

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. *2 Peter 8.9 (NIV)*

Meet the new ministry development officer

Anne Tomlinson explains what gets her excited about the new role she's about to fill in Glasgow & Galloway

I AM looking forward immensely to taking up post in January as the ministry development officer in the Diocese.

Let me tell you a bit about myself and then about the role.

I am a Deacon (the permanent sort, that is) and since ordination 15 years ago have worked in TISEC (the Theological Institute of the SEC), training people for Readership and Ordination, and subsequently in the field of congregational education for mission across the Province.

Both jobs have convinced me that it is important to:

- ◇ see theological formation and education as a lifelong process, and one available to the whole people of God;
- ◇ ensure the kind of training people receive is fit for purpose, in other words is appropriate to the jobs they have to carry out, as changed times call for changed ways, new forms of leadership and so on;
- ◇ work collaboratively, whether within congregations, between neighbouring congregations, in regional groupings and ecumenically.

I am married to Fred, a priest in the Diocese of Edinburgh, and have a 22-year-old daughter studying politics in the USA.

The SEC has been my home since infancy, and I delight in its exceptionally beautiful liturgies, its thoughtfulness and its size, all of which make it a hospitable place to encounter God.

I am excited by the task ahead

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Exciting ecumenism

Ecumenical relations coordinator Sandy Montgomerie recalls the Ecumenical Relations Action Network's past year

ONCE again it has been an exciting year for ecumenical relations, both at home and abroad. There are some interesting developments both now and in the future for our diocese.

In Dumfries the Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) with the Methodist Church in Scotland has been signed and Revd Canon Robin Paisley, of St John's, has been accepted as an Associate Minister in the Glasgow Circuit of the Methodist Church. Now the local Church of Scotland has expressed an interest in joining the Partnership, so we hope for more news on this in the near future.

In Irvine the Partnership has been agreed by the Kirk and the SEC. As the Church of Scotland now has called a new minister, we look forward to the signing of the covenant and the commit-

ment to closer ecumenical links between the two congregations.

The churches in Newton Stewart and Minnigaff have ecumenical services called 'Fifth Sunday Services' where they worship together every fifth Sunday evening in the month.

Conversations between the SEC, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church in Scotland have reached a stage where it is hoped we can agree on a Statement of Partnership between each other.

Many of us will be participating in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in our own areas. The dates are 18-25 January, when the week will be rooted in the experience of the churches in Korea. In their context of national division the churches have turned for inspiration to the prophet Ezekiel, who also

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because it is clear to me that the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway is committed to working hard in this vital area of its life.

You have committed a sizeable sum of money to this post which speaks of the high value you place upon supporting those in post and those in training for ordained and diaconal ministries.

You have a great team of people already dedicated to this area of work, who between them have set up excellent systems for training, evaluation, review, CMD and so on.

My job is to support them in this role and so enable the diocese of Glasgow & Galloway to continue to develop a 'culture of learning' of which it and the rest of the Province may be rightly proud.

I look forward to working with you in the years ahead as together we grow in faith and understanding in the service of God.

Dads run parenting classes while women lead business start-ups

PARENTING classes backed by the Mothers' Union have been taking off in three African countries, participants at last month's Union Overseas Day in Largs learned.

Many men are leading the classes, *reports HILARY MORAN*, and find they are really bonding with their children.

One, Peter from Malawi, said: "I am grateful to the Mothers' Union for initiating this programme irrespective of any age, religion and sex. This is because many programmes have come up that only cater for women or mothers and leave men behind."

Women, meantime, are leading the way in building small businesses (as noted in a recent IBM study into business in Africa), encouraged and supported by Mothers' Union Workers.

There are 350 Mothers' Union Workers working with grassroots communities throughout the world. All of these Workers are local women who speak the language of the communities among who they work and understand the culture and customs. These Workers address the needs and challenges faced by families on a daily basis, reaching out to support and care for vulnerable and isolated people.

