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News from around the Diocese Remembering Rev David Railton

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On Saturday, 12th November, a small group of local church members of St John's, St Bride's, and St Adamnan's Episcopal Churches together with Nether Lochaber Church of Scotland and retired veterans and wives of the Welsh Battalion, 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards, gathered at St Brides, North Ballachulish for a short service in memory of the Rev David Railton 1884-1955, who was instrumental in creating the idea of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey. Rev David Railton had



been a padre during World War 1 when finding a lone grave behind his billet in Armentières, of an unknown Blackwatch soldier, gave him thought of those other nameless soldiers whose families had lost their sons, husbands, brothers etc. After approaching Earl Haig without reply, his idea was finally taken up by the Dean of Westminster, Herbert Ryle,

Unfortunately Rev David Railton's significant contribution 100 years ago had been forgotten in his home village in Onich, where he had retired from his parish in England. This was rectified by an enquiry to Jeanette Watt, Treasurer of St John's, Ballachulish, from a representative of the 1st Queens Dragoon Guards in Wales, Martin Thomson. Regarding Rev David Railton's place of intemment, after a fatal fall from a train in Fort William station, in 1955, she was able to confirm his internment at St Bride's, along with his wife Ruby who died in 1966

Martin Thomson arranged for a party of veterans and wives to travel up from England and Wales, to present a banner to St Bride's, in honour of Rev David Railton's efforts to recognise the sacrifice made by those unknown men. Local piper John McCallum played the laments, The Flowers of the Forest, and The Battle of the Somme. At the graveside, a short tribute was spoken by Martin Thomson and the party adjourned to the church which had been decorated with flowers and poppies by the lady members of the party. Refreshments were served by the ladies of St Bride's, and an all night vigil kept by the men of the Dragoon Guards on a two-hourly basis. The banner was formally handed over the following day, Remembrance Sunday, by Rev David Railton's grandson, Jim Railton at morning service, conducted by lay preacher John Connolly. *Jeanette Watt*

It was a remarkable occasion, given a degree of poignancy by the fact that at least four of the St Bride's congregation, had known Rev David Railton when children or adolescents and all remembered him with great affection. *John Connolly*

Christ Church, Lochgilphead

We thought you would all like to know the result of our Bazaar held recently. There was a little bit of a delay in getting the money counted up. Pressure of time is a large factor these days!

Bill was able to tell us that we made in excess of £2,000 and money was still coming in!! That is such a wonderful achievement and a very big thank you

must go to all involved. Yes, it was hard work, but everyone pulled together and, although we are small in number, together with our Lord, we make a good team!

Fr Simon is more than pleased with the result and (tongue in cheek) is confident we shall make £2,500 next year! We shall see. *Ros Box*



South Kintyre Ministers' Fellowship



The South Kintyre Ministers' Fellowship met on Friday 4th November at Southend Church of Scotland manse. At the meeting, the churches represented were the Salvation Army, the Church of Scotland, The Community Church, the Fishermen's Mission, the

Roman Catholic Church and the Scottish Episcopal Church. After a brief act of worship using material from the Northumbria Community, everyone adjourned to an upper room for a fellowship lunch and discussion. The conversation centred around church growth issues, reconciling tradition with the need to look forward and embrace new things and the importance of extempore prayer. It was felt that the day had been most useful and that restoring these meetings after a lapse of several months had been a good move. It was decided to meet monthly with a change of venue each month. *David O McEwan*

Bishop Kevin Visits Islay

It was one of those 'special' Islay days when the Bishop and Elspeth visited us on 20 November – sunny and bright with the amazing sound of a gaggle of geese in the background. Unfortunately, some of our congregation were unable to be with us which left only five of us to welcome them. We had a wonderful service with the Bishop officiating - he even commended us on our singing. His sermon was spiritually uplifting and appreciated and when three year old Ella crept up beside him in the sanctuary after the distribution of the Bread and Wine and asked him what he was doing, he replied, "washing-up"! A successful Annual General Meeting was held after the service which Bishop Kevin chaired, and we then enjoyed a relaxing time together with coffee and treats at the local hotel. *Lesley*

