



Scottish Charity SC005375

News from around the Diocese

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Inside this issue:

- News and Events from around the Diocese **1 - 6**
- Provincial News **6 - 7**
- Contacts **8**

Ensay Pilgrimage 2017

It was clear that the Ensay Pilgrimage would take place in gloriously hot weather as a number of us boarded the Rib that was to take us to this small island just off the coast of Leverbrough. This is an annual pilgrimage and has for many years been organised by members of Christ Church in Harris and others from the Diocese. It is appropriate that the name 'Ensay' is derived from the Norse and means 'Jesus Isle'. The Island is only two miles in circumference and is uninhabited. However history will tell us that there were families resident there, certainly in the 18th century when about fifteen families are known to have made Ensay their home. Ensay Chapel is believed to have been built circa 14th Century on the previous foundations of an earlier building.

The tradition has been to travel to Ensay for the purpose of holding a Eucharist service there at least once annually and as close to St Columba's day (9th June) as possible. Due to logistical and other issues this year's pilgrimage took place on the 26th August and it couldn't have gone better. Many of us from St Peter's Stornoway and Christ Church Harris gathered at Leverbrough where we were picked up by a large Rib organised by one of the Ensay Guardians Mr Chris Merlin. After a short



15 minute crossing we then 'decanted' onto a small Rib to reach the shore. Once everyone was on dry land we set about preparing for our first service of the day. Unfortunately the Chapel had suffered some flooding and was under 5 inches of water. Despite brave attempts to pump out the water the decision was made to hold an open-air service as the weather was simply wonderful. Assisted by Fr Daniel, Fr Terry presided over a Sung Eucharist at the doorway to the chapel.



There were 39 people present from many denominations and there was singing and praise to God as Fr Terry provided a brief history of St Columba and his ministry to the Scottish Islands.

After the service there was an opportunity for people to explore the island prior to our second gathering for a brief Celtic Prayer, which was a very relaxed affair with everyone sitting on the grass outside the Chapel. We then began our journey back to Leverbrough and then onwards to our home destinations.

To sum up, this was a special day in glorious weather where a fairly large group of people, of varying ages, sang and gave praise to God in an atmosphere of love and unity. We remembered St Columba and the other Monks who ministered to these islands and we departed feeling spiritually rejuvenated, looking forward to our next gathering. For those of you who have never visited Ensay, I commend it to your 'bucket list'. I will ensure that the next pilgrimage is well advertised in order that diaries can be updated accordingly. *Blessings Always, Fr Terry*

A Joyous Service

Sunday, 17th September saw an unusual and delightful morning service in St Margaret's. An old friend of the congregation, Fr Barry Roberts, a retired priest from Cheshire, was scheduled to celebrate on that day, and indeed he did, delivering an excellent and thought-provoking sermon for us too. But there was added value, with a coinciding but more recently planned visit from Fr Paul Fletcher of St Mark's, East Kilbride, with a party from his congregation.



This did more than swell the numbers, because Fr Paul's parishioners, most of them considerably younger than St Margaret's regular Sunday turn-out, brought with them musical instruments, guitar, fiddle, percussion and keyboard (not quite the line-up in Psalm 150, but equally suitable to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord"). They provided us with accompaniment to a number of mainly modern hymns, and the singing was terrific. Afterwards, fellowship was shared over coffee and an enjoyably rich and sticky cake kindly prepared for us by the wife of our church secretary, and a happy time was had by all before the party from East Kilbride departed in their vehicles to enjoy a bit more of Arran. I hope it was a memorable occasion for everybody, perhaps especially for Fr Barry, whose trip to these parts this year had special significance. But in all circumstances we do love to have our visitors, new and old, at St Margaret's.

John Roberts

Of Mice and Men... Things don't always go to plan in Mid-Agyll & Arran

At the Council of the Isles
Arran cried:
You came to visit us, and we prayed
And we dined.
So now it's time for us
O'er Kilbrandon Sound to sweep
Upon the water-bus.
'Then you must sit and eat,
After Sunday prayers and hymns so

sweet',
Mid-Agyll did all repeat:
So we cooked.
And we swept and made all neat,
And laid flowers and meat and sweet –
See below how it looked.
So on Sunday Sept the Third
Early clocks them all bestirred,
In bed on Arran where they lay.

And they hurried to the North
 Of the Island for a berth
 - You can't be late.
 They set out across the Sound
 From Lochranza Claonaig-bound
 But a mighty wind came down
 And the ferry thrashed about
 And never landed.

Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie

And before two shakes were downed
 It had turned them right back round,
 And with cries galore of 'Zound'
 In Lochranza they were grounded.
 So there's food in the freezers -
 Maybe wine in the stack:
 Dear Arran friends, we pray you,
 Haste ye back, haste ye back!



St Andrew's Church, Fort William

On Sunday 13th August we welcomed two new members into the Scottish Episcopal Church. During the 10.45a.m. service the youngest granddaughter of Liz (our organist) and Hamish (our Lay Representative) Loudon, was baptised with her

extended family to support her.



It was an exciting weekend all round for Liz and Hamish as they celebrated their Golden Wedding on Saturday 12th August with a family dinner. Celebrations and congratulations all round.

Later the same Sunday, the great - grandson of Mrs Olive Davis was baptised. He showed great interest as the Rector was reading the service, almost appearing to understand every word. When the actual baptism took place, however, he was not so keen to have water poured over his forehead and did his best to swat the Rector away! All was well once he was dried off.

Each Sunday a box is placed at the back of the church for members of the congregation to contribute items for our local Lochaber Foodbank. On Wednesday 30th August the Secretary drove to our local Foodbank with plastic storage boxes full of food which had been donated by the congregation since April 2017. When she returned on Friday 1st September to collect the emptied boxes she was informed our donation weighed 124.4 kg which is the equivalent of **295 meals**. She was also told that our single donation in August was more than all the other local churches had given throughout the previous year - a sobering thought. We are sad that Foodbanks have had to be set up at all but we are very pleased that we at St. Andrew's are able to help those in difficulties by donating a little each Sunday when we come to church. While there are a few people who think foodbanks are used only by scroungers that is definitely not the story told by those who voluntarily staff the Foodbank. Our donations are very, very, very much appreciated.

Sunday September 3rd brought two Harvest Services to St. Andrew's. The first was our main 10.45a.m. Sung Eucharist then in the evening we were host to the Ecumenical Harvest Service. While our Rector, Revd. Alexander Guinness, had prepared and led the service, representatives from the Salvation Army, Duncansburgh/Macintosh C of S, Kilmallie C of S, St. John's R.C. and St Mary's R.C.

churches did readings or intercessions and a collection was taken for Christian Aid.



In the hall following the service there were delicious goodies and a welcome cup of tea or coffee as a reward for all our guests as well as time to socialise and catch up with each other as can be seen from the photograph.

From Monday 3rd September to Friday 7th September, again in St. Andrew's Church Hall, there followed the Ecumenical Soups when each church took it in turn to provide delicious homemade soups and a roll followed by a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits to raise funds for Christian Aid. The final total raised over the week was £1125 – 84 and lots of friendly chat was enjoyed by visitors and staff alike.

Throughout the summer months St. Andrew's Church has welcomed many, many visitors through its doors from all parts of the country and the wider world – the visitors' book shows how many parts of the world were represented. In September the nephew of a former Rector of St. Andrew's, Revd Arthur Bevington, who served from 1929 – 1934, visited, with his wife, from Ontario, Canada – a small world indeed.

A Trinity of Festivals in the West Highland Region

September has been a month of some festivity here in the West Highland Region, as we've celebrated two Patronal Festivals as well as the annual Harvest Festival.

Thursday 14th September, being Holy Cross Day, was the diary date for our Patronal Festival at Holy Cross, Portnacraois. This lovely but little used church enjoyed its first service for nearly two years and its first Eucharist since before the vacancy began two and half years ago. Thanks go to David Craig for ensuring the building was warm and clean for our service.



Sixteen of us celebrated the Eucharist – including local Church of Scotland minister, Revd Dr Iain Barclay – and fourteen of us went on to enjoy a self-funded lunch at the Creagan Inn. Regrettably, I

forgot to take pictures, but I can confirm that the weather was every bit as kind as that depicted in the stock photographs I found on the Internet!

On Sunday 17th September we held our annual Harvest Festival at St Mary's, Glencoe. The church was bedecked with beautiful flowers and produce – most of which was grown by the fair hands of Rector's Warden, George Grant. The collection raised £100 for the charity Mary's Meals, which provides square meals for hungry children.

Numbers at St Mary's are often swelled by visitors to the area, and it was lovely that several of our visitors that morning stayed for the Bring and Share lunch in the church hall, at which nearly thirty people were extremely well fed. Everyone had brought so generously that there was far too much food for just one meal, so there was much sharing of leftovers and even a plate of cakes to leave in the church for hungry visitors later in the day.



Our third celebration was the Patronal Festival of St Adamnan's, Duror on Sunday 24th September – transferred from St Adamnan's usual feast day on 23rd September. The collection raised over £250 which was split equally between the project to install a loo at St Adamnan's and Toilet Twinning – a charity that seeks to provide safe water and sanitation in places far less developed than the West Highlands.

