

the Creed, and the key to the salvation which it promises to humanity. Why incarnation? Would it not be a good idea to free ourselves from some of these ancient formulations in the 21st century? This is a fair question, and not a new one. To answer it Grosvenor Essay 7 looks at incarnation in the tradition and the contemporary life of our Church.

Copies cost £3 and can be obtained through the General Synod Office at 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh (reception@scotland.anglican.org).

A FREE electronic version of the Scottish Episcopal Church's Inspires magazine is available by e-mail. Sign up for SEC news at <http://www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe>.

BACK to Church Sunday developer Michael Harvey is offering the 'Doubling a congregation in a day' seminar around Scotland.

These are open meetings for congregations wishing to explore Back to Church Sunday which is on the last Sunday of September.

Dates and venues in Glasgow & Galloway are:

Tuesday 29 March, 7pm, Howard Centre, 5 Portland Road, Kilmarnock, KA12BT

Wednesday 30 March, 7.30-9.30pm, The Cornerstone, Bishopton Church Centre, Greenock Road Bishopton PA7 5JW

Thursday 31 March, 2-4pm and 7.30-9.30pm, Cathcart Trinity Church, 90 Clarkston Rd, Glasgow, G44 3DA.

If you would like to attend contact team@backtochurch.co.uk.

Registration for back to Church Sun-

day is now open.

To register your congregation, go to www.backtochurch.co.uk.

SISTER Acts is the theme of April's Holy City workshops and worship hosted by the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community in Renfield St Stephens Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow.

Early Christian communities showed a new and radical conception of equality between rich and poor, young and old, clergy and laity, male and female. Starting in particular from the latter, this session will pay attention to the presence and role of women among the early believers (though not necessarily ignoring the other 'ands'). It will ask where we are today and if, in fact, we've really taken on board the revealing early insights.

It's on Easter Sunday (24 April) 6.30-9.30pm.

Visit www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the next issue may be submitted up to **Monday 11 April** as ordinary prose (**not** leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to the editor, Susi Cormack Brown, c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, or dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

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Bishop's Easter message

I WAS among guests the other night, after a lovely dinner party, discussing the ending of Mark's Gospel (well, the dinner party was in a rectory): for they were afraid (Mark 16.8 – the following verses are almost certainly added on).

One of the consequences of this strange ending is that Mark, unlike the other Gospel writers, has no appearances of the risen Jesus, though he maybe hints at one. Really, the sparse eight verses he devotes to the resurrection is a kind of double announcement – he has been raised and he is not here. For Mark, that is the Good News of Easter – he has been raised, he is not here.

Jesus is not there in the tomb, his body is not there as it ought to have been. It is clearly very important that it is not there. But where is it? Well, the answer is clear enough. Remember that it is with some kind of body, visible and tangible, marked with the marks of Good Friday, that Jesus appears in the other Gospel accounts to various people. It is in some kind of body that he is said, later on, to ascend. The clear New Testament witness is therefore this – Jesus, raised from the dead, is not separated from his body. Extraordinary. What on earth could it mean?

The clue is given in a passage from Revelation which used to be the second reading at Matins on Easter Day. In it the risen Jesus says: 'I am the living one. I was dead and, see, I am alive for ever and ever...' The risen Jesus remembers that he was dead. In other words he has not, as it were, left his human experience behind. Rather he has taken it into new vistas. That's what 'body' means for us, the human experience of Jesus. He is never separated from his body, from his humanity.

That means, of course, that he is never separated from us. The ▷

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Body of Christ, the Body of Christ, the Body of Christ... the priest says to each who receives Holy Communion. Jesus is still not separated from his body. Just because he is raised from the dead, just because that tomb was empty and could not hold him imprisoned, Jesus is free to roam where he will, free to be united with his body, with you and me, free to share in our human experience, free to be present among us; free to be with lots of people we would never dream of, free to assure us that one day, the totality of our human experience, of yours and mine, indeed of all people, will be held and yet gloriously transformed in the midst of new and deathless life, so that we will know both who we were and who we are becoming, and live fruitfully and gloriously beyond our wildest imaginings with that knowledge.

+Gregor

Growth plans gather pace

PLANS are now well under way for the launch of the Diocesan Growth Strategy, writes ministry development officer ANNE TOMLINSON.

Every Region will be holding a service around Pentecost, using a common liturgy written for the occasion.

To emphasise the diocesan nature of this work, the preacher and president at each service will be the Bishop. The service will also include symbolic actions or symbols appropriate to the local context.

That balance between 'the local' and 'the diocesan' in the Launch Liturgy is symbolic of the Strategy as a whole. For, while it is a coherent set of pathways guiding our corporate life over the next five years, offered and led by the Bishop, that 'framework' will enable each charge to grow according to the nature of the local soil and 'weather conditions'. The fruits growing up the trellis will be different according to context.

Launch services will be held in the following places:

- ◇ *Galloway: St Ninian's Castle Douglas 6 June at 7pm*
- ◇ *Glasgow South and Renfrewshire: St Fillan's Kilmacollm 7 June 2011 at 7.30pm*
- ◇ *Glasgow North West: All Saints Bearsden 13 June at 7.30pm*
- ◇ *Ayrshire: St Ninian's Troon 21 June at 7.30pm*
- ◇ *Glasgow North East: St James Bishopbriggs 22 June at 7pm*
- ◇ *Lanarkshire: St Mary the Virgin Hamilton 23 June at 7.30pm*

So what happens after the launch?

All charges will be invited to call a facilitator to come and work alongside them in drawing up their Mission Action Plan (MAP) for the coming year. A MAP acts as a 'compass', pointing out the direction in which the

News and events in brief . . .

THE Education Action Network has produced a new vestry workbook which can be downloaded from <http://md.glasgow.anglican.org/>.

TO help Christian voters get more election-savvy, a new website has been produced. Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, Catholic Parliamentary Office, CARE, Christians Count and the Evangelical Alliance are behind www.churchesvote.org intended to help explore the issues; find out what the parties are saying; and find out how to question candidates. Organisers of hustings can register their events on the site's hustings finder.

THIS year's Scottish National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham takes place 23-26 September. The total cost will be £230 (£100 for children; under-5s free). For information contact Fr Darren McFarland (01505 812359) or Sandra Fowles (01505 844865). A DVD on the work of the Shrine is available. Places are limited so prompt booking is needed.

BISHOP Gregor has been appointed Acting Convener of the Faith and Order Board by the Primus.

THE annual ministry celebration service takes place on Saturday 4 June at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. All Lay Readers and those in Authorised Ministry and their supporters are warmly encouraged by the Bishop to attend.

A light lunch at noon will be followed by the service at 1.15pm.

This year's service will have a focus on Lay Readers.

SAINTE Bride's Church, Hyndland Road, continues its concert programme on Saturday 2 April at 7pm with a debut recital from baroque quartet Alban Minstrels. Contact chris.swaffer@lineone.net.

Sunday 10 April at 3pm sees Viennese Ensemble offer a concert of light classical music from Vienna and beyond. Refreshments and home baking.

Entry by donation in aid of Practical Action. (www.practicalaction.org).

On Saturday 30 April at 7.30pm there is a violin recital by Christina Knox, with pianist Leslie Macleod. Christina, a young and talented West End musician completing her musical studies in Manchester, will preview her degree recital with a programme that includes Prokofiev's Sonata in D.

On Saturday 7 May Daniel's Beard and New Cottier Ensemble present an exciting programme of rarely heard chamber music masterpieces at 7pm.

THE 7th Grosvenor Essay, *Thinking the Nicene Creed: Incarnation* is now available.

Based around the Nicene Creed, a fundamental part of the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church, it explores central issues in the life, thought and worship of the Church today, and looks towards the future. Incarnation is a concept at the heart of

Choirs gather for diocesan evensong

CHORISTERS from around the diocese will join forces for Choral Evensong in St Mary's Cathedral on Mothering Sunday, 3 April, at 6.30pm.

Musical director Frikki Walker has put together a music list he describes as 'varied, challenging but still attractive and accessible'.

This Lovely Lady – Bryan Kelly; Responses: Smith; Psalm: 150 – Stanford; Canticles: Stanford in C; Ave Maris Stella – Elgar.

Choirs will arrive at St Mary's Cathedral at 4.15pm for rehearsal 4.30pm. Choristers without robes are welcome to just wear something smart. Music can be ordered from the RSCM online shop (musicdirectonline@rscm.com) or by phone on 01603 785900. Contact Frikki at music@thecathedral.org.uk to confirm participation.

This Lovely Lady – Bryan Kelly is in the RSCM Silver Book, or you can buy an off-print of it from the RSCM. Smith Responses are the version in a flat in 5 parts in the Tudor Responses Collection. Psalm 150 – Stanford is in many standard chant collections, and is also available on www.cpd1.org. Canticles, Stanford in C are available from Stainer & Bell or on www.cpd1.org. Ave Maris Stella – Elgar is published by Novello.

Why people die young

'THE Glasgow effect - why do people die young?' is Public Health Professor Phil Hanlon's topic when he delivers the third annual lecture hosted by St Mary's, Johnstone Road, Bridge of Weir, on Thursday 7 April, 7.30pm.

The evening will include discussion and refreshments.

St Mary's is the white-painted church on the left as you enter Bridge of Weir from Johnstone. There is a car park opposite the building.

Canon Woodley's Golden Jubilee

CANON John Woodley hopes to observe the 50th anniversary of ordination as a priest with a celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday 28 May.

The service will take place at the Church of the Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Moss Street, Paisley, at 12 noon. The service will be followed by refreshments in the hall.

In place of gifts, opportunity will be given for donations to be made to the Bishop Goldie Fund for training ordinands. For catering purposes, please advise the diocesan centre (0141-221 5720) if you are going to attend.

charge will work, and a 'magnet', drawing all members to co-operate in shared aims and objectives. MAP facilitators will work with up to two congregations – neither of which would be their own – accompanying them as they produce their Plan and thereafter keeping a watching brief as the charge seeks to implement the actions it has identified. This 'partnership' with the congregation will be reviewed annually, for a maximum of five years.

The Bishop or the Dean will visit every charge once a year to listen to the stories of avenues explored via the MAP, and to share in celebrating those ventures which have worked well and learning from those that have not been successful. Both are important, and the most important aspect of all is the fact that new ventures have been tried. These stories of growth will also be shared across Regions and Diocese by a variety of other means: through a dedicated website, at Regional meetings, at synods and through DNS.

As members of the diocese we will work hard at planting and watering, and will be supporting one another too, but the Strategy is underpinned by an awareness that it is God who makes things grow, and that we are co-workers in God's service (*1 Cor 3, 6-9*). So in the lead-up to the launch let us all pray the Growth Strategy prayer:

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.

Team-building for after-prison group

THE Faith in Throughcare project at St Matthew's Possilpark took 12 volunteers on a 24-hour team-building session to Luss Parish Church last month.

The project recruits and trains volunteers to support people coming out of prison from short sentences, to help them integrate back into their local community.

A spokesman said: "It attempts to address the revolving door of re-offending that exists between places like Possilpark and Barlinnie."

The visit to Luss, with its six 6-bunk cabins next to Loch Lomond shore, was the project's first attempt to take volunteers away. It gave an opportunity to discuss many of the complex issues involved in being a volunteer for such a challenging group of people. The parish glebe, near the burial place of St Kessog, has a Stations of the Cross walk which participants used to share some of the extraordinary and moving experiences of pain and joy that such a group could bring.

The group enjoyed beautiful scenery, great food and meetings round a real fire in the manse. But only a few could face the dawn hike up the hill behind the village after the Old Firm game the night before!

What happened at Diocesan Synod

THE annual Diocesan Synod was presided over by the Bishop, the Right Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, on Saturday 5 March. Diocesan secretary GIB FITZGIBBON gives an overview of the day...

It was attended by the Lay Reps of most charges, most of the clergy in the diocese, and visitors from other denominations and from our companion diocese of Gothenburg.

The Bishop's Charge spoke of Growing with God's Grace in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, ending with the prayer: *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.*

Appointments and elections

Synod appointed the Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, the Property Committee, the Boundaries Committee, and the Diocesan Auditor; and elected diocesan reps to General Synod, the Provincial Faith & Order Board, the Vacancy-in-See panel, and the Provincial Finance Committee. The diocesan place on the Provincial Information & Communications Board remained unfilled, and anyone interested is invited to contact the Diocesan Secretary.

Synod

Synod approved the accounts for last year, and the Budget for the current year. The finances of the Diocese are sound, and we continue to weather the financial storms thanks to a well-structured portfolio. The only residual effect of the Paisley project will be payment of loan interest to the Diocese.

Synod approved the proposed changes to Canon 62 which will bring the retirement ages of stipendiary and non-stipendiary clergy into line (until such time as proposed new legislation changes the rules on retirement).

Presentations were received on:

- ◇ Progress on the implementation of the Diocesan Strategic Review, due to be launched across the Diocese at Pentecost;
- ◇ Mercy Ships – the subject of this year's Lent Appeal – which brings relief and medical treatment to the poorest people, principally on the West Coast of Africa;
- ◇ Being the Rural Church, and Faith and the Future of the Countryside;
- ◇ Theology and the sustainable environment;

So is it all great? Mostly yes, but there are a couple of caveats. You need a relatively fast Internet connection for it to work so anyone with a dial-up service will find it not worth the effort. There's a little bit of software to install to get it to work as well but this is straightforward.

