

DioceSan News

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A welcome in the Glen

Glenalmond Youth Camp draws young Piskies from all over Scotland each summer. For 13-year-old Shonagh Munro, Glen '09 was her first taste of the one-week gathering. Here she shares her reflections on the experience. . .

WITH butterflies in my tummy I got out of the car at Glenalmond College and was immediately swamped by friendly youth leaders and older delegates, all acting like they had known me for years.

Everyone was lovely and welcoming and I got my picture taken for the year book.

The rooms were nice. You only shared with one other person which meant you had a friend straight away.

We met twice a day in house groups of people all your own age. There were two or three leaders to each house group. I really enjoyed house group because it gave everyone a chance to get to know other people of their own age who go to church and believe the same things.

The week was centred on MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and in our house groups we were each given a character from an African family. Each day the 'family' (which was run by children as their parents had been taken by AIDS) was given tasks involving money and education.

Every night at 7.30pm we had worship. Each night's worship was led by a different house group, focusing on the MDG of the day – such as child mortality or education.

The worship was fantastic. It showed me that going to church and being a Christian isn't always just long, old-fashioned hymns and people in long robes. It showed me that it doesn't matter who you are or where you

come from or what colour your skin is.

All that mattered was that we believed in God and could worship him in any way we wanted, whether it was through a sketch, in a song or in prayer.

We would sign up for one workshop and two activities every day.

Workshops included art, drama, knitting, baking and writing the camp's daily newspaper. Activities included dancing, hill-walking, games, water polo and trips into Perth.

There was something to do every evening such as a quiz, a murder mystery, a disco, a ceilidh, a talent show and a film night.

On the Wednesday night when everyone was lining up for worship, someone ran into the hall and said the roof of the building 10 feet away was on fire. We were evacuated while fire-fighters, ambulances, police and TV cameras all arrived. Luckily no-one was hurt, and the next day builders came to fix the roof.

Our last day was very emotional for everyone because no-one wanted to say goodbye to the friends they had made.

I would like to thank my vestry for their support and for contributing to this wonderful experience. I can't wait to go again next year.

*Shonagh and her family belong to
St James the Less Bishopbriggs*

Joyce is an honorary canon

REVD Joyce Pow has been made an honorary canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on Cumbrae. Joyce is a member of St Columba's Largs where she has served for years as a non-stipendiary minister.

Bishop Martin Shaw installed her as canon at a service in the cathedral last month.

Ahead of the installation, he had told her: "I am thoroughly aware how much you are held in high esteem, not only by Alastair Chisholm, the lay chaplain, but by the congregation and visitors to the Cathedral, because of your willingness and generosity not only liturgically but also in your pastoral ministry. On behalf of the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles, many thanks to you!"

Also in this issue . . .

Finding our next bishop —
the countdown explained

Ahead of schedule and on budget —
a restoration success

Surf's up—searching the web
for a wider faith view

Saintly debate at Holyrood

Events, opportunities and courses

Finding a new bishop – what happens next

THE process of finding a new Bishop is now under way, after the Preliminary Meeting of the Electoral Synod on 19 September.

The Primus, Most Revd David Chillingworth, outlined the steps in the process, saying that, due to the confidentiality of the initial stages, it might now appear that nothing is happening.

Below the surface, however, a lot will be going on as the Preparatory Committee, comprising representatives from other dioceses and the House of Bishops as well as six people from our own diocese, receives nominations and produces a shortlist of candidates, which it must do by the end of this year.

It will seem very quiet until the shortlist is produced and the Electoral Synod takes over, with the election taking place in January.

These are the key dates:

- ◆ Invite nominations (Description & Nomination form on website): 21 September
- ◆ Closing date for nominations: 14 October
- ◆ Second meeting of Preparatory Committee: 16 October
- ◆ Third meeting of Preparatory Committee – first screening of applications: 20 November
- ◆ Fourth meeting of Preparatory Committee - interviewing applicants: 7/8 December
- ◆ Date for declaration of list of candidates: 12 December
- ◆ Meeting of the Electoral Synod with candidates: Saturday 9 January
- ◆ Electoral Meeting of Synod: Saturday 16 January.

They also surf who only scan and Google...

HAVE you found a helpful website your fellow G&G Piskies would find interesting?

Our new Primus, Most Revd David Chillingworth, is among several Episcopalian clerics with their own blog (short for web-log: an online journal that others can read and add comments to).

You can find out what Bishop David is thinking and doing at www.bishopdavid.net.

If you are interested in examining a balanced range of perspectives on current Church affairs, there are many web sites that offer a range of viewpoints. The following three Anglican ones are suggested by Paul Hibbert (St Margaret's Newlands) to sample a broad spectrum of comment:

www.afirmingcatholicism.org (offering an Anglo-Catholic perspective)

www.fulcrum-anglican.org.uk (with an evangelical angle)

www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk (taking a liberal view).

Glasgow & Galloway's own website has recently been overhauled. For a storehouse of information – from all the churches' service times to announcements, events and downloadable copies of Diocesan News, bookmark: www.glasgow.anglican.org.

Suggestions of other useful websites will be welcome. Tell the editor what's good about your favourites: dns@episcopalglasgow.org.uk.

Reflection meeting first

ELSHIESHIELDS, near Lochmaben, was the venue for the first joint meeting of the two Ministries Reflection groups that meet in the north and the south of the diocese.

These groups are aimed at those in training for ordained or authorised ministry or those developing their ministry.

Each group meets roughly once a month and uses the time for worship, mutual support, reflection and the sharing of experience. Although the two groups operate in slightly different ways the aim is the same.

Revd Ann Shukman made the facilities of Elshieshields available to the groups and a pleasant afternoon was spent enjoying a barbecue, walking in the grounds and lots of conversations. Talks concluded with a discussion on how the two groups could work more closely, sharing resources as appropriate.

Call to recognise Galloway site as Scotland's 'cradle of Christianity'

SAINT Ninian's credentials as Scotland's first bishop –ahead of Columba by a more century – were the topic of a debate at the Scottish Parliament last month.

St Columba is traditionally seen as the founding figure of Scottish Christianity with the abbey he founded at Iona.

But at Whithorn there are signs from recent archaeological work suggesting Ninian, dubbed the 'first Scottish bishop', was active 150 years earlier.

Now South of Scotland MSP Alasdair Morgan has called for Whithorn to be recognised as Scotland's 'cradle of Christianity'.

Mr Morgan's motion, backed by 18 or more fellow MSPs on 16 September, called for the Parliament to recognise Whithorn as the earliest known centre of Christianity in Scotland with artefacts of immense historical significance.

He told the Parliament: "While in ancient times Ninian was Scotland's premier saint and remains commemorated in many sites throughout the nation, the historical significance of Whithorn and Ninian's story is largely forgotten by a modern generation."

News from our partner diocese of Gothenburg

AMONG seven deacons just consecrated in the Diocese of Gothenburg was the first completely deaf deacon: Camilla Jansson.

The whole service was interpreted in sign language. Camilla will work with deaf people throughout the diocese.

TWO young Swedish delegates participated in the SEC's Glen 09 summer youth camp at Glenalmond College.

The diocese hosted a youth group for two weeks from its partner diocese of the Lutheran church in southern Africa (ELCSA-ED). Two parish coworkers, one ordained and one lay preacher, also arrived for a two-month exchange established with this diocese.

HUNDREDS of thousands of Swedish Christians voted in a nationwide election last month.

Elections are held in the Church of Sweden every four years on the third Sunday in September.

Candidates are elected directly to the Parish Assembly or Parish Council in parishes, to the Association Vestry in an association of parishes, to the Diocesan Council in dioceses and to the General Synod at national level. Members aged 16 or above on election day are entitled to vote.

Though that totals around 5.6million members, the turnout last time round was just 700,000 members—roughly 12%.

Restoration success is ahead of schedule

WORSHIPPERS return this month to Helensburgh's only A-listed church after handing the building over to a makeover team with a 'cacophony of ghetto blasters'. And it all went smoothly, as *Chris Packard* reports...

In 2001 the fabric of St Michael and All Angels in Helensburgh so alarmed the rector and vestry that they were faced with just two options: restore it, or watch it fall apart.

Designed by one of Scotland's most distinguished architects – Sir Robert Rowand Anderson – and being the only A-listed church in the town, there could be only one answer always provided that the money could be found.

Thus, at the beginning of 2001 the congregation set out on a 10-year programme of restoration at an estimated cost approaching £750,000.

Amazingly the project is on the verge of completion as Diocesan News was distributed – ahead of plan and within budget.

There are very many factors that have made this possible, but the money has been found thanks to the great generosity of so many people and institutions – Historic Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Episcopal Church, the congregation, the Scottish Churches Architectural Heritage Trust and seven other smaller trusts, plus a lot of hard work from the

church's own fundraising committee.

The project has been carried out in three distinct phases in order to progress the restoration as quickly as possible as finance became available.

To let Hunter & Clark (the chosen contractor for all three phases, under the guidance of Simpson & Brown Architects) carry out its lifesaving task in the final phase, the congregation de-camped to the neighbouring United Reformed Church for worship, giving temporary occupation of the St Michael's church building to 30 or so men and women with their accompanying cacophony of ghetto blasters.

