



### ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

Every Sunday	10.15am	Cathedral Sung Eucharist
2nd & 4th Sundays	5pm	Fellowship @ 5 Informal worship
3rd Sundays	5.15pm	Evensong
Wednesdays	11am	Shorter Cathedral Eucharist
Thursdays	10am	Morning Prayer

ST JAMES ARDBRECKNISH	June 14 @ 11am
EPISCOPAL EUCHARIST IN KILBRANDON	June 7 @ 3.30pm
ST COLUMBA'S, GRULINE, MULL	June 7 @ 11.30am

### STEPPING OUT IN PILGRIM FAITH WITH THE CELTIC SAINTS

**SUNDAY JUNE 7 106 years of The Cathedral's Inauguration**

**10.15am Festal Eucharist  
with the Feast of St Columba**

Children's activities in the St Columba Chapel  
refreshments follow.

3.30pm Episcopal Eucharist in Kilbrandon Church, Isle of Seil

*Provost Margi will be attending the SEC Provincial Synod in Stirling from*

*Wednesday evening until Saturday afternoon*

Wed 10 11am Shorter Eucharist with coffee led by Canon Paul

Thu 11 10am Morning Prayer  
10.30-11.30 Coffee Morning **HELP NEEDED**  
7pm Cathedral Choir Practice

Sat 13 9.30-11am Dad's & Toddlers in the Cathedral Hall  
*7 for 7.15pm Filling Station in the Rockfield*

### SUNDAY JUNE 14

**10.15am Festal Eucharist ~ Being Pilgrim People**  
**Celebrant ~ Bp David Preacher ~ Canon Paul**  
Children's activities in the St Columba Chapel  
refreshments follow.

5pm Fellowship @ 5

June 21 10.15am Festal Eucharist ~ St Brendan the Navigator

June 28 10.15am Festal Eucharist ~ St Moluag

St John's Episcopal Cathedral, Oban

**Celebrating 106 yrs since  
Cathedral Inauguration**

**Sunday June 7th  
@ 10.15am**

*Festal Eucharist  
with Feast of Columba*

Stepping out in Pilgrim Faith with the Celtic Saints  
Beginning a month reflecting on the Saints  
who shared the faith in our Diocese

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

**Dads & Toddlers**

anyone can be cool, but awesome takes practice.

**NEXT : Saturday June 13**

Bairns...banter...and bacon rolls.  
Second Saturday of every month  
9.30am-11am  
St John's Cathedral Hall (behind Coasters)  
Contact: Paul 07943026773 for more information

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, OBAN

**Fellowship @ 5**

All Welcome  
for music, prayer  
& discussion with food  
Focus on...  
**Parables**

Every 2nd & 4th Sundays  
5pm  
St John's, Narthex, George Street  
#inclusive #open #informal

St John's Cathedral

**Coffee Morning**

Every Thursday  
10.30am ~ 11.30am  
Time to chat...  
Everyone Welcome

SC016664

**HELP is URGENTLY NEEDED**  
to keep these running—  
they are amazing mornings of community building  
and outreach through hospitality...  
Can you give from 10am—11.30  
on a rota to serve coffee...  
please speak with Provost Margi or sign the sheet

### HELP NEEDED

...Taking food gifts to HOPE KITCHEN from the Narthex  
...Help with the Coffee Morning filling gaps on the rota—help given  
...Help with flowers—just needs bunches bought and put in vases & removing when dead!

If you were unable to attend the Requiem Eucharist for **The Rev'd Canon Ian Walter** a recording can be accessed from <https://www.youtube.com/live/Jh4YjtryMSw>

This letter will feed into our service on Sunday June 14th with Bishop David and Canon Paul

# PILGRIM PEOPLE

## A Pastoral Letter to the Churches of the Diocese from Bishop David

### Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to share with you the vision and strategy – ‘Pilgrim People’ – that was presented to and received by Diocesan Synod, and to invite your congregation, your prayer group, your ministry team, and your own heart, into this journey.

This is not a document about problems to be fixed. It is, I hope, an invitation into a story – a story about who we are, whose we are, and how God is calling us to walk together in faith across Argyll and The Isles in the years ahead.

