



Diocese
of
Argyll
and
The Isles

Eilean Fhianain



You may have heard that a mediaeval bronze bell which is attributed (possibly anachronistically) to Saint Finnan has been stolen from an island of the above name in Loch Shiel near Acharacle. The Island is of great historical interest because it contains a churchyard where the Roman Catholics of Moidart and the Presbyterian people from the Sunart side were traditionally buried. Slap bang in the middle is the ruins of a chapel which is dedicated to Saint Finnan and was latterly used as an Episcopal Church by Maighstir Alasdair, an Episcopal priest of the 17th century who was the father of the famous Jacobite poet Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair. Maighstir Alasdair senior is alleged to have walked the 30 or so miles from Kilchoan fairly regularly to sail to the island to celebrate the Holy Mysteries. The island itself and the bell belong to a certain Colin Corlett who gave the bell in to the care of the Moidart Historical Group who, in order to secure it, attached the bell to a chain where it had sat unchained on the altar for many years. This presumably drew someone's attention to the value of the object. There are numerous visits to the island both by canoeists and by the general public. The Bell is supposed to have a "buidcheas" or maledictory prayer on it which threatens death to anyone who removes it. It is alleged that the last person who stole the bell was a Hanoverian soldier who barely got to Glenfinnan with it before he dropped dead!

UPDATE: Still no news on the bell's whereabouts.

Argyll and The Isles Diocesan Retreat

28th- 31st October 2019

College of the Holy Spirit,
Cathedral of The Isles, Millport.

"Exploring prayer

in everyday life"



The retreat will be led by Rev Andrew Bain, Priest-in-charge of St Salvador's, Stenhouse, in Edinburgh and a founding member of the Emmaus Community of St Benedict. Andrew will lead us in exploring insights from Benedictine spirituality for everyday living and discipleship, beginning each day with lectio divina and sharing other possibilities in prayer such as the examen.

There will be opportunities for participants to contribute insights from their own experience. We plan to spend part of the time in silence.

The Retreat will run from 4pm on Monday 28th October to after breakfast on Thurs 31st October. The cost is £260 per person. To book, please contact office@cathedraloftheisles.org.

For further information email missionenablers@argyll.anglican.org.

DIOCESAN LAY LEADERSHIP DAY

Friday 11th October 2019

The next Lay Leadership Day will take place on Friday 11th October, 9.30am to 3.30pm, in the Narthex at St John's Cathedral, Oban.

The topic is:

"Draw near with faith:

Exploring the theology of the Eucharistic Prayers & Reserved Sacrament Thanksgiving Prayers."

Details will be circulated nearer the time.

We will begin with coffee and tea at 9.30 as usual.

It would be very helpful if Lay Leaders could let us know whether you are planning to attend.

If others, who are not lay leaders, would be interested in attending this fascinating day, do be in touch with Chris and Ros Brett.

Contact details are as above.



Diocesan Conference

Tuesday 3rd March 2020.



“Praying our Mission”

The conference will take place in the conference suite at the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunstaffnage, about 5 miles north-east of Oban.

The Diocesan Synod will take place at the same venue the following day.

We are delighted to announce that the keynote speaker at the conference will be **The Rev'd Dr Sam Wells**, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

Sam is also Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King's College London, and a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Council that advises the G20 meetings. He is a regular contributor to Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. He has published 33 books, including works on Christian ethics, ministry, liturgy, and preaching. On a personal note – Sam is married to Jo Wells, who is Bishop of Dorking. They have two children.

St Martin-in-the-Fields is a unique configuration of cultural, charitable and commercial initiatives rooted in the life of a vibrant Church of England congregation. Their vision is “At the heart. On the edge.”

See more details at <https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/>

On “Praying our Mission”, Dr Wells writes: “I'm fascinated by the distinction between being with and working for. Prayer is the sometimes challenging recognition that God's desire is to be with us in Christ and the Holy Spirit. We'd much rather work for God than be with God, which is why prayer makes most of us so restless. It's a challenge not only to our own personalities but to our whole notion of God.”



Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF) Gathering 2019

SPRF is a network of organisations and individuals committed to developing routes for off-road pilgrimage travel across Scotland. The SPRF Pilgrimage Gathering will be held on Friday 4 October 2019 in the Milestone Church, Girvan.

In the steps of saints, monks and monarchs'

The day will include the Whithorn Way Walk in the morning.

After lunch, talks will include

'The Columba Experience on the Dalriada Way'.

'Rediscovering the Ancient Paths of the Celtic Church'.

'Running Home – a new kind of Scottish pilgrimage'.

Together with the SPRF AGM

For full details and cost of the day go to <http://www.sprf.org.uk/events.html>



A WORKSHOP FOR CLERGY AND PEOPLE IN AUTHORISED MINISTRIES

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT DEATH AND DYING

Tuesday 15 October 2019

Methodist Halls, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh

Registration from 9.30am **START 10.00am** – Finish by 4.00pm

COST £40.00

This Workshop will offer support and tools to enhance confidence in having pastoral conversations about death and dying. Using a model from the field of bereavement to explore emotional, psychological and spiritual responses and building on the experiences of the participants, the day will resource those who attend to go deeper in their pastoral encounters with people who are actively addressing their own mortality.

The day will be facilitated by the Rev Canon Dr Marion Chatterley. Marion currently works as a hospice chaplain and has many years' experience of journeying both people who are dying and those who seek to support them.

The programme assumes a degree of personal sharing and therefore participation is restricted to clergy and others in authorised ministries within churches.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

(there will be a break mid-morning and lunch will be at 12.30pm)

- * Introduction to the day (keeping yourself safe/taking risks)
- * Input on bereavement theory/translation into discussion of diagnosis/change in prognosis/impact of illness in close friends etc
- * Work on tables emerging from input
- * Challenging deaths
- * Self care
- * A final discussion

To book

visit www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

email info@fiop.org.uk telephone 0131 346 7981

St John's Cathedral, Oban. Celebrating 155 years of worship 1864–2019



From as far back as 1846 under Bishop Alexander Ewing, the newly revived Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and The Isles was planning a Cathedral in Oban.

In 1864, in the fields between the Tannery and a timber yard, St John's

Chapel was built with seating for 200 people. Cathedral dreams re-surfaced in 1881 with the plans intended to be along the lines of Iona Abbey. Again these were not realised but in 1882 the South



Aisle (our Narthex) was built.

The new century brought new plans, the land north of the church was acquired and in 1908, James Chalmers was chosen to be the architect of the grand design.



Work began but stopped in 1910 with only the north end of the design built. The girders were installed to support the unfinished structure.

Through all the subsequent dreams and schemes, the original dream of the Cathedral for Argyll & The Isles came into being in 1920, when on St Columba's Day, St John's was consecrated. We will celebrate that centenary next year and will be inviting the Diocese to join with us in this momentous occasion...look out for dates and events in the next Newsletter!

Throughout all of its 155 years the church of St John's has been a place of worship which has fed and nurtured the faith of generations. There have been changes over the years, with the new Chancel roof, the raising of the floor level, new stained glass windows, glass screen, and the new organ to name a few. The Narthex continues to grow as a place for welcome and hospitality and our latest change has of course been the removal of most of the pews and installation of chairs.



As we move forward, we have a twofold vision:

- to develop our own faith in order to reach out in witness to others
- to maintain/ restore our building to make it more hospitable & flexible.

We look forward to welcoming the Diocese for the annual Synod Eucharist in 2020 as we launch our 100th Anniversary

Soul Care Workshops in Central Edinburgh

Four individual Saturday workshops 1.30 - 4pm offered by Reflective Spaces; for those who tend their own soul or who care for others' spiritual well-being

28 September 2019: The Masculine Soul

Can masculinity be both wild and sacred? In a post-Weinstein, 'me too' world, can poet Mary Oliver's soulful exhortation to "let the soft animal of your body love what it loves" truly apply to men? This interactive workshop seeks to go beyond the often-binary media narrative in search of the distinctive gifts and spiritual needs of men, and to explore how men and women might experience 'the masculine soul'. All genders warmly welcome. With award-winning writer and coach Nick Thorpe.

