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### **Rothesay and Dunoon welcome The Rev'd David Railton and Sarah**

'The congregation of St Paul's Rothesay was absolutely delighted to host the Collation of The Rev'd David Railton on Friday 26th April 2019. Our church was bursting at the seams with our congregation, well-wishers and invited guests. The music and singing raised the rafters, and the church was ablaze with the colours of the vestments of Bishop Kevin and the clergy of the Diocese.

We are so grateful to Holy Trinity, Dunoon for all the support they gave us throughout the vacancy, to Father Simon, who provided us with the blessed Reserved Sacrament, the Anglican clergy of Port Glasgow and The Rev'd Vicci Davidson of the Methodist church who all led worship for us on several Sundays and Wednesdays.

We are looking forward to this new period of worship in the care of The Rev'd David Railton, and wish him and his wife, Sarah, a very happy time with us in Cowal and Bute.'

'On then to Dunoon, on a cool and cloudy day, but the Argyll weather did not dampen the spirits up at Holy Trinity and the church was packed as David was



collated by the Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, the Very Rev'd Kevin Pearson. It was a splendid ceremony attended by Diocesan colleagues, local ecumenical clergy, members of David's former congregations, and by his family, many of whom had travelled a long way to support him. David was presented with a Bible, holy oils, a prayer book, the keys to the church, the Code of Canons, a

handshake inviting him to join in the ecumenical life of Dunoon, and finally a stole – all symbolic of his calling to become Rector of Holy Trinity Dunoon and St Paul's Rothesay. After the service everyone enjoyed some wonderful refreshments at St Mun's Church Hall, and the festive atmosphere continued with wine, a few short speeches and the cutting of a cake!

We welcome David and his wife Sarah to Dunoon and we hope they come to love the wee church on the holy hill as much as the congregation does.'



## Here in the West Highland Region Holy Week and Easter activities seemed to last a month...

There were end of term services for some of the primary schools (over two weeks in two council areas) at which we built Easter gardens from a banana box, wood chippings and various other items from the Rev'd Amanda's house. Each had an infestation of tiny chocolate bunnies which the children helped to clear. The picture shows the finished product at Strath of Appin Primary School.



We held at least one service at each of our six churches during Holy Week, with a walk of witness from St John's Ballachulish to St Mary's Glencoe on Palm Sunday. There were some beautiful pictures of the sun rising over the Pap of Glencoe taken at our dawn service in St John's on Easter Day, but unfortunately not by the Rev'd Amanda who was too busy lighting the Paschal candle.



Our Easter Egg Hunts in Port Appin, Kinlochleven and Glencoe were great fun, with the large cardboard eggs decorated by the local primary school children hidden all around the villages - there were even two on the foot ferry to Lismore. The pictures show the chocolatey aftermath at Port Appin Village Hall, with prizes won, tea and cakes consumed and Easter colouring fun for all ages.



We loved Holy Week and Easter in the West Highland Region, but we're very glad it only comes round once a year.

*Rev'd Amanda*



*Peter Moger, who will be licensed as the new priest at Stornoway later this year, writes:*

Thank you for this opportunity to write something by way of introduction for the Diocesan newsletter. Heather and I are very much looking forward to joining the Diocese, to living and working on Lewis and serving alongside the people of St Peter's Stornoway and St Moluag's Eoropaidh. We shall be moving from York, where we have lived for the past nine years; I have been working at

York Minster as the Canon Precentor (with responsibility for the cathedral's worship), Heather has been running a Suzuki music studio (working mostly with pre-school children).

The move to Lewis will be an enormous change for us. As we have both spent our entire lives to date in England, we know that we shall be on a serious learning curve as we adjust both to life in the Western Isles and to ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church! We are excited, though, by the challenges which lie ahead as we follow God's call to serve in pastures new.