### Why a Vision, and Why Now?

We live and serve in one of the most distinctive parts of Scotland: a diocese shaped by sea and mountain, by islands and peninsulas, by ferries and footpaths and the sheer distances that separate us. This geography has never been an obstacle to faith – instead it has formed us. Movement has always been part of who we are.

Across the centuries, the western coasts and islands have been shaped by pilgrims: by Columba, Moluag, Brendan and their companions – pilgrims who crossed lochs and seas to carry the light of Christ to new places. Their example isn't a museum piece. It is a living inheritance. We are, in the deepest sense, their successors – a pilgrim people, still on the road.

*Pilgrim People* does not arise because everything is falling apart – nor because everything is fine. It arises as a gracious opportunity: to look together, prayerfully and honestly, at the direction of our common life for the next five or six years, and to choose that direction consciously.

We recognise that we are a diocese with real pressures: changing patterns of ministry, stretched stipendiary clergy, communities that are resilient but sometimes tired, buildings that are precious but demanding. We also live in a world marked by anxiety, political turbulence, and a pervasive sense of disorientation and displacement. Many in our communities carry weariness and uncertainty.

The temptation in such moments is to either try to manage decline quietly, or to reduce our vision to mere survival.

*Pilgrim People* chooses a different path. It asks not simply ‘How do we keep going?’ but: ‘What story do we want to tell about the life God has entrusted to us together, and how does that story shape the way we serve our neighbours and communities?’

“Faithful to its roots, fearless in mission, and fit for the 21st century.”

### Our Identity: A Pilgrim People

At the heart of *Pilgrim People* is a conviction that has deep roots in Christian Scripture and tradition: that God forms a people by leading them on a journey.

Abram sets out in faith for a place he cannot yet see. Israel comes to know God most deeply not in settled security, but in the wilderness. The Psalms imagine life with God as a path, a way, a walk. And Jesus – rather than gathering his disciples into a single place – calls them to follow him. Their formation happens on the road: in conversation while travelling, in encounters with strangers, in the quiet between destinations.

Even after the resurrection, Christ is recognised in motion – on the road to Emmaus, walking alongside confused disciples, opening Scripture, reframing their story in the light of God's purposes. That is a powerful image for a Church living in uncertain times.

Pilgrimage, then, is not a metaphor chosen for effect. It is part of the deep grammar of Christian discipleship. It reminds us that the Church is a people on the move with God; that unity does not require sameness; that formation takes time; and that Christ is encountered through shared direction, not just shared location.

To call ourselves a pilgrim people, a pilgrim diocese, is to make a serious claim: that Christ goes ahead of us, walks among us, and holds us together across distance, sending us into the world as witnesses to his Kingdom.

### Our Vision

“To be a pilgrim people, walking together in faith, making Christ known across Argyll and The Isles – a diocese alive to the Spirit, confident in its calling, and creatively using its gifts of people and place for the flourishing of God's Kingdom.”

This vision is deliberately narrative in shape. ‘Walking together’ acknowledges that we are scattered and diverse – but insists that distance doesn't dissolve our responsibility for one another. ‘Making Christ known’ places mission, rather than mere

survival, at the centre of our shared life. 'Alive to the Spirit' reminds us that discernment comes before decision, and prayer before programme. 'Confident in our calling' insists that God has not finished with us yet.

This vision doesn't ask every congregation to become the same, but it asks us to recognise that we are part of the same story – held together by baptism, Eucharist, and shared vocation, and that we are sent, each in our own place, to bear witness to the Gospel.

## Five Values That Guide Our Way

Five interwoven values will shape how we live this vision:

### 1. Pilgrimage and Presence

We are called both to stay faithfully with the people and places entrusted to us, while remaining open to change – being willing to travel, to share, to experiment, and to let the Spirit lead us beyond what is familiar. Movement and rootedness belong together.

### 2. Intentional Discipleship

Faith must be nourished across a lifetime – through Scripture, sacrament, prayer, learning, and reflection. In a culture of spiritual confusion and multiple voices, we need practices that help us grow into the likeness of Christ, and to help us give a reason for the hope that is in us.

### 3. Stewardship of People and Place

Our buildings, landscapes, and human gifts are not burdens to manage but trusts held for the sake of God's mission. We are stewards, not owners, of what God has given us.

