



Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 34**

November 2008

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Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, there are tiny chinks of light through the cracks of gloom relating to the global financial crisis. The determination, experience and I would add deep and implicit Scottish Spirituality is beginning to be evident in the work of our Prime Minister and of Alistair Darling. News reports suggest that other countries are impressed by their approach to the problem. I don't suspect for one moment that all of you will agree. There are not many aspects of the work of the current President of The United States with which I am in sympathy. However his comment this week that fear spreads fear is appropriate. I would ask you in your prayers and in your words to be as encouraging as possible to the current work of our Government. Please give second thoughts to any actions of your own that are made primarily out of fear. That applies to me as it does to anyone!

As you will be aware The Reverend Anne Tomlinson moves to the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway at the end of December to be that Dioceses Congregational Development Officer. Many charges in our Diocese have benefited from her commitment and educational resources, not to mention her spirituality. If you have not already done so perhaps you might get in touch with Anne by way of thanks for her hard work.

With regard to Congregational Development it is self evident in this Diocese that there is a huge gap in our life with regard to young people. I would draw your attention to the excellent resource book that Anne Tomlinson has created "Welcoming Small Congregations", in which she gives helpful guidelines for churches to be more open to the lives of young people. She points out that research has shown that charges that have begun to have some success in work with children, their parents and young adults are those which have accepted the need for change; listen to what the surrounding community wants and needs; built careful links with other community organisations; been willing to put the needs of the children and their families before their own needs and preferences; been willing to set up alternative worship services alongside the usual pattern; been willing to be generous with their resources, human and financial. *"If it is the nature of God's Love to undertake sacrifice, it must also be the nature of His Church. The Church is most true to it's self when it gives itself up in current cultural form, to be reformed among those who do not know God's Son. In each new context the Church must die to live."* Controversial words but challenging indeed! Thank you Anne!

THE NEXT MAGAZINE!

Please send me articles and photographs for the next magazine as soon as possible. Closing date - October 31st.

To save time it would be helpful if you would proof read them yourself and have something of the editor's hat on your head!

LAST MINUTE! **DIOCESAN RETREAT 2008 (27th -31st Oct)**

There are still places on the Diocesan Retreat. Please think seriously about participating in the Retreat which will be, as usual on Cumbrae. The retreat conductor will be The Reverend Canon Brian Hardy, an experienced Retreat Conductor and Spiritual Director. The cost of the retreat will be £160 and £50 a day for those who can only come for part of the time. Contact tcumbrae@argyll.anglican.org or telephone 01475 530353.

Rural Ministry Course – 4-6th 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.

The Millennium Development Goals

The Scottish Episcopal Church supports the aims of The Millennium Development Goals and wishes to make them part of Church life. Like the wee Scottish flying beastie **MidGies** will become persistent in the lives of Episcopalians and inform the decisions we make as individuals, congregations, Diocese and The Province. The goals are available on a small card the size of a credit card and are stated simply on one side. Maybe all of us should know them by heart! To obtain these cards please get in touch with the Provincial office in Edinburgh.

A QUIET DAY FOR SCOTLAND

A Quiet Day for Scotland is a national initiative of Action of Churches Together in Scotland. It seeks to offer a quiet, still space in local venues throughout the country organised by local people. This will take place during the weekend of St

Andrews Day (28th-30th November). I would urge you to plan a quiet time and space in your church or in local premises and advertise it as an oasis of calm! Perhaps you might provide quiet music, some words or leaflets to aid people's reflection.

Advent 2008

You will be beginning to plan your Advent services. Please think carefully of how you might open your church and you congregations's life to your community. What about a carol service for Advent and for Christmas for your local school or playgroup? A carol service for those who find Advent and Christmas difficult? (eg. "The Longest Night: When Christmas Hurts." If you would like a copy of this please do get in touch with me.)

