



**Number 60:
September
2014**

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News from around the Diocese The Moidart War Memorial

Curiously there had never been a memorial in Moidart to those from the area who died for their country during the two World Wars. Captain Donald Monro, sometime organist in St Finan's, Kinlochmoidart felt strongly that this should be rectified – and when better than on the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War.

So it was that on Sunday 17th of August a very fine granite cairn, paid for by local subscription, with a suitable inscription was unveiled high above the road as it crosses the hill from Glenuig to Loch Moidart. Sadly the afternoon was one of torrential showers and high wind – but this in no way deterred Bishop Kevin who had so kindly agreed to dedicate the memorial. Aply assisted by the Roman Catholic priest from Arisaig and the Church of Scotland minister from Acharacle there was a short (fortunate considering the weather) and moving service with the clergy and a piper on an elevated position well above those of us gathered on the road below. Seemingly oblivious of the elements and with minimal protection from them the Bishop conducted the service with his robes blowing in the wind and in a

The Bishop blesses the memorial



voice that could be clearly heard by all those assembled below. Donald Monro read us a most appropriate and poignant poem written in 1914, the piper played a lament, our Lord Lieutenant, Donald Cameron of Locheil unveiled the memorial by an ingenious system from below, the Bishop blessed it and then it was helter skelter for the hall in Glenuig to escape from the atrocious conditions. The very varied and differing means of trying to keep dry were removed and an abundant

spread for tea awaited us. To many it appeared almost fitting that we should have experienced such weather when remembering what conditions those brave men suffered during the World Wars. Come and visit our new memorial, sit on the rustic bench built by our churchwarden, Terry Cochrane and as inscribed on it "Pause awhile and reflect".
Stephen Lindsay



St Columba's, Islay

The Bishop and Alison Clark visited us on 9th and 10th August to start us off with the year of Reflection for Action. We began by studying Matthew 14: 22-23 – and then reflected on how the verses could help us when considering our church's future. We are at a cross-roads as Ken Skipper, our retired priest who has served us faithfully for the past 16 years as a non-stipendiary priest, is retiring from his priestly duties at the end of September and plans to move back to England with his family in the very near future. His final service will be held at 11am on 28 September and everyone is very welcome to join us. Our small congregation is determined to soldier on together and after much debate, prayer and reflection it has become clear to us that the way forward at the present time is to arrange a rota of locum priests so that we can hold one Holy Communion service each month. Bishop Kevin is to help us in our endeavours to accomplish this – so if there are any priests out there who would like to spend a wee while on the Whisky Isle, providing you pass Bishop Kevin's muster, we would be so pleased to accommodate you. Please contact us (07771926328).



Since the meeting with the Bishop and Alison, we have held a tombola stall at the Islay Show which has added just over £300 to our funds. We are now in a position to complete the interior of our new extension and we hope to have a fully functioning kitchen and disabled loo in the near future. On Saturday, 16th August, our little church was filled to capacity for the christening of

our one-year old granddaughter, Ella Mae Barford. It was a wonderful occasion – Ella managing to interrupt the proceedings when she expertly removed Ken's reading glasses! Grandpa John played the organ.

Our congregation very much value your prayer and support which I appealed for at this year's Synod.

Lesley Barford, Vestry Secretary

Ella with her parents, Michael & Jenny



150th Anniversary Celebrations mark new life for St John's Cathedral, Oban

In September this year St John's Cathedral, Oban will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the first of the three churches that occupy its present site in George Street. To mark this significant date, the Vestry and Congregation of St John's have begun a review of the cathedral building and how it can further serve the local community and the many visitors who pass through its doors.

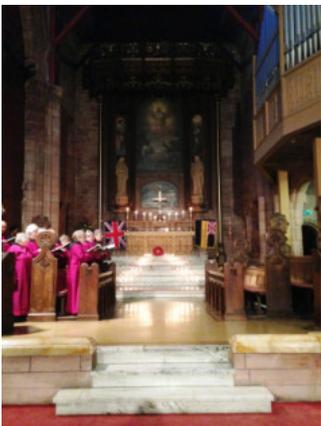
The review, which is anticipated to be completed next year, will consult widely with the congregation, other faith groups, the local community and current users to come up with proposals which make the most of the space in an innovative, sustainable and creative way and one that will further enable the mission and ministry of the Cathedral to develop and meet changing needs in today's increasingly secular society. The Provost of the Cathedral, The Very Rev Nicki McNelly said: "St John's is a place of special peace and spirituality which is appreciated both by the local congregation and by the thousands of visitors and pilgrims we receive each year. At

the same time we must manage what we have positively and in a way that best supports our work of promoting God's Kingdom. We look forward to the outcome of this important and exciting project".

