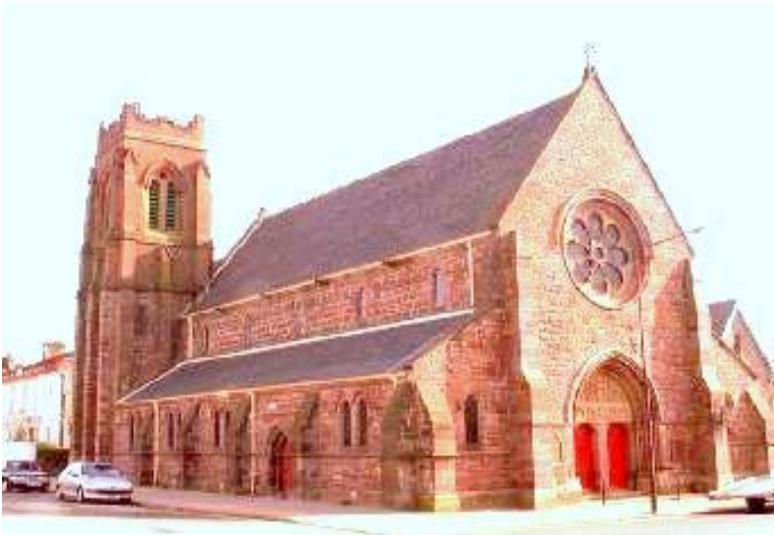


May 2014

THE MESSENGER



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The Magazine of St Michael

And All Angels

Episcopal Church

Helensburgh

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway

The Very Rev Gregor Duncan

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Christian Aid Week 2014: give people a future without fear

‘The Lord is my rock,
my fortress, and my
deliverer... in whom
I take refuge.’ 2 Samuel 22:2-3

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life. Right now, fueled by the devastating violence in South Sudan, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise. It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can’t turn our backs. We must act now.

The good news is that your church can make a real difference.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) we want to go even further.

We want every church in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by giving, acting or praying.

Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone.

We’re with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace.

Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope

MESSENGER

May 2014

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June Edition

Copy Deadline 11th May

(N.B. Date change)

Stapling Day	21 st May
Publication Sunday	25 th May.

July August edition

Copy Deadline 15th June

Stapling day	25 th June
Publication Sunday	29 th June

For an email copy in lieu of a paper copy please contact the Editor. (address below)

Please send contributions to:-

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Marjory Barrington

Tel: 820484

with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear. Demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week. Together we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

War tears lives apart. You can help put them back together
(Taken from this year's Christian Aid publications) Editor

Vestry Report

After a prayer for spiritual guidance the previous minutes were approved.

DIOCESAN GROWTH STRATEGY. The Stage 1 Report was considered and accepted as the basis for further action. It was agreed that the Rector and Secretary should prepare a formal letter to the Dean requesting the appointment of a new facilitator.

CHURCH LAPTOP AND IT POLICY. Richard explained that he had contacted the Diocesan Office and was informed that no IT and Data Protection Policy exists as yet in the Diocese. It was agreed to proceed on the basis of adapting another church's policy until such time as a Diocesan standard might be issued. Marjory presented a draft IT policy to be corrected before the next Vestry to allow final editing and Vestry approval. Marjory was thanked for her efforts in this regard.

SUNDAY CLUBS. Anne Cook reported: We continue to have a small but regular attendance at the group for younger children, using the Scripture Union 'Light' material. The older group, 10-12 years, meet in the Rectory and we have been watching episodes from the DVD of "The Bible" series as shown on Channel 5. It is fast-moving and exciting, occasionally quite blood-thirsty, and gives rise to some intelligent questions and discussion. The children who were present enjoyed the Mothering Sunday presentation by the Mothers' Union at the start of the 10:30 Eucharist. Thanks to all who put so much effort into it, and thanks to everyone for your continued support and prayers. The Vestry expressed their warm appreciation for all those who contributed to the excellent Mothering Sunday presentation.

PROPERTY. Nick reported as follows: LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR. The remedial work on the system was completed, but although the system was improved the BS standard of 10 Ohms was not reached. The reports from BEST Services that recorded the work they have done and the test results have all been forwarded to the church insurers. The insurers have responded that they are concerned that the British Standard for resistance was not reached and have requested that BEST be contacted again to ascertain what else can be done. I have emailed the insurers' questions to BEST and once I have a reply I will contact the Property Technical Manager to discuss the issue.

