

Bishop's Lent Appeal for the Diocese of Jerusalem Healthcare Project in Gaza

Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza

The hospital plays a major role in providing general medical and surgical care and in preventing illness and disability for all people of the Gaza Strip, according to the Church World Service website. The hospital is a profound illustration of the mission of the Anglican Church and a visible expression of Christian concern for the community.

Recently there has been a new appeal from the hospital administrator for funds to set up a much needed Breast Screening Unit for the women of the West Bank. Bishop Idris hopes that this years Lent Appeal will be steered towards this much needed facility.

All proceeds from the Appeal will be sent directly to the hospital.

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Update on Palestine

On my recent trip to Ramallah in the West Bank of Palestine I visited several very needy families in Bethlehem with a donation from the Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association (SCEMA). We were able to help around five families. It gave me great joy to visit them in their homes, to listen to their stories and the way their lives have been affected by the military occupation. They send their warmest greetings and thanks to you all and they want you to know that Christmas was made bearable because of the money they received.

Bethlehem, that Biblical town where Jesus was born, is being choked by the apartheid wall. This has further cut the people off from Jerusalem (where all the jobs are) and adds to the hardship for the Palestinians. Please continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land that both the Israelis and Palestinians may learn to live in peace and harmony with one another.

A huge thank you to those who have given support and have shown much care and concern for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Margaret Mungavin

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Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to the editor, Mrs Marilyn Pope, e-mail: marilyndns@btinternet.com by Monday 16th April 2007. Or c/o Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow. G1 2DH tel: 0141 221 5720/2694

Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan News

April 2007

Issue 064

The disciples were filled with joy when they knew the Lord: and he said to them again: Peace be with you.

John 20.20,21

An Easter Message from Bishop Idris

What Easter means for me is summed up in words of St Paul: "It is a fact; Christ is risen" (1 Corinthians 15 v.20).

We cannot know how it happened, and in a sense we do not need to know how it happened, just the plain fact that it did – and it will take more than a Hollywood sales pitch to cast any doubt about that in my mind!

We do know the consequences of it happening, and we could turn to St. Paul once more to draw these consequences out. "Now it is no more me who lives, but Christ who lives in me"; " if we share with Christ in death we shall surely share in his resurrection"; and most personally for St Paul "who are you Lord? – I am Jesus"; the question and the answer that turned Paul round in his own life of faith.

We know also from the Gospel narratives that Jesus once risen was not immediately recognisable to his friends. Mary of Magdala in the garden; the weary fishers on the shore; the two disciples at Emmaus all needed some way in which they could recognise the risen Christ. It might be that in the record there is a message that just says nothing remains the same in our relationship with God and that growth is inevitable as a result of the encounter with the risen Christ.

This was something that the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke about in his sermon in the Cathedral in Zanzibar during the Primates meeting. Seeing Jesus results in innovative action. Slave traders like John Newton worked for the abolition of slavery as a result of their own encounter with Jesus – conversion. "I once was blind but now I see" are the words in Newton's hymn Amazing Grace. This can happen as well in the process of having ones awareness heightened about discrimination especially when such discrimination is a result of just accepting what we think is normal without any intention to take part in a discriminatory act, or in using language that we suddenly come to see has a negative effect on other people.

Not as dramatic perhaps as a visitation on a desert highway – but a current and living experience of how new insight leads to change in a way that can be dramatic. This is part of our experience of resurrection – not the resurrection of Jesus which can never be repeated or need be replicated in any way – but none the less a point of contact with the reality that faith can lead to change and a change for the better at that. We all know that religion can be used to try to legitimise all sorts of wrong; but that is not the Resurrection Faith in Christ which brings with it release from evil and the promise of new life.

continued overleaf

May we all know in full the rich blessing and changing power of this resurrection faith and may we learn how to share it in such a way that our faith which sometimes feels tired finds new life in Jesus; that the knowledge of God we have so often set aside may become a renewed focus of faith; and all creation move to perfection in God who created it.

+Idris

Advance Notice
Celebration of Authorised Ministry Service

St Mary's Cathedral
Saturday 2nd June 2007 - 11am

To celebrate and affirm the ministry of all Lay Readers and those involved in authorised ministry in the Diocese including Worship Leaders, Pastoral Assistants and Eucharistic Assistants.