### 4. Creativity and Courage

We follow a crucified and risen Lord; the Gospel tells us that God brings new life where we had only seen endings. Creativity and courage are not about novelty for its own sake, but about trusting that God can do a new thing among us.

### 5. Community and Collaboration

Isolation is not a virtue, and the Body of Christ is strongest when gifts are shared. Ministry and mission are never solo projects. In a widespread diocese, this value is particularly vital: collaboration between congregations, shared leadership, and mutual support are not optional extras – they are expressions of the Gospel.

## Four Strategic Aims

To live out this vision, the diocese will pursue four key aims over the coming years:

### A. Deepening Discipleship

Nurturing confident, reflective faith in every congregation and community – through local prayer groups, formation pathways, shared learning, and opportunities for pilgrimage, both physical and online.

### B. Sustaining Ministry

Supporting clergy and lay leaders through spiritual accompaniment, peer networks, rest, and shared reflection – so that no one walks alone.

### C. Stewarding People and Place

Making creative use of our church buildings, holy sites, and the natural environment – as centres of hospitality, spirituality, and witness in our communities.

### D. Growing Confidence and Connection

Strengthening how we tell our story as a diocese, engaging children, young people and adults of all ages, and using pilgrimage as a bridge between Church and community, faith and culture.

## What This Means for Your Congregation: Practical First Steps

*Pilgrim People* will unfold in three phases: Discern (Year 1: 2026-27), Develop (Years 2-4: 2027-30), and Deliver and Renew (Years 5-6: 2030-32). We are currently in Phase 1 – a year of listening. And your congregation is not a passive recipient of this vision; you are part of shaping it.

Here are some practical ways your congregation can begin to engage:

### Pray into the Vision

Use the prayer at the end of this letter – 'God of the pilgrim path' – in Sunday worship, house groups, or personal prayer.

Let it become familiar.

Set aside a short time in your next congregation meeting to reflect on this question: 'Where do we most clearly see God at work in this place?'

Hold the vision before God in intercession: pray for the diocese, for other congregations, and for those who do not yet know they are part of this pilgrim story.

## Begin a Conversation

Invite people to reflect on these questions: What does the word 'pilgrim' mean to you? What does it mean to be a 'pilgrim church' in our particular place? What is the story we tell about our community of faith? What are we grateful for? What do we long for?

Listen – especially to those who have been in the congregation longest, and to those who are newest. Both carry wisdom.

## Explore Pilgrimage in Your Context

Is there a sacred site, an ancient route, or a place of natural beauty near your congregation that could become a focus for prayer or pilgrimage? Consider organising a simple local pilgrimage walk as a congregational event. Are there stories of faith from your community's history – of saints, clergy, or ordinary faithful people – worth recovering and sharing?

Think about your church building: could it be used more creatively as a place of welcome, spirituality, or community service? What small step could you take?

## Connect with the Wider Diocese

Look out for invitations to diocesan listening events and Pilgrim Gatherings in the coming years. Your voice and your congregation's story matter to the whole diocese.

If you have a ministry team or lay leader, encourage them to connect with peer networks and formation opportunities as they develop.

Share your congregation's story – a moment of grace, a challenge faithfully faced, a sign of hope. These stories nourish the whole diocesan family.

Share the results of any of these ideas or conversations with the Bishop and Canon Missioner.

## A Word of Encouragement

I want to say something plainly: I believe in this diocese. I believe in the faithfulness of its people – the lay men and women who have sustained Christian life in remote communities across generations, the clergy who serve with dedication across vast distances, the children and young people who carry the future in their hearts, the seekers who find their way to our doors.

God has not finished with us. The road ahead is not without its demands, but it is walked in the company of the risen Christ, who still walks alongside his people, opening Scripture, breaking bread, and reframing our story in the light of God's unending grace.

We set out as pilgrim people – not with every answer, but with hearts open to God's leading. In our travelling across land and sea, through tradition and change, we trust that Christ walks beside us.

May this vision and strategy guide the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles as it continues its ancient yet ever-new journey.

