

Diocesan News

ISSUE 106: JUNE 2011



Pentecost launch for our growth strategy

After months of planning, the Diocesan Growth Strategy will be launched this Pentecost. Dean IAN BARCROFT writes. . .

BISHOP Gregor will be visiting each Region in June as we celebrate in worship and prayer our Pentecost launch of the Diocesan Growth Strategy.

The obvious image I have in my mind is a piece of ground, the soil being prepared ready for the sowing.

How do you picture that ground? Rather like that described in the parable of Jesus, it may not be perfect but it is the best we have and, just as importantly, the people we have in our local church communities are

not perfect either, but we can grow in life and faith, combining our efforts with good grace: seeking the blessing of God in good faith too.

As we begin this season of 'Growing in God's Grace' in the diocese, my prayer is that we commit ourselves to do two things which will initiate growth.

Firstly, we must not be afraid to scatter the seed on that ground. Commit yourself to the task of 'making things grow in the local church and local community' but remember to prepare the ground, as best you can.

Secondly, affirm and encourage one another. Don't be quick to criticise but watch, wait, tend and nurture the seed and the ground. By God's grace, and in due season, growth will be celebrated.

Regional launch services and representatives

GALLOWAY

Monday 6 June, 7pm, St Ninian's Castle Douglas
Rep: Roger Cutler, therectory@dsl.pipex.com

GLASGOW SOUTH AND RENFREWSHIRE

Tuesday 7 June, 7.30pm,
Holy Trinity & St Barnabas Paisley
Reps: Sue Cowling (Glasgow South),
sue.cowling@btinternet.com;
Liz O'Ryan (Renfrewshire), lizoryan@tiscali.co.uk

GLASGOW NORTH WEST

Monday 13 June, 7.30pm, All Saints Bearsden
John Lewis, johnandsusanlewis@btinternet.com

AYRSHIRE

Tuesday 21 June, 7.30pm, St Ninian's Troon
Rep: Betty Matheson,
matheson418@btinternet.com

GLASGOW NORTH EAST

Wednesday 22 June, 7pm
St James Bishopbriggs
Rep: Andrew Morgan, atm.possil@hotmail.co.uk

LANARKSHIRE

Thursday 23 June, 7.30pm
St Mary the Virgin Hamilton
Rep: Jamie Hill, jamie_hill@madasafish.com

Spirit of our Loving God,
in your mercy and compassion
inspire, encourage and empower us
to live and work together as a diocese,
to allow your mission for us to take flesh
through Jesus Christ, our Living and Eternal Lord.
Amen

Where will growth be found?

The diocese is committing itself to growing the fruits of six themes:

- ◆ Prayer and spirituality
- ◆ Learning and discipleship
- ◆ Missional leadership
- ◆ Numerical growth, welcome and integration
- ◆ Children and young people
- ◆ Imaginative outreach into local communities.

Each charge in the diocese is asked to become involved in Mission Action Planning from autumn 2011, creating the ground for growth around one or two of these themes.

Also in this issue . . .

Young dreamers and visionaries wanted

Eco-Congregation round-up

Street party welcomes new mosque

Street party to welcome new mosque

PETER ANDERSSON reports from our partner diocese in Gothenburg, Sweden

GOTHENBURG Diocese is helping to plan a street party to welcome a mosque that is being built in the city.

The event, whose theme is 'A Gothenburg for everybody', is in response to a demonstration against the mosque planned for the following day by extremist groups branding Muslims as a 'threat'.

A DIOCESAN conference for priests and deacons drew around 650 participants to Gothenburg last month.

The theme was baptismal life, focusing on confirmation education.

There were lectures from Anglican Ann Morisy on 'The witness of the Baptised' and Bishop Markus Dröge from the Evangelical Lutheran partner church of Berlin on 'Mission in a post-Christian society'. Norwegian Lutheran Harald Hegstad spoke about 'The congregation – the communion of baptised from the

church'. The Glasgow & Galloway link was represented by Revd Ian Barcroft and Revd Sandy Montgomerie.

A CHURCH centre for pilgrimage has just been inaugurated in one of the parish halls in Gothenburg.

The centre is going to be a place for worship, pilgrimage planning, information sharing, and reflection on pilgrimage.

EIGHT candidates will be ordained as priests by Bishop Carl Axel on 12 June in the Cathedral of Gothenburg.

ON 16 June the retirement service of Bishop Carl Axel will take place in the Cathedral of Gothenburg in the presence of Bishop Gregor Duncan, among others.

YOUNG DREAMERS AND VISIONARIES WANTED

CALLING all Dreamers and Visionaries aged 12-18! This is your chance to share your dreams for the Diocese as well as an opportunity to shape its future.

The Diocesan Youth Network wants to know how the church can support young people now and in the future.

With the help of the Diocesan Growth Strategy Group, a day has been planned with fun, games, laughter and potential adventure as well as fellowship, discussion and worship.

Where: Elshieshields, Lochmaben (near Lockerbie).

When: Monday 11 July, 10.30am-6.30 pm.