St John's Cathedral, Oban

The Coffee Morning held on Saturday, 19th November was a great success. Between what was made on Saturday and donations received on Sunday, the total was £540. The coffee morning was in aid of Poppy Scotland and St John's with the proceeds being split 50/50. *Kathryn Spence*



Lay Leadership Day

A few weeks ago the diocese held its customary autumn meeting for lay people involved in leadership in their churches. The subject was Mission and the guest speaker the newly-retired Bishop Bob, former Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, escaping from his post-flitting box-emptying to the sunny pastures of Oban. There were three of us from Dunoon, three from Campbeltown, and four other stalwarts from the West Highland Region, Oban, Mull and Skye. It was remarked - and not by any of us from The South - that perhaps it was time to move these meetings southward ...

I'm not going to go through every discussion of quite a full day. But I am going to consider what - for me at least - emerged from it all. And perhaps the first point was that church life, and mission, growth, outreach - whatever you call it - all this is very different if you're in a city environment. So church planting, which was one topic covered, doesn't seem to us in our small towns and our rural areas to be something that's going to happen soon, especially when we have difficulty in maintaining existing charges.

But in case that sounds instantly negative, we matched it by considering what rejuvenation has happened in our diocese - how a congregation can turn itself around and attract new people in the face of threatened financial collapse and closure. At the heart of it, we decided, was enthusiasm and commitment to not letting that happen. People had decided that what they found in church was important to them, and shared their enthusiasm in their wider circles.

And this is where I go off on my own track - though it was in fact the first thing I contributed to the plenary feedback. The language we use in talking about faith, church, religion - it has to be on the same wavelength as the person we're talking to. I personally am turned off by traditional evangelical jargon, as I am by unduly cautious reserve - the reserve that gives the impression that church adherence or religious faith isn't something we should talk about over a beer, perhaps. My whole life in teaching depended on suiting my pitch to the needs of my listeners; I believe that works for faith as well. (It was kindly pointed out to me that I tend to be fairly uninhibited in all circumstances; I decided to take it as a compliment.) I think self-



awareness is also important - we have to think about how we come across to people both as individuals and as congregations.

We discussed the usual ways in which people are encouraged to come to our churches. We argued the finer points of pew-removal, and whether this was A Good Thing. We talked about town-centre churches and churches stuck up a hill in the back of beyond; we pondered the desirability of holding discussions in a pub rather than in church after a service. It was borne in on me anew that if the committed in any congregation are unable to demonstrate why they go to church by the way they refer to it, to what goes on there, and make it sound fun, frankly, then I wouldn't be tempted to visit. (I use the word "fun" loosely, you understand, for "fun" can encompass much - but it involves a spark however you find it).

And just as we were wrapping it all up, someone mentioned Social Media. (No prizes for guessing who). Bishop Bob admitted he never used any such thing. I think half

of us who were there do. However - and this is important - one participant admitted that she thought the possibilities for outreach and sharing were attractive, and wished someone would give her a lesson in how to dip her toe in. And so it came about that our final conversation was about who would be best to enthuse others to feel that way too - which seems to me a good way to end: a suggestion for our next Lay Leaders meeting.

But I feel a postscript coming on. For I believe you have to start at the bottom, so that that one person, and others like her, have a chance to learn the "how" - and that's something that can involve people on the outside as well as in our churches. And meanwhile, I have a new Facebook friend from the other end of the Diocese, and that is surely A Good Thing. *C.M.M.*

Cascade Conversation: a perspective from the south of the Diocese

On Tuesday November 8 a group of us from Holy Trinity Dunoon and St Paul's Rothesay braved the bad weather and joined others from around the diocese in St. John's Cathedral, Oban, for a Cascade Conversation around the issue of same sex relationships and equal marriage within the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The session was sensitively facilitated by Ruth Harvey from Place for Hope. There were around thirty attendees which meant we could sit informally in a circle, and Ruth began by setting down some basic rules to help create an environment where conversations could be open, honest and respectful.

Two rectors, Dave Richards and Dean Fostekew, had come along from Edinburgh diocese to start the ball rolling. Although their churchmanship and views were quite different from each other, their entertaining conversation demonstrated how we might be able to discuss the subject in our small groups without acrimony and listen to each other with respect. They are friends who disagree entirely on issues of same sex relationships, but remain firm friends.



