



Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 39**

April 2009

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Dear Friends,

In recent weeks, including at our Diocesan Synod, I have had conversations on the subject of how congregations relate to "The Diocese". Understandably, there is a lot of using the word "Diocese" as if it were only the administrative centre of a collection of churches in a given area.

Obviously, there is a management aspect to a Diocese, but that can overlook the real significance of what it is to be a Diocese. In the tradition of The Scottish Episcopal Church, and indeed the Anglican Communion, a charge or congregation (a parish) is the expression, the realisation of the Diocese in which it is set. That is why every Church in the Diocese has a Bishop's seat. When I, as your Bishop, refer to the Diocese, the most distant charge is as much part of the Diocese as any other. The Bishop of the Diocese is ordained as such to be a constant reminder that this *is* an Episcopal Church *locally*. It may feel as if the Bishop in this Diocese is an 'incomer', but in terms of our tradition, he or she is ordained as an Apostle going back to the tradition of the first Apostles. That Apostleship is lived out locally through the Bishop. When any Liturgical, Pastoral or Mission activity takes place in any charge then that is a process of the whole Diocese locally!

It may be that you have different views on this subject. However this may

help you in your thinking about the next stage for this Diocese as it enters an Episcopal election process in the autumn.
+Martin

*****The Diocesan Festival – The Year of Homecoming. Sunday 7th June 2009 at St John's Cathedral, Oban 12noon-4.30pm. The Festival Eucharist is at 3pm.** Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrates the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth with a year-long programme of events across the country. The date I have chosen is the nearest Sunday to the Feast of Saint Columba. So I hope that you and your charge will support this event. The preacher will be The Right Reverend Richard Holloway. The Sunday schools and junior churches of the Diocese will be involved. Please put the dates in your diaries.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 2009 – "Living Well" – 2nd- 4th October, Aviemore.

Theme: "*Living Well: Proclaim, Discover, Respond*" The underpinning Bible passage is St John 4: 3-43; the Woman at the Well narrative, which tells of the transformation in the woman by this encounter with Christ. The five Marks of Mission are also addressed and the speakers are The Right Rev'd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading; Annabel Goldie, MSP and The Rev'd Erik Cramb of The Church of Scotland.

Cost - £295 per person for single occupancy, £265 for double occupancy. The costs will be split three ways – between the participants, their vestry and the Diocese. If anyone is prevented from applying by their own or their vestry's financial difficulties they should contact the Diocesan secretary.

Registration Forms – These have been sent to the Clergy of each charge. It would be helpful if they could be returned to the Diocesan Office as soon as possible. For further information contact Margaret Dineley, The Coach House, Toward,

Argyll, PA23 7UB, 01369 870073. Email margaret.dineley@googlemail.com

Lent Appeal – Zimbabwe Crisis

As you will be well aware, there is not only financial collapse, expanding poverty but also the spread of cholera in and beyond Zimbabwe. Christian Aid are mounting a special campaign for Zimbabwe. The reason we have chosen Christian Aid as the recipient of the appeal is that it is a secure agent for ensuring that money is used for the intention of those who are suffering most. Whether in your congregation or personally please make sure as many people as possible know about this Lent appeal. If you are using a jam jar or tin please contact Sue Pollard at The Diocesan office for labels. Tel no 01631 570870 or office@argyll.anglican.org

The collection from the Synod Eucharist for the Lent Appeal was £165.92.

Lent Lunches

The Lent Lunches at The Pines are going very well! So far over £200 has been raised in aid of the Bishops Lent Appeal. The remaining Lent Lunches will be held at The Pines, Ardconnel Road, Oban from 12.30pm-1.30pm on Friday 20th March, Friday 27th March, and Friday 3rd April. If anyone needs transport “up the hill” to The Pines please give us a telephone call 01631 566912.

The Diocesan Website www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk

Both the website manager Mrs Hazel Morris and we here at the office would find it helpful to have a list of those nominated by each Vestry throughout the Diocese who are responsible for your own websites and for communicating with Mrs Morris. Please send me the names as soon as possible. We already have eight names and we would like to complete the list.

