



BBC to feature south-west pilgrim route

A POTENTIAL new pilgrim route in the south-west is to be featured on television.

BBC Scotland's *Landward* show will carry a piece on the Ayrshire Pilgrims' Trail, with frontman Dougie Vipond visiting Crossraguel Abbey, near Maybole, one of the ancient staging points for pilgrims en route to Whithorn.

A feasibility study into the proposed trail – ultimately intended as a link between Glasgow and Whithorn – has already been done with grants from Europe and North and South Ayrshire Councils.

Now James Brown, from Ayr, has secured funding to take the project a step further by raising local interest and support from key stakeholders – which will include churches near the route. He will also report on the economic impact of the trail, which would be developed as a Transnational European Cultural Route. There are already 29 of these in the EU, but none centred in the UK.

James' preparatory work on the revival of the ancient trail coincides with moves initiated by Revd Dan Gafvert (Christ Church, Lanark) to start a diocesan working group dedicated to promoting pilgrimage. Dan was involved in setting up a waymarked trail on the Swedish island of Gotland, which has been developed as a pilgrim resort.

At an introductory meeting in Girvan, Dan spoke of the medieval tradition of pilgrimage when destinations ranged from remote wells and springs to grand cathedrals. Pathfinders – a role analogous to the ordained today – would guide travellers' spiritual and physical paths. Today, he suggested, churches can play a similar role in welcoming pilgrims and other visitors.

It's intended that the new diocesan group would also take part in ecumenical dialogue on encouraging the habit of pilgrimage as well as finding ways to enrich the experience of visitors to our churches.

Dan Gafvert can be contacted at dan@scotlandmail.com.

Reflections on pilgrimage *by Revd Dan Gafvert, Action Group for Spirituality*

SUMMERTIME is a good time for pilgrimage and now, when autumn approaches, it is time to live in the recreated resources that our spiritual holiday gave us.

I suppose that is the main purpose of leisure time: to enrich our time of work (and prayer). Maybe one can say that summer is there to enrich the autumn and to be a light within when winter comes with darkness.

So is a pilgrimage something that not only takes us to holy places but reloads the day-to-day life with spiritual experiences?

The purpose of a pilgrimage is to come back.

When we tour around the country on our holiday pilgrimage, by foot, by car or just rove around in the town or city, we always come across amazing places. Beautiful views, holy stones and wells – as well as all these eye-catching churches – speak to us about life and hope.

How deeply refreshing, is it not, to be able to rest in an open church? It is like an oasis for a tired pilgrim in need of refreshment to body, mind and soul. A church can fill you with life energy that will guide you through the coming winter.

'Be always prepared to give an answer to everyone that asks you to give an account of the hope that is in you,' writes Peter (1 Pet 3:15).

And who could better give that answer to the seeking pilgrim than the church?

Unfortunately some churches stay closed, even though the main insurance company doesn't mind open churches (visit the church security page at www.ecclesiastical.com).

A closed church is not prepared to give a good answer.

Maybe there are others who are prepared and want to give the seeking pilgrim a new direction to a new age.

Also in this issue . . .

Will you come to church with me?

Our giving at work aboard hospital ship

Volunteer for the Bible marathon bid

Milestone for women's ministry

Why I'm an Anglican—essay competition

Courses and opportunities

Will you come to church with me? *A new training resource*

IT is with great delight that I advertise the latest volume in the series of **Diocesan Training Workbooks**, writes diocesan ministry development officer ANNE TOMLINSON.

These user-friendly materials are being written by members of the various Action Groups to support the six strands of the Growth Strategy, providing resources for congregations as they endeavour to grow in nurture, spirituality, outreach and service.

Will you come to church with me? has been written by Helen Ball, a member of the Mission Core Group. It is aimed at congregations that would like to see new people coming along to church, and goes beyond 'welcoming' to the more proactive task of 'inviting'.

Helen says:

There are people among our neighbours and friends, in our families and workplaces, who would gladly come to church with us, if we felt able to invite them. The Mission Core Group offers this workbook as a way for congregations to develop a confident culture of invitation in their church. This workbook is underpinned by our conviction that everybody has the God-given

gift of being a good inviter; and that everybody knows somebody who is waiting to be invited.

There are five sections:

- ◆ Reluctant witness – types of evangelism;
- ◆ Love the church you're in – valuing your church;
- ◆ A friend indeed – thinking about whom to invite;
- ◆ Let me tell you a story – sharing our faith journeys;
- ◆ Will you come to Church with me? – planning and holding an invitation service at church, and the next steps.

