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## News from around the Diocese

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### Diocesan Conference - Year 2 Living our Vision: God's Abundance – Our Gratitude

As I wrote the heading for this piece - "Diocesan Synod '18" - it flashed into my mind that were I writing this a hundred years ago I would be recalling something so different as to be unbelievable. Apart from the different nomenclature - something that has changed in my day - we'd be thinking about the losses, the young men gone from the glens and the islands of this absurdly scattered diocese, the horror of a war fought in lowland mud and distant shores that seemed another world and had yet so grievously affected our own. How would we go on? What form would our stewardship take in this changed post-war world?

And one thing remains the same. We still have to think about stewardship, and what it means; how to generate enough revenue to keep going, to pay salaries; how to make what we offer attractive enough to interest people and keep them coming back for more. Regardless of what the world brings and considers important, we have to keep our eyes fixed on one goal: to share whatever it is that makes us Christians, Episcopalians in this place, and to do it in such a way as to have meaning for the current generation.

Our guest speaker at Synod Conference was Dave Richards, since 1996 Rector of St Paul's and St George's Church in Edinburgh, a church which has been transformed in so many ways since I sang there as a student in the days when the damp seeped into your bones even in summer, when the beautiful building was wonderful to sing in but where the organist wore sheepskin wrist muffs to enable his frozen hands to play. Back then, the congregation was as small as some of ours in Argyll and the future bleak.

Now, after a £5.6 million renovation project, the building is transformed, with offices surrounding a worship space suitable for any kind of worship and a Sunday congregation of 900+. Their website shows the variety of ages present, though very many of the people are young. Dave's presentation brought out the faith of those who ran the project as well as the methods, his own realisation that God was in charge and that he was - my words - God's Project Manager. It was riveting. And it highlighted for me the fact that an excellent communicator is at the heart of making anything work, for to make this huge church in the capital relevant to a group of (mostly) retired people from the depths of rural isolation was nothing short of miraculous.



Rev Canon Dave Richards

The Synod itself threw up for me one fascinating insight when we were given the task of discussing Mission: the role of the clergy and of lay leaders in Mission, and the task of communication. It was when someone suggested the destruction of an over-large, relatively undistinguished building and its reconstruction on a different scale that the radical thinking outlined in Dave Richards' talk emerged as the only way to flourish - the realisation that we cannot live in a past that is valued only as a museum piece. With that came the knowledge that money is for using - in mission, in creating opportunities. That's how it came to me, as a participant in rather than as a member of Synod, and it cheered me hugely to recognise it.

And I cannot end without referring to the other cheering moment over the two days. I've been in the winning team for the Bishop's End-of-Dinner Quiz for the past two years, but this year we were to be defeated in a new and utterly hilarious activity. The task? To see how many pancakes each of us could flip in 30 seconds. Each table was given a pan and a packet of (rubbery) pancakes, and each member duly stood



up and tossed for all she was worth. (The fact that it was a man who actually tossed the highest number does not deter my pronoun choice in the least.) If you look up the Diocesan Facebook page you can see the photos - and a video of Fr Terry showing great composure under stress.

And the Bishop had clearly been practising ...

*Christine McIntosh*

## Stirred up for Stewardship

Rev Canon Dave Richards, Rector of St Paul's and St George's (Ps and Gs), Edinburgh gave us all plenty food for thought when he presented on 'Stewardship' at the Diocesan Conference day prior to Synod. This was a topic that participants in last year's conference day had requested that we discuss. Dave's experience has been with a huge, expensive building project in Ps and Gs. But we can simply translate the scale to our local context.

He started out by looking at a theology of giving and emphasised that we avoid talking about money whether from the pulpit or in an open meaningful way between ourselves. There was a reminder that money itself is neutral but that the love of money is destructive. How it is preached about can vary. On the one hand you have those who preach a prosperity gospel - where, if you become a Christian God will bless you with great riches. On the other hand there is a poverty gospel that we are all totally worthless and amount to worms! However Dave argues there is a theology of giving that is positive and that we need to get over our reticence to discuss it. So whilst we will talk about many things - to most of us money is private and personal.