Despite the practical limitations of a building with no running water, we were nonetheless able to enjoy a post service feast of cupcakes and prosecco, as well as the usual coffee brought by the ever-faithful Jeannie MacLeod.



If you notice a theme running through these three festivals it is entirely deliberate. The Bible is filled with stories about celebratory feasts and Jesus often shared meals with his friends and those to whom he reached out. And, of course, a shared meal is the centrepiece of our worship as a Christian community. What better way to continue our growth together as the Congregation of the West Highland Region than by extending the fellowship of our

communion meal with further refreshments for body and soul? *Rev Amanda Fairclough*

Last Chance to Join the Diocesan Retreat

Coming Home to God

October 23rd–26th, 2017 - led by Alison Clark

This silent Retreat is based at the College of the Holy Spirit on Cumbrae. Retreatants are asked to arrive in time for Evening Prayer in the Cathedral at 5.45pm on Monday and depart after breakfast on Thursday. There will be Morning (not Monday) and Evening (not Thursday) Prayers; Compline (not Thursday) and a Eucharist (not Monday) most days together with at least one address (not Thursday). The programme is available on the Diocesan website. (<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Retreat-Programme.pdf>)

Individuals conversations are available if required.

Numbers are limited so if you would like to participate, please contact the Cathedral as soon as possible on 01475 530353 or register online at cathedraloftheisles.org/aatiretreat. Application forms and fliers can be downloaded from the Diocesan website (www.argyll.anglican.org) or from Cumbrae (www.island-retreats.org)

Grants are available to help with costs. Please speak to Bishop Kevin in the first instance.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal

Thank you to all who contributed to the Bishop's Lent Appeal this year. We have donated just over £2,600 to Women's Aid.



Lay Leadership Day

Lay Leadership Day, Saturday 2nd December 2017, St John's Cathedral, Oban – *Making Mission Happen* – This day will be an opportunity to refresh ourselves and see what helps us to encourage mission in our local churches.

Led by Rev Elaine Garman, this day is open to all those who will be leading their congregations through the next phase of Building the Vision.

Further details will be given nearer the time. Please inform the Diocesan Office if you would like to attend.

Empathy. At the heART of compassion

A retreat to explore empathy and art as tools for living with more compassion.

Friday 24th – 26th November 2017

Led by Jayne Middleton

2 days full board for just £180

This unique weekend is a combination of empathy, movement and art. Nestled within the Cathedral of The Isles we'll explore empathy as a tool for living with more compassion. You'll also be offered the opportunity to walk the Labyrinth and explore your creative expression through art as these practices can help you deepen your understanding of yourself, others and life. You are encouraged to take part in as much or little as you like. We'll find ways to move through the weekend in a way that best serves us all.

Friday 24th: Arrivals from 4pm and introduction

Saturday 25th: Morning movement, morning and afternoon sessions, free time

Sunday 26th: Morning movement, Art from the HeART, closing session

Jayne has been sharing Marshal Rosenberg's nonviolent communication (*nvc.org*) since 2011. She is a coach and staff development trainer, offers empathy circles and Byron Katie's process The Work (*thework.com*) to individuals and groups. She has over 10 years' experience in community dance artistry and facilitates a morning movement practice and labyrinth walk within the Cathedral grounds. She has developed her own approach to authentic artistic expression called Art from the HeART. jaynemiddletoncoaching.com

If you'd like to know more about this retreat; contact Jayne at

nurturingpotential@gmail.com or call 07834519883

BOOKINGS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER

<https://cathedraloftheisles.org/college/retreats/open-retreat-booking-form/>

The Church and The Arts:

David Jasper Previews the SEI Annual Lecture

by *The Revd Canon Professor David Jasper*

Language and literature lie at the very heart of the life of the Church, in the words of the Bible and in the poetics of worship and liturgy. It is rarely acknowledged that St. Augustine roots some of his most profound theology in the theory of music, and strangely easy to neglect the fact that the art and architecture of the West would hardly exist without the impetus of the Christian faith. For today we live in a desperately prosaic world in which poetry gives way to economics and beauty is drowned in practicalities.

