

Glasgow & Galloway
Diocesan News

May 2007

Issue 065

He laid his right hand upon me,
saying, "Fear not, I am the first
and the last, and the living one."
Revelation 1.17-18a

I believe in.....?

The Lenten study groups in Castle Douglas this year took for their theme the development of the Nicene Creed—a story as fascinating as it is complex. As we wrestled with the nuanced conflicts of arians, semi-arians, homoiousians, homoiousians, economic trinitarians and the myriad other early Christian groups attempting to interpret the mysteries of our faith in the three-fold God, we were kept sane by a Baptist member who would gently point out that his denomination sits lightly to credal formularies and contents itself with the declaration: "Jesus is Lord."

Those three words became for us a kind of touchstone as we tackled the succession of theological propositions that eventually coalesced into the Creed. If brain-fade, or a threat to belief, or a renewal of the ancient disputes within our groups seemed imminent, the murmured mantra, "Jesus is Lord", sufficed to put everything back into perspective.

Reflecting on that experience in the light of Easter, it seems to me to point up a serious failing in the way we go about interpreting the faith to ourselves. We expect people to subscribe to all manner of theological statements (creeds, canons—dare I mention covenants?) that describe or define *what* we believe when the issue is not about what but about *whom*. The Apostles, from John at the empty tomb, through Thomas in the upper room, to Paul on the road to Damascus, were brought to faith not by credal formularies but by the risen Christ. And that's as it should be for us too. Our faith is not about a kind of antiquarian interest in documents—however precious—but about a personal and corporate relationship with the living God: "Jesus is Lord."

This is scarcely cutting-edge theology. But, in an age when we are once again devising tests of orthodoxy to ensure that only the "right" people are allowed to be Christians, it is essential to keep reminding ourselves that what truly matters is not submission to such tests, but the spirit of Christ in us. A century ago the poet and hymn-writer John Oxenham put it better than ever I could:

Continued overleaf

Not what, but whom, I do believe,
That, in my darkest hour of need,
Hath comfort that no mortal creed
To mortal man may give; --
Not what, but whom!
For Christ is more than all the creeds,
And His full life of gentle deeds
Shall all the creeds outlive.
Not what I do believe, but whom!
Who walks beside me in the gloom?
Who shares the burden wearisome?
Who all the dim way doth illumine,
And bids me look beyond the tomb
The larger life to live?
Not what I do believe, but whom!
Not what,
But WHOM!

*Revd Canon David Bayne
St Ninian's, Castle Douglas*

Youth Action Network

The Diocesan Youth Action Network has been following a policy of encouraging local youth groups to host small events across the diocese. To this end we have had meetings in St. John's Dumfries for a walk and barbeque; St. Mary's Hamilton for Worship and Pizza; St. Mary's Cathedral to join in the service for AIDs day, and a youth Christmas meal afterwards; St. Cyprian's Lenzie for worship and indoor bowls.

We have hosted several youth groups from the Episcopal Church in America. This year Confirmands from the cathedral of Maryland met with us on their way to pilgrimage at Iona. We put them up for one night and had a visit around Glasgow and a party at St. Aidan's Clarkston. They took us out for a meal on their return journey. A small group from several congregations accompanied the Bishop's party to the diocese of Gothenburg, and met with young people and youth workers there. They were extremely welcoming and friendly and looked after us wonderfully. Also we welcomed two representatives from the Gothenburg Youth Organisation to attend the signing of the agreement between the dioceses.

A very successful day was held in March at Paisley, organised by Judy Page and the youth of Holy Trinity and St Barnabas, visiting some of the sights and meeting for food and worship. At the moment we are preparing for a diocesan Youth Weekend, beginning 25th May in Millport and are being encouraged by the Bishop's staff Group to think of youth workers for the diocese.

