

# Diocesan News

ISSUE 98: SEPT 2010

## Diocesan Growth Strategy

*Bishop Gregor pledged to promote a strategy of growth for this Diocese. Anne Tomlinson, Ministry Development Officer, brings us up to date.*

Bishop Gregor pledged during the Episcopal election to promote a strategy of growth for this Diocese, a strategy that would encompass the many different facets of church life needing to change and grow. Upon his election, he tasked the Dean and the Ministry Development Officer (MDO) to begin work on a process which would lead ultimately to the launch of a **Diocesan Growth Strategy** next spring.

Over the summer, Vestries, clergy and congregations across the Diocese have been working on their responses to a questionnaire which asked them to describe the life, worship and mission of their charge. Over half those questionnaires have now been returned and the Dean and the MDO are engaged in collating the responses, building up a picture of life in each Region. Those summaries will be being brought to specially convened meetings in each Region. At these gatherings the particular missional needs of each area will be discerned and also seven representatives, one from each Region, who will then form a Working Party with others from the Diocese to progress the work towards its ultimate launch in spring 2011.

The timetable for the meetings is given below. It is hoped that many others apart from those who normally attend Regional Council meetings will come along on the relevant evening; these are meetings *held in and for* the Region rather than 'Regional Council meetings'. We need as many people as possible to be involved in this vital work. The meetings will be variously facilitated by the Bishop, Dean and MDO. The Bishop plans to attend all of the meetings other than the last when he is away on holiday. The MDO is unable to be at the first meeting as she will be travelling to Gothenburg that day. The Dean will attend them all.

### Growth Strategy Regional Meetings

**7pm – 9pm**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August: Lanarkshire

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: Renfrewshire

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September: Glasgow North West

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September: Galloway

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September: Glasgow North East

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September: Ayrshire

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October: Glasgow South

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

St Mary's Cathedral

Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am – 4.00pm

A day of preparation for Lectionary Year A

Led by Revd Canon Professor John Riches,

Dr Karen Wennell and Revd Dr A.K.M. Adam.

Open to all clergy, Lay Readers and those authorised to preach in the diocese. Bring a sandwich lunch. Cost £5.00 payable at door Register by sending an e-mail to the Ministry Development Officer [mdo.gg@btinternet.com](mailto:mdo.gg@btinternet.com)

## YOUTH SLEEPOVER

Do things go "bump" in the night?  
Sleepover at St Bride's and find out!

**St Bride's Hyndland**  
**Saturday 11th September**

To book or for more details contact:

Revd Christian Okeke

*E:* [dyn-steering-group@googlegroups.com](mailto:dyn-steering-group@googlegroups.com)

*Tel:* 07748 590 407 **Facebook:**

Scottish Episcopal Church – Glasgow &  
Galloway Youth Network

## Also in this issue . . .

Launch of Minority Ethnic Churches Together  
in Scotland (MECTIS)

International News

## Racial Justice Sunday; 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010 Launch of Minority Ethnic Churches Together in Scotland (MECTIS)

A special Service to mark the work of the Churches promoting racial justice and celebrate the launching of MECTIS—the organisation which will help the new minority ethnic churches in Scotland to work together and to develop closer links with the denominations which have operated in Scotland for many years—is to be held in Wellington Church, University Avenue, Glasgow, on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

The Service will have international and national support. It will be attended by national leaders of the major denominations in Scotland, who will extend a welcome to the leaders of MECTIS and the members of their congregations, and by Members of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The sermon is to be preached by a member of the World Council's Executive.

Brother Stephen Smyth, General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), said: "The emergence of MECTIS as a body is highly significant. It provides a space for the many independent ethnic minority churches in Scotland to come

together to share concerns and successes. Our hope in ACTS is, that as it grows in strength, MECTIS will provide a means by which these new churches and the established denominations can be brought into closer fellowship. ACTS is very pleased to support MECTIS and to encourage all churches in Scotland to 'Witness to Christ Today' - together."

Brother Stephen added: 'This year's Racial Justice Sunday Service will be really innovative and lively. We invite and encourage our many ecumenical friends to join ACTS, MECTIS and the WCC in Wellington Church for the event. See you there, then?'

The Service will begin at 18.00 on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Between 17.30 and 18.00 an African choir will be singing as the congregation assembles. Refreshments will be available at the close of the Service.

Further information can be obtained from ACTS' Network Officer, Tom Moyes, on 01259 222363 or e-mail [tommoyes@acts-scotland.org](mailto:tommoyes@acts-scotland.org)

### WORKING WITH THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS AND LIVES OF OLDER PEOPLE A FRAMEWORK FOR VISITING AND LISTENING

Dr Harriet Mowat is offering four separate workshops on this theme for everyone who wishes to reflect creatively on the ageing process and the spiritual tasks and opportunities it presents.

Each workshop will be from 11am to 3pm (bring a packed lunch) and will be limited to twelve participants. Cost £10 per person.

