

# Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan News

December 2007/January 2008

Issue 071

## **From the Primus**

This year the leaders of the Churches and other Christian bodies in Scotland met together at the invitation of the Moderator of the General Assembly for a Bible Study and discussion. Arising out of this a Christmas message has been crafted and will be published as from all the churches. I commend it to your use and reflection.

Christmas means different things to different people with different associations. I am old enough to remember the "post war" Christmas with recycled decorations and strange looking artificial trees and presents that tended to the utilitarian rather than the luxurious. But it was still Christmas and an integral part of that was the service in Church.

There are many folk in Scotland for whom worship at Christmas is an opportunity that may well be a "once in a year" experience. We should do all in our power to welcome those who come to celebrate Our Lord's birth. It would be a terrible thing if the "no room at the inn" ever became "no room in the pew" and the Celtic tradition of hospitality and of entertaining the Christ in the stranger's guise is one that should be part of our celebrations. To those congregations who provide a meal on Christmas day for those who have no others to share it with I offer a special salute and good wishes.

We should keep the needs of others in mind at all times - and work for a nation in which basic needs are met for everyone - but even so maybe this is the season to not walk by the Big Issue seller but to stop with a smile as well as a purchase.

The "spill over" effect out of church and into the street is what protects our festival from sheer sentimentality and nostalgia.

May you all enjoy the Christmas season and the sharing of the Good News that "Love came down at Christmas".

**+Idris**

## **Action Group for Spirituality Advent Quiet Day in each of the seven regions of the Diocese**

**Saturday 8th December 2007 – 10am for 10.30am – 4pm approx**

AYRSHIRE - St Columba, Largs  
GALLOWAY - Christ Church, Dalbeattie  
GLASGOW SOUTH - St Aidan's Church, Clarkston  
GLASGOW NORTH-EAST - St Matthew's, Possilpark  
GLASGOW NORTH-WEST - St Mungo, Alexandria  
LANARKSHIRE - St Paul & St John the Evangelist, Airdrie  
RENFREWSHIRE - St John the Evangelist, Greenock

## **Christmas Services Times for Diocesan Website**

It is the intention once more to post the Christmas service information of as many charges as possible on the Diocesan Website – could all charges please email their Advent/Christmas schedules to [web@episcopalglasgow.org.uk](mailto:web@episcopalglasgow.org.uk) by Sunday 30th November.

Any events for which you require wider advertising, seasonal or otherwise, can be emailed to this same address for inclusion on the Diocesan site. Please do take advantage of this service.

## Education Network

**Journey in Faith:** Unit 2 is starting at Holy Trinity and St. Barnabas, Paisley and Christ Church, Dalbeattie on Wednesday 16th January 2008, 7.30pm. These sessions will be covering Doctrine, History of the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church today. You can attend Unit 2 even if you were unable to make Unit 1 as all the lectures are self-contained.

Unit 1 will be running at St. Mary the Virgin, Hamilton also starting on 16th January at 7.30pm, covering Liturgy, Sacraments, the Bible (2) and Prayer (2).

Education Network is currently planning Units 3 and 4 - so watch this space!

The cost for each Unit is £10. For further information and application forms, contact Linda Whitby 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine KA12 8RQ tel: 01294 276838.

## New Web Site

Revd Bryan Owen, assistant priest at St James-the-Less, Bishopbriggs and fulltime writer and poet now has his own website to showcase his work. To access it go to [www.bryanowen.com](http://www.bryanowen.com)

## Monthly Prayer Corner

**During December please pray especially for:**

- For our Anglican Communion and the preparations for the Lambeth Conference of Bishops in 2008, remembering especially Bishop Idris who will represent our Episcopal Church as Primus.
- Everyone leading the Advent Quiet Days planned by the Action Group for Spirituality in each Region of the Diocese.
- The Education Network as they prepare for the next group of Journey in Faith Courses.
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## Crafty People Wanted . . .

