



Scottish Charity SC005375

News from around the Diocese

**Number 99:
May 2018**

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Hospitable Holy Trinity Dunoon

A team from Holy Trinity Dunoon offered teas, coffees and baking in support of the ACUMEN 'Well Connected Cowal' event in the Burgh Hall in Dunoon. The event promoted mental health and well-being, with a range of groups and organisations involved in community engagement, work with mental health service users and public health. Holy Trinity's reputation for hospitality led to the invitation. All the refreshments were free for everyone – and many useful conversations flowed out from the day. There were also some challenging things for churches to hear: how people with mental health issues do not always feel welcomed or valued by church communities.

The team ready for action by HT's banner

A week later Holy Trinity held their annual coffee morning, in the High Kirk Hall in Dunoon. This event is an annual fundraiser, with home baking, books, craft/

jewellery, bric-a-brac and all the other things one would expect. The weather was great, there were few other clashes in Cowal on the day, so the event was very well attended and was a great success. A new banner had been acquired to promote the event for the week before: a definite recommendation for anyone wondering what 'Mission Seed' funding might be used for!



Coffee morning in full swing in Dunoon
(photo by Alan Mole)

Collation and Licensing of **The Rev Margi Campbell**

by The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson,
Bishop of Argyll & The Isles

Friday, 25th May
at 6.00pm

in St John's Cathedral, Oban

All welcome

RSVP mmsime@aol.com

Lay Leadership Day

Saturday 2nd June
St John's Cathedral, Oban

What Do We Believe?

We will be exploring our own beliefs
and those of the Church.

Please contact the Diocesan office on
01631 570870 or
office@argyll.anglican.org if you would
like to come along.

Hold the Date!

Argyll & The Isles Diocesan Retreat 2018

Monday 29th October – Thursday 1st
November

College of the Holy Spirit & Cathedral
of the Isles,

Isle of Cumbrae

Vestry Training Day

Thursday, 17th May
Perle Hotel, Oban

Essential information for vestries
including the new Data Protection Laws
and how they affect you.

All Charges are urged to send at least
one attendee.

Please contact the Diocesan office on
01631 570870 or
office@argyll.anglican.org if you would
like to come along.

'Fruit of the Spirit'

Explore ways to express your
prayers and thoughts about
scripture throughout these few
days through creative journalling.

Led by Revd Jane MacLaren, this
promises to be a wonderful
opportunity to enjoy silence, space
and time in a beautiful environment –
what could be better!

Living Our Vision Year 2

God's Abundance: Our Gratitude

Copies of the Leaders' and Participants' booklets have been sent out to all charges. Further copies are available from the Diocesan website at

<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LOV-Participant.pdf>
and <http://www.argyll.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LOV-Leader.pdf>

or from the Diocesan Office. Large print copies are also available.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal

Thank you to all have contributed to this appeal on behalf of Children 1st—Demand an end to poverty for children in Scotland.

So far we have raised nearly £1,800 (including Gift Aid).

Please send contributions to the Diocesan Office (Cheques made payable to "The Episcopal Diocese of Argyll & The Isles"). Gift Aid forms are available from the Office or from the Diocesan website

<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Gift-Aid-Declaration-Lent.pdf>

Faith in a Time of War by *The Very Rev Andrew Swift*

There's been a lot of coverage and conversation about war on my various social media feeds. We even interviewed our youth in the sermon-slot at the Service last Sunday about this: quite how apocalyptic it can feel, in a time of nerve agents, false news, missile strikes, political positioning, environmental catastrophe, or not...



How can people of faith respond to a situation where countries attack each other? What is right or wrong?

There is a Christian view that is to be a pacifist. In that view, war is never acceptable. That is fine, and is a valid and legitimate place to be. Most Christians would use a 'Just War' approach, however, to making judgements about war. The primacy of a 'Christian' Just War theory rather fades into insignificance in the modern world. The ideas that have populated such a theory, from Augustine through Aquinas, have been subsumed and adapted into the modern day UN Charter. Christian 'Just War' is ultimately rooted in maintaining order so that true religion can flourish (if one takes it all the way back to Augustine, trying hard to reconcile Christianity with a military Roman Empire). The UN Charter has a different absolute value for judging the making of wars: sovereignty of nations. None of which really helps the Christian make sense of war and the modern world. Does God really care about one country over another? Things change, systems and political structures wax and wane.

But Christians must be rooted in values that place humanity first: God did that by becoming one of us, becoming human. God's grace is open to all, every single human being. Hairs on our heads are counted. So in looking at any issue of justice and ethics, where is the path that values humanity the most? Is fighting a war a way that humanity can be built up, valued, cherished and affirmed? Sometimes, yes. What if the second world war had NOT been fought and the dark of Nazism had not been challenged. But what about firebombing Dresden? The "jus in bello" subtlety of Just War theory (if you must fight a war, fight it nicely, essentially) rears its head again. History does a fine job of judging which wars are just or not, even given the victors' habit of writing that history.

So what do we do at the moment? Do we actually know what is going on, who has done what to whom? Have we been manipulated by regimes or news organisations

Faith in a Time of War (cont'd)

or troll-farms to have a pre-conceived pro- or anti-war view? How can we, as individuals, even start to make that judgement?

But we can, as Christians, engage in the processes that are open to and are around us. We can challenge the politicians that represent us to be accountable to and make decisions that are just and humane. We can protest and take direct action to force such accountability. We can preach and blog and tweet about the issues: to get others to work for accountability and human value. We can always even pray about it. A lot.

