



Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 31**

August 2008

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Dear Friends,
Friday the 11th of July is the feast of St Benedict. I draw your attention to the quote at the end of this newsletter which speaks of the two great saintly dynamics of The Christian Church – St Benedict and St Francis of Assisi. My prayer is that both these qualities are present during The Lambeth Conference. As for the meeting of Bishops and Archbishops in Jerusalem recently concerned for the future of Orthodox teaching in The Church I would like to reflect on that after I have experienced The Lambeth Conference. However, I cannot help feeling embarrassed at the quantities of media time and energy being expended on ecclesiastical matters that seem somewhat insignificant in the face of the mounting crisis that we have with regard to the environment, the economy and deteriorating international relationships. It is important to remember that these latter issues feature considerably in the Lambeth Conference programme.

I would ask you to pray for all the Bishops on each day of the conference.

- 17th-20th July Retreat Days
- 21st July -The Bishop and Anglican Identity
- 22nd July – The Bishop and Evangelism
- 23rd July – The Bishop and social Justice
- 24th July – Lambeth and Buckingham palace
- 25th July – The Bishop and Other Churches
- 26th July – The Bishop and The Environment
- 27th July – Canterbury Cathedral Visit
- 28th July – The Bishop and Other faiths
- 29th July – The Abuse of power in gender relationships
- 30th July – The Bible and The Bishop in Mission
- 31st July – Listening to God and Each Other with reference to human sexuality
- 1st and 2nd August – The Bishop, The Anglican Covenant and The Windsor Process
- 3rd August – The Bishop as leader in God's Mission

Each day begins at 6.30am with prayer and The Eucharist. At various points there is the opportunity to take part in fringe events around issues such as peace making and poverty.

For more details you can follow developments in the Lambeth Conference website.

In effect Elspeth and I will be away until August 5th. If you need to get in touch with me you can use my mobile 07801 549615, use my email(see above) or get in touch with the Diocesan Office. For emergency pastoral issues please get in touch with The Dean The Very Reverend Norman MacCallum -01631 562323 or Canon Hugh Lee – 01369 870237.

Diocesan Stewardship.

At our recent Diocesan Standing Committee the issue of stewardship in our charges was raised. As you know Stewardship Renewal is a venture undertaken by the whole Province. In order to make a report to the College of Bishops and to the next meeting of The Standing Committee I am asking each vestry of all our charges in the Diocese to send me a report on how the stewardship renewal is progressing in your charges. I would like the reports by the 29th of August please.

On Salvation

The new Grosvenor Essay No 5 was published in time for our summer General Synod, published by the Provincial Doctrine Committee In particular there are three sections to do with biblical ideas of Salvation, the Sacraments and Science. If you would like to purchase a copy you can order it from the General Synod Office. Email office@scotland.anglican.org

Glen O8 –

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

Young People

The Scottish Episcopal Church – Provincial Youth Network are holding their annual pilgrimage to Iona from the 27th to the 30th of August for 18-25 year olds. The pilgrimage provides a unique experience for spiritual development amongst peers from across the country.. It is also a good way of meeting young people from other diocese. The trip will cost £50 plus travel, for which a £15 deposit will be required in advance. For more details please contact Rebecca Pollard –
rebeccaannepollard@hotmail.co.uk or tel. 01631 770342

Harvest Festival

Many charges start planning for the festival well in advance! May I recommend that you have a special collection for “FARMAfrica” You can get in touch with the organisation for lots of activities for children and for congregations. www.farmafrica.org.uk-givepovertytheboot

Argyll and Bute Choose Life Initiative

The NHS Highland Health Promotion Team in Argyll and Bute has been busy in the last few months raising people’s awareness of important sensible drinking and mental health messages. Coupled with this there is a concern to reduce suicide and self harm generally. There are a series of events being held in particular in Inveraray in the autumn and winter.. For more information please use the website www.chooselifeinargyllandbute.org.uk

For the Hearing Impaired

To amplify sounds from conversation or TV/radio the Diocese has access to the Crescendo 50/5. A microphone picks up the sound for your hearing aid when using the T facility. There is a portable battery version – Crescendo 50/1.

Both of these listeners are kept in our Diocesan Centre in Oban and can be borrowed for use in a small meeting or for one-to-one conversation. These can be borrowed if you get in touch with Sue Pollard at the Diocesan Centre. For more information contact the Regional Chaplain The Reverend Angela West. Email rickangelawest@yahoo.co.uk

Rural Ministry Course – 4-6th Nov 2008

This, of course, is a very rural Diocese. The future shape of its Ministry and indeed of The Church as a whole is a challenging one for us. I am inviting members of the Diocese to think seriously about attending this course not only for your own charges but also for the Diocese as a whole.

The course will be held at The Arthur Rank Centre in Warwickshire. If you are interested in going I would be able to help with some of the funding. Please get in touch with me.