There is a fascination in our culture to find out what each other earns because in our society, money is a symbol of strength, influence and power. Within our theology of giving i.e. doing things with what we receive there is a way to be: to give humbly, not wanting recognition; to give generously, not just what we think we can get away with; give cheerfully, not out of obligation; give thankfully not out of guilt or duty. We were challenged to look at ourselves and our giving and distinguish between sacrificial and generous giving. When did we last say 'ouch' when we gave, when did we last consider what we would give up in order to bring the good news to

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others?

In each of our local churches as we plan actions, however modest or grand they are, from funding a coffee morning to building a hall, proper toilets, funding a youth worker – whatever it is – they will nurture our own spiritual growth as well as the growth of new disciples. In so doing we ought to review what sacrifice we are prepared to make.

In conducting all our church affairs, vestries should focus on every financial decision being a spiritual decision. There should not be a disconnect between the ministry/mission of the church and how it is run. Instead, if we maintain the connection, thinking about money is the same as thinking about our faith.

Through our own sacrifice we can bring that light to others.

*Rev Elaine Garman*

## **Bishop Kevin's Sermon—Diocesan Synod Eucharist**

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

The Book of the Exodus – the book of the leaving behind – Exodus Chapter 16 :

Moses and Aaron said: "In the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord" in Abundance is the glory of the Lord God. God the father who gives His love in abundance, Our Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life to show the abundance of love that is of God. The Holy Spirit within the disciple who allows the disciple to see, feel, love in abundance as it is shared, given away in abundance.

So that the disciple rejoices to say in words, in action, through money the great gospel proclamation:

"In the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord in abundance"

We hear much in the media about an economy suffering from deficit, we hear much about the need for growth in an economy, we hear much about productivity in an economy. But God's economy is the economy of abundance; an abundance of love which paradoxically only grows, is only more productive, only clears all deficits when it is given away; in abundance. God's economy, the economy of abundance.

The economy of Mammon, is the economy of anxiety. The economy of Mammon and sin is the economy of anxiety about money, the economy of anxiety about age, the economy of anxiety about children.

When we are able to make our Exodus, our leaving behind the economy of anxiety of Mammon who is about money, age, children. When we are able in our hearts and minds to set aside the anxieties, and simply to recognise the abundance of God's grace and mercy and love then every morning we see the glory of the Lord and then we move from members who are anxious to keep the show on the road. We move from membership to discipleship, to being Kingdom Builders who recognise the glory of the Lord in their exodus from anxiety, leaving behind the anxieties to journey with God, to be Kingdom Builders confident in God's economy of abundance, The abundance of God's love.

It was the abundance of God's love which Jesus showed to the woman who came to wash His feet with her tears of anxiety as to who and what she was, she wiped His feet with the abundance of her hair, the liberation of being with God, accepted, known, the abundance of love that is of God shown in the abundance of the ointment poured over Jesus feet.

Gods economy of abundance, notice Jesus knew who she was, what she was. He didn't send her away to change. He simply accepted her. What good news. He knew her better than she knew herself because Jesus knew this woman has changed.

Hence the parable because in God's economy of abundance, enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven, strangers made welcome. There is the mission plan for disciples who are God's Kingdom Builders.

God loves a cheerful giver says Paul to the Corinthians because God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance.

There is the glory of the Lord we celebrate at every Eucharist, every time we receive bread and wine in Holy Communion. In Holy set apart relationships with God and there in bread and wine we experience the abundance of Jesus life, death, resurrection, the glory of the Lord, in leaving behind the tomb of the past, which is what forgiveness means. Exodus, leaving behind the anxiety because enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven, and strangers made welcome within ourselves, within the wilderness within. The Holy Spirit teaches us much in this season of Lent, teaches us abundantly about the love which allows us to face the questions, the doubts, the confusion, the anxieties of our own wilderness. Then and only then we can help the enemies, forgive the debts, make strangers welcome with the Good News that in the morning we shall see the Glory of the Lord of the economy of the abundance of love, that is of God.