All Lay Readers and those in authorised ministry in the Diocese are invited to come along with those who wish to support them. This year those who assist at the Eucharist are required to have their authorisation renewed. This process should be underway in the charges and the renewed authorisations will be affirmed at the service.

The Bishop regards this service as a priority and is very disappointed not to be able to be with us due to his required attendance at the elections for the new Bishop of Moray. In the absence of the Bishop the Dean will preside.

Refreshments will be provided after the service.

If you have any queries about the service, or about authorised ministry, please contact Revd Shelley Marsh, Diocesan Adviser for Diaconal Ministries, email: revshelleymarsh@ntlworld.com or tel: 0141 585 5845.

Diocesan Synod

Synod was held at the Barony College, Dumfries, on Saturday 10th March. Lay representatives will be reporting back to their congregations, so no report on the business conducted is included but we are pleased to include the full text of the Bishop's Charge. The Diocesan Cycle of prayer was distributed at Synod, and is included as an appendix to this issue, in A4 sheet format and A5 booklet format.

Walsingham Pilgrimage
21st—24th September 2007

This year's Scottish National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham runs from Friday 21st – Sunday 24th September 2007. The total cost will be £180. If you would like more information please contact Revd Darren McFarland e-mail: rector@paisley2.freeseve.co.uk or Sandra Fowles tel: 01505 844865. A DVD or video on the work of the Shrine is available.

Church of Sweden's campaign of Lent collects funds for clean water
The Church of Sweden's campaign "Clean water eradicates hunger" will during this year collect funds for irrigation systems, water tanks, pumps and other kinds of practical support to countries which lack water. There is also advocacy work going on for a sustainable use of the resources of water in the world. Through advertisements in the media, the Swedish people are encouraged to support the work by donating through sms-messages, phone calls or bank accounts. Many members of the congregations also spend time during weekends collecting funds in the shopping malls of the cities. The campaign will last until the first of April.

More church in media

There is a communication project going on in the diocese until September 2009. The purpose is to help the parishes highlight in all kinds of media the issues of the church, e.g. issues related to faith and existential questions and also issues related directly to the church itself. A Communicator has been employed in order to write letters to the press, press releases and to inform the media about activities of interest, interesting people or discussions taking place within the church.

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The Celtic Way
&
Landmarks of Celtic Christianity

Retreat and Conference St Ninian's, Prestwick
15th – 19th May 2007

Retreat and Conference to be led by Rt Rev Eric Pike formerly bishop of the Eastern cape South Africa, his wife Joyce and Revd. Robert Penrith a priest from the diocese who will lead music workshops.

Retreat **The Celtic Way** Tuesday to Thursday 15th-17th May 2007

Conference **Landmarks of Celtic Christianity** Friday evening to Saturday 18th-19th May.

*For more information and to obtain booking forms please contact.
Linda Dickson, 32 Fenwickland Place, Ayr. KA7 3QE
or Revd Philip Noble tel: 01292 477108
e-mail: philipdnoble@btopenworld.com*

News from the Diocese of Gothenburg, Church of Sweden March 2007

Editor's note:

This is the first of what we hope will become a bi-monthly exchange of news between ourselves and our friends in the Diocese of Gothenburg. The news from Sweden is prepared for us by Peter Andersson and he will receive our Diocesan News every month. Fortunately he speaks good English!

Project for interfaith dialogue

The lack of dialogue between people of different cultural and religious background is a serious and increasing problem all over Europe. In Gothenburg, where there is large segregation of housing, there are few existing opportunities for meeting and sharing between people of another culture or religion. "It is time to start talking to each other rather than talking about each other," says Marika Palmdahl, Reverend in charge of the project "interfaith dialogue". But in order to do this, we must meet as human beings. During the three year long project period, Marika Palmdahl will facilitate the building of relations between Christians, Muslims and representatives for other faiths. Through meetings, school visits, conferences and such, she hopes that the project will contribute to greater respect and understanding between people.