The material is easy to use, needing no external facilitation, and contains numerous participative exercises complete with suggested timings. The pack could be used in a variety of ways: as material for a series of small group meetings; at a congregational study day or vestry away-day; at a Regional or ecumenical training event.

Hard copies can be ordered from the diocesan office (5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH) at £3. Free copies may be downloaded from <http://md.glasgow.anglican.org>.

Silver jubilee for women's ordination

PEOPLE from all over the Diocese attended a Eucharist in St Mary's Cathedral on 4 August to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first ordination of women to the Diaconate in this diocese.

That event took place on the Feast of the Transfiguration, 1986, at Holy Trinity Kilmarnock; the three deaconesses being ordained were Karen Brewin, Eileen Hawkins and Jeanette Jenkins.

It was Jeanette – now Canon Jenkins – who had the idea of commemorating the occasion in this way, and it was she who preached and represented the other two women (who now serve in Africa and England respectively).

Her sermon reflected on the tasks to which we are called as Church: 'to be Christ's body in the world, the vehicle through which He can reach out to those, who like the Israelites of old, are lost in the wilderness'. She herself had lived this ministry out over the years in chaplaincy work in hospitals and hospices. In this role, she has been drawn close to people at the most vulnerable times of their lives, offering a ministry of presence and reconciliation.

Jeanette reflected upon the sense of inadequacy felt at such times, but also the way in which God had invariably used such an offering of self for the good. She stressed the need for a servant to be a listener above all else. 'Listening first of all to God, who so often speaks in the still, small voice, which can so easily get lost in the clamour of the world around us. And then listening to others, which also requires more than just our ears, but our eyes and all our senses to hear behind the words, to read the body language and see to the heart of the problem.'

The full text of Canon Jenkins' sermon can be found at <http://md.glasgow.anglican.org/>.

Healing service

You are cordially invited to a special **healing and anointing** service on Sunday 25 September, 6pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 38 Hillington Road South, Glasgow G52 2AA. Come and pray and be prayed for, as we trust God for healing and breakthrough.

Our giving at work on hospital ship

THE international Christian charity Mercy Ships would like to express its deepest gratitude to everyone in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway who helped raise in excess of £16,000 towards the charity's lifesaving work during this year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Much of this amazing donation was also doubled through Mercy Ships' Easter Matching Appeal, thus further increasing the invaluable funds raised.

Mercy Ships runs the world's largest charity hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*, which is currently in Sierra Leone, a country where 70% of the population live on less than £1 per day.

Thanks to the generosity of the people of the Diocese, Mercy Ships volunteers will be able to transform many lives in the coming months – lives like six-year-old Salma Janijua who arrived at the ship with a deformed left leg that curved outwards.

Having endured cruel and abusive remarks from neighbours during her short life, Salma was a very unhappy little girl until one day, she heard about Mercy Ships.

Despite being overwhelmed by the sheer size of the ship, Salma and her mother, Hawa, went on board and the volunteer orthopaedic surgeons operated on Salma's leg.

After weeks of casting and physiotherapy treatment, as well as playing games with fellow patients on the ward, Salma returned home with straight legs, a radiant smile and a bright future.

As Salma waved goodbye, she handed a letter to Mercy Ships that expressed her heartfelt gratitude. In her own words:

"I thank you very much for all the work that you have done for me. And may I like praying for your protection and may God bless Mercy Ships. Thanks you all. Your Patience. Salma Janijua."

Mercy Ships demonstrates God's love by making a practical difference to the lives of the people of West Africa – one patient at a time.

If you would like to learn more about Mercy Ships, please call Susie Hope, Mercy Ships Fundraising Manager for Scotland on 01899 830475 or visit www.mercyships.org.uk

Join in the Bible-reading marathon bid!

A CONGREGATION will attempt a marathon reading of the entire King James Bible this month – and they're looking for volunteers to help this celebration of the 400 years since its publication, and of course, of the Bible itself.

Said organiser Mairi Ross at All Saints Bearsden: "We think it will be a fantastic opportunity to make friends outside our own walls, as we cannot possibly succeed without a great many volunteers. It is also hoped to raise money for good causes, with 75% of any proceeds being donated outside All Saints, the majority going to the East African Famine DEC appeal."

The event will take place at the church in Drymen Road between 1pm on Sunday 18th and 11am on Sunday 25th, with reading normally starting at 9am and finishing at 10pm. All Saints will be open to visitors and providing refreshments throughout. It is likely to take about 90 hours of reading.

Mairi added: "We are looking for people to sign up to read during one or more hours of the event. You will only be asked to read one chapter at a time though, depending on the number of volunteers available during a particular hour, you may be asked to read more than one chapter in a session. Young or old, anyone who can read aloud is most welcome; this is a celebration and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"Come and join in! Bring your friends and neighbours too – we need all the readers we can get!"

Bishop Gregor has added his commendation of this exciting way of celebrating the King James Bible and its place in our country's religious and cultural life. Contact mairi.e.ross@btinternet.com

Bikes wanted

THE Unity Centre is looking for bikes to fix up to help asylum seekers in Glasgow get around the city at low cost. Asylum seekers will be taught how to repair and maintain bikes for themselves and for the charity to sell.

Bring bikes to Unity's shop at 371 Paisley Road West or the Unity Centre, 30 Ibrox Street. Or call 0141 427 7992. The Unity Bike Project is run in partnership with Glasgow Bike Shed and supported by Cycling Scotland. More details from info@unitycentreglasgow.org

Coping with Stress

A THREE-DAY course on Coping with Stress will be led this month by Anthea Clark at the College of the Holy Spirit, Millport. A member of Holy Trinity Ayr, Anthea has an honours degree in Psychology and postgraduate qualifications in Counselling and in Autistic Spectrum Disorders. She began her professional life working in adult education with small groups in the community, helping people build self-esteem, cope with stress and return to education. She has recently retired as a school counsellor.

The course will cover:

- ◆ The impact stress has on our lives: the physical effects;
- ◆ The effects of stress on our mental capacity;
- ◆ The emotional effects of stress;
- ◆ Techniques – changing ‘learned behaviour’; changing the mind set;
- ◆ Learning to cope with stress (food, sleep, relaxation);
- ◆ Problem-solving/positive thinking/planning;
- ◆ Dealing with difficult situations;
- ◆ Techniques – help yourself by helping others.

Allied to these inputs will be space and time for stress-busting walks round the island and engagement in meditation and prayer. Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) grants for one third of the cost of attendance are available. The course starts on the evening of Monday 26th and ends with breakfast on Thursday 29th. Fees from £180 full board (non-residential £35).

Visit www.island-retreats.org or call the warden for more information: 01475-530353.

Journey in Faith

**Unit 1 - Worship, Bible, Prayer
20/21 September - 25/26 October 2011**

FOLLOWING its success a few years ago, the Diocesan Education Action Group is offering new participants the opportunity to join Unit 1 of the Journey in Faith course. The course is for all those interested in exploring their faith and does not require any previous Biblical or theological expertise.

- ◆ Sessions 1 & 2
Worship - liturgy and sacraments
- ◆ Sessions 3 & 4
Bible - times of writing, types of writing, bringing the writings together, reading the Bible
- ◆ Session 5 What is prayer?
- ◆ Session 6 Ways of praying

The course will be held 7.30–9pm. It’s on Tuesdays at St Ninian’s Troon and on Wednesdays at St Margaret’s, Newlands, starting on 20 & 21 September. Simply choose the venue most suitable for you.

For further details contact Revd Gordon B Fyfe, Education Action convenor: 01475 673143, gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com.

Book your place by sending the following details along with a cheque for £10 to the Diocesan Office, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH:

name, address, post code, telephone number, e-mail address, venue to be attended i.e. Troon or Newlands.

Leading Prayers in Church – intercession training

Do you lead prayers as part of your congregational worship? If so this is for you!

Intercession training is being offered in various parts of the diocese through the diocesan Liturgy, Spirituality and Education groups. These sessions are for those new to this role as well as those with many years’ experience.

Lay people should check with their rector and then apply for the venue and date most convenient for them.

The day will include input, resource lists, and time to share wisdom and experience.

Sessions already arranged are:

Glasgow— Mon 12 Sept, 7:30–9:30pm, St Serf’s Shettleston. Tea/coffee from 7pm.

Galloway— Sat 17 Sept, 10:30am –1pm, St John’s Dumfries. Tea/coffee from 10am; Lunch provided.

Sat 17 Sept, 2–4pm, Greyfriars Kirkcudbright. Tea/coffee from 1:30pm.

Ayrshire— Mon 19 Sept, 7:30–9:30pm, Holy Trinity Ayr. Tea/coffee from 7pm.

To book or seek more information contact Gill Young: 0141-258-7259; gill.young13@gmail.com.

Introduction to the Enneagram

A DAY introducing the Enneagram will be led by Ali Newell on Saturday 8 October from 11am to 4pm at Holy Trinity Church, Fullarton Street, Ayr KA7 1UB.

The origins of the Enneagram are unknown, but it has links with the Sufi tradition within Islam. It teaches that there are nine basic 'types' of people. Learning about these different 'types' can help us recognise and acknowledge our areas of giftedness and limitation.

By enabling us to appreciate more fully the ways that we differ as individuals, the Enneagram can help us find ways of relating to one another with greater understanding and compassion.

Ali Newell is a Church of Scotland minister who works at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow. She is skilled at sharing the wisdom of the Enneagram in an entertaining and creative way. During the day she will introduce the participants to the nine basic 'types' of people and help them discover their own 'type'.

Once people are familiar with the Enneagram, it can also be used to help them find ways of praying that are particularly suited to their 'type'. This is outside the scope of a single day, but if there is sufficient interest further sessions could be arranged.

Participants are asked to bring their own packed lunch. Tea, coffee, fruit juice and biscuits will be provided. Donations to help cover costs will be welcome on the day.

At least 10 participants are needed, so if you would like to go, let Caroline McKillop know as soon as possible. Call her on 0141 339 7000 or e-mail carolinemckillop@yahoo.co.uk.

Scotland4peace

SCOTLAND4PEACE brings the churches together with secular groups such as trade unions and movements like the Iona Community, *writes DAVID MUMFORD*. It has four campaigning targets:

- ◆ to oppose Trident;
- ◆ to work for diversification of employment away from dependence on armament production;
- ◆ to support an annual Peace Day;
- ◆ to create an international peace and justice centre in Scotland.

The United Nations has established 21 September as International Peace Day, and the World Council of Churches has called for a world day of prayer for peace on the nearest Sunday – this year 18 September.

A leaflet has been produced about these days. It is available from Revd Brian Cooper, PO Box 28209, Edinburgh EH9 1ZR (0131-446-9495). The leaflet is being circulated to all SEC clergy.

There is also a resource pack for these days produced by the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches. It costs £5 and can be ordered from www.jointpublicissues.org.uk or from Brian Cooper.

Please do support these days.

- ◆ Ask your minister to include world peace in the prayers on the Sunday.
- ◆ Consider organising a small event – a prayer vigil for example.
- ◆ Ask other churches and faiths to join in.
- ◆ Write to your local paper.

And – whatever you do – let me know as well.

Very Revd David Mumford is SEC representative on Scotland4peace(dmumford@phonecoop.coop)

Diocesan Advent Quiet Day

Date for your diary—Saturday 10 December, from 10am to 4pm in two venues.

For those in the north of the diocese, this annual quiet day will be held at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley.

For those in the south, it will be held at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas.

This is a day of prayer and reflection on an Advent theme. In the north it will be led by Bishop Gregor Duncan, and in the south by Bishop Gordon Mursell.

Participants are asked to bring their own lunch; tea/coffee will be provided.

Book your place by contacting Jennifer FitzGibbon (secretary, Action Group for Spirituality), 01294 823992, e-mail j2fg@aol.com, or write to the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2DH (mark envelope 'Advent Quiet Day').

Celebrating 80 years at King's Park

Vestry secretary Morag McHaffie writes . . .

AS our dedication approaches and celebrations take place for this our 80th anniversary of service to the people of King's Park, we give our thanks for the life and work of St Oswald's Church and her people in this area and pray that it may continue for a further 80 years.

Congregation and friends are invited to a service of Holy Communion celebrated by Bishop Gregor Duncan at 2.30pm on Sunday 11 September.

Our preacher will be Canon John Woodley whose service to God included leading the congregation of St Oswald's during the 1970s. The service of celebration will be followed by refreshments.

ARTS AND COFFEE

An arts and coffee morning with stalls takes place on Saturday 17 September, 10am–2pm at St Oswald's, 260 Castlemilk Rd, G44 4LD.

The artwork on display is created by the ecumenical group led by George Taggart and involving members of St Oswald's and the local community.

Thank you to all who are helping make our 80th anniversary celebrations so joyous.

ORGAN RECITAL

**St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral,
Glasgow**

Friday 16 September, 7.30pm.

Ahead of recitals at St Paul's Cathedral and Notre-Dame de Paris, Glasgow-based organist **Michael Bawtree** will give an hour-long fundraising concert in Glasgow.

The concert will include music by Handel, Elgar, Langlais, Eben, Bach and York Bowen, all of which will be performed by Bawtree in London and France.

Entry is by donation and funds raised will be split between the Cathedral's music programme and the Organ Fund of St Margaret's, Newlands, where Bawtree is organist.

The recital marks the launch of the appeal for the rebuilding of the 1963 organ at St Margaret's.

Volunteering in faith: obligation or joy?

DO you volunteer in a church setting or out-with the church and are you interested in exploring this issue in relation to the 'Big Society'?

