

# Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan News

May 2008

Issue 75

CHRIST died for us, so that we could live with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. That's why you must encourage and help each other, just as you are already doing.  
*1 Thes 5.10-11 (CEV)*

**I** AM writing this during the week of the third Sunday of Eastertide, continuing to celebrate with joy the Lord's resurrection, with the ringing out of our Alleluias, and our supreme rejoicing in the message of the promise of LIFE in the Lord.

Last Sunday (6. April) we read in the Gospel of St Luke the very familiar narrative of Jesus' encounter with disciples on the road to Emmaus and of his being made known to them 'in the breaking of the bread'.

There is a significant moment here, when the disciples realise that the Lord has risen:

**'Without a moment's delay they set out and returned to Jerusalem... described what had happened on their journey, and how he had made himself known to them...'** (*Luke 24.33,35 REB*)

During March's diocesan course, Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) in which I took part, we were encouraged to share with a neighbour, for a few minutes, our 'faith stories' – aspects of our coming to faith and significant moments on our Christian pilgrimage.

Some found this difficult. Perhaps they had never engaged in such sharing before.

But several then said they discovered that the exercise opened up for them a realisation of differing highlights from their particular journey in faith and pilgrimage, and brought an increased confidence in using a variety of opportunities to speak of their faith.

### **Pleasantries**

I was reminded yet again of the times in my early years of ministry when I merely talked social pleasantries with those whom I was visiting, doing nothing significant to convey to them the 'good news' of forgiveness and life in the Lord which I was charged at my ordination to convey.

I was perhaps 14 years into my ordained ministry before particular formative experiences of the presence of the Lord in my life brought the realisation that I had to take all opportunities given to 'give account for the faith that is in me'.

All of us on the course were reminded of our baptismal commission:

**'God calls the Church to reflect Christ's glory, in baptism to declare Christ's new life, in fellowship and mission to share it. Do you accept God's call?'** And we were reminded of the response we give: **'We hear and accept God's call.'** **'Will you proclaim the good news by word and deed, serving Christ in all people?'**

**'With the help of God, I will.'** (*Revised Baptism Rite 2006 Scottish Episcopal Church*)

We seek daily the help of God that we might have courage and forthrightness in proclaiming Jesus as Risen Lord and Saviour.

*Revd Canon Kenneth G Stephen  
Christ Church, Dalbeattie*

## In Diocesan News ...

**'We're not the English kirk'**

**Passion makes its mark**

**'Take vestry to a nightclub'**

**Eggs with a mission**

**Possilpark work on the line**

**Eucharist with jazz**

**Four-hour walk to church**

## Southside Passion a 'breathtaking moment'

*Three churches collaborated along with other locals to stage The Southside Passion in Holy Week. Paul Hibbert reports on the new production which also marked the centenary of St Margaret's Newlands...*

**'THIS crowd's flush, they've got deep pockets. The only trouble is they've got short arms.' So said the temple trader at the start of the second act of *The Southside Passion*.**

However, the audiences proved him wrong, as the ticket sales, sponsorship and donations raised a tremendous sum for the work of the Lodging House Mission.

We certainly got our money's worth.

The cast and crew worked together seamlessly to show us our most cherished story in a new work of art.

Familiar truths were arranged in new, thought-provoking ways. By bringing the story to recent times it was suddenly shocking again.

The play owed much to Deacon Blue frontman Ricky Ross's original idea and personal drive. But it was also a tremendous piece of teamwork, produced to a professional standard.

Even the transformation of St Margaret's into a theatre was astonishingly complete. One visitor was convinced that the stage and lighting were permanent fixtures!

If the conversion of the space was astonishing, so was the way in which our friends rose to the challenge of performing a play covering most of Jesus' life.

The actors were energised and uplifted, and spoke from the heart. How wonderful it was to see such depths in the quiet, reserved people that we knew well, and be surprised and moved by new friends.

Of course, the children were wonderful. As they danced at Cana and welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem, we saw a joy that was *released*, not acted. But, as one would expect in a passion play, there was also much sadness and the actors gave of their all in the heart-wrenching scenes.

How deeply we felt Peter's anger and

frustration; how closely we shared in Jesus' agony in the garden; and how we wept with Mary, on the way of the cross.

Above all, the down-to-earth, loving and beloved Jesus was just right. I will never forget his question: "What were you expecting – someone grander?"

In addition to the excellence on stage, the choir and musicians added further depth and energy to the production, richly complementing the emotional tone of each scene.

They also sang familiar and new tunes so powerfully and so well that they touched our hearts by themselves.