The Church of Sweden and the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden have reached an agreement on a covenant partnership

"It is with great joy I find that 40 years of conversation have been fruitful - after a century of separation," states bishop Carl Axel Aurelius. The covenant was approved by the Church of Sweden's general assembly in October 2006. The covenant involves, among other things, the acknowledgement of the ordained ministry of each church (reverends, deacons and pastors) and the community of preaching and celebration of the Holy Communion.

Fewer deaneries in the Diocese of Gothenburg

The number of deaneries or circuits in the diocese will be reduced from 18 to 16. At the same time, the boundaries will be adjusted. In the future, the boundaries will follow the boundaries of the municipalities. Various factors have been guiding the new boundaries: the size of the deanery should be adapted considering the number of parishes, clergy and deacons, the deanery should follow the existing natural geographical boundaries and also take an established spiritual community in consideration. A deanery is lead by a rural or urban dean, who is appointed by the bishop. The deanery is a unit that is supposed to be a support for the bishop in his mission of support and supervision of the parishes.

Ministry Advisory Group

Keeping your clergy up to date

Ministry is a lifelong calling but the situations in which we minister do not stand still. For this reason, the Ministry Advisory Group (MAG) is currently looking at the ongoing training of people in the ordained and authorised ministry.

Continuous Ministerial Development (CMD) goes much wider than going on courses and attending study weekends. MAG's role is therefore not to run courses itself but to assist everyone in their CMD by providing information and making funding available.

How does it work?

The key feature is the Individual Development Plan (IDP), which is essentially a way for the individual to review his/her achievements, and to identify areas and opportunities for future development.

We now have in place a team of facilitators, lay and ordained, with expertise or experience in this field, who have attended training sessions organised by MAG and who are available to work with people as they draw up their IDP.

Online Guide

A new Guide to CMD will shortly be added to the diocesan website with information on IDPs, courses and other training opportunities, as well as on funding.

The Role of the Vestry and Congregation

CMD is a priority, and congregations also need to be partners in the exercise. Vestries need to make sure clergy and Lay Readers are freed from other duties in order to devote time and energy to their ministerial development. Vestries would normally be required to provide some funding for any courses.

After all, the whole congregation benefits if their ministers are making the most of the opportunities available to develop their ministries in the light of the changing circumstances in which we minister.

Guidelines for Authorised Ministries

MAG has also produced a handbook for people engaged in authorised ministries, which covers the discernment process and training for Lay Readers, Eucharistic and pastoral assistants, and worship leaders. Sample job descriptions and working agreements are also in the booklet. Copies were distributed at the March Synod and are available from clergy and Vestry secretaries.

Recognition

The annual Ministry Celebration Service in the Cathedral (on 2nd June this year) is an important way of expressing the view that ministry is shared between authorised and ordained ministers, as well as with the congregation as a whole. This understanding of the nature of Christian ministry is becoming more widely recognised and accepted in the Church and MAG's role is to foster developments to this end.

Revd Peter M Potter, Convenor, Ministry Advisory Group

Action Group for Spirituality

Last year I finished my report by reflecting on the future and what AGS planned for the year:

- work with the Liturgy Group on regular Sunday Worship
- run workshops for regions/congregations
- build up the spiritual life of individual members of the church
- offer support, when funds allow, for the training of people to enable others in their spiritual life

A year is a long time and sometimes plans don't come to fruition for one reason or another – as this report shows!

However, let me tell you what the Action Group for Spirituality has achieved this year. The group members are currently Sally Gorton, Shareen Potter, Rosie Rutherford, Beryl Scott, Clive Wylie and myself representing four of the seven regions. We have met four times.

We have organised and held two gatherings for Spiritual Directors within the Diocese. These gatherings have enabled this group of people (around twelve) to meet, to get to know each other, to share where they are and to look towards how they can support each other, and be trained in the skills that are needed to be equipped to be Spiritual Directors. We hope that the next meeting will be a training day in Supervision led by the Director of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow, to enable Directors to supervise each other individually or in a group situation.

We have given a presentation to one Regional Council and are about to give a presentation to another one - five Regional Councils still to invite us!

AGS has helped sponsor one person to go on a training course, has supported another to attend the Diocesan bi-annual retreat and helped sponsor a family to go on pilgrimage.