I was born in East Yorkshire, but spent most of my childhood in Wiltshire. My early faith background was Methodist—both my parents were active lay preachers. This tradition gave me a love of hymns, which has stayed with me ever since. Music was very important for me as I was growing up and it was through music in my teens that I started to discover (as a church organist) the riches of Anglicanism. My musical interests led to my studying for a music degree at Oxford; there I encountered a deepening of my own faith, became increasingly drawn to the breadth of the Church of England, and was confirmed. At this time, I also first became aware of a possible call to ordained ministry. The C of E policy then was to send people off to do a secular job before going through the discernment process so, after some postgraduate study in composition, I took a school teaching post during the course of which I was recommended for training.

I then moved to Durham to study theology and to train for ordination at Cranmer Hall. Heather, who had been a few years behind me at university, moved north for teacher training, and we were married in 1990. At Durham, I was able to combine training for ministry with music, serving as college organ scholar and composing music for worship. I was fortunate to be taught there by the late Michael Vasey, one of the great Anglican liturgists of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Michael offered a vision of Christian worship as something wonderful and transformative—a genuine connection between heaven and earth—and passed on to me a passion for liturgy which has never left.

I was ordained deacon in 1993 and served as Curate at Whitby on the North Yorkshire coast: a busy parish in which I learned a great deal (including how to—and how not to—scatter ashes at sea!). In 1995 we moved to Ely where, as Precentor, I oversaw the cathedral's worship; then back to parish ministry at Godmanchester, a small town about 20 miles west of Cambridge, where I was Vicar. In 2005, the Church of

England was part way through a period of major liturgical revision. I was appointed to work for the Liturgical Commission as National Worship Development Officer, and then as Secretary of the Commission. This saw me based at Church House, Westminster and travelling the length and breadth of England, working with dioceses and training institutions to introduce the new material to bishops, clergy and lay ministers. This was a fascinating post, but I missed the rootedness of ministering as part of a regular worshipping community and so, in 2010 we were very happy to move to York where we have been a part of the cathedral community for the past nine years.

Alongside my work at the Minster, I have been involved in teaching ordinands and those preparing for Reader ministry, and in training curates within the Diocese. I am a member of the General Synod of the C of E, and serve as Chair of Trustees of the Song and Hymn Writers' Foundation (incorporating Jubilate Hymns and Resound Worship). When I have the time, I like to compose—principally for worship—and am about to begin work on a commission for a York choir. Both Heather and I are keen walkers; we are especially looking forward to exploring the coast and the hills of Lewis and Harris.

Heather hails from Mirfield in West Yorkshire. She also studied music at Oxford, and then took a postgraduate course in early music at the Guildhall in London, before training as a teacher. She has worked as a music teacher and performer: in a secondary school, then as an instrumental teacher in primary schools, before training as a Suzuki teacher of recorder and Suzuki Early Childhood Education. In York, she set up her own business, running a Suzuki music studio with around 100 families on the books.



We have two sons. Thomas, a former Royal Marines commando and now a police officer, who is married to Rachel, a children's nurse. They live in Birmingham and are expecting their first child in early October. David and his wife, Emma, are both archaeologists by training and live in Cambridgeshire: David now working as a civil servant and Emma interpreting Middle Eastern historic sites.

Reflecting on the pattern of ministry over the past 26 years, we have been aware that, at each move, God has called us to a post quite different from the previous one! That is certainly true now as we take a great step of faith and cross the border, and move from a large church to two much smaller ones—Bishop Kevin has commented that St Peter's would fit quite neatly within the sanctuary of York Minster! After having worked with a specialised focus, I am looking forward to picking up the reins of local church ministry once again, working out what it means to be a priest to a gathered Christian community outside the established church and in the special context of the Western Isles.

We feel a strong call to this charge, and would value your prayers—for us and for the people of St Peter's and St Moluag's—as we start out together on this exciting new phase in our lives.

## Holy Week and Easter at St John's Cathedral, Oban.

St John's Cathedral, Oban



The power of liturgies and music led the congregation of St John's Cathedral, through the story of Christ's journey to the Cross and into the joy of the Resurrection, as once again, with traditions old and new, we entered into the mystery of our faith.

Our Palm Sunday Procession and Service was led by Bishop Kevin as, with him, we followed the path

to Jerusalem with Christ and reminded ourselves of all that was to come through the power of the Passion Reading.