Significantly we celebrate our mission plan as we prepare to receive the sacrament of bread and wine. A sacrament is the outward and visible sign of God's inward spiritual grace. Grace the word we use to describe the abundance of God's love for each one of us in each one of our lives. We receive Our Lord Jesus Christ into our hearts and minds and lives in bread and wine, gifts which are received at the altar with our money because money is the sacrament of seriousness.

Disciples of Jesus working to build God's Kingdom of love know first the abundance of God's love in relationships, in the soul where heart and mind meet. In that place where like the woman in the gospel, the place where I am most authentically me and I am with Jesus, however I may describe that relationship. In the economy of God's abundance then our response is one of serious gratitude, which is why Kingdom Builders always appear to be generous. The response of love to love, the obedience of our promises and commitment to God, generously given, as we renew our pledges to the Christian life, to leadership, to ordained ministry, here and now tonight.

We are all called to be first and foremost disciples of Jesus, that is the excitement of faith, the excitement of discipleship, the excitement of leadership, the excitement of ordination. In the morning we see the glory of the Lord – no two days are alike, we journey, we make our exodus day by day, hour by hour, to encounter God in the wilderness on the journey. It's not worth being a Bishop unless you aspire to being a better disciple to hear again that wonderful story of the woman and her ointment. To hear again that story of acceptance, understanding, love; the story of God's economy of abundance. There is the Good News for the disciple to share that is the Good News that we are the Kingdom Builders.

*+Kevin, Argyll & The Isles*





## Bishop Kevin's Charge to Diocesan Synod 2018

As is our custom, I will present my report as an overview of the year past, a retrospective. We will look forward to the year ahead, our future; all with a sense of where we are going in our journey with God, in mission, in ministry and in money. But we will look at these three areas of mission, ministry and money through the eyes of Kingdom Builders.

It is the basis of our Christian faith that we recognise the Kingdom of God among us and yet paradoxically we work constantly to build that Kingdom. Perhaps a better expression would be we work constantly to recognise God's Kingdom of understanding, acceptance, love, in and among the communities in which we find ourselves. Kingdom Builders recognise the signs of God's love in the very desire, among neighbours and friends to know who, what, where God is.

Our responsibility as Kingdom Builders is to show in word and deed that God's love is open, inclusive and welcoming. To show that is the mission of the disciple who is a Kingdom Builder and so to Mission.

Mission through the eyes of Kingdom Builders as we enter the second year of "Living our Vision".

The cynics will say, "another mission programme, what good will it do, where is the Vision?"

The Kingdom Builders will say – "well let's unpack that statement"; and they say that in the full and certain knowledge that that very statement is condemned by the cynics as mere jargon.

The first thing to remember is the cynic is the person who is determined never to be disappointed again. And that wonderful story of the people of Israel demanding bread of Moses and Aaron, in the translation we used last night it said that the people 'complained' another word to translate 'complained' is murmuring. And so there were murmurings against Moses and Aaron. The murmurings are the bane of the Rector's life and indeed the Bishop's life. Outright complaints are much easier but the murmurings, which inevitably come with the throw away confidential comment at coffee to you, "They" say – and you think Moses and Aaron had it easy. Who are "they"?

One hundred and fifty years ago, the mission of the Scottish Episcopal Church was to build a church in every community. From that church, social action flowed in the form of schools, gender-based fellowships and a thousand and one different "activities" which made the presence of the Scottish Episcopal Church visible. That was Living the Vision of the institution of the Scottish Episcopal Church 150 years ago.

We live with that legacy in the form of buildings which are not always fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and lead to the question: Well, what does Living our Vision look like today and in the future?

