will happen now? In the next few months, as vestries' views are minuted and passed to their bishop, some clergy, throughout Scotland will "opt-in" to the scheme. This may take up to a year to be processed. Some marriage of same-sex couples will start to take place in this time, in those SEC churches where it is appropriate for this to happen.

I personally find it a matter of great joy for our LGBT brothers and sisters that they can be fully included in the sacramental life of our churches with no discrimination. I feel the pain of those, however well protected they be in this canonical change, who are upset that this development is a challenge to their beliefs and values: but I am greatly encouraged, after Synod, that we can work to continue in a loving and positive relationship with our sisters and brothers of every view on this matter.

Please do speak to Bishop Kevin or me if you wish to know any more about the Synod or possible details of the outcomes and processes we may see in the immediate future.

Wishing you every blessing

Andrew

The Very Rev Andrew Swift

Dean

The Diocese of Argyll and The Isles

General Synod 2017

Details of all General Synod business can be found on the Scottish Episcopal website (<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/news-and-issues/>). There is also a link to the Sunday Programme on Radio 4 in which the Primus, the Most Rev David Chillingworth, speaks about the Scottish Episcopal Church's decision to amend its marriage canon to allow nominated clergy to conduct marriages of same-sex partners. There is also a link to the written response of the Primus to a statement from Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Feoran, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

Prayer for Ordinands

Please pray for those students of the Scottish Episcopal Institute shortly to be ordained to the Diaconate

Clare Caley, Carol Latimer, Jonathan Livingstone, Margaret Pedersen, Jacqui du Rocher

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, by your Holy Spirit you have appointed various orders of ministry in the Church: look with mercy on your servants now called to be deacons; maintain them in truth and renew them in holiness, that by word and good example they may faithfully serve you to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Please pray for those to be ordained to the Presbyterate at Petertide and Michaelmas
Nicholas Bowry, Oliver Brewer-Lennon, Jane Green, and for the congregations in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney and the Diocese of Edinburgh in which they will serve

St Clement, Mastrick, St Peter, Lutton Place, St Ninian, Comely Bank

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, by your Holy Spirit you have appointed various orders of ministry in the Church: look with mercy on your servants now called to be priests; maintain them in truth and renew them in holiness, that by word and good example they may faithfully serve you to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

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Diocesan Diary

Monday, 19th June	Island Retreats Board Meeting
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 July Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by **Monday, 3rd July 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.

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.