

Diocesan Newsletter

for

Argyll and The Isles

No 3 December 2009

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Dear Friends,
I anticipate getting the next issue out just before Christmas but that might be a bit optimistic! I hope all your preparations for Christmas are coming together.

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 01631 570870 or the Dean, the Very Reverend Norman MacCallum. ProvostOban@argyll.anglican.org 01631 562323.

Office Hours

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

Update on the Episcopal Election

A well-attended meeting of the Electoral Synod took place on 11th November. The Primus outlined the process and answered questions on it so the Synod now understands the complexities of Canon 4 better than before. He also addressed the implications of the Anglican Communion Moratorium and the Scottish Episcopal Church's position on the policy of "Gracious Restraint" – basically that the SEC will not elect Bishops who are in an established same-sex relationship during the period of the Moratorium. Above all, he emphasised that we are seeking God's will during the entire process, which means a period of prayerful discernment which must not be unduly rushed.

He then led a discussion of what we are seeking in our new Bishop, steering the Synod away from discussion of candidates' personal characteristics (for example love of CalMac!) towards the tasks the Bishop will need to face, both across the Diocese

and in relations with the wider church. This led to much food for thought for the Preparatory Committee.

The nomination period is now open, with nominations to be submitted to the Primus by 7th December. The Preparatory Committee meets in mid-December to sift these and to finalise a questionnaire to send to the nominees. On the basis of responses to this, the Preparatory Committee meets again in January to draw up a list of interviewees.

The dates of Synod in March are:

Tuesday 16th March Electoral Synod (to interview Candidates)
Wednesday 17th March Annual Meeting of Synod
Wednesday 24th March Electoral Synod (election)

If it is not possible to produce a viable list of Candidates in February, the Preparatory Committee is required to meet with the Electoral Synod to explain the failure and to announce a timetable for a new process. Thus the meeting scheduled for 16th will take place whatever the circumstances. If there is no list of Candidates, the meeting on 24th March will not take place.

Wanted - Young People!

The Provincial Youth Network (PYN) is in the process of formalising its position. As part of this re-organisation, it is proposed to have four representatives from each Diocese – The Diocesan Youth Officer or Chaplain; one young person aged 18-25 and two young people aged 12-18. At present, we have the first two – Sue Pollard and Becca Pollard but are looking for two younger people. There are usually four meetings a year held in Edinburgh or Perth for which travel expenses will be reimbursed. If you are willing to join or know someone who is, please contact Sue at the Diocesan Office (01631 570870 or office@argyll.anglican.org) 4432 740

Events at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane

Wed 2nd December 5.30pm Grasping Nettles – Carbon Footprints & Creative Possibilities
Thurs 3rd December 4-8pm Interfaith Festivals of Light
Sat 5th December 3-6pm Advent Family Ceilidh
Thurs 10th December 6pm Pre-Christmas Dinner
Mon 14th - Thurs 17th December Senior Citizens' Christmas Break
Thurs 17th December 10am Carol Service

Further information on www.scottishchurcheshouse.org

Edinburgh 2010 – Prayer Day in Arbroath

Saturday, 5th December, 2009

A Day of Prayer “Witnessing Christ Today” led by Fr Gerard W Hughes SJ in St Andrew’s Church of Scotland, Barngreen, Arbroath. Come along to help pray in preparation for the Edinburgh 2010 World Mission Conference. Contact Mrs Rena Stott on 01674 677688

The Wave

Glasgow Saturday, 5th December, 2009

Ahead of the crucial UN climate summit in Copenhagen, thousands of people from across Scotland, from all walks of life will flow through the streets of Glasgow to demonstrate their support for a safe climate future for all. This is organised by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. The march will start at 11am in Bellahouston park and finish at Kelvingrove Park. Further details from www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland

Churches are also being asked to ring their bells on 13th December see www.bellringing350.org and also follow the actions suggested by Christian Aid at www.christianaid.org.uk

Eco-Congregation Scotland is organising a Church service before the march. The service will be held at St Leo the Great RC Church, 5 Beech Ave, Glasgow G41 5BY at 10am.