MAIN HALL DOORS. The Vestry agreed to use Oak or Iroko doors finished with oil to

provide a longer term, low maintenance and more aesthetic finish to these doors.
LIFT MAINTENANCE. Six monthly maintenance on the lift was completed by GEM Lifts on Fri 27 Mar.

CHURCH HEATING SYSTEM. With the use of temperature recorders and electricity consumption recorders John Sadden has identified how the system is operating during the week outwith the normal Sunday operating times. Consequently Nick adjusted the two controlling thermostats on Fri 27 Mar. We will monitor the system operation to see what effect these adjustments have had.

RECTORY WINDOWS MAINTENANCE. Nick has started to obtain estimates for the work on the Rectory and Main Hall windows.

NOTICE BOARD. The Vestry agreed that no further action should be taken until the modifications to the culvert are complete.

NICK'S RETIREMENT AS PROPERTY CONVENOR. After explaining the urgent need for a replacement to take over at the AGM it was agreed that the Rector should pursue his first idea and that any other suggestions should be forwarded to Richard.

WHEELCHAIR SPACE FOR JUDY HARBOUR: The Vestry agreed that a space should be created for Judy Harbour's new powered wheelchair by adjustment to the front pew once the new wheelchair may be measured. *Richard Smith (secretary to Vestry)*

Notices

Ascension Day Eucharist

We return to having a Sung Eucharist this year, but it will be a North-West Region-wide celebration, held at St. Mungo's, Alexandria. Do PLEASE keep the evening free to join us. It would be good if we could fill St. Mungo's for the service - and St. Mungo's does a good line in refreshments afterwards!

Monthly Coffee morning: *This is not just for ladies - All are welcome!*

Thursday May 1st 10.30am, at Chris & Ann Packard's, Kiloran Glasgow Street

Mothers' Union Dates for your diary

Saturday May 10th 11.am at St. John's Church Dumfries *See page 8*

Thursday May 22nd 10.30am - Trip to Ardardan Estate

Shandon Gardens Opening Sunday May 18th 2pm-5pm.

Rosemary & Jerry Lang and Kathleen & Robin Murray are opening their gardens at Ardchapel and 7 The Birches in aid of Sight Savers and Scotland's Garden Scheme. Tea & shortbread is available at Ardchapel and there is a Plant Sale at both venues. Entry £4 (children under 15 years free)

Christian Aid Week is 11 - 17 May.

The main events this year involving the Church are,

Thursday May 8th

6pm Christian Aid swim

Saturday May 10th

Street collection

Sunday May 11th

Soup and cheese lunch at St Michael's after the 10.30 Eucharist

7pm United Christian Aid Service at the Baptist Church.

House to house collection all week.

Saturday 17th May

10am – 12 noon Christian Aid Fayre in the URC hall.

BOOKS and TOYS for the St Michael's stall please.

Offers of help for any or all of these events would be hugely gratefully received.

Many thanks

John Hanks

Vale of Leven Hospital Tea bar Rota

The chart for Tea Bar duty for the week **19th-23rd May** is on the Notice Board in the Hall. If there is anyone who has not volunteered before and who would like to do so, please talk to either Judith or Sophie. We really welcome new volunteers. Helping at the Tea Bar is not difficult. We always make sure that new volunteers are accompanied by someone experienced. *Sophie – 671074 or Judith – 672477.*

This year the Ministry Celebration Service will be held at St John's, Dumfries on Saturday 20th September. Lunch will be available at 12noon with the service beginning at 1.15pm.

Daffodil Tea

Michael and Rosemary Wilson are most grateful to everyone who came to the Daffodil Tea on March 23rd. Particular appreciation goes to members of the Social Committee, to Julia Gourd for the lovely posters and to helpers with parking, ferrying and superb baking. Special thanks, also, to the teapot bearers, the washers up and the Wardil and Lewis families for helping to rearrange so much furniture afterwards. We couldn't have managed without so much willing help.

Thanks to people's generosity, with the help of Gift Aid, the result for church funds is a little over £300.

Rosemary Wilson

The Glasgow & Galloway Synod

1st March 2014 at Barony College, Lochmaben, Dumfries

The Synod started with the Eucharist at 10am

The Bishop's charge recommended everyone to think deeply about, and all vote, in the Referendum.

There were representatives from the Methodist, URC and Church of Scotland present. (four denominations sent apologies)

Professor John Curtice spoke about the national/Scottish statistics in relation to same sex relationships/marriage over the last few decades – where today people accept/are in favour of in more or less 50 percent of the population. Thereafter were group discussions and feedback.

The Treasurer reported a healthy financial year. The sale of Challoch Rectory fetched £187,643. Last year's Lent Appeal – for L'Arche realised £11,216

The Diocese are ending links with Byumba and Kentucky but retain Gothenburg

In the afternoon (after a superb buffet lunch) there were several workshops. I attended the Commonwealth Games one with Margaret Horrell (people commented very favourably about having a Mothers' Union rep. holding a card stall there) The Commonwealth Games ecumenical 'slant' is an engagement by churches for service, hospitality and mission – organised to benefit those who are not members. It is called 'More than God' – why? The message to more than half a million expected in Glasgow is – More than Gold! An invitation to all denominations – how can churches engage children, young people, social justice, mission etc. There are twelve groups. To find out about them www.morethangold2014.org.uk The logo is based on experience – unifying for all work – free from the website.

- Social Justice homelessness, environment, human trafficking and Fair Trade (MTG2014 coffee blend – we were given a sample each). In the human trafficking (reality in boxes – in 4 areas) people are needed to man half or a full day.
- Para Sports: a time to reassess 'inclusion' in church (20 gold medals to be given)
- Community Festival big screen events, street parties, open ceremony screenings, neighbourhood festivals, host a party – if you feel your call get together and do any of these. Resources are available to help you and there will be a training day in April
- People to talk about technology are needed.
- Instead of Empire biscuits – Commonwealth biscuits.
- Hospitality: the Salvation Army will distribute water. Homestay is required for athletes families – many athletes will not know until the last minute

whether they are coming – 350 beds are needed – if you feel you can offer a bed/or two, please get in touch with Diocesan office – anyone within greater Glasgow. More beds are needed than beds available.

- Mission/Sports Mission: maybe a sports quiz in churches, inviting others – leaflets ‘Christians in sport’ – or add a Commonwealth theme to a church event.
- Start praying!
- The games finish on Sunday 3rd August – maybe a ‘Songs of Praise’ in church.
- Everyone is asked to consider any of the suggestions and see what they can do.
- The website is upgraded fortnightly.
- Enews on email.
- There are 17 sports in the games, think of 17 ways to be involved

After the workshops there was an update from Design for Discussion on same sex relationships. Within the church there is slow understanding and opinions vary widely. There are many shades of opinion. The Bishop of Brechin is to design a process to enable a framework within life of the Episcopal church, with an emphasis on listening. A meeting is to be held in Pitlochry encouraging whole church discussion – finish by November and report given – six from each Diocese, nominated by each Bishop.

Support work is to be given to Credit Unions in areas of deprivation.

Kilmarnock rectory needs a big upgrade if an episcopal presence is wished by the church.

Pensions – 34.9% of stipend. No end in sight at moment – many suffering since stock market collapse.

The Bishop’s Lenten Appeal – a representative from Yorkhill Children’s Hospital gave a moving presentation.

There will be a Holy Land pilgrimage led by the Bishop in 2015.

Christian Aid has produced cook books ‘Enough Food if’ (the Church has received four books – any more required can be obtained from the General Synod office for a donation).

Margaret Gilbert

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union members and friends are warmly invited to attend the Mothers' Union Festival Service celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Galloway/South Region. The Service will take place on Saturday May 10th at 11am at St John's

Church in Dumfries, and will include worship, lunch and entertainment and the opportunity to meet the Worldwide President of the MU and other guests. We will be travelling together by train - please contact Sarah (sarahb164@gmail.com or 01436 679603) if you would like to attend.

Sarah Beveridge

On Thursday 20 March St Michael's Mothers' Union welcomed Hilary Moran, a former MU President for Scotland, who is now our Growth and Giving Communications and Fundraising Representative for the Province. Hilary talked to us about the MU Inspires Programme.

By way of introduction, Hilary reminded us that we each have gifts we can use for God, in all sorts of ways. The Bible gives us several examples of people who felt inadequate and ill-prepared to do the tasks that God had appointed for them; so we are not alone if we feel like this.

Hilary talked about the following projects:

Community Development Work

Approximately 300 MU Community Development Coordinators are at work in over 30 countries to enable members achieve their potential and help transform their communities through various projects.

In the UK, MU facilitators are used to guide groups, following the MU book "We are Created by God: Exploring our Identity and Relationships" through discussions and questions. Sensitive and complex issues such as singleness, divorce, same-sex marriage and widowhood can be aired and many have found a deeper understanding of relationships for the future.

The Church and Community Mobilisation Process is a community-based project, based mainly in less developed countries, which uses MU facilitator-led Bible studies working with church groups, with the aim of encouraging them to initiate economic, social and physical changes to make a positive impact on their communities. Hilary gave us an example of a man in Central Buganda who had so grown in confidence that, from working as a garden labourer, he now has his own small business, has been able to build a house for his family, and he and his wife care for and support their own seven children, four orphans and a disabled relative. Other members of this particular group have learnt important health and nutrition skills, which they can share. They have also started their own vegetable gardens and are able to sell the surplus to give them an income, and together run savings and credit schemes.

Cont. pg. 11

Calendar for May 2014

Thursday 1st May

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Eucharist
10.30 am Monthly Coffee morning
Kiloran, Glasgow St.

Sunday 4th May Third of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit'
contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for
children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist
(Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Monday 5th May

7:30pm Vestry meeting in Rectory

Tuesday 6th May

9.15am Prayer Meeting
10.30am Eucharist
11.45am-12.45pm Rector available
in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 7th May

7.30pm Eucharist

Thursday 8th May

6pm Christian Aid Swim
7.30pm NWRC Meeting St. Mungo's

Saturday 10th May

9am Rambling Club
Christian Aid Street Collection

Sunday 11th May Fourth of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit'
contemporary worship (Crèche)

10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for
children

10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist
(Crèche)

Christian Aid Soup & Cheese lunch

6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

7.00pm United C.A. Service at Baptist
Church

Tuesday 13th May

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist, Trinity Chapel,
followed by refreshments
11.45am - 12.45 Rector available in the
Choir Vestry

Wednesday 14th May

7:00pm Said Eucharist, Trinity Chapel

Friday -Monday 16-19 May

Rambling Club Weekend

Saturday 17th May

10.00am -12noon Christian Aid Fayre
URC Hall

Sunday 18th May Fifth of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit'
contemporary worship (Crèche)

10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for
children

10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 20th May

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Eucharist

Calendar for May 2014

11.45am–12.45 Rector
available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 21st May

7.30pm Eucharist

Thursday 22nd May

Mothers' Union Outing to Ardardan
Estate

Sunday 25th May Sixth of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit'
contemporary worship (Crèche)

10.30am-11.30am Sunday Clubs for
children

10.30am-11.30am Sung Eucharist
(Crèche)

6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 27th May

9.15am Prayer meeting

10.30am Eucharist

11.45am-12.45pm Rector available in
the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 30th April

7.30pm Eucharist

Thursday 29th May Feast day of the Ascension

7.30 pm Sung Eucharist at St. Mungo's

Saturday 31st May

9.00am Rambling Club

10.30am-12.30 pm Messy Church in
URC Hall

Mothers' Union continued.

Commission on Status of Women

Hilary reminded us that representatives of the Mothers' Union are working alongside the United Nations task force to improve the plight of women and girls throughout the world. Domestic abuse is a major concern and statistics show that women between the ages of 15 and 44 run a greater risk worldwide of being the victims of any sort of abuse than they do of contracting a serious illness or suffering an accident. Being a Christian does not protect us from being a victim or survivor of domestic abuse and neither, sadly, does it exclude us from being perpetrators.

We hope that many of St Michael's congregation have looked at the shoe display at the back of church, and have read and thought about the words on the labels.

All those present at Hilary's talk were encouraged to learn how even a small but genuine effort by people willing to use the gifts they are given can make a huge difference.

