

Glasgow & Galloway
Diocesan News

April 2008

Issue 74

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. *1 Peter 2.2-3 (NIV)*

IN RECENT years I have taken again to reading works of history, among them Anthony Beevor's astonishing books on the battle of Stalingrad in 1942-43 and the fall of Berlin in 1945. Grim but gripping.

What struck me most was the utter disregard for human life on both sides and in both campaigns – huge numbers of innocent people were annihilated and, while they waited for their fate, lived in unspeakable conditions of cold, starvation and cruelty. A whole German army was abandoned to its fate by its Führer, and Stalin's NKVD dispatched many of his own men for the mere misfortune of having been captured by the enemy. Appalling. Merciless.

What human rule, authority, power and dominion can do by way of destruction and pitiless slaughter. (And one could say pretty much the same about the carpet bombing of German cities and towns: I cannot visit Germany, as I often do, and not feel ashamed.)

Beevor writes of a Roman Catholic chaplain in the German forces at Stalingrad who earned the nickname of 'Death king of Gumrak' because he was giving extreme unction to over 200 men a day. Can you imagine? Yet this very terrible statistic surely speaks of the light that even the deepest human darkness cannot extinguish, the light of which the *Feast of the Ascension* speaks.

The nickname, though entirely understandable, isn't true. That priest was the servant of the King of life, not of Death – Hitler and Stalin were kings of death, but not Christ and his servant. The priest was, in the only way given to him, commending the dead and dying to the One who transcends Hitler, Stalin and all the mayhem their dominion, rule and authority created. He knew that hope to which we are all called, the vision of human life in its rightful place, right in the midst of the divine, where the Ascended Christ has taken it. If he had not known that hope and committed himself to it he would have left the dead to their own devices.

The hope to which we are called is human life flourishing in the fullest communion with God, as it did and does in the Ascended Christ, the Son of God. That's the ground of our commitment *now* to the worth and preciousness of every human being, called to such a transcendent destiny, a destiny and a worth which so many human systems of power and dominion utterly scorn.

Funny how something – the Ascension of Jesus – that at first sight seems so esoteric, so embarrassingly unconnected with ordinary reality, can actually be understood to be of the most immediate relevance. Stalin and Hitler have plenty of successors alive and wreaking havoc today. But so does that priest in the countless people who live and act according to the hope of which our world still stands in need: the vision of human life in its rightful place, right in the midst of God.

Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, Dean, and Rector, St Ninians, Pollokshields

Synod — a summary

Diocesan secretary Gib Fitzgibon reports...

THE annual Diocesan Synod was held on Saturday 8 March, and was attended by the Lay Reps of most charges, most of the clergy in the diocese, and visitors from other denominations and from our Porvoo partner diocese of Gothenburg.

The Bishop's Charge expanded on the following quotation:

'Change is needed. A recent list of attendance from churches in one geographical area of the UK showed attendances of ten or less. The same list stated the amount of money needed to operate each of these churches and the average weekly collection. To keep the churches open ten times the amount would be needed than they were already giving. How are four people going to give ten times more than they already commit? When you have fewer and fewer people shifting the church's understanding of leadership from one omnipotent leader to collaborative leadership is unavoidable, as is the understanding of how decisions are reached. Of course, being authoritative does not mean you are not empowering - Jesus showed many examples of that fact but identifying the best decision-making process for the situation is part of the role of leader' (The Human Face of the Church, Sarah Savage & Eolene Boyd-Macmillan)

Synod decisions

- ◇ Approved the accounts for last year, and the budget for the current year.
- ◇ Approved the terms of the Covenant Partnership with St Andrew's Church of Scotland, Irvine as proposed by St Andrew's SEC congregation, and requested its approval by the Inter-Church Relations Committee and General Synod in accordance with Canon 15, Resolution 1.
- ◇ Consented to the Bishop declaring that St Columba's, Clydebank, cease to be an Incumbency, in accordance with Canon 36.2.
- ◇ Approved the wording of Canon 36 of incumbencies, joint incumbencies, and linked charges; Repeal of Canon 37; and consequential changes; albeit with reservations about the transition arrangements, and some of the implications.
- ◇ Approved an emergency grant of £10,000 to give the St Matthew Centre at Possilpark time to respond to immediate withdrawal of city funding.
- ◇ Agreed to create the post of diocesan ministry development officer.