Rev Dave Richards & Rev Dean Fostekew

The small group discussions then took place, facilitated by volunteers from the diocese. An hour passed very quickly as views were aired, questioned and argued. People were willing to be open about their hope and fears, and their own personal journeys and experiences.

During the final plenary session, back in the circle, it became clear that most of us had valued the opportunity to have our say, tell our stories or ask our questions. The intention had not been to come to any single point of agreement, but to allow all views to be given and heard in a respectful environment. The structured nature of the discussion was appreciated and several people asked for similar discussions on different topics in the future.

Tea and sandwiches were consumed before we headed homewards into the rain and snow. *Di Tennent*

A video conversation between Rev Dave and Rev Dean can be found on the Scottish Episcopal Church website <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/sex-relationships-cascade-conversation/>



International Anglican Family Network (IAFN) Coordinator—job vacancy

Background

The International Anglican Family Network (IAFN) is one of the Networks of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Working with those involved in the development and delivery of family ministries, IAFN engages across the Anglican Communion to celebrate the God-given potential of the family as a source of thriving relationships, identity, belonging, discipleship and reconciliation. Out of this celebration IAFN is an advocate for the family in the face of behaviours which diminish this potential, sharing stories of hope, promoting family care and sustaining the family as the cradle for human dignity.

With a credibility rooted in the knowledge and experience of Network members and their work, IAFN's main developmental contribution is made through the publication of specific-themed newsletters and occasional regional consultations.

IAFN has a management committee with an international membership which meets regularly with the IAFN Coordinator to develop, manage and review the contribution of IAFN.

For more information about IAFN and the post, see <http://iafn.anglicancommunion.org>.

Summary

The IAFN coordinator will support the IAFN management committee in enabling and facilitating the exchange of news, information and resources among those who have a passion for promoting the well-being of families and their communities. The IAFN coordinator will be UK-based and, for the most part, home-based. A 'hot desk' is available for occasional use at the Anglican Communion Office in Westbourne Park, London.

The deadline for application is 5.00pm on 6 January. Interviews will take place at the Anglican Communion Office on 18 January 2017.

Competition to find most innovative community projects in churches

The National Churches Trust and the Marsh Christian Trust are inviting entries for the "**Marsh Awards for Innovative Church Projects**", a competition to find the Christian congregations running the most innovative community activities in a church building which have been made possible by the installation of new facilities in the last five years such as meeting spaces, kitchens, toilets or improved access.

Run with the support of the Marsh Christian Trust for the second year, the Awards are designed to show the positive impact that installing new facilities has on churches and local communities and on harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers.

How to nominate a church

Nominations for a community project at a church, chapel or meeting house are open online here:

<http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/marsh-awards-innovative-projects/marsh-awards-innovative-projects-2017>

The awards are open to any Christian congregation in the UK which is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and which has seen the installation of new facilities between 2012 and 2016.

Nominations close on 13 January 2017. Judges will meet in March 2017 to shortlist entries. The winners will be announced on 18 May 2017 at the Churches Trusts Forum annual conference in Manchester.

A £1,000 award will be presented to the church judged to be the overall winner. There will also be a runners up award of £500.

For more information visit: <http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/how-we-help-marshawards>

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Diocesan Diary

For all Advent and Christmas Services throughout the Diocese please go to the Diocesan website <http://www.argyll.anglican.org/home/christmas-services-in-argyll-and-the-isles-2015/> (yes, it is for 2016!)

Communications

NEWSLETTER

The November Newsletter (Please remember to send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by **Friday, 16th December 2016.**

WEBSITES 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.



From 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism#sthash.MOIBNYLx.dpuf>

Light the way for people fleeing violence this Christmas

Celebrating Jesus, the light who came into the world, at Christmas we fill our homes with light and laughter, family and friends.

But for more than 65 million people who are fleeing from conflict and crises, a joyful home is a distant memory. Forced out by the darkness of violence and fear, they're searching for safety and refuge.

This Christmas 2016, another human being needs a beacon of hope. You can be the one to shine the light towards a brighter future. You can light the way by donating, using resources, buying gifts or attending an event. Find out how you can make a difference at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas-appeal>