To look at that question through the eyes of the Kingdom Builders means that we recognise God's economy of Abundance. We are made in God's image and we reflect in our poor attempts to love, we reflect God's love and that love, the very idea of love leads us to journey with Abraham and Moses to find God, to be with God.

And if as disciples we are lit up by the very thought of journeying with and to God. Then recognising the economy of God's abundance of love we look at our buildings as an opportunity. In this last year Living our Vision has meant for some simply inviting community groups to use their facilities. And so in Kinlochleven Syrian refugee conversation groups. Kinlochleven again, with facilities for school children, turned onto the streets on Friday at noon. Skye using their church for a tiny tots group, are examples of Living our Vision as Kingdom Builders.

Duror coffees, the Cathedral keeping open in winter and summer, prayer requests, coffee mornings. People seeing experiencing disciples of Jesus who are Kingdom Builders. Modest initiatives of fantastic mission with God. Christmas Day lunches on Bute for any who don't want to be on their own.

St Peter's Stornoway whose strap line is we never close, because life with God is so

exciting. In Lochgilphead with Star Wars and that's not a way of dealing with the murmurings. The Retreat Houses on Cumbrae and Iona.

When we come together for Lay Leadership Training Days twice a year, looking at how group work can help deepen our faith. Campbeltown have much experience. Ardnamurchan worship is about journey, context. Fort William are on the High Street.

In all of this Mission we are "Living our Vision" of being with God. We celebrate that fact at evening Eucharist and at times like Sister Clare's Golden Jubilee last November in Stomoway. Fifty years of religious life motivated by Living our Vision of going deep into the life of God which we know, feel, experience.

At our General Synod last year, the marriage Canon was changed to allow Equal Marriage. Some of us interpret that as a sign of being a church which is open, inclusive, welcoming. Others disagree, all communities, all families do disagree but the Kingdom Builders look and see that disagreement is perfectly healthy, can be a sign of love. But the "murmurings" of anonymous letters and discontent, sap the life of a community.

God's economy of Abundance really does mean All Welcome as we seek to be "Living our Vision".

This year we will focus on Stewardship.

One thing I find is that some congregations want to say well we did that – it is done. The ideas and concepts which the programme offers give an indication of how and where to identify resources, which remain a part of our Diocesan life. And the materials may be used again, initiatives may be taken forward for years in, for example, our use of buildings making them open, fit for Kingdom Building today and in the future.

Our stewardship of God's creation is a part of recognising God's gifts in the whole gamut of this economy of Abundance of love and understanding and acceptance.

Remembering that the economy of Mammon is the economy of anxiety.

- anxiety about money
- anxiety about buildings
- anxiety about age.

And so to Ministry.

Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry is not a cheap alternative to ordained ministry. The ministries that the Bishop authorises are a calling, a vocation, in themselves. There is a discernment process involved in each case and training is offered in each case. We have team leadership throughout our Diocese which includes oddly enough the Bishop. The reason licences are important is that I share the episcopal ministry with my colleagues ordained and lay. Having said that I do have some expertise, I always describe myself as a jobbing Rector really, I do a bit of this and a bit of that, none of which would be possible without the Diocesan Officers and Administrators – the murmurings tell me, I hear in the breeze, they are in Oban. Well, they are and thank you to them.

To look on lay ministry as an alternative is a bit like saying we need children in church they are our future. That's rubbish, children come to church because they have spiritual needs and if they find their needs are met then they return.

So thank you to the abundance of lay ministries recognised and unrecognised throughout the Diocese. Another form of ministry which is of value in itself is the ministry of those who are retired. The breadth of experience and learning is Abundant and of immense value in the Mission of our Diocese and our Church. Here is a Kingdom Building Ministry in itself.

