

## Churches discuss joint poverty action

**POVERTY** was the main topic at Ayrshire Regional Council's latest meeting.

Representatives from each of the Ayrshire charges shared information on local resources available to help increasing numbers of people on the breadline.

While support among churches and other communities for food banks and credit unions seemed to be on the rise, gaps in provision were also noted.

Clients of Trussell Trust food banks, for example, were reported to be rationed to three 3-day emergency packs. People who suddenly lose their income may wait for weeks before state aid kicks in. And the minefield of identifying and applying for benefits still leaves many would-be claimants overwhelmed by red tape.

Delegates were asked to take back what had been discussed to their own vestries and consider the best way forward. One outcome suggested was a local directory of sources of help.

The next Ayrshire Regional Council meeting will be an Ascension Service, which will be in St Oswald's Maybole on Thursday 29 May at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

## Ignatian Spirituality Centre events

**SPRING RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE** – This individually guided retreat will be run at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) over seven weeks. After an opening session on Thursday 1 May at 3pm or 7pm, each person will meet with a prayer companion once a week. The retreat will end with a group meeting on Thursday 12 June.

**'ART, LAUGHTER AND LIFE'** – At the ISC on Saturday 7 June (10.30am to 4.30pm) Melitta Bosworth and Katy Low will introduce ways of enjoying and celebrating life by reflecting with a variety of artistic materials. No artistic expertise is needed and all art materials will be provided.

**RESIDENTIAL RETREAT** – Two silent, individually guided retreats are being offered jointly at Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, County Antrim, by the ISC, Epiphany Group and the Drumalis ([www.drumalis.co.uk](http://www.drumalis.co.uk)) team.

There is a choice of a 3-day retreat (Saturday 28 June to Wednesday 2 July) or a 6-day retreat (Saturday 28 June to Saturday 5 July).

For more information about these or other events and retreats visit [www.iscglasgow.co.uk](http://www.iscglasgow.co.uk) or contact Ignatian Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, Glasgow G3 6PE, 0141 354 0077, [admin@iscglasgow.co.uk](mailto:admin@iscglasgow.co.uk).



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

# Diocesan News

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## Radio volunteers in line for top awards

**HIGH-PROFILE accolades** may be on their way for GRF Christian Radio. The Glasgow-based production company, whose programme-makers are all volunteers, has two entries shortlisted for this year's prestigious Sandford St Martin Awards.

Its documentary about explorer David Livingstone's wife, Mary, is the only candidate in the Radio category that hasn't been produced or aired by the BBC. It was broadcast by Premier Radio in London last May.

In the Podcast category, GRF's Christmas edition of smallVOICE, a monthly mix of chat, music and features, has been shortlisted too.

The Sandford St Martin Awards celebrate radio and TV programmes with religious, spiritual or ethical themes.

GRF's programmes are made by an inter-denominational team working mainly in the evenings and at weekends. The team includes Mike Graham, of All Saints Bearsden; and Hilary and Kennedy Fraser, from St James the Less Bishopbriggs. Hilary and Kennedy's son, David, who attends St Peter's Luton Place in Edinburgh, is another GRF volunteer.

*Mrs Livingstone, I Presume?* tells the lost story of Mary Livingstone, missionary, wife and mother. Based on research by travel writer Julie Davidson, and by Marion Moffatt, Mary's great-great-great niece, this 27-minute GRF show was aired on several UK radio stations.

Rival contenders for the Radio prize include *A Road Trip to War* on the BBC Asian Network, following British Muslims delivering aid to Syria; a thought-provoking look at living alone, presented by Hardeep Singh Kohli on BBC Radio 2; and Sir Mark Tully's account of the largest religious festival in the world, for BBC Radio 4.

GRF's Christmas smallVOICE podcast featured live fiddle music, a shaggy dog story, sketches and The Moral Mixdown discussion, covering

Nelson Mandela's funeral, the parable of the talents, injustice and our understanding of story.

It is up against a YouTube video marking a 20-year campaign, challenging sexism and arguing for ▷

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Journeying towards death

women's ordination in the Roman Catholic Church; a *Guardian* podcast on the Jewish Revival in Poland; and a TrueTube video: *How Islam Began – in Ten Minutes*.

The winners, who will share £10,000 in prize money, will be announced in June at a ceremony in Lambeth Palace.

Bishop Nick Baines is chair of the Sandford St Martin Trust. He said: "The media are vital in shaping how we see and understand the world. This brings huge responsibility and challenge, particularly in relation to how matters of religion and faith are represented. Our awards aim to recognise and reward quality broadcasting about religious, spiritual and ethical practices and issues."

## **New resources guide for mission planning**

**THE next 'chapter'** of the history of the diocesan strategic intention for growth has just been completed and is available on the Resources page of the Mission Action Planning website, managed by Carol Lovett (<http://map.glasgow.anglican.org/about-us/>).

The document as whole summarises 'the story so far', and is a helpful way of seeing just how the original plans are coming to fruition through the hard work of an ever-increasing number of people across the diocese.

Also on that website is a copy of the most up-to-date MAP overview, summarising which congregations are tackling which strands in accordance with their yearly MAP goal-setting. Just as occurs at Regional Council meetings, this is a good way of finding out what others are attempting, so that contact can be made and sharing of good practice occur. Copies of all completed MAPs that have been sent into the Diocesan Centre are also posted on that site, and these, of course, give further details about the individual actions that go towards those overall goals.

### **BISHOP'S LECTURE** **Exploring Matthew, Mark and Luke**

**BISHOP Gregor** will offer his first lecture of 2014 on the synoptic gospels.

All are very welcome to attend this 7.30pm lecture at either of the following venues (tea will be served at 7pm).

- ◇ St Ninian's, Whitepark Road, Castle Douglas DG7 1EX: Tuesday 27 May.
- ◇ Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, St James' Place, Moss Street, Paisley: Tuesday 3 June.

Finally, a new flyer for 2014 has just been published and copies are available from myself. This attractive leaflet describes the current state of play, and is a useful informational resource for those (few) charges that have not yet embarked upon MAP-ing.

*Anne Tomlinson, Ministry Development Officer*

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## **Lottery gets kids' choir going**

**Part of St Margaret Newlands' Heritage Lottery Fund grant was for a new children's choir. It's early days but already the signs are promising, as its leader, ANGELA WATSON, reports...**

**THE children's choir** has got off to a flying start, meeting in the church on Tuesday afternoons at 3.30pm.

We have just completed the first few weeks of a two-year project and it has been my great privilege and joy to come to the church to be met by 25 or more eager young people who genuinely enjoy the songs and music games we provide.

My cheerful and invaluable helpers greet the children and help with snacks and singing rounds. We are lucky to have a piano accompaniment from my husband, Kenneth; together with two volunteers from our youth group, he has been a great hit - especially with our lone-some two boys (who are not put off by being hugely outnumbered by girls).

The children come from five local schools and are in the P4-P6 age range. When I contacted the schools to recruit for the choir they were all very enthusiastic and cooperative, and there has also been much warmth and appreciation from the parents as we don't make any charge.

After a mere four weeks it was decided that we had enough repertoire to justify inviting parents on the fifth week for a short concert to let them hear our work in progress before the Easter break.

A choir of 25 can generate a fair-sized audience of supporters and it felt like a real occasion, with a mix of parents, grandparents and siblings attending.

We performed a mixture of blues, ballad and gospel, as well as a demonstration of our warm-up exercises, in our lovely church space.

Many of the audience, as well as being captivated by the music, were really interested in the church and enjoyed meeting Scott Robertson, our rector.

### **Training day: music for small churches**

A 'Music for small churches' training day is offered by the diocesan Learning and Discipleship Development Team.

It's from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 17 May at the Church of the Holy Name, 15 Fleming Road, Cumbernauld, G67 1LJ.

As well as offering some liturgical help, it will have practical workshops on how to make the most of the musical resources you have in your congregation.

If you intend attending, you should register by 12 May with the diocesan office: [office@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:office@glasgow.anglican.org); 0141 221 5720.

## News and events in brief . . .

**I**S Scotland Set to Separate? That's Professor John Curtice's topic when he delivers the annual St Mary's Lecture this month. It is at St Mary's Bridge of Weir on Tuesday 6 May, 7pm, followed by refreshments and informal discussion.

**C**ONTINUING its centenary celebrations, St Margaret's Renfrew will be taking part in Renfrew Gala Day on Sunday 1 June by having stalls in Robertson Park as well as opening the church hall for cream teas from 1.30pm. The hall will also be open Tuesday-Thursday (3-5 June) for afternoon teas from 1.30pm, with photographic memorabilia on display.

**L**YNNE Tembey, worldwide president of Mothers' Union, will be giving the address at the MU Festival Service in St John's Dumfries on Saturday 10 May at 11am. The service will also celebrate the 65th anniversary of Galloway Region. An invitation is extended to clergy and laity.

**T**HE sixth meeting of Church and the Academy in Dumfries & Galloway is on Tuesday 24 June, 12.30-2pm. Revd Dr Frances Henderson, minister of a group of parishes in the Annandale & Eskdale Presbytery, will speak about 'Language, religion and national

identity'. The meeting is in the Maxwell Rooms of St Peter's, Craignair Street, Dalbeattie DG5 4AX. All are welcome.

**C**HRISTIAN Aid, Jubilee Scotland and the Church of Scotland World Mission Council invite you to 'Africa, Debt and Tax', an evening looking at how tax and debt continue to affect Africa. The event is at the Howard Centre, 5 Portland Road, Kilmarnock KA1 2BT, 7-9pm, Tuesday 6 May.

**T**HIS year's diocesan Ministries Celebration Service will be held at St John the Evangelist, Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LW at 1.15pm, Saturday 20 September. Lunch will be available at 12 noon.

**T**HE More Than Gold Homestay programme is still looking for hosts who can help to accommodate 300 official Games volunteers and relatives of visiting athletes. Visit <http://www.morethangold2014.org.uk/hospitality/homestay.html>.

**F**OUR walk-in 'gift boxes' will be located in central and public areas in Glasgow to raise awareness of human trafficking issues during the Commonwealth Games. These street sculptures with giftwrap decoration invite you inside with promises and of-

fers, but once inside you are presented with a different reality.

**N**INIAN Moments began again in Galloway on Easter Monday. Hosted in Whithorn at the Roman Catholic Chapel, they are ecumenical 10-minute reflective services led by a lay member of one of the participating churches. They take place at noon, Monday to Friday.

**C**HURCH Action on Poverty's annual Poverty Action Sunday next year will be 15 February.

**T**HE Scottish Episcopal Church's website has been overhauled, featuring for its launch videos from each of the Church's bishops addressing as-

pects of church and Christian life. Bishop Gregor Duncan's theme is prayer. To view the site visit [www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org).

**E**CO-Congregation Scotland has launched a new *Ideas For Action* booklet on *Greening Church Buildings*. It is an introduction to the issues surrounding the care and management of church buildings and offers guiding principles which all churches can follow to reduce their environmental impact. The guide was written by Scott Wham, an architect who has worked on a number of church-related projects, and was made possible through funding from the Scottish Episcopal Church. To download a copy visit <http://tinyurl.com/mj8vsca>.

## 'Journeying towards death' course

**JOAN Adam and Helen Welsh**, of Faith in Older People, will lead a midweek course on 19-20 August at Elshieshields Tower, Lochmaben.

It is called 'Journeying towards death; a chance to explore responses to issues around death and dying and strengthen your ability to provide support to your family and members of your congregation'.

Clergy who attended the course last year in Glasgow greatly valued the training they received. In order that laity can attend, the diocese and the Church of Scotland will underwrite the main costs of and so the charge will only be £15.

Places are limited. Download the leaflet from <http://tinyurl.com/kc5f572> or email Ann Tomlinson at [mdo.gg@btinternet.com](mailto:mdo.gg@btinternet.com).

### NEXT DIOCESAN NEWS

ITEMS for the June issue may be submitted by **Monday 12 May** as ordinary prose (not leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to the editor, Susi Cormack Brown, c/o Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, or [dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk).

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