

DioceSan News

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Newlands: got talent!

From Madam Fifi's Hat and Moustache Workshop to Latvian dance, one church has been facing down recession gloom by capitalising on its members' gifts.

IT was such a collective process of shared imagination and inspiration that no individual will take responsibility for inventing the 'Year of Talents' which is drawing to a close at St Margaret's Newlands.

Like so many great ideas, it started with just one voice asking 'wouldn't it be good if...?' then grew into a truly good plan as others contributed their thoughts.

It was, in fact, the 2008 celebrations of St Margaret's centenary year that brought it home how many gifted people belong to this diverse congregation.

Their talents were not always apparent from regular Sunday service acquaintance: painters and sketchers, cartoonists and photographers, tapestry makers and embroiderers. Also, well hidden, were the skills of actors and singers, players and performers. Accomplished bakers and other makers of delicious edibles were more readily identified!

And so a Year of Talents calendar of events was planned to celebrate the wealth of talent within St Margaret's, to share it with the wider community and to put this all to good use in raising church funds.

Each event would include all ages working together, making new friendships, all enjoying themselves and bringing pleasure to many more.

CEILIDH

The New Year kicked off with a successful family ceilidh at Pollokshaws Burgh Halls, thanks to a terrific band that had everyone up dancing as often as possible.

March's event was more sedate and serene: an art exhibition which opened with a Fairtrade wine and cheese event. An extended display of photographs and articles covering the history of St Margaret's was a reminder of all those who had contributed much to the community in previous years.

Later, St Margaret's Magnificent Edwardian Music Hall Spectacular Supper Theatre was an extravaganza of music and song, performance and audience participation.

On sale prior to the evening were Edwardian moustaches and hats. These were made at another social event: 'Madam Fifi's Edwardian Hat and Moustache Workshop'.

In May the church welcomed a group of Latvian dancers and singers in association with local group

Women Across the World. Their performance was a fundraiser in aid of a day centre for elderly people that had been set up by St Margaret's member Issy Sanderson years ago in Riga.

Issy also organised and produced a reading of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Costumed and staged in a black and white colour scheme, the show was a resounding sell-out success.

So far, about £3,500 has been raised through the wealth of talent in the congregation – many of whom contributed behind the scenes: setting up and clearing away, distributing posters and encouraging friends and family to come along.

WIDER

The idea has had wider effects.

As an Eco-Congregation, St Margaret's did all it could to incorporate environmentally friendly practices.

And the desire to ensure inclusion of all ages of the community is being taken forward in an all-age worship monthly Eucharist.

In a St Margaret's magazine from 1912, a contributor wrote: "The secret of success at St Margaret's is the mighty power of 'littles'."

That principle has guided the Talents Team almost a century later. Said one of them:

"Every member of the congregation has a part to play and a talent to offer which further strengthens our community in a new Millennium.

"Start with a small idea and with faith you never know where it will take you."

Also in this issue . . .

Imagining another world with Revised Standard Visions

Back to Church turns into a homecoming experience

Wave for climate justice

Surf's up—electronic Bible study has never been easier

Events and opportunities

Homecoming – to church

Lanark's Christ Church was twice as full when the leadership brought a Homecoming theme to Back to Church Sunday. Sylvia Russell reports...

CHRIST Church Lanark joined all the town's churches in an ecumenical approach to Homecoming Week.

Our church held an illustrated talk midweek on the history of tartan, the Celtic Church and the Episcopal Church. This was delivered by our Swedish Rector, Revd Dan Gafvert (who is more knowledgeable about Scottish history than most Scots). This was a most entertaining evening.

Our church also had an open day on Saturday 26 September. However, the highlight of the week was our Homecoming Service the following day.

Our congregation was almost double the size of a normal Sunday service and it was a delight to welcome people who hadn't attended for some years or were new to the area. The service had been well publicised in the local press and invitations had been sent to people who were loosely attached to the church but not regular attenders.

The service itself was innovative with a Celtic feel to it, and music enlivened by harpists, a violinist, an accordion player and a guitarist.

A piper led us into the service and much music was to follow with many of the hymns sung to familiar Scottish tunes. Dan gave a very apt and interesting address on the theme of coming home and made all the visitors feel welcome.

At the end of the service the piper led us out to the hall for coffee and refreshments.

Surfing for scripture

IT'S not long ago that finding a half-remembered scripture passage meant leafing through a hefty concordance.

Now you can read more than 100 Bible versions in 50 languages on your Blackberry or home computer, and look up a verse or a topic in moments.

Bible Gateway is an easy tool for reading and researching scripture online.

It provides advanced searching capabilities to let readers find and compare particular passages in scripture, based on keywords, phrases, or scripture reference.

The choice includes a wide range of English translations, three Greek New Testaments, and several audio Bibles.

If you are a webmaster, you can install its Verse of the Day widget on your website, or add a search form. Visit biblegateway.com.

If Bible reading is a discipline you find hard to make routine, try having a daily e-mail delivered with a scripture passage, reflection and prayer from Sojourners.

