



Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 32**

September 2008

**The Pines, Ardconnel Road, Oban,
Argyll PA34 5DR.
alexandermartin.shaw@virgin.net
Home: 01631 566912 Office: 01631 570870
Mobile: 07801 549615**

Dear Friends,

Elspeth and I are grateful to so many in the Diocese who have been supportive of our participation in the recent Lambeth Conference, held at Kent University and Canterbury Cathedral. Many Bishops have returned home and planned sessions around their Diocese, giving feedback and sharing new insights into their work. This is not so easy in this Diocese! So I have begun to write some reflections on the conference, which you will find either on the Diocesan Website (www.argyllandtheisles.org.uk) or on my 'blog' which you can find through Google: Following Columba. I have also tried to send it through a distribution list on my email. However, some of you have not been able to receive them. Please would you call the Diocesan Office and Audrey Walton will mail them to you.

Briefly, four important gifts I received. i. +Rowan, our Archbishop of Canterbury, challenged Bishops to be models of Christ's life in all aspects of our work and humanity. ii. The Anglican Communion is strong and growing where there is acute suffering and conflict – for example in Sudan. They speak of 'Christ being on the ground with them'. Do we share that? What about our own life-style and attitudes to each other? iii. The Anglican Communion itself is of vital importance to *this Diocese* as we learn from our sisters and brothers the significance of Mission – being the Christ-like presence (N.B. Our

Vision...). So, let us renew our enthusiasm for the Communion, by using the Anglican Cycle of Prayer everyday. If you are unable to access it through the internet, then please let the Office know and we will send it out in the mail. iv. The Bishop's primary task is to lead the Diocese in Mission. This means that each of our charges work with the Bishop in becoming clear about what Christ's mission is locally and then seeking to address that mission. Once again, I ask you to recall the Diocesan Vision and then working towards how that works out in detail locally.

'Christ calls us to live like Him in Word, Sacrament, Prayer and Service amongst others.'

The Reverend Barbara Morrison

You will be glad to know that after a difficult time Barbara's health has improved hugely. Barbara is the Priest of St Moluag's Tong. She writes that it is wonderful to be without pain and to be mobile again. She is now able to celebrate The Eucharist including at Ness. She thanks everyone for their prayers – "they worked!"

+++Diocesan Stewardship. For attention of all vestries, please!

Perhaps in my last Newsletter, I was expecting too much by asking for a report on Stewardship from your charge by the end of August. So far, I have had no replies. The reason for this, I suspect, is because most members of vestries are away from home or are busy with summer businesses. As you know Stewardship Renewal is a venture undertaken by the whole Province. In order to make a report to the College of Bishops and to the next meeting of The Standing Committee I am asking each vestry of all our charges in the Diocese to send me a report on how the stewardship renewal is progressing in your charges. *The next Standing Committee is on Tuesday 7th October. It would be helpful to receive your reports by the end of September...please!*

Harvest Festival

Many charges start planning for the festival well in advance! May I recommend that you have a special collection for "FARMAfrica" You can get in touch with the organisation for lots of activities for children and for congregations. www.farmafrica.org.uk-givepovertytheboot

Racial Justice 2008 - 14th September

CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) is organising a Sunday throughout all our churches entitled "A Banquet for All Peoples" (Isaiah 25. 6-9) For more information see the website www.ctbi.org.uk/racialjusticesunday Telephone number 0207 654 7254

Argyll and Bute Choose Life Initiative

The NHS Highland Health Promotion Team in Argyll and Bute has been busy in the last few months raising people's awareness of important sensible drinking and mental health messages. Coupled with this there is a concern to reduce suicide and self harm generally. There are a series of events being held in particular in Inveraray in the autumn and winter. For more information please use the website www.chooselifeinargyllandbute.org.uk

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.

250 confirmations on one Sunday!!!

Please think of those who perhaps are in your congregations and may consider confirmation. During the Lambeth Conference, I was considerably astonished by the numbers being confirmed in, for example, the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Now the culture and the environment is completely different, of course. In my time as Bishop in this Diocese, I have confirmed 12 people. In the last year,,none!| Maybe there are those in your area who 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

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. (*See this month's Reflection at the end of this newsletter for the goals*)

Fairtrade.

Sheena Macleod and Jane Elliott have been working hard to promote the cause of 'Fairtrade', in order that we can be accredited as a Fairtrade Diocese. They sent out 24 letters in May with 12 responses. Some responses suggested that the process of registration is onerous. There will be a letter coming shortly giving more detailed information. The more organisations and individuals who are involved in this not only will there be more products available under the Fairtrade label but those at the producing end will receive more. If you would like some more information the website is www.fairtrade.org.uk

A Quiet Day for Scotland.

Jane Elliott writes: *The vision is to organise the provision of quiet spaces, which will be accessible to all communities in Scotland on or around St Andrew's Day (1st December). At a busy time of year, this will provide people with a much needed opportunity deepen their prayer lives. A resource pack is now available from ACTS (- All Churches Together in Scotland). The material is offered as flexible suggestions and can be applied to local circumstances and use. The website is: www.acts-scotland.org*

If you would like further help and advice please contact Jane Elliott mrsjane.elliott@virgin.net If you have no access to the Internet please phone Jane Elliott on 01852 300780.

World Development Movement

A very simple and well illustrated pack of material has been produced by WDM on the issues of poverty and climate change. Each Christian Church locally and nationally is being asked to respond to what is regarded as the greatest crisis facing humanity. The director Benedict Southworth writes this "While rich countries are responsible for most of the emissions pumped into the atmosphere it is the poorest, most marginalised

communities in the world that will be hit the hardest by climate change. It is time to stop this climate injustice." For more information please see the website www.wdm.org.uk

Retreats, Workshops and Music – Cumbrae

18th – 21st September – Photography Break.

26th – 29th September – Yoga.

29th Sept – 3rd Oct – Celtic Retreat (The Warden)

28th – 30th November – Advent Treat (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 tcumbrae@argyll.anglican.org

Diocesan Retreat 2008 (27th -31st Oct)

Next year's 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 tcumbrae@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.

**For your diary -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) Conference information will be sent out in September in the Clergy mailing. Information will also be available on the Provincial Website under PC09. There will be a subsidy towards the conference fee for a limited number of delegates

THE BISHOP’S SEPTEMBER DIARY

2nd&3rd Faith and Order Board,
Edinburgh

4th – Home Mission Committee –
telephone conference

7th – West Highland Region?

8th - 9th – Reconciliation Day, Cumbrae

9th

- 2.30pm Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry
- 6.30pm West Highland Region Representatives Meeting

14th – Confirmation St Paul’s Kinlochleven

17th – Diocesan Finance Committee

10.30am

18th – 28th – On holiday

29th Sept – 2nd Oct – Celtic Bishops

Conference, Chepstow Wells.

Reflection

As a MiDGie I will look to promote the Millennium Development Goals in Prayer and Action

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental stability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

In the Love of God, +Martin, Oban

<p>The October Newsletter – material to be received by Friday 12th September.</p>
