



## Columcille

The Bishop of Argyll  
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 43

August 2009

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### Dear Friends,

I have been faced with a rather disturbing insight within myself, which you may recognise. [At least, I hope you do!] The media coverage of the current 'Flu Pandemic' has brought about an instant gut reaction in me. Here goes! 'Will I be OK? Does the fact that I am almost 65, mean that I will escape the 'flu?' Then comes another thought. Well, it's not as bad now in Scotland as it is in England. But – oh! Dear! – I am moving to Exeter at the end of September!' Now it's all too easy to work up a guilt-complex at what appears to be a selfish reaction to the 'flu pandemic. However the vital importance of acknowledging that that reaction is the way we are, leads to the next response, which is a smiling tolerance at the inclination to self-protection in me to one of: 'Wait a minute...! What about those who are most vulnerable...?' In fact, self-protective measures, such as 'upping' self-cleanliness, are important for others, for obvious reasons. Thus, being stuck with guilt responses to this issue, let alone any other issue, can be grossly unhealthy. Maybe the current pandemic will raise the consciousness of all of us to our neighbour. In particular, given the remoteness of some of our congregations and that some members of these congregations live in isolated places, keeping an extra-heightened vigilance for their well-being is essential. The task of the priest, the Lay Chaplain, the Lay Reader or Leader is to ensure that proper

and efficient pastoral vigilance and care are regularly exercised in our congregations. What is more, it may lead to a movement of pastoral care out and beyond existing members of congregations to the wider community. In one sense, the disease may become an opportunity to experience the Grace of God! [*Please see the Reflection for August at the end of this Newsletter*] For updates in the pandemic see website [www.nhs24.com](http://www.nhs24.com) or call 0800 151 3513.

**Chamber Grand Piano.** Elspeth and I have a piano which is looking for a home! We are unable to move it to our new home in Exeter. My daughter, Madeleine, eventually when she has space for it, would like to have it. In the meanwhile, it is looking for someone who might care for it and use it on a 'long term loan' basis. The piano is 5¾ feet long and a little less than 5 feet wide. This beautiful example of a Blüthner piano has casing in very fine light wood. If you are interested, please do get in touch with me.

### The Episcopal Election.

I would draw your attention to the Electoral Process for a new Bishop of this Diocese which begins after I leave. However, all members of the Diocese might do some thinking of who might be nominated for the Preparatory Committee to consider. Nominees can be ordained priests from any part of the Anglican Communion. Anyone in the Diocese can nominate! There will be an invitation to all charges in the autumn.

### FINAL CALL FOR THE LENT APPEAL 2009!!!

All of you who participated in the appeal who have not yet returned your collection to the Diocesan Centre, it would be enormously helpful if you would do that as soon as possible.

### Farewell Eucharist. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.00pm.

As you know by now, Elspeth and I are leaving the Diocese at the end of September. Details of the Farewell Eucharist will be sent out to each charge.

**Godly Play. Introductory Workshop. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September.**

**9.30am to 12.30pm. Kilmore and Oban Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban.**

Godly Play is an exciting resource where by through simple miniatures and through natural interaction, Biblical and Gospel narratives can come alive in an enjoyable [Playful!] way. Both adults and children find this freeing and deepening of their faith.

The Introductory Workshop cost £5 including coffee on arrival.

Please contact Margaret Grant by September 18<sup>th</sup>, if you would like a place. [Mgpresb-godlyplay@yahoo.com](mailto:Mgpresb-godlyplay@yahoo.com) 0131 220 6509

**DIOCESAN RETREAT. November 2<sup>nd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup>. The Cathedral and College of the Holy Spirit, Cumbrae. *The retreat is open to all* in the Diocese (and beyond!) whether lay or ordained. Please consider participating. This year it will be conducted by the Reverend David James, who will have a contemplative approach to the retreat. The Chaplain for the Retreat will be the Reverend Ian Walter. Please spread the news! If you are interested please book your place.... 01475 530353 or email: [cumbrae@island-retreats.org](mailto:cumbrae@island-retreats.org)**

