

Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan News

July-August 2008

Issue 77

So do not start worrying: where will my food come from, or my drink, or my clothes? *Matthew 6.31 (GNB)*

A S I write this I am preparing to go off to General Synod in Edinburgh. My mind is preoccupied with mundane matters.

What will the weather be like and so what clothes will I need?

Will the hotel be comfortable and clean?

Have I understood correctly the issues being raised in the sheaves of paper I have read through? And when the time comes will I be able to vote correctly for the benefit of all our people?

It's a worrying time, yet in Matthew 6.24 onward, Jesus tells not to worry. Instead we are to have faith and trust in God, who supplies all our needs.

So, what is faith?

Is faith the same as belief or hope?

Or is there a difference?

I believe that there is but I also believe that you cannot have belief

or hope without having faith.

One of my favourite passages is from Hebrews 11-12, particularly chapter 11, verse 1:

'To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.'

Faith is intangible, illogical, but enables us to keep going, to pursue our dreams and believe that they can be achieved.

Faith is indeed when we put our hand in the hand of God and step out into the unknown, trusting in him to lead us on the right path, so that we stop worrying about the future and enjoy the present.

Faith and trust go together and I often wonder why it seems so hard today for people to have faith in what we cannot see. So much of

today's technology is, for me anyway, dependent on blind faith. We walk into a room, press a switch and a light comes on, or the television.

And even more baffling are the computer and the mobile phone.

I find it incredible that words, pictures and sounds can be transmitted through the ether in seconds.

I don't understand it but I accept that it works. Isn't that faith?

Faith is a gift from God and I constantly thank him for it.

So I shall stop worrying and go to Edinburgh trusting that he will guide me (and all the representatives) to say and do at the right time that which will further his kingdom here on earth.

*Revd Canon Jeanette Jenkins,
North Ayrshire Team*

Cheap software for churches

DID you know your church can buy software below half-price?

One on-line supplier, citnexus.co.uk, offers big-name programs, including DTP, at high discounts to churches, students and charities.

Virginia house-sit for church family

A CLERGY home in a lovely small US town just outside Washington DC is available rent-free for a church family on study leave or vacation around 25 September to 5 October.

"The only requirement is to look after our two cats," says Penny Bridges. Her home is in Great Falls, Virginia, 20 miles from both the centre of Washington and Virginia Theological Seminary. It's close to historical sites and, she adds, great shopping.

There is no local public transport, but a family car may be available. References from local clergy or bishop will be required.

Contact Penny at steveb3091@aol.com.

ACTION GROUP FOR SPIRITUALITY

Tapestry of Prayer

Saturday 13 September

St Margaret's, Newlands
10am to no later than 4pm

The day's threads of the tapestry are eight aspects of seeing prayer through . . .

ART • ICONS • HYMNS

NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS

OUR ROOTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

FILM • IMAGINATIVE CONTEMPLATION

THE SPIRITUALITY OF LITURGY

You will be offered the opportunity to participate in three of these workshops. Each thread is facilitated by clergy from the diocese.

Look out for the leaflet coming to your church soon.

The Spirituality Group looks to the diocese to support this clergy-led day.

Contact Edith Thorp (01556 610816)
edith.thorp@virgin.net

New courses set to follow a

busy year for education

THE Education Action Network has had an extremely busy year, as some readers will know, reports convenor LINDA WHITBY.

Journey in Faith Units 1 and 2 have been presented in Hamilton and Paisley, and Unit 1 in Dalbeattie.

Unit 3 has been running in Ayr and Paisley, with Unit 4 due to start in September.

These last units cover The Bible: Contextual Bible Study, Matthew, and Paul's letters, and all the Sacraments, Prayer in Monastic and daily life, in Scripture and tradition, Liturgy and Worship, and Lay Participation and Authorisation.

Some of these aspects of our faith were lightly covered in Units 1 and 2 but Units 3 and 4 explore these subjects far more deeply.

ENTHUSIASM

We are indebted to our tutors who have all tackled the tasks with enthusiasm. As we plan to introduce Units 1 and 2 to new areas we hope they will continue to work alongside us.

Our thanks also go to the churches who host these evenings for Education Action and to the facilitators who make the evenings run smoothly.

The Bishop's Certificate was presented to those who completed Units 1 and 2 this year at a Eucharist at Holy Trinity and St. Barnabas in Paisley, followed by a buffet lunch.

Certificates for Units 3 and 4 will be awarded in October.

Although much of this report has been concerned with Journey in Faith, we do have other resources to

offer parishes in the way of training for Intercessors, Readers, Eucharistic assistants, and worship leaders.

If you need our help, please get in touch.

We did send out a questionnaire in 2006 for ideas for workshops and we are still working through this list.

However, if you have any suggestions for a workshop, we would gladly consider them.

CLASH WITH CONFLICT

We held a workshop on Conflict Resolution recently. Unfortunately it clashed with other events on the day so the attendance was not good. However, it was an excellent day and the foundations have been laid to have this day again.

We are planning a day on Eco-congregations and the work of the Church in Society but again the date is proving difficult – so watch this space!

I have thanked our tutors, our host churches and facilitators and it would be very remiss if I forgot to thank the members of Education Action.

We all work very well together and with our busy schedule this is essential. Thank you for your sustained hard work and support.

