

News and events in brief . . .

A BOOK sale for Christian Aid takes place at St Ninian's, 1 Albert Drive, Pollokshields, on Saturday 26 June, 10am-1pm. The admission charge of £1 (for adults) includes tea/coffee.

SONGS of Praise will be recorded at St Mary's Cathedral this month for broadcast on BBC1 in August. Tern TV will take two evenings to do the filming.

FRIENDS of the Earth Scotland invites newcomers and diehards alike to its Campaigners' Weekend, Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 June, in Stirling and Polmont. Sessions include:

The new Access to Justice campaign; How bailed-out banks need to stop financing climate change and human rights abuses; Climate change: Keeping Scotland Ambitious; How to set up, expand and inspire a local group; Starting a FoE Youth arm for campaigners aged up to 30.

Visit foe-scotland.org.uk/localgroupswweekend or call Hannah on 0131 243 2708.

CHURCH vestries are warned to beware a rogue organ repair company that has been operating in the central belt.

In one case, a church getting a routine service on its organ was told there had been water damage to the electrics and it needed a five-figure sum to make it safe to use. It transpired the only damage was that a pipe had been disconnected to distort the sound. The

Dean, Very Revd Ian Barcroft, asks that any suspicions should be reported to the Diocesan Office.

STICKY Label Sunday was the initiative at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, to help worshippers put a name to familiar faces.

To help everyone get to know each other better, all those arriving for the Eucharist at Penecost were handed a label and asked to write their name in big letters on it and wear it during and after the service.

AFUN day takes place at St Ninian's Troon, with a barbecue and bouncy castle. It's on Saturday 19 June, from 5pm in the church grounds. The admission fee of £5 (family £10) includes food, races and the bouncy castle.

ORGANIST Carlo Curley will be giving a recital at Holy Trinity Ayr on Saturday 5 June, 7.30pm.

Tickets (£10) from Mackays Music, Cathcart Street, Ayr or Archie Thom (thomarchie@yahoo.co.uk).

HEALTH and Healing – Central to Church Life? is a day course to support development of health and healing within the life of local congregations. There is a choice of venues and dates: Thursday 3 June, Letham St Mark's, Perth; Thursday 10 June, Auld Kirk, Ayr. To check availability of places, get more information and book a place contact Catriona Shehi (0131 225 5722, cshehi@cofscotland.org.uk).

GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

Diocesan News

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Little church's refugee outreach bears fruit

A NEW drop-in centre for refugees and asylum-seekers in Drumchapel has gone from strength to strength.

Started in February by members of the local ecumenical team, 'Friendship House' (no connection to the Milngavie Friendship House) opens on Wednesdays 10am-2pm and serves coffee and lunch.

As Drumchapel team member Jean Kerr explains, most of the regulars are from small villages in Africa and are delighted to have a meeting place.

"Can I say what lovely people they are," she said. "They cannot do enough to help in any way they can."

"For the first couple of weeks, we did the cooking; now they are doing it themselves. In fact we now have a rota of cooks, who each in turn cook a traditional meal from their own country. They are teaching us how to cook African meals."

Four of the kitchen ladies were delighted to go on an Elementary Food Hygiene course last month.

But it's not only in the kitchen where the new Drumchapel residents are helping, as Jean explains: "One of the men, Moses, who attends with his

wife Fatima and toddler son Suleman, asked if he could do some gardening for us. It was music to our ears!

"Moses has already dug up a large patch at the back of the church. We took him to B&Q to choose gardening tools and vegetables and we now have cabbages, parsley, ▷

Also in this issue . . .

Find **SHAPE** for your ministry

The secret to getting boys to eat veg—unveiled by the MU!

Gearing up for this year's Back to Church Sunday

rhubarb (donated by Sue Brough) and peas and strawberries (donated by Eildon) all planted, with onions and spring onions waiting to go in.

“Moses comes along daily to tend his garden, even when no one is there. He is so happy to have somewhere to go and get him and his family out of the house.

“God was surely looking after us when he sent Moses to us.”

The team is getting ready for a big event on the calendar: an engagement party for Zodwa, one of the ladies.

Jean and the crew are hoping for a dry day as it looks like the party could overflow from the tiny church building into the back yard.

She said: “It’s to be a traditional African party with lots of food and dancing, and everyone getting involved.

“Zodwa is so excited about her party: this is going to be a day in her life she never thought would happen.

KNOTWEED WARNING

THE Dean, the Very Revd Ian Barcroft, asks that any sign of Japanese knotweed on church property is immediately reported via the Diocesan Office to the Property Committee.

It is an invasive plant that can cut through paths, roads, walls, drains and paving. It can even affect foundations. Almost any fragment left behind from attempted clearance can regenerate the plant.

Ian said: “Due to its destructive nature many financial institutions will not lend on properties with or near Japanese knotweed.

“SEPA states that Japanese knotweed and soil containing rhizomes must be disposed of as controlled waste. Vestries/Trustees must exercise their responsibility in this regard.”

“We are all looking forward to it and pray for sunshine in her life.”

Regular activities include board games and crafts. Last month, they stocked up with wool and crochet hooks to start crochet lessons at the request of the ladies.

The group was started with outreach money given by All Saints, and has just been awarded £500 by Sport Relief in Scotland.

Jean said: “The Lord surely directed us in this outreach and they are such happy people, we just love to hear their laughter. Each one who comes in gives everyone a big cuddle, they are just so pleased to meet up with friends who care.”

She added: “We will need to apply to everywhere we can think of to keep this very worthwhile project going. Please keep us in your prayers.”

Help for finding your ‘SHAPE’ for ministry

A new online tool to encourage people to explore their vocation has been launched by CPAS, the Anglican evangelical mission agency.

‘Your S.H.A.P.E. for ministry’ only takes a couple of minutes to complete and provides advice and a series of next steps for people who are interested in pursuing what they feel God may be calling them to, including ordination.

The online exercise at www.cpas.org.uk/shape poses five short questions to gauge how confidently users understand themselves in the areas of Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experience (SHAPE).

The resultant five-sided shape is then displayed to illustrate how users perceive themselves, with a series of recommended resources and links as useful ways of further exploring each topic. Users can also get their complete SHAPE report emailed to them.

This has been created as part of CPAS’ vision to encourage more under-30s to offer themselves for ordination, including pioneer ministry, although people of all ages are able to use the new web tool.

Mark Norris, CPAS leadership development adviser for vocations, said: ‘One of the primary aims of the SHAPE exercise is to encourage people to initiate conversations with other trusted leaders. It helps people ask how well they understand themselves in

five key areas, with suggestions, resources and links of how they can develop a clearer sense of vocation.

‘Helping more young people to explore their vocation assists them in their discipleship and helps them realise, whatever their vocation, that they have something to offer in the service of Christ. It is also vitally important because younger leaders are more likely to relate to contemporary culture and enable effective mission among young people.’

CPAS also provides other resources for those considering their vocation, as well as *You and Ministry* weekend conferences (www.cpas.org.uk/vocations). There is also advice for leaders who are helping others along their vocational journeys.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the July/August issue may be submitted up to **Monday 14 June** 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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A happy celebration

MEMBERS and friends of the Mothers' Union held their annual Festival Service last month to celebrate the work of the Mothers' Union in Glasgow and Galloway and their link dioceses, both in the UK and overseas.

Hosted at Holy Trinity Ayr, the celebrations were enriched by the commissioning of new officers and by offering thanks to members who have served God through the objects of the MU for over 40 years. Canon Jeanette Jenkins welcomed everyone and Bishop Gregor, the Patron of the Mothers' Union, officiated. The officers commissioned were Ann Glenesk (Diocesan President), Carolynne Sorrell, Wendy Petrie, William Walker, Caryl Haglington, Enid Scobie, Margaret Horrell, Elsie Murray, Jill Cameron and Joan McKechnie.

Revd Peter Douglas, the Mothers' Union new chaplain, unfortunately missed the celebrations due to an accident in which his wife, Margaret, hurt her face. All present held them both in their prayers. Peter will be commissioned by the Bishop in Kilmarnock at the dedication service later in the year.

Visitors included Provincial president Hilary Moran; former chaplain Revd Scott Robertson; Barbara Elliott; former DP representatives from the United Reformed, Baptist, the Guild and Olu Akitoye, link Secretary of Lagos Mainland MU. These people, along with all the members, their families and friends were uplifted by the warmth of welcome extended by the members of the Ayr branch and their helpers, the service, sermon, music, fellowship and hospitality.

The Mothers' Union in Glasgow and Galloway have much to thank God for and all members agreed to move forward in faith.

Photographs of the event will soon be available on muscotland.org.uk/glasgow. Have a look to see many happy faces, the fantastic food, and the new DP wearing her gift from Olu!

Ann Glenesk

YOUTH QUIZ

THE Diocesan Youth Network is organising a quiz afternoon for all our young people aged 11-17.

Venue: **St Bride's Hyndland**

Date: **Sunday 4 July**

Time: **1.30-5pm**

Light food will be provided.

Contact: Youth Chaplain, Revd Christian Okeke (0774 859 0407) bishopc7@yahoo.com.

Get ready for Back to Church Sunday

BACK To Church Sunday falls on 26 September this year, and it's time to start thinking and planning for the event.

All congregations are invited to join in. Last year, churches across our diocese welcomed new and old faces on Back To Church Sunday, and across the UK 82,000 people came back to church on the day.

As well as Episcopalians, Church of England, Church of Scotland, Baptist, Methodist, URC, Pentecostal and Salvation Army churches took part, alongside Anglican churches in Australia, Canada, Argentina and New Zealand. A great strength of the day is that everyone is doing it together, and we receive confidence from each other.

Churches focus on offering an extra special, warm welcome on the day, supported by Back To Church Sunday resources such as posters, invitation cards and tee shirts. And every member of the congregation asks their friend or neighbour, 'Will you come to church with me?'

The deadline for registering and ordering resources is 15 June. More information is available at backtochurch.co.uk. If you would like any kind of help or advice, contact Darren McFarland, secretary of the diocesan Mission Core Group: rector@paisley2.freeserve.co.uk.

Helen Ball, Mission Core Group

Swedish visit

A GROUP from St Ninian's Troon are just back from another weekend trip to Sweden.

This time their new rector, Revd Canon Tom Montgomery, accompanied them on the visit to Dalstorp Parish in the Diocese of Gothenburg.

There were ten in the party from Scotland and they joined in Friday evening celebrations for the arrival of spring on at the lake in Ljungsarp. In Sweden, the custom is to light a big bonfire, have speeches and sing songs to welcome the new season.

On Saturday they visited craft shops and the daffodil gardens at Fageras. Sunday morning worship was at Ljungsarp Church where Canon Tom shared the communion service with parish priest Philip Widell.

The weekend finished with a wonderful lunch at Dalstorp Church and an evening concert by Canbrah (the choir that visited St Ninian's last September) in Nittorp Church.

Immigrant mums work on parenting skills with MU

THE SECRET to talking boys into eating vegetables was just one of the mysteries unveiled when Mothers' Union parenting facilitator Ann Cook was invited to work with a group of overseas mums who are new to Scotland.

The call came from Glasgow International Christian Church, part of Heart for the City, a charity with a vision of restoring and transforming cities for the glory of God. Most members are fairly recent immigrants from Africa and India, and there are many families as well as Mothers' Union members.

Hearing that MU offers parenting groups, the members asked if a facilitator could come and help them explore their parenting and discuss their problems.

Ann, whose husband David is rector at St Michael & All Saints Helensburgh, is mother to six children, a career that must help in her role as one of four accredited parenting facilitators in Glasgow & Galloway.

Helped for some sessions by MU's Enid Scobie and Hilary Moran, she counts herself lucky to have been chosen for this mission. She found herself among a group of enthusiastic mums who approached the weekly meetings eager to explore ideas and techniques, and ready to share their experiences and advice.

She said: "We discussed when to allow children to go to the park on their own, how to ensure that the rules your family sets are adhered to and how to persuade boys to eat vegetables (answer: develop great acting skills, lick your fingers and shriek with delight as you prepare a salad!)."

"We met for seven Tuesday mornings, the presence of several small children—without exception gorgeous—only adding to the positive atmosphere.

"There was a final session with the dads (always more nerve-wracking than all the previous sessions put together!) where Hilary and I were met with great courtesy and rapt attention, and some very perspicacious questions.

"Since most parenting groups are attended by only one parent per family,

a session for partners, briefly covering the main topics discussed, is invaluable, as one of the recurrent themes of all parenting advice is consistency.

"Overall, it was a very positive experience for me, and I received not only sincere thanks, but also the promise of another group to meet with."

Glasgow & Galloway MU's trained parenting facilitators would be pleased to run a similar course in the Glasgow/Helensburgh area. If interested, contact Hilary Moran (01475 686213) hilary.moran@btinternet.com.

Heart for the City is based at 535 Maryhill Road, Glasgow (0141 945 0454). Visit heartforthecity.co.uk to learn more.

Swedish international meeting welcomes MU delegates from G&G

A NATIONAL meeting in Gothenberg's neighbouring diocese of Växjö saw around 3,000 people gather to celebrate the Church of Sweden's international work.

The theme was 'Another world is possible'.

The women's organisation of the Diocese of Gothenburg invited two representatives from the MU in Glasgow & Galloway. From the partnership Church of Berlin, a journalist shared how the church addresses migration issues in that city.

☐ **GOTHENBURG** Diocese will hold a two-day seminar with the church's youth organisation on standing up for one's faith.

☐ **EIGHT** new priests will be ordained by Bishop Carl Axel in Gothenburg Cathedral on 13 June to serve in the diocese.

Peter Andersson, Gothenburg

ISLAND BREAKS

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
CATHEDRAL OF THE ISLES
MILLPORT

8-12 July

Classical Guitar Retreat

Non-residential places may still be available. To register interest in participation without accommodation (£345) or to go on a waiting list in case of a residential cancellation (£495) contact Matthew McAllister (info@cgretrat.com).

12-15 July

Art for Absolute Beginners

Led by Anthea Clarke, this is a practical course teaching some simple techniques in a relaxed, uncritical and fun environment – all materials provided. £165 (£50 non-residential). Contact: cathedral_cumbrae@btconnect.com

July – September
Music for a Summer Afternoon.
Concerts every Sunday afternoon at 3pm in the Cathedral of the Isles. Details to be announced.

Visit www.island-retreats.org.