

**Diocesan Newsletter
for
Argyll and The Isles
No 27 December 2011**

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Episcopal Diocese of Argyll...'

**HELPING THE HOMELESS
CRISIS**

When you are without a home, Christmas can be the hardest time of all. Cold, hungry and alone, there's often nothing to enjoy, no one to be with, and little hope of anything better. Where Christmas should be there's just an empty space. Your Church is asked to fill that empty space for people who need it. Thanks to the experience gained over the years, plans are all in place. Crisis now has the contacts and helpers, venues and logistics organised and ready. Now all they need is your support. You can donate at www.crisis.org.uk or by calling 08000 384838 or Freepost LON18843, Crisis, 66 Commercial St, London E1 6BR

**POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS WEEK
28th Jan-5th Feb 2012**

Our world is filled with barriers between people. Barriers that prevent us from understanding one another. Churches and community projects can break these barriers. They can challenge prejudice, enable excluded people to live full lives and build a fairer world. Order or download resources from Church Action on Poverty 0161 2369321; www.church-poverty.org.uk info@church-poverty.org.uk; Dale House, 35 Dale St, Manchester M1 2HF

**HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY
29th January 2012**

Scottish Churches Housing Action invites churches to dedicate a cup of tea to homeless people. Funds gathered will be used for the Julius project, building volunteering to break down loneliness and isolation. Members of churches and their friends are asked to have a cup of tea (or coffee) and give a donation of £1 per cup. Please send contributions to Scottish Churches Housing Action, Freepost RSES-SABA-ZYJR, 44 Hanover St, Edinburgh EH2 2DR. Tel 0131 4774500; e-mail info@churches-housing.org; www.churches-housing.org

Dear Friends,

We wish you a wonderful Advent and hope that you are able to keep the Christ in Christmas! The Diocese now has a facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com and type in 'Scottish Episcopal Diocese of Argyll...' in the search box.

IN THIS EDITION

Helping the Homeless
Volunteering
Music
Christmas Gifts
Working with young folk
Walking with God
Bible study
Care of the Elderly
Press Release
Remembrance
Porvoo Communion
Contact us
Diocesan Diary
In tray

**VOLUNTEERING
BRITISH RED CROSS
Short Break Bureau**

The Short Break Bureau coordinates short breaks for carers and service users in Argyll and Bute. The service is directed towards adults and older people who have mental health issues, learning disabilities or physical disabilities. It is run in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council.

During the first six months 53 people have made use of the service.

Contact Lynda Barr, Programme Manager lbarr@redcross.org.uk 01436 672744 British Red Cross, 116 East Princes Street, Helensburgh G84 7DQ

MUSIC

LYME REGIS ORGAN SCHOOL WINTER WORKSHOP 16-18 February 2012:

The Glories of French Organ Music from 1600 to the present.

The workshop, led by Philip Scriven, includes lectures, recitals, masterclasses and personal study sessions. Participants will be able to play the new 3 manual Skrabl organ in Lyme Regis parish church, and also a Hauptwerk reproduction of the large Cavaille Coll in La Madelaine, Paris. Cost £160, not including accommodation. To obtain a leaflet, application form and further details, please contact Dr Richard Godfrey rgodfrey78@hotmail.com tel 01297 445709 or Desmond Chaffey desmond.chaffey@btinternet.com tel 01305 250528 www.lymeregisorganschool.org

ISLAND RETREATS

The College of the Holy Spirit and the Cathedral of The Isles

Music – Ancient and Modern

St Maura Enterprises announces a popular series of talks on music given by Alastair Chisholm, B Mus. At venues in Ayr, Bearsden, Largs, Millport and Rothesay. Lasting for two hours with a short interval, the talks, illustrated by recordings and at the piano, will explore a wide range of music, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern, written for instruments and/or voices in solo, group or concerted form. Part 1. **October to December 2011** – An exploration of music from the time of Mozart and Haydn to that of Verdi and Tchaikovsky. Special attention will be paid to centenary composers Liszt and Mahler. For more details and an application form contact St Maura Enterprises, c/o The College, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae KA28 0HE, 07867 802481, mauraofcumbrae@googlemail.com