Linda Whitby

(01294 276838, lindawhitby@btopenworld.com)

The next Diocesan News

THE next DNS issue will be published in September.

- ▶ Is yours an Eco-congregation, or considering becoming one? Share your ideas and insights with the rest of us.
- ▶ Are you putting church growth plans into action? Help us all to learn from your experience.
- ▶ Is something exciting about to come up?
- ▶ Has something wonderful happened? Tell us and inspire us.

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*Items for the next issue should be submitted by **Monday 18 August** in prose form (i.e. not laid out as display adverts) to editor Susi Cormack Brown: dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk or c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.*

Information & Communication Action Network

MAGAZINE EDITORS' DAY

Saturday 4 October

Gathering good copy every month

How the pros hold their readers

Subbing with confidence

Quick ways to make pages attractive

The right software

Press releases that work

Putting stuff on the web

Making the schedule manageable

Copyright and privacy

Networking

St Margaret's, Newlands, 10.30am–4pm approx.

Free. Light lunch and refreshments provided.

Editorial teams or sole editors welcome.

Booking essential: dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk

News and events in brief...

REV D Christian Okeke will be licensed as part-time priest-in-charge at Good Shepherd Hillington, Saturday 5 July at 2pm.

A FLOWER festival takes place at St Oswald's, Castlemilk Road, King's Park, over the weekend of 6-7 September. Opening hours are Saturday 10-noon and 2-4pm; and Sunday 2-4pm. The theme is Petals and Metals, Sanctuary and Strength. Programme and tea £1.

THERE'S a special Evensong with six Anglican bishops at St Margaret's Newlands on Sunday 13 July at 6.30pm. All are invited to join the congregation in welcoming church leaders from around the world as they prepare for the Lambeth Conference.

AIG Fois, in Kirkcudbright, has a new website: aigfois.co.uk

TOURING American choir Musica Sacra sing choral Eucharist in Paisley Abbey on Saturday 26 July at 11am. The traditional Episcopal Eucharist will be celebrated by the choir's chaplain, Revd John Humphries.

Music includes the Byrd Mass for three voices; JS Bach's anthem King of Glory, traditional American

hymns and the playing of the newly restored Cavaille Coll organ.

The choir will also perform at St Paul's Cathedral, London, and Chester Cathedral. Contact James Reed (JamesNReed@gmail.com).

ST MICHAEL and All Saints Helensburgh now has more choristers than psalters. The books they need are out of print. If you could sell them up to five copies of The Oxford Psalter 1936 edition (preferably the 14x22cm format) contact treasurer John Sadden at john.sadden@btinternet.com.

THE Diocesan Youth Action Group has postponed its June bowling event and hopes to re-schedule after the holidays.

PRAYER of the Heart is an event looking at the Orthodox way of living and praying. It's on Saturday 12 July at Elshieshields, near Lockerbie, 10.30am to 1pm.

Speakers include Revd Philip Greenhalgh. Charge £2. Drinks provided. Participants may bring a picnic and stay on to chat and enjoy the gardens and woods. Contact ann.shukman@virgin.net, 01387 810280.

CANON Tom Montgomery celebrated 25 years in the

ministry on Sunday 25 May when there was a presentation from the congregation at St Margaret's Newlands.

JONATHAN Buchan, music director at King's Park Parish Church, is available as an organist or cantor to play or sing at funerals, weddings or other services. He charges £50 for organ playing. Call 0141 631 3420 or 0773 277 3270.

A CONFERENCE for stipendiary clergy has been booked at Glynhill Hotel on 29 and 30 October. The main intention is an opportunity to meet with each other. Provision for non-stipendiary clergy to meet will be arranged later, probably on a Saturday.

THE York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir sing at Ayr Holy Trinity, Saturday 12 July at 7.30pm.

Donation tickets £8 (£6 concession) from Mackay Music (Cathcart Street, Ayr) or at the door. More details from John19Lewis@aol.com

ANDREW Thom will raise cash for Ayr Holy Trinity's new organ with a sponsored piano-thon in the church on Tuesday 1 July. Starting at 1pm, he will play 24 of JS Bach's Pianoforte Preludes and Fugues – one for every key.

The next organ fundraiser will be a quiz in the hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 28 August.

ST AIDAN'S Clarkston will hold two special services for its 85th Patronal Festival on Sunday 31 August.

At 10am there is a Back to Church Sunday service when all members, old and new, are invited to make a special effort to attend. Three new choristers will also be welcomed into the choir then.

Friends from other local churches are being invited to the traditional Evensong at 6.30pm, when the singing will be led by Angelus, an Episcopalian group of singers. Any who wish to join the choir for this service should contact assistant priest Revd Colin Curtis (0141-569 4206, colin.curtis540@ntlworld.com).

The preacher will be the Bishop, who will dedicate the new buildings.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome to attend.

Journeys of a growing family

EIGHT members of St Margaret's Newlands were invited recently to tell the church magazine what brought them to worship there.

One of the magazine team explains:

"This has aroused interest and encouraged people to seek people out and speak to each other, as well as more offers to share such stories in subsequent issues.

"What interesting journeys have been shared!"

Some of the writers are choristers whose chances to get to know others in the congregation are more limited because choir practice follows morning Eucharist.

TO exchange church growth news and ideas, sign up to Glasgow & Galloway's new network: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/sec-church-growth.