The single-storey church, which with scaffolding became a four storey building site, became home to a team of quite unique skills – stonemasons, plasterers, conservators, scaffolders, slaters, lime mortar specialists, plumbers, electricians, organ tuners, steeplejacks, joiners, painters and some wonderful labourers who kept the church as clean and tidy as it is possible to keep a building site.

It can be said with confidence that, as promised, on 4 October Sunday worship will once again take place in St Michael's Church, refurbished with only a few minor tasks to be completed.

At 6.30pm on 1 November, the Dean, the Very Reverend Gregor Duncan, will preach at a celebratory Songs of Praise service.

In brief: news and events . . .

ST Columba's in Largs will hold another popular car boot sale on Saturday 10 October, 10am until 1pm. Home-made soup and hot filled rolls add to the attraction. Phone 01475 686 213 for further information.

THE Claremont Trust is a small ecumenical body that gives small grants to innovative and radical projects. In Glasgow, it recently helped to fund a multi-cultural, inter-faith youth event at St Margaret's Newslands, with music, drama and prayer.

For grant information contact secretary Mrs Judith Fairley, 15 The Row, Letham, Fife, KY15 7RS. To contribute to the Trust contact Arthur Sanderson, 7 Little Garth, Nether Poppleton, York, YO26 6NH.

TRANSFORMING Ministry – Making a Difference as Women. Women in the SEC are invited to participate in an interactive day with Christina Rees (writer, broadcaster, speaker, member of the General Synod

of the Church of England) where thoughts and experiences will be explored and shared. It's on Saturday November 7, from 10.30 to 4.30 in the General Synod Office, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh. There is no charge, but booking is essential. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Marion Chatterley (marion.chatterley@blueyonder.co.uk or 07771 982163) or Elaine Cameron (elaine.ging@gmail.com or 01821 650482) to reserve a place.

AMNESTY International Glasgow West group needs new members. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month in Woodlands Methodist Church (opposite Uisge Beatha pub) at 7.30 pm.

EXPLORING Prayer is an opportunity to explore different ways of praying in a series of Saturday morning group meetings at St Mary's Cathedral.

They'll be led by Betty Jeanrond and Caroline McKillop on 3rd October,

24th October, 7th November and 21st November.

Each session will begin at 10am and finish around 12.30pm. Those interested are encouraged to attend all four sessions, but if you can manage only one or two you will be welcome.

Subjects will include: stillness, the prayer of awareness, holy reading, imaginative contemplation, and prayers of petition & intercession.

To book, contact Caroline soon (carolinemckillop@yahoo.co.uk, 0141 339 7000).

THE Mission to Seafarers Scotland has announced the appointment of Revd Timothy Tunley as chaplain of the Scottish ports from November.

Chaplain Tunley will be based in Grangemouth, the largest container port in Scotland, and he will minister to visiting seafarers in this and other ports in Scotland. He has most recently served in the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds where he has been involved in social justice ministries.

An induction service will be held at St Mary's Grangemouth at 7:30pm on 9 November. To attend contact 01236 440132 or scotland@mtsmail.org.

TRAINED at the St Petersburg Conservatoire, the nine-strong Voskresenije Choir will perform a programme of Russian church and folk music at Holy Trinity Ayr on Wednesday 28 October, 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 (£6 concessions).

THERE will be a talk and slide show at St Margaret's Renfrew on Friday 16 October at 7.30pm. 'Behind the Scenes' will reveal just what is involved in making a period drama for TV. Tickets £5 including refreshments. Doors open 7pm.

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW and GALLOWAY SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Scottish Charity no SC013925

EPISCOPAL VACANCY

Nominations for prospective candidates for the vacant office of Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway in the Scottish Episcopal Church are sought by the Preparatory Committee of the Diocesan Electoral Synod.

Nominations must have the consent of the Nominee, who must be an ordained Priest of the Anglican Communion.

A Description of the Diocese may be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/1bxna3>.

The nomination form and information about the electoral process can be downloaded from the Diocesan website: <http://bit.ly/144lb0> or obtained from

The Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2DH
Tel: 0141 221 5720/2694, Fax: 0141 221 7014, email: office@glasgow.anglican.org

and on completion should be sent to :

The Primus, Scottish Episcopal Church,
Diocesan Office, 28a Balhousie Street, Perth PH1 5HJ

TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 14 OCTOBER

Election will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced criminal record disclosure check.

Gibbon FitzGibbon, Diocesan Secretary

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the November issue may be submitted by **Monday 12 October** in prose text (**not** leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to the editor, Susi Cormack Brown:

dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk,
or c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.

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