

# Diocesan Newsletter

for

## Argyll and The Isles

No 7 April 2010

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Dear Friends,

It was great to see so many of you during Synod but we were sorry to miss a number of old friends. We particularly missed the Dean and wish him well. Below, you will find an extract of the blurb promoting a book by Grace Sheppard, supplied by her sister, a member of this Diocese. If anyone else has found a publication particularly helpful, perhaps they might also like to share the details.

### Communications

If you have enquiries relating to the Diocese or Province, previously attended to by Bishop Martin, please get in touch with the Diocesan Office. [office@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:office@argyll.anglican.org) 01631 570870. The Dean and Provost is now undergoing treatment. During this time, general enquiries should be made to the Diocesan Office (as above) and Parish calls to the Rev'd Ian Walter (01631 564855). The Dean will continue to answer e-mails and Barbara will accept personal calls on his behalf (0777 649 6487). Please avoid 11am-1pm as therapy will be taking place at this time.

### Office Hours

Sue is usually in the office from 9.30am-2.30pm Mon-Wed (01631 570870 [office@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:office@argyll.anglican.org)). Peter usually works from home but can be contacted by e-mail [secretary@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:secretary@argyll.anglican.org). Jean is most easily contacted at her office on 01631 567007 or e-mail [jean@jeanainsley.co.uk](mailto:jean@jeanainsley.co.uk). We do listen to answer-phone messages and reply as soon as we can.

### Update on the Episcopal Election

The main developments since the report in the March Newsletter have been that nominations for the second round have been received by the Preparatory Committee and the Electoral Synod met on 16<sup>th</sup> March to receive a report on progress.

An important point is that the non-announcement of a List of Candidates in mid-February was not because the Preparatory Committee had failed in its task. The Committee had agreed a List, but we were hit with candidates withdrawing before the List could be announced. The revised timetable means

that the announcement of the List of Candidates is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> April, with Electoral Synod meetings taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> May to interview candidates and 14<sup>th</sup> May to conduct the election. These dates are set largely because Canon 4 sets a limit of 210 days for this phase of the process, so it must be finished by 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Please continue to pray for the Preparatory Committee and for the nominees through this crucial stage. Remember that this is a spiritual journey, not just a process.

### Diocesan Synod

In his Charge to the Synod, issued at the Eucharist, Bishop Mark inspired us. I am grateful to Christine Macintosh for the following summary, which first appeared in her blog (<http://blethers.blogspot.com/>):

“He was wearing a huge and extraordinary ring, which had belonged to Bishop Forbes at the time of the 18th century Jacobite risings, and reminded us of the faithfulness it represents - the faithfulness of the Episcopal Church which over the years has fed others, not least the Episcopal Church in the USA. He exhorted us to a burning desire to proclaim the love of God in the communities we serve - serve as opposed to live in. The fact that at the moment we have no bishop does not stop our ministries, and we've not to let anyone tell us differently. Our task, he went on, is to be people who are open - open to the seeking of others, to those who will join us briefly and then move on; open to those who struggle elsewhere because of rules and regulations and find in our worship and our structures an openness and freedom. When we get bogged down in buildings and quinquennials we must ask: Who will I bring the light of God to today? This, said +Mark, is what we are about. The church has a voice - not of rules, commandments or exclusion, but simply a voice of love. He ended with the stirring reminder that today, in us, is the fulfilment of God's promise.”

(If you visit the blog, you will also see an additional explanation by Hugh Lee about the history of the ring and the way it represents the role of the Scottish Episcopal Church in ecumenical relationships with the Roman Catholic Church.)

With this ringing in our ears, +Mark took us through the business of the Synod at a good pace. We received the accounts, showing that the Diocese is in better financial shape than it has been for some time; agreed a number of changes to the Canons, in particular to the way in which consultation and approvals for building work will be handled in future; elected new members for our committees, resulting in a more representative Standing Committee than we have sometimes had in the past;

and heard reports on many of the varied activities carried out across the Diocese. One of these was an outline, by Ben Cooke, the new Warden of Bishop's House Iona, of his plans for the House and how it can play a role, along with Cumbrae, in the life of the Diocese and the Province (Jean Ainsley, in her Treasurer's Report, had also discussed the position of our retreat houses as real jewels and the determination of our subsidiary company, Island Retreats Ltd, to run them well and maximise their potential).