Bishop Lesslie Newbigin

On 8th December, it will be 100 years since the birth of Bishop Lesslie Newbigin, one of Scotland’s most famous missionaries. On **Sunday, 6th December** at 6.30pm, there will be a **Service of Thanksgiving** in St George’s West Church, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh. On **Saturday, 12th December**, there will be a **Seminar** looking at the influence of Bishop Lesslie Newbigin’s work for us in the 21st century. The speaker will be Professor Veli-Matti Karkkainen from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena. It will be held from 10am-4pm at St John’s Scottish Episcopal Church Hall, Princess St, Edinburgh. Contact Murdoch MacKenzie on 01631 710550 or mackenziema@ymail.com

Rural Futures: A Look Towards the Rural World of 2025

Wednesday, 9th December at 121 George St, Edinburgh This is an ACTS sponsored conference which is a major element in the Scottish Episcopal churches Rural Commission. Following a welcome by Rt Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, topics to be discussed

include rural demographics, planning rural communities, energy supply & affordability, environmental concerns, future agriculture, future rural tourism, education and networks and connections. Register at Rural Futures Conference ACTS, 7 Forrester Lodge, Inglewood House, Alloa FK10 2HU or contact Shona Paterson 01259 222362 or look at the website acts-scotland.org

A Brush with the Bible: Exhibiting Jesus to Scotland

Saturday, 12th December – Sunday, 24th January (closed 25th December – 4th January) The final event in the Scottish Bible Society bicentenary is an exhibition and associated events at the Smith Art Gallery, Stirling including an important collection of contemporary works by prominent artists all reflecting aspects of the biblical narrative. This exhibition hopes to provide a thought-provoking, challenging and bright oasis in the middle of the gloomy winter months! More information from www.scottishbiblesociety.org

Scottish Parliament Carol Service

The annual Carol Service will take place on **Wednesday, 16th December** in the Parliament’s Garden Lobby from 6pm-7.30pm. A limited number of tickets are available. Contact Alison Bennet on Alison@actsparl.org or call 0131 558 8137

Cathedral of the Isles, Cumbrae

The Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas will take place on **Sunday, 27th December** at 3pm

Homeless Action Week

Saturday 30th January – Sunday 7th February 2010. The theme for this year is, “Enough for All”. During this week and particularly on Homeless Sunday (30 Jan) and Poverty Action Sunday (7th Feb), Churches and associated organisations throughout Scotland will be holding special services. Further information from www.actionweek.org.uk; or the Scottish Episcopal rep Joe Cassidy at joe.cassidy@tesco.net or ‘phone 0777 4432740

Alpha Scotland

There will be an Alpha Scotland Vision Day – Let’s Make Jesus the Talk of Scotland 2010 - on **Saturday 6th February** at St Paul’s & St George’s Church, Edinburgh. Visit thetalkofscotland.org or ring 0141 332 0051

Diocesan Lay Readers, Chaplains and Leaders Conference. 7th – 9th 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: woodburn@homecall.co.uk – 01556 610519.

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 or 0141 332 6343.

Bishop's House, Iona

Exciting news! There are still places to book at Bishop's House in 2010! There is availability for individuals to book for a minimum stay of three nights 4th March-12th March. There is still room on the Easter week, a seven night stay arrival 30th March. Then there are rooms free in August, seven nights, arrival 21st August and in the autumn arrival 25th September also for seven nights. For further information contact the Warden at www.iona@island-retreats.org

Porvoo Prayer Diary 2010

A copy has been sent out to all charges but further copies are available from the Diocesan Office.

Scottish Church Heritage

Scottish Church Heritage is now producing a newsletter. Anyone interested should contact admin@scottishchurches.org.uk or 01334 844822

World Aids Day

ACET supports over 2,500 orphans; gives practical help to more than 5,000 people living with AIDS; trains more than 10,000 church leaders and youth workers; educates more than 1 million children in schools on issues concerning sex and relationships including HIV prevention. If you are interested in supporting this organisation contact 020 8568 7770 or www.acet-international.org

Interfaith Matters

A number of hard copies of the second issue of this magazine, produced by the Edinburgh Interfaith Association, are available from the Diocesan Office. Alternatively access the digital on-line version at www.eifa.org.uk

Caring for Children in India

Scottish Love in Action is a charity based in Scotland that cares for and supports destitute

children in India. They feed, educate and provide medical care for children in Tunj and Hyerbad in south east India. Further information from enquiries@sla-india.org; www.sla-india.org or 0131 558 7395

Messy Church

Messy Church is the fastest growing aspect of BRF's (Bible Reading Fellowship) ministry today offering an accessible way of reaching families beyond the fringes of the church community. See www.messychurch.org.uk