At the Bishop's request we have taken on the compilation of the Diocesan Prayer Calendar. This is available now, – it is now in booklet format and has been expanded considerably to include daily prayer for Bishop Idris, and more frequent prayer for our twin dioceses, and the Diocese of Gothenburg. Starting in this issue we will have a monthly prayer corner in DNS.

In hand at the moment is the organising of a day for the tertiaries and oblates within the Diocese: to explore what support the AGS can offer, and what support they can offer each other and the Diocese.

Through DNS we have offered to host Quiet Days in charges/regions, please contact us if you would like us to arrange one in your church or region.

The Future:

- to plan a Prayer Workshop Day for the Diocese in 2008
- to continue the support of Spiritual Directors and possibly tertiaries, oblates or Associates of Religious Houses or Communities
- to be available to support and encourage regions and congregations in their spiritual life.

Edith Thorp, Convenor

St Mary's Hamilton

presents

Marian Chamber Ensemble

Friday 20th April at 7.30pm

Sally Wilson – Violin
Violin Concerto in E – Bach
Symphony 49 (La Passione) – Haydn

Entrance by Donation Programme or
subscription to the series:

Full concert programme at:
www.stmarysepiscopalhamilton.co.uk

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St Margaret's Newlands

presents

Edwin's Farewell Concert

Edwin Paling (leader, RSNO)
plays two Bach Doubles and other
classical favourites with
musicians from RSNO, BBC SSO,
Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet
Orchestras and RSAMD

Sunday 13th May at 7.00pm

refreshments during interval

Tickets £10, concessions £5,
families £25

available at the door or by post from the
church office
353-355 Kilmarnock Road Glasgow
G43 2DS

Please include remittance and SAE
All proceeds to St Margaret's Church

Organist Required

St Paul & St John the Evangelist, Springwells Avenue, Airdrie

Duties include playing on most
Sundays and all major festivals. We
have a small refurbished Victorian pipe
organ in excellent condition. We also
have a small choir which practises each
Sunday morning before the Sung
Eucharist.

Please contact the Rector, Revd Gordon
Fyfe, to arrange a visit and discuss
terms.

tel: 01236 756550

e-mail: gordonfyfe@blueyonder.co.uk

If you would like to play the organ but
cannot give a weekly commitment
please still get in touch, we may
perhaps appoint more than one person
to play on a rota basis.

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The Mission to Seafarers Annual General Meeting

Saturday 21 April, 2007.
St John's Church, Perth

All are invited to attend.

Programme: Coffee 10:00am; AGM
10:30am; followed by Eucharist and
Lunch.

For more details or if you will be
attending, please contact:

Ray Myers, Vice Chairman MTS
tel: 01506-844292

e-mail: rayabc2001@yahoo.com

Protection of Children and Adults at Risk

From the recent annual returns I am pleased to say that the majority of Vestries understand their responsibilities regarding the protection of children and adults at risk, and are carrying them out to the best of their ability. We've got over the initial reaction that this was going to adversely affect the already limited number of youngsters attending our churches, which is a great relief.

Reports to Vestries are essential even if it is limited to the appointment, or re-appointment of the Co-ordinator at the AGM. Every Charge needs to be able to demonstrate that it has a system that works, even if the system has not been tested because of the absence of children in regular attendance.

Our Policy Statement and the Code of Good Practice now have to take into account older members of our congregations. In fact, anyone who may be disadvantaged in some way leaving them open to abuse. Of course, "that sort of thing can never happen in our church or in my group of friends" is commonly heard. I am sorry to disillusion you but this is just not the case. A high percentage of both children and the elderly who are abused, are abused by members of their own families or those well known to them.

Our policy statement will not hinder our Christian pastoral duties to those who may benefit from our attention in any way. But it does mean that some of us may have to plan a little more. Proper planning never did anybody any harm did it?

There will still be those of our number who doubt the need for the precautions we are taking, both to keep within the law, to protect the caring reputation of our wider church and to provide as danger free an environment as possible for our worship and in the lives of those whom we serve. There may be a bit of extra work involved but there's no doubt at all in my mind that it is worth it.