Contact: Revd Christian Okeke (bishopc7@yahoo.com; 0774 859 0407) or download a form from the Diocesan Youth Network page.

DON'T let distance stop you from coming! Transport from Glasgow is available.

MU General Meeting set to draw 2,000

THE General Meeting of the Mothers' Union will take place in the Usher Hall in Edinburgh on 9 June.

Some 2,000 people are expected to attend to hear keynote speaker Professor Tanya Byron, and learn more about community development projects carried out by the charity's four million members worldwide.

Also speaking will be MU chief executive Reg Bailey, who headed up the independent inquiry for the Government on the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Children, the recommendations of which are due to be published just ahead of the meeting.

Tickets, priced £7.50, may still be available from the Usher Hall Box office (www.usherhall.co.uk). Tickets are also available for a service of celebration on Wednesday 8 June at 7.30pm in St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street. For application details visit www.muscotland.org.uk.

LEASING OF CONFERENCE CENTRE PUT ON HOLD

PLANS to find a tenant for Scottish Churches House have been put on hold.

At a meeting last month, members of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), supported a resolution that 'the trustees defer acceptance of any bid for the future occupation or use of Scottish Churches House until there has been opportunity for further consultation with the member churches of ACTS regarding the future of Scottish Churches House'.

Another special Members Meeting has now been called for 15 June.

However, the decision made by the trustees at the start of this year to cease the current business operation of SCH on 15 July still stands.

The ecumenical conference centre in Dunblane has been used for many years for residential conferences, day meetings, weddings and celebrations.

Solas Festival 2011—The Long Light

AFFECTIONATELY known as Greenbelt's little sister, Solas Festival is running for its second year in Wiston, near Biggar, 24-26 June, the weekend closest to the summer solstice.

The open-air arts and faith festi-

val boasts music, talks, poetry, cinema and programmes for young people.

Music will span indie, folk, classical, gospel, world and trad, with performances by Emma Pollock, Iain Archer, The Campbells,

Stanley Odd, Michael Marra, Emily Smith, The Wild Myrtles, The Starlets, Alex Cornish, RURA, Rory Butler.

Talks range across economics and justice, peace and reconciliation, faith and culture - with Gerry Hassan (Scottish political commentator), Kathy Galloway (Christian Aid Scotland), theologian Pete Ward (on Liquid Church and celebrity culture), Sol Oyuela and David McNair (Christian Aid's senior advisors on climate and economic justice), Sister Karen D'Artois (spiritual accompaniment), Alison Phipps (peacemaking), Fr Willy Slavin and Ian Adams.

Literature sessions will feature Nick Thorpe, Beatrice Collin, Sue Mayfield and Poetry Slam champion Harry Baker.

Film sessions will include Alan Greenspan (producer of Donnie Brasco) and Andrea Calderwood (producer of The Last King of Scotland).

Programmes for children and other young people will have Fischy Music, plays by Eco-Drama and STaG, storytellers Mara Menzies and Gerry Durkin, author Matthew Fitt, graffiti walls, film-making, a protest workshop, street-dance, rugby drop-in and more.

Visit www.solasfestival.co.uk.

Eco-Congregation round-up

SOUTH Lanarkshire Eco-Congregation Network recently met in Douglas Valley Church to see the Community Heating Scheme there, believed to be the only such project in Scotland that is community owned.

Douglas Valley Church has been a key partner in this scheme, which provides heat from wood pellets to the church, community centre and bowling club.

The next event is open to the public: A Green Day Out on Saturday 4 June, 11am – 4pm at The David Livingstone Centre, Blantyre. Information about how to be an Eco-Congregation will be offered alongside guided walks and activities for children. Contact: 0844 493 2207.

DUMFRIES and Galloway Eco-Congregation Network meets on Monday 6 June, 7.30pm at St Andrew's RC Church in Dumfries to focus on local wildlife with the help of Barbara Mearns of A Rocha (www.arocha.org) and the Friends of the Nith.

GLASGOW Eco-Congregation Network recently heard a talk from Mike Adam about working towards a low-carbon church.

The network meets again on Thursday 16 June, 7.30pm, at Wellington Church with a discussion about 'Biodiversity and climate change - can gardeners make a difference?'

Helensburgh and Lomond Eco-Congregation Network holds an Eco Day on Saturday 11 June when local churches and the community are invited to come and find out how to care better for creation.

A FORUM for cutting energy costs in churches has been launched.

It has pages on reducing energy, barriers to effective energy management, sources of information, support and training and planning issues. The website has been designed jointly by Eco-Congregation Scotland and the Kirk.

Visit <http://church-cost-reduction.postrous.com>.

IS your church planning to observe a time for Creation, between 1 September and 4 October?

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have put together resources to help churches to observe a Time for Creation in 2011. This year's theme is Our daily bread – Food in God's Creation. The resources are downloadable from: www.ctbi.org.uk/CJBD/542.

JUST Food is A Rocha's new environment resource pack, available from www.arocha.org.

The packs can be used throughout the year, with flexible worship material for liturgical, informal and all-age worship, as well as sermons, Bible studies and children's activities.