**Stewardship.** Many of you will have been aware that we have endeavoured to organise a Stewardship Renewal Process throughout the Diocese. To be honest, I have only very patchy information as to how useful that was. The process was the initiative of the College of Bishops. Dean Fostekew, a close friend to our Diocese, was the Provincial Officer for Stewardship. He has now moved on to be a Rector in Edinburgh. However, he has produced a useful booklet: **‘The Kingdom Values of Stewardship’**. It comprises of Contextual Bible Studies focusing on ten different aspects of stewardship in the Kingdom of God. The booklet is designed for small groups, ideal for this Diocese. If you would like copies, please contact the General Synod Office in

Edinburgh: 0131 225 6357 or [office@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:office@scotland.anglican.org)

**Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Training.** The Provincial Officer for Training, Leo Lanahan, is offering to give some training sessions in the Diocese, which could be located near you. If you would like to organise such sessions, please would you get in touch with Sue Pollard at the Diocesan Office 01631 570870 or on [office@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:office@argyll.anglican.org)

Leo’s available dates are Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> August or a day in the week of 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**The Tenth Duke of Argyll, Sir Niall Campbell.**

**On Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 3.00pm in the afternoon, in All Saints’ Inveraray...**

There will be a celebration of High Mass, according to the English Missal, on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Sir Niall. The current Duke of Argyll will be in attendance. To quote from the Obituary of Sir Niall in the Scottish Guardian of August 26<sup>th</sup> 1949: ‘The lovely church at Inveraray with its superb peal of ten bells will be always a memorial of Sir Niall’s keen interest, which was also shown by his presidency of the Scottish Church Union.’ The Church Union in early parts of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century found itself working hard to uphold Catholic teaching in the Anglican Church. All are welcome to this Eucharist.

**A Song Recital with Martin Shaw, Eamonn Mulhall and Madeleine Shaw. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 4.00pm in St John’s Cathedral, Oban.**

The Oban Music Society have invited my daughter Madeleine, my son-in-law, Eamonn Mulhall and myself to give a concert on 30<sup>th</sup> August in Oban. The music will be from the wealth of German, English and Scottish Song, some excerpts from Opera and more light-hearted pieces.

**Homelessness.** You may have seen on the television items about television stars that have lived ‘rough’ on London streets and elsewhere. What struck me was the sheer

desolate looks on their faces as they realised how being ignored, rejected and frightened is hugely damaging not only to the homelessness but to our culture. ***Scottish Church Action is staging a conference on Homelessness on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld.*** One of the speakers will be **Hardeep Singh Kohli**, the comedian, who was one of those who tried living on the streets. For more information and booking please email [info@churches-housing.org](mailto:info@churches-housing.org) or phone 0131 477 4500. Please remember that there are homeless people who roam around Argyll and The Islands, who can often be more ignored than those in cities!

**Care for the Family.** This organisation has developed as a result of the experience of families who have had sudden bereavement or other traumas which have put huge pressure on family life. Since then CFTF has developed its resources to help families in less difficult times. I would urge you to dedicate one Sunday to a special collection for CFTF and to be creative about your intercessions in that direction. [www.cffdonate.org](http://www.cffdonate.org) or call 029 2081 0800.

#### **‘Fun with a Purpose’**

The London City Mission has just published an excellent resource to guide those who have care of the elderly either at home or in care. The resource provides activities that are great fun and from which minds and hearts can be stimulated. You may be interested in this book yourself or may wish to draw the attention of your local Nursing Home or Residential Home to it. £14.99 0207 234 3580.