#### Dates and Venues

Wednesday 22nd September

At Elshieshields, Lochmaben

Thursday 23rd September

At St John's, Dumfries

Tuesday 12th October

At St Michael's & South

Church of Scotland, Dumfries

Wednesday 13th October

At St John's, Burnside, Moffat

For more details or to book a place please contact Ann Shukman, tel: 01387 810280, e-mail: [ann.shukman@virgin.net](mailto:ann.shukman@virgin.net)

## International News—Old friends and New Bishops

Communication, support and exchange of news with our friends in Byumba continue at personal and congregational levels. The provincial Overseas Committee has been supporting theological education in Byumba, and our financial support both general and focussed, has included finance for another clergy motor bike from St. Ninian's, as well as provision for the installation of a solar panel for one of Milngavie's companion parishes.

In May, the Anglican Diocese of Byumba in partnership with Christian Aid Rwanda launched an anti-malaria community sensitization campaign at a local Health Centre. "The mission of the diocese is to care for the body as well as the soul," said Bishop Onesphore Rwaje, affirming that the church is committed to providing spiritual and health care for all. Information about some of the projects supported can be found on the Conduit Place – Friends of Byumba websites.

Kentucky like us, has recently been through an Episcopal election. Our own Bishop Idris was asked to be

Chaplain to their election, and pictures of the great day are on the Kentucky Diocesan website. Unlike the Scottish Episcopal Church, the retiring Bishop, Ted, himself oversees the election and does not demit office till the new Bishop is consecrated and enthroned. Bishop elect the Very Revd Terry White, formerly Dean of the Anglican Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri, is to be consecrated on September 25<sup>th</sup> in Louisville, we look forward to meeting him. Please remember him and his new diocese in your prayers.

Canon Joan Smith, Kentucky's Canon in Ordinary (with similar responsibilities to our Dean) attended Bishop Gregor's Consecration and had a good time in Glasgow visiting several congregations.

Discussions continue at various diocesan levels with regard to the future shape of interaction with the worldwide church and our official Overseas Companion dioceses. If you are interested in this work please contact the diocesan office to be included in the discussions. Comments opinions and suggestions are very welcome.

*Gill Young*

## PLAY GOLF SAVE LIVES

**Save the Children are on the front line of the disaster relief work in Pakistan where six million children have had a catastrophic experience losing homes, families, all of their belongings and face life threatening dangers of illness and hunger.**

The annual Save the Children golf tournament at Brunston Castle near Girvan on Sunday 12th September has still got a few places for teams of three for a Texas Scramble - a game that suits all abilities and mixed teams welcome! Also a Putting competition on the day for players and their families with novelty prizes. If you can't play but would like to sponsor a hole, that would be good too.

We can accommodate church goers and can offer tee off times to suit! £40 per player (£25 for Brunston members) includes coffee and bacon roll. For details and last minute entries please phone Rebecca Cadie 01655 882106 as soon as possible.

## The Right Reverend Alan Smithson 1936 – 2010

I was appointed to All Saints Challoch in September 1995 and during the latter part of that year several visitors appeared at the Sunday service; one notable person was then the Bishop of Jarrow, +Alan because he and Jean had a 'bolt hole' in Creetown which they visited whenever time allowed.

Through the years of his visits and after his retirement, when St. Crispin's Creetown was their permanent home +Alan I got to know each other quite well. His ministry in Wigtownshire was Honorary Assistant Curate to All Saints Challoch, also Honorary Assistant Bishop in our Diocese; +Alan also performed deputising duties at all three Scottish Episcopal Churches in Wigtownshire, and when the interregnum occurred within the Church of Scotland at Minnigaff and Kirkmabreck, Creetown, +Alan was a supply minister to those church congregations as well.

In his retirement ministry he was Chairman of the Pastoral Committee to Mission to Seafarers; part of the Ministry Reflection group in the SEC for ordinands and conducted retreats. When he and Jean moved to Musselburgh four years ago his active retirement ministry continued at St. Mark's

## ISLAND RETREATS

Join a retreat on the Isle of Cumbrae in the stunning setting of The Cathedral of The Isles. Come as an individual, a couple or a small group and be part of a midweek or weekend retreat led by the Warden. Adjust your pace of life to a few days of saying Daily Office, Midday Eucharist with a visiting celebrant, a little intellectual stimulation, lots of time for reflection and recreation and good home-cooking.

### **Weekend Retreat – 3 nights:**

Friday 8 to Monday 11 October 2010

### **Midweek Retreats – 4 nights:**

Monday 13 to Friday 17 September 2010

Monday 27 September to Friday 1 October 2010

Price per person from £160 for Weekend or £215 for Midweek Retreat.

For more details tel: 01475 530353 or email [cathedral\\_cumbrae@btconnect.com](mailto:cathedral_cumbrae@btconnect.com)

*[Clergy and Theological Students may qualify for assistance from the Warden's Discretionary Fund.]*

Portobello as well, also being appointed Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Edinburgh Diocese.