Founded in 1971, Sojourners' mission is to articulate the biblical call to social justice, inspiring hope and building a movement to transform individuals, communities, the church, and the world.

Visit sojo.net and navigate to Blogs then Verse and Voice.

Finally, apologies for getting the spelling wrong last month for affirmingcatholicism.org.

Suggestions of other useful websites will be welcome.

Tell the editor what's good about your favourites: write to dns@episcopalglasgow.org.uk.

MU appeals for Africa aid

MORE than 23million people in East Africa are facing starvation following a further failed harvest.

Across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania Mothers' Union members are bringing food relief to as many people as they can. MU has launched an urgent appeal both to fund emergency food aid and to help re-establish food security and agricultural projects.

To donate, visit themothersunion.org and follow the link to the famine appeal. Or call 020 7222 5533.

Revised Standard Visions

HOLY City is a monthly ecumenical workshop and worship event. This year, the theme is Revised Standard Visions: Imagining another world

Climate change, the credit crunch, the still-unfulfilled demands of justice and peace. Our generation faces a multitude of challenges.

The history of faith and culture speak of each generation facing similar critical times, when prophets and visionaries have re-framed and re-formed the way we think about our world. It's said that 'without a vision, the people perish'.

Holy City's 2009-10 programme addresses this urgent need in all its facets, and seeks to explore the re-imagining and re-visioning of faith, our lives and our times.

It's enabled by the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community, in collaboration with 'a motley crew of Glaswegian citizens'.

It takes place 7-10pm at Renfield St Stephen's, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, on the last Sunday of the month from October to May (except December's event which is on the 20th). Visit holycity-glasgow.co.uk or call 0141 332 6343.

Chalk and cheese?

THEOLOGY and spirituality - chalk and cheese? is a series of informal seminars run by Glasgow University's department of Theology and Religious Studies with the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

Sessions are relaxed and convivial, combining theological input and discussion over a glass or two of wine, starting 5.30pm and lasting until 7pm.

The final speaker for this term, on Thursday 26 November, will be Revd Dr Ian Meredith.

His topic is 'Were all Episcopalians Jacobites in the 17th and 18th centuries?'

These seminars are opportunities for clergy and laity in the diocese to share their expertise and areas of theological interest, both as seminar leaders and as group participants, and to be inspired into fresh thought and reading by others' theological passions.

Meetings are held in 4 The Square, University of Glasgow G12 8QQ.

All are welcome.

For more information contact Revd Dr Scott Robertson or Anne Tomlinson, ministry development officer, via the diocesan office 0141 221 5720.

Free cash for training

WOULD going back to school help you in your church work?

If your annual income is no more than £22,000 you probably qualify for an Independent Learning Account worth £200 a year towards part-time higher education classes. For some courses, you could be entitled to £500.

As well as stand-alone classes, you may enrol for single modules within many full-time university or college courses.

There are hundreds of subject choices, including addiction studies, child care, first aid, food hygiene and desktop publishing. Classes typically are one evening or half-day a week for 10-12 weeks. On-line training is also offered for some subjects.

Many colleges waive fees for students on Jobseekers Allowance.

And the University of the West of Scotland, with campuses in Ayr, Dumfries, Paisley and Hamilton, is one institution that offers a free module to newcomers.

Call 0808 100 1090 for an ILA Scotland application form or visit ilascotland.org.uk.

Wave of support for a safe climate

The Wave is the name of Scotland's biggest ever demonstration in support of action on climate change.

On Saturday 5 December, ahead of the crucial UN climate summit in Copenhagen, thousands of people from across Scotland will flow through the streets of Glasgow seeking climate justice from the world leaders.

Among them will be Christians of all denominations with a concern for global justice and stewardship of God's Creation.

The Wave is organised by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, which includes the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Mothers' Union as members.

Stop Climate Chaos is appealing for as many people as possible to turn out on the streets of Glasgow on the day.

If you would like to volunteer to help make this demonstration a success, there are a number of things you can do.

Supporters are urged to make sure everyone in their church,

workplace and neighbourhood knows about The Wave; Volunteers are also needed to be bus organisers (contact Stop Climate Chaos for details);

Visit stopclimatechaosscotland.org for updates, leaflets and more information as plans firm up.

There is still time (just) to press the Scottish Government to stop any new coal-fired power stations being commissioned without full carbon capture and storage. Visit wdmscotland.org.uk/action/CoalAction.htm.

Talking faith in older people

FAITH in Older People is sponsoring a conference on Saturday 28 November at the Barn, Elshieshields. Speakers are Father Gerry Hughes SJ and Revd Ali Newall.

Fr Gerry has written many books on spirituality including *God of Surprises* and *God in All Things*. He speaks widely on faith and the ageing process. Kirk minister Ali Newall is an FiOP trainer who also works at the Ignatian Centre in Glasgow

Elshieshields DG11 1LY is less than two miles from Lochmaben on the Nethermill Road. The conference fee is £10. Hot drinks will be available all day; participants should bring their own sandwiches. To book contact Revd Ann Shukman (01387 810280, ann.shukman@virgin.net).