But, as the play powerfully reminded us when we witnessed the disciples squabbling, it is wrong to worry about who is the greatest. Is it the visionaries, writers and gifted performers? Or is it the stalwarts managing in the wings, at the doors and in the kitchens? Or is it (to speak in parables) the gardener who can only stand in the background, while onlookers admire the orchids blooming in the soil he has tilled?

No, no-one stands above another – this was a breathtaking moment in the life of a number of Christian communities united by love and moved by the same Spirit.

In the end, it is the message that is triumphant and, for me, the most moving part was the conclusion.

I'm sure none of the audience will ever forget how the bread was passed into our hands by the disciples, and the drama enacted for us Sunday by Sunday came to be shown to us on the road to Emmaus.

Neither will we forget the closing words, to all who come to know Christ's passion: 'We have to share this... with everybody.'

*Staged in St Margaret's for two nights, The Southside Passion was a collaborative production with Eastwood Parish Church (CoS) and St Mary's Pollokshaws (RC).*

## News in brief . . .

❑ A DIOCESAN workshop is being planned for editors of church magazines and newsletters in October. The venue is likely to be in Glasgow at St Margaret's, Newlands. For time, date and the day's programme, please e-mail Susi Cormack Brown: [dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk).

❑ THURSDAY Eucharistic services have resumed at Strathclyde University's chaplaincy centre, St Paul's Building, John Street, Glasgow, 12.10pm.

❑ AN ART and craft exhibition will raise funds for Christian Aid at St Mary's, Auchingramont Road, Hamilton, on Saturday 10 May, 10am-4pm. Exhibitors donate 25% of takings to the charity. To submit paintings or reserve a craft stall, contact Barbara Stobie ([barbarastobie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbarastobie@yahoo.co.uk)).

❑ THERE is a new and improved diocesan website at: [www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow). As before, each charge has a page on the site. Churches with no website of their own are invited to apply for a free, easily maintained one. Training provided. For details, contact [dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk).

❑ DRESSING up is optional when Friends of Britannia Panopticon lay on their Victorian Extravaganza of music-hall favourites in Ayr's Holy Trinity on Saturday 10 May at 7.30pm. Tickets, £10, include a drink. Proceeds in aid of the organ fund. The church is in Fullarton Street, next to the bus station.

❑ GLASGOW'S Angelus Singers are at Holy Trinity, Pitlochry, for a special Eucharist Evensong on Trinity Sunday (18 May) with a range of interesting music.

❑ ELSHIESHIELDS Tower, near Lochmaben, offers a residential course on **Painting Icons in the Coptic Tradition**, 1-5 June, with Deacon Stephane Rene. There will also be an open evening with an illustrated talk for those living locally who are interested in the subject.

**Prayer of the Heart** is a workshop exploring the Orthodox traditions of prayer with Revd Philip Greenhalgh at Elshieshields, Saturday 12 July, 10.30am-3.30pm.

Philip is Rector of Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirkclinton in the Carlisle Diocese. He has spent time on Mount Athos and is a practitioner of the Jesus Prayer.

Cost £2. Bring sandwiches; drinks provided. Contact Revd Ann Shukman 01389 810280 ([ann.shukman@virgin.net](mailto:ann.shukman@virgin.net)).

❑ CHURCH Action on Poverty has condemned the scrapping of the 10% tax band. It's reckoned income tax changes announced in April's budget will leave around 5.3million families earning between £5,400 and £18,500 a year worse off.

However, there is comfort for church treasurers. Despite earlier warnings, Gift Aid continues to let charities claim 22% of donations back from the Treasury for the time being.

This concession is set to drop in line with the basic rate of tax within three years, though.

## We're not the English kirk — official!

**HEADLINE of the year thus far is down to Revd Dan Gafvert, who prompted his local paper to publish an article headed 'We're not English Kirk'.**

There can't be many Piskies this side of the border who've not muttered those words in exasperation. But it took a historian from Sweden to set the record straight in newsprint.

Dan, who became priest-in-charge at Christ Church, Lanark, last June, used its

150th anniversary to win attention-grabbing press coverage.

In a 1,400-word feature, *Lanark Gazette* journalist Ron Harris wrote:

"Far from being just the Church of England's North British branch, it [the Scottish Episcopal Church] actually has a rather fiercely patriotic Scottish track record, including preserving the nation's ancient Celtic Christian roots and championing King Robert the Bruce!"

Reaction to the piece has all been positive, Dan told DNS.

Some readers hadn't even known the Hope Street building existed.