Following all that important, but largely administrative, business, +Mark sent us away by reminding us of the essential roles we should be seeking for our new Bishop as the advocate of spiritual life in the Diocese, not least to the Province so that it really wants to be associated with us and to support us— it's not the same as a priest. He also urged us to talk ourselves up because we are a jewel in God's kingdom, to have confidence to talk about ourselves to others so that we fulfil our mission to enable the joy of faith and love of God to be seen through us.

Peter

### **Diocesan Lent Appeal**

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection at the Synod Eucharist which raised £131.10 towards Zanzibar. This will, of course, be increased by the Gift Aid reclaimed.

**Living with Dying** By Grace Sheppard. (ISBN 978-0-232-52783-4) "In this deeply moving book we are privileged to accompany two loving people as they live with approaching death, not grimly, not in any macabre way, but loving, crying, laughing and enjoying the antics of their grandchildren. Living with dying can be shattering, gloomy and sad but it can also be a grace-filled time of moments of shared stillness and intimacy, of joy and tears, of facing up to the reality of life's transience. Grace Sheppard's intimate journey helps us to live with dying creatively and positively. We are indeed indebted to her for her gracious generosity." From the forward by +Desmond Tutu

Grace Sheppard is the author of the best selling *An Aspect of Fear*. She lives in Wirral near Liverpool. Her husband, David Sheppard, was the Bishop of Liverpool from 1975 to 1997, and previously had played for and captained the England cricket team.

### **'Using the Bible'**

There is still time to join the small but perfectly formed band that will gather in Oban on Saturday 27th March to begin the 'Using the Bible' module of the York St John Christian Studies course. The group will run as a mix of face-to-face and virtual meetings, further dates still to be arranged.

The aim of the module is *to enable students to explore traditional and contemporary ways of reading biblical texts, using the tools of biblical scholarship.*

It is for any lay person whether or not they have responsibilities in their congregation. You can undertake this for your own interest or register for credit, which involves completing some assignments.

The way it works is that you do some reading and exercises between sessions and then share your learning with the group, guided by a learning facilitator. So it's not a 'taught' course but it is more of a group experience than a distance learning course.

Do get in touch with me if you'd like to know more. Phone 01700 500489; email [info@wordsinaction.net](mailto:info@wordsinaction.net) Alison Clark, Diocesan Learning & Development Officer

### **Scottish Churches House, Dunblane**

**Grasping Nettles: How will our children have faith?** 7 April - 5:30pm

**Ancient (Celtic) Gifts for Modern Time** 9 – 11 April

**Second Nature** Creative writing workshop with Kenneth Steven 13 April

**In the Mirror of Cartography with Alastair Hulbert** 16 - 18 April

**'A two-edged sword' with Jan Sutch Pickard** 21 - 22 April

Booking: Email [reservations@scottishchurcheshouse.org](mailto:reservations@scottishchurcheshouse.org) or call 01786 823588.

### **ACTS newsletter**

The latest issue of the ACTS newsletter is now available from the ACTS website [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org). If anyone would like a copy by post or would like to be added to the mailing list, removed from the mailing list, or would like to include something for the next issue, please be in touch. Direct: 01259 222361; Mobile: 07527 433460; [lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org](mailto:lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org); [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org)

**ACTS Easter Resource** has been prepared by Revd Francis Alao, ACTS Racial Justice Officer.

The title is 'Journey to the Cross: Different Roles' and examines the roles various bodies played leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection and how the patterns of these parts are still played out in today's world. We are challenged to look at ourselves in a variety of contexts and encouraged to take a second thought in our personal or institutional walk with God. This resource may be downloaded from the acts website [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org) Hard copies may also be available for a cover charge from Mid

March. Enquiries please to: Email:  
[shonapaterson@acts-scotland.org](mailto:shonapaterson@acts-scotland.org)

Contact 01475 530353 Cathedral\_Cumbrac@  
btconnect.com; [www.island-retreats.org](http://www.island-retreats.org)

### **‘Love and Healing: The Spirituality of Counselling and Pastoral Care’**

**April 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**, St Leonards, South Street, St  
Andrews, KY16 9QJ

Bridge Pastoral Foundation Annual Scottish  
Conference 2010.