The joyful entry turned towards the inevitability of the Cross and our mood became reflective as we entered into Holy Week.

The first three days allowed us time to ponder deeply as we followed a nightly journey through the Stations of the Cross and Compline. It was especially profound to share one evening with 24 pilgrims from Groningen en route home from Iona.

On Maundy Thursday we ate a meal together in the Narthex, before entering the Cathedral for the solemn liturgy of the Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar and Vigil, as then we watched and prayed as night fell and darkness engulfed.

Thus on Good Friday we were ready to share with our ecumenical friends, the contemplations on the journey to Calvary, with readings, meditations, hymns and Organ Music - as our Cathedral Organist, Norman Nicholson offered us times to pause by his gift of musical reflections.



We revived the tradition of Holy Saturday's Watch and Vigil, hearing the story of our faith, lighting the fire and bringing the new flame into the darkness—heralding the festive celebrations of Easter Day as the Cathedral burst into new life, the ripple of joy turned into a flood and the children present found the hidden eggs!

That night—the Bach Choir and Orchestra—led again by our Cathedral Organist, filled St John's with the glorious sounds of Handel's 'Messiah', a fitting end to that day for the packed Cathedral.

Our celebrations continued as, on Easter Monday, the cathedral rang to different notes as we shared an ecumenical Easter Praise.



With food and 'luxury hot chocolate' (see the Provost for details!) we sang and reflected on the disciples and women as they recognised their Risen Lord; and we delighted in the chance to celebrate the Resurrection as Christians united in worship under one roof.

Alleuia! He is risen indeed!

*The Provost.*

## St Peter's Stornoway

It has been an exciting time for us recently . In March a new incumbent was appointed, and we very much look forward to the arrival of The Rev'd Canon Peter Moger and his wife Heather sometime in the Autumn.

In Lent, Rob and Janis at Morven hosted a second seminar based on the seasonal poetry collection and meditations of Janet Morley, 'The Heart's Time'.

On Maundy Thursday at midday, we had a fascinating introduction from Marion Mackay on the background to the Passover, and the Chaburah meals , which shed light on the early origins of the Eucharist. There followed the Eucharist



and the Watch for an hour. The traditional liturgy also took place at Carmel in the evening, with a Watch until 11pm.

Under the creative leadership of our organist Christine McKee, and the help of a small but keen group of singers, we have been extending our musical repertoire in worship. On Good Friday evening, forty of us participated in the devotion 'The Cross of Christ', which we discovered had been newly revised and edited by our forthcoming priest in charge. On Holy Saturday afternoon it was the turn of the youngsters, who gathered in the Hall for games, crafts and goodies with Susie and Jane and then in church for the Good Friday and Easter narratives. They made a beautiful Easter garden which was blessed on Easter morning. Easter Day in the old church at Europie was enchanting, as the sun broke out in the afternoon, sending shafts of glory on the ancient stones.

The series 'Binding Brokenness' which was part of our Mission Outreach earlier in the year, is to be repeated this summer in the evenings, to enable people who are working, to attend.



Five years ago, St Peter's had a visit from members of the Anamchara Fellowship, a new and inclusive approach to the Religious life founded by a sister in Delaware, with a special 'attrait' to Celtic spirituality. This week saw a return visit to St Peter's from fourteen members of the community, and a reunion with Mandy and Ian Coulson of St Peter's who have joined the community and have visited the States for

their annual 'Gathering'. We shared a splendid afternoon tea and then a traditional Evensong in church.

Now the practical preparations for the new era are in full swing, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the Vestry and people of our churches here.



*Sister Clare*

## Immigration Advice Service offers help to Churches

With Brexit fast-approaching, the IAS have noticed a huge rise in the number of people who are looking to secure their status in the UK in time for the deadline - whether that be by bringing their loved ones to join them in the UK or gaining permanent residence to help secure their family's future here.

With this in mind, the IAS are offering to speak after services or run Q&A /drop-in sessions to provide advice on any immigration matters, that individuals or groups want to discuss. They can also provide flyers and marketing materials.