Joy Boak

Heavenly Trumpets From Maura & Pablo's blog in El Salvador

A funeral procession passed me this afternoon as I walked up to the park. We live two streets from the town's main cemetery, so this isn't unusual – at least two or three coffins are brought down every day – but this funeral was huge. At least 500 people straddled the road, in front of, surrounding, and following the coffins. There were two, which almost always means two teenage boys have died together – brothers or close friends – and the families are holding the funerals and burials jointly. A live band walked in front of the coffins, their slow jazz waltz glowing in the pink late afternoon. The music was exquisitely sad – trumpets, acoustic bass and a soulful alto voice. This waltz was from heaven, and I couldn't help smiling at the completely unexpected concert that



I was lucky enough to catch. The mourners making their way to the burial were sad, yes, and some wept as they held on to the side of the pick up trucks carrying the bodies, but life is cheap here in El Salvador, and death is sad, but it's not the end of the world. People die – they get shot or they get ill; they might be 15 or they might be 50 – and they are

mourned and buried within 24 hours. Then people go back to school, they go back to work, they go back to grinding maize and making tortillas and sitting out on the street with their families at night.

Shootings and untreated illnesses are so normal here that death actually is a part of life. The formerly completely Catholic population is shifting towards a near 50/50 split with born again Evangelical Protestants, but both types of Christian have a strong belief in life after death, no matter how differently they think you get a place in heaven. The strong deep belief in El Salvador that life remains on a heavenly level, after and beyond gang murders and the injustice of poverty, frees them to live today.

Salvadorans live in the present – life is to be lived today, because who knows what will happen tomorrow? If you have a job, for the majority, it's not secure. If you catch a disease from dirty water tomorrow, the spot on the street from where you sell your basket of fruit will not pay you sickness benefit. If your husband is shot for wandering into territory of a neighbouring gang, there will

be no life insurance compensation to help send your children to school. Salvadorans seem to be less scared of death than me and my fellow Europeans. Death is always just around the corner, and you've got to live and laugh and play football and go out to eat tacos in the park regardless – otherwise, life wouldn't be worth living. If you're diagnosed with cancer, unless you happen to be super-rich and can pay for chemotherapy, you will die from cancer. That is life and cannot be argued with. In contrast, the West fights death; we cling on to life; will not be defeated by sickness.

The gorgeous notes of this funeral trumpet were declaring how good the life of these two young men had been, how peaceful and safe their life now would be in heaven, and how deep and searing the grief is for the friends and family still on this side. The music did not shy from announcing any of these things. The notes were waltzing with life, waltzing with death, waltzing in another place free from the fear of death.

And if the trumpet there is as sweet as on the street this afternoon, I'd like a front seat at the concert.

Anne Cook

(Many of you may know that Maura, one of David and Anne's daughters, and her husband Pablo, are currently working in El Salvador as mission partners with the local Methodist church.)

Eco congregation

A visit.....to a waste disposal plant may not seem like a fun day out. However with eleven other members of the Helensburgh and district network of Eco congregations, it proved to be extremely interesting.

The Deerdykes Composting and Organics Recycling Facility (to give it its full title) near Cumbernauld, handles food waste from a very wide area, although not Argyll and Bute. It was initially used to turn garden waste into compost. The facility benefited from a £1.7million grant from Zero Waste Scotland.

In 2010 an anaerobic digestion tank capable of turning 30,000 tonnes of food waste into 8,000 megawatts of power each year(enough to power up to 2,000 homes) was completed. Deerdykes, created by ScottishWater Horizons, the public utility's commercial and renewable energy business, is the largest organic recycling unit in Scotland.

We were warmly welcomed with tea, coffee and biscuits and, after donning the required yellow jackets, big boots and hard hats, were taken on a tour of the impressive, if odorous, site.

Ann Packard

Eco-Congregation continued on Page 14

The Challenge of Climate Change

As you know, the latest report (5th Assessment) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change came out on 30th March. It was met by a surprising flurry of comment by the press who for once seemed genuinely frightened by the dire conclusions it reached, and the tone of real panic in the warnings to act now to mitigate and adapt to the oncoming consequences of our misuse of the planet.

In the film 'The English Patient', the patient, who is of course Hungarian, lies dying from appalling burns sustained in the fire when his plane crashes in the desert. While his enemy steals his morphine he says, 'I am toast, my friend'. If we carry on heating the planet and poisoning the oceans, causing the extinction of the biodiversity and using up 2,700 litres of water for every bar of chocolate we consume, we are all 'toast'. But what has this to do with Deerdynes Recycling and Composting Centre, and the celebration of Easter? I hear you ask. Well the answer to that quiz question is 'Everything'. For we, as Christians, know that even a tiny act of faith like a mustard seed, can grow into a tree in which the birds may shelter. A mere twelve cowardly and uneducated men found the strength and faith in a resurrected and living Saviour to change the course of world history, in the power of the Holy Spirit. That is about the size of the average Mothers' Union meeting. We believe that the Creator of Heaven and Earth, who gives us the moral law within and the starry skies above is also a fatherly and loving God. He wants the best for all His Creation both human and non-human, and has given us the vision of a world made new in holiness and righteousness, where beauty and truth, peace and harmony will reign and there will be no more weeping but only joy for all in the glory of His presence.

Already scientists are discovering more and more ways in which the world can provide us with what we need to live sustainably into the future, but we must not waste what we have and we must obey the moral laws which He has given us. I cannot direct people to read this or that relevant book or join Operation Noah or an anti-fracking group or Friends of the Earth, because we all have different priorities and are motivated to act by different objectives. However, we can all agree to be guided in all we do both in the home and in public, to learn what the Holy Spirit is saying to us about living more in accordance with the laws of Nature as it was intended that we should.

By the way, Miriam Sutter told me that by halving a dishwasher tablet you are using less detergent and still getting the crockery clean and economizing at the

same time. If it is an E-cover dish washer tablet it is even better and less toxic for marine life.

Selina McGeoch

From the Rector

Here are some interesting words written by Blessed Frederic Ozanam as quoted in my church news-paper:"This is how Providence acts to direct the activity of the human spirit. When winter begins, it looks like all vegetables will die. The wind sweeps away all flowers and leaves, but it keeps something hidden, dry and powdery: the seeds and all plant life are found inside. Providence takes care of this. The storm takes them off, and the waters bring them along, until they find land and the ray of sunlight that is needed to make them flower.

In this way, when the barbarian times and the evil seasons of human life arrive, we see that all these flowers of poetry and eloquence wither; it seems like all plant life and thought will perish. It shelters, however, in issues that seem small, dry, and arid: still, Providence takes charge.

They thus cross through three or four centuries; the Word escorts them into new lands and times, until a man of genius takes them for cultivation. When he adds his sweat and concerns, they finally burst into life."

(From 'Fifteen Days of Prayer with Blessed Frederic Ozanam' by Christian Verheyde.)

David Cook



Please Note : The Diocesan Newsletter is available to read on The Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway Website.

Editor



Interfaith conference to discuss place of religion in a written constitution

Scotland's Churches and faith communities have united to call for the role of religion to be recognised in Scottish society, whatever the constitutional future holds. Cont.

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An Interfaith conference will take place at the Conforti Institute in Coatbridge this July. It is intended that the conference will help inform their responses to both the constitutional consultation and the wider political debate beyond the referendum. The conference will transcend political differences and any statements agreed will make no endorsement of either side in the referendum campaign.

At a recent Interfaith meeting in Scotland, it was agreed the Scottish Government's intention to consult on a draft written constitution offers an important opportunity for faith communities to be heard. Those present at the meeting, including the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrew's, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, issued the following statement:

"Leaders from Scotland's churches and faith communities are to discuss the place religion should have in any future written constitution proposed to the Scottish parliament. A draft constitution document is due to be released by the Scottish government this summer for consultation.

A faith conference will now be held to frame considered responses to the various issues surrounding religion and belief in the current referendum debate and society at large.

At a meeting, chaired by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, representatives of Scotland's diverse faith traditions were united in the view that the contribution of faith to Scottish society should be properly recognised whatever the future holds. All the churches and faith communities present agreed Scotland's diversity of religious belief is an important reflection of Scotland's wider society."

A prayer at Christian Aid Week

Lord,

You come to us in neighbours we do not know
and are unlikely to meet.

You come to us when people's needs are
measured in statistics, argued about in political
programmes, or estimated in development plans.

Give us the grace to see past numbers to the real
lives behind them.

So that we might, with you, build your Kingdom.

AMEN

Find out more about the Scottish Episcopal Church at www.scotland.anglican.org

Sign up for news about the Scottish Episcopal Church at www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS FOR MAY

Walks are on Saturdays and start outside St Michael's Church at 9 am unless otherwise indicated by the leaders of the individual walks.

