



## Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll  
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 27**

**April 2008**

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Dear Friends,

The Lambeth Conference for the Bishops of The Anglican Communion will begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July this year. From the 11<sup>th</sup> of July four Bishops will be hosted by this Diocese in a series of liturgical and social events. I don't think it is an exaggeration to point out that the Communion faces something of a crisis. The question is how do we stay together and agree to disagree on certain important issues? There has already been a great deal of talk about Lambeth 2008. Therefore I have a proposal to make for our whole Diocese. I am asking all Episcopalians to give an hour in silent prayer and vigil between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of June. If each church were to organise that space of time with the use of our Diocesan Vision it would take the crisis into the heart of God. Please remember that the word crisis is not a negative word! It means a moment of opportunity, not without its dangers. I would be grateful if you would let me know whether you are prepared to set up the hours vigil in your local church.

Some of you may not be aware of what the issues are. Some Diocese in Africa and The United States in particular feel that the debate over human sexuality runs directly counter to their understanding of scripture and tradition. For other Diocese the issue is one of love, justice and integrity which is one way of describing the work of God.

### **Pre-Lambeth Hospitality Initiative (11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July 2008) –**

From Elspeth Shaw and the pre-Lambeth Steering Group – “I am very pleased to report that we have now had confirmation from four Bishops and their spouses that they are looking forward to spending these four days in the Diocese. It is a truly international group with Bishop Wayne from our companion Diocese of Delaware and his wife Holly as well as Bishops from New Zealand, Tanzania and India. I am pleased to say that we have host families for each of them. Further details of events that people in the Diocese are very welcome to be included in will be announced at Synod and also some fundraising initiatives to help fund the visit.”

### **House for holiday let –**

To help offset the cost of Elspeth's and my going to Lambeth and entertaining overseas Bishops in the Diocese prior to the conference, we are letting the Bishop's house (The Pines) for two weeks from the 20<sup>th</sup> of July at less than commercial rates to friends and family. The three-bedroomed house has wonderful views over Oban Bay to Mull. If either you or your friend are interested please contact Elspeth Shaw on 01631 566912 or [alexandermartin.shaw@virgin.net](mailto:alexandermartin.shaw@virgin.net)

### **Diocesan Lent Appeal 2008–**

The appeal this year was in particular for the Diocese of Zanzibar, supporting Fr. Stephen Kamwendo who is undergoing a two-year Diploma of Theology at St Marks Theological College in Dar es Salaam. The Oban Lent lunches raised £265.21.

Please send the money you have raised into The Diocesan Centre as soon as possible, as there is someone in the Diocese who will be visiting the area who could deliver the money personally.

### **Fairtrade – Help!**

Three out of the seven Dioceses in Scotland have received their Fairtrade Certificate. I have received a letter from The General Synod Office wishing to know the status of our Diocese in respect of Fairtrade. There are a series of goals for individual churches and for Dioceses. I need someone to help me with this as soon as possible. Are you interested in co-ordinating information for our charges concerning Fairtrade? For more information on the campaign go to the website [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) Please call me! 07801 549615. I need to report on progress by The General Synod in June of this year.

### **Diocesan Display for this year's General Synod – Help!**

The Provincial Communication Officer, Lorna Finley hopes that each Diocese will produce some form of visual display that reflects the work of the Diocese throughout the year, or a specific project or issue the Diocese would like to highlight. If you would be prepared to help by preparing this display please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

### **Child and Adult Protection Training – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30am-3pm (Diocesan Offices, Oban)**

Daphne Audsley the Assistant Officer for The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults with Leo Lanahan, the new officer are holding a training day relating to new developments in child and adult protection. There will be particular reference to the protection of the elderly which is considerably important in all our charges. I would urge as many as possible to come to this even. Please register with The Diocesan Office.

### **The Listening Process –**

You may remember we had a useful day in Oban to do with the issues of Human Sexuality and The Anglican Communion. Prior to Lambeth 2008, The Bishops of The Scottish Episcopal Church are sponsoring a conference for the whole Province to be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at the Baptist Centre, Stirling (10.30am 0 4pm). There will be input looking at issues of Sexuality from scientific and theological standpoints, and opportunities for those attending to speak briefly on their own views or experiences. A flyer regarding the day-conference is being circulated in the Clergy mailing. I would ask Clergy to make this information as widely known in their charges as possible.

### **Sacristans' Workshop – St John's Cathedral, Oban Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2-4.30pm.**

The Verger and Sacristan at St John's Cathedral, Lindsay Campbell will lead a workshop for sacristans, aspiring sacristans and others fulfilling a similar role, briefly exploring the handling and preparation (by the laity) of the various sacred articles and texts used in worship. Places are limited so please let Lindsay know if you are able to attend. For further details or to book a place please contact Lindsay Campbell, "Merle", Kilmore, By Oban, Argyll, PA34 4XX

### **Retreats and workshops – Cumbrae**

22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April "Famous and Infamous figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" – Keith Pagan reflects on the lives of Stalin, Lenin and Hitler (£125)

9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost. A series of talks culminating in our Patronal festival. (£100)  
8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June. Celtic Retreat with Helen Hamilton the warden. Calligraphy, Poetry and Artwork.

