

# Diocesan Newsletter

for

## Argyll and The Isles

No 5 February 2010

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Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your Christmas cards and greetings.  
Now it's all hands on deck preparing for Synod!

### 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 or the Dean, the Very Reverend Norman MacCallum. [ProvostOban@argyll.anglican.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@argyll.anglican.org)). Peter generally 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.

### Christian Aid Haiti Earthquake Response: Update 18/1/10

A major earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti hitting 15 km southwest of the capital just before 5pm local time on 12 January. There has been devastation on a large scale. The capital Port-au-Prince has been badly damaged, but the towns and remote areas have suffered devastation too.

The Christian Aid office in Port-au-Prince was destroyed, our staff Prosperity Raymond (Country Manager) and Abdouel Doudou (Programme Officer) were personally affected being trapped in the rubble for a number of hours. They are shaken but fortunately, they are unharmed and are now responding to the emergency.

Ninety per cent of housing in the area where the CA office is located has collapsed. Housing particularly in poorer and in slum areas is flimsy, so the overall damage of infrastructure and loss of lives is likely to be very severe.

This is a disaster that has affected every part of society including the humanitarian community.

Our staff and partners have been badly affected. The quake crushed offices and all the equipment and information in it. It is a challenging environment to work in and resources are being stretched to the limit. However, despite the circumstances, our staff is working around the clock to meet the needs of those affected as fast as possible.

At the moment, CA is sharing offices with the ACT partner Diakonia and we are using one car as the other one was flattened by the quake. This situation has made the response challenging and slower than in any other type of disaster. Food for staff is also in short supply.

We anticipate that thousands of people have lost their homes. There are many wounded. The hospitals are running out of medicines and have no access to electricity. The most pressing needs of the survivors right now are for *shelter, clean water, food and medicines*.

### What is CA doing to help?

CA launched an appeal on 13 January in response to the earthquake and quickly released £100,000 for immediate emergency relief to help those affected. Funds raised from the appeal will go to support the work of our partners in Haiti.

Christian Aid is responding to the emergency in Haiti by working with its long-standing partners in the country. At the moment, these partners are sourcing emergency relief items for distribution to more than 15,000 people in eight different locations. Whilst most of the emergency response has focused on the capital Port-au-Prince, there are hundreds of people in other areas devastated by the quake in dire need of assistance right now.

Our partners will shortly begin the distribution of the following supplies including food, tents for shelter, jerrycans for storing water, blankets and hygiene kits in these locations: Carrefour, Leogane, Petit Guave, Miragoane, Plaine du Cul de Sac Delmas.

Our partners have the capacity to reach 15,000 people in the following locations:

**Aprosifa:** 2,000 people in Carrefour Feuilles  
**Koral:** 4000 people – 3,000 in Leogane, 600 in Font National and 400 in Canape Vert  
**National Human Rights Defence Network (RNDDH):** 5,000 people in Petit Goave  
**Gramir:** 2,500 people in Miragoane  
**Garr:** Up to 2500 people – 1500 in Plaine du Cul de Sac and up to 1000 in Delmas 33

CA has partners in the Dominican Republic working to support Haitians in the DR for example Solidaridad Fronteriza a DR partner based at the northern border and the Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Service.

The Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Service sent trucks with supplies on 17th January into Port au Prince carrying a generator and fuel both which are urgently needed. Further supplies will be gathered and sent to Barahona and other collection points.

DR partners and other members of civil society are working together to ensure the response from this side is as coordinated as possible. Partners with offices at the border have offered these as bases. The Centro Bono with other organisations is currently coordinating the collection of emergency relief supplies and food to be taken to Haiti. They have a chain of warehouses and collection points and links with transportation companies to ferry this once it is possible to ship it across the border.

### **What is CA's position regarding military intervention in humanitarian operations in Haiti?**

Christian Aid welcomes the involvement of the US military in the relief effort. It is entirely logical that they should step in as they have the necessary resources close to hand. We would hope that the military forces of other nearby countries would also play a role.

In providing security for the relief effort, we would urge the US to coordinate with UN forces in Haiti, and work under the auspices of the Haitian government. We would also urge that the US military includes local agencies in the decision making process about what is needed and how distribution should take place.

Donations can be made via the internet at [www.ChristianAid.org](http://www.ChristianAid.org)

### **Update on the Episcopal Election**

The Preparatory Committee has reached the stage of interviews for some of the nominees and these will take place in early February. As a result of these, the Committee expects to be announcing a list of Candidates on 14<sup>th</sup> February. This has to comprise the names of between 3 and 5 candidates, and that is the stage at which the names become public.