Rev Kit Jarman, Assistant Priest at St John's, recently celebrated his escape from hospital and his birthday with an Open House



Vigil to Commemorate the 100th anniversary of the commencement of World War 1



A very moving, beautiful liturgy of remembrance, light and darkness created by our Provost, supported by the readers, by the music of the Choir, apt readings, respectful silences and the heart-wrenching sound of the Flowers of the Forest played by Donald MacNeill in the darkened Church at 11.00pm, the moment when we went to war as a Nation.

Brig John MacFarlane

August Celebration at St Margaret's, Arran

St Margaret's has had an eventful month so far, and there is more to come. First of all, on Wednesday 13th, Fr Simon inaugurated his "Pop-Up Church" programme in the Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot, on the west side of the island. There were eleven worshippers in attendance. Nine were from our existing congregation in Whiting Bay. The other two were Brian, who had come over from Kintyre with Fr Simon, and Hilary, a lady from Lamblash who we hope will join us at St Margaret's in the longer term. Perhaps there could have been more new faces, but the programme has only just begun, and that was a promising start. Personally, I found it a very special and inspiring experience to take communion with an ordinary bread roll from the restaurant and a glass of red from the bar, seated round a table in an inn. Not for nothing did the Gospel reading concern the road to Emmaus. The next Pop-Up is to be on Wednesday 27th August in the Catacol Bay Hotel in the far north-west of the island, and the programme will continue thereafter.



Fr Simon in discussion over a cream tea

Three days later, on Saturday 16th, came the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the first service in St Margaret's (before that, worship had taken place in Elsie Wood's private chapel at her house nearby). We had decided to serve cream teas from 2.00 pm, and these proved immensely popular. A steady stream of friends old and new came to our little church, and luckily there

were never too many at any one time for our tables and chairs. As this was a celebration, and not a fund-raiser per se, we decided not to charge for the teas, but to leave a dish for voluntary contributions in the porch. As a result, we were surprised to find we had raised more than if we had charged (there is a lesson there, surely) As well as the teas, there was an exhibition of the history of St Margaret's and the Episcopal Church on Arran, and a second-hand book stall.

The teas were supposed to be over at 4.00 to make way for Evensong at 4.30, but in the event with the arrival of choir members the teas rather overran, and members of the congregation had ten minutes to turn the church back into a place of worship. Like brilliant stage hands, they pulled it off! The service of Evensong from the Scottish Prayer Book which followed was accompanied by



The choir prepares

seventeen members of the Arran Singers, a choir recently formed by amalgamating two groups, the Lochranza Choir and the Rowan Singers (originally founded by Elsie Wood – thus things come round full circle). Under their conductor Diana Hamilton, they contributed moving renditions of Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, as well as the anthem "Ave Verum Corpus" by Elgar. The ecumenical congregation was, I think, spellbound, and everybody I spoke to afterwards said they had found the service moving, and had enjoyed it greatly.

St Margaret's is moving on with Fr Simon to help us.

John Roberts

Donald Davidson

Retirement: Congratulations to Donald Davidson who is retiring from active ministry at Kinlochleven after nine years. Donald has given a tremendous amount of time and enthusiasm to the whole West Highland Region and we wish Donald and Lesley a very happy future.

St Kieran's, Campbeltown

St Kieran's, Campbeltown, held its annual Gaelic Service on Sunday 24th August. This is a service of outreach held to coincide with the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival, when the town is full with visitors. 89 people packed the church to near capacity. This was a record attendance. Some came from as far away as Nuremberg in Germany, others from Kent, London and Arran. For the first time all the congregational hymns were in Gaelic and everyone took those in their stride. There were 5 guest singers. All were either former or present pupils of David McEwan, the church organist. Ruairidh Wallace, aged 11, sang a beautiful solo "Seinn Alleluia" (Sing Alleluia). The McLean girls, Krystal, Chelsea and AnnMarie took solos respectively in "Mar a thogras fiadh an sruthan" (As the deer pants for water), "Ar n'Athair" (Our father) and "Do lamh, a Chriosda, bi leinn an comhnaidh" (May your hand, O Christ, be always with us). Iain MacPherson led the congregation in the singing of "Abba Athair" (Abba Father) and "Esan Dia" (He is Lord). The youngest performer was Iona Renton, aged 8, who played

15 minutes worth of Gaelic airs before the service, played during the administration of communion, played for the Kyrie and Communion Song and also at the close of the service, a remarkable feat for someone so young and who had only started playing less than 2 years ago. From the congregation, Jane Mayo said the Collect for Purity and Frances Arthur led the Intercessions. Three native speakers read the appointed Lessons.