For further retreats see the website [www.island-retreats.org](http://www.island-retreats.org)

For further details and bookings contact the warden at 01475 530353 or [tcumbrae@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:tcumbrae@argyll.anglican.org)

### **A Quiet Day for Scotland**

On March 5<sup>th</sup> Mrs Jane Elliott represented the Diocese at a meeting in Scottish Churches House, Dunblane. The meeting was called to discuss the proposal to establish an annual 'Quiet Day for Scotland'. The vision is to organise the provision of quiet spaces, which will be accessible to all communities in Scotland on or around St Andrews Day, which falls at a particularly busy time of year when many people feel under pressure and may therefore appreciate the opportunity for prayer and/or reflection. This initiative has some funding from ACTS (Action for Churches Together Scotland) which will enable the provision of promotional material both nationally and locally and also allow the setting up of a website. The organisation of spaces will be arranged locally and can be adapted to the local situation. There will be no prescribed structure and no imposition on users of the spaces. Equally there is no wish to institutionalise the initiative so promotional material will not mention faith, inter faith or ACTS.

'A Quiet Day for Scotland' will be the title of the national promotion and this can be easily adapted locally; for example 'A Quiet Day for Cumbrae' or 'A Quiet Day for Families'.

If you are interested in organising an event in your area and would like more information please contact Jane. She will be reporting back to the task group on the response from this Diocese during April. A further meeting for interested parties will be scheduled for August.

Jane Elliott [mrsjane.elliott@virgin.net](mailto:mrsjane.elliott@virgin.net)  
Tel: 01852 300780

### **Diocesan Retreat 2008 (27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> Oct)**

Next years Diocesan Retreat will take place as usual on Cumbrae. The retreat conductor will be The Reverend Canon Brian Hardy. The cost of the retreat will be £160 and £50 a day for those who can only come for part of the time. Contact [tccumbrae@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:tccumbrae@argyll.anglican.org) or telephone 01475 530353.

### **The Diocesan Website –**

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

Many thanks to those who have given helpful criticism and suggestions for the new website. Please remember if you have any information or changes to make please contact Hazel Morris directly at [Hazel@sitemaker1.com](mailto:Hazel@sitemaker1.com) Or by telephoning 01680 300343. If Hazel is unavailable please contact Audrey Walton at The Diocesan Office. Please remember that the newsletter and the magazine are available on the publications page of the website.

### **Glen O8 –**

Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Weeks 2008 are being held again at Glenalmond College, Perthshire – Week 1 (Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> August), Week 2 (Sun 10<sup>th</sup> – Sat 16<sup>th</sup> August).

The College is set in magnificent grounds about 10miles from Perth. Each year in August, young people and leaders from all over Scotland gather together for six days – an action packed holiday week with a difference. The weeks are open to anyone in secondary education, up to and including July 2008; also those under 18 years old who have left fulltime education. You must be sponsored by your local congregation. For more information please contact Sue Pollard 01631 770342 [susannpollard@btinternet.com](mailto:susannpollard@btinternet.com)

I cannot recommend this event enough!

## THE BISHOP'S APRIL DIARY

1<sup>st</sup> – Diocesan Finance Committee –  
10.30am (Diocesan Office)  
West Highland Region steering group 6pm  
(Glencoe)  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Diocesan Financial Review 11am  
(General Synod Office)  
5<sup>th</sup> – Gathering of Assisi pilgrims  
12noon-3pm (Diocesan Office)  
8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> – Faith and Order Board  
Residential –(Kinnoull)  
10<sup>th</sup> – Diocesan Standing Committee  
followed by Chapter meeting (Diocesan  
Office)  
11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – Diocesan Readers and  
Leaders Residential, Oban  
14<sup>th</sup> – Public Meeting; Millport land  
development 7pm (Millport)  
15<sup>th</sup> – Diocesan Board of Mission and  
Ministry – 2.30pm (Diocesan Office)  
16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> – Provincial Home Mission  
Committee Residential (Cumbrae)  
18<sup>th</sup> - Fort William  
20<sup>th</sup> – Lochgilphead?  
21<sup>st</sup> – Filming for Cumbrae video -2.30pm  
(Oban)  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Meeting with Bishop Mark Strange.  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 10.30am College of Bishops  
(Edinburgh)  
Ecumenical meeting 6pm(Glencoe)  
26<sup>th</sup> - Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection  
Training Day 10.30am-3pm (Diocesan  
Office).  
28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> – Kishorn.

**The May Newsletter – material to be  
received by Thursday April 24th**

### **Reflection.**

From The Archbishop of Canterbury's  
Easter Sermon – 2008 – Canterbury  
Cathedral.

“So what does it mean to say that, despite  
all this, death is 'defeated'? When death  
happens and growing stops, there are no  
more plans, no more hope of control: for  
the believer, there is only God left. Just as  
at the very beginning of creation, there is  
God, and there is the possibility that God  
has brought into being by his loving will.  
When death has done all it can do, God  
remains untouched and his will is the  
loving and generating will that it eternally  
is. When we look at death, we look at  
something that can destroy anything in our  
universe - but not God, its maker and  
redeemer. And if we accept that we shall  
die and all our hopes and schemes fall into  
the dark, we do so knowing that God is  
unchanged. So to die is to fall into the  
hands of the living God.

The Easter story is not about how Jesus  
survived death or how the spirit of Jesus  
outlasted his mortal frame or whatever; it  
is about a person going down into darkness  
and the dissolving of all things and being  
called again out of that nothingness. Easter  
Day, as so many have said, is the first day  
of creation all over again - or, as some  
have put it, the eighth day of the week, the  
unimaginable extra that is assured by the  
fact that God's creative word is never  
stifled or silenced.”

**In the love of God, +Martin, Oban**