Can we get to a place where we, as Christians, can make definitive statements about whether war should happen or not? Unless we are truly pacifists, I think not, in the modern world of media and fluid truth (did I make that term up? I suspect I didn't) as we can never really know all the facts. No, I believe that is an anachronistic and arrogant view for 21st century Christians in a plural and secular world. We no longer own the right to define a "Just War". But we can be agents of light, agents of pressure, agents forcing accountability onto the powers and structures that act on our behalf.

Jesus appeared among the disciples and said, "Peace be with you". And they were glad.

This article originally appeared in Dean Andrew's blog, dances-with-midges.blogspot.co.uk.

Four candidates short-listed in vacancy for new Bishop of Brechin

Four candidates have been short-listed for the office of Bishop of Brechin which became vacant in July 2017 following the retirement of the Rt Rev Dr Nigel Peyton.

The candidates have been selected by a Preparatory Committee (chaired by the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church) consisting of clergy and lay church members who represent the Diocese of Brechin and the wider Church. The next stage in the selection process is a meeting of each of the candidates with members of an Electoral Synod (representatives of clergy and lay church members from the Diocese of Brechin only). That meeting will take place on Saturday 26 May, with the election of the new Bishop taking place on Saturday 2 June 2018.

The candidates are:

The Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger, Rector, St Mary's Church, Broughty Ferry and Priest in Charge St Martin's Church, Dundee and Dean of the Diocese of Brechin.

The Rev Markus Dünzkofer, Rector, St John the Evangelist Church, Edinburgh

The Very Rev Jeffrey John, Dean of St Alban's

The Very Rev Andrew Swift, Rector, Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon and St Paul's Church, Rothesay and Dean of the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles

Commenting on the short-list of candidates the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, The Most Rev Mark Strange, says "I thank members of the Preparatory Committee for the work they have done and am delighted that four candidates are being nominated to the Electoral Synod. We hope that the discernment in the Electoral Synod will enable them to elect a new bishop who will lead the Diocese of Brechin in its future ministry and mission, and hold each of the candidates and the Diocese in our prayers during this process"

Three candidates short-listed in vacancy for new Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane

Three candidates have been short-listed for the office of Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane which became vacant in July 2017 following the retirement of the Most Rev David Chillingworth.

The candidates have been selected by a Preparatory Committee (chaired by the Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh) consisting of clergy and lay church members who represent the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and the wider Church. The next stage in the selection process is a meeting of each of the candidates with members of an Electoral Synod (representatives of clergy and lay church members from the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane only). That meeting will take place on Saturday 26 May, with the election of the new Bishop taking place on Saturday 2 June 2018.

The candidates are:

The Rev Canon Dr Charlotte Methuen, Professor of Church History at the University of Glasgow and Honorary Assistant Priest, St Margaret's Church, Newlands

The Rev Christopher Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster

The Rev Canon Ian Paton, Rector, Old St Paul's Church, Edinburgh

Commenting on the short-list of candidates the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, The Most Rev Mark Strange, says "I thank members of the Preparatory Committee for the work they have done and am delighted that three candidates are being nominated to the Electoral Synod. We hope that the discernment in the Electoral Synod will enable them to elect a new bishop who will lead the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane in its future ministry and mission, and hold each of the candidates and the Diocese in our prayers during this process"

Reprinted from Inspires online

New Vestry Resources

Data Protection

As many of you will already be aware, the General Data Protection Regulation comes into force on 25 May 2018. This makes some significant changes to data protection rules and applies to all levels within the church and congregations should take action to implement the new requirements.

Guidance for congregations has been produced with the benefit of advice from the province's legal advisers and is now available at the following page: –

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/general-information/data-protection/>

It comprises:-

- a "Brief Guide" on the General Data Protection Regulation
- Guidance on Privacy Notices and Consent Forms. That latter guidance includes templates which are also available as stand-alone documents Word documents which can be downloaded for use in your congregations as follows:-
 - Worked Template Data Protection Privacy Notice
 - Template Consent Form
 - Communicants' Roll Declaration

Property Inventory Form

The provincial Buildings Committee has produced a new form of church property inventory which has been approved by the College of Bishops and the provincial Standing Committee (as Canon 35 require). This new form is based on a document already piloted in the Diocese of Edinburgh and in use in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway It is produced as an electronic document so that it can be held by the congregation and updated as and when required. Resolution 7 under Canon 61 requires that such inventories should be revised every five years and be exhibited to the Bishop and Dean on their visitations, and Resolution 1 under Canon 35 indicates that once completed a copy should be sent to the diocesan registrar.

The document is available at:-

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/buildings/>

For the avoidance of doubt, the Property Inventory has no connection with the data protection guidance referred to above – it is just that it has also been finalised and placed on the website at this time.

These subjects will be covered during the Vestry Training Day on 17th May. (See page 2.)

CONTACT US

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

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Diocesan Diary

Thursday, 17th May Vestry 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
Monday 29th Oct—Thursday 1st Nov — Diocesan Retreat on Cumbrae

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, 28th May, 2018.**

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

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/>

Greetings from the States!

I am a Pastoral Director of Psalm One Ministries (www.psalmonone.org) and I'm taking a short sabbatical (14-16 days). I'm looking for a quiet location to pray and wander with the Lord, my Bible, my journal and my camera. Are you aware of an affordable cottage or quiet B&B I could rent or other locations anywhere in the Outer Hebrides for a pastor wanting to get away with God? One never knows who might know of a good spot tucked away.... Thanks and God bless! Linda Kline lqkline@yahoo.com

Organist Available

Jonathan Buchan, an organist with over 20 years experience based in Glasgow has offered his services for Funerals, Weddings and evening and midweek worship services throughout the Diocese.

He can be contacted at jonathanbuchan@icloud.com or 0773 277 3270.