There are other online collaboration tools available but in terms of sheer 'doing what it says on the tin' Dropbox is an excellent choice. Visit www.dropbox.com.

Ajit Panickar is vestry secretary at St Margaret's Newlands

New priest for Jordanhill

REVD Hon Sydney Maitland was licensed as Priest-in-Charge for All Saints Jordanhill at a service on 12 March.

London-born Sydney went to school in the south of England before reading economics, economic history, law and politics at Edinburgh University where he graduated Bsc in 1973.

He told DNS: "Having had a fairly high church upbringing, I then underwent a personal conversion experience while at university, and attended both the Christian Union and Old St Pauls. I started work as a trainee town planner in 1973 while studying at Strathclyde University where I completed a diploma in town and country planning in 1977.

"I married Eileen in 1974 and we have continued to live in the West End of Glasgow."

In Glasgow he attended St Mary's Cathedral before moving to St Mark's East Kilbride. He was made deacon in 1986 in the non-stipendiary ministry and then ordained priest in 1987, serving as honorary curate-in-charge of St George's Maryhill until 2001. Since 2003 he has been a non-stipendiary priest at St Bride's Kelvinside. He also assisted in the annual pilgrimage to Haddington and Whitekirk, being particularly involved with a youth camp which was associated with it.

Sydney explained: "When the former rector of All Saints, Jordanhill and Holy Cross, Knightswood left the charge, I was asked to serve as interim priest during the vacancy. I found that All Saints was an active and enthusiastic congregation, looking forward to new areas of ministry and church life. I had been offered early retirement from the planning service in 2010. Under the circumstances I felt that this was an opportunity and a challenge that I did not wish to miss and if I could assist the church, I was pleased to be able to do so."

His appointment at Jordanhill is for two years.

Conquering the paper round

Ajit Panickar describes how one church has made meetings easier with a new way to manage the paperwork...

One of the challenges faced by vestries everywhere is sharing and collaborating on documents.

A typical meeting may require circulation of an agenda, previous minutes and any correspondence received. Email is fine for what it is but less than ideal for this purpose; revisions to agendas, for example, can result in several different copies circulating, adding to confusion and causing irritation. If you're still using paper, then chances are our collective efforts are adding to the world's deforestation.

Technology provides an elegant solution. At St Margaret's Newlands we've been using the Internet and a program and website called Dropbox to make life easier. As vestry secretary, I have created a folder on my computer that I 'share' with other vestry members. The Dropbox folder on my computer automatically appears on everyone else's computer. Any documents that I put in the folder on my computer appear in everyone else's Dropbox folder and any changes I make to a document are updated automatically to everyone else's copies the moment I save the document.

The great thing is that anyone who has access can create documents or make changes. Typically I will create the bare bones of a meeting agenda and this magically grows over days as people add to it. Correspondence received as email is copied to the Dropbox folder for folk to read. Paper correspondence is easily scanned in. When it comes time for the meeting, people who are attending print out their own paper copies if they choose to. Once the minutes are typed, these go into the Dropbox folder and any corrections notified by email are made immediately. Approval of minutes at the next meeting is usually then only a formality as all corrections have already been made within days of the original meeting and the updated version is always available for review.

Other benefits? If you're on holiday and feel a burning desire to read the latest minutes, just find an Internet-connected PC and you can read the contents of your folder on the web. All data storage and transmission takes place using military-grade security.

The result: we work quicker, more efficiently and generate no more paper than we need to.

Earthquake doctor's son in twin cathedral concert

A SINGER at a benefit concert for people affected by the New Zealand earthquake described how his father escaped from a high-rise building there.

Pictures of the damaged Christchurch Cathedral prompted musician Michael Bawtree to organise the fundraiser at St Mary's Cathedral.

Provost Kelvin Holdsworth described the concert as an act of solidarity with the people of Christchurch. He said: "Christchurch Cathedral is like a 'twin' of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, having been built by the same architect at almost exactly the same time. As we look around the building in Glasgow, our hearts go out to those who are struggling to cope in a damaged city half a world away."

Stephen Chambers, an RSAMD Opera student, was one of two New Zealanders who performed at the concert. His father, a doctor, was attending a conference in Christchurch when the earthquake hit.

Stephen said: "He managed to escape unscathed from the 14th floor of his hotel, which looked as though it was about to collapse.

"Through all of the aftershocks and devastation on the streets, he joined medical teams at trauma centres that had been quickly assembled to treat the injured and those that were being pulled from collapsed buildings. He worked through the night."

The concert raised more than £4,000.

- ◇ The work and proposals of the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson, with particular emphasis on the role of a learning culture in making the Growth Strategy a success.
- ◇ Gender imbalance in the Scottish Episcopal Church, with the prospect of three congregations in the Province being selected to develop understanding of gender issues in the church.

Next Synods

- ◇ General Synod, 9 -11 June 2011;
- ◇ Clergy Conference, 5 – 8 September 2011;
- ◇ Diocesan Synod, 3 March 2012 (TBC).

For more information on Synod proceedings, see your Lay Rep.

A separate supplement containing the annual reports to Synod from the Action Networks, together with a full copy of the Bishop's Charge, has been supplied to every church magazine editor.

Solas returns

INSPIRED by England's long-running Greenbelt festival, an all-age Scottish weekend for faith, ethics and arts is taking bookings for its second year.

JOHN MCINTOSH, a member of St Margaret's Newlands, was at the inaugural Solas event last summer and describes the experience here...

Taking place in a collection of marquees and tents near Biggar, South Lanarkshire, Solas 2010 was launched as 'Scotland's newest arts festival: a bold celebration and exploration of the relationships between art, faith and justice.' Running over three days, and describing itself as 'rooted in the Christian tradition', the festival was a fascinating mixture of theological, cultural and political seminars, leavened with an impressive line-up of diverse music and entertainment.

Among the performers were Deacon Blue's Ricky Ross and Lorraine McIntosh (hereafter referred to as my wee sister), members at St Margaret's for many years. Performing as McIntosh Ross, they headlined the main stage on the Saturday night and provided an intense and beautiful stew of country and gospel-tinged songs.

Singer-songwriter Brian McGlynn, who led the gospel choir during the Southside Passion play at St Margaret's in 2008, performed and led gospel-singing workshops. Many of the songs were from the Southside play, and the workshops culminated in an impromptu performance in the sunshine on the final Sunday afternoon.

MOVING

Sunday started with a large and moving morning service in the main marquee, led by the Iona Community's Wild Goose Worship Group. Fiona and Brian Evans, another two long-time members of St. Margaret's, featured prominently in this. It ended with truly jaw-dropping performances by three completely diverse bands – Glasgow based folky/poppy/rocky Kitty the Lion, Edinburgh crew Stanley Odd, and the spectacular musicianship of The Peatbog Faeries.

Solas has close connections with the Greenbelt Festival, the annual English August bank holiday fixture attracting as many as 30,000 in its heyday. As Scots can find it difficult to get to Greenbelt, this Scottish alternative has been long overdue. It provides a forum for anyone interested in - or just curious about - faith to meet, celebrate and discuss the role of that faith in modern life.

I certainly had a hugely stimulating and entertaining weekend: met some old friends and made some new ones; heard some fantastic music and some fascinating speakers, including Richard Holloway, Alistair McIntosh, Douglas Alexander (got the chance to ask him an awkward question); ate wonderfully tasty and affordable food; pitched my tent without too much fuss.

Amazingly, the sun shone (mostly) and, less amazingly, the setting was stunning.

It will be hard to forget the sight and sound of hundreds of people singing gospel songs as the midsummer sun shone from a clear blue sky.

All in all, Solas was a great way to start the summer holidays, and certainly worth thinking about if you're looking for something different to do this year. Have a look at the website. Speak to those of us who were there.

Go on: look out the tent and sleeping bag (and maybe the wellies and umbrella). You'll only regret it if you don't.

Solas Festival 2011 takes place at Wiston Lodge, Biggar, 24-26 June. Visit www.solasfestival.co.uk.

Booking open for youth weeks

GLEN '11: Mission Possible is the name of the Provincial Youth Weeks that will be taking place at Glenalmond College, Perthshire.

There is a choice of dates: 31 July–6 August and 7–13 August. The weeks are open to all members of the Scottish Episcopal Church aged 12–18 who have completed their first year of secondary education.

There are some voluntary leadership team vacancies this year.

There is space for up to five trainee leaders to attend in Week 1. Candidates should be available for the training weekend (3-5 June) and week 1 (30 July-6 August). There is an application process and success will be based on interview and PVG (the process replacing SCRO checks).

The organisers are also looking for someone each week to perform the role of 'camp recorder'. This will involve taking and collating photographs and video footage and presenting the end product in DVD format within tight timescales. Again, this is subject to application and PVG. Recorders would be required to attend the training weekend and either week 1 or week 2.

Anyone interested should email christinem@scotland.anglican.org for an application form. For details and a booking form visit www.scotland.anglican.org or contact Christian Okeke (0141 221 5720).

The closing date is 6 June.