APPOINTMENTS Diocesan Secretary (Canon 61 Res 1) Mr G Fitzgibbon. Diocesan Treasurer (Canon 61 Res 2) Dr Terry Lillie. Property Committee (Canon 50.8) The Dean, Diocesan Architect, Diocesan Surveyor, Diocesan Treasurer, Mr Elliot Glen-Esk, Revd Kirstin Freeman, Mrs Anne Sage, Revd Alan Wylie, Revd Canon David Bayne. Boundaries Committee (Canon 50.9) (nominations from Regional Councils) Revd Sandie Montgomerie, Mr Alfred Thorp, Revd David Cook,

Retreats for summer

SCOTTISH Churches House offers three individually guided retreats in Dunblane this summer. Dates are 18-27 June, 4-15 August and 22-26 September. Suggested donation of £40 per night includes bed, breakfast and self-catering facilities. Call 01786 823 588 or 0131 229 4170.

Boot sale

A CAR boot sale takes place at St Columba's, Aubery Crescent, Largs, Saturday 19 April, 10.30am-1pm. Contact Hilary Moran, 01475 686213.

Interest at wedding fair

THE SEC stand at the recent SECC Scottish Wedding Fair was the only church presence there, and attracted a lot of queries and interest.

Worship Central Glasgow

A SCHOOL of worship for worship leaders, musicians and worshippers. Hosted by songwriter Tim Hughes, the day includes teaching sessions, workshops and an evening celebration. Run in partnership with Alpha International and Soul Survivor.

Venue: Queen's Park Baptist Church, Glasgow, 26 April 10am-8.30pm.

Book at www.worshipcentral.org.

Church Without Walls 2008: The National Gathering

SPEAKERS, performers, seminars, resources, a KidZone and YouthZone, worship and local stories told in a tented village. Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston. 3 May, 10am-10pm. Visit www.cwwresources.org.uk.

NEW DEADLINE, NEW @DDRESS

DIOCESAN News Service has a new e-mail address:

dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk

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Items for the next issue should be mailed by **Monday 14 April** to editor Susi Cormack Brown: dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk or c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.

Around the diocese in brief . . .

Clergy moves

REVD Peter Potter has accepted the post of Anglican chaplain at St Ursula Berne with Neuchatel in the Diocese of Europe, starting in June.

Revd Russell Jones has given his resignation to the Bishop.

Mission to Seafarers AGM

THE Mission to Seafarers Scotland will hold its AGM on Saturday 26 April at 10.30am, followed by Eucharist and lunch.

The meeting will take place at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, and the keynote speaker will be Canon Douglas Goddard, Port Chaplain in Belfast. All are welcome as guests. Those attending please contact 01236 440132 or rayabc2001@yahoo.com by 23 April.

Workers wanted

POSITIVE Action in Housing, the Glasgow-based charity that helps refugees and asylum-seekers, is looking for bilingual sessional workers. Also needed are interpreters and people with computer skills, interpersonal and verbal communication skills. For details email home@paih.org.

Talks on walking the talk

'HOW do we as Christians Walk the Talk in the 21st Century' is a residential conference for laity of all denominations. Hosted at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, it's led by Alison Moody and Larry Hurtado. The dates are 23-25 May. Fee: £130. Details and applications form from Denise Brunton: deniseb@scotland.anglican.org (0131-225 6357).

Hamilton concert

ST MARY'S Hamilton Concert Series continues with the Marian Chamber Ensemble and Fiona Paterson (flute) performing Neilson's Flute Concerto and Schubert's Symphony 5. Saturday 19 April, 7.30pm.

Call for art and craft exhibitors

ARTISTS and craftworkers are invited to hold a stall or submit artwork for sale at a Christian Aid art and craft exhibition, St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Hamilton. It's on Saturday 10 May, 10am-4pm. Exhibitors donate 25% of proceeds to the charity. Exhibitors' application forms from Mrs B Stobie, 8 Glebe Wynd, Bothwell G71 8HQ, to be returned by 25 April.