An excellent Liturgical source for the season is "The promise of His Glory" which you can obtain from The Cornerstone Bookshop in Edinburgh.

ACTS – Action of Churches Together in Scotland has created downloadable resources for Advent. This years material "Advent is not just for Christmas" contains Bible Readings, Prayer suggestions and Hymns to focus on. The material has been prepared by Norah Summers of The Church of Scotland's Church Life Network. Please use the website www.acts-scotland.org

Christmas 2009

I have met a number of people who have looked carefully for notice of Christmas and Advent services who are on holiday at that time of year. Many are also visiting their families. Although there is an established tradition of midnight services do remember that families often prefer a splendid Christmas service on Christmas Day itself. It is important to make provision for this. Please plan and advertise your services as soon as possible and make the information available in hotels, bed and breakfast accommodation and shops.

Remembrance Day 2008 - Poppy Scotland

This is the 90th anniversary of the end of The First World War. The First Minister of The Scottish Executive has initiated a public appeal for £2 million to help deal with the effects of Post Traumatic Distress Disorder, the physical effects of serious battle wounds and the sudden bereavement of those who lose family members killed in action.

Please plan your Remembrance Day Liturgy carefully. If you would like help with resources please do get in touch with me.

Provincial Conference 2009 2nd- 4th October - "Living Well: Proclaim, Discover, Respond"

At The MacDonald Highland Resort, Aviemore.

The theme of the conference is The Five Marks of Mission (see newsletter No 29). *Please get in touch with Margaret Dineley if you have not received information about the conference. Margaret's address is The Coach House, Toward, Argyll, PA23 7UB, Tel. no. 01369 870073. Her email is margaret.dineley@googlemail.com*

Information will also be available on the Provincial Website under PC09.

Retreats, Workshops and Music – Cumbrae

31st Oct-2nd Nov – Friends AGM (with Kathy Galloway, Leader of The Iona Community as guest speaker)

2nd -7th Nov £60 a night. Gourmet Slow Food. Delicious home cooked food complimented by fine wine, poetry and music.

8th Nov – Messiah from Scratch: a chance to sing your heart out (10am-7pm, with coffee, tea and lunch) £25

14th-16th Nov – The Orthodox Church (Canon Keith Pagan) £100

28th – 30th November – Advent Retreat (The Warden) and Advent Carol Service (£100)

24th-29th Dec. Christmas House Party (£250)

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

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

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.

THE BISHOP'S NOVEMBER DIARY

Sat 1st – Cumbrae Friends AGM

Sun 2nd – Celebrate and Preach The Cathedral, Cumbrae

Mon 3rd – Clergy Day on "The Covenant" and Diocesan Ministry issues.

Tues 4th – St Andrew's Fort William and St Paul's, Kinlochleven

Thurs 6th – Meeting with The Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness

Fri 7th – 4pm Meeting with Diocesan Congregational Development Group

Sat 8th - 9.30am – 3pm Diocesan Lay readers and Leaders, St John's Cathedral, Oban

Sun 9th – West Highland Region

Mon 10th – Glenalmond Education Committee

Thurs 13th – Bishop's work review

Sat 15th and Sun 16th – AGM, Celebrate St Columba's, Islay

17th-21st – Lewis and Harris

21st-23rd – AGM, Celebrate and Preach St Columba's, Portree

25th – Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry 2.30pm

29th - LCM Review Holy Trinity, Dunoon

30th – St Paul's, Rothesay.

Reflection

“In a big world, the small church can remain intimate.

In a fast world, the small church can remain steady.

In a smart world, the small church can remain plain.

In a complex world, the small church can remain simple.

In a noisy world, the small church can be a place for listening.

In an anonymous world, the small church should be able to call us by name.

(Michael Langrish ‘Dynamics of Community’ *Changing Rural Life* Canterbury Press – 2004)

In the Love of God, +Martin, Oban

<p>The December Newsletter – material to be received by Wednesday 26th November</p>

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