23 November 2019: Right Use of Power

We all influence, and are influenced by, others whether we are aware of it or not. How can we relate to power with reflection, sensitivity and heart? We will use webinar material from Psychotherapist Dr Cedar Barstow to explore our personal and positional relationship to power; become aware of pitfalls and how we can develop power-positive skills which bring goodness, restoration and change. For all involved in soul care roles. With spiritual director and supervisor Elizabeth White.

1 February 2020: The Dynamic Ignatian Exercises

An introduction to the dynamic of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, with input, guided reflection and interactive 'stations' opening up an overview of the Exercises' themes. For those who are simply curious, those who would like to revisit their experience of making the Exercises, and those who offer them and would like to practice some visual and creative ways into the material. With Elizabeth White.

25 April 2020: Exploring Spiritual Abuse

What is spiritual abuse? What are the key characteristics? And what impact does the experience of spiritual abuse have on people's lives? Using current research, discussion and plenary, this workshop will help 'soul care practitioners' to consider the definitions and implications of these questions for their work. Brief pointers may be given for accompanying those who have experienced abuse, but the main emphasis will be on what we need to be aware of as we hold safe, sacred space for others in 1:1 settings. With Anne Solomon who works in spirituality and psychology.

Bookings £25: www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/soul-care-workshops

Further details: elizabeth@reflectivespaces.org.uk



Bishops House, Iona

21st - 28th March 2020

AT SEA WITH GOD led by Margaret Silf

The metaphor of seafaring can be a helpful way to explore our spiritual journeying. We will reflect on our lives and circumstances as the "boat" in which we make the voyage of life. What are we carrying on board – both precious cargo and excess baggage? What has moved us forward in our journeying, and how do we navigate our way through the unpredictable seas of life? What causes the storms, and how might we deal with them? What about the times when we feel we are simply "going nowhere"? Where are we going, where do we find our anchor points, and how do we keep moving on?

If you have any questions or would like to make a booking then please give us a call on 01681 700111 or email iona@island-retreats.org

BEETHOVEN'S
32 PIANO SONATAS
GUSZTÁV FENYŐ

Cathedral of The Isles Concerts

Retiring collection for Cathedral of the Isles,
Cumbrae Music Resources Fund

SUNDAY 29 SEPT 3PM

Op13 C minor Pathetique
Op14/1 E major, Op14/2 G major
Op49/1 G minor, Op49/2 G major
Op22 B flat major

SUNDAY 6 OCT 3PM

Op26 A flat major Funeral March
Op27/1 E flat major Quasi una Fantasia
Op27/2 C sharp minor Moonlight

We're having A
PET SERVICE
at
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Kilbride Road, Dunoon on
Sunday 20th Oct at 3.00pm
Come and celebrate all that our pets mean to us

BRING YOUR PETS
— NO MATTER HOW MANY LEGS
(or bring a photo if you prefer)

Owners are responsible for keeping their pets under control
at all times and for cleaning up after any accidents!



West Highland Region

Upcoming Events & Services

There will be a "Cuppa & Cupcake Coffee Morning" from 10:30am to 1:30pm on Friday 20th Sept in Ballachulish Village Hall, in aid of Alzheimer Research Scotland.

Entry is £3 and any donations of cupcakes and other baking would be appreciated too.

St Adannan's will celebrate its Patronal Festival on Sunday 22nd Sept (transferred from 23rd Sept). Our usual post-service refreshments will be suitably celebratory.

Our **Harvest Festival will be held at St Mary's, Glencoe** on Sunday 29th Sept. It will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch in St Mary's Church Hall.

St Columba's Annual Study Day

Saturday 23rd November 2019

Should we Edit our Genetic Code? - Today's new ethical challenge

How far should we modify genes for medicine, food,
animal welfare and tropical diseases?

Scientists now have the tools to edit the genetic code of humans,
animals and plants. But should we do so?

How do Christian values impact on far-reaching new technical
capabilities?

Should we as a couple 'edit' embryos to prevent hereditary disease in our future
child, or even 'enhance' her characteristics?

If we could eliminate a serious pig disease by genome editing, it would be good
for animal welfare, but would we eat the pork?

Explore some of these issues with Christian bioethicist Dr Donald Bruce.

Coffee 10.30....Session 1: 11 – 12.30...Lunch...Session 2: 1.45 – 3.15...Tea
All are invited to join us as we explore these important issues for our time.

Biography

Donald Bruce is a bioethicist with wide experience over 25 years in many fields of biotechnology, includes genetic modification of food and animals, animal ethics, cloning and stem cells, human genetics, nanomedicine and human enhancement. In his earlier career he was a research chemist and risk regulator in nuclear energy. He became Director of the Church of Scotland's Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRT) from 1992-2007. Since 2007 has directed the consultancy Edinethics Ltd. working mainly in European medical research projects and on public engagement on new technologies. He chaired a working group for the Scottish Episcopal Church on the ethics of the emerging area of genome editing in animals and humans, presenting a report at the June 2019 Synod. He is also a member of the UK Animals in Science Committee, advising on animal research in medicine and agriculture, and has served on the Scottish Science Advisory Committee and advisory committees of UK research councils, and on bioethics committees of the Conference of European Churches and other church bodies.



St Columba's Summer Concerts

drew to a close on September 3rd, with the final concert given by Elita Poulter (violin) who plays with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and James Campbell; now at Oban Cathedral as an assisting organist and formerly organ teacher and Chapel Organist at Kings College in Taunton (Somerset).

The concerts have delighted both locals and visitors through the summer and raised much needed funds for the essential roof works.

Rededicating Christ Church Lochgilphead



Christ Church, Lochgilphead is resplendent with the newly restored Victorian

stencil-work in the sanctuary and chancel, and with the nave a radiant gold. It can never have looked so good!

Our Romanian restorers, Titus and Tatiana Canache (some will know Tatiana from the icon painting courses she has led on Cumbrae) informed us that the custom there is for newly restored churches to be re-hallowed. Taking their advice, we invited Bp Kevin to come and celebrate with us.

The day was glorious. We started by the grave of Bishop Ewing, who lies buried with his wife in our churchyard, giving thanks for his ministry in rebuilding the Diocese, and building up Christ Church.

We processed singing Psalm 122 to the main door, and after blessing it, Bishop Kevin entered and blessed the font, sprinkling the people and the interior of the Church.

Bishop Kevin abandoned his sermon, to speak from the heart. He reminded us of the symbol of the wedding-ring, and unending sign of limitless love; saying that like the marriage-band, the church stands for remembrance of the past, celebration of the present, and hope for the future. Indeed, the day felt like the Renewal of Marriage Vows, a thanksgiving, a joy in life, and a recommitment to the future.

Truly blessed in Christ!

Fr Simon



Ecclesiastical's Church Competition Parish Pixels



Ecclesiastical's competition - where one Anglican church in your region will win a prize of £1,500 and also be in with a chance of winning a further £5,000! There are 9 regions involved, which represent the 7 regional areas of the church of England, plus Scotland and Wales. We have regionalised the Dioceses.

Our competition launched in June, and we've asked churches to send us just **one photo and one sentence that shows how special and unique their church is**. We hope to engage as many churches as possible from across the UK to show just how wonderful and irreplaceable each and every church and congregation is.

The competition will be judged in two stages, the first of which will be on a regional basis and involve regional judges, and the second will involve a public vote and national judging panel to choose the overall winner from each of the nine regional winners.

All the regional winners will be invited to send representatives from their church to a celebratory event in October 2020 where we will announce the overall winner as well as showcasing the wonderful photographs entered into the competition.

How your region can get involved

We would like to invite two representatives from your region to be part of your regional judging panel. Our team will review the entries and send you a selection of the best ones from your region according to our judging criteria by mid-October 2019. From this the regional judges will then, along with a representative from Ecclesiastical, decide on the winning entry from your region before mid-January 2020.

Once all the regional judging is complete, we will announce the winners before the end of February 2020, and give each region a donation of £500 to be used towards a celebratory event for your local winner. We will also send a representative from Ecclesiastical to your event and present the winning church with their prize money of £1,500.

How churches can get involved

All the information about the competition, including the downloadable entry form, full terms and conditions and posters, is available on our website at www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels.

Contact the Diocesan Office if you wish to be considered.

News from the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI)

Scottish Episcopal Institute Lecture 2019

Thursday October 17th 2019 at 5.30pm

The Rev Professor Paul Foster, Professor in New Testament Language, Literature & Theology in the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh will deliver the 2019 SEI Lecture entitled 'Their Pattern and Their King: The Gospel of Matthew as a Model for Christian Formation'.



The lecture will take place in New King's building, Room NK10 in the Dept of Divinity & Religious Studies, King's College, Aberdeen AB24 3UB

New Academic Year begins at SEI

The new academic year at the SEI began on 30 August with a week's residential in St Mary's Monastery, Perth.

The 'Orientation Week', as it is called, sought to do many things: by means of an integrated programme of worship, study, topical seminars and leisure time, it aimed to welcome the nine new students and incorporate them into the life of the Institute;



- to 'form' that body of eighteen into a new community;
- to re-establish the rhythm of prayer, work and leisure which will sustain the students through the year ahead; and above all
- to 'orient' staff and students alike to their proper goal, followership and service of Christ, 'fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith'.

For more details on the SEI—download the monthly newsletter...

September's issue includes

- a letter from the new Provincial Director of Ordinands: The Rev'd Ian Barcroft on the new Vocations Discernment and Selection Process.
- an article from The Rev'd Norma Higgott—a Vocational Deacon.



The role of a permanent Deacon is a specific vocation which has recently been re-recognised in importance.

Norma tells her story of calling, training and ministry.

'In the name of the Church, Deacons are sent to declare the kingdom of God and to care for those in need, serving God and the world after the pattern of Christ. They have a commitment to outreach and witness, advocacy and prophecy, flowing from their historic ministry for the poor, needy and sick, and seeking out the careless and indifferent. They are called to build bridges between the Church and the world, and to be an expression of the unconditional love of God'. (from the Ordination to the Diaconate)

CONTACT US

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9.30am – 4pm
Monday-Thursday

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Diocesan Dates for your Diary

Friday, 11th Oct 2019: Lay Leadership Day, St John's Cathedral, Oban, 9.30am -3.30pm

Monday 28th – Thurs 31st Oct 2019: Diocesan Retreat, Cathedral of the Isles, Millport

Tuesday 3rd March 2020: Diocesan Conference, Dunstaffnage

Wednesday 4th March 2020: Diocesan Synod, Dunstaffnage



Communications

NEWSLETTER

The November /December Newsletter (Please send information to the Diocesan Office) – material to be received at the Diocesan Office (e-mail above) by *Monday, 21st Oct 2019*

Please include Advent/ Christmas services for a Diocesan webpage.

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

FACEBOOK Please read and 'like' our **Diocesan Facebook** page @ 'Scottish Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and The Isles' and keep up with Provincial and Diocesan news. An easy way to spread the gospel to friends!

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

INSPIRES ONLINE

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

PISKY.SCOT

Visit the online magazine and forum of the Scottish Episcopal Church at <http://pisky.scot/>

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER found on the link below or on the Diocesan Website.

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-newsletter/>

SEI JOURNAL available at www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-journal/