Back to Church Sunday

25 September

Register online at:

www.backtochurch.co.uk

Order your resource packs before 30 June to guarantee availability. Download free online service resources.

Participating in Back to Church Sunday can be part of our Diocesan Growth Strategy: numerical growth, welcome and integration.

Thinking about trying B2CS for the first time or looking for some fresh ideas?

Email Helen Ball:

ballhelen89@googlemail.com

News and events in brief . . .

MARKING the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, Episcopalians at the University of Glasgow will offer a complete reading of the gospel according to St Mark. This reading for seven voices is at the University of Glasgow's Memorial Chapel, Thursday 16 June at 7pm. Entry free. Retiring collection for charity. Contact Dr Kevin Francis, 0141 330 6920.

CHRISTIAN Aid will benefit from a book sale at St Ninian's, 1 Albert Drive, Pollokshields, on Saturday 25 June, 10am-1pm. Entry is £1 (children free) which includes refreshments. Contact Rosemary Anwar: 0141-637 8324.

HANDEL, Purcell, Albinoni and Pergolesi are on the programme when Ayr's Holy Trinity Festival Choir and Orchestra perform on Sunday 5 June. The concert is at Holy Trinity (beside Ayr bus station) at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 in aid of the church building fund.

A MAJOR collection of religious art is coming to Scotland. The free exhibition will take place at New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh, 14 May to 11 June, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm.

INTERNATIONAL Anglican Family Network (IAFN) publishes regular newsletters on issues which affect families such as HIV/AIDS, Elderly People and the Family, Investing in Childhood and Violence and the Family. Visit www.iafn.net.

A CONCERT entitled Magic of the Musicals with Starlight Productions will feature music from all your favourite musicals on Sunday 12 June at 7.30pm in St Ninian's Church, Bentinck Drive, Troon KA10 6HZ. Tickets £7, including refreshments, available at the door. Contact Stephen Cowan on 01563 538833.

A FLOWER festival takes place Friday 3 June to Sunday 5 June at St Oswald's Maybole. The weekend begins with Songs of Praise at 7pm on Friday. The church is then open Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday 10.30am-5pm (joint Eucharist with Holy Trinity and St John's at 10.30pm). Tea, coffee

and homebaking served. Donations welcome in aid of the church and Save the Children.

EUCHARIST for the Feast of the Ascension is celebrated in Girvan on Thursday 2 June, 7.30pm, at St John's Episcopal /Girvan Methodist Church, Dalrymple Street.

CAN organs, choirs and traditional hymns live with praise bands and contemporary worship songs? Or are they oil and water? Revd Dr Douglas Galbraith (Royal School of Church Music) takes on this question when he speaks at an open meeting on Tuesday 7 June, 7.30pm. The event is organised by Ayrshire Regional Council and hosted at St Ninian's Bentinck Street, Troon. The talk will be followed by wine and nibbles.

ASPECIAL Eucharist with Bishop Gregor will be celebrated at St Ninian's Troon to launch the Diocesan Growth Strategy in Ayrshire. It is on Tuesday 21 June at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

AMORNING for Pentecost with Canon Michael Bands, rector of Lockerbie, takes place at Elshieshields, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 1LY.

The programme intersperses silence and reflection with other sessions. Saturday 11 June, 10am-1pm. Suggested donation £2.

Bookings to Ann Shukman 01387 810280 ann.shukman@virgin.net.

THE SEC's Inter-Church Relations Committee is compiling a list of congregations who share premises with other denominations or other faith traditions. Questionnaires have been sent to all clergy with charge and to vestry secretaries. The deadline for submission is 4 July.

THE Venerable Dr Nigel Peyton has been elected as the new Bishop of Brechin. He is currently Archdeacon of Newark, Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham.

A FREE electronic newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Church is available by e-mail. Sign up at www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe.

ST Bride's, Hyndland Road, offers another busy month of music:

Saturday 4 June, 3pm: Organ Recital by David Hamilton.

Friday 10 June, 7.30pm: YMCA Glasgow Wind Orchestra.

Monday 13 June, 7.30pm: Choirs of St Mary's Hamilton and Friends with music by Byrd and Faure.

Thursday 16 June, 8pm. Organist Jennifer Chou (Melbourne, Australia) plays music by Kuhnau, Mozart, Messiaen, Alain and Gigout. Admission £6 including wine and cake.

Friday 17 June, 8pm. An hour of traditional and new Scottish fiddle music played by Alisdair Savage. Hear him also on 6 August in Glasgow Cathedral at 7.30pm.

Saturday 25 June, 7.30pm: return visit by Sandie Bishop (violin) following her well received recital in the spring.

Thursday 30 June, 7.30pm: The Boston Children's Choir.

Visit www.stbride.org.uk.

THE 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. Many recipients are threatened with homelessness.

Anyone can refer, but the application must be filled out by clergy. The fund is administered in the diocese by the Church In Society Action Network. Contact convener Revd Kenneth Macaulay at:

office@glasgow.anglican.org.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the July/August issue may be submitted up to **Monday 13 June** as ordinary prose (**not** leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to editor Susi Cormack Brown, c/o Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, or dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

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