*Revd Paul Fletcher,
Convener, Youth Action Network*

Families United Support Group St Augustine's, Dumbarton

A community project, encouraging former heroin addicts to lead drug-free lives based at St Augustine's Dumbarton, has been short-listed for the Local Heroes Award run by the Evening Times.

Families United, working in conjunction with the local congregation, run a Family Support Group for parents of users, and a daily drop-in for young people trying to free themselves of methadone maintenance. The group of volunteers, along with the Rector of St Augustine's, Fr Kenny Macaulay who run the project, have been nominated in the Health and Wellbeing Section, the winners being announced at a Gala Dinner in April in Glasgow City Chambers.

Helen Mackenzie, Secretary of Families United Support Group says:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Kenny and the congregation at St Augustine's Church, High Street, Dumbarton. The support they have provided to Families United Support Group in the past two years has had such an impact in our community who are the beneficiaries of such care and kindness, and notable improvement and development with our students who also flourish by being part of such a safe caring environment."

Make a Mother's Day

The Mothers' Union Chief Executive Reg Bailey is absolutely delighted to announce we have received over £100,000 for our Mothering Sunday appeal '**make a mother's day**'.

Many thanks go to all who donated.

By choosing a special gift for their mum or in memory of her, they have helped another child's mum in tough circumstances and received a beautiful specially designed card with details of the chosen gift.

Gifts such as an insecticide-treated malaria net, supporting a grandma as she sustains her family suffering from HIV/AIDS, sponsoring a place in a parenting group, bringing relief to a mother whose family has literally lost everything through conflict or natural disaster, will be used by the MU to continue building dignity and self-worth in people, families and communities in 77 countries, demonstrating God's love for them in practical ways.

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Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to the editor, Mrs Marilyn Pope, e-mail: marilyndns@btinternet.com by Monday 14th May 2007. Or c/o Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow. G1 2DH tel: 0141 221 5720/2694

Meet Our Overseas Companions

Diocesan Evensong
Sunday 29th April
6.30pm

St Mary's Cathedral

There will be an opportunity to meet our visitors from Byumba and Kentucky at events around the Diocese between April 24th and May 2nd, and also at a reception following a Diocesan Choral Evensong at the Cathedral on Sunday April 29th. All are welcome.

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Organist Required St Michael's Church Helensburgh

A new organist is urgently needed, to provide the music and lead the choir on Sundays at the 10.15am Sung Eucharist and 6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong. Expressions of interest to, and details of remuneration from the Rector, tel: 01436 672500 or e-mail: stmichaelshelensburgh@uko2.co.uk

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Sea Sunday

Please remember the work of The Mission to Seafarers in Scotland.

The "official" date for Sea Sunday is 8th July although this may be amended to suit your congregation.

Promotional materials will be distributed by 31st May. For further information tel: 01236 440132 or e-mail: mts_scotland@onetel.com

Diocesan Youth Weekend

Friday – Sunday
25th – 27th May 2007

Two night visit
to the Island of Cumbrae

Themed (Emmaus) walks around the island, visit to Cathedral of the Isles on Sunday morning, games and worship. Accommodation includes a mixture of lodge and tent. All meals supplied except fish supper for which pocket money is required.

Cost:- £10 Per person.

Age:- Teenage, (12-18+)

Adult Leaders (18+)

More details from Revd Paul Fletcher,
tel: 0141 577 0196

e-mail:

paulmgregorfletcher@hotmail.com

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Get Together for Oblates, Tertiaries and Associates of Religious Houses

The Action Group for Spirituality is hosting a get-together for all in the Diocese who are Oblates, Tertiaries or Associates of Religious Houses or Communities on Saturday, 5th May commencing at 10am in St John the Evangelist, Baillieston.

If you are an Oblate, Tertiary or Associate please contact Revd Clive Wylie tel: 07970 875052, e-mail: clive.wylie@benedictines.org.uk as soon as possible. This will enable us compile a list of all Oblates, Tertiaries or Associates in the Diocese and to send you fuller details of the programme for this day and any subsequent activity we may organise.

Education Network

The Education group has once again had a busy year. In the early summer of 2006, we sent out a questionnaire to all congregations to find out what needs and interests there are and where people would value some educational input. We had a good response, with many varying requests and comments, all of which we are looking at. There were, however, three areas which seemed to stand out for people. These are:

The work of servers and Eucharistic assistants
Skills needed for reading lessons in church and interceding in church
The history of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Accordingly, after contacting certain Regions for venues and dates, an event covering these topics was run in Kilmarnock in November. This was very well attended, and we would look to repeat it in other places where there is interest, as well as putting on events concerning other educational areas which were highlighted.

A great deal of our time this year, however, has been taken up with planning our long-term programme for adult education – *Journey in Faith*. This is now well into its first run at Clydebank and Ayr: there has been an excellent uptake and we are very grateful to the tutors who are bringing their interests and their expertise to make this a very worthwhile venture. The intention is to bring these first two units to other parts of the Diocese as time continues, and also to bring in new units which will both widen and deepen the exploration of our faith. Watch the DNS for details of when and where the next units will be run!

It is now certain that any grants for parish educational work will be Diocesan rather than Provincial, and we will be letting congregations know procedures for any application very shortly.

Committee: Judy Page (Convener), Darren McFarland (Secretary), Paul Fletcher, Margaret Hanley, Jean Mainland, Ian Milne, Pam Paterson, Linda Whitby. Please feel free to contact us with any comments or requests.

*Revd Judy Page
Convener, Education Network*

Together for Europe, Stuttgart, 12th May 2007

Over 11000 Christians from all over Europe will be gathering in Stuttgart, Germany on the above date to celebrate the vital contribution made to the health of the continent by groups, movements and associations that dedicate themselves to tackling exclusion and to strengthening social cohesion in Europe's cities and regions. Groups organising the event include Alpha, YMCA, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Focolare, Schonstatt and Cursillos in Christianity.

Representatives from Scotland will be attending this event and there will be a satellite link to it on Saturday 12th May from 10am—4pm at the Centre of the Community of the Risen Christ, 20 Bellisle Street, Glasgow. More details from Irene Jovaras, Focolare, 30 Langside Drive, Glasgow, G43 2QQ.

Advance Notice Celebration of Authorised Ministry Service

**St Mary's Cathedral
Saturday 2nd June 2007
11am**

To celebrate and affirm the ministry of all Lay Readers and those involved in authorised ministry in the Diocese including Worship Leaders, Pastoral Assistants and Eucharistic Assistants.

All Lay Readers and those in authorised ministry in the Diocese are invited to come along with those who wish to support them. This year those who assist at the Eucharist are required to have their authorisation renewed. This process should be underway in the charges and the renewed authorisations will be affirmed at the service.

The Bishop regards this service as a priority and is very disappointed not to be able to be with us due to his required attendance at the elections for the new Bishop of Moray. In the absence of the Bishop the Dean will preside.

Refreshments will be provided after the service.

If you have any queries about the service, or about authorised ministry, please contact Revd Shelley Marsh, Diocesan Adviser for Diaconal Ministries, tel: 0141 585 5845, or e-mail: revshelleymarsh@ntlworld.com

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Monthly Prayer Corner

During May please pray especially for:

The Action Group for Spirituality and all Oblates, Tertiaries or Associates of Religious Houses or Communities as they meet together on 5th May.

The group of eight people travelling to Gothenburg from 4th - 7th May to help Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of a Christian Centre which the diocese of Gothenburg hopes to turn into a Retreat Centre

Revd Kenny Macaulay and everyone involved with the Family Support Group at St Augustine's, Dumbarton.

The work of Christian Aid and all volunteers helping with collections during Christian Aid Week, 13th—20th May.

The young people of our Diocese and their leaders as they gather for the Youth Weekend at Millport from 25th—27th May.

