



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

Diocesan News

ISSUE 133: JUNE 2014

News and events in brief . . .

BISHOP Gregor will offer a lecture entitled 'Exploring the synoptic gospels' (Matthew, Mark and Luke) at Bishop Court, Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, St James' Place, Moss Street, Paisley, on Tuesday 3 June. Tea will be served from 7pm and the lecture will be 7.30-9pm.

ST Columba's Largs holds another of its popular car boot sales on Saturday 21 June, opening the gates to buyers 9am to 1pm (sellers may set up from 8am). Car spaces cost £7 and £9 if a table is required, tables on their own are £5 and van pitches are £11. Call to book on 01475 686546, or just go along for the sausage rolls and homemade soups. It is in Aubrey Crescent at the north end of promenade.

On the second day of the Commonwealth Games, Thursday 24 July at 7pm, there is an evening of light music and traditional tunes at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, to celebrate the work of the Mothers' Union across the Commonwealth. *In Tune with Glasgow 2014* performers include Glasgow Senior Citizen Orchestra and Clyde Coast Strathspey & Reel Society with Scottish country dancers. There will be wine and refreshments prior to the concert and at the interval. Tickets are £7 (children admitted free). To book

phone 01475 686213. MU urges you to invite any visiting guests from the Commonwealth to this concert.

AYRSHIRE Regional Council's annual wine & nibbles evening takes place at St Ninian's Troon on Wednesday 18 June at 7.30pm. The speakers will be Sister Isabel Smyth and Revd Andrew Richardson, rector of the East End Team Ministry in Glasgow and, until recently, the diocesan interfaith officer.

SOLAS Festival takes place in The Bield at Blackruthven, Perthshire, 20-22 June.

With roots in the broad Christian tradition, the festival aims to create a hospitable space where the arts can be performed and enjoyed by all. The programme also makes space for challenging debate with activists, writers and thinkers from across the political, cultural and religious spectrum. More details at solasfestival.co.uk.

IN Cambuslang, St Cuthbert's holds a summer sale on Saturday 7 June with a handbag stall among the usual attractions. It's from 10.30am till 1pm.

The church restarted its Sunday School last month with the help of a recent congregation member. Your prayers are sought for the success of this important venture.

Living on £1 a day

The running joke in the Fleming household was that they'd be dining on roadkill in their bid to survive on just £1 each a day. But somehow they managed...

Taking the *Live Below the Line* challenge was mum Becky's idea, with strong support from daughter Kate (17). Members of St Oswald's in Maybole, they are both on Maybole's Save the Children committee, where Kate is about to take over as secretary.

In fact, all the family support Save the Children. It is one of a number of anti-poverty charities in the *Live Below the Line* campaign, encouraging people to try feeding themselves for five days on just £1 a day – the globally recognised poverty line.

A campaign spokesperson said: "It shows people just how tough it is to live on £1 a day – you have little choice in what you eat and you sometimes feel hungry."

"Things like food preparation take much longer when you have to make everything from scratch, and in the UK you can consider yourself lucky – we are not asking you to take fuel and heating bills out of your allowance."

FREE FORAGED FOOD

Foraged and home-grown food were not counted either. But the Flemings never did have to peel their supper off the highway. In fact, they never went really hungry either.

That underlines the family's relatively privileged situation, as Becky will readily point out. A freezer well stocked with garden produce and wild raspberries would be beyond the dreams of 1.4 billion people for whom surviving on less than £1 a day is an all-year reality. So, too, would commuting by car to a town like Ayr, which afforded the chance to shop around for supermarket bargains.

"What we bought would have cost 25% more from our local Co-op," Becky reflected.

Involved with Save the Children at national level, she is the west of Scotland representative to the national Save the Children volunteers fundraising group, and visited ▷

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'Fruitful' two-day talks on same-sex relationships

IT matters - help is at hand

Ethiopia in 2011 to learn about the charity's health programme work. It let her see some of Save the Children's strategies to prevent 'stressed hunger levels' at times of food shortage turning into utter famine. And how fasting serves as a survival technique.

"Everyone fasts at least one day a week," she said. "It's not a total fast, but a reduced, very simple diet, typically on Fridays."

Becky's cheapest meal was fish stew with mackerel fillets for four reduced to 29p. Another coup was a dish created around a cut-price pack of sliced haggis. A list on the fridge door let everyone know the price of, say, a slice of bread or a single custard cream (the luxury of the week). With clever planning, the five days' dinners were varied, with three rice-based dishes, a pasta bake and a potato meal.

The total bill for Kate, Becky, husband Gordon and middle son Alex (22) came to £19.83. Publicising their venture on Facebook helped to raise £125, which the family will supplement with cash saved by not buying their usual choice of food.

The *Live Below the Line* campaign continues till the end of June.

To find out more visit savethechildren.org.uk.

Poignant finale for weavers' church

A **POIGNANT** act of evening worship marked the closure of St John's Episcopal Church in Girvan on Sunday 18 May after 167 years in the town.

But, while the small congregation is disbanding, its members are not being demobilised – as South Ayrshire Team rector Andrew Baldock stressed.

He said: "St John's, at least for now, has had its season, but its members have not!

"God will continue to use each of them in his own providential way."

Friends from near and far joined them in their last Evensong service, led by Bishop Gregor Duncan, with music from choristers of Holy Trinity Ayr and St Ninian's Troon. The rector preached from Revelation 3.8.

St John's congregation was formed in 1847 after a large number of Irish weavers and their families arrived in the town in the wake of the Great Famine in Ireland.

By 1859 they had their own stone building. It stayed in use till serious structural problems developed and the congregation began sharing the premises of Girvan Methodist Church in 2008. In 2012 the original building was demolished.

But this year St John's members concluded it was no longer viable to continue attempts to grow the congregation and agreed on closure.

Theirs was the smallest of the three South Ayrshire Team churches. The remaining two are Holy Trinity in Ayr and St Oswald's in Maybole.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTRE (ISC) EVENTS AND RETREATS

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.

Participants do not need any artistic expertise, and all art materials will be provided.

THE LITERATURE OF LOVE... At the ISC on Saturday 14 June (10.30am-4.30pm) Fr David Lonsdale will lead a day exploring Ignatian spirituality and its echoes in literature.

RESIDENTIAL RETREATS... At Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Co. Antrim, two silent, individually guided retreats are being offered jointly by the ISC, Epiphany Group and the Drumalis team (www.drumalis.co.uk).

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 the ISC website, www.iscglasgow.co.uk, or contact Ignatian Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, Glasgow G3 6PE, admin@iscglasgow.co.uk, 0141 354 0077.

NEXT DIOCESAN NEWS

ITEMS for the July/August issue may be submitted by **Monday 16 June** 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.

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EDITORIAL CYCLE

YOUR Diocesan News editor sets off on an all-night charity bike ride round London on Saturday 7 June.

I'll pedal 62 miles (100 km) through the wee small hours, taking in landmarks like the Tower of London, The Oval, Cutty Sark and Crystal Palace.

The event is the London Night-rider and I'm taking part to raise money for Practical Action, the sustainable technology charity founded by Fritz 'Small is Beautiful' Schumacher.

It now helps around a million people a year to break free from the cycle of poverty thanks to imaginative solutions like flood-proof wells and clay-pot natural fridges.

If you'd like to sponsor me please visit justgiving.com/susi-cormack-brown.

New appointment will improve diocese's online presence

ANDREW Walker has been appointed to the post of IT officer for the diocese.

He will be working 15 hours per week and will initially be concentrating on auditing the websites of our charges with a view to improving our online presence. He will also be reviewing our IT infrastructure and practices as his work proceeds.

Andrew has experience in many areas of IT and will be pleased to offer his assistance to those charges that feel they need some IT help or advice. He was recently employed at Lancaster University as an analyst/programmer, primarily supporting the postgraduate admissions system. He is also the founder of Metapilgrim, a social enterprise promoting and organising Christian retreats and pilgrimages.

He can be contacted through the Diocesan Centre or by email: itofficer@glasgow.anglican.org.

Course in supervision of pastoral work

A **TEN-session course** in supervision of pastoral work will start mid-October in Edinburgh in association with the Epiphany Group.

The training is for those wishing to learn about, and develop skills in, supervising pastoral work, particularly – although not exclusively – the ministry of spiritual accompaniment.

It will involve theoretical input, participant exercises and reflective practice.

The course is open to those working one-to-one regularly with others in a pastoral context, who have experience of supervision and would like to explore the possibility of being supervisors for others.

The purpose of the ecumenical Epiphany Group is to give mutual support and encouragement, and to foster community among practitioners working from the living tradition of Ignatian spirituality, in order that ministries arising from the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises may flourish in Scotland. There are 12 places on the supervision of pastoral work

course.

The closing date for applications is 22 August.

For more details, course dates and an application form visit www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/supervision.html.

THE More Than Gold Homestay programme still needs hosts for official Games volunteers and relatives of visiting athletes.

Visit morethangold2014.org.uk/hospitality/homestay.html.

'Open and fruitful' discussions on same-sex relationships

AS part of the process for discussing same-sex relationships throughout the Church, a two-day meeting called *Cascade Conversation – Listening across the Spectrum* took place in Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, at the end of April.

About 60 people attended. Participants met in six small, facilitated groups. At the end of the meeting, each group offered a short statement on their experience of the Conversation. The statements are as follows:

“We value the respectful nature of the conversation we have had and would hope that as the process continues the tone remains as important as the content of the outcome.”

“Open and fruitful conversations across serious differences were held and we hope that these can continue as the church responds to the changing law as regards marriage.”

“The design group has offered us a process of conversation to use in these two days which we fully commend to be used as widely in the Church as possible: for people to come together to speak and listen using appropriate language to grow in understanding. We feel that we came away from the conversation with some fears and negative feelings allayed and with a sense of hopeful optimism for the way in which the Church together can deal with this issue.”

“This group wants to affirm the overwhelming importance of good, open searching conversation and engagement in clarifying the profound differences among us and between us, and yet holding us in communion, holding us in that perfect love which casts out fear. But we are left asking what the institutional manifestation of that looks like, how do we move toward an outcome which we can all recognise and live with and affirm as God's will for us.”

“We heard people rather than positions. In the future can we stretch the tent to keep all within?”

“Our respectful listening to each other led to the uncomfortable realisation of how difficult and painful our view can be for other people. We hope that the future conversations/events which must now take place will continue in the respect-filled tone we have found helpful and will lead to outcomes within an agreed timeline.”

Participants then met in diocesan groups to consider how the experience of the meeting in Pitlochry might be cascaded more widely.

At the closing Eucharist, Most Revd David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, delivered a homily which you can read by following this link: <http://tinyurl.com/p6rc6vn>.

Confidence, contingencies and catapults

By Anne Tomlinson,
ministry development officer

THIS month there are no organisational developments to report for Mission Action Plans (MAPs) other than the good news that the Wigtownshire cluster, St Ninian's Troon and St Ninian's Prestwick have now embarked on MAP-ing.

Recently I visited a Mission Action Planning group which was taking a pit-stop to chart its progress through its Year-2 MAP. Three aspects of this meeting struck me. Firstly, it was conducted with the blessing, but in the absence, of the rector; these folk are trusted to get on and do the thinking, the planning and the work given that robust and appropriate reporting and accountability structures are operative in the context. There was a huge degree of confidence around.

Secondly, this group is now able to be more flexible than hitherto in its approach to its MAP goals. The MAP document is seen as a helpful framework and a set of targets, but not as a straitjacket. The group members were coping with several contingencies which had put a spanner in certain works – the discovery of rats preventing a sleepover, for instance – but responding imaginatively and energetically. That, too, was good to note.

Thirdly, the group is now making good use of the Growth Fund re-

How to host a yes–no debate

THE Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO) has produced guidance for Scottish churches about how to run a referendum event that enables a respectful but lively debate.

As with parliamentary hustings in the past, many churches will organise meetings jointly with other churches, or in conjunction with other local groups. This, says SCPO, is an opportunity for fellowship and common witness, both between churches, and in the wider community.

The referendum is on 18 September, but postal voters may begin to vote around 28 August. It is therefore recommended that referendum meetings take place before the end of August.

Visit the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office website at www.actsparl.org. You can also ask advice from SCPO by emailing info@actsparl.org or phoning 0131 220 0305.

The Church of Scotland's report 'Imagining Scotland's Future: Our Vision' also suggests discussion-starters.

sources, applying through its Regional Council. Congregations appear somewhat hesitant to apply for these grants in Year 1 of their MAP-ing journey, but experience of just how much even a little seed-corn money can achieve in terms of missional output catapults them into applying more eagerly in Year 2. This was encouraging for, as our diocesan treasurer is ever keen to highlight, the money is there and the budgeted resources currently show a huge underspend.

I came away hugely encouraged by these three signs of growth. If a week is a long time in politics, a year makes a great difference in terms of MAP-ing. Indeed these shifts are happening in many other charges besides, as MAP-ing increasingly becomes the normative way of missional planning in the diocese.

Major European Christian festival to link to Reformation 500 celebration

PLANS are in hand to link Germany's four-day 2017 Protestant Kirchentag event in Berlin with commemorations in Wittenberg of the European Reformation's 500th anniversary.

Staged in a different German city every two years, this grassroots Christian festival boasts around 2,500 events and attracts 100,000 visitors from Germany and beyond.

Said a spokesperson: "A Kirchentag visitor can go to a techno-mass, attend a meditation session afterwards, then listen to a classical concert, followed by a rock concert, and sit through a panel discussion between leading politicians.

"In between, there is time to let mind and soul unwind in the sunshine of the green open-air locations.

"Many initiatives and proposals have come out of the German Protestant Kirchentag. In 1961, it started dialogue between Jews and Christians in Germany.

"In the 1970s, new forms of worship led visitors to discover new expressions of faith. And discussions about peace and environmentalism that shaped Germany in the 1980s also had their beginnings largely at the Kirchentag."

More details are available on the Kirchentag British Committee's website at <http://www.kirchentag.org.uk> (click on the 2017 Berlin link).

If interested in attending, you can contact Canon John Lindsay, convener of the SEC's Inter-Church Relations Committee and member of the Kirchentag British Committee for Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS): canonjohnlindsay@gmail.com.

You can also register interest in taking part in the Wittenberg events by emailing mitwirken@wb2017.de.