



Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 42**

July 2009

**The Pines, Ardconnel Road, Oban,
Argyll PA34 5DR.
alexandermartin.shaw@virgin.net
Home: 01631 566912 Office: 01631 570870
Mobile: 07801 549615
Website: www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk**

Dear Friends,

In a recent copy of the Church Times, I read about a 75 year old priest in France, who asked to use a local parish church for weekly services for Anglicans who have settled in the neighbourhood. Having looked through the telephone book for English names, he then sent them letters about Sunday Eucharists. His congregation began at 50 and then has risen since then. On 27th September, is 'Back to Church Sunday', a renewal process in which most of the Scottish Episcopal Church is participating, including our own Diocese. Admittedly, looking through telephone books for Anglicans is not going to be of too much help in our Diocese. However, you can consider doing a little research as to Episcopalians who have been members of your congregation and, for whatever reason, are somehow no longer associated. Further, you can ask those whom you know in various areas of your congregation's district, whether they know of Anglicans. Draw up a list and then, most importantly, pray for them. With your vestry and members of the congregation, invite them to Church on that Sunday. And why stop at Anglicans? You don't have to put on anything special by way of liturgy. Ensure that what you do, you do as best as you are able with the resources you have. 'Make your church more inviting' [MYCMI] Many of the congregations of this Diocese, in my experience, are superb at hospitality: shared

meals, engaging in social events together; going to local [and reasonably cheap] restaurants following the liturgy. On Back to Church Sunday, if only half our membership in this Diocese invited just one person to Church that Sunday, our Diocesan profile would look very different, very quickly!

Christ is summoning us to deepen His Call to people to express his love for others and to celebrate that love in worship. I ask you to give as much attention in each congregation to this process as you can. If you need help and further advice, please get in touch with Catriona Beel 01546 602082 or catriona08@btinternet.com

I would find it helpful to know if you have found this Newsletter helpful. Whoever succeeds me may find it useful to know what has and what has not been useful. If you cannot make direct use of the resources offered below, what you can do is use them as stimuli for prayer and intercession.

My retirement day is September 22nd. Elspeth and I will be leaving for Exeter probably on 25th September, to live in a small house in Russell Terrace not far from the Cathedral.

Congratulations to David Fuller, the Lay Leader of St Columba's Gruline, for achieving his degree at Aberdeen University in Theology. This is a culmination of hard work achieved through 'distance learning'. If any one is inspired to take up David's example or indeed to seek his support in further learning, do not hesitate to get in touch with him. If you wish to do so, then please contact me. Congratulations David!

Audrey Walton. Many of you have come to know and indeed to rely on the efficiency and the warmth of Audrey who has been working as secretary for me over the last five years. Audrey leaves the Diocesan Staff at the end of this month, for family and educational reasons. I have come to depend on her enormously. On behalf of all of you in the Diocese, I thank her for her hard work, her insights and support. We wish her and her family well.

GLEN '09 Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Weeks 2009 at **Glenalmond College, Perthshire. Week 1 (Sunday 2nd - Saturday 8th August). Week 2 (Sunday 9th - Saturday 15th August).**

These weeks are important and successful resources for young people and are open to anyone in secondary education up to 18 years old. For more details contact The Right Reverend Mark Strange of the Provincial Youth Network (PYN) on revmarkstrange@btinternet.com

Download the application form from www.scotland.anglican.org

Please make sure that this information is made available to young people in your charge. You can also contact Sue Pollard our own Diocesan Youth Officer at office@argyll.anglican.org or on 01631 570870.

Sunday 28th June. 8.05am BBC Radio 4 – Bishop Martin presents a programme on the spirituality of Simone Weil (Repeat).

1.30pm St John's Cathedral, Oban. The Ordination to the Diaconate of Joyce Watson.

DIOCESAN RETREAT. November 2nd – 6th. 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

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

Sea Sunday July 12th. You will be aware of the vital role that seafarers play in bringing us so many of our daily needs. Sea Sunday is designed to raise the awareness of the Church to the care given seafarers on behalf of the Church; to seek the prayers and practical support for this ministry. If you would like to receive the pack to guide you in preparation for 12th July, please email secgen@missiontoseafarers.org

'Homecoming' Gaelic Eucharist. 3.00pm Sunday 19th July. St John's Ballachulish.

