

Diocesan Newsletter

for

Argyll and The Isles

No 6 March 2010

St Moluag's Diocesan Centre, Croft Ave, Oban,
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Dear Friends,

I hope that most of you have survived these continued cold snaps without too much damage. Our thoughts go out to those who have suffered and those whose homes have been damaged. We look forward to catching up with many of you over 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 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 is in sunnier climes just now 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

As readers have probably gathered, the Preparatory Committee was not able to produce a list of between three and five candidates by the required date. It had carried out all its tasks, but at the end, it did not have a list of the required size. A report will be made to the Electoral Synod on the implications on March 16th, but meantime the Preparatory Committee is seeking further nominations, with a view to producing a List of Candidates to present to the Electoral Synod in mid-April. The Canon does not allow the process to be spun out indefinitely, so the timescale for the next stage is compressed.

If any member of the Diocese wishes to make a further nomination (there is no need to re-nominate individuals already nominated), they should do so using the form on the Diocesan website or from the Centre by Friday 12th March.

Diocesan Synod

The normal Diocesan Synod, an all-day meeting, will take place in Oban on **Wednesday 17th 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 constituted at Eucharist in the Cathedral at 5pm on **Tuesday, 16th March** which will be followed by the Synod dinner. The Formal notice of Synod has been circulated directly to members and the papers will arrive very soon.

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

Back to Church Sunday

Two Scottish launch events for Back to Church Sunday are being held on **Monday 1st March** in Edinburgh and **Tuesday 2nd March** in Aberdeen. Full information is available at [http://www.acts-scotland.org/administrator/index.php?option=com_content§ionid=-1&task=edit&cid\[\]=318](http://www.acts-scotland.org/administrator/index.php?option=com_content§ionid=-1&task=edit&cid[]=318)

Please email with your name and choice of venue if you want to attend. Direct: 01259 222361; Mobile: 07527 433460; lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org; www.acts-scotland.org

Scottish Churches National Sponsoring Body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Saturday, 13th 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 222361/07527 433460 lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org

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’ is 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.

A group is starting using a mix of face-to-face meetings and virtual conferencing by Skype or phone. The first meeting is face to face at the Diocesan Centre on **Saturday, 27th March**. 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

Scottish Churches House, Dunblane

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

Grasping Nettles: How will our children have faith? 7 April - 5:30pm

Ancient (Celtic) Gifts for Modern Time 9 – 11 April

Second Nature Creative writing workshop with Kenneth Steven 13 April

In the Mirror of Cartography with Alastair Hulbert 16 - 18 April

‘A two-edged sword’ with Jan Sutch Pickard 21 - 22 April

Booking: Email reservations@scottishchurcheshouse.org or call 01786 823588.

Banking on Justice - Churches investing for a fairer future

Thursday, 18th March 10-16.30 St George's West Church, Edinburgh. Further information from www.eccr.org.uk; Helen Boothroyd 01325 580028, Sheena Cowan 0131 240 2267; Helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk; SCowan@cofscotland.org.uk

ACTS newsletter

The latest issue of the ACTS newsletter is now available from the ACTS website www.acts-scotland.org This issue welcomes ACTS new Racial Justice Officer, Rev Dr Francis Alao who previously worked for Heart for the City. The Rural Churches ask for volunteers for the Royal Highland Show, particularly from those who enjoy engaging in conversation with people and would be happy to stop and chat to those who call at the stand. If anyone would like a copy by post or would like to be added to the mailing list, removed from the mailing list, or would like to include something for the next issue in April, please be in touch. Direct: 01259 222361; Mobile: 07527 433460; lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org; www.acts-scotland.org

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

Banking on Justice - Churches investing for a fairer future. St George's West Church, Edinburgh
Thursday, March 18th 10am-4.30pm. For more information and to book: www.eccr.org.uk/module-htmlpages-display-pid-76.html

Eco-Congregation Scotland – Annual Gathering
Saturday, March 20th 10am at Stirling Baptist Church, 67 Murray Place, Stirling FK8 1AU. The theme of our 2010 Annual Gathering is to consider the challenge the profound issues that climate change and our continued exploitation of the earth's resources raises for Christians and how we can lead the change all of society needs to make to survive this challenge. Register now to participate in the event, by contacting Anikó Schuetz at aschuetz@cofscotland.org.uk or 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN.

'Love and Healing: The Spirituality of Counselling and Pastoral Care'

April 12th-16th, 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

SRT @40: Helping the church engage with ethical issues in science; A conference marking 40 years of the Society, Religion and Technology Project.
Saturday, 1st May 10am-4pm City Chambers, Edinburgh. For more information and to book: Murdo MacDonald
mmacdonald@cofscotland.org.uk

The Domestic Abuse Strategy in Scotland: 10 years on – What's been achieved? What's still to be done? One day conference **Wednesday 28th April**, Edinburgh. For more information contact Jane on 0131 556 1500, www.mackayhannah.com

The College of the Holy Spirit, Cumbrae

Future events include:

Workshop on Eucharistic Presidency - **Monday 3rd-Thursday 6th 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 17th – Thursday 20th 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 17th – 19th 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; www.island-retreats.org

Fr Laurence Freeman, OC, OSB

Wednesday, 26th 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 Dalai 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

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: 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 or 0141 332 6343.