The lay leadership Training Days at least twice a year are of immense

value and a lot of sharing of experiences is possible whatever the topic. The clergy continue to meet together regularly facilitated by Bishop Anne of Aberdeen. As Bishop, Anne is only beginning to take up the reins in her own Diocese; we need to negotiate our next date. Bishop Anne is determined to continue with us because she sees the similarities in our experience and hopefully we may pioneer pan Provincial co-operation.

Our Curates, Rosemary and Elaine, again meet for supervision with me regularly for 24 hours. These occasions give abundant opportunities for looking at how ordained ministry is developing in their congregations and in the Province as a whole.

Elaine is at present our Mission Enabler. Thank you, Elaine, for a superb Conference Day. Part of Elaine's remit has been to scope the post really and after Easter we will move to recruit a new person for the post, lay or ordained.

The Rev'd Amanda Fairclough joined Team Argyll in the summer. Amanda comes from Liverpool/Manchester, having run her own Accountancy Consultancy and a parish down South, the West Highland Region is a doddle. The West Highland Region is a good example of how a congregation can find an inter regnum positive and actually grow through the experience. Welcome Amanda to your first Synod and may God continue to bless your ministry. Having hit the ground running please be careful of the single-track roads.

At the end of May, the Rev'd Margi Campbell will join us as Provost of Oban. Margi comes, as the Diocesan newsletter points out, Margi comes from Bath and Wells again with a wealth of congregational experience and, a former music teacher, a wealth of musical knowledge. James is a church organist and newly retired music teacher and again the Diocese may well be able to offer a significant post retiral ministry.

Welcome Margi and James.

And so to the most expensive item on the agenda, the Bishop. As I go around the Diocese, I am constantly surprised by joy at the abundance of ministry and dedicated Kingdom Builders among us. At the moment, as most of you know, I am acting as Bishop of St Andrews, Dunblane and Dunkeld. I'm not very good at enumerating things that I do but in one sense supervising an episcopal vacancy and running another Diocese is a massive commitment, especially when you have to drive 21/2 hours there and 21/2 hours back.

So this week – Office Monday, Conference Day Tuesday, Here today, Office tomorrow, Perth Friday to interview for a new post, overnight in Perth, Diocesan Synod Saturday, back to Oban Saturday teatime. Mull on Sunday, Office on Monday, Perth Tuesday, Edinburgh Wednesday, London Thursday, Perth Friday. It gets busy and Diocesan visits become less regular.

The advantage is there's nothing like looking at other peoples' problems to make you glad to get home. And oh – the murmurings.

For the Province, I chair the Scottish Institute Council, which again is a demanding responsibility. Kingdom Building and Builders, work across the Province. The Institute has just appointed a new member of staff. We have 26 students training; eight of them for pension fund ministry. In 2021, I think we have 22 curates throughout the Province. We probably need now to cap numbers entering. However, the second Sunday after Easter is Vocations Sunday and on that day one of the full-time students will preach for the West Highland Region and Amanda is arranging a weekend visit for student and partner.

Bishop Anne of Aberdeen is a member of the Institute Council and chaired the Review which brought it into being. Our own Elaine Garman is joining the Council once her appointment is ratified by Standing Committee.

Having mentioned Bishop Anne, she was of course duly consecrated last Thursday, St David's Day. It was a glorious occasion and I was thrilled to be a part of such an historic occasion. Again, Kingdom Builders may disagree, that is not important, it is how we do it. Personally, Anne is a friend and will make a superb bishop, because she can make a decision, stick to that decision and is there for

those who have to manage that decision.

Another great personal delight was to represent the Scottish Episcopal Church at the enthronement of the new Bishop of Ripon whose consecration I attended in New Zealand four years ago. Bishop Helen Anne is a Scot and was literally the girl next door.

And so to God's economy of abundance of money.

As disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we are Kingdom Builders because we experience the abundance of God's love in our own lives and souls.