If you think it would help, training or information sessions can be arranged in your church, if possible linked with a neighbouring church, on Saturdays around lunch time or on weekdays. More time out of busy lives I know but, again, please give it some thought.

For more details please contact Brian Woodburn, Diocesan Child Protection Co-ordinator, tel: 01556 610519.

GRF Christian Radio

Following our short presentation to Diocesan Synod at the Barony, we would like to remind congregations and groups that a team from GRF are available to come to talk to your congregation about the work of GRF. Over the past months we have taken evening services, spoken to Guild meetings and worked with youth groups (including a visit to our studios in Glasgow where the members of the group scripted and recorded a programme).

Contact us as follows:

GRF Christian Radio, 342 Argyle Street, GLASGOW, G2 8LY tel: 0141 221 9447
e-mail: the.team@grf.org.uk or visit our website: www.grf.org.uk

Education Network Journey in Faith

A reminder that Unit 2 of "Journey in Faith" begins at Clydebank on Tuesday 17th April and at Ayr on Wednesday 18th April.

It may be possible to accommodate 2 or 3 more people for this second unit, but bookings should be in to the Diocesan Office as soon as possible.

If you need any further information, contact Judy Page, tel: 01505 703122 e-mail: judypage@btinternet.com

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Monthly Prayer Corner

Everyone is asked to use the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, which was distributed at Synod and is included with this issue of *Diocesan News*. In addition, this monthly prayer corner will be asking for prayer for special events and people for whom prayer support is especially important at a particular time.

Prayer requests for April

For the Growing Together Project, part of the world wide pre Lambeth listening process when we in Glasgow and Galloway are bringing together representatives from Rwanda, the USA and Scotland to listen and learn from one another- to "engage beyond the niceties". We will welcome visitors from our companion dioceses of Byumba and Kentucky from 23rd April to 2nd May.

For Revd Kirsten Freeman and the congregation at St Mark's, East Kilbride, as they prepare for the dedication of their new halls on 28th April.

Get Together for Oblates, Tertiaries and Associates of Religious Houses

The Action Group for Spirituality is hosting a get-together for all in the Diocese who are Oblates, Tertiaries or Associates of Religious Houses or Communities on Saturday, 5th May commencing at 10am in St John the Evangelist, Baillieston.

If you are an Oblate, Tertiary or Associate please contact Revd Clive Wylie tel: 07970 875052, e-mail: clive.wylie@benedictines.org.uk as soon as possible. This will enable us compile a list of all Oblates, Tertiaries or Associates in the Diocese and to send you fuller details of the programme for this day and any subsequent activity we may organise.

Richard Rohr on Mens' Spirituality organised by Oneir Mens Group

Tuesday 5th June 2007

**1.00 pm 'A Prayer, A Pie & A Pint'
Oran Mor, Byres Road £10**

**7.30 pm 'Male Spirituality'
Renfield St Stephen's, £5**

Fr Richard Rohr lives in a hermitage behind his Franciscan community in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He divides his time between local work and International preaching and is a regular contributing editor/writer for Sojourners magazine. He is currently writing a book on male initiation.

For more details contact Willy Slavin tel: 0141 339 7618
e-mail: WillySlav@aol.com

Bishop Idris' Charge to Diocesan Synod

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Philippians chapter 1 verse 27 "Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"

I was at a lecture in which the speaker told us that to be a disciple of Jesus was far harder than people ever admitted. The hard part, he went on, is not choosing between good and evil - after all we do know what the choice is meant to be there. The hard part is not even choosing between the lesser of two evils - it is when you have to choose between two "goods" of equal merit.

This was an echo for me of an earlier experience at a training day on parenthood at which the facilitators had been considering the situation in which parents and young adults were at odds. It was described as a "value conflict" and as such we were recommended to consider that there could be no winners in any argument. Better to accept two equally valid points of view and try to find a way to live with them that was acceptable to both parties involved. Professor Alan Smith who holds the UNESCO Chair in Global Citizenship at Ulster University has been working for over fifteen years in the conflict situation in Northern Ireland and in a recent address commented that in his experience there were three ways that people tried to deal with difference. One was to emphasise the similarities that people shared whilst ignoring difference - but this was not honest and offered a false picture of experience. Second was to emphasise the differences to the point of saying well, we are all different, so what's the problem - and this was similarly failing to prepare folk to address the situation, and really what would you hope to achieve by this. Thirdly there was the possibility to address the question of where power was located in the relationships between groups and where the inequalities existed that required to be adjusted. Another way of expressing this is to say that people opt for change when it can be seen that there is something to be gained by change - and resist it if they feel that they will be disadvantaged by it .