APSE (Association of Pastoral Supervisors & Educators) Annual Conference 2010
Supervising with Spirit 24th June Nottingham Gateway Hotel. Keynote speaker: Robin Shoet. Further information and to book Rev Martin Kerry APSE Treasurer, 3 Forester Rd, Nottingham NG3 6LP conference@pastoral-supervision.org.uk ; www.pastoralsupervision.org.uk

Pilgrimage to Assisi to celebrate the Feast of St Francis with Bishop Martin Shaw Sunday 3rd - Sunday 10th October (2nd-10th from Scotland)
This pilgrimage offers an insight into the life and message of St Francis by offering experience, challenge and reflection; as well as delight in each other's company and, of course, restoration. Four key factors in Francis' own experience you can share in directly: the beauty of Assisi itself and its creative and troubled history that deepens the understanding of Europe's present challenges; the power of the Crucifix that spoke to Francis' heart directly about the demands of Love; how simplicity challenged and continues to challenge (as well as delight) men and women throughout the world; Christianity is about joy and living as fully in each moment as possible. For general information, questions about tours or just to request a brochure or group pack, please get in contact with us: 020 7485 3003 *Email:* info@paxtravel.co.uk *Mail:* 152-156 Kentish Town Road, LONDON, NW1 9QB

Inspires Online

You may be aware that the Information & Communication Board has decided to make the printed magazine of the Scottish Episcopal Church (Inspires) a quarterly publication, thus reducing it from 10 times a year to 4 times a year.

This will be supplemented by an online newsletter. The initial expectation is that this newsletter (Inspires Online) will come out monthly. This will contain more up to date news than the printed magazine has been able to do and it is hoped that it will go some way to solving a problem that some have perceived in our church, of it being difficult to get news flowing around the Province. The two publications will have different content, the online one focussing more on time sensitive news and the print one on articles reflecting the life of our church.

The first edition of the online newsletter has now been sent out. All clergy whose e-mail addresses are known to the General Synod Office have been signed up to receive it. (If you don't wish to receive

it, there is an unsubscribe link on every issue of the newsletter).

However, this publication is for our whole church, not just for clergy. If people who have not been signed up already wish to receive this newsletter, then they need to go to <http://www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe> and fill out the simple form there.

I would appreciate any help you can give in getting this information out. It could be included in congregational/diocesan publications, websites, blogs, notices in church, service sheets etc.

I hope that this new communication tool will be useful and would like to thank those who have been working on it, including particularly Lorna Finley, the Provincial Communications Officer. Feedback is always welcome, either to me directly at provost@thecathedral.org.uk `<javascript:location.href=>` or to Lorna at press@scotland.anglican.org `<javascript:location.href=>`

KELVIN HOLDSWORTH, Convener - Information and Communication Board

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. 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.

Scottish Bible Society There are more than 52 million young people in Vietnam and simply not enough Bibles to go round!

Although Church life in communist Vietnam is still controlled, persecution is thankfully a thing of the past. There are now more than 52 million Vietnamese under the age of 25 and many have grown up without a church background. The Scottish Bible Society plans to help the churches in Vietnam, which are growing rapidly yet lack the basic tool, the Bible! Elaine Duncan, CEO of the Scottish Bible Society, has recently returned from Vietnam where she met

a number of key people and one particular churchgoer named 'Thi', who had suffered terribly during the time of persecution - what a story she had to tell...Find out more at www.scottishbiblesociety.org

CPAS launches leadership podcasts with Graham Cray interview A new series of podcasts is being launched by Anglican evangelical mission agency CPAS, to broadcast inspiring and challenging points of view on church leadership. The Rt Rev Graham Cray, team leader of Fresh Expressions, is the first guest to be interviewed for the CPAS *Leadership Insights* podcast and he will be followed by a range of people discussing their experiences of leadership in varied contexts, as well as looking at role models, encouragements and challenges. For the full interview, go to www.cpas.org.uk/podcasts. Future editions will feature the Rt Rev Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden, and the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading.

For further information please contact Olly Du Croz on 01926 458443 or oducroz@cpas.org.uk. CPAS website (www.cpas.org.uk)

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.

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

<p>The April Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received by Monday 22nd March 2010</p>

Diocesan March Diary

Tuesday 16th March - 2.30pm Electoral Synod

Tuesday 16th March - 5.00pm Synod Eucharist

Tuesday 16th March - 7.30pm Synod Dinner

Wednesday 17th March – 9.00am Diocesan Synod

Tuesday 23rd March - 10.30am Finance Committee

Saturday 27th March - 10.00am Christian Studies