To knit woolly hats for seafarers who bear the brunt of winter to bring us our daily needs. All are welcome to join our loyal band of knitters! Knitting patterns are available from: Revd Robin Underhill, The Mission to Seafarers Scotland Tel: 01236 440132, Email: [mts\\_scotland@onetel.com](mailto:mts_scotland@onetel.com)

## Bridge Pastoral Foundation Annual Scottish Conference 2008

St Leonards School, St Andrews

Monday 24th March – Friday 28th March 2008

**Theme - A Secure Base**

the role of attachment in human development  
with

**Sir Richard Bowlby, Bt**

Interested in learning more about how early attachments shape our relationships? **Sir Richard Bowlby, Bt** will draw on work on Attachment Theory started by his father, John Bowlby, when he leads this year's Conference, "**A Secure Base – the rôle of attachment in human development.**" Special focus will be made on the rôle of fathers in relationships with their children and the impact of day-care on toddlers less than 30 months. Video presentations, workshops, plenaries, Growth Groups and social occasions are all part of this residential 5-day experience in a friendly and welcoming setting at St Andrews, from 24th to 28th March, 2008. For further information contact Angela Ryan, Bridge Pastoral Foundation, 8, Kingsmead Road North, Prenton, Birkenhead, CH43 6TB Tel: 0151 652 0429 Email: [info@bridgepastoral.org.uk](mailto:info@bridgepastoral.org.uk)

## Administration Board happenings

The Administration Board is one of four Boards appointed by General Synod (the others cover Mission & Ministry, Faith & Order and Information & Communication). While the others cover the issues we all know the church is really about, the Administration Board handles the nitty-gritty that keeps the church financially afloat and our clergy looked after, so it has responsibility for determining policy in relation to the administration of provincial investments and property and for matters relating to clergy stipends and allowances. Specifically it also covers Charity Regulation, the Clergy Compensation Scheme, the Scottish Churches Committee, Clergy Housing, Clergy Personnel Handbook and the implications of new Government Legislation.

Recent meetings have covered a variety of topics, including:

The financial position of the Retirement Housing Fund. With more clergy retiring and requiring retirement housing, we need more money with which to buy houses. Glasgow and Galloway Diocese had proposed that a levy should be applied to legacy income in order to help, but General Synod had rejected this, preferring to transfer funds from Provincial investments to meet any shortfall in the Retirement Housing Fund. We have in fact been fortunate over the past year or two, in that demands on the fund have been lower than predicted and a number of properties have come back into the pool, meaning that the shortfall that had been expected by 2009 is now unlikely to occur until 2012 – but it will come.

Ethical Investment Policy. The Board has adopted an ethical investment policy for its investments, as have the Pension Fund Trustees. In future we will not invest in companies whose main business is in armaments, gambling, tobacco or pornography. This will not automatically apply to diocesan or congregational investments, although we hope that others will follow the Board's lead in directing church investments ethically.

We also dealt with some matters of clergy terms of appointment, especially on material emanating from the Department of Trade and Industry which is seeking to bring clergy conditions more in line with normal employees – a principle the Board certainly accepts in principle, although there are some theological and practical difficulties (such as Sunday working, for example!).

We are still working through the implications of the new regime for Charity Regulation, the latest being that the Episcopal Church has been turned down for Designated Religious Charity status. This may seem odd (why have this category of charity if a church with our status does not qualify?) but in reality it will make little difference to our work. If you are interested in why, it is apparently because the Province does not have enough “directional control” or adequate disciplinary procedures to qualify. One is left to wonder who will qualify! Two other charity issues that will affect all of us are the revised accounting rules and the requirement to put certain charity information on all official communications from next April – treasurers have had training on the former and guidance will be coming on the latter.

Finally, we have done some formal business like examining the Provincial budget and approving clergy stipends for 2008.

I am happy to provide further information if anyone requires it – my email address is [Peter.Kemp@cantab.net](mailto:Peter.Kemp@cantab.net).

Peter Kemp

**Diocesan News** is published 10 times per year by the Scottish Episcopal Church, United Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Diocesan Information and Communications Group.

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to the Editor, e-mail: [dns@allsaints-holycross.com](mailto:dns@allsaints-holycross.com) by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Or c/o Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow. G1 2DH tel: 0141 221 5720/2694