

Argyll & The Isles



News and Views from around the Diocese

Number 86 - Spring 2007

St Kiarans, Campbeltown

In late January we had a visit from Dr Anne Tomlinson and we reviewed our progress with her and explored how we would like to develop as a congregation. This was a helpful session and a full report was issued later in the year.

In line with new legislation our church underwent a fire risk assessment and, as a result, we made a few alterations to the positioning of small items of the furnishings.

In our monthly discussions, topics covered have included the importance of prayer and the difficulties encountered in praying, reconciling tradition with progress, inter-communion and the perceived barriers posed by the church hierarchy to it.

Breaking with tradition we held a Coffee Morning in mid-February and this proved to be a very successful venture with over £500 being raised for church funds.

On Ash Wednesday we used an alternative service and this attracted 6 people, considerably more than normal, and we were able to sing the Prayer of Manassah to Anglican Chant, successfully, and share out parts of the service amongst those present.

During Lent we made a study of Prayer and used a booklet "Life Source" by Norman Warren and Kate Bruce. We all found this quite a demanding exercise but felt, nevertheless, that it had been worthwhile.

The World Day of Prayer was held in the Salvation Army Citadel this year and 40 people were present with representatives from our own congregation. Women of Paraguay had devised the service and one local feature was the singing of parts of the service in Spanish by a senior student from the local Grammar School.

In March we had a visit from the Dean, the Very Rev. Norman MacCallum. He listened to what we had to say about the future direction of our church, when our priest, Andrew Williamson resigns in 2008, and we were given useful advice on how to deal with the formal aspects of this, all within the framework of Local Collaborative Ministry, which is a feature of what happens at St Kieran's.

On Good Friday we used a thoughtfully constructed service which incorporated the Proclamation of the Cross, a reflective narrative called "Listen to Mary" which had been downloaded from a blog posted by the Reverend Mommy, an Assistant Minister at a United Methodist Church just outside Atlanta, Georgia, and the poem "The Donkey" by Nick Page, a continuation of the animal story that we had started at Christmas. All the organ music at the service was based on settings of the famous Passion Chorale - by Reger, Bach and Buxtehude.

On the following day Campbeltown Churches held a United Service on Davaar Island, at the cave, the site of a famous painting of the crucifixion done in 1887 by Archibald McKinnon and recently restored by local artist, Ronald Togneri. (See *pictures below*). Over 60 people braved the tortuous journey over boulders in brilliant sunshine for an uplifting service in the magnificent natural amphitheatre there.

On Easter Sunday there were 23 in church and this included a good number of visitors. After the service, those who were able to wait enjoyed a cup of tea and coffee. One young couple remarked that while we maybe felt that we had problems with an upper age profile, their church was the opposite, and they wished that they had more people of mature age to get balance in their congregation.

On Easter Monday, we had a visit from the Cantilena Festival Players. They performed two pieces by Haydn. The latter piece was his setting, for String Quartet, of the Seven Last Words of Our Lord. This was given a local flavour by announcing each of the seven words in Gaelic and then in English, since the concert was given as part of the Highland Year of Culture. Brief meditations on the seven words preceded each of the pieces, as was the case at the original performance in Cadiz. There were few present at this concert, but those who were there clearly enjoyed it and a donation was given to the Players to assist with their educational outreach to help young musicians gain experience in the professional world.

During Eastertide, Andrew, our priest, has embarked on a series of sermons, which have explored the role of the priesthood in worship.

In mid-April we were pleased to welcome back David and Davina Tomlinson. David and family left our congregation last year to move to Durham, where David is presently studying for ordination into the Church of England.

David O McEwan



Entrance to Davaar Cave with Revd. Williamson leaning against rock in the background.



The restored painting of the Crucifixion in the cave on Davaar Island

[Back to AT186online.htm](#)

[Back to Argyll Index Page](#)

Home

Home