Men are realising that women have some value in a family when they can read and count (the Mothers' Union literacy and development programme has been funded by Comic Relief for the last three years). This empowers women and gives them great self esteem.

All donations on the day were sent to the Mothers' Union Overseas Fund and Relief Fund. More information from themothersunion.org.

MOVING messages to strangers in jail were gathered when the Mothers' Union held a two-day stall at Glasgow University's Freshers Week.

The MU members invited students to sign a Christmas card for a Kilmarnock Prison inmate, with the target of collecting 650 signed cards.

Some wrote words such as. 'Be encouraged in knowing that God is with you at all times, whether you feel it or not. He is with you. Remain blessed, signed, Precious'.

Another student wrote, 'Wish you a merry Christmas coming from someone you have never met but yet wishing you health and much happiness to come'. Another said 'X a star for a star'.

Radio Lent studies focus on senses

CHURCHES Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) will again partner BBC Radio 4 and BBC Local Radio on a worship and prayer resource for Lent.

This year it is *Sense Making Faith*, by Anne Richards, helping people to make their Lenten journey with worship, prayer and reflections prompted by the senses. Anne says: "In meeting Jesus through the senses we will find that we are drawn to the feast with him, to respond to him, to become involved in acts of love, to worship."

Details and resources will be on a website that goes live on 1 January: www.sensemakingfaith.org.uk. The first *Sunday Worship* programme in the series will go out on 1 March (St David's Day and the first Sunday in Lent).

Each week, an invited preacher will reflect on a story of Jesus in which a sense, or the lack of it, plays a key role.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the February issue may be submitted by **Monday 11 January** in prose text (not laid out as leaflets, advertisements or PDFs, please) to 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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St Mary's concert

IN Bridge of Weir, St Mary's Church centenary celebrations start with a concert at 4pm on 27 December when soprano Andée Louise Hypolite will be accompanied by Robert Marshall.

Andée Louise is a graduate of the RSAMD in Glasgow and has recently sung in Carmen Jones at the Royal Festival Hall in London, and in Don Giovanni for Birmingham Opera.

She is planning a varied programme including opera and songs from shows.

Admission by donation ticket, £5 (includes refreshments). Children free. Call 01505 842 629 or 612 537 to book.

lived in a tragically divided nation and longed for the unity of his people. Copies of the material can be downloaded from: ctbi.org.uk/349.

We have conducted our first mini-review of the Gothenburg Link after a year, and all agreed that it has been exciting and fulfilling for many people.

Delegates from Gothenburg attended the Diocesan Synod on 8 March and were welcomed to the three-day *Leading Your Church into Growth* course organised by our Ministry Advisory Group the following week.

We asked Revd Donald Reid to represent us at an interfaith seminar in Gothenburg.

An MU visit last year offered a useful contact point for women in Gothenburg and three delegates arrived to visit our diocese from their Women's Association this year.

The Youth Camp at Glenalmond welcomed two young women from Gothenburg in August, and three of our young

people had a great time at the All Saints weekend in Gothenburg.

The Dean and Canon Jeanette Jenkins joined the celebrations at Gothenburg in September marking the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in Sweden.

Parish links have also been active.

St Ninian's Troon have had exchange visits with Dalstorp Parish. St Mark's East Kilbride had a visit from Klövedal Parish and hope for a return visit. St Margaret's Newlands have been in contact with a parish in Gothenburg city. And St John's Dumfries and St Mary's Hamilton continue planning their contact with parishes in Gothenburg.

Overall it has been a good year and progress has been positive in many areas of ecumenical relations. If you have any news you want to share or need any information please do make contact with me: 01294 465193. e-mail Sandy.Montgomerie@btinternet.com

Marching for just climate solutions

'**ACT now – for just solutions to climate change**' is the theme of a national march and rally on Saturday 6 December, assembling 12.30pm at the Amphitheatre, Clyde Street, Glasgow. The march goes to Glasgow Caledonian University for a 2pm rally with speakers and entertainment.

Organised by Scottish Climate Change Campaign, the event is Scotland's contribution to a Global Day of Action during the UN Climate talks in Poznan, 1-12 December. The key message is to call on world leaders to take urgent action on climate change.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to bring banners and placards with a message to the climate change negotiators.

Donations to cover the costs of the march are also sought. For details visit scottishclimatemarch.info.

West-coast chorister in bid for Christmas charts

COMPETING with headline artistes for Christmas music sales will be a choir with roots in south-west Scotland.

Voces8's Christmas single and album, both called *Evensong*, explore the clash between traditional values and the 21st century way of living.

The *a cappella* title track, based on the Miss Marple theme tune, was written and arranged by the composers of the original version, Ken Howard and Alan Blaikley.

It's been praised by Melvyn Bragg as 'potentially the surprise hit of the season.' The broadcaster described the music as 'exceptionally fresh and charming – it already sounds like a classic, both timeless and new'.

Voces8's development director, Clare Stewart, from Ayrshire, told DNS: "My own background is primarily as a chorister at St Ninian's in Troon, initially with Canon Jack Trimble and then with Revd David Mungavin.

"I sang and worshipped there for many years from age 11 to 18 and still sing for director of music Archie Thom at Holy Trinity Ayr whenever I can."

Voces8 forms part of non-profit music foundation Voces Cantabiles Music which runs a UK-wide education programme and promotes choral music worldwide.

The organisation developed from a link between the RSCM and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Millennium Youth Choir.

Now the choir works with 200 UK schools to encourage young people to enjoy singing.

Evensong will be launched on 1 December with a hectic tour that will see Voces8 sing with 20,000 school children in just 14 days.

The album ranges from pop to jazz to liturgy with arrangements written especially for the professional octet.

Proceeds from the recordings will be split between the group's local church and the Voces Cantabiles Music charity.

You can hear *Evensong* at www.evensong.org.uk. To learn more about the work of Voces Cantabiles Music visit vocescantabilesmusic.org.uk.

News and events in brief . . .

congregation members who leave their donations in a basket at the back of the church.

ELSHIESHIELDS Cottage, near Lockerbie, is available for individual or small groups seeking peace and quiet.

It is fully equipped for a self-catering break.

Phone Ann on 01387 810280 or Louise on 07919204300 or email: ann.shukman@virgin.net.

MOMMA Africa is a CD of joyful songs performed by 15 volunteers, service users and staff from Waverley Care's African Health projects. The music recalls their childhoods in Africa.

Proceeds from sales will be shared

between HIV/AIDS projects in Scotland and Malawi. You can order online from waverleycare.org/shop or by post from Milestone House, 113 Oxfords Road North, Edinburgh EH14 1EB.

The price is £9.50 including p&p.

JOHNS the Baptist is the subject of two talks with prayer and reflection at Elshieshields Barn, Lochmaben, on Saturday 13 December, 10.30am–1pm.

Revd Steven Ballard will help explore John's teaching, spirituality and relevance today, in preparation for Christmas.

Charge £2. Coffee for arrivals will be served from 10 am.

Phone Ann on 01387 810280 or Louise on 0791 920 4300 to book.

Holy City offers cloning weekend

HOLY City's monthly worship and workshop evenings, Subways, continue to explore the demands, delights and dilemmas of discipleship. Aided by the Iona Community's Wild Goose Resource Group, each event looks at one aspect of the vocation of discipleship.

Running till May, Subways takes place on the last Sunday of the month (second-last in December) at Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street, Glasgow, 7–10pm.

The event on 21 December asks 'do we have to change?'. Love is the theme on 25 January. And healing is explored on 22 February.

For people interested in running similar events in their own area, Holy City Centre is a weekend exploring the mechanics: 20–22 February.

Visit holycity-glasgow.co.uk or call 0141-332 6343.