Following that, the Electoral Synod will meet twice as follows:

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, to interview the candidates

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, to conduct the election

This is not a formal calling notice for those meetings, because actual arrangements cannot be made until we know the size of the Candidate List. If there are 5 candidates, the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> will need to make an early start, in order to provide time. If there are only three, a later start will be possible and more people will be able to avoid

spending the Monday night in Oban. The meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> is likely to start at about 11am.

However, a possibility is that the Preparatory Committee will not be able to announce a Candidate List (the interviews may result in fewer than three electable candidates). In that event, the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> will still take place, but is likely to be an afternoon meeting, since the business is to explain the reasons for the failure and to set a new timetable. In that event also, the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> will not take place.

For all these reasons, I would suggest that electors do not commit to firm travel arrangements at this stage.

Please continue to pray for the nominees, the Preparatory Committee and the members of Electoral Synod as they make decisions at this crucial stage of the process.

### Diocesan Synod

The normal Diocesan Synod will take place in Oban on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (this is a change of date from the one announced last year in order to reduce the number of separate meetings in Oban during March). It will be an all-day meeting, beginning with Eucharist in the Cathedral at 9am. There will be a Synod dinner the previous evening. The Formal notice of Synod will be circulated directly to members within the next week or two, but please put this date into your diary if it is not there already.

### **Diocesan Lent Appeal**

This year's appeal will be for our twin Diocese, Zanzibar. Collection Labels can be obtained from the Office if required.

The first link between the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles and the Island of Zanzibar was in the 1890's (over 100 years ago) when Bishop Chinnery Haldane ordained Samuel Schoza from Zanzibar as a deacon in Bishop's House, Iona!

More recently, after Zanzibar was detached from Tanzania and made into a separate Diocese – the smallest in the Anglican Communion (taking over from Argyll and The Isles), they became Companion Dioceses with a formal ceremony as part of a special celebratory service in Zanzibar Cathedral in January 2001 conducted by Bishop John Ramadhani and Bishop Douglas Cameron. This was attended by seven other people from Argyll on a ten day visit to the island. The Cathedral was packed, the singing uplifting and the warmth of the welcome extended very humbling. A very memorable occasion.

Today, following the sudden death of Bishop Douglas Toto (successor to Bishop John Ramadhani) about two years ago, there is no

Bishop in office due to a lack of suitably qualified clergy from whom to select one. Three priests are currently undertaking further studies in Dar es Salam and an election for a new Bishop is planned for October 2010.

Political elections are also due this year in the predominantly Muslim island (only about 3% are Christian) with the attendant apprehension concerning the possibility of civil unrest.

In the last year, a range of projects of varying sizes identified by the Diocese of Zanzibar have been supported by Argyll and The Isles. Some by Diocesan Appeals, some by individual congregations and a few by individuals. All donations have been much appreciated and put to good use such as the Cathedral School's expansion from Nursery to Primary level and the need for transport and refurbishment of additional space; the computer and photocopying services run by Mahonda Parish to earn money for the Diocese; and the building of a house for a member of the clergy team.

It is hoped that we may be able to continue supporting Zanzibar further during 2010 particularly as they approach their elections – both Episcopal and political.

*Joy Blakeney*

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

Deadlines for the next issue are Feb. 16th. for letters, articles, jokes etc. and Feb. 22nd. for reports from the charges.

### **Getting Warmer**

Some of you will have read about the York St John Christian Studies course piloted in Moray diocese. The module 'Using the Bible' can be available to start here in Argyll & the Isles in March.

It involves 10 hours of seminar time which we can organise to suit ourselves, and a fair bit of reading and thinking in between. It can be done for your own interest and growth or as a registered course for credit.

We hope to get a group started soon using a mix of face-to-face meetings and virtual conferencing by Skype or phone. We'll fix dates to suit so the sooner you get in touch to express interest the better.

Get in touch if you want to know more about it. The cost is not more than £50 and possibly less if you don't wish to register for credits. Some help may be available from the diocese towards the cost.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn together. Some of the Moray folk had not done any

studying for a long time but their confidence grew quickly and they're coming back for more! Contact Alison Clark on 01700 500489 or info@wordsinaction.net

### **Learning Opportunities**

Don't bin it yet! We get so much stuff in the post or by email – easy to overlook something exciting. If there's an interesting meeting or conference out there, why not consider attending? Even if we did have the resources to run lots of courses and conferences, it would be daft to duplicate what's already going on. Have a look at these and get in touch to discuss whether the diocese can subsidise the cost.