AnnMarie McLean sings to a packed church

The service illustrated what can be achieved by Lay Ministry as well as the importance of learning to be flexible in how the Christian message is presented.

David O McEwan (Lay Chaplain)

Diocesan Retreat – Cumbrae 27th -30th October

The experience should be both tranquil and stimulating given Bishop Kevin's topic of 'The Thief, the Cook, his Wife, her Lover'.

From September the retreat will be advertised on the Island Retreats website as open to all comers. To make sure of your place, complete the form which you can download from the [website](http://www.argyll.anglican.org/diocesan-retreat-2014) (www.argyll.anglican.org/diocesan-retreat-2014) or contact David Todd the warden at The College Cumbrae on 01475 530353.

Reflection for Action

The volunteer visitors met with the Congregational Development Officer and the Bishop for a preparation day to familiarise ourselves with the material and discuss how we may continue to support congregations to discover their own unique witness in their communities. We had an energising and enjoyable time together. The diocese is indeed blessed to have such a committed group of people keen to foster the life and witness of our charges.

Reflection needs to issue in action; action needs to be grounded in prayer and theological reflection. Several charges have begun the process, others are organising quiet days or community outreach events. Your visitor will be getting in touch soon to help you choose from the options laid out in the leaflet distributed at Synod. You can find it on the [website home page](http://www.argyll.anglican.org) (www.argyll.anglican.org), by looking for 'Reflection for Action' and clicking on the adjacent hyperlink.

Let us know your plans and hear your questions! Contact Alison on alisonclark52@gmail.com or ring 01700 500489.

WW1 Reflection

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says "The Centenary of the outbreak of the conflict which became the First World War deserves quiet reflection with humility on the part of people, nations and their leaders around the world. During the next four years, we shall constantly be reminded of the unimaginable suffering and loss of that period.

"It seems that we have learned little during the past century. The world is beset by vicious conflicts, and suffering continues unabated. It is a particular concern that global institutions such as the United Nations seem relatively impotent and unable to fulfil the hopes of people across the world for a peaceful and just world order.

"People of faith as always must commit themselves to prayer and to the task of building peace. Peacemaking is as much a spiritual as a political task. Our prayer must be that the suffering of the past will not have been in vain." *(reprinted from Inspires online)*

Top 10 Reasons to be an Episcopalian

The recently deceased actor, Robin Williams once made this list:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| 10. No snake handling. | 5. Church year is colour-coded. |
| 9. You can believe in dinosaurs. | 4. Free wine on Sunday. |
| 8. Male & female God created them; male & female we ordain them. | 3. All of the pageantry—none of the guilt. |
| 7. You don't have to check your brains at the door. | 2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized. |
| 6. Pew aerobics. | 1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you. |

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Communications

NEWSLETTER

The October Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by Monday **22nd September, 2014.**

WEBSITE www.argyll.anglican.org www.island-retreats.org

TWITTER Hashtag #AaTI

FACEBOOK Please 'Like' the Facebook page for Argyll and The Isles.

THE WIDER CHURCH Find out more about the Scottish Episcopal Church at www.scotland.anglican.org

ONLINE INSPIRES

Sign up for the Scottish Episcopal Church newsletter or the magazine at links from the website as above.

Diocesan Diary

25th October	Installation of Rev Hugh Lee as Honorary Canon of Cumbrae
27th-30th October	Diocesan Retreat
8th November	Protection Training
15th November	Lay Leadership Day

Anglican Communion Companion Partnership's Day—15th November

The Global Partnerships Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church invites all across the Province who are involved in Companion partnerships to a workshop gathering. There will be a variety of presentations with space for participants to share their experience of companion partnership so that we can learn from one another. Please respond to Elspeth Davey at the General Synod Office by 27th October. Church relations@scotland.anglican.org, Church Relations Officer, General Synod Office, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE.