

Learning from children's spirituality

PEOPLE from near and far, from Glasgow & Galloway and the Diocese of Edinburgh, came to Paisley in November to hear from Dr Rebecca Nye on the subject of children's spirituality.

Speaking at a conference arranged by the diocesan Children's Ministry Action Network, she talked about her research with primary-age children in Birmingham and Nottingham, *reports JUDY PAGE*, and we were amazed by the level of spiritual experience displayed by these children in conversation.

We fell to wondering how it was that, as adults, so many lose the art of pondering on, and expressing, their experience of God. We reflected on the importance of taking children's experience seriously - never embarrassing them by laughing at them or telling them off for giving the 'wrong' answer.

In her second session, Rebecca gave a demonstration of Godly Play, of which she is a principal exponent in the UK. This was met with great enthusiasm and requests for further exploration.

Godly Play date—12 March

Further to this, a **Godly Play Discovery Day** has now been arranged at Bishop Court, Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley, on Saturday 12 March, 9.45am–4pm. Places will be limited; if you are interested, book quickly. The cost for the day is £10 per person and the Children's Ministry Network is willing to reimburse £5 to participants from our diocese. To book contact admin@godlyplayscotland.co.uk or Children's Ministry Network convener Judy Page (judypage@btinternet.com, 01505 703122).

Show me the money!

**Saturday 12 February
10am–3pm**

**Church of the Holy Name,
Cumbernauld**

This is a day on fundraising and church publicity; ideal for gaining new ideas and helping raise your congregation's profile in the community. The event is free and includes lunch.

To register contact the convener of Education Action, Revd Gordon B Fyfe: 01475 673143, gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the next issue may be submitted up to **Monday 14 February** 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.

Diocesan News Service is published 10 times per year by the Scottish Episcopal Church, United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway (Scottish Charity Number: SC013925). Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor.

Bishop's Lent appeal will aid Mercy Ships

WHEN retired art teacher Pat Duncan gave a talk last year to our Galloway Regional Council, she could scarcely have dreamed every member of the diocese would be encouraged to support the charity she loves.

Mercy Ships, an international Christian charity that provides free medical and humanitarian care to some of the world's poorest people, is to be the beneficiary of the Bishop's Lent Appeal in 2011.

Faith-based volunteers from over 40 nations give up their time to bring hope and healing to thousands of people, serving on board the *Africa Mercy*, the world's largest charity hospital ship.

Pat (59), from Twynholm, near Kirkcudbright, is one such volunteer. She has volunteered aboard the *Africa Mercy* three times as a dining room steward and launderer.

SPREADING THE WORD

She spends her time back in the UK fundraising and spreading the word about the work of Mercy Ships.

In the next few weeks the *Africa Mercy* will arrive in Sierra Leone to begin a 10-month outreach—as the country celebrates its 50th year of independence.

Also in this issue

Learning from children's spirituality—and Godly Play
Welcome workbook unveiled
Weekend music workshop for Lent and Passiontide
Courses and opportunities

An advance team have already spread the word across the country to let people know the ship is coming. Recently pre-screening days have taken place to arrange surgeries for over 7,000 people.

The *Africa Mercy* has been converted from a Danish rail ferry to a state-of-the-art hospital ship, with six operating theatres, X-ray facilities, a CT scanner, a pharmacy and a laboratory. As well as housing 450 ▶

(Mercy Ships—continued from page 1)

volunteers, the vessel has capacity for 78 in-patients with four wards and a small intensive care unit.

Pat says she is 'aching' to join the team again in October when she'll start her next three-month stint aboard the ship. She said: "Mercy Ships is an incredible organisation, I feel like it is my mission from God to help others who are less fortunate and give them the chance for a better life. It is my faith and belief in God that keeps me coming back to help others.

"We work alongside people who are experts in their field – mariners, nurses, engineers and surgeons –and they all come motivated to do their absolute best, not because of financial remuneration as there isn't any, but because they are passionate about what Mercy Ships is doing."

SADNESS AND JOY

"Living and working on the *Africa Mercy* is a completely different way of life," she added. "There can be moments of great sadness when we cannot help a patient but there are also so many moments of joy when lives are saved."

In addition to the dramatic transforming surgery on board the *Africa Mercy*, medical and dental teams establish land-based field clinics carrying out free vaccination programmes, dental care, minor operations and medical screening, as well as supporting the training of local doctors and nurses. Mercy Ships also runs education programmes in hygiene, nutrition, basic health care (including AIDS prevention) and micro-enterprises to generate income for the poor.

Over the last 30 years Mercy Ships has treated more than 230,000 people in village medical clinics, performed more than 41,000 surgeries, 205,000 dental treatments and completed over 1,000 community development projects focusing on water and sanitation, education, infrastructure development and agriculture.

Sierra Leone is one of the world's least developed countries. According to the World Health Organisation, there are only two doctors per 100,000 people.

The physical conditions at most medical facilities and hospitals are inadequate for even the most basic of care. Without access to quality health care,

LAST year's successful celebration of **St David's Day** at Holy Trinity Ayr is to be repeated on the evening of Tuesday 1 March. It will take the form of the Eucharist, partly in Welsh, with well known hymns. The service is still in the planning stage. Contact John Lewis: e-mail johnlewis135@btinternet.com or phone 01292 266574.

many people are needlessly suffering and dying from curable medical conditions.

As a result, almost one in five Sierra Leonean children die before reaching age five.

For more information contact Susie Hope, Fundraising Manager Scotland, on 01899 830 475 or visit www.mercyships.org.uk. Susie is also the person to call if your church group would like to book a speaker.

fee is £414 including full board (£399 for members).

Visit www.bridgepastoral.org.uk or call Maureen Leggat on 0141 334 5460.

THE Unreconciled is the theme of the 2011 Lent course produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It asks: How do we bring about reconciliation? Who is responsible for bringing about world peace? Who should feed the hungry? What happens when attempts at reconciliation fail?

How do we cope with failure?

Resources for Holy Week will also be produced, and the full course will be available as a download. Visit www.ctbi.org.uk.

ECO-Congregation Scotland will celebrate its 10th anniversary at this year's Annual Gathering and AGM, Saturday 5 March, starting at 10am, in the Bridge of Allan Parish Church Halls. Register by 16 February with Anikó Schuetz (0131 240 2274).

Green waste plant impresses

MEMBERS of St Margaret's Newlands recently visited Scotland's largest organic recycling facility to witness waste being turned into green compost, fertiliser, gas and electricity – instead of producing damaging gases in landfill.

Deerdykes composting plant was built in 2005 on the site of redundant sewage purification works near Cumbernauld. It treats up to 45,000 tonnes of green waste

per annum, making perfect compost for large-scale users like the National Trust for Scotland and Glasgow's Botanic Gardens (sadly it's not on offer to domestic gardeners).

New to Deerdykes is an anaerobic digester (AD), able to produce power for up to 2,000 homes by harnessing gas from food waste (mainly from supermarkets) which can be turned into electricity.

It also makes planet-friendly biofertiliser.

The discarded food is separated mechanically from its packaging then pasteurised before anaerobic digestion.

The resulting bio-gas fuels the plant; and excess power goes into the grid.

The moral, say St Margaret's members Jan MacDonald and Maida Gibson is: "Please keep recycling."

Deerdykes (01236 875415) is owned by Scottish Water Horizons, part of Scottish Water. To arrange a visit contact emma.pare@scottishwaterhorizons.co.uk

Obituary — Canon A M 'Donald' Allchin 1930-2010

DONALD'S many books included *The World is a Wedding* (1978), *The Dynamic of Tradition* (1981), *The Joy of All Creation* (1984), and *Participation in God* (1988).

They influenced many people who were seeking to rediscover a richer tradition in Anglicanism. He was well known as a spiritual guide and retreat leader, and for years was Warden of the Sisters of the Love of God in Oxford.

Donald spent six months of last year at Elshieshields and, when well enough, attended St John's Dumfries.

He died peacefully in Oxford just before Christmas. Archbishop Rowan spoke at the Requiem Mass on 12 January at St Mary Magdalen's in Oxford.

Ann Shukman

News and events in brief . . .

DIOCESAN Synod will meet in Bishop Court, Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley, on Saturday 5 March, 9.30am-5pm.

THE new Bishop of our Companion Diocese of Byumba, Emmanuel Ngendahayo, was consecrated in Byumba Stadium on 9 January.

BEAUTY for Ashes: What is your story? is an interactive day of training run by Scripture Union which aims to equip and inspire Scottish churches to listen, to care for and to share the gospel with vulnerable young people. It takes place in Glasgow on Saturday 26 February at Queen's Park Baptist Church.

Visit www.suscotland.org.uk/beauty for ashes.

OXFAM Scotland's *Whose Economy?* seminar series continues on Thursday 17 February, 10am-3:30pm, at STUC's HQ in Woodlands, Glasgow. The focus of the series is a questioning of what economy is being created in Scotland and, specifically, for whom. Topics this time are: Addressing Stigma; Solidarity vs the Social Logic of Consumerism; the Experience of Poverty in an Unequal Society; Volunteering & Social Assets.

Contact Jean.Finn@uws.ac.uk.

HOLY City—Acting Up takes place on Sunday 27 February, 6.30-9.30 at Renfield St Stephen's, Glasgow. This ecumenical evening of discussion, drama, music, worship and more is offered by the Wild Goose Re-

source Group of the Iona Community and friends. Further info: wgrg@iona.org.uk or 0141 3326343.

THE theme of this year's World Day of Prayer is 'How many loaves have you?'. Friday 4 March at a location near you.

ON 5 May people in the UK might change the way they elect MPs.

Faith think-tank Ekklesia says it is important that community groups - including churches - should be at the heart of the referendum debate, providing spaces where the issues can be discussed publicly. If your church would like help to host a referendum debate, email office@ekkleisia.co.uk.

THE Fellowship at St Ninian's, Bentinck Drive, Troon, are holding a coffee morning in the church hall on Saturday 19 February in aid of their charity for the year, Sukhita Child. It will run from 10.30am to 12 noon and admission, which includes coffee/tea and home baking, is £2.

RESIDENTIAL course on transforming conflict in our lives takes place in St Andrews, 11-15 April.

It is the Bridge Pastoral Foundation's annual conference. The theme is 'The Power of Love and the Love of Power' and the key speaker is Revd Dr John Munro. Offering space for reflection and personal growth in an ethos of Christian spirituality, the conference is aimed at those working in the 'talking' professions, clergy and lay people engaged in pastoral visiting. Conference

Growing in Welcome

New diocesan workbook from our Mission Core Group

ALL congregations believe they are 'friendly and good at welcoming people' and – in honesty – all congregations need to work at this aspect of their life!

Just completed by Glasgow & Galloway's Mission Core Group is a new workbook that encourages each of us to look at the level of welcome we offer people who come to worship alongside us or who visit our churches, and to keep working at improving our ministry of hospitality.

In *Growing in Welcome*, the Mission Core Group offers a palette of resources which will help build a culture of welcome in our diocese.

The material is set out in five sections and can be used in a variety of ways. An individual congregation might choose to look at a particular section or sections at a congregational study day or a series of evening sessions, or else might use some of the material to equip a welcoming team. Alternatively, charges in a region might decide to work on the material together, running a training day using a compilation of all the material.

Whatever route you choose, you should find sufficient tools for the journey in these pages; and there are signposts at the end of each section to further reading for those who want to travel further.

You can download the entire workbook free as a PDF from <http://md.glasgow.anglican.org/> (navigate to the posting for 18 January) or order copies from the Diocesan Office (0141-221 6911) at £3 each.

Core skills for work with children

TRAINING THE TRAINERS

Would you like to be involved in helping others to set up work with children in their church?

The Children's Ministry Action Network is offering a course of three Saturday training afternoons for those who would like to become trainers. Completing the course involves attending all three sessions.

Dates: **26 Feb, 26 Mar, 7 May**

Venue: **Holy Trinity, Ayr**
(next to the bus station)

Lunch provided at noon; training sessions are **1-4pm**.

Please book with Judy Page, email: judy.page@btinternet.com, tel: 01505 703122. A crèche can be arranged; let Judy know if you would require this.

Pentecost target for Growth Strategy

PENTECOST will see the launch of Glasgow & Galloway's Growth Strategy. It's a framework that will lead to each charge setting itself a Mission Action Plan (MAP) for growth in six areas:

*Prayer and spirituality; Learning and discipleship; Missional leadership
Numerical growth/welcome and integration; Imaginative outreach into
local communities; Children and other young people.*

The aim is to have facilitators in each region to help individual churches draw up their own plans.

But the scope of the Strategy is not confined to congregational level.

There will be changes at diocesan level too in areas such as recruitment, finance and communication. Action Networks will be aligned to the six growth areas. Importantly, regional growth funds will be available too.

The Strategy working group consists of a representative from each of the seven regions, together with ministry development officer Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson and the Dean, Revd Ian Barcroft. The regional reps are: Jamie Hill (Lanarkshire), Liz O'Ryan (Renfrewshire), Roger Cutler (Galloway), Betty Matheson (Ayrshire), John Lewis (Glasgow NW) and Andrew Morgan (Glasgow NE).

JOURNEY IN FAITH SERIES

Inter-faith course

AN inter-faith course will take place during the Saturdays in Lent, beginning on 12 March and ending on 16 April.

There will be a visit to a new location each week and an opportunity to hear from a member of a faith community in his or her own context.

Look out for full details later this month on the diocesan website (www.glasgow.anglican.org) or on flyers and posters in church.

To book a place, contact Education Action convener Revd Gordon B Fyfe (01475 673143 gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com).

Another chance to hear Bishop's talk

THERE will be another chance to hear Bishop Gregor's lecture on the Creed at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15 February at Bishop Court, Holy Trinity and St Barnabas, Paisley.

Entitled *We Believe ...*, this informative and popular talk was given by +Gregor in Galloway in September and then in the northern part of the diocese early in December.

However, as heavy snow meant many people were unable to attend on the second date, the event is being offered again.

EDUCATION ACTION NETWORK—RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND 11-13 MARCH

Music and worship for Lent and Passiontide

A RESIDENTIAL weekend at the Abernethy Christian Centre at Ringford, near Kirkcudbright, will be led by Andrew Maries of the Keynote Trust (www.keynotetrust.org.uk).

Set for 11-13 March, it is for all in the diocese who are interested in developing their skills in using music to enhance worship, with an emphasis on the Lent and Passiontide season.

There will be teaching from Andrew, a professional musician with long experience in leading and encouraging music in worship, with practical involvement, including singing for those who wish to do this.

Participants with musical instruments are also encouraged to bring them, but an enthusiasm for and interest in music, and its employment in enhancing worship, rather than musical expertise, is the key qualification.

The inclusive cost will be £65, starting with an evening meal on Friday at 7pm and concluding after lunch on Sunday. Accommodation is in 2-, 4- and 6-bed rooms with bunks, some en-suite. There are also family rooms.

Book as soon as possible with a £65 cheque payable to Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway. Further details and booking forms from Paul Wilson, 39 Rowanbank Avenue, Dumfries DG1 4NB (readerpaul@stjohnsdumfries.org, 01387 252696).

Scottish Churches House to close

A NEW tenant is wanted for Scottish Churches House after its owners decided to stop running it.

Member churches of ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) decided last month that the Dunblane operation, which has been running at a 'substantial loss', should close on 15 July. Redundancies will be negotiated with staff. The trustees are now inviting enquiries and tenders from organisations who might wish to lease the SCH property on a care-and-maintenance basis.

An information pack with terms and conditions is available from ACTS. The closing date for tenders is Friday 8 April and a decision about whether to accept any tender will be made on Wednesday 5 May. A new business operation at the House could begin on 15 August.

For further information contact ACTS general secretary Br Stephen Smyth on 01259 216980 or 07527 433394.