

Diocesan Newsletter

for

Argyll and The Isles

No 1 October 2009

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Dear Friends,

This is our first 'Diocesan Newsletter'. We do not aspire to produce a communication with the depth of that provided by Bishop Martin. However, we believe that some sort of monthly mailing is still required in the absence of a Bishop. Please let us know your thoughts. If you wish to be removed from the list of recipients let us know.

The Bishop's Communications.

Bishop Martin's personal email address is no longer available for use (alexandermartin.shaw@virgin.net). The bishop@argyll.anglican.org address will be monitored by the Diocesan Office. 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.

The Episcopal Election.

Over the next few months, we have to find a successor to Martin as Bishop of the Diocese. This is quite a complex process, but everyone can be involved in it. I will explain, as simply as I can in a short article, what will be happening. If you want full details, they are in Canon 4.

The first steps are that the Diocesan Standing Committee has to produce a Diocesan Description for candidates and the Province appoints a Preparatory Committee to sift candidates. The Diocesan Description will be approved by Standing Committee on 6th October and the Preparatory Committee will hold its first meeting in late October.

The Preparatory Committee is chaired by the Primus and contains 6 Diocesan and 4 Provincial representatives. Its job is to produce a list of candidates for consideration by our Electoral Synod, and the Canon requires that it does this no

later than 141 days after the vacancy, i.e. by mid-February.

Anyone may nominate a candidate by completing a nomination form and submitting it to the Primus by 7th December. The form will require to be signed by both nominator and candidate; forms and the Diocesan Description will be available from the first meeting of the Electoral Synod onwards. This time slot is short, so now is the time to be praying about potential candidates and seeking their agreement.

The Electoral Synod will meet three times, on 11th November, to hear more detail of the process and provide input for the Preparatory Committee, on 16th March 2010, to interview the candidates, and on 24th March 2010, to hold the actual election. The Electoral Synod comprises the Clergy and Lay Representatives who were in post at the time of the last meeting of the full Diocesan Synod in March 2009. Congregations can be represented by their Alternate Lay Representative if the Lay Representative is unavailable, but the same person must represent the congregation at all three Electoral Synods. This is a simplistic explanation of a complicated set of rules. If you have changed Lay Representative since last March or if there is doubt about whether a single person can attend all three meetings, please have a discussion with me about the possibilities.

As a result of the timing of these Electoral Synods, it has been decided to change the date of the normal Synod meeting to 17th March 2010, so that members need to travel to Oban only twice in March, rather than three times. If they apply to you, please put these dates into your diaries; formal notification of the dates will come later.

I am very happy to discuss the process with you, either by email (Secretary@argyll.anglican.org) or by phone at the Diocesan Centre.

Peter Kemp

Cumrae à la carte

**DIOCESAN RETREAT. November 2nd– 5th.
The Cathedral and College of the Holy Spirit,
Cumrae.**

On this hill the Lord will prepare a rich feast for all. (Isaiah 25.6)

There is usually a single menu when Christians gather for spiritual nourishment. In our Eucharist the sharing of Word and Sacrament provides us with (by and large) the same scriptural readings from the lectionary and (except during pandemics) the same bread and wine from the altar.

A single menu is usually enough for an hour or so on a Sunday. But with more time available, more

varied fare is possible. The annual Diocesan Retreat offers just such an opportunity, for both clergy and laity. We meet in the College of the Holy Spirit on Cumbrae, protected from many outside pressures and distractions. And there are two or three days of silence, which you can think of as a clean white tablecloth on which God may set out various spiritual dishes to feed your heart and soul.

Some courses are already provided for you to taste. There is a regular pattern of morning and evening worship, and the Eucharist in the middle of the day. There is a series of talks, given this year by the Rev. David James, whose theme will be the contemplation of God. He and the chaplain (the Rev. Ian Walter) will be available for anyone who wishes to talk in confidence. But above all there is time and space – to read, walk, think, or simply listen to God and receive what he has prepared specially for you.

This year's retreat is from Monday 2nd to Thursday 5th November. It is one day shorter than in the past, which should make it easier for some to attend. It is also straight after the Friends' weekend, and some may wish to stay for both without a long journey home in between. Anyone from our Diocese – and from farther afield – will be very welcome.

If you would like to attend, please contact the College at cathedral_cumbrae@btconnect.com or **01475 530353**. The basic price per person is £130 for laity and £117 for clergy. There are some bursaries available to subsidise the cost, and you can find out about these from the Diocesan Office at office@argyll.anglican.org or **01631 570870**. Please make sure you book by Friday 16th October.

Dr Guthrie's Association.

