

## **Gaelic Celebration in Campbeltown**

To celebrate the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival and the Highland Year of Culture, a special service was held at St Kieran's, Campbeltown, in late August. Good publicity in the local paper helped the congregation more than double its numbers. The 1982 Liturgy was the focal point of the service, and the Collect for Purity, Post Communion Prayer "b" and the Blessing were all said in Gaelic. A Gaelic hymn was sung as a solo for the Gradual – "Bi sèimh, oir tha làthaireachd ar Dia" - "Be still, for the presence of the Lord". The congregation was able to participate, in Gaelic, by sharing the Peace, responding to the Kyries and in the responses to the Intercessions in Form 1. The sermon highlighted some of the services held in Gaelic at Ballachulish, in Bishop Ewing's time, and in Invernesshire and Ballachulish in Bishop Forbes's time in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Special mention was also made of the massive contribution to the Gaelic language made by Archdeacon Mackenzie, at Strathnairn, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A senior pupil from the local Grammar School, Megan Hill, played on both the organ and the clarinet for the service. All the hymns had a Scottish connection, and the voluntaries were selected from the following Gaelic Airs - Soraidh leis an ait', Rathad Chaluim, Cum ur n'aire, An ubhal as airde, An ataireachd ard, Chi mi na mòr-bheanna, and A nighneag a ghraidh.

Daibhidh O MacEoghainn

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