It seems that we are living through a period in which "value conflict" is high on the agenda of society and perhaps of the church as well. The values that I have in mind are those of the freedom of individuals to be themselves and the need of a wider group (local community; or congregation; or diocese, or communion for that matter) to hold together - "one mind standing side by side for the faith of the gospel" as St Paul wrote to the Philippians.

So, in the life our Communion, we have to seek to balance the autonomy of a Province to seek to model its life in conformity to its constitution and the insights of the gospel as it sees them to be and the life of the wider communion in which the action of one province is felt to be injurious to others. This is a debate in which we are engaged at a deep level. But I suspect that it is one that arises when a Diocese decides that it needs to do something that others would find hard to live with - what priority do we give to the existence of the Province in those circumstances; or what is the reaction of a Diocese to a congregation that insists in living in a way that is not upholding the sense that the rest of the Diocese may have about mission and ministry matters. Are there limits to the toleration of divergence - a point at which difference is so wide as to leave no common ground to stand on?

I am not seeking to identify any particular situation in saying this, but to highlight a general experience of the kind of tension that runs through the life of the church at nearly every level, and where the insights or values of those involved are both well motivated and in their own way express an intention to be obedient to the life of Christ. Nor is this issue one that is confined to the life of the church. In a few weeks, we shall be invited to elect new representatives to government both in nation and in local authority. How are we to judge how to vote? Should we accentuate difference in our choice of preference - should we try to overlook it; or can we identify those who are honestly prepared to seek ways forward that address in some depth the needs and aspirations of Scotland?

In the world in which we seek to live out our faith it is no longer the case that the church can tell us what to do - and on the whole that is a step forward. The trouble with a prescriptive gospel is to know the point at which it becomes so trivial as to lose all sense. Jesus described that as "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel". The attempt to lay down rules for what should happen in every human circumstance led to the kind of legalism that Jesus taught was not much to do with the love of God. What is the case is that we might with St. Paul again, "aspire to let our lives be worthy of the gospel of Christ" yet allow that there will be differences between us in how that is to be lived out. We might go for the first option mentioned by Alan Smith and emphasise the things about which we agree - but that is to fail to confront the differences and not a good preparation for life or discipleship. It is on the other hand, as we have experienced in the life of the Communion, equally un-helpful to concentrate on the areas in which there is disagreement to the point of losing the unity of our baptism. There yet remains the third option that he has promoted which is to ask where power and inequality are to be found in any situation.

Our sharing is first in the need for forgiveness. Standing or kneeling at the altar we share in a solidarity of forgiveness. The power that we seek is not that of our own, but of the Holy Spirit and we all equally need to submit to the gentle rule of Christ. It is in that way that the manner of our life is to be worthy of the gospel.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking to the Primates recently, offered to us the image that in every gathering of Christians - wherever and whoever it may involve is an opportunity for that gathering to act as a cell of the body of Christ - that is that it is called to work in such a way that it can be seen that this cell is truly and authentically part of the body which is Christ. Vestries, study groups, synods, all are cells functioning within the body and need to demonstrate those qualities through which the world can identify that this is part of the body of Christ. Perhaps this is most especially the case when the body is struggling with difference - it is at that point that being Christ minded or Christ like becomes most critical in the life of the cell and of the whole body.

So wherever we are pushed together in any kind of "value conflict"; communion as against province, congregation as against diocese, between valuing the right of the individual to be themselves and the need of society to preserve itself through regulation and restriction - these situations in which there is right on both sides and a genuine good being sought; in these times we need the security of our baptism into the body of Christ and sufficient commitment to work through our disagreements in a way that honours Christ.

+Idris