Foundations21

This is a web-based discipleship/Christian life-long learning resource from BRF enabling many individuals and small groups to grow in their faith. Further information at www.foundations21.org.uk

Paperless Christmas

BRF together with Jerusalem Productions have produced two on-line Advent calendars. This year there is also The Adventures of Mary and Joseph The Road Movie which retells the nativity story in nine short video episodes. See www.paperlesschristmas.org.uk

The Future of Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland

Lloyds TSB Foundation has recently announced that it will be suspending grant-making for the foreseeable future. The Provincial Church in Society Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church has written in support of the continuation of this foundation which has provided funding to a significant portion of the voluntary sector. If you would like to lend your support to challenge the actions of Lloyds Banking Group, go to the SCVO webpage which suggests the action you can take and gives a link to a letter template which you could use. www.scvo.org.uk

Chaplaincy Team, Auchlochan Retirement Village, Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire

MHA is a charity providing care homes, housing and support services for older people. Through focusing on nurturing a person's spiritual and physical well-being, they aim to provide high quality, person-centred care and support. They are looking to recruit a new chaplaincy team. Find out more at www.mha.org.uk

Justice, Peace and Creation Network

Fair Trade, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Abolition of Slavery and the new Poverty Over campaign by Christian Aid are all campaigns well known from the media. But just how involved are we as a diocese in raising awareness of these important

issues in our communities?

Through my work on the Provincial Overseas Committee, I know that there is a plan to get a Provincial wide **Justice, Peace and Creation Network** in place. This aims to be a network of folk in the 7 dioceses who have an interest in these issues. They would receive relevant information from the GSO and committees such as Church in Society and the Provincial Overseas Committee (which mainly deals with the MiDGies programme – promoting the UN’s Millennium Development Goals) and then disseminate this information to those people in the diocese who have the interest, skills and resources to be involved with various campaigns - for example climate change issues, the fair-trade movement (just as relevant to our farmers as it is to farmers in the LDC’s), people trafficking and the abolition of slavery.

So if you, or anyone you know, is interested in “doing more” about these issues or are already involved in campaigning on such issues then please contact Catriona Beel on 01546 602082 or email catriona08@btinternet.com

Dr Guthrie’s Association

The Association gives grants to support organisations devoted to the care and welfare of children and young people with a preference for supporting smaller charities. If you feel that in your congregation there might be a project in which you are involved that might find a small grant helpful please see the Scott-Moncrieff website: www.scott-moncrieff.com

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 or call 029 2081 0800.

Energy Assistance Package.

Helping vulnerable people prepare for a warmer winter is a process that can take several months. Please 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@ess.org.uk

Rowan Revealed

The Archbishop talks frankly about his faith, prayer, poetry, the press, politics, the future of the Church, his hopes and disappointments, ‘fresh expressions’, what Jesus means to him....Cost £5 www.yorkcourses.co.uk 01904 466516

Mothers’ Union’s East Africa Famine Appeal

23 Million people across East Africa are facing starvation following a further failed harvest and the ongoing drought situation across the region. Alongside relief funding, Mothers’ Union are seeking to provide seed to families to plant should the expected October rains arrive. Each family with a successful crop will be asked to bank some of the seed for other families in need. Visit www.themothersunion.org and follow the link to the famine appeal or phone 020 7222 5533.

Bibles and Medical Care for China’s Poorest

The Scottish Bible Society is raising funds to print Bibles and provide vital medical care for people in Sichuan Province, the area of China that was so devastated by an earthquake last year. The aim is to raise cash to buy paper to print Bibles and to equip special Bible distribution vans with much-needed medical equipment. Donate via 0131 347 9806 or www.scottishbiblesociety.org

Share God’s Gift – Merry Christmas

The American Family Association is making a stand against companies and individuals who want to ban “Merry Christmas” and replace it with “Holiday Greetings”. Christians can take a stand and proclaim to their communities that Christmas is not just a winter holiday focused on materialism but a “holy day” when the birth of our Saviour is celebrated. This can be done in a gentle and effective way by wearing the “God’s Gift – Merry Christmas” badge. Order through the website <http://action.afa.net>

The January Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the **Diocesan Office**) – material to be received by Monday 21st December 2009

Diocesan December Diary

Tuesday 15th December - Preparatory Committee