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the December/January issue may be submitted by **Monday 16 November** 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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In brief: news and events . . .

ST Cuthbert's Cambuslang celebrates one hundred years of worship in its building at 3 Brownside Road.

A special Eucharist will be celebrated by the Diocesan Commissary, Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan on Friday 27 November at 7pm

Past clergy are warmly invited to attend, as are any friends and associates in the Diocese who might want to share in this thanksgiving, and pray for the future ministry of God's people in this place. Refreshments will be served in the church hall thereafter.

POVERTY and Homelessness Action Week takes place from 30 January to 7 February.

The theme is Enough For All – emphasising that we can tackle poverty and homelessness by rediscovering the wealth within our own churches and communities, and sharing more freely.

Visit actionweek.org.uk/html/resources.php.

ST Paul and St John the Evangelist, Monklands, will be holding a Christmas Fayre in the Church Hall, Springwells Avenue, Airdrie, from 11am on Saturday, 28 November.

TRANSFORMING Ministry— Making a Difference as Women is the topic of an event in Edinburgh with Christina Rees on Saturday 7 November, 10.30am - 4.30pm.

Women within the Scottish Episcopal Church are invited to this interactive day, exploring and sharing thoughts and experiences. Writer and broadcaster Christina Rees is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and sits on the Archbishops' Council.

The venue is the General Synod Office, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

Contact Dr Elaine Cameron (elaine.ging@gmail.com 01821 650482) or Revd Marion Chatterley (marion.chatterley@blueyonder.co.uk 07771 982163).

A TRAINING day for Sunday School teachers takes place on Saturday 31 October, 10.30am-3pm at St Ninian's Prestwick.

It will include an introduction to Godly Play, a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture.

Using symbols and objects as well as words, this approach values process, openness and discovery.

It encourages those involved to make meaning for themselves and can be used in a variety of settings and with a variety of age groups.

Lunch will be provided. To book, contact Revd Gordon Fyfe: 01475 673143.

MARRIAGE and Cohabitation: the same or different? is the theme of a day organised in Glasgow by the Mothers' Union for all church members, friends and family.

Leading the day will be Revd Scott Robertson (Mothers' Union Chaplain). Four sessions will cover the history of marriage and cohabitation; the biblical context; present-day perceptions; and the law with relation to marriage and cohabitation.

It's on Saturday 5 December, 10am-2.30pm, at St Silas, Park Road, Glasgow.

Lunch will be free. To book a place and any crèche places contact Carolynne Sorrell: 01387 255798

DAVID Hamilton will give an organ recital at Holy Trinity Ayr on Sunday 22 November at 7.30pm.

David is the organist of St Mary's Hamilton. He will be playing works by Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn,

Franck and Gershwin. Admission £6 (concessions £5).

TO prepare clergy and readers for preaching on the Gospel of Luke in Year C, the diocese has organised a day event led by Revd Professor John Riches.

It will include formal input on the shape and context of the Gospel in the morning, followed by participative contextual Bible study in the afternoon. It's at All Saints, Drymen Road, Bearsden, Saturday 7 November, 11am-3pm. To register, contact the ministry development officer (0131 668 1322, mdo.gg@btinternet.com).

THE Department for International Development's Community Linking Programme (DCLP) offers funding and support to community groups in the UK that have a link with a group in Africa, Asia, Latin America or the Caribbean.

It is running a survey to find out how many such groups there are, what they do, and what support they'd like.

By doing the survey, you can be among the first to hear about new grants, networking opportunities, learning and support and more. Visit dfid.gov.uk/dclp.

TACKLING Income Inequality in Scotland is a conference jointly organised by Action for Churches Together in Scotland and the STUC.

It takes place on Friday 6 November at the Easter Road Conference Centre, Edinburgh.

The keynote address is by Richard Wilkinson, professor of medical epidemiology at Nottingham University, and author of *The Spirit Level—why more equal societies almost always do better*.

Further details from Tom Moyes, Action for Churches Together (tommoyses@acts-scotland.org, 012259 222363).

NEXT year the abbeys of Crossraguel, near Maybole, and Paisley will join in pan-European celebrations of the 1,100th anniversary of their mother church in Cluny, Burgundy.

The abbey church of Cluny was the largest in Europe prior to the building of St Peter's in Rome.

The Cluniac mission was to encourage pilgrimage. So it may be no coincidence that Crossraguel Abbey (now a ruin in the care of Historic Scotland) sits exactly half-way between Paisley and Whithorn.

Arrangements to celebrate Scotland's place in 11 centuries of Cluniac heritage include a weekend of events centred on Paisley, 14-16 May. Organisers are planning a conference on the history and archaeology of the two abbeys; a choral concert in Paisley Abbey; special displays in Paisley Museum; and coach trips to Crossraguel, taking in the castles of Kelburn and Dundonald.

There will also be an ecumenical service in Paisley Abbey on Sunday 16 May. Further information from James Brown (baltersan.castle@btinternet.com).