Revd Gordon Fyfe, Mr Martin Axford, Diocesan Auditor (Canon 61 Res 9) Steele Robertson Goddard.

ELECTION RESULTS Three Members of General Synod – House of Laity: Margaret Hanley (St John, Greenock), Mrs Jan Whiteside (St Margaret of Scotland, Newlands), Mr George Taggart (St Oswald, King's Park). Diocesan Lay Representative on Provincial Faith & Order Board: Mrs Gill Young. Diocesan Representative on the Provincial Admin Board: Dr Terry Lillie. Diocesan Representative on the Provincial I&C Board: Dr James Currall. Diocesan Lay Rep on Provincial Panel for Episcopal Elections: Mr Graeme Hely.

Alternate members for House of Clergy: Drew Sheridan (St John Greenock), Revd Dan Gafvert (Christ Church, Lanark), Revd David McCarthy (St Silas, Woodlands), Revd Kenny Macaulay (St Augustine, Dumbarton). Alternate members for House of Laity: Mrs San-

dra Fowles (Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley), Miss Trudy Hill (St Serf, Shettleston), Mr Roy Parkin (St Bride Hyndland), Miss Margaret Wallace (St Augustine, Dumbarton), Mrs Helen Ball (St Bride Hyndland).

Synod homologated the following election by Regional Councils to General Synod, *nem con*: General Synod – House of Laity: Glasgow NW Mr Nick Cox (St Silas, Woodlands).

Next Synod dates

General Synod 12-14 June 2008;
Diocesan Synod 7 March 2009.

◇ For more information on Synod proceedings, please speak to your congregation's lay rep.

◇ If you don't have the full text of the Bishop's address with your copy of *Diocesan News* and would like to read it, ask your magazine editor for a copy or e-mail dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

SPREADING THE WORD

THERE is now a new and improved Diocesan website located at: www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow.

As before, each charge has a page on the site. Clergy have been asked to check that their charges' entries are correct and up to date.

Development of the site is continuing, as Revd Ali Chesworth, Information & Communications Network convenor, explained while describing plans to Synod.

There will be training for Regional Councils, Action Networks and diocesan officials so that they will be able to add and update their own content.

Churches that still do not have their own website will soon have the chance of creating a simple and easily managed one. Again, training will be offered.

Editors' day

A workshop is being planned for editors of church magazines and newsletters in September. The venue will be St Margaret's, Newlands. To register interest, e-mail dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

Stories of church IN society

THE Church in Society Action Network has been busy producing a lively news-sheet over the past few months, writes convenor IAN BARCROFT. In the coming year we embark on raising the profile of this Network on the web: www.churchinsociety.net.

Our seven regional representatives have been collecting stories and experiences; celebrating some of the many projects churches and members are involved in across the diocese.

Every church in the diocese has been given copies of the news-sheet to distribute to church members. It is an attractive addition to a local church bulletin. Please use it in your welcome material and use it as a tool to explain that the church and its members are a key local resource. This kind of activity often connects with people's needs and crosses the boundary between church and society and makes our church a key component of local community life.

The challenge of the Church IN Society Action Network, and the encouragement and celebration such dedicated service brings, as seen in the stories of the news-sheet, allow all of us and our local community (village, suburb, town or city) to reflect on how we might integrate the idea of our weekly worship and the offering of our lives; communicating the idea that both are inseparable.

The lay theologian Ida Görres speaks of Holy Week and Easter as something that rushes past us. We look in awe and wonder, and that is about all we can do. The enormity of the events can overwhelm like a raging waterfall.

'... Like the Niagara Falls thundering down right beside me, and there I stand, with a thimble in my hand, and I'm supposed to dip in and collect something, catch it up, assimilate it reacting properly, goodness knows how. But if you hold a cup under a waterfall, it's not only knocked right out of your hand, but empty too. ... But maybe this helpless state of just standing aside, this overpowering sense of not being able to do anything about it, is the sort of adoration I'm allowed just now.'

It is the same with the events of our society, as they impinge upon us. We can be overwhelmed. But to be the 'Church' in 'Society' we must have the same respect, our ears and eyes open to the grace of God which is active in the most unexpected places: a torrent of love available and there to refresh us.

Let's not hide in our churches, or make them a safe refuge. Let's go and experience the love of Christ that rages before us and tell each other, giving thanks for what we have seen.

Happy Easter!

Closure threat at Possilpark

THE St Matthew Centre at Possilpark may have to close.

The centre is facing the possible loss of four jobs and nowhere else to go for the 250 people who use it each week.

Revd David Wostenholm outlined the centre's plight at Diocesan Synod last month.

Council funding was axed as of this month, despite pleas to local and national politicians.

Synod responded by approving an emergency grant of £10,000.

It is hoped this will allow the centre a few extra months to keep operating and find an alternative permanent source of finance.

Union members head for Stirling

ALL Mothers' Union members are invited to a roadshow at the Albert Hall, Stirling, Wednesday 25 June, 1.30-4.30pm.

The Episcopal church next door, Holy Trinity, will be open 10am-12.30pm with a flower festival, childcare on request, tea, coffee and facilities for eating packed lunches. The theme for the day is Time For Relationship

Coachloads are expected from far and wide, including Manchester and possibly Wales and Ireland.

Individuals considering joining the MU or forming a new branch will also be welcome.

Tickets are £6. Contact Doreen Esno, 01383 621054.

Don't keep your growing passion to yourself!

DELEGATES who attended the LYCIG course are invited to keep on exchanging ideas, encouragement and experiences through a new church growth Yahoo group which is being set up by the diocesan Info&comms action network. If you'd like to be included, e-mail your details to dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

PLEASE use the same address to tell DNS readers one thing from the course that made you sit up. Think snapshot rather than essay – a statistic, a quote, a new idea in just a few words. And keep them coming!

FINALLY – whether you attended LYCIG or not – please use DNS to tell us all about upcoming mission and evangelism projects. If you've done something different and it's worked, let us in on the secrets of your success so we can learn from your experience.

Room for growth

Darren McFarland, of the Mission Core Group, reports on an inspirational church growth course

WITH anticipation and not a small amount of uncertainty, 60 members of the diocese, representing 21 congregations, arrived at the Glynhill Hotel in Renfrew to grapple with Church Growth and that most dreaded of topics, Mission!

It was a pleasant surprise to discover that the two priests leading the course were down-to-earth and witty and in their presentation, well grounded in their experience of parish life and realistic about the level of growth that is possible for the average congregation.

We relaxed somewhat as we realised that this was not going to be three days of textbook mission and evangelism.

The event was organised by the Diocesan Mission Core Group which had invited a well established Church of England course entitled *Leading Your Church into Growth* (LYCIG) to come to Glasgow and Galloway.

Tim Sledge, who is the missionary for Peterborough diocese, and Damian Feeney, a parish priest from Preston, were the team members who came north.

Experience

It was immediately clear that they brought with them experience and expertise in the area of church growth and church planting.

We learned about the basic tools of mission with Prayer, Presence, Proclamation and Persuasion (the four Ps).

We accepted that we have to use what we have rather than lamenting the things that we do not have.

We were challenged to rediscover the sense of vocation within ourselves and our churches.

We discussed how we approach decline and the difference in being a vestry that is reactive and one that is strategic in its thinking and work.

We were challenged to look at how much time we spend on finance and buildings compared to the time and energy we give the four Ps.

We spent some time looking at worship as missionary, and the local church as a loving community.

This was a course that has challenged and transformed those who attended. It will now hopefully challenge and transform the churches to which we belong.

No more stewardship committees!

Jamie Hill's Stewardship Committee has a better idea . . .

IT'S over. I think. The Year of Stewardship, that is. You didn't really notice?

Funny, that. Rather like a Chinese meal – you quickly felt full, left more than you expected, and feel hungry again an hour later.

But stewardship is not just for Christmas (or Years of Stewardship). Stewardship is for LIFE!

Stewardship is what we are all about if we want to live Christian lives. Jesus exhorts us to be Good Stewards of God's creation and of the gifts that we are given – and not just now and then, but Always, Always, Always.