In this conference for those seeking space for  
personal reflection and growth in an ecumenical  
Christian ethos, President Dr. Jim O’Donoghue  
leads us in three plenary, interactive, meditative  
considerations on the tenderness, compassion and  
spiritual empathy required in responses from our  
interior depth of self to those inviting us to  
accompany them in their search for healing and for  
communion with their own inner light. Further  
information from Maureen Leggat 0141 334 5460

**Training Day** for Chaplains, Readers, Leaders  
and other interested parties

The Lindsay Room, St John’s Cathedral, Oban,  
17<sup>th</sup> April, 2010

**Please note that the above Training day has had  
to be cancelled.**

**The Domestic Abuse Strategy in Scotland: 10  
years on – What’s been achieved? What’s still  
to be done?** One day conference **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>  
April**, Edinburgh. For more information contact  
Jane on 0131 556 1500, [www.mackayhannah.com](http://www.mackayhannah.com)

**SRTP @40:** Helping the church engage with ethical  
issues in science; A conference marking 40 years of  
the Society, Religion and Technology Project.  
**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> May** 10am-4pm City Chambers,  
Edinburgh. For more information and to book:  
Murdo MacDonal  
[mmacdonald@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mmacdonald@cofscotland.org.uk)

### **The College of the Holy Spirit, Cumbrae**

Future events include:

**Workshop on Eucharistic Presidency - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>-  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** led by Rev Canon Dr Nicholas  
Taylor. The workshop explores central biblical,  
theological and pastoral issues concerning the place  
of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.

**Workshop on Authority and Anglicanism –  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.** Rev Canon Dr  
Nicholas Taylor examines how the three pillars of  
Scripture, Tradition and Reason are interpreted in  
today’s search for Anglican Authority.

**Retreat: Exploring Themes in *The Cloud of Unknowing*  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September** The retreat offers an  
opportunity for reflection, to deepen our  
understanding of contemplative prayer and develop  
its practice.

### **Fr Laurence Freeman, OC, OSB**

**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2010** 7.30pm St John’s  
Episcopal Church, Princes St, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ

Fr Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk of the  
Congregation of Monte Oliveto and Director of the  
World Community for Christian Meditation. He has  
conducted dialogues and peace initiatives such as the  
Way of Peace with the Dali Lama and is active in  
inter-religious dialogue as well as encouraging the  
teaching of Christian meditation and in the re-  
appropriation of the contemplative wisdom tradition  
in the Church and society at large. Book at Tickets  
Scotland Ltd, 127 Rose St, Edinburgh EH2 3DT;  
0131 220 3234; [www.tickets-scotland.com](http://www.tickets-scotland.com)

### **Diocesan Lay Readers, Chaplains and Leaders Conference. 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Scottish Police College, Tulliallan.**

All those involved in Lay Leadership in the SEC  
are invited to participate in this conference. Among  
the keynote speakers will be the Primus, +David  
Chillingworth and Dr Christina Baxter. For more  
information, email Brian Woodburn:  
[brian.woodburn@homecall.co.uk](mailto:brian.woodburn@homecall.co.uk) 01556 610519

**Please note the correction of Brian’s e-mail  
address.**

### **Revised Standard Visions**

Holy City 2009-10 seeks to explore the re-imagining  
and re-visioning of faith, our lives and our times  
through a series of events running from **October  
2009 to May 2010** in Glasgow. This is organised by  
the Wild Goose Resource Group (of the Iona  
Community) in collaboration with an assortment of  
Glaswegians. Further information from  
[www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk](http://www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk) or 0141 332 6343.

**APSE (Association of Pastoral Supervisors &  
Educators) Annual Conference 2010 Supervising  
with Spirit 24<sup>th</sup> June** Nottingham Gateway Hotel.  
Keynote speaker: Robin Shoet. Further information  
and to book Rev Martin Kerry APSE Treasurer, 3  
Forester Rd, Nottingham NG3 6LP  
[conference@pastoral-supervision.org.uk](mailto:conference@pastoral-supervision.org.uk) ;  
[www.pastoralsupervision.org.uk](http://www.pastoralsupervision.org.uk)

### **Argyll and The Isles Magazine**

Now that a number of issues have been produced,  
the editor would like some feedback. Any comments  
to the address below. Deadlines for the Issue 95 are  
**22<sup>nd</sup> June** for articles, letters etc and **29<sup>th</sup> June** for  
Parish News Items. Please e-mail Rev Ken Skipper  
on [kgschurch@googlemail.com](mailto:kgschurch@googlemail.com). Please remember to  
send pictures in jpeg format so that they can be  
edited if necessary.