*This support would be tailored to individual Church needs.*

To arrange a meeting or for more information contact:  
Peter Russell through — [www.iasservices.org.uk](http://www.iasservices.org.uk)

## Spiritual Direction. . . have you ever wondered what it is?

When the students in our Scottish Episcopal Institute begin their formation for ministry, they are required to meet regularly with a spiritual director. This supports them in their journey of faith alongside their studies and practice.



If you have ever been on retreat, you may have taken the opportunity of individual time with the retreat leader. You may have been supported in your faith journey by your own priest. But you may have assumed that *ongoing* spiritual direction, or accompaniment as some prefer to call it, is 'for the religious professionals'. Not so. We are all called to grow in our faith and to keep 'checking in' with God. Meeting periodically with someone who accompanies us can be a great help.

One writer on the subject describes the process as: 'two people sitting down together in an attitude of prayer to try to discern where the Holy Spirit is directing'. The important words are 'the Holy Spirit'. The director will draw on his or her experience. The relationship however is not principally about the director advising or counselling but about prayerfully listening together to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes it takes another person to recognise 'moments of grace' in our lives. Spiritual direction can be about reassurance as well as challenge. 'We need to name for (people) the Jesus kind of behaviour they may not recognise in themselves.'

If this sounds like something you might wish to explore, contact your rector or Bishop Kevin who will be able to put you in touch with a possible director. It is good practice for there to be an introductory conversation or session before committing to a series of meetings.

*Alison Clark*

Gordon H. Jeff: Spiritual Direction for Every Christian  
Janet K Ruffing RSM: Spiritual Direction -Beyond the Beginnings

**FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE and the CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD  
with SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP ON PALLIATIVE CARE**



**'Building and sustaining compassionate communities'**

*The role of the Churches in supporting people with end of life matters*

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 ~ 10.00 -16.00**

**Methodist Halls, Nicholson Square, Edinburgh**

**Registration fee: £47.75 Coffee/tealunch included**



When faced with the reality of deteriorating health, caring responsibilities, death or bereavement, people need many things from the NHS and other formal services, and from their friends, families and communities.



Though health and social care services play an important role, they are only part of the picture. Education, workplace culture, family networks, the media, community support and access to information all play an important role in shaping people's lives.

Churches and faith communities have a presence in nearly every area of Scotland and can offer support to those of faith or none. This conference will focus on how faith communities take an active part in developing approaches to support members of their congregations in all aspects of end of life – planning, spiritual care, support for the dying and the bereaved. The conference will explore examples of existing work and provide practical approaches and resources which churches can use.

We hope you will come along and share the day with us.

[info@fiop.org.uk](mailto:info@fiop.org.uk)

[www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk](http://www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk)

21a Grosvenor Crescent     Edinburgh EH12 5EL     0131 346 7981

**Faith in Older People**

**Easter in  
St Columba's,  
Portree**



**St Columba's, Portree**

## Easter 2019 at The Cathedral of The Isles, Cumbrae.

We were delighted this year to welcome The Rt Rev'd Kevin Pearson and Elspeth to be with us for Holy Week and Easter.



This made Easter a special time with our Diocesan Bishop in residence and leading our worship for us.

From Palm Sunday, Canon Alec marked Holy Week with a meditational address each day at 10.30am in The College which was an ecumenical venture across all the Churches on Cumbrae. Each afternoon, Sung Evensong took place in the Cathedral, attended by the 'St Maura Singers' who celebrated 50 years leading singing in The Cathedral of The Isles. Each evening an ecumenical service took place; in the new Church of Scotland -led by Canon Alec, in the Cathedral—led by the Rev'd Marjorie Mackay, and Wednesday evening was led by Rev'd Jonathan



Flemming. Our Maundy Thursday Liturgy took place in the Cathedral presided over by Bishop Kevin. The Altar of Repose was beautifully prepared in our Lady Chapel by Jill Corcoran and Rhona Gourlay. The preacher was the Rev'd Jonathan Fleming. The Cathedral Choir sang "In the heat

where love is abiding" Plainsong arr. Barnard and "A New Commandment" by Shephard. Their wonderful singing worship under the direction of Alastair Chisholm and our visiting guest organist Jonathan Cohen enhanced the worship. Jonathan travels up from London for every Easter to be with us and we are truly grateful to him.