As disciples, as Kingdom Builders, our first responsible act is to celebrate the glory of God's creation and our part in that glory. Not only in terms of the natural beauty that surrounds us but in terms of work, our jobs, our security at home in our communities, peace in our nation and our prosperity. And we here are prosperous no matter how we feel we have to manage, our prosperity is abundant.

One of the reasons I have chosen Children First as the Bishop's Lent Appeal is because of the Co-Op in Skye. On one of my visits to Skye, a long time ago now, I dashed into the Coop in Portree on a Saturday morning to buy some wine to give away as gifts. And because I had to stand in a queue for a few minutes, I became very aware of various trollies around me including a young woman with two children in front of me. The children were not asking for anything, poverty is silent, poverty has a particular odour. It is not that clothes aren't clean, it is that laundrettes don't air clothes. I learnt that as a child. And that image haunts me.

If you ask Rosemary, she'll tell you something of Portree's Christmas boxes of food.

When we were discussing the agenda for General Synod this year, I had an opportunity to suggest that we ask the Church and Society Committee to give us a chance to look at the issue of child poverty, which we are going to do. And the Lent Appeal is the beginning of the response.

In terms of the Diocese because in God's economy of abundance, we have in the Office and in the Bishop's expenses, because we have acted responsibly and are prudent we do have the opportunity to offer to congregations, Mission Seed money. These are grants to help congregations in their mission – maybe particular events, speakers, communications network skills. These are the seeds to help mission not happen but flourish.

God's economy of Abundance means we go out with joy as disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the power of God's Holy Spirit, we are Kingdom Builders in this our Diocese of Argyll and The Isles.

*+Kevin, Argyll & The Isles*

### **Bishop Kevin's Lent Appeal – *Children 1st***

***Demand an end to  
child poverty***

So far we have raised just over £1,000. Please help us to make more of a difference!

Please bring your Lent collections back to church as soon as possible or send them to the Diocesan Office. (Cheques payable to "The Episcopal Diocese of Argyll & The Isles".)





## Canon Fred Baillie (1921 – 2018)

Fred's long and event-full life could be divided roughly into three phases. His early years were spent in Belfast, the city of his birth, which he left in 1937 to pursue a career in the RAF, serving in Iraq, Iran, N Europe and the Dutch East Indies during the Second World War, attaining the rank of Flight Sergeant. He married Freda Mellon in 1945, having met her as a teenager and corresponded throughout the war. Fred left the RAF in 1949 and eventually became aware of a call to the ministry of the Church of Ireland.



After training for three years at Trinity College, Dublin, Fred was ordained in 1955 and thus began the second phase of his life, serving in several Belfast parishes as a curate before becoming Rector of Eglantine, near Hillsborough in 1961. By this time he and Freda had four children and their time in Eglantine was a happy and busy period as he put into effect his discipleship of the "Man from Nazareth", whose example he did his best to emulate in his teaching and preaching. Leaving Eglantine in 1969, Fred served as Rector of three more parishes, during the unrest and dangerous times of "the Troubles" in Northern Ireland. While serving in the parish of St Martin's in East Belfast he also developed the Church's Ministry of Healing in N Ireland at a dedicated Centre and so began an ongoing passion and commitment to the collaboration of medicine and theology. Two lecture tours of the US and periods of study which led to further academic honours were also squeezed into the busy years of the '70s and '80s – he lived at a whirlwind pace! His final parish was in Co Fermanagh, and it was here that he was made a Canon of Clogher Cathedral.

Fred's retirement from stipendiary ministry in 1987 was mainly due to Freda's deteriorating health and the couple moved back to Belfast; but Fred's ministry in the Church of Ireland continued without a break as he took charge of several parishes who found themselves in "interregnum". In 2002 it became obvious that he and Freda, who was now suffering from vascular dementia, needed the care and support of their family and they moved finally to Portree where Roger and Linda had made their home. After a short time, Freda became a resident of the Home Farm where Fred spent many hours daily with her. However, as St Columba's was also in interregnum, Fred joined with other retired clergy on the Island to provide support and clerical cover to its parishioners and, indeed, the people of Raasay, Sleat and Nostie – the whole of Skye and it's hinterland, in fact! Freda's death in 2009 and the unexpectedly early death of Roger in 2015 hit him hard, and as his own health and energy began to diminish, his "parish" gradually shrank to Portree itself and, latterly, his room in the Home Farm where he lived from 2014.