#### **Volunteering in your Charge.**

Volunteering is now a prime resource for caring in communities throughout the UK. ‘Volunteering in Parishes’ is an organisation that helps promote volunteering among members of Christian churches. On 31<sup>st</sup> October, they are staging ‘Make a Difference Sunday’ along with Community Service Volunteers. If you would like to know more

please contact:  
[www.volunteeringinparishes.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringinparishes.org.uk)

#### **Christian Aid and ‘Poverty Over’.**

Christian Aid has produced helpful material for people in the Christian Churches to think and act theologically about the issues of Poverty. The central message of Poverty Over flows naturally from Christian Aid’s theological work, with its stress on the relationship between God and his people, and the characteristic of love and justice at its heart. If you are interested in getting a small group together to look at these issues, then contact [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

#### **Voices of Witness – Africa.**

A powerful film with the above title has recently been released which tells the stories of Anglican women and men across the African Continent of intolerance and community, of secrecy and hope, of facing challenges and seeking dignity as people of faith who are suffering from rejection as result of their sexuality. The DVD comes with a study guide. If you are interested in obtaining the material, contact [voicesofwitnessafrica@gmail.com](mailto:voicesofwitnessafrica@gmail.com)

#### **Energy Assistance Package.**

Helping vulnerable people prepare for a warmer winter is a process that can take several months. I encourage you to be aware of this package and make its resources known as widely as possible. [Energy efficiency; Benefit and tax credit checks; Low cost energy tariffs; Insulation; Improved heating systems.] Anyone wishing to access the EAP should call their local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre on 0800 512012. If you wish to receive email updates, please email: [energyassistancepackage@est.org.uk](mailto:energyassistancepackage@est.org.uk)

**HARVEST. 1. Self Help Africa.** Celebrate harvest with a charity that is helping families in rural Africa cope with climate change. [harvest@selfhelpafrica.net](mailto:harvest@selfhelpafrica.net)

**2. Celebrate the Bounty of Trees.** Trees as food and as key elements in what is happening to the climate, particularly in

Africa. Tree Aid is offering packs, posters and activities for this Harvest-tide, for those interested. [lynne.knight@treeaid.org.uk](mailto:lynne.knight@treeaid.org.uk) – 0117 909 6363.

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

**Scottish Police College, Tullieallan.**

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: [woodburn@homecall.co.uk](mailto:woodburn@homecall.co.uk) – 01556 610519.

**THE BISHOP'S August Diary**

*Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>.* St Columba's Portree and Raasay.

*Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>.* 2.30pm Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry.

*Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>.* Bishop's House, Iona.

*Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August.* St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh. Preaching and singing.

*Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>.* Confirmation 11.00am St John's Cathedral, Oban.

*[There are two separate Confirmation services gthis week at the Cathedral.]*

*Friday 14<sup>th</sup>.* 6.15pm. Confirmation Rehearsal St John's Cathedral, Oban

*Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>.* Confirmation.

*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>.* 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Duke Niall. High Mass 3.00pm All Saints Inveraray.

*Friday 21<sup>st</sup>.* The Island of Luining.

*Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>.* St Columba's, Gruline and St Kilda's Lochbuie.

*Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>.* 4.00pm Singing in Recital with Madeleine Shaw and Eamonn Mulhall. St John's Cathedral, Oban.

The sharp compassion of the healer's art  
Resolving the enigma of the fever chart.

Our only health is the disease  
If we obey the dying nurse  
Whose constant care is not to please  
But to remind of our, and Adam's curse,  
And that, to be restored, our sickness must  
grow worse.

The whole earth is our hospital  
Endowed by the ruined millionaire,  
Wherein, if we do well, we shall  
Die of the absolute paternal care  
That will not leave us, but prevents us  
everywhere."

*[From 'East Coker' – The Four Quartets  
by T S Eliot.]*

*+Martin  
Bishop of Argyll and The Isles  
July 27th 2009.*

**The September Newsletter** – material to be received by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**Reflection for August.**

"The wounded surgeon plies the steel  
That questions the distempered part;  
Beneath the bleeding hands we feel

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