A day conference organised by the Church in Society Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church will provide an opportunity to explore this topic through keynote addresses and interactive and creative workshops on all aspects of volunteering

**Saturday 19 November, 9.30am–4pm
St Mary's Centre, Kinnoull, Perth**

The keynote speaker, Anne Morrisey, is a freelance community theologian and lecturer.

Anne has worked in the field of social responsibility for many years and directed the Commission that wrote the report *Faithful Cities*. She has written two best-selling books - *Beyond the Good Samaritan* and *Journeying Out*.

Book your place by Friday 14 October by sending your name, address and e-mail to the Church Relations Officer, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE, enclosing a £5 cheque made out to the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Promoting Solar Panels in Church Buildings Options and Challenges

You are invited by the Church of Scotland and Eco-Congregation Scotland to attend this conference.

Saturday 29 October

10am – 3.30pm

Partick South Church

259 Dumbarton Road

Glasgow G11 6AB

(5 min walk from Partick and Kelvinhall subway stations)

The day will include

- ♦ an introduction to PV solar panels and the government's 'feed-in tariff';
- ♦ discussion of the role of PV solar panels in energy management in church buildings;
- ♦ the example of Selkirk Parish Church who have installed solar panels on the church roof.

To book a place e-mail: climatechange@cofscotland.org.uk or write to *Responding to Climate Change Project*, Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN.

The conference is free but a donation towards the cost on the day would be welcomed.

St Boniface Trust essay competition

Following the setting up of the Anglican Ordinariate, St Boniface Trust has been concerned that yet more divisions are being created within both the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The Trust feels that more attention needs to be paid to the understanding of Anglicanism as a distinctive witness in a time when its self understanding is at a low ebb.

To further this understanding it is offering a prize of £1,000 to the writer of an essay of about 5,000 words on the subject 'Why I am an Anglican and believe I shall remain so'.

Essay submissions by lay people and clergy of all ages must be received by 1 January 2012; entries will be judged by a senior cleric within the Church. The result will be announced next Easter and the winning essay placed on the Trust's website together with other significant contributions.

Contact the Trust secretary for further details: secretary@stbonifacetrust.org.uk.

News and events in brief . . .

ST Ninian's Episcopal Church, Bentinck Drive, Troon is taking part in the Ayrshire Doors Open Days on Saturday 3 September from 10am to 4pm and Sunday 4 September from 12 noon to 4pm. The church contains many fine examples of stained glass and also 10 items from the Mouse Thompson Factory in Kilburn, North Yorkshire.

MUSIC for St Ninian—There will be a concert in St Ninian's Church, Bentinck Drive, Troon, on Sunday 18 September at 4pm. This is part of the patronal festival that weekend. The music will be performed by Andrew Dickie (oboe), Fiona Ramsay (clarinet) and Keegan Gordon (piano). Tickets, priced £5, include refreshments.

REVD Martin Sofield will be instituted Rector of the North Ayrshire Team at 7.30pm on Tuesday 30 August at St Andrew's, South Crescent, Ardrossan. All are welcome to attend.

Bishop Gregor asks you to remember Martin, his wife Freda and family in your prayers as they embark upon their new ministry.

FAITH in Older People, in collaboration with Dementia Positive, present one-day workshops on **Creative Communication: finding ways to connect with people with dementia.**

Perth, Fri 2 Sept, 10am–4pm, Lecture Room, Art Gallery & Museum: £65

Edinburgh, Fri 7 Oct, 10am–4pm, Royal Scots Club, Abercromby Place: £65.

These seminars start with the perspective that, while the experience of dementia presents profound difficulties to the individual and those around them, it can also include personal growth and discovery, joy and wellbeing, and rich new possibilities for connectedness and relationship.

The focus will be on exploring ways of connecting with persons with dementia through language, non-verbal communication and creative activities, and finding new ways to savour and celebrate our shared humanity.

More details can be found at www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk in the activities section under latest news, or call 0131 346 7981

ST Oswald's Maybole will be open during Ayrshire Doors Open Weekend on Saturday 3 September, 11am–4pm, and Sunday 4 September 1–4pm. Go and see this lovely little church in Cargill Road, KA19 8AF, just behind Maybole Railway Station.

VOSKRESENIJE choir returns from St Petersburg, Russia, to perform at each of the three South Ayrshire Team churches.

Dates are:

Wed 26 Oct: St Oswald's, Maybole

Thu 27 Oct: Holy Trinity, Ayr

Fri 28 Oct: St John's Girvan

All concerts start 7.30pm.

For more details e-mail rectorayr@yahoo.co.uk.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the October issue may be submitted by **Monday 12 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.

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