



## Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll  
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 29**

**June 2008**

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Dear Friends,

One of the features of The Lambeth Conference 2008 will be a discussion on "An Anglican Covenant". I would ask all our charges to read the draft text which you can find on the internet: "An Anglican Covenant Saint Andrew's Draft Text". You will find the text on the website of The Anglican Communion. Each Diocese throughout The Communion will be asked to give its response to the Covenant based on a series of questions which will be published shortly. These questions will be determined by the June General Synod in Edinburgh. The word "Covenant" has many meanings. Basically these meanings fall into two brackets, both of which are based on lasting relationships. The sacred meaning of the word relates to the grace-filled relation between God and his people. The word can also mean a promised agreement between two people or indeed several groups or organisations. There are those who have already found themselves disagreeing with the use of the word "Covenant" which in their view is simply a means of holding a discipline with particular regard to those who may choose to take a seriously different direction from the rest of the body. Others regard the crisis that The Anglican Communion is facing as an opportunity to reclaim the God given unity of The Communion while respecting each Provinces autonomy.

I would be grateful if you would give me your response as individuals to The Covenant. (The text of The Covenant is also available as a PDF document. However if you are unable to access the text I would be glad to send you one.)

Of the many crises that the world faces two in particular are challenges to Christians it seems to me. Both of them of course are related: namely the disasters in Burma and China and the increasing frailty of international finance and commodities. Over the next few months and years I suspect we will all have to face a considerable change in our lifestyle and work. Please keep your eyes and ears open for articles and books on the issue of lifestyle and Christian spirituality. I have a series of books on this subject if you wish a recommendation please get in touch with me.

### **Diocesan Magazine – deadline!**

I would be grateful if all charges and individuals who have articles for our next magazine would send to (by email if possible) to my office email ([bishop@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@argyll.anglican.org)) by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Pre-Lambeth Bishops Visit To This Diocese** –A warm thanks to all of the congregations in the Diocese who gave generously towards the funding of the Pre-Lambeth visit. This generosity included the organisation of concerts, lunches, talks and a quiz. The Four Bishops coming to this Diocese are: The Rt Rev'd Perumalla Surya, Bishop of Karimnagar, India and his wife Hitha; The Rt Rev'd Mdimi Mhogolo, Bishop of Central Tanganyika and his wife Irene; The Most Rev'd Brown Turei, Archbishop of Aotearoa and his wife Mihi and The Rt Rev'd Wayne Wright, Bishop of Delaware and his wife Holly. They are all arriving at The Cathedral on Cumbrae where there will be a Festival Evensong at on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July.

On Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> they will have a visit to Inveraray Castle from where they will go to their hosts. On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop Wayne will preach in The Cathedral in Oban (10.15am). Bishop Surry will preach at St Adamnan's Duror (10.15am). Bishop Mimi will preach at Holy Trinity, Dunoon (10.30am) and Archbishop Brown will preach at St Kieran's, Campbeltown (10.45am). **All are welcome.** On Sunday afternoon at 4pm some of the Bishops will be joining a party on David Ainsley's Sea-Life adventure boat.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July – There will be an introduction to our Diocese for the Bishops and their wives at The Diocesan Centre (11am). All are welcome to this event which will include talks and a light lunch. Please let The Diocesan Centre staff know if you are coming (for catering purposes). In the afternoon there is a visit to Lismore to view The Bachuil (St Moluag's staff). In the evening there will be a Ceilidh at Kentallen Village Hall (6.30pm) There are a few spaces for the ceilidh left. Please get in touch with Beth Connolly 01631 740248 if you would like to come.

#### **House for holiday let –**

To help offset the cost of Elspeth's and my going to Lambeth and entertaining overseas Bishops in the Diocese prior to the conference, we are letting the Bishop's house (The Pines) for two weeks from the 20<sup>th</sup> of July at less than commercial rates to friends and family. The three-bedroomed house has wonderful views over Oban Bay to Mull. If either you or your friends are interested please contact the staff at the Diocesan Office.

#### **Rural Ministry Course – 4-6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008**

This, of course, is a very rural Diocese. The future shape of its Ministry and indeed of The Church as a whole is a challenging one for us. I am inviting members of the Diocese to think seriously about attending this course not only for your own charges but also for the Diocese as a whole.

The course will be held at The Arthur Rank Centre in Warwickshire. If you are interested in going I would be able to help with some of the funding. Please get in touch with me.

#### **Lambeth 2008 –**

In fact there are two conferences: one for the Bishops spouses and the other for the Bishops themselves. Of course they will come together on several occasions during the period the 16<sup>th</sup> of July until the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. Features of the spouses conference include: the Bishops spouses individual life, married life and family life; some workshops on spiritual and physical health and peacemaking. The Bishops conference will include a retreat along with the spouses; Anglican identity and being a Bishop; evangelism; social justice; creation and care of the environment; interfaith issues; the Bishop and Mission; human sexuality; The Anglican Covenant. Both conferences will of course have a strong element of worship and prayer. **Please ensure that you include the conference in your intercessions.**

#### **Confirmation –**

During the spring and summer I would ask as many charges as possible to think of those who perhaps are in your congregations or maybe have lost touch with The Church for whom confirmation may be an important entry or re-entry into their Christian lives. For example does your charge do a little work on who may be Anglicans (if only in name) and may appreciate contact with you. The publishers Kevin Mayhew have produced a very attractive confirmation programme written by Susan Sayers ("The Confirmation Experience") The books that accompany the course are differently organised depending on age-groups. If you are interested in knowing more please get in touch with me or looking at the website [www.kevinmayhew.com](http://www.kevinmayhew.com)

### **Request for hymn books –**

St Columba's Portree are looking for 20-30 copies of Ancient and Modern hymns (7<sup>th</sup> impression 1985, publ. 1983). If you have any of these spare please contact Rev'd Robert Breden on 01478 613135 email [ateallach@aol.com](mailto:ateallach@aol.com)

### **Retreats and workshops – Cumbrae**

8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June. Celtic Retreat with Helen Hamilton the warden. Calligraphy, Poetry and Artwork.

