

# Argyll & The Isles



## News and Views from around the Diocese

Number 86 - Spring 2007

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay

### A Glorious Easter

Well, the good weather has come early this year, and with it a remarkable Easter Day. Our Holy Week services, once again most kindly conducted for us by Canon Keith Pagan, had been deep and memorable, but poorly attended due to so many regular members of the congregation being away from home. But then, on the Sunday morning, we were absolutely delighted to see St Margaret's packed almost to capacity with both locals and visitors from the mainland. On that day there were forty communicants, which is something rarely seen by our little church. Father Keith had this year once again been able to join us and many others from Arran Churches Together on the annual Good Friday Procession of Witness, a picture of which accompanies this report. The event seems to grow from year to year, and is becoming an island tradition of which we can be proud. Before we leave Easter and Holy Week, I must report our delight in being able to help Father Keith celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday over the Easter weekend (the second similar occasion this year, as Father Hector Soga turned 60 in early March. Both times we sang our extra hymn - "Happy Birthday..." - with pleasure and gratitude to two priests who have helped us so much).

Following a suggestion that arose when Revd Anne Tomlinson visited us last summer, an exploratory meeting of members of Arran Churches Together to discuss possible Taizé worship on the island was held in St Margaret's on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Enthusiastic support was forthcoming from those present, and a

Taizé service is to be held at the same venue on 19<sup>th</sup> April. This time, there has been publicity and an article in the local press, so I hope that plenty of people will come (though not enough to overflow the somewhat tight confines of little St Margaret's!) Perhaps another Arran tradition is in the making?

Most recently, one of our infrequent weddings has taken place this last week. Camilla Campling, daughter of Dorothy and Michael Campling of our congregation, was married to Chris Denton by Canon Roy Ferguson Flatt on Thursday afternoon, 12<sup>th</sup> April. Camilla, who has preached for us on two occasions, was ordained priest last year, and is currently a curate in Ripon Diocese, while Chris is an organist who has been working in Norway. It was a delightful occasion, with the church full of a congregation of sixty (even more than Easter Sunday!), and of course we all wish the bridal couple every blessing and happiness.

John Roberts



Camilla and Chris after their wedding

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The Good Friday Procession



The Taize meeting

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