**Pilgrimage to Assisi to celebrate the Feast of St Francis with Bishop Martin Shaw Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October (2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> from Scotland)** This pilgrimage offers an insight into the life and message of St Francis by offering experience, challenge and reflection; as well as delight in each other's company and, of course, restoration. Four key factors in Francis' own experience you can share in directly: the beauty of Assisi itself and its creative and troubled history that deepens the understanding of Europe's present challenges; the power of the Crucifix that spoke to Francis' heart directly about the demands of Love; how simplicity challenged and continues to challenge (as well as delight) men and women throughout the world; Christianity is about joy and living as fully in each moment as possible. For general information, questions about tours or just to request a brochure or group pack, please get in contact with us: 020 7485 3003 *Email: [info@paxtravel.co.uk](mailto:info@paxtravel.co.uk) Mail: 152-156 Kentish Town Road, LONDON, NW1 9QB*

#### **Scotland4Peace**

2010 is a crucial year for an international commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons. Please consider signing the Now is the Time petition proposed by a coalition of UK churches. See <http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/npt/petition.htm> (you may need to copy and paste this link into your browser). David Mumford (The Very Rev), St. Andrew's Rectory, 9, Castle Street, Brechin DD9 6JW (SEC Church in Society Committee representative on Scotland4Peace)

#### **Inspires Online**

You may be aware that the Information & Communication Board has decided to make the printed magazine of the Scottish Episcopal Church (Inspires) a quarterly publication, thus reducing it from 10 times a year to 4 times a year. This will be supplemented by an online newsletter. The initial expectation is that this newsletter (Inspires Online) will come out monthly. This will contain more up to date news than the printed magazine has been able to do and it is hoped that it will go some way to solving a problem that some have perceived in our church, of it being difficult to get news flowing around the Province. The two publications will have different content, the online one focussing more on time sensitive news and the print one on articles reflecting the life of our church. The first edition of the online newsletter has now been sent out. All clergy whose e-mail addresses are known to the General Synod Office have been

signed up to receive it. (If you don't wish to receive it, there is an unsubscribe link on every issue of the newsletter).

However, this publication is for our whole church, not just for clergy. If people who have not been signed up already wish to receive this newsletter, then they need to go to <http://www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe> and fill out the simple form there.

I would appreciate any help you can give in getting this information out. It could be included in congregational/diocesan publications, websites, blogs, notices in church, service sheets etc.

I hope that this new communication tool will be useful and would like to thank those who have been working on it, including particularly Lorna Finley, the Provincial Communications Officer. Feedback is always welcome, either to me directly at [provost@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:provost@thecathedral.org.uk) or to Lorna at [press@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:press@scotland.anglican.org)  
KELVIN HOLDSWORTH, Convener - Information and Communication Board

#### **Faith in Politics**

SEC's Church in Society Committee and the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Office encourage congregations to engage with the issues and hold hustings. The guidance re holding a hustings is excellent.

The material prepared for churches to help members engage with the issues for the next general Election, *Faith in Politics*, is very good. There will be a link to the CTBI material on the SEC website but at present it can be accessed at [www.ctbi.org.uk/generalelection](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/generalelection). The main downloads – the Faith in Politics (issues) document and the Planning a Hustings Meeting guidance – are available now, and the hustings registration system will be operational soon. The different sections of Faith in Politics will also be available shortly as web pages as will additional material, links, and other features.

**The May Newsletter** (Please remember to send information to the **Diocesan Office**) – material to be received by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010

#### **Diocesan April Diary**

*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April* - 10.30am Ministries Reflection  
*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April* - 10.30am Standing Committee  
*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April* - 2.30pm Diocesan Board of Mission & Ministry  
*Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April* - 2.00pm IRL Board