28<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> July. Art Break (Catherine Drain) –watercolours and drawing for beginners and intermediate (£145)

5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August. Prayer Retreat (The Warden – Helen Hamilton) – St John's Gospel and looking at different types of prayer in the modern world.

17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August. The Bute Connection (Visits to Mount Stuart and a trip on The Waverly).

25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August – Music Break.

18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September – Photography Break.

26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September – Yoga.

For further retreats see the website [www.island-retreats.org](http://www.island-retreats.org)

For further details and bookings contact the warden at 01475 530353 or [tccumbrae@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:tccumbrae@argyll.anglican.org)

### **The Liturgy of the administration of Holy Communion – (by a Deacon or Lay Person)**

The Provincial Liturgical Committee has produced a short paper of guidance about the conduct of this Liturgy in conjunction with the mustard-coloured booklet which is the agreed usage by The SEC. All those charges which use this Liturgy frequently I would ask to get in touch with me and I will send you the relevant paper.

### **J.Philip Newell –**

Philip as many of you know is a long-time friend of this Diocese and worked closely with Bishop Douglas Cameron. He has written many books on Celtic Spirituality.

His next publication will be "Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation". He has opened an excellent website under his own name which includes information about events, suggestions for reading etc.

### **The Royal School of Church Music –**

I have been very impressed by the way in which some of our charges which do not have ready access to organists or pianists nevertheless with the help of technology ensure good Liturgical music for hymns, psalms and Eucharist setting. As many of you know we have nevertheless outstanding musicians scattered throughout the Diocese who would be willing to give advice and support. If you are looking for some help with music then do let me know and I will make the necessary connections.

The RSCM has an exciting summer programme in Scotland. On Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June in St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow there will be a day on Choral Singing. From the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of July based at Dunblane Cathedral there will be a four day singing and fellowship event. For more information see the website [www.rscmscotland.org](http://www.rscmscotland.org)

### **Hymn Books, Bibles and Prayer Books –**

If you are looking for used copies of the above or are wishing to hand them on please do get in touch with Peter Reynolds, 15 MacKay Square, Dingwall, O1349 864711.

### **Diocesan Retreat 2008 (27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> Oct)**

Next years Diocesan Retreat will take place as usual on Cumbrae. The retreat conductor will be The Reverend Canon Brian Hardy. The cost of the retreat will be £160 and £50 a day for those who can only come for part of the time. Contact [tccumbrae@argyll.anglican.org](mailto:tccumbrae@argyll.anglican.org) or telephone 01475 530353.

### **The Diocesan Website –**

[www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk](http://www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk)

Please remember if you have any information or changes to make please contact Hazel Morris directly at

[Hazel@sitemaker1.com](mailto:Hazel@sitemaker1.com)

Or by telephoning 01680 300343. If Hazel is unavailable please contact Audrey Walton at The Diocesan Office.

Please remember that the newsletter and the magazine are available on the publications page of the website.

### **Glen O8 –**

Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Weeks 2008 are being held again at Glenalmond College, Perthshire – Week 1 (Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> August), Week 2 (Sun 10<sup>th</sup> – Sat 16<sup>th</sup> August).

The College is set in magnificent grounds about 10 miles from Perth. Each year in August, young people and leaders from all over Scotland gather together for six days – an action packed holiday week with a difference. The weeks are open to anyone in secondary education, up to and including July 2008; also those under 18 years old who have left fulltime education. You must be sponsored by your local congregation. For more information please contact Sue Pollard 01631 770342

[susannpollard@btinternet.com](mailto:susannpollard@btinternet.com)

### **THE BISHOP'S JUNE DIARY**

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> May – Sun 1<sup>st</sup> – Assisi Pilgrimage (Bishop Martin and Elspeth on holiday until the 9<sup>th</sup> of June)

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> – 7.30-8.30pm Vigil of Prayer for The Lambeth Conference, St John's Cathedral, Oban.

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> – Chapter telephone conference 2pm.

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> General Synod, Edinburgh.

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> – Christchurch, Lochgilphead and St Columba's Portalloch

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with representatives of The West Highland Region at St Mary's Glencoe – 6pm.

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> - College of Bishops and Roman Catholic Bishops meeting, Glasgow.

Wed 18<sup>th</sup>- Fri 20<sup>th</sup> – The Friends of Bishop's House, Iona AGM

Sat 21<sup>st</sup>-Fri 27<sup>th</sup> – Leading a workshop: "The Marks of Christian Spirituality" at Iona Abbey.

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> and Mon 30<sup>th</sup> – Day of Prayer at The Cathedral on Cumbrae

**The July Newsletter – material to be received by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June.**

### **Reflection.**

#### **From the Draft Anglican Covenant.**

*(For some years, 'The Five Marks of Mission' have been at the forefront of thinking on the Church's Mission. This, in fact will be the title of the Provincial Conference of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 2009. The Draft Covenant has made 'The Five Marks' an important fulcrum for its statement on the importance of Mission.)*

#### **"Each Church of the Communion commits itself:**

to answer God's call to evangelisation and to share in his healing and reconciling mission for our blessed but broken, hurting and fallen world, and, with mutual accountability, to share our God-given spiritual and material resources in this task.

In this mission, which is the Mission of Christ, each Church undertakes:

The Five Marks of Mission....to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God; to teach, baptize and nurture new believers; to respond to human need by loving service; to seek to transform unjust structures of society; to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth."

**In the love of God, +Martin, Oban**