### Life

For others, it's awakened a realisation that there is intelligent life in the Church.

"There are people who imagine the Church is as it was 50 years ago," Dan said. "They don't realise how it has developed."

Dan is used to cultivating good relations with the local press. Handing over a 'press pack' of pithy, quotable background material doubtless helped in the making of a good spread.

"It doesn't help if we always seem to be speaking out against something," he added. "But I do find journalists are interested if you have ideas and insights they don't expect from a minister."

You can read the full article online at [lanarkgazette.co.uk/news-feature/We39re-NOT-English-Kirk.3950168.jp](http://lanarkgazette.co.uk/news-feature/We39re-NOT-English-Kirk.3950168.jp).

● *Lady Day (25 March) marked the 150th birthday of the church. The congregation celebrated on Sunday 30 March (Easter 2) with Dan officiating at the Eucharist and Lay Reader Bobby Burgon preaching from Matthew 13.52 on old and new treasures. The same day saw the successful conclusion of Christ Church's Increased Giving Campaign. After the service members toasted both events with bubbly and birthday cake.*

## Jazz for Eucharist at Pentecost

**LIVE American jazz provides the setting for the Eucharist at St Mary's, Hamilton, on Pentecost Sunday (11 May).**

John Rapson and a group of jazz musicians from Holy Trinity, Iowa, will lead the Auchin-gramont Road congregation that day.

Said Rector Ian Barcroft: "Jazz reminds us of the freedom and liberation to improvise."

"Jazz can remind us occasionally that as worshippers we are not simply 'performers' who try to repeat exactly what the writer envisioned."

"Together we can create the mood of the 'author of all being'."

"There's always a new interpretation, a changing melody, a different harmony, even a new time signature, expressing the challenge in any age of new possibility and a different rhythm to our lives."

For details on the players visit [www.trinityic.org/\\_howweworship/Music](http://www.trinityic.org/_howweworship/Music)

## SAYING IT WITH EGGS

AT East Kilbride, they lost no time in putting mission theory into action.

Revd Kirstin Freeman writes: "Following the LYCIG course, members of St Mark's went out on the streets after our Easter Sunday service to hand out

Easter eggs and tell those who passed by that 'Christ has risen'.

"It wasn't as scary as some had thought it might be.

"Quite the contrary: it was encouraging and uplifting.

"If one lesson has been learned for next year it is that we'll need more eggs!"

## 'Take your vestry to a local nightclub'

MANY Glasgow and Galloway churches sent members to a three-day course in March: *Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG)*. It clearly made an impression. DNS invited delegates to pinpoint one thing that made them sit up . . .

**PAT Smith reported to fellow members at St Michael's and All Angels in Helensburgh:**

"The need for the Church to connect and communicate with the modern world was stressed — though your vestry may not respond with delight to the leaders' challenge to 'take your whole vestry to a nightclub at some time in the next year'!

"It did bring home to us how we are not in contact with the culture of a broad sweep of society (not just children and teenagers) yet expect our church culture to be a comfortable one for them.

"This doesn't mean we should abandon everything in our present worship pattern, but we must be prepared to *evolve*."

□ **"RETHINK the virtue of suffering discomfort in our churches?" pondered Largs-based Gib FitzGibbon.**

"Ridiculous, I thought. Nobody expects 'church' to be comfortable!

"But I began to realise we have to look again through the eyes of outsiders.

"We have a beautiful traditional Anglican building – warm sandstone, lovely windows, arches soaring towards heaven.

"But . . .

"Draughts blow through the building. The narrow book ledges in the pews are a constant irritant, and the seats themselves are hardly welcoming. The choir stalls were designed for boy trebles.

"We may get people to try us out, but we also have to make the place not only beautiful, but also sufficiently comfortable to make them want to come back.

## Courses

A **CONFLICT** resolution workshop is being held on Saturday 10 May at St Silas, Glasgow.

Registration is from 9.30am. Refreshments and lunch are provided.

For further information and to let organisers at the diocesan Education Action Network know how many are coming, contact Linda Whitby (see below).

**THERE** are still places for the Conference for Laity of all Denominations, 23-25 May, entitled *How do we as Christians 'Walk the Talk' in the 21st Century*.

It's at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, with Professor Larry Hurtado and Alison Moody.

For details, contact Linda Whitby (below).

A **FURTHER** date for your diary is Saturday 30 August when a morning workshop at Holy Trinity, Ayr, will discuss ecological matters including climate change and how these issues may affect us and churches.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. This will be followed in the afternