

A CLERGY home in a lovely small US town is available rent-free for a church family 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 Washing-

ton DC 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 by e-mail 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

CELEBRATION AT CLARKSTON

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 chorists 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 extension. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All welcome.

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)

AS 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

THE deadline for September’s DNS issue is Monday 18 August.

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

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

New courses after busy year

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.

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.

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.

lindawhitby@bopenworld.com
(01294 276838)

REVD 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 in King's Park at St Oswald's, Castlemilk Road, 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.

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.

T OURING American choir Musica Sacra sing choral Eucharist in Paisley Abbey on Saturday 26 July at 11am.

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.

For details contact James Reed (JamesNReed@gmail.com).

PRAYER of the Heart looks at the Orthodox way of living and praying on Saturday morning, 12 July, at Elshieshields, near Lockerbie. 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.

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 from 1pm on Tuesday 1 July. In a sponsored piano-thon he will play 24 of JS Bach's Preludes and Fugues.

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

Bargain software

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

On-line trader citnexus.co.uk is one supplier offering big-name programs, including DTP, at high discounts to churches, students and charities.

Information & Communication Network

MAGAZINE EDITORS' DAY

Saturday 4 October

St Margaret's, Newlands

TOPICS: Gathering good copy • How the pros hold their readers • Subbing with confidence • Quick ways to make pages attractive • The right software Press releases • Going global • Making the schedule manageable • Copyright and privacy • Networking

Booking essential:

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