Date	Grade	Description	Leader
10 th May	Medium /Hard	Cort-ma-Law	James Ashby 675541
16-19 May	Fun weekend	Crusoe Hotel Lower Largo Fife	Frankie,Sue Geoff orJames
31 st May	Hard	The Tarmachan Hills	James Ashby 675541

Definitions of grades (these are estimations and may alter after a recce):-

Easy – Flatish with mostly good walking surface.

Medium – Some ups and downs with tracks/paths; if no close 'easy' option the slower people might go part way.

Hard – Hillwalking with significant ups and downs and/or distance.

(An easier walk will, hopefully, be available)

The Committee is Frankie Hanmer, Geoff Mason, Sue Hume and James Ashby who will be pleased to receive suggestions for walks.

The May Weekend is the 16th-19th, based at Lower Largo, Fife. We have filled the Crusoe Hotel with 30 of us. Any more interested parties please make your own accommodation arrangements. Any queries to Frankie 678490, Sue 675358, Geoff 671251 or James 675541

Brain Work-out? Try this!:

A boy throws a stone into the middle of a circular pond and the stone makes ripples as it flows outwards. Each ripple is twice the size of the one before it. If it takes 25 ripples to get halfway, how many more will it take to reach the outer rim?

Editor

(Taken from a similar publication to this – with thanks!)

LECTIONARY – MAY 2014

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
4 th May 3 rd Easter	Zephaniah 3: 14-end Acts 2:14a +36-41 Luke 24:13-35	Daniel 7:7-13 Luke 16:19-31 Psalm 142
11 th May 4 th Easter	Genesis 7 Acts 2:42-47 John 10:1-10	Exodus 16:4-15 John 6:30-40 Psalm 81:8-16
18 th May 5 th Easter	Genesis 8:1-19 Acts 7:55-60 John 14:1-14	Isaiah 60:1-14 Mark 16:9-16 Psalm 96
25 th May 6 th Easter	Genesis 8:20-9:17 Acts 17:22-31 John 14:15-21	Song of Solomon 4:16-5:2,8:6-7 Luke 22:24-30 Psalm 45

READERS' LIST – MAY 2014

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
4 th May	Nigel Allan	Angus Hamilton	Marjory Barrington
11 th May	John MacCallum	James Ashby	Maurice Steuart-Corry
18 th May	Chris Sanders	Jill Braid	Maureen McCormack
25 th May	Katherine Black	Trevor Quickfall	Jill Braid

<u>Church Group Leaders</u>	<u>Contact People/Organisers</u>	
People's Warden	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Rector's Warden	Susan Lewis	01389 841592
Sunday School		
- Crèche	Pauline and Ray Williams	673944
- Infants, Juniors and Bible Class	Anne Cook	672500
Sidespersons	Brian Kyle	672951
Bellringers	Kitty Fleming	676963
Reading (Lessons) Rota	Nigel Allan	671875
Cleaning Co-ordinator	Morag Carlaw	672090
Visiting Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Flowers	Sue Ashby	675541
Intercessions Rota, Laundry, Soft Fabrics and Chief Sacristan	Joan Sadden	672422
Sunday Coffee Rota	Margaret Horrell	676936
BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship Notes)	Susan Lewis	01389 841592
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Margaret Horrell	676936
USPG	Marion Blake	673960
Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/ Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Church	Selina McGeoch	676074
Hill walking and Rambling Club	James Ashby	675541
Badminton Club	Shaun Hoey	671718
Traidcraft	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar	Sophie Hamilton & Judith Adams	671074 672477
St Michael's Art Group	John MacCallum	673521
Magazine Editor	Marjory Barrington	820484
Assistant Editor	Richard Smith	831087
Collation / Distribution	Barbara Hoey & Morag Carlaw	671718 672090

Ask how to join or help. Perhaps bring new ideas for new activities. You will be welcome. Please let the editor know if any changes are needed.



Sunday Services

Eucharist.....(1970 Rite).....	8:00am
Open Spirit Contemporary Worship.....	9:30am
Sung Eucharist.....(1982 Rite).....	10:30am
Prayer Book Choral Evensong.....	6:30pm

Weekdays

Eucharist Tuesday.....(1970 Rite).....	10:30am
Eucharist Wednesday.....(1982 Rite).....	7:30pm

Tuesday at 9:15am to 10:00am. Prayer Group in Choir Vestry