Good Friday began with Cumbrae All Churches Ecumenical "Walk of Witness" beginning at The Cathedral, moving to the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady, along the



promenade and ending at the Church of Scotland. Some 24 people from all our churches were joined by The Bishop, Canon Alec and The Rev'd Marjorie Mackay.

The Good Friday Liturgy began at 2pm in The Cathedral and was well attended. The choir sang the moving setting of "The Reproaches" set by *Thomas Luiz da Victoria*. The Bishop presided and the Dramatic Gospel was read by members of the Choir.

On Holy Saturday much activity prepared the Cathedral for the Easter Services. Thanks to all those who helped to make this such a special time. The Cathedral truly looked clean, polished and magnificent.

The Easter Liturgy began at 9pm with the Ministry of The Word in the Lady Chapel. Moving outside into the dark, the Bishop lit the Paschal Fire, blessed it and from this lit the Paschal Candle with its five incense grain studs.

Entering the Cathedral in darkness, Alastair Chisholm sang the Exultet, the Bishop blessed the water of baptism, led us in the Renewal of Baptismal vows, sprinkled the congregation and the choir. The choir sang "Like as the heart desireth the water brooks" by Herbert Howells and "Vidi aquam" arranged by John Scott. The service continued with the First Eucharist of Easter.

The Cathedral was well attended for the Easter Sunday Sung Eucharist. The Bishop very sensitively led us through a quiet period of reflection after the sad news of the bombings and loss of life in Sri Lanka. The Eucharist proceeded with the choir singing the "Mass Setting in F Major" by Schubert. We were joined by the concert violinist Feargus Hetherington. The Cathedral Choir sang several other notable pieces including "Alleluia haec Dies" by Ignazio Douati and "Panis Angelicus" by Cesar Frank.

A concert on Easter Sunday afternoon was given by Jonathan Cohen, Alastair Chisholm and Feargus Hetherington. This included works by Ravel, McEwen, Brahms, Dvorak, Handel, Hans Gal, Sibelius, Elgar, and Debussy. It was a pure delight. The concert was



to raise money for the restoration fund of Notre Dame Cathedral after the tragic fire, recalling that the Cathedral and College on Cumbrae has experienced devastating fires in its life time and has risen from the ashes back to its former glory. It was agreed that we should attempt to match fund local charities in order to support local charities over the next few months. The Easter Weekend drew to a close after all the inspirational liturgy and preaching, beautiful music and deeply spiritual worship. This year with our Bishop with us, The Cathedral of The Isles truly "sparkled" like the jewel in the Diocese it truly is. Thank you to Bishop Kevin and to all who helped in any way to make this Holy Week and Easter such a memorably moving spiritual experience.



## 2019 AUTUMN ENCOUNTERS with the Iona Community

18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**Ripening in Wisdom: Elder Poets as Sages for the Harvest of Life**  
*Mark Burrows, Protestant University of Applied Sciences, Bochum*

23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Kicking Leaves and Kindling Fires**  
*Jo Love, Wild Goose Resource Group*

28<sup>th</sup> October - 2<sup>nd</sup> November

**Lighting the Dark, Darkening the Light: Exploring the Shadows of Art and Faith**

*Debbie Lewer, University of Glasgow*

For details see <https://ionn.org.uk/island-centres/bookings/ae2019/>

Prices start at £735 per person fully inclusive

Book via the St Columba Hotel

w: <https://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk/>

T: 44 (0)1681 700 304

31  
**COLUMBA**  
HOTEL  
ISLE OF IONA



## Argyll and The Isles Diocesan Retreat 28<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

**College of the Holy Spirit,  
Cathedral of The Isles, Millport.**

*"Exploring prayer in everyday life"*

The retreat will be led by the Rev'd Andrew Bain, Priest-in-charge of St Salvador's, Stenhouse, in Edinburgh and a founding member of the Emmaus Community of St Benedict.