News and events in brief . . .

AHOGMANAY Watchnight service takes place in Glasgow Cathedral at 11pm with Hope Alba. The theme is 'Bringing hope to Scotland in 2009'. Last year this service attracted around 700 people. For further details contact jim_mcnair@btinternet.com.

ST Cuthbert's Cambuslang, back in another period of vacancy, continues Sunday worship with the assistance of Revd John Woodley and other 'semi-retired' clergy.

Members are collecting for Glasgow City Mission for Christmas and will welcome contributions from other churches. Items required are hats, scarves, gloves, socks, underwear etc, plus toiletries such as shower gel, toothpaste, razors and shaving foam (but no soap). Also wanted for the Mission are children's selection boxes, chocolate biscuits, wrapping paper and gift bags. Contact John Donnelly, 0141-641 1799.

HOW to Run a Café Church is a workshop designed to equip you to run a café church.

Even if you just want to explore the idea you will be welcome.

It's on 24 January at Queen's Park Baptist Church, Glasgow, starting at 9am.

For details visit cafechurch.net, or call 0208 664 8506.

AN international Christian dance and creative arts conference comes to Scotland next summer.

It will bring more than 300 delegates to St Andrew's University from all over the world for a week of workshops, seminars, worship and performance, 11-17 July.

Visit icdf2009.com.

AN organist and director of music is needed for St John's Greenock with its fully restored three-manual Mirrlees Pipe Organ and robed choir. Sunday services and weekly rehearsal.

Full details and job description can be had from Revd Drew Sheridan on 01475 732441 (e-mail: drew@frsheridan.fsnet.co.uk).

DUMFRIES St John's was featured in the launch issue of the Mothers' Union's *Families Worldwide* magazine.

Over the past nine years MU members at St John's have supplied more than 700 toilet bags to Women's Aid refuges in Dumfries & Galloway.

Members make the bags and then fill them with six basics and a luxury item collected from

Letter from Gothenburg

Peter Andersson reports from our link diocese in Sweden

THIS month, Gothenburg's Bishop Carl Axel will attend the Porvoo Interfaith Consultation in Edinburgh hosted by Bishop Idris.

There will be the opportunity to discuss a Porvoo response to 'A Common Word' and to share it with Muslim neighbours.

REVd Shelley Marsh visited the Diocese of Gothenburg in October, sharing the experience of lay ministry.

AT Gothenburg's Museum of Röhska, Lena Forsberg has designed Biblical figures illustrating common stories, images and liturgy of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

The exhibition runs till September.

THE exchange of priests, deacons and lay persons that started this year between Gothenburg Diocese and its partner diocese in southern Africa, ELCSA-ED, is set to be repeated in 2009.

A deacon and a priest will stay in ELCSA-ED for two months and the Diocese of Gothenburg will receive two guests for two months in the autumn.

AS Diocesan News was en route to magazine editors, the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden was set to welcome participants from all major world religions as well as the interested public to a climate change meeting in Uppsala.

GOTHENBURG Interfaith Council is hosting a seminar on local food production as a way for folk with different cultures to live together and take responsibility for sustainable development.

EDUCATION ACTION MUSIC DAY

Tunes, chants and choices

EDUCATION Action Network will host a music day on Saturday 31 January called 'Tunes, Chants and Choices'.

It will be held at St John's Greenock starting 9.30am and finishing about 3.30pm.

The plan is to cover such diverse subjects as choosing hymns, getting children to sing and enjoy it, and how the Episcopal Church uses music in liturgy.

As usual, there will be a free lunch but the organisers need to know how many people are going to attend. If fewer than 30, the day will be cancelled. So please let Linda Whitby know your intentions by 23 January (01294 276838 or lindawhitby@btopenworld.com).

Town-centre church launches mid-week lunch club and shop

AYR'S Holy Trinity has launched an initiative to offer a welcome to the community mid-week.