My thesis is simple in the extreme. Without the arts and their call to wonder, the Church will cease to exist. Churches in the western societies are dying institutions but that in itself need not be a matter for despair. For our first duty and joy is to utter the praise of God in his created world, and that can only be done in the words of the poet and the glories of music. As our world seems to be drowning in its own greed and stupidity, then it is all the more serious that we learn again from the arts the true utterance of praise and thanksgiving, thereby revising our priorities and returning to God. I will end my lecture in October by a brief reference to Isak Dinesen's great story "Babette's Feast." It ends with the words to Babette, "ah, how you will enchant the angels." Babette, the cook, is the great artist. When we sing our evensongs with perhaps two or three

gathered (thinking nostalgically of the days when the church was full and the world was a better place), we forget that the angels too have gathered to join in the art that is our prayer book or the music of the canticles, however simply performed. And that matters more than anything else.

*The Revd Canon Professor David Jasper DD FRSA FRSE is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Glasgow. He will be delivering the annual Scottish Episcopal Institute Lecture on **Thursday 26th October 2017** in the Memorial Chapel, University of Glasgow at 5.30pm. The lecture is free and refreshments are provided.*



A collaborative conference between Faith in Older People, Interfaith Scotland, Stonewall, Marie Curie and Edinburgh University Chaplaincy

Tuesday 17th October 2017 : 10am-4pm, Burgh Halls, Linlithgow

Fundamental to our spiritual, emotional and physical well-being is our sense of personal identity and where we feel we belong. We often make assumptions about where other people belong based on, for example, work, class or religion. We need to challenge these assumptions and to make a space to consider what we as individuals understand as our own 'self-identity' and how this is affirmed by those around us.

This collaborative conference will consider the issues from different perspectives – faith and culture, end of life, sexuality and spirituality and how they interlink.

The aim of the conference is to address:

'Where does our sense of identify and belonging come from? How does religion, culture, sexual orientation, class and family influence our sense of being human and our attitudes to our society?

Our conference aims to discuss these issues and to consider practical action that could be taken to engender a stronger sense of ourselves as members of different communities and as citizens.'



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Speakers

Rev Dr Harriet Harris MBE – Edinburgh University Chaplaincy

Maureen Sier – Interfaith Scotland

Maureen O'Neill – Faith in Older People

Sophie Bridger – Stonewall

Richard Meade – Marie Curie

Lord Bracadale – Chair of the Independent Review on Hate Crime Legislation

Format

Roundtable discussions

Style

Informal and participative

Please register at www.fiop.org.uk stating any additional requirements

Cost: £40 which includes coffee breaks and lunch

CONTACT US

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

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

Telephone 01631 570870

Fax 01631 570411

Email:
office@argyll.anglican.org

Administrator:
Dr Sue Pollard

Who's who

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

PA: Audrey Walton bishopsec@argyll.anglican.org

Dean: The Very Rev'd Andrew Swift DL

Telephone : 01369 702444

dean@argyll.anglican.org

Provost: Vacancy

Diocesan Secretary: Dr Peter Kemp

Telephone : 01631 570870

secretary@argyll.anglican.org

Diocesan Treasurer: Jean Ainsley

Tel: 01631 567007

jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk

Diocesan Diary

Monday, 16th October	Island Retreats Board Meeting
Tuesday, 17th October	Diocesan Standing Committee with Finance & Property Board Diocesan Board of Mission & Ministry
Mon, 23rd-Thurs 26th October	Diocesan Retreat
Tues-Wed 21st-23rd November	Continuing Ministerial Development

Communications

NEWSLETTER

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

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Sign up for the Scottish Episcopal Church newsletter or the magazine at links from the website as above.

PISKY.SCOT

Visit the new online magazine and forum of the Scottish Episcopal Church at <http://pisky.scot/>



Christian Aid launches Rohingya Crisis Appeal

Christian Aid launches Rohingya Crisis Appeal as humanitarian needs mount on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border

Christian Aid has launched an appeal to help all communities displaced by violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, and Rohingya Muslims who have crossed the country's border into Bangladesh as refugees.

Figures show 412,000 Rohingya people have fled into Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district since a fresh outbreak of violence erupted in Rakhine State on 25 August. A reported 210 villages have been destroyed in the north of the state, leading to an unknown number of displaced people within Myanmar.

For the last 12 months, Christian Aid in Myanmar has been working in camps and with conflict-affected communities through local partners in Rakhine State and supports all ethnic groups displaced by violence. Permission to work in refugee camps in Bangladesh has been limited until now to a handful of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), but authorities in Bangladesh are now willing to accept further NGO support. Christian Aid is working with authorities in both countries to secure permission to work with those in need.

In Bangladesh, Christian Aid is initially sending £40,000 to local partners to provide food, water, hygiene and sanitation, and healthcare provisions to 23,000 people. Through the appeal the charity hopes to raise more funds so the response can be scaled up in both countries.

To donate to the Rohingya Crisis Appeal, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies