



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

# Diocesan News

ISSUE 121: March 2013

## Amazing response saves school

**Revd Kenny Macaulay came back from Africa in January with bad news. The school his Dumbarton congregation runs from Scotland was within weeks of collapse. Saving the building would cost £5,500 – but how to find that huge sum in time? Father Kenny takes up the story...**

I HAD been made aware there were problems with Dumbarton London Corner School before my annual trip to Serrekunda, but what I found shocked me to the core. The building was literally cracking up and falling down into the old soakaway, and the implications for the children's health and safety became paramount.

There were three options:

- ◇ Buy land and build an entirely new school which would cost £40,000;
- ◇ Repair the immediate damage for £5,500 with lots more on the agenda that needed done;
- ◇ Just close the school.

Closing the school would mean an end of the free education, the feeding programme and medical care for our 90 pupils, and an end of nearly 11 years of hard work. Buying and building afresh was totally beyond us, and so the second option was the only real possibility.

I came back to Scotland with one thought in mind, and that was raising the money to save the school. It was fortuitous that the diocesan clergy conference was held during the next week, and I was able to alert fellow clergy to our predicament. The response from congregations and individuals within the diocese has been amazing.

The congregation of Castle Douglas sent us a bumper cheque for the £5,500 we desperately needed.

My Facebook friends and church magazine subscribers were generous too. Donations tumbled in from strangers and unexpected sources. The local community gave abundantly too. Before we knew it, God had more than *DOUBLED* the Castle Douglas money!

This means that a myriad of other vital jobs can now be completed early: a replacement for the school's badly leaking corrugated roof; resurfacing the playground which also was affected by subsidence; a much-needed upgrade for the children's toilets; and a new staff toilet.

Some play equipment can now be bought too, together with badly-needed new text books.

The whole place can be painted and the school kitchen can get a facelift. And we'll still be able to squirrel away some cash for a ring-fenced building fund, in case we come across any more disasters!

I don't know how to express my gratitude adequately. The school and the children there mean so much to me and a great number of other people too, who give every month by standing order or through Paypal.

It is no secret that we have stopped young children dying thanks to the daily protein they are given and the antibiotics and anti-malaria treatments they get when necessary. A lot of people from all over contribute a small monthly amount to ensure that all this, with free education, continues in this, the poorest part of Serekunda.

Many of the children in the area can still be seen naked in the streets or simply wearing binbags. Housing conditions are dreadful, and food is sometimes in short supply.

While the Gambian education department recently closed down over 40 schools in the area because of poor educational standards, our little school was rated A+. One inspector said it was the best school in Serrekunda.

This was no great surprise to us as we ensure that our teachers are of the highest standard. We pay for them to go to Gambia College if they don't already have the highest of qualifications, and one of our teachers was top of his class this year.

Our curriculum comes with UN accreditation. We use stuff like Jolly Phonics although providing the required textbooks and tapes etc can be a huge drain on our resources.

It all costs about £1,200 per month, but we just seem to get by on an annual basis! God is good, and so are our regular sponsors! Our teacher-in-charge, Sulayman Saïdy, has so much enthusiasm and talent and he brings out the best in everyone.

So, a massive load of gratitude to all who have helped save our school! Ninety hungry mouths and minds will echo that. We go on in confidence that we'll soon have a building that matches the dreams and aspirations of a committed staff and a rather special administrator!

*You can read more about the school at [staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk/ministry/gambian-school](http://staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk/ministry/gambian-school).*

*Also in your March issue . . .*

Food banks—a new role for churches

Primus backs 'lf' campaign

Treating visitors as pilgrims

# Bishop's 2013 Lent appeal to support L'Arche

**THIS year's diocesan Lent Appeal** will be for L'Arche, the charity founded in 1964 by Jean Vanier.

The son of the Governor General of Canada, Jean grew up to serve in the British and Royal Canadian Navy as an officer then resigned in 1950 to study philosophy and theology in Paris. It was in France that his eyes were opened to the institutionalisation of people with learning disabilities. Moved, he invited two residents to leave their institutions and join him in

his own home in Trosly. Inspired by Noah's Ark, Jean named their house L'Arche (the Ark in French).

L'Arche grew rapidly in Trosly and in 1969 the first community opened in Canada. Since then more and more communities around the world have been founded.

L'Arche in Scotland supports 30 people with disabilities at home – in shared houses and individual flats; and offers work and other activities to 50 people during the day.

The movement works to ensure each Community member gets the right support to meet not just their basic needs but their emotional and spiritual needs as well.

Funds raised will be go towards:

- ◇ Supporting the development of a new project in Scotland alongside the existing communities in Inverness and Edinburgh;
- ◇ Supporting initiatives in the faith life of the two existing communities, such as the ecumenical retreats shared between people with learning disabilities and those who accompany them;
- ◇ Supporting the community and faith life commitments of L'Arche Uganda.

To learn more visit [larche.org.uk](http://larche.org.uk).

## Churches start new food bank

**Christians in Girvan have joined forces to run a food bank. Ann Morris, of St John's Episcopal Church, outlines why and how...**

**DO we need food banks?** The Trussel Trust charity and other groups say unfortunately YES we do.

The Trust is opening about three new food banks every week. They are designed to help individuals and families in a crisis by providing enough food for three days.

They work through a referral system. Professionals such as social workers, doctors and health visitors hold food bank vouchers and give these to clients they think are in need of this kind of help.

The vouchers are then presented in exchange for food.

There are many reasons people come to a food bank—for example, changes or delays in their benefits, low pay, health issues, refusal of a crisis loan, debt. The list goes on.

An ecumenical group in Girvan met together to pray about how God would want us to serve him in the community. Gradually we came to realise that opening a food bank would be one way. We linked up to the Trussel Trust hub at the New Life Centre 25 miles up the coast in Prestwick and became one of its supply centres.

### **PRACTICAL**

All the food is given voluntarily to us from individuals, churches, collections at supermarkets, schools and the like, so all feel they can support the project in a very practical way. The food is weighed and boxed in Prestwick and then taken out to the centres.

At first in Girvan only a few people came to us, but we continued to open two mornings a week and prayerfully waited. Now we have received about 70 vouchers which have been mainly for families.

The people who come are so thankful. Very often they will stay for a cup of tea and a chat and if they want, are able to share some of their troubles. We can help where possible, pray with those who ask and link people up with further guidance.

I know my eyes have been opened to the ordeals that people are having to go through, and it is a privilege to be able to help in this small way. Some of the folk have been changed in their lives and now are volunteers at the food bank and have become members of one of the churches in Girvan.

We would encourage other churches to consider setting up a food bank to help practically in the local community. We are not only giving food for the body but also food for the spirit, and a love and acceptance that some of these folk are searching for desperately.

*To find out more visit [southayrshire.foodbank.org.uk](http://southayrshire.foodbank.org.uk).*

## Discover Godly Play

**A GODLY Play Discovery Day** takes place in Motherwell South Parish Church on Saturday 16 March.

Discovery Days let you find out a little more about this programme for the very young. They include:

- ◇ a full Godly Play session;
- ◇ stories and experiences from Godly Play teachers;
- ◇ the opportunity to find out what you need to tell the stories;
- ◇ information on getting started.

The cost is £10. Email [admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk](mailto:admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk) for further details or to book a place

Godly Play Scotland has asked Lorraine Darlow, convenor of Glasgow & Galloway's Development Team for Children and Youth, if there is interest in either a Discovery Day for charges in the diocese or a material-making day.

Lorraine asks you to tell her if either of these days would be of interest to you and/or others in your church.

She will then identify some possible dates and a venue or venues depending on numbers interested. Contact her at [lorraine.darlow@sky.com](mailto:lorraine.darlow@sky.com).

# PRIMUS BACKS FOOD JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

**THE Scottish Episcopal Church** has joined with more than 80 other organisations in the IF campaign, which aims to make sure that everyone has enough food to live.

The message from the IF campaign is that there is enough food for everyone IF...

- ◇ we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and we grow crops to feed people not fuel cars;
- ◇ governments and big companies are honest and open about some of the things that stop people getting enough food;
- ◇ we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families get enough food;
- ◇ we stop big companies dodging taxes in poor countries.

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church added his signature to a letter from Scottish church leaders to *The Scotsman*, supporting the IF campaign.

It said the following:

“As Scottish Church leaders, we believe we have a moral obligation to help the poor in our global community and play our part in relieving the injustice of hunger.

“There will only ever be Enough Food For Everyone IF we all take action to encourage our leaders to make the right decisions on key issues like stopping land-grabbing, cracking down on tax-dodging and keeping their promises on aid and climate finance.

“The Prime Minister has pledged to put hunger at the heart of the G8 when it comes to

the UK this year. This gives us an unprecedented opportunity to tackle hunger and make a real and lasting positive change to the lives of the poorest people in the world.

“The time to act is now.

“In Scotland we have an opportunity to play our part, and join with 100 organisations, faith groups and many thousands around the country who are committed to making 2013 the year where we see the beginning of the end of world hunger.

“We are proud to support this campaign and hope that many Scots, of all faiths and none, will join us.”

Individuals and congregations can learn more and sign up to join the campaign at [Enoughfoodif.org](http://Enoughfoodif.org) or at [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk).

**Peter Andersson, our Gothenburg correspondent, reports on the latest developments in our partner diocese ...**

## First new worship book in nearly 30 years

**THE Church of Sweden** is planning its eighth liturgy book since the Reformation. The present one was adopted in 1986.

One reason for the revision is a new Bible translation published in 2000. Another is the desire for more inclusive language, to make it clear that the gospel is for everybody. More varied liturgical music and accommodating the perspective of children are aims too.

The proposal, presented on the first Advent Sunday 2012, is based on the 1986 liturgy, but with alternative prayers and music, including two completely new suites of music. There should be greater freedom of choice of the mandatory parts of a service, but the order of the main Sunday service is still quite strictly regulated.

Thus the book will try to allow for renewal and change while keeping together that which is common in the worship of Church of Sweden. This will give more freedom in worship for different traditions and give more space for local traditions and participation. At the same time, the service will be an important unifying bond for the Church of Sweden.

The draft book will be tested by 20% of our congregations for a year before it's finalised, and the General Assembly hopes to adopt the new version in November 2015.

## More fit to face the future after overhaul

**THE General Assembly** of Church of Sweden is planning a new local structure by 2014.

The purpose is to meet a future with fewer members and shrinking economy. This is primarily due to the rapid urbanisation that followed World War II. Local congregations will cease to be autonomous bodies and will become part of a parish which will be the legal entity to deal with all administrative issues and finance. Each parish will have a vicar in charge and most parishes will have several congregations.

The aim is to be more efficient and prepared for the future, and let congregations focus on their primary mission: inviting people to Christian faith and life, to work for the expansion of the Kingdom of God and the restoration of Creation.

## MU president sent to United Nations

**THE Scottish Episcopal Church** will be represented by Ann Glenesk, Glasgow & Galloway Mothers' Union president, when the 57th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW 57) takes place this month in New York.

Its priority theme is the Elimination and Prevention of all Forms of Violence against Women and Girls, and the review theme is the Equal Sharing of Responsibility between Women and Men in Caregiving in Context of HIV/Aids.

**THE Scottish Episcopal Church** Mission Association needs an honorary treasurer to join its board of trustees. The post involves three morning meetings per year in Edinburgh, preparation of accounts in compliance with OSCR and making payments to projects overseas.

Candidates will have accountancy experience or have held a similar position.

For a job description or other information, contact SECMA provincial secretary Hilary Blyth (0131 225 6357, Tue-Thu, 10am-2pm; [secma@live.co.uk](mailto:secma@live.co.uk)).

# SEC backs call to stop destitution for refugees

THE Stop Destitution campaign from the Scottish Refugee Council and Refugees Survival Trust is seeking your support.

The campaign aims to effect a change in the current law and is running a postcard campaign to highlight the reality for many Scottish-based refugees.

Its organisers don't want money. They want to engage with people to help change the law.

And the Scottish Episcopal Church is supporting them through its Church and Society

Committee.

The more support, the more likelihood of the campaign succeeding. So the Trust wants us to sign the online petition and then tell friends, family and colleagues about the campaign.

Postcards will be collected and sent to the UK Immigration Minister, asking for a change in the law. If you would like to distribute and then collect signed postcards during a church service or event contact [info@rst.org.uk](mailto:info@rst.org.uk).

The campaign is asking for:

Proper support to continue until people are granted protection or can return home safely;

Right to work – for all asylum seekers who remain in the UK for more than six months, including those who have been refused;

Better decision-making on asylum claims and protection to all those who need it.

There is a video which could be shown to church groups and societies, that features refugees telling their stories.

Visit [stopdestitution.org.uk](http://stopdestitution.org.uk).

## Treating visitors as pilgrims

IT started with a chance remark by a woman in our congregation.

She'd noticed that many visitors to Greyfriars, Kirkcudbright, were local people who would pop in for a few minutes of quiet. This sparked off a conversation about our desire to treat visitors as pilgrims. So the idea of an indoor pilgrim trail was born.

Kirkcudbright has a long association with Scottish artists and Greyfriars has a number of artefacts made by former members, which feature as prayer stations. These include stained glass windows and an Art Nouveau cross and candlesticks. A leaflet was produced with the help of feedback from the congregation. It includes a little map and guides people round the church from one prayer point to another.

So as part of our mission planning, once a month, for an hour, we will start with a brief reflection and welcome whoever arrives. Our hope is that local people will continue to come. Our prayer is that the 'spirit of divine discontent' will be stirred up within all and that they will encounter the One who has loved them always. *Rachel Inglis*

## DEBATING FAITH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**ACTION of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)** is sponsoring a special event at the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

Entitled 'Faith in the future: the church and our environment', the event will be chaired by journalist Lesley Riddoch and bring together psychologists, theologians and others interested in behaviour change to discuss how religious faith can be a driver for environmental sustainability. Four expert speakers will give their views followed by a roundtable discussion with audience participation.

Gordon Hudson, of Eco-Congregation Scotland, said: "This event

moves the debate about religion and science away from stale debates about the existence of God to the practical issue of whether religious faith can change our behaviour for the good of the environment and the future of our world."

It takes place at 6pm on Tuesday 2 April in Teviot Row Student's Union, Bristo Square, Edinburgh. Tickets are available by phoning the Festival box office on 0844 557 2686.

Visit <http://gh.cm/XdNnyv> for more details.

**M**OTHERS' Union's Make a Mother's Day ethical giving catalogue offers virtual gifts for Mothering Sunday.

Gifts from £4 to £100, go towards helping parents or carers to overcome issues they face in everyday life. For each gift, whether for a mum or in memory of a mum, a card can be provided.

You can order online right up to the day and still receive a card to print off. Order from Ann Glenesk ([ann.glenesk@ntlworld.com](mailto:ann.glenesk@ntlworld.com), 0141 563 2140) or online by visiting [makeamothersday.org](http://makeamothersday.org).

## Understanding the impact of Welfare Reform

**FAITH in Community Scotland**, one of the Scottish Episcopal Church's strategic partners in its Church in Society work, has produced a leaflet about the upcoming Welfare Reform Act and how the changes will impact on the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.

Faith in Community Scotland is an anti-poverty organisation founded in 2005.

Its board, staff and volunteers are drawn from across the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities.

It boasts a huge level of experience within the public, private and voluntary sectors.

It shares a commitment and passion to reducing poverty in Scotland.

It gives training, resources, advice and support to faith groups, developing their potential to make a difference in Scotland's poorest communities.

It does this in the belief that poverty and inequality ruin people's lives.

And, as Scotland changes, with people of different faiths and cultures living alongside each other, it believes it is essential to work together to reduce poverty and make our communities better places in which to live and work.

The leaflet can be downloaded at [faithincommunityscotland.org](http://faithincommunityscotland.org) from the 'what we do' section.

## News and events in brief . . .

**T**HE diocesan Development Team for Worship and Liturgy has organised an evening on The Stations of the Cross, to be held on Thursday 7 March at 7pm at St Matthew's Possilpark.

Dr John Davies, a member of both the Provincial Liturgy Committee and the Diocesan Development Team, will give a talk about the history the Stations, and an explication of the rite.

The assembled company will then be invited to walk the Stations, before ending with a celebration of the Eucharist.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

**D**IOCESAN Synod meets at The Barony, Lochmaben, 2 March.

**A** TRAINING day for worship leaders will take place in St Ninian's Castle Douglas on Saturday 20 April, 10.30am-4pm.

It is aimed both at worship leaders and others who are interested in learning more.

The day will comprise a discussion about the theology and use of Reserved-Sacrament Communion in the diocese, led by the Bishop, and input on the Service of the Word from Dr John Davies.

There will be practical options in the afternoon on conducting the Service of the Word, and the Exposition of the Word.

Register by 1 April with [mdo.gg@btinternet.com](mailto:mdo.gg@btinternet.com), stating any dietary requirements.

**A** HOLY Land pilgrimage will be co-led by Revd Cedric Blakey, vice-provost of St Mary's Cathedral, 13-24 May. Cedric's fellow leader is the Dean of Brecon, a highly experienced tour leader and guide

For itinerary and costs email [viceprovost@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:viceprovost@thecathedral.org.uk) as soon as possible.

**R**EV D Michael Paterson, Episcopal chaplain to St Columba's Hospice in Edinburgh and veteran pilgrim, leads two pilgrimages on the Camino de

Santiago this year.

Visit [www.joiningthedots.org.uk](http://www.joiningthedots.org.uk) for details or send an email to [michael@joiningthedots.org.uk](mailto:michael@joiningthedots.org.uk).

**T**HE Fifth International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality will have speakers, workshops and papers following the themes of: Ageing Gifts, Ageing Changes, and Ageing Hopes.

Keynote speakers include Professor Elizabeth Mackinlay, Professor Susan McFadden, Professor John Swinton, John Killick, Claire Craig, Baroness Neuberger and Professor Phil Hanlon.

It will be in Edinburgh, 7-10 July. Visit [fiop-mha.events-madeeasy.com](http://fiop-mha.events-madeeasy.com).

**B**ISHOP Gregor and Canon Scott Robertson are among this year's Pathway to Prayer workshop leaders.

Pathway to Prayer is an annual ecumenical day exploring our relationship with God through prayer. It regularly draws more than 100 participants.

This year it will take place in Troon on Saturday 16 March.

Participants select three workshops from a choice of five.

These are led by Bishop Gregor Duncan (Praying the prayers of the Old Testament), Mrs Chris King DCS (From modern art to prayer), Revd Canon Dr Scott Robertson (Prayer and popular culture), Jo Love DCS (Singing the journey), and Revd Peter Miller (Prayerful insights from other cultures).

Tea, coffee and lunch are provided. Registration is £8 (£5 for unwaged).

Visit [pathwaystogod.org.uk](http://pathwaystogod.org.uk) or call 01563 851197.

**S**ATURDAY Mornings in Lent at Elshieshields, near Lock-erbie, offer a talk followed by silence for personal reflection then prayers together.

The series continues 9-23 March, 10.30am-12.45pm, with coffee from 10.15am.

Participants are welcome to bring a packed lunch and stay on

to enjoy the tower and the grounds in the afternoon.

Suggested donation for each session: £2.

The popular 'Brush up your New Testament Greek' group with Fr David Preston continues to meet monthly at Elshieshields, as does a monthly silent prayer group.

Phone 01387 810280 or email [ann.shukman@virgin.net](mailto:ann.shukman@virgin.net).

**E**CO-Congregation Scotland's Annual Gathering and AGM will be on Saturday 20 April at the Grassmarket Community project, Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh. The theme will be food.

**S**ATURDAY 'Let's Do Theology' sessions continue for lay people from all over the diocese at Bishop Court, Holy Trinity & St Barnabas Paisley, 10am-12noon. They will be held on 16 March, 13 April, 11 May and 15 June.

The series is part of the Journey in Faith programme. Contact Revd Gordon Fyfe: 01475 673143.

**B**LACK Gold, a drama-documentary shedding light on the ethics of the global coffee trade will be screened for Fairtrade Fortnight at Langside Parish Church, Glasgow, on Monday 4 March at 7.30pm.

Fairtrade coffee, tea and biscuits will be served and there will be a taste of Fairtrade wine and nibbles. Fairtrade Fortnight runs 25 February to 10 March.

**I**SSUE 7 of the International Anglican Women's Network Newsletter is now online at [iawn.anglicancommunion.org/newsletters/index.cfm](http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/newsletters/index.cfm). Editor Elaine Cameron will be pleased to receive comments.

**T**HE Porvoo Communion Prayer Diary for 2013 can now be downloaded from the Scottish Episcopal Church website. The Porvoo Communion is an agreement between the British and Irish Anglican Churches and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran

Churches which secures common membership and full interchangeability of ordained clergy.

**S**T John the Evangelist Stranraer now has a website. View it at [stjohnsstranraer.co.uk](http://stjohnsstranraer.co.uk).

**T**HIS year's Earth Hour takes place on Saturday 23 March. Eco-Congregation Scotland's information pack for churches can be downloaded from <http://gh.cm/W6vP5Q>.

**S**KILLS for Dialogue is a workshop offering skills to respond to tricky conversations or situations in life, in our churches, in the world.

Facilitated by 'Place for Hope', it is open to all and free of charge.

There are two opportunities to attend the same workshop: Tuesday 23 April, 10am–12.30pm, at Lockerbie Dryfesdale Church Hall, DG11 2AA; and Thursday 27 June, 7–9.30pm, at St John's Church, Dumfries DG1 1LW.

Book for the Lockerbie workshop with Ruth Harvey (0740 363 8339) or for the Dumfries evening

with Sally Russell (07710 134404).

**A**T Bridge of Weir, the St Mary's Lecturer for this year will be Dr Carol Craig. Her talk will be on 8 May at 7pm and her theme is Materialism. Dr Craig is chief executive of the Centre for Confidence and Well-Being.

**M**ARKING 850 years since the charter was signed to establish Scotland's first Cluniac abbey at Paisley, around 60 pilgrims were expected to walk from Maybole to Dailly on 23 February.

Their 12-mile trek was the sixth instalment of 11 monthly walks broadly following an ancient pilgrim trail from Paisley Abbey to Whithorn. When the pilgrims arrive at Whithorn, on 29 June, those who have participated in every walk will have covered about 120 miles.

The February walk started at Maybole's new Carrick Centre, home to Maybole Parish Church, a cafe, conference centre and community space.

The kirk at Dailly will lay on

refreshments at journey's end, and provide the gathering point for the start of the next leg, which will be at 11am on 23 March, with Barr as the destination.

Participant numbers have steadily grown since the Pilgrimage 850 walk started at the Abbey in August, and new faces continue to be welcome.

Visit [paisleyabbey.org.uk](http://paisleyabbey.org.uk).

**T**HE Vicar's Relief Fund (VRF) from St Martin's-in-the-Fields makes small grants to those who are in need or suffering hardship for necessities such as beds and bedding, clothing, domestic appliances, equipment for babies and toddlers, and arrears that have occurred through no fault of the applicant.

Anyone can refer, but the application must be filled out by clergy. Many recipients are at risk of homelessness.

The fund is administered in the diocese by the Development Team for Imaginative Outreach into Communities. Contact convener Revd Kenneth Macaulay at [office@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:office@glasgow.anglican.org).

## Ignatian Centre events and retreats

**IN addition** to the usual programme at Glasgow's Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) the following Lent events are offered.

Saturday 2 March (10.30am–4.30pm): 'Journeying to Jesus in Lent'. This gentle day with Magdalen Lawler SND will help you journey to the heart of Jesus by means of paintings, scripture and poetry.

Saturday 9 March (10.30am–4.30pm): 'My Kingdom is not of this world'. Zen Brayley will introduce icons as a window through which to experience the humility and self-emptying love of Jesus as he journeys to his passion. The day will include input on praying with icons, music and space for personal prayer and reflection.

A residential 'taster' retreat is offered by the Centre at the Xaverian Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. 'Restful Waters, Green Pastures' is an opportunity for a peaceful retreat experience with others without being totally silent. It runs Friday 26 April to Sunday 28 April.

A silent midweek residential retreat at The Bield, Blackruthven, will be individually guided. It takes place from 4pm on Tuesday 28 May till Friday 31 May (departures after breakfast).

The Centre is at 35 Scott Street, G3 6PE. For further information visit [iscglasgow.co.uk](http://iscglasgow.co.uk) or call 0141 354 0077.

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Items for the April issue may be submitted by **Monday 18 March** as plain prose (NOT leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to the editor, Susi Cormack Brown, [dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk) or c/o Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH

## Blame game 'must stop'

**CHURCH Action on Poverty** has published a report accusing politicians and journalists of fuelling prejudice against poor people.

'The Blame Game Must Stop' offers a Christian response to stigmatising people who are in poverty. The report features stories gathered from people on benefits or low wages.

Niall Cooper, national coordinator of Church Action on Poverty, said: "Politicians and the media use abusive language and images, and fuel mistrust by contrasting supposed 'strivers' with 'skivers'. Christians are called to act when anyone is marginalised or excluded. We urge all Christians to speak out now against this blame game."

The report is free to download at [church-poverty.org.uk/stigma](http://church-poverty.org.uk/stigma). The web page also includes a simple online action which can be used to send a message about stigma to your local newspaper.