## A Prayer for Our Journey

*God of the pilgrim path, you have walked with your people through the ages:*

*Across sea and mountain, through silence and song.*

*Bless the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles –  
its islands and shores, its churches and people.*

*Renew in us the spirit of pilgrimage:*

*Courage to set out, faith to keep walking,*

*And joy in the encounters along the way.*

*May our journey together reveal your Kingdom*

*And our life together reflect your love,*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Yours in Christ,

**+David** Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

*St John's Episcopal Cathedral, Oban*

# *Festival of the Sea*

**Sunday July 12 Sea Sunday Celebration @ 10.15am**

**From Coracles to Clippers ~ Celebrating the Seas**

Eucharist, readings and music

**Sunday July 12 – Sunday July 19**

**Festival of Prayer**

**Paper Boat Prayer Installation with Iona Coracle**

Open 10am–4pm Make a paper boat, add a prayer and place in our Paper Boat Installation

**Tuesday July 14 Blessing of the Sea by the shore @ 2pm**

Come and join us as we bless the waters, all those who sail above and beneath the seas,  
the health of our waters and all marine life (further details to come)

**Coffee Mornings**

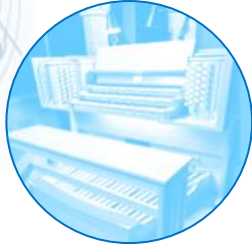
**Monday July 13 @ 10-12 noon & Thursday July 16 @ 10.30 -12 noon**

# *All Welcome*

*July 10th to 19th 2026*

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, OBAN

# ORGAN FUNDRAISING APPEAL



**INAUGURAL ORGAN RECITAL** £15

**FRIDAY JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> @ 7<sup>PM</sup>**

Steven McIntyre

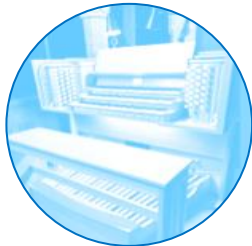


**VOICE & PIANO**

DONATIONS

**SUNDAY JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> @ 2.30<sup>PM</sup>**

Charles Marshall & Anne Taylor

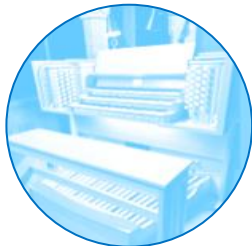


**ORGAN RECITAL & COFFEE**

DONATIONS

**THURSDAY JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> @ 11-11.40<sup>AM</sup>**

James Campbell (COFFEES FROM 10.30)

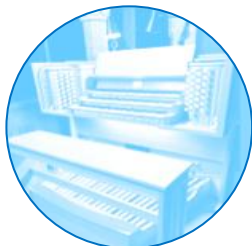


**ORGAN RECITAL & COFFEE**

DONATIONS

**THURSDAY TBC @ 11-11.40<sup>AM</sup>**

George Cringles (COFFEES FROM 10.30)



**ORGAN & RECORDER RECITAL**

£15

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> @ 7<sup>PM</sup>**

Antony Baldwin & Lynne Hope

*All proceeds to the Organ Appeal*

SC016664

**COLLECT (prayer for the week)**

O God, our hope and strength, the source and end of all our prayers: because our mortal nature is weak we can do nothing good without your help; support us with your grace, that in keeping your commandments, we may ever remain in your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**COLLECT FOR ST COLUMBA**

O God, who called your servant Columba from among the princes of Ireland to be a herald and evangelist of your kingdom: grant that your Church, remembering his faith and courage, may so proclaim the gospel, that people everywhere will come to know your Son as their Saviour, and serve him as their king; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**PRAYERS fuller prayers will return after Pilgrim month**

**Province:** all preparing for and attending the General Synod June 11-13.

**Diocese** – Bishop David; Provost Margi; Canon Paul – Canon Missioner; Rev'd Tom Ebbens - Chaplain R.N.;

**Anglican Communion** –Zanzibar, our companion diocese: Bp Michael Hafidh;

**World and local community**

We continue to pray for churches in Ukraine and the Anglican Churches in Gaza and across the Middle East. .all places where violence and pain disrupt and destroy lives. We pray for peace across the world, in homes and hearts. We pray for those affected by the Ebola outbreak and for those seeking to bring help and create effective vaccines. We pray especially for **John Murphy as he works with Samaritans Purse**, bringing help to those suffering from Ebola, for all who care for and support them.

We pray for all who are unwell, troubled or distressed: may they know God's healing and strength, hope and renewal We pray for those who have lost hope in life and feel troubled or distressed. We pray for those around them who long to return them to joy, that through you, they may be restored.

We pray for families and all caring for those nearing the end of life that they may know your strength and assurance.

We pray with all who mourn– giving thanks for the lives of those we see no longer but now rejoice in God's heavenly Kingdom, **giving thanks for the life of Canon Ian Walter—his ministry and faith and presence in our lives and the life and ministry of The Rev'd Kit Jarman.** We pray for all who mourn their loss.

**St John's Cathedral Accessibility Toilet and additional toilet facility** Following the installation of the wheelchair lift, details of the Canon 35 application for an accessibility toilet and additional facility are on the Narthex noticeboard.

**CATHEDRAL VESTRY MEMBERS 2026** OSCR: SC016664  
EX-OFFICIO

**Provost as Chair**  
**Rectors Warden** – Ken Oxland – *plus Assisting Finance*  
**Peoples Warden & Synod Lay Rep** – Colum Scott  
**Alt Synod Lay Rep** – Daniel Stollard  
**Lead Property** – Ken and Colum  
**Secretary** – Margaret Sime  
**Observing Ordinand:** Emily D'Silva  
**Observing Clergy staff:** Canon Paul Watson

**CONSTITUENT MEMBERS**

**Members:** Mark Evetts, Jenny McEvoy, Joy Blakeney, John Murphy, Catriona Petit  
**Safeguarding:** Catriona Petit  
**Assisting:** Mel Crossley (not vestry)

**WAYS of GIVING to the CATHEDRAL** We are so grateful to all who give to the Cathedral to safeguard our present & future

**BANK:** RBS, George St, Oban Sort Code: 83-26-04  
Acc: 00178722 St John's Cathedral Oban

**For overseas donations**

our IBAN is : GB46RBOS83260400178722  
IBAN BIC (SWIFT) RBOSGB2L

**For BACS gifts** please enter name or 'anonymous donation' to help with book-keeping.

**STEWARDSHIP /GIFT AID** contact Susannah Hughes  
Via website contact page

**CONTACT DETAILS & INFORMATION**  
**CATHEDRAL PROVOST & DIOCESAN DEAN**

**The Very Rev'd Canon Margi Campbell** 2 Non work days Fri +1

Cathedral: provostoban@argyll.anglican.org

Tel: 07474911141 Please leave a text or message if I'm not able to answer...on days off I will not be available.

Diocese: dean@argyll.anglican.org

**Cathedral Priest/Pastor and Diocesan Canon Missioner**

**The Rev'd Canon Paul Watson**

07943026773 *limited hours at Cathedral*

missioner@argyll.anglican.org

**Assisting Priest:** (NSM)The Rev'd Tom Ebbens Chapn RN (Active)

**Cathedral Director of Music:** James Campbell

[HTTPS://STJOHNSOBAN.ORG.UK/ABOUTUS/CONTACT-FORM/](https://stjohnsoban.org.uk/aboutus/contact-form/)

**CATHEDRAL WEBSITE** [stjohnsoban.org.uk/](http://stjohnsoban.org.uk/)

**CATHEDRAL FACEBOOK:** [stjohnsoban](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsoban)

**ST JAMES' WEBSITE** [stjamesardbrecknish@outlook.com](mailto:stjamesardbrecknish@outlook.com)

**DIOCESAN WEBSITE:** [argyll.anglican.org/](http://argyll.anglican.org/)

**PROVINCIAL WEBSITE:** [www.scotland.anglican.org/](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/)

**CAF – Charities Aid Foundation**

We are now registered for direct payments through CAF – as 'Cathedral of St John the Divine' find under that title or at

<https://www.cafonline.org/system/donate?dbid=84ae628419dd4585a209b68bfb8f5ac>

**The Cathedral can now take CARD PAYMENTS**

**Our Card Reader can take Weekly collection, Donations or Coffee by card. Please do give it a go!** It will be on the book desk on arrival and at coffee.