NB! NB! -Confirmation –

During the summer I would ask as many charges as possible to think of those who perhaps are in your congregations or maybe have lost touch with The Church for whom confirmation may be an important entry or re-entry into their Christian lives. For example does your charge do a little work on who may be Anglicans (if only in name) and may appreciate contact with you. The publishers Kevin Mayhew have produced a very attractive confirmation programme written by Susan Sayers (“The Confirmation Experience”) The books that accompany the course are differently organised depending on age-groups.

If you are interested in knowing more please get in touch with me or looking at the website www.kevinmayhew.com

Retreats, Workshops and Music – Cumbrae

13th July – The Telemann Ensemble, 3pm
18th July – Soprano and Baritone Song Recital, 7.45pm
20th July – Organ recital (David Hamilton), 3pm
27th July – Ronald Stevenson Society Concert, 3pm
28th -31st July. Art Break (Catherine Drain) –watercolours and drawing for beginners and intermediate (£145)
3rd August – Wind and String Quartet (The Frevo Quartet), 3pm
5th – 8th August. Prayer Retreat (The Warden – Helen Hamilton) – St John’s Gospel and looking at different types of prayer in the modern world.
10th August – Cello Recital (Catriona Hetherington), 3pm
17th August – Soprano Song Recital (Katherine Laurie Jones), 3pm
24th August – Piano Duets (Jonathan Cohen and Alistair Chisholm), 3pm
26th August – Vaughan Williams Concert including “Songs of Travel” (Bishop Martin Shaw with Alistair Chisholm, 7.45pm
25th – 29th August – Music Break.
18th – 21st September – Photography Break.
26th – 29th September – Yoga.
29th Sept – 3rd Oct – Celtic Retreat (The Warden)
28th – 30th November – Advent Treat (The Warden) and Advent Carol Service (£100)
24th-29th Dec. Christmas House Party (£250)

For further retreats see the website www.island-retreats.org

For further details and bookings contact the warden at 01475 530353 or tccumbrae@argyll.anglican.org

Burma Cyclone Appeal –

The Scottish Bible Society is involved with other NGOs in providing urgent aid. £12 can provide one bag of rice to feed a family – Donation Hotline 0131 347 9806

Ten Plays for Church –

Kevin Dodds the playwright has produced a new collection of dramatic works, which consist of Bible inspired stories. Although our charges are very scattered, putting on short plays can be a very effective tool for Mission. If you would like to know more about these plays please email kevin.dodds@bopenworld.com

Or telephone 0800 197 4150

Hymn Books, Bibles and Prayer Books –

If you are looking for used copies of the above or are wishing to hand them on please do get in touch with Peter Reynolds, 15 MacKay Square, Dingwall, O1349 864711.

Diocesan Retreat 2008 (27th -31st 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 tcumbrae@argyll.anglican.org or telephone 01475 530353.

The Diocesan Website –

www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk

Please remember if you have any information or changes to make please contact Hazel Morris directly at 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.

For your diary -Provincial Conference 2009 2nd- 4th October

“Living Well: Proclaim, Discover, Respond”

At The MacDonald Highland Resort, Aviemore.

The theme of the conference is The Five Marks of Mission (see newsletter No 29) Conference information will be sent out in September in the Clergy mailing. Information will also be available on the Provincial Website under PC09. There will be a subsidy towards the conference fee for a limited number of delegates

The Diocesan magazine

The magazine is being printed as you receive this. They should be in the Diocesan Centre early next week and they will be posted out to charge secretaries shortly afterwards. It would be helpful to know whether the quantities you receive are sufficient for your needs. Please let my secretary Audrey Walton know how many copies your charge would like of the Spring, Summer and Winter issues of the magazine.

THE BISHOP'S AUGUST DIARY

7th August – Planning meeting for The West Highland Region Profile

10th August - - St Finan's, Kinlochmoidart

13th August – St Mary's, Glencoe (WHR representatives meeting)

15th-17th August – Eigg (wedding)

20th August – 11am Chapter Meeting

7.30pm Choral Evensong St

John's Cathedral, Oban

24th August – One of the churches of The West Highland Region

25th August –12noon Island Retreats Limited Board Meeting

26th August – Singing in concert of Vaughan Williams Songs –Cumbrae (7.45pm)

27th August – Diocesan lay Learning Officers Tel. Conference – 4pm

28th August – Argyllshire Gathering

30th August – Wedding – Fife.

31st August St John's Cathedral, Oban.

The September Newsletter – material to be received by Friday 22nd August.

Benedict and Francis

Dante put the two founders – Benedict and Francis – together at the very top of his paradise... Compared with Benedict, Francis, looks like a madman, but Providence was behind both the prodigious intelligence of the one and the irresistible lunacy of the other, which had been unleashed by the reading of a few verses of the Gospel. The Church needed them both.

[God's Fool' Julien Green]

In the Love of God, +Martin, Oban