Fred died peacefully on March 13<sup>th</sup>. A measure of the love and friendship he gave and received was evident both at his memorial service in Portree and his funeral and burial at Eglantine. His family is so grateful to you all for the care and happiness you brought to Fred in his final years in the place he loved.

*Hilary Penney*

## Team Work in Inveraray

On Saturday in Lent IV a team gathered to work at All Saints, Inveraray. The group represented the Scottish Asscn of Change-Ringers, the Roman Catholic congregation, the local Community, and the SEC, with the help of some machinery: the elements hoping to take over the buildings and governance in a new SCIO Trust. Work was done on the bells and tower interior by the SACR Icicle Club (!), on the Church



windows, doors, gutters, French drains, and in clearing the grounds by all parties. The day was beautiful: DRY, cool, sunny, and delicately embroidered with a continuous drift of tiny snow-flakes. A genie may have been let out of a bag! Here's hoping. (Is it by the font??)

*Rev Canon Simon Mckenzie*

## **Holy Week and Easter at the Cathedral of The Isles**

Holy Week activities began with the arrival of members of The Cathedral Choir and the retreatants at The College for Evensong and Dinner on Saturday evening. We were graced by the presence of Bishop Kevin who stayed for the weekend.

Palm Sunday morning involved everyone in The Liturgy of The Palms and The Liturgy of The Passion during the Sung Eucharist at which the Bishop presided and during which the choir sang extracts of the Byrd Mass. In the afternoon the Churches Together on Cumbrae held their Palm Sunday Service of



Music and Readings at which Canon Alec Boyd presided and the Revd Margery Mackay read extracts of poems with the Revd Jonathan Fleming the new parish minister of the Millport Church of Scotland in attendance. Music was sung by both The Cathedral Choir and the 70 strong Millport Community Choir "Sonoro" under the direction of Mrs Rhona Gourlay.

Each day in Holy Week the retreat group met daily for study with Canon Alec. These times together were shared by local church members who joined in as they were able on a day to day basis. Every afternoon Sung Evensong was sung in The Cathedral with preachers including Revd Marjorie Mackay, Amanda Wright and Canon Alec Boyd.

The Tridium began with the Maundy Thursday Liturgy as a full Sung Eucharist. The Revd Jonathan Fleming was the guest preacher. The service ended with the Sacrament being carried to The Altar of Repose where, after stripping of the High Altar, the Gospel of the Watch was followed by a time of silent prayer.

Good Friday began with the ecumenical Walk of Witness which began at The Cathedral and picked up members as it made its way from there to the Roman Catholic Chapel of Our Lady, along the sea front with stations of prayers, readings and hymns being held at the War Memorial, opposite the Bank of Scotland and at the Millport Pier. Those taking part were all invited back for a warm drink and hot cross bun afterwards.

Holy Saturday saw the retreatants together with members of the St Andrew's Congregation spring clean the sanctuary, wash the riddle posts with their angels and the riddle post curtains. The nave was also cleaned and Mrs Jill Corcoran skilfully made lovely flower arrangements for Easter to beautify The Cathedral. The Easter Vigil began at 9pm in the Lady Chapel after which the congregation made its way out to the south door of the nave in the dark where the Easter Fire was lit and the Easter Liturgy continued leading into the first Holy Communion of Easter. The Cathedral Choir under Alastair's direction sang glorious music and the quality of their singing lifted everyone's spirits.