Would you have confidence in someone who just serviced the car when something fell off it?

And so, at Synod, we suggested that a stewardship committee was a daft idea, akin, I suppose, to having a eucharist committee to ensure that the eucharist was celebrated week in, week out.

Stewardship is, in reality, everything we do, everything we think. There is no thought, no conversation, no action, no contribution, no gift, no decision, no choice, no prayer that we make or offer that should not reflect our stewardship of God's gifts.

So what can a committee do if we are all involved in stewardship already, up to our oxters?

Our proposal at Synod – perhaps a motion to Synod in 2009 – was that *'that the agendas of every vestry and every Regional Council – and even every Diocesan Council – meeting include stewardship as the penultimate item (above AOCB), so that all business can be reviewed by all participants at the end of the meeting in the light of our responsibility for, and our stewardship of, God's Creation and the gifts and the mission that he has given us.'*

The Stewardship Committee is a humble gathering of Regional Council stewardship reps, who meet to discuss what is going on and how we can stimulate congregations to take stewardship seriously.

I, in turn, go to a Provincial Stewardship Committee where there are Reps from every diocese doing the same thing.

More relevant, it seems, would be to have a gathering of congregational stewardship reps in every Region, where local stewardship activity can be discussed and stimulated and encouraged and evaluated.

And if you don't like the word Stewardship, if that just means MONEY to you, then think of another word – and let us know your suggestions.

Jamie_hill@madasafish.com

Putting courage into words

A COMPETITION sponsored by Gothenburg's Interfaith Council will challenge teenagers to write about courage, writes *PETER ANDERSSON* from our Swedish partner diocese.

The fact is that courage is contagious, say the organisers. People who put themselves at risk in order to help somebody else inspire others to act in the same way. And the past year of violent incidents in Sweden shows the need for good models, not least for young people. The top 20 contributions will be published in time for a book fair in September.

The Interfaith Council consists of 11 representatives from Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Healthy numbers at healthcare talks

WHEN the dioceses of Gothenburg and neighbouring Skara sent invitations to a seminar on healthcare and church, organisers reckoned on getting some 200 participants.

In the event, more than 430 people attended – with numbers equally split between church delegates and health service staff.

Health minister Maria Larsson admitted to the meeting that the public health service cannot achieve good results alone. She said the church can add a dimension to public health care in situations that staff cannot handle themselves.

With government funding pledged for new care homes for the elderly, the minister welcomed the church's contribution in the care of older people.

Church backs ethical travel at fair

MARCH'S travel and tourism fair in Gothenburg saw the Church of Sweden promoting the Fair Travel campaign.

The campaign highlights the social and ethical consequences of travel, including climate change, and social and economic damage arising from the tourism industry.

The church also offered a quiet room where visitors could escape from the noise of the fair to talk, light candles or pray.

And it provided two seminars on churches and archaeology findings.

Cathedral appoints its first woman dean

Karin Burstrand (54) has been named as the new dean of Gothenburg Cathedral.

Stockholm-born Karin will become the cathedral's first female dean when she takes up her post after the summer. Ordained in 1980, she is currently rector for the Swedish parish in Paris.

Charis study — Sowing generously

CHARIS is the Scottish Episcopal Church's resource for stewardship.

One section of Charis (say 'carries' with a soft S at the end) has six biblical texts with guidance on reflection and study. The Diocesan Stewardship Committee hopes they will stimulate thought and discussion. The first four have appeared in DNS. Here is the fifth.

2 Corinthians 9.6-15

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written:

'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (*New Revised Standard Version, anglicized edition*)

Q1 What jumps off the page at you?

Q2 Explore what the passage says about

(a) God; (b) those giving; (c) those receiving.

Q3 How would you describe the interplay of relationships among God, those giving and those receiving?

Q4 What might this reflection have to say to us about the key issues of Charis and us as a Christian community today?

Q5 In our own particular Christian community, where do we find ourselves in the role of 'those giving' and in the role of 'those receiving'?

Q6 Suggest practical ways as to: (a) how we might take affirmation / comfort from our reflections and how we might celebrate them; (b) what issues are we being challenged to address and how practically might we respond to the challenge?