Conducted by the Very Rev'd Emsley Nimmo. Music: The Taynuilt Gaelic Choir. Speakers: Professor Allan Mabinnes and Alistair Campbell. For more information: email – auchy.christie@btinternet.com

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

Leo's available dates are: Saturday 11th, 18th July; Saturday 22nd, 29th August. Monday 13th July, or the week of 24th August.

The Tenth Duke of Argyll, Sir Niall Campbell. On Thursday August 20th, 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 60th 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 26th 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 20th Century found itself working hard to uphold Catholic teaching in the Anglican Church. All are welcome to this Eucharist.

Homelessness. You may have seen on the television items about television stars who 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 are staging a conference on Homelessness on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th 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 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 or call 029 2081 0800.

Contact with the Elderly. I am aware of the fact, that many elderly people in this Diocese are cared for to a very high standard indeed and have excellent family and church

support. Thank you for that work and that love. However, there are elderly people who are largely isolated who can so easily 'slip through the caring net'. Because of the need for appropriate training and authorisation for this work, perhaps your congregation might consider seeking the help and advice of 'Contact the Elderly'? Generally, they ask that you commit yourself to two hours of your time once a month. You can change peoples' lives! www.contact-the-elderly.org or Freephone 0800 716543. The Scottish contact is Caroline Learmonth 0141 812 5744.

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 31st 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

Swine 'Flu.

You will know by now, that Swine 'Flu' has been officially designated a pandemic. Please ensure that you keep in touch with the various links and broadcast news items on this issue. In particular see website www.nhs24.com or call 0800 151 3513.

The Provost of St John's Cathedral has issued some guidelines for the congregation, which you might find helpful. If you are interested, please contact The Very Rev'd Norman MacCallum on 01631 562323 or email ProvostOban@argyll.anglican.org

Palestinian Christians and the challenges of today, 22nd July - 2nd of August.

The Sabeel Young Adults Conference 2009 aims to bring together young Palestinians and young Internationals to learn together and be equipped to promote justice and peace for all in the Holy Land. If you know of anyone between the ages of 18 and 30 who you feel you would like to nominate to attend please get in touch with the office

through this website www.friendsofsabeel.org or get in touch with Jennifer Oldershaw 01453 544655 Bursaries of up to £250 are available.

THE BISHOP'S July Diary

Friday 3rd July. Hosting the College of Bishops Meeting and Dinner in Oban.

Saturday 4th July. Glenalmond College Commemoration Day.

Sunday 5th July. St John's Cathedral, Oban.

Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th July. St Margaret's Whiting Bay. (Including Congregational Review)

Tuesday 14th July. 10.30am Diocesan Standing Committee. (With Provincial Reps in attendance)

Wednesday 15th July Blairmore, Dunoon.

Wednesday 15th to Saturday 17th July. Southern Cathedrals Festival...preaching. (Salisbury)

Sunday 19th July. St John's Ballchulish Homecoming Service.

Tuesday 21st July to Thursday 23rd July. Eigg.

Sunday 26th July. Kinlochmoidart.

<p>The August Newsletter – material to be received by Friday 24th. July. 2009</p>

gospel message without casting pearls before swine, is indeed a narrow way.

From 'The Cost of Discipleship' – Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

+Martin

*Bishop of Argyll and The Isles
June 25th 2009.*

Reflection for July.

The path of discipleship is narrow, and it is fatally easy to miss one's way and stray from the path, even after years of discipleship. And it is hard to find. On either side of the narrow path deep chasms yawn. To be called to a life of extraordinary quality, to live up to it, and yet to be conscious of it is indeed a narrow way. To confess and testify to the truth as it is in Jesus, and at the same time to love the enemies of that truth, his enemies and ours, and to love them with the infinite love of Jesus Christ, is indeed a narrow way. To believe the promise of Jesus that his followers shall possess the earth, and at the same time to face our enemies unarmed and defenceless, preferring to incur injustice rather than to do wrong ourselves, is indeed a narrow way. To see the weakness and wrong in others, and at the same time refrain from judging them; to deliver the

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