His hobbies were camping, painting in water colours, playing the cello, gardening, DIY and visiting people. +Alan was sadly missed in Wigtownshire when he and Jean moved to Musselburgh; he is more sadly missed now we know he will never visit Wigtownshire again and we will not hear his gentle, humble voice enlightening us of his experiences. We are all the richer for knowing the man whom God appointed to promote Our Lord's ministry and mission wherever he lived.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 11 am, the same time as +Alan's funeral service was taking place, people of the Episcopal and C of S Churches in Wigtownshire filled St. John's, Stranraer for a Eucharist of Thanksgiving for the life, work and ministry of + Alan which I conducted and during which Mrs. Marie J H Mortimer contributed the music and hymns to his memory.

Alan Smithson, Son, Brother, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Deacon, Priest, Bishop and most dear friend, may you rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

*Revd Canon Nigel Newton*

## VIOLENCE AND THE FAMILY

The members of Mother's Union, Glasgow & Galloway, whose vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships are supporting and encouraging others to promote bills due to be debated at the Scottish parliament this autumn. The aim of the proposed legislation is to reduce violence in the family.

Trish Godman's Scottish bill aims to criminalise the commercialisation of sex by making it an offence to engage in paid for sexual activity and thereby act as a deterrent to traffickers, pimps and brothel owners. The hope is that legislation will be in place before 2012 and 2014 when London and Glasgow host the Olympic and Commonwealth Games which, like any other influx of people, will act as a catalyst for trafficking and prostitution. There is hope that Scotland will follow the example of Sweden in criminalising the buying of sexual services.

Rhoda Grant another Scottish member of parliament aims to improve the safety of individuals who are survivors of

domestic abuse. The Bill will increase access to justice by making Legal Aid non means tested and protect individuals from stalking by removing the need for a course of conduct before a non-harassment order is granted.

The need both to support the proposed legislation and provide a prayerful response is incumbent on all who believe in the need to protect all God's people from injustice. Support for women's refuges and men in prison indicate that members walk alongside all God's people.

A caption which will form part of an exhibition highlighting domestic abuse and faith communities echoes these sentiments: - 'Domestic abuse is a fundamental failure to respect persons. Christian faith teaches us that all people are made in the image of God and so to be respected. They ought never to be reduced to mere objects of violence and desire. Faith therefore requires us to combat all forms of domestic abuse for the love of God and for the persons God loves' (Duncan 2010).

*Anne Glenesk, Diocesan MU President*

## News and events in brief

### NEW MU CHAPLAIN

Rev Peter Douglas was commissioned by +Gregor as the chaplain to Mother's Union, Glasgow & Galloway Diocese at the Dedication Service of Holy Trinity Kilmarnock on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August. Members travelled from various parts including Helensburgh, Ardrossan, Ayr and Glasgow. MU extends a warm welcome to Peter with the hope that as we journey together we will all grow spiritually through the love of God.

### KING'S PARK COFFEE AM

St Oswald's Church at 280, Castlemilk Road, Kings Park are planning a Coffee Morning on 25 September from 10 to 12 noon, to coincide with the Back to Church Weekend on 26 September. We are hoping that friends and neighbours would visit the church and be encouraged to join us for the Sunday Service.

### FAMILY HISTORY QUERY

Can any readers help?

My Great Grandfather, Alexander Hendry, was a Minister in the 1930's at St.Emmanuel's in Dennistoun.

I can find no reference to that church but the ordination certificate definitely says he was Priest there.

I would be grateful if anyone knew of him and the church he served in. If so maybe they would contact me on my email address,

[gordonianmacleod@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gordonianmacleod@yahoo.co.uk)

Many thanks,

Gordon MacLeod.

### ST MARGARET'S

The congregation of St Margaret's Newlands welcomed the Revd Dr Scott Robertson, B.D., M.A., Ph.D. as their new Rector at his institution on Saturday 3rd July, 2010.

Dr Robertson has been a priest in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway for almost twenty years and has been the Rector of the North Ayrshire Team (St Andrew's Ardrossan, St Andrew's Irvine and St Peter's Dalry) for the last thirteen years. He was previously Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hillington where he also served his curacy.

Many friends and parishioners from Ayrshire joined the congregation of St Margaret's to show support for him in his new charge as he and his family were welcomed warmly in Newlands.

### BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

The Most Revd David Chillingworth, Primus says, "Many people think about coming to church, but it's difficult to make a start. Back to Church Sunday offers everybody an opportunity to make a start. It's a time to join with others in coming to church - or back to church - for the first time."

Back to Church Sunday is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world. Many congregations in our diocese take part—do you have a story to tell about your Back to Church Sunday? Let us know for the next issue of DNS.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Network has held meetings in Ayrshire and Renfrewshire, where interesting ideas have been shared. Three Regional meetings have been arranged for September.

Galloway – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas 11am -1pm

Glasgow South – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at St Margaret's, Newlands, 7.30 – 9pm

Lanarkshire – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Holy Trinity, Motherwell, 7.30 – 9pm

For further details, and to notify numbers attending contact Judy Page, 01505 703122,

[judy@btinternet.com](mailto:judy@btinternet.com)

## Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the October issue may be submitted up to **Monday 13 September** 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](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk).

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