Andrew will lead us in exploring insights from Benedictine spirituality for everyday living and discipleship, beginning each day with lectio divina and sharing other possibilities in prayer such as the examen.

There will be opportunities for participants to contribute insights from their own experience. We plan to spend part of the time in silence.

The Retreat will run from 4pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to after breakfast on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup>. Further details, including prices and how to book, will shortly be available on the Cathedral website. In the meantime, please contact [office@cathedraloftheisles.org](mailto:office@cathedraloftheisles.org) for further information and to reserve a place.

## Easter at Bishop's House

### Iona.

Holy Week and Easter were led again this year by The Rev'd Rod Geddes, and as well as the traditional services "in house" we joined as usual with some of the worship with the Iona Community at the Abbey, one of the highlights being "Stations of the Cross" walk of witness through the village.



Easter was quickly followed by two small weddings held in St Columba's Chapel at Bishop's House. The first was a real Bishop's House event, with the staff providing witnesses, photographer, musician and Priest. Robbie McLellan, manager, as well as serving as one of the witnesses, escorted the bride from the nearby hotel to the chapel.



The second wedding was a little larger, and included poetry read by a friend of the couple, and beautiful harp music played by another friend. This photograph shows scaffolding, as the roof was undergoing essential repairs. The workmen nobly downed tools for 40 minutes!

On the weekend of the 2nd Sunday of Easter, the Church of Scotland organised a Beach Service at Ardalanish on the

Ross of Mull which was attended by people of various denominations, ages ranging from a few months to over eighty.

Recalling how Jesus met his disciples by the lakeshore, local mackerel was grilled over the hot embers (by a young bearded man who had us all thinking of Jesus!) and we baked camp fire dough twists on willow sticks. A very enjoyable occasion which really brought that well loved Gospel passage to life in a new way.





## Living our Vision: Education for Mission

The study material from the Diocesan Conference (Participant' Guide and Leaders' Guide) can be downloaded from the Diocesan website:  
<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/mission/>

Please contact Ros & Chris Brett, Mission Enabler  
missionenablers@argyll.anglican.org  
if you or your congregation would like to arrange for a facilitator to help you use this material.

## Report on "Hope in the Rural Church" Conference

1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, in Perth.

*Ros and Chris Brett*

In June 2018 the Scottish Churches Rural Group published a report, "Hope in the Rural Church", assessing the implications for rural churches in Scotland of the 2016 Scottish Church Census. The report noted a general picture of falling numbers attending Sunday worship and an ageing church, but also identified areas of growth. This conference discussed ways in which Scottish Churches can encourage such growth in rural Scotland.

### Characteristics of rural life

Our first speaker was Mark Betson, National Rural Officer for the Church of England. He outlined some of the characteristics of rural life: Context specific – different landscapes give different contexts, for instance rural lowlands and the Highlands

- Small communities/ Ageing populations – hence school rolls falling
- Many second homes in some areas
- Poor communications and lack of public transport.
- Poor IT/ Lack of work
- The farming community is especially vulnerable.

### Rural Churches mirror many of these issues:

- Small, scattered congregations
- Congregations mostly elderly – two missing generations.
- Clergy very thinly spread, with many multi-church charges.

### Ways forward for rural Churches:

- Be positive about rural life, and celebrate the joys of being Christians in our contexts.
- Develop Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry, small group leadership.
- Get the basics right: our church buildings must be clean, welcoming, and well cared for, with good, attractive signage, and a web presence which is up-to-date.
- Engage with the local community.

### Engage with the local Community

Rural communities care about their Churches, even if they don't attend on Sunday morning! They want them to be there when they need them, and often the churches are a significant feature in the rural landscape. What do people want from their churches? A community audit can find this out – and it must include everyone in the community, not just those who congregation members normally chat to. Some of the developments that have arisen by following up on what communities want:

- "Festival Churches" – majoring on key milestones – harvest, Remembrance Sunday, as well as the main Church Festivals, and encouraging the use of the church for family milestones.

Community outreach – eg dementia-friendly cafes.

Multiple use of Church buildings, providing space for local businesses and charities /providing a flexible community space.

During the rest of the day, a number of speakers described new ways in which churches are developing and growing.

### **Fresh Expressions of Church**

Key to “fresh expressions of church” is forming relationships with groups of people who are not part of a church community, going to where they are rather than inviting them into a church building or church events. The “fresh expression” emerges from their culture and in partnership with them.

### **The Filling Station**

“The Filling Station” is a monthly gathering of Christians from many churches in a local area for worship, celebration, teaching and prayer. It is not itself a church, and seeks to strengthen and encourage those who come to be more effective back in their own churches. It aims to have high-quality worship and bible teaching, and to be a place where those who are seeking faith can be comfortable. It is always run by representatives from a number of local churches. There are around 14 venues across Scotland.

### **Scottish Bible Society**

Jen Robertson, from the Scottish Bible Society, spoke especially about work with 13-19 year-olds, who are part of “Generations Z”. This is a screen generation, for whom faith has moved from the centre to the margins, and is pluralistic. Lifestyles are frenetic and diverse. Thinking is no longer linear. The Scottish Bible Society offers resources for intergenerational worship, including Messy Church, and for faith that impacts on life.

### **Engaging with the “Farming Community”.**

The Rev'd Chris Blackshaw is the Farming Minister for the Presbytery of Ayr. A farmer himself, he seeks to engage with farmers where they are, supporting them during times of difficulty and hardship. He organises worship at markets and at agricultural shows, and large numbers of people attend. With farmers under stress from loneliness, economic pressures, and overwork, and in a dangerous occupation, he encourages churches to undertake farming chaplaincy and offer support.

### **Eco-Congregation Scotland**

Churches can take practical action to help care for creation and tackle the climate change crisis. They can also care for their local environment, and encourage other to do the same. Eco-Congregation Scotland has ideas and resources for this. These issues are of major concern among young people, so they offer a way for the churches to engage with young people.

### **Pilgrimage**

There are over 1000 miles of walking routes, existing or planned, connecting Scotland's major historic centres of Christian pilgrimage. Local churches can offer support and practical help along the way, offering opportunities to make spiritual connections with the pilgrims and travellers. A new route, the “Dalriada Way”, enables churches in Kintyre and mid-Argyll to engage with young people following the pilgrim route from Tarbert to Lismore. The “Columba Experience” video (see below) describes the 2018 pilgrimage of young people following this route.

For more information:

<http://www.acts-scotland.org/activities/rural/item/275-hope-in-the-rural-church-reflections-on-the-scottish-church-census>

<http://freshexpressions.org.uk/about/>

<https://thefillingstation.org.uk/>

<https://scottishbiblesociety.org/>

[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2018/kirk\\_appoints\\_first\\_ever\\_dedicated\\_farming\\_minister](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2018/kirk_appoints_first_ever_dedicated_farming_minister)

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

<http://www.sprf.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thecolumbaexperience/>

## Who's Who . . .

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ARE THERE THINGS THAT THE DIOCESE COULD HELP WITH CENTRALLY?  
DO EMAIL THOUGHTS TO THE OFFICE FOR CONSIDERATION



## General Synod meets in Edinburgh –June 6th –8th.

See the papers and Agenda on the following link. Your representatives would welcome thoughts and prayers for these important days.

[www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/the-general-synod/](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/boards-and-committees/the-general-synod/)

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Newsletter: [www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-newsletter/](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-newsletter/)

Journal: [www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-journal/](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-journal/)

**Discover all that the Scottish Episcopal Church is and does:** [www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)

**Join the online forum:** <http://pisky.scot/>

## In the Diocese: Keep in touch through our online presence. . .

Diocese: [www.argyll.anglican.org](http://www.argyll.anglican.org)

Retreat Houses: [www.island-retreats.org](http://www.island-retreats.org)

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**Next Newsletter**—General Synod Reports/ July  
Please submit articles to the Office by June 10th 2019