“Argyll & The Isles” – the Diocesan magazine

The Reverend Ken Skipper, the priest with charge on Islay has kindly agreed to take over the editorship as from this Summer. The deadline for the Summer edition is Friday 26th June. Please send your contributions and photographs in good time to: Rev'd Ken Skipper, 18 Elder Crescent, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, PA43 7HU. Email: kgsbow@tiscali.co.uk

Engaging with the Bible

Local churches in England of many denominations are coming together to rediscover their common mission using a website which gives assistance for simple prayer every day. You might either as a charge or as individuals be interested in using this site www.pray-as-you-go.org

Lay Leaders and Lay Readers Day, Saturday 25th April , 9.30am-3.30pm St John's Cathedral, Oban

(including obviously Lay Chaplains) The day session will focus on youth work in the Diocese led by the new youth officer in the Appin region. There will also be a session on congregational development (LCM). Please let David McEwan the warden of Lay Readers if you are attending: acdf@mcewan-home.co.uk

A Conference on Homosexuality and The Scottish Episcopal Church – May 2nd 2009, Kemnay Church Centre, Aberdeenshire.

The Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney are organising a day of discussion and listening on this subject for that Diocese. It will be chaired by Bishop Bob Gillies and Bishop David Chillingworth will be the lead speaker. There are two places for people from this Diocese. Contact: Aberdeen and Orkney Diocesan Office – 01224 662247.

**Faith in Older People – Friday 8th May
Eden Court, Inverness**

An ecumenical exploration of the needs of older people and the gifts they bring to churches. For more information email: info@fiop.org.uk

Back to Church Sunday 27th Sept. 2009

For the last few years in England there has been a successful ecumenical process of inviting new people to come to church or indeed those who have left it for one reason or another. Some Diocese in Scotland have already participated. However every denomination in Scotland will be participating on the 27th September 2009. The basic idea is that each member of a congregation invites one friend to come to church on that Sunday. The service itself is not expected to be special. Our Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry will be providing resources in preparation for Back to Church Sunday. Please put the date in your diaries.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Leo Lanahan the Provincial Officer is now producing a newsletter with information about training and frequently asked questions (FAQ). The nearest training event for this Diocese will be on September 12th in Inverness. For more information email: protection@scotland.anglican.org

Sing Columba!

The RSCM is mounting a number of events in Scotland to mark the year of Homecoming. The triennial festival will be held at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on June 6th. Coupled with the Diocesan festival on the 7th of June at St John's Cathedral, you could make a weekend of it. Website: www.rscmscotland.org

The Society of St Francis

As far as I am aware I am the only member of The Third Order of the SFF in this Diocese. Many people feel the call to commit their lives more deeply to a daily discipline of prayer and action but don't know how to set about responding. The Third Order offers such a way. Obviously following the inspiration of St Francis of Assisi is crucial. Given the crisis that we all now face the Franciscan perspective on spirituality has a vital and inspiring approach to a hopeful way of living. If you are interested in more information on this then please do get in touch with me.

**The Cathedral of The Isles, Cumbrae -
Retreat, Music and Conference
Programme 2009**

2nd to 5th April - Photography Workshops – for details contact Steve McGonnell stevemcgonnell@yahoo.co.uk

6th to 13th April – Holy Week and Easter

1st to 4th May – Painting Break (Michael Healey)

19th to 21st June – Creative Writing (Led by David Pettigrew, creative writing tutor at Strathclyde University.

For further details telephone 01475 530353 or see www.island-retreats.org

THE BISHOP'S April Diary

Sunday 5th – Strontian

Monday 6th-13th (Holy Week and Easter) – Cumbrae

Thursday 16th – Pennygael, Mull

Friday 17th-Sunday 19th – London

Tuesday 21st – Rebecca Adams and John Bojke wedding

Wednesday 22nd – Chapter meeting

Thursday 23rd – 10.30am Standing Committee; 2.30pm Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry

Saturday 25th – Lay Leaders and Lay Readers Day – St John's Cathedral, Oban.

Sunday 26th – Cursillo Weekend #57
Closing Eucharist - Cumbrae

Reflection

Dietrich Bonhoeffer **The Necessity of the Cross.**

To endure the cross is not a tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ. When it comes, it is not an accident, but a necessity. It is not the sort of suffering which is inseparable from this mortal life, but the suffering which is an essential part of the specifically Christian life. It is not suffering *per se* but suffering-and-rejection, and not rejection for any cause or conviction of our own, but rejection for the sake of Christ.....

The cross means sharing the suffering of Christ to the last and to the fullest. Only a person thus totally committed in discipleship can experience the meaning of the cross. The cross is there, right from the beginning, we have only got to pick it up; there is no need for us to go out and look for a cross for ourselves, no need for us deliberately to run after suffering.

Jesus says that every Christian has his own cross waiting for him, a cross destined and appointed by God. Each of us must endure our allotted share of suffering and rejection.....

The first Christ-suffering which each of us must experience is the call to abandon the attachment of this world....The cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ.

When Christ calls us, he bids us come and die.

In the Love of God, +Martin, Oban

<p>The May Newsletter – material to be received by Friday 24th April 2009</p>
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