The Association gives grants to support organisations devoted to the care and welfare of children and young people with a preference for supporting smaller charities. If you feel that in your congregation there might be a project in which you are involved that might find a small grant helpful please see the Scott-Moncrieff website: www.scott-moncrieff.com

Transforming Ministry - making a difference as women. A day with Christina Rees. We invite women within the Scottish Episcopal Church to participate in this interactive day where we will be exploring and sharing our thoughts and experiences.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7th - 10:30 – 4:30
Venue: General Synod Office

Booking: There is no charge for the day but booking is essential as numbers are limited and lunch will be provided. Please contact Marion Chatterley marion.chatterley@blueyonder.co.uk (07771 982163) or Elaine Cameron elaine.ging@gmail.com (01821 650482) to reserve a place.

Christina Rees is a writer, broadcaster and speaker. She is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and sits on the Archbishops' Council. She speaks and preaches widely, both within the UK and overseas.

Christina's published books include: 'Voices of this calling; experiences of the first generation of women priests' and 'The Divine Embrace: Discovering the reality of God's love'.

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 CF'TF has developed its resources to help families in less difficult times. I would urge you to dedicate one Sunday to a special collection for CF'TF and to be creative about your intercessions in that direction. www.cffdonate.org or call 029 2081 0800.

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

Energy Assistance Package.

Helping vulnerable people prepare for a warmer winter is a process that can take several months. I encourage you to 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

HARVEST. 1. Self Help Africa. Celebrate harvest with a charity that is helping families in rural Africa cope with climate change. harvest@selfhelpafrica.net

2. Celebrate the Bounty of Trees. Trees as food and as key elements in what is happening to the

climate, particularly in Africa. Tree Aid is offering packs, posters and activities for this Harvest-tide, for those interested. lynne.knight@treeaid.org.uk – 0117 909 6363.

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: woodburn@homecall.co.uk – 01556 610519.

Growing Towards a Thriving Church Saturday 3rd October 2009

Chalmers Ardler Church, Dundee

9.30am – 4.00pm

Lead speaker – Bob Jackson, author of ‘Hope for the Church’

The Diocese of Brechin has some places available at this conference at £10 per person (£5 for students and unwaged). E-mail booking forms are available from Sue at this Diocesan Office.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims - Sunday 15th November

The third Sunday in November is officially recognised by the United Nations as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims. Road tragedies continue to occur at the appalling rate of seven people killed every day on UK roads and 70 people reported seriously injured every day. Thousands of peoples’ lives are affected. Further information from www.roadpeace.org or helpline 0845 4500 355

Scottish Churches House, Dunblane October Programme

The October programme includes Grasping at Nettles – Responding to the New Atheism (Rev Prof David Fergusson); Meeting Points – Safety vs. Freedom for our Children?; European Identity; Family Holiday Week; Poetry & Emotion – a creative writing day with Kenneth Stephen; Interfaith Understanding from the Inside; Music for an Autumn Evening

Further information at www.scottishchurcheshouse.org/upcoming-events

Scottish Poppy Appeal

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Poppyscotland. By giving just a few hours every year, they make a real difference to the lives of veterans and their families. Please help grow the Poppy in Scotland by giving just a couple of hours of your time. To

find out how call 0131 550 1542; text volunteer to 81400 or visit www.poppyscotland.org.uk/volunteer or for local groups 0141 427 8490

Argyll and The Isles Magazine Autumn/Winter Edition

The deadlines for the next issue are: Wednesday 21st October for Articles, letters etc and Wednesday 28th October for Parish news items. Please note that the Editor, Revd Ken Skipper, has changed his e-mail address. It is now kgschurch@googlemail.com

Music for a Summer Afternoon 2009

Cathedral of The Isles Sunday 4th October 3pm

The closing concert of the series by the Graziosa String Quartet includes great works by Beethoven and Schubert for that most euphonious of combinations, the string quartet.

For everyone born a place at the table – Tackling income inequality in Scotland

6th November 2009 Easter Road Conference Centre, Edinburgh 9.30am – 4.00pm

A conference jointly organised by Scottish churches and Scottish trade unions. Keynote address – Professor Richard Wilkinson. Contact Pauline Walker 0141 337 8101 or e-mail pwalker@stuc.org.uk by 23rd October

The November Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received by Monday 26th October 2009

Diocesan October Diary

Thursday 1st October. Finance Committee 10.30am

Tuesday 6th October. Standing Committee & IRL AGM 10.30am

Tuesday 20th October. IRL Board Meeting

Wednesday 28th October Preparatory Committee time to be arranged

Monday 2nd - Thursday 5th November Diocesan Retreat