Bordering a car park, a theatre and the bus station, the church's town-centre location gives it great potential.

But, as Revd Dr Ian Meredith admitted: "Our church has been one of Ayr's best-kept secrets, and our facilities have been underused."

A chance conversation with the local community police officer revealed a crying need for a town-centre lunch club since the council demolished its nearby Carrick Halls some years ago.

The recent closure of the Wesley

Owen Bookshop also meant the loss of Ayr's only Christian bookseller.

Now Holy Trinity is open 9.30am to 5pm on Wednesdays, offering these facilities to the community, along with its long-established 11am Communion service which regularly sees congregations of 20-30 or more.

There's a Traidcraft shop too.

The luncheon club offers fresh-made soups and snacks from 12.30pm to 2pm, with the hope it will become a place that helps friendships to develop.

South Ayrshire's Provost, Cllr Winnie Sloan, opened the Welcome to Wednesday initiative on 12 November.

Science research talk planned among events to mark St Mary's 100 years

A LECTURE and discussion on ethics and science is one of the events planned to celebrate St Mary's coming centenary in Bridge of Weir.

Professor Jim McKillop will speak on 'Limitations to scientific research – moral imperative or inappropriate restriction?' on 30 March. Professor McKillop is Deputy Dean of Medicine at Glasgow University and a member of the General Medical Council.

A short social history of the church is being compiled and Margaret Saxon would welcome input from anyone in the diocese with memories of, or connections with, St Mary's and members past or present. Call her on 01505 612537 or email margaret.saxon@virgin.net.

The first weekend in May sees a special Choral Evensong on the 2nd with members of the choir of St Mary's Cathedral. The preacher will be the Dean, Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan. On Sunday 3 May at 10am, Eucharist will be celebrated by Most Revd Dr Idris Jones, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, and followed by a special lunch.

More immediate is a concert on 27 December (*see Diocesan News p10*).

News and events in brief . . .

BISHOP Idris's anniversary. As Diocesan News went to your magazine editor, preparations were in place for an evening of celebration on Sunday 23 November to mark the 10th anniversary of Bishop Idris's consecration.

Friends from all over the diocese travelled to join in a special Choral Evensong at St Mary's Cathedral, followed by a ceilidh in church to the music of the Jiggers Ceilidh Band.

POVERTY and Homelessness Action Week runs from 31 January to 8 February, calling on churches to challenge the forces that push people to the edge of society.

Scottish Churches Housing Action can provide a list of groups in your area that might provide a speaker for a special service that week – info@churches-housing.org.

For more information, briefings and resources on the campaign, visit www.actionweek.org.uk.

SONGWRITER Graham Kendrick performs on Thursday 4 December in Strathaven with special guest Philippa Hannah.

The concert, Dreaming of a Holy Night, will be at Avendale Old Parish Church, accompanied by a local school choir.

Tickets are £10 (£5 for restricted-

view seats) from Angus Allan (07973 243 336) or e-mail graham.kendrick@avendale.org.uk.

THE last of this year's Second Sunday Concerts at St Margaret's Newlands takes place on 14 December at 3.30pm.

It marks the centenary of French composer Olivier Messiaen's birth with a performance of his stunning 'Quartet for the End of Time' by Sian Holding on violin, Alex South on clarinet, Sarah Harrington on violoncello and Oliver Rundell on piano.

Tickets are £5 (£3 concessions, under-16s free) at the door.

GRAND Christmas Bazaar at St Matthew's Possilpark, Saturday 6 December, noon till 3pm, with home-made lunches, gorgeous home-made produce *and* Santa for St Nicholas' Day.

VOLUNTEERS are wanted to join the Hogmanay Water Handout, giving out bottles of water to those who party in the city centre. Meet 9pm at the Christian Centre, 348 Cathedral Street, Glasgow.

Bring a rucksack to carry the bottles. Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult.

More details online from Hope Alba (hope08scotland.org.uk).