



Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 28**

May 2008

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Dear Friends,

I have had several conversations around the Diocese about the need for basic teaching in Christian belief. There are many ways of approaching the answer to this. However I strongly recommend for your spring and summer reading a short and beautiful book by Rowan Williams the Archbishop of Canterbury: "Tokens of Trust – an Introduction to Christian Belief" – published by Canterbury Press at £9.99. +Rowan looks at significant questions such as whether God can be trusted, the nature of Christian love; who is Jesus Christ and what are the practical implications of our belief. He also examines simply and carefully the nature of The Church: "...a community gathered into one because it prays Jesus' prayer and is fed by his life and power; a community in which all are equal because everyone is equally an undeserving and surprising guest; and so a community that displays God's freedom in loving and forgiving, and is at peace with creation as well as Creator." The book is beautifully illustrated and a pleasure to handle as well as to read!

As I write this letter along with most people I have little sense of how deep the crisis will be with regard to fuel and food. Of course Christians will feel the demand to respond to those who are suffering most in the World as a result, but given the cost of fuel particularly among island communities in our Diocese perhaps

awareness of the needs of "the neighbour" will be felt deeply.

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) by Monday 9th of June.

Lambeth 2008 –

Prior to Lambeth, the Diocese will be visited by Bishops from overseas, and hosted with people in the Diocese. The Diocese has to raise about £1,500 towards the costs of hosting our visitors and paying for their travel to and from Glasgow. To help with this fundraising the Provost of The Cathedral in Oban and his wife Barbara will hold "Soup and Cheese Lunches" in the Rectory on four Fridays in May (2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd). Lunch is at 12.30pm and will be followed by coffee and a short discussion from 1.15pm-2pm when we will look at some of the issues to be discussed at Lambeth. Donations will be to the Pre-Lambeth Hospitality Appeal. Even though you might not manage to stay for the discussion, you will still be very welcome at the lunches themselves.

On Thursdays in May The Mothers Union will be serving coffees to visitors to St John's Cathedral in Oban also in aid of Pre-Lambeth hospitality.

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 20th 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 friend are interested please contact Elspeth Shaw on 01631 566912 or alexandermartin.shaw@virgin.net

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

Zanzibar –

I have received a letter from the Zanzibar Diocesan Office concerning Christ Church Cathedral. The Christian Engineering in Development Fund has now completed its structural investigation of the cathedral which is in a serious condition. The next stage of raising necessary resources for its restoration has now started. Please ensure that you keep Christ Church Cathedral regularly in your Sunday Intercessions.

Sacristans’ Workshop – St John’s Cathedral, Oban Saturday May 10th 2-4.30pm.

The Verger and Sacristan at St John’s Cathedral, Lindsay Campbell will lead a workshop for sacristans, aspiring sacristans and others fulfilling a similar role, briefly exploring the handling and preparation (by the laity) of the various sacred articles and texts used in worship. Places are limited so please let Lindsay know if you are able to attend. For further details or to book a place please contact Lindsay Campbell, “Merle”, Kilmore, By Oban, Argyll, PA34 4XX

Retreats and workshops – Cumbrae

9th-11th May Pentecost. A series of talks culminating in our Patronal festival. (£100)
8th-13th June. Celtic Retreat with Helen Hamilton the warden. Calligraphy, Poetry and Artwork.

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

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

For further retreats see the website www.island-retreats.org

For further details and bookings contact the warden at 01475 530353 or tcumbrae@argyll.anglican.org

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 spring and summer programme in Scotland. On Saturday the 24th of May the famous Chamber Choir; “The Sixteen” are doing a Choral Workshop in Edinburgh. On Saturday the 7th of June in St Mary’s Cathedral, Glasgow there will be a day on Choral Singing. From the 14th to the 17th 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

Fairtrade – Help!

Three out of the seven Dioceses in Scotland have received their Fairtrade Certificate. I have received a letter from The General Synod Office wishing to know the status of our Diocese in respect of Fairtrade. There are a series of goals for individual churches and for Dioceses. I need someone to help me with this as soon as possible. Are you interested in co-ordinating information for our charges concerning Fairtrade? For more information on the campaign go to the website www.fairtrade.org.uk Please call me! 07801 549615. I need to report on progress by The General Synod in June of this year.

Country Way –

This resource is about the best of Christian life and work in rural Britain. There is an excellent website which you can find by putting “Country Way” into Google. It also includes a magazine and other publications. Stella Collyer from All Saints, Inveraray has written in the recent issue given her involvement not only with local rural issues but with The Provincial home Mission Committee and with Martin Robb, the Provincial Rural officer. If you would like to read Stella’s article then please do let me know.

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.

H2O –

In the Oban area the ecumenical young people’s resource called H2O has an exciting programme throughout the year. If you would like to know about their programme and their resources please check with their email ewen@hope2oban.org.uk or call 01631 564239

Diocesan Retreat 2008 (27th -31st 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 or telephone 01475 530353.

The Diocesan Website –

www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk

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

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 3rd – Sat 9th August), Week 2 (Sun 10th – Sat 16th August).

The College is set in magnificent grounds about 10miles 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

I cannot recommend this event enough!

THE BISHOP'S MAY DIARY

Thurs 1st Ascension Day – Farewell Eucharist for The Reverend Peter Rice.
Sat 3rd – Listening Day on issues on human sexuality for The Province of The SEC, Stirling
Sun 4th – LCM Review, Strontian
Tues 6th – 12noon Island Retreats Limited Board meeting; 7.30pm H2O Address
Wed 7th – Glenalmond Education Committee
Thurs 8th – Ecumenical meeting, Oban. To Kishorn.
Fri 9th – Mon 12th – Harris (Ensay)
Mon 12th – Provincial Lay Learning Officer visit to Diocese
Tues 13th – 3.30pm Oban FM
Wed 14th and 15th – College of Bishops
Fri 16th – 12.30pm General Synod representatives meeting, Oban
Sun 18th – St John's Cathedral, Oban
Tues 20th – Diocesan Ministry Advisor, Oban
Fri 23rd – Glenalmond Council
Sun 25th May – Sun 1st June – Assisi Pilgrimage

The June Newsletter – material to be received by Thursday May 22nd

Reflection.

“Tokens of Trust”
Rowan Williams

In the sacraments and in the life of costly service is where the world in God's purpose is meant to be heading. This is the future, this is the sign of a 'peaceable kingdom', a realm in which God directs, shapes and draws the variety of human and non-human reality towards a state where humanity and the whole material world speak clearly of his glory. When the Church fails, divides, compromises, something has been lost of its conviction that it is there for the sake of God's future. And when the Church is fully itself, it is not because it has achieved a particular kind of human success, a high standard of behaviour, a statistically significant number of very saintly individuals, but because it has become transparent to God's future – the same thing, in effect, as being transparent to the indwelling life of Jesus.

In the love of God, +Martin, Oban