### **Cathedral of the Isles, Cumbrae**

On Monday, **1<sup>st</sup> February** at 4pm, a service of music and readings for **Candlemas Eve** will be held at The Cathedral of The Isles. Readings will be given by members of the island's churches and well known hymns will be included. All are welcome.

### **Homeless Action Week**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010.** The theme for this year is, "Enough for All". During this week and particularly on Homeless Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> Jan) and Poverty Action Sunday (7<sup>th</sup> Feb), Churches and associated organisations throughout Scotland will be holding special services. Further information from [www.actionweek.org.uk](http://www.actionweek.org.uk); or the Scottish Episcopal rep Joe Cassidy at [joe.cassidy@tesco.net](mailto:joe.cassidy@tesco.net) or 'phone 0777 4432740

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

**If Candlemas Day be fair an' fine...**

1 February - 7:00pm

**Grasping Nettles: Mission impossible?**

3 February - 5:30pm

**The Angel's Question: A Lenten Retreat**

2 March 5:00pm - 4 March 5:00pm

**Grasping Nettles: What Motivates our Politicians?**

3 March - 5:30pm

**All the Way from Plough to Plate**

10 March - 6:00pm - 8:30pm

**Interfaith Sacred Stories**

24 March - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

### **Alpha Scotland**

There will be an Alpha Scotland Vision Day – Let's Make Jesus the Talk of Scotland 2010 - on

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February** at St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh. Visit [thetalkofscotland.org](http://thetalkofscotland.org) or ring 0141 332 0051

### **2010 Middle East Festival One World Peace Concert**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February** A charity Fundraising Concert for the Middle East Festival and Reel Festivals. Roxy Art House, 2 Roxburgh Place, Edinburgh EH8 9SU 7pm – 11pm Performers include Waa Sylla; Samba Sene and Diwan; GOL and Babylon Arabic Band. Book at Tickets Scotland Ltd, 127 Rose St, Edinburgh EH2 3DT; 0131 220 3234; [www.tickets-scotland.com](http://www.tickets-scotland.com)

### **Families Today: Where are we now?**

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2010** McDonald Conference Centre, 95 McDonald Rd, Edinburgh. This is a one day conference looking at issues facing today's families. What do we mean by 'family' today? What issues face families in Scotland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? What responses can we make to these issues? Practitioners, policy makers and academics will consider these key questions. Book at [www.crfr.ac.uk/events/familiesbook.html](http://www.crfr.ac.uk/events/familiesbook.html)

### **The Scottish Episcopal Church Rural Commission in association with the ACTS Rural Group**

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2010** at St John's, Inverness 10.40-16.00

The programme has been driven by the key issues which emerged from the initial conference in December. These include growth in numbers in rural charges; climate change affecting land use; an increasing scarcity of energy; ministry training and electronic communication. Contact Mrs N Higgott [office@moray.anglican.org](mailto:office@moray.anglican.org)

### **Scottish Churches National Sponsoring Body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010** "Getting to Know You" The programme includes "Traditions in Conversation" with Rt Rev Brian Smith amongst others. Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Contact Rev Lindsey Sanderson 01259 222361/o7527 433460 [lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org](mailto:lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org)

### **Banking on Justice - Churches investing for a fairer future**

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March** 10-16.30 St George's West Church, Edinburgh. Further information from [www.eccr.org.uk](http://www.eccr.org.uk); Helen Boothroyd 01325 580028, Sheena Cowan 0131 240 2267; [Helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk](mailto:Helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk); [SCowan@COFSCOTLAND.ORG](mailto:SCowan@COFSCOTLAND.ORG). UK

### **'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

**Mothers' Union Make a Mother's Day campaign** offers ethical gifts which help family carers through some of the most challenging difficulties. This year the challenge is to meet greater needs amid the recession. Catalogues available from Mothers' Union's office or on-line from [www.makeamothersday.org](http://www.makeamothersday.org)

### **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.

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

### **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.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> March-12<sup>th</sup> March. There is still room on the Easter week, a seven night stay arrival 30<sup>th</sup> March. Then there are rooms free in August, seven nights, arrival 21<sup>st</sup> August and in the autumn arrival 25<sup>th</sup> September also for seven nights. For further information contact the Warden at [www.iona@island-retreats.org](mailto:www.iona@island-retreats.org)

### **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.

### **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](mailto:energyassistancepackage@ess.org.uk)

<p><b>The March Newsletter</b> (Please remember to send information to the <b>Diocesan Office</b>) – material to be received by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010</p>
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### **Diocesan February Diary**

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February* - Preparatory Committee