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Wednesday, 28th December 3pm in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

MUSIC FROM RUSSIA

We are a small singing group (four people) from St. Petersburg, Russia. We often go on concert tours abroad and we would be happy to give concert at your venue, church or hall. Please, contact us if interested or able to help. Have a look at our web-site, please: Andrei Sysoev, LYRA vocal ensemble, St. Petersburg, Russia aasysa@gmail.com www.lyra-online.org

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

CHRISTIAN AID offers a selection of gifts to suit everyone. £9 would provide textbooks and a uniform so a child in Bangladesh can go to school and get the best possible start in life. Give a goat (£15) and you could provide a family with nutritious milk to drink, manure to fertilise their fields and young goats to sell on at market. Bees are a lifeline for farmers in Bolivia who sell the honey they produce to buy food, clothes and other essentials. And a beehive (£12) will make a very sweet gift for a friend this Christmas! Order on line or ring 0845 3300500

WORKING WITH YOUNG FOLK

Godly Play Calendar – Winter 2011

Fifth Godly Play Lecture - 1 December, Birmingham

Godly Play Scotland, Duddingston Kirk Manse, Old Church Lane, Edinburgh EH15 3PX
Tel: 07957 885930 e-mail: admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE IN SCHOOLS -

maximising its potential

Half Day Regional Seminars
Stirling - Tuesday 24th January
Ayr-Tuesday 13th March
Education is not just a feeding of the mind but a cradling of the soul. These seminars are aimed at those responsible for delivering Religious Observance in Schools eg school staff, chaplains and education officials. Contact Lauren or Gail on 0131 5561500

WALKING WITH GOD

RETREATS AVAILABLE AT THE BIELD

January

13th-15th Using Art Therapeutically
29th Through Words and Wood—a Day
with Prayer, Poetry and Trees

February

2nd Journey into Healing
7th Big Silence-Silent Day at the Bield
10th Cup of Life-Imaging your Prayer
21st-25th Called to Listen Course
22nd Ash Wednesday noon day service
www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk;
info@bieldatblackruthven.org.uk
01738 583238 The Bield at Blackruthven,
Tibbermore, Perth PH1PY

Women Walking with God

Edinburgh International Conference Centre **2-3rd March 2012**. "Known...their names were never recorded, but Jesus knew them" Speakers: Elaine Storkey, Kay Cathcart, Tania Bright-Cook Worship Leader: Lou Fellingham & Phatfish. Visit www.womenwalkingwithgod.co.uk

A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Francis and St Benedict

2nd – 8th October 2012 Led by Rt Rev A Martin Shaw with Judith Dean. The first part of this seven day itinerary sets out to delve a little into the mind of the saint by following some of the paths that he travelled along within the regions of Umbria and Lazio. This journey will bring you through some beautiful and lesser known parts of the Italian landscape. For more information please contact Bishop Martin on 07801 549615 or e-mail amartinshaw@gmail.com. Book through Pax Travel Ltd, 152-156 Kentish Town Road, London NW1 9QB Tel: 020 7485 3003 E-mail: info@paxtravel.co.uk www.paxtravel.co.uk

St Moluag Booklets

These booklets (42 pages crammed full of information and illustrations) written by Niall, Coarb of St Moluag are available from the Diocesan Office. Funds raised have kindly been donated to the Diocese.

BIBLE STUDY

Diocesan Study Group

From now onwards, meetings of the Diocesan study group will be mainly by phone conference. **You can still join in.** All you need to do is contact Alison via the Diocesan Office or by email on alison@wordsinaction.net. The text is The Books of the New Testament by Ian Boxall. The group is a chaired discussion not a taught group. However we do have theological resources both in the group and as external support.

St John's Bible Study group

The St John's Study group meets in the Lindsay Room of St John's Cathedral, Oban on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 12:00 after the mid-week communion service, finishing at 2:00pm. They are currently looking at St Paul's letter to the Colossians. All are welcome to come and join in. Tea & coffee supplied, but please bring a packed lunch. Any queries, please contact the Diocesan Office.

Handing on the Torch—Sacred words for a secular world - Lent 2012

Archbishop Sentamu, Clifford Longley and Rachel Lampard are among the distinguished contributors to the new Lent course CD from York Course. Dr David Hope introduces the course and Bishop Graham Cray provides thoughtful closing reflections on the CD. Canon Young has written the course booklet. Each of the 5 sessions offers a good selection of stimulating questions aimed at engaging every group member.

Prices: CD taster pack (CD, booklet, transcript) £17.50

Booklet: £3.75 or £3.25 each for 5 or more

CD £10.99 or £8.99 each for 2 or more

Audiotape £8.99 or £6.99 for 5 or more

Transcript £4.99 or £2.99 each for 2 or more

more

At www.yorkcourses.co.uk you can listen to soundclips and read samples.

Save online at www.yorkcourses.co.uk

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

The Future Challenges for Elderly Care Services in Scotland

Wednesday 18th January, Royal Terrace Hotel, Edinburgh

Keynote speaker Nicola Sturgeon MSP

Older people are living longer and forming a greater proportion of the population. The challenge is not whether Scotland can afford the substantial costs for the "Reshaping Care for Older People" programme but whether it can afford not to.

Contact Jane on 0131 5561500

PRESS RELEASE

THE WHEEL-A Life of Faith-A Window of Human Identity

The Wheel is a fascinating insight into a life of faith, persistence and courage. Michael's determination to become a priest, never giving up on his training, experiences in other countries and work in Africa is inspiring. Published in paperback ISBN 978-1-78003-167-5 UK £7.99

REMEMBRANCE LIGHT UP A LIFE 2011

Friends of Oban Hospice invite you to remember someone special by sponsoring the lighting of the Hospice lights for the trees sited at the Corran Halls' Gardens, Oban. Each sponsor's dedication will be recorded in the 2011 Light up a Life Book which will be on display in the Corran Halls at the "Switch On" Ceremony to be held on Tuesday 13th December 2011 at 7.30pm. Thereafter the Book can be viewed in the public library, Albany St, Oban. Forms (available from Diocesan Office) to be returned by Friday, 9th December.

PORVOO COMMUNION

Copies of the Porvoo Prayer Cycle for 2012 are now available. Contact the Diocesan Office

CONTACT US

The Bishop is based in the Diocesan Centre. (bishop@argyll.anglican.org 01631 570870) but can also be reached at home - Bishop's House, Ganavan Sands, Oban PA34 5TB (01631 562617). Please address all correspondence to the Bishop's Office, Diocesan Centre.

Sue and Audrey are usually in the office from 9.30am-2.30pm **Mon-Thurs** (01631 570870) office@argyll.anglican.org). Peter usually 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. Alison Clark will be spending some time in the Diocesan Office when not on the road. We do listen to answer-phone messages and reply as soon as we can.

The Provost is awaiting results of a biopsy taken in mid November. Otherwise, he is taking more part in Services, much helped by a new microphone.

Diocesan December Diary

Tuesday 6th December – Diocesan Board of Mission & Ministry

Tuesday 6th December – Diocesan Communications Group

Thursday 8th December – Island Retreats Ltd

IN TRAY

The January Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the **Diocesan Office**) – material to be received by Friday 16th December, 2011. Please note the early date.

Find out more about the Scottish Episcopal Church at www.scotland.anglican.org
Sign up for news about the Scottish Episcopal Church at <http://www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe>