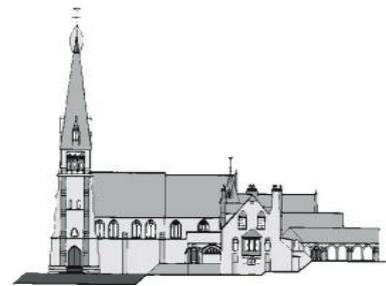


Friends of The Cathedral of The Isles and The College of the Holy Spirit

Patron: The Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

Scottish Charity No: SCO30311



Happy New Year

Is it too late to say that? We hope not! The Warden reports that plans are well under way for the 2016 season at the Cathedral & College. On-line information for our open retreats has been updated and a refurbishment programme of decoration and carpeting is underway in a number of rooms which will, shortly, be ready to welcome you. This has meant a significant investment of time and money towards accommodation that was beginning to feel a bit 'tired'. We hope that you will like what we've done when you next visit.

Christmas in the Cathedral



A splendid time was experienced over the Christmas season. The Cathedral played host to a Carol Service, for the 3 main island congregations, the Midnight Mass and a service of Lessons and Carols in the afternoon of the Sunday after Christmas. Special thanks must go to the members of the Cathedral Choir who made their

way across to the island to sing in what was a splendid service.

Special thanks must also be given to Andrew and Amanda for the wonderful hospitality they provided, both for the resident house-party and the many guests that travelled to the Cathedral and College from far and near. Some came to sing, some came to visit, some brought scrumptious food with them to share but all came to worship the humble birth of the God of Love.

An Open Retreat for the Beginning of Lent



A new initiative is being arranged by the Warden this year. Andrew is offering a short retreat for the beginning of Lent, running from Shrove Tuesday (9th Feb.) for 3nights. The retreat, led by Canon Alec Boyd, is based on Mark's Gospel. It is apposite for those who have not made a retreat before and is open to all – regardless of denomination or religious affiliation. Topics covered will include giving things up, spiritual

SatNavs, unsung Heroes and Powers and Synods and Rituals. Full details are available on the Cathedral of the Isles and the College of the Holy Spirit's facebook page or from the information leaflet on the Friends website.

Going for Gold!

Recently, notification from Booking.com was received informing the College that those who had booked B&B accommodation through them had, on average, given the College 8.5 out of 10 for the experience. It was great to hear that they had not only enjoyed their stay but were also willing to say this was the case. Andrew and Amanda have said they will be doing what they can to make it 10/10 this year and are currently working to achieve a 'Taste our Best' Award through 'Visit Scotland', as well as aiming to receive a 'Green Tourism' badge.



Bed & Breakfast

Bed & Breakfast bookings are now being taken during February and March and another new development is the sourcing of food locally. This is being done as

much as possible and includes the delicious award-winning jams and marmalades from Henshelwoods on the Isle of Bute. These are also available to buy in our Cloister Shop, along with other items such as souvenirs and selected local gifts. The new rates for B&B are available on the dedicated B&B website – www.cumbraeguesthouse.co.uk

Onward and Upward

The AGM minutes include an item on the demise of the washing machines, which are essential for the amount of laundry engendered in the college. The decision was rightly taken that the best option was to buy 2 industrial sized machines instead of the domestic ones previously obtained. This took most of our beleaguered finances but the Friends committee saw it as the correct way forward. Our laundryman

(who does a lot more than this work) was extremely happy, and grateful, for the purchase choice. Following the decision at the AGM, the Friends received a gift of money to acquire one of the machines. The donors wish to remain anonymous but our sincere thanks seem inadequate when expressing gratitude for their extremely generous and altruistic gift.



At a meeting in November, the Friends committee agreed to go ahead with a programme of applying for financial help from external Trust Funds, as well as

finding new ways of attracting the support of additional Friends. The support of the Friends is essential for the continuation of Christian hospitality and outreach to the pilgrims of all faiths and none that visit the Cathedral and College.

The financial support of the Friends helped to achieve so much during 2015. This was reported in the years' newsletters: for example the modern lighting system in the Cathedral and two new silk hangings in the refectory. The work on the Oriel window has also been completed and, although it was expensive work, it had to be resolved for safety as well as aesthetic reasons.

Along with the Warden and his wife, Andrew and Amanda, we wish you all a happy and fulfilling 2016. The season this year begins in February and we look forward to meeting up with you during the year.



Help save us money!

If you have received this newsletter by post but have an email address, we could save money on printing and postage by emailing it to you. Please contact Nick with your details and he will make the necessary changes to our records.

Contact us

Secretary: Anthea Clarke, secretary@cumbraecathedralfriends.com

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Nick Roe, membership@cumbraecathedralfriends.com

Warden: Andrew Wright, cathedral_cumbrae@btconnect.com, 01475 530353

www.cumbraecathedralfriends.com • [facebook.com/cathedraloftheisles](https://www.facebook.com/cathedraloftheisles) • [twitter @collegecumbrae](https://twitter.com/collegecumbrae)

www.island-retreats.org/cumbrae.html