

Argyll & The Isles



News and Views from around the Diocese

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St John's Cathedral, Oban

The Cathedral is used quite a lot by the community as a venue for concerts, and this year has been no exception. The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival used the Cathedral and Halls as one of their venues over the weekend of Friday 4th May.

Berwick Male Voice Choir gave a Concert on Saturday 26th May as a fund-raiser for Oban Rotary Club.

Edinburgh University String Orchestra gave a Concert on Monday 4th June and the Cathedral Choir gave a Buxtehude Concert on Monday 11th June.

'Mendelssohn on Mull' gave a Concert on Saturday 7th July

Two special Services were held during the summer. A Service commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands War was held on Sunday 24th June, sponsored by the local Royal British Legion.

At the invitation of the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll & Bute, we were asked to organize an Evensong commemorating the tenth anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales on Thursday 30th August, the night before the national Service in London.

Our main Fund-Raising event of the year, the Summer Bazaar, took place in the Corran Halls on Saturday 28th July, raising over £5,200 for Cathedral Funds. One of our projects to upgrade the Narthex area has now come to fruition, and a new cupboard has been built in the Narthex containing a complete pantry – sink, self-fill urn, and cupboards – and making the business of serving teas so much easier and indeed safer.

In October, the Cathedral Halls was the venue for a Ceilidh for Refugees visiting Oban over the weekend of 13th, and Lunch was served in the Halls on the Sunday. A Piano Recital is planned for 2nd November (7.30pm) and we look forward to a visit

from a Choir from Russia on Saturday 24th November.

Two charity events are coming up: on Saturday 10th November (from 10.00am – 4.00pm), we will host a Charity Christmas Card Sale. Some 15 Charities attend, selling their own Charity Cards. So, if you are in Oban that day, do call in and buy! Then, on Saturday 1st December (2.00pm) we will hold a Charity Sale in the Hall, with proceeds going to one local and one national charity.

Although our Christmas programme is not yet finalised, there are one or two Services to look out for: A Service of “Darkness to Light” on Advent Sunday (2nd December) at 6.30pm; A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in the week before Christmas; and a special Service for Children, “Let’s go to Bethlehem”, on the afternoon of Christmas Eve (3.30pm). The Christmas Eve Eucharist in the Cathedral starts at 11.15pm and there are Services on Christmas Day at 9.30am and 11.00am.

Finally, we are looking forward to a Congregational Christmas Party on Saturday 22nd December at 3.00pm, and this is being organised by the Cathedral Mothers’ Union.

Neil Horne

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