Easter Sunday began with a 5.30am walk to the top of the island by invitation of the Church of Scotland. After breakfast the Sung Eucharist was held at its usual time of 11am. The Cathedral was completely full, packed with a very much larger than expected congregation with a number of young families. This made for a wonderful act of worship led again by the Cathedral Choir whose anthems were much appreciated by everyone.

So then once again Easter has seen The Cathedral of The Isles and The College of The Holy Spirit taking its place at the forefront of mission and ministry. Thanks to Bishop Kevin for his time with us, Revds Marjorie Mackay and Jonathan Fleming, Fr John from The Chapel of Our Lady, Alastair Chisholm BEM as musical director, the members of the Cathedral Choir and to the members of "Sonoro" the Millport Community Choir. *Canon Alec Boyd*

### Hunt the Easter Message—Easter Scrambled Eggs

St Paul's, Rothesay, as part of 'Bute Churches Together' provided an Easter activities day for primary school aged children in a community venue in the town. It was after Easter Day but still in the school holidays. This follows on from a similar Christmas event and a three day summer activity programme. For three years prior to that Scripture Union had supported the local churches to run a week's summer programme.



Douglas Allan, Church of Scotland Lay Reader in action

With confidence and commitment growing, the local ecumenical team now feels it has a sustainable programme. This time our activities included a treasure hunt for Easter Eggs inside of which there were pieces of a jigsaw. There were six jigsaws each depicting part of the Easter story, designed by Rector Andrew Swift which were then produced by a professional jigsaw maker. This, the hire of a hall and other resources has been possible with use of mission monies.

Most of the children attending do not go to church/Sunday School and it was delightful to see them understanding the Easter story and message. The day also featured 'Dave the Donkey' (well known to many I would think!), suncatcher painting, active games and of course chocolate in different forms!

*Rev Elaine Garman*

### Diocese of Argyll & The Isles Lay Leadership Day – What Do We Believe?

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 9.30am-3.30pm, St John's Cathedral, Oban**

If you wish to know more about the day or to sign up to the day please contact Dr Sue Pollard [office@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:office@argyll.anglican.org) (01631 570870) or Rev Elaine Garman at [revelainegarman@aol.com](mailto:revelainegarman@aol.com) (01700 505617; 07733 151458)

### Diocese of Argyll & The Isles Information! Information! Information!

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00 am-3.00pm, The Perle Hotel, Oban**

**Important training day for all Vestries.**

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| To include:-                       | Collective purchasing of utilities |
| General Data Protection Regulation | Provincial grants                  |
| Property Inventory                 | Clergy expenses                    |

To sign up or for more information please contact the Diocesan Office.

## CONTACT US

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

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Dr Sue Pollard

## Who's who

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## Diocesan Diary

Thursday, 17th May Information Day with Diocesan Secretary & Diocesan Treasurer  
Friday, 25th May Collation and Licensing of Rev Margi Campbell as Provost of St John's Cathedral  
Saturday, 2nd June Lay Leadership Day  
Tuesday, 10th July Diocesan Standing Committee

## 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, 30th April, 2018.**

**WEBSITES** [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)

### INSPIRES ONLINE

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/>

## Retreats at The Cathedral and College, Cumbrae

### Alive to The Splendour A Weekend with Thomas Merton

Friday 22- Sunday 24 June  
with Stephen Dunhill, John McLuckie and Anne Tomlison  
For further information and to book see

### Ordinary as Grain... Finding God in the Everyday

Friday 20—Sunday 22nd July with Amanda Wright  
For further information and to book see <https://cathedraloftheisles.org/college/retreats/alive-to-the-splendour/> and <https://cathedraloftheisles.org/college/retreats/ordinary-as-grain/>



## Imagining Your Church At The Heart Of Your Community

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018, 10am, St George's Tron Church, Glasgow

[events@cinnamonnetwork.co.uk](mailto:events@cinnamonnetwork.co.uk)

Further information at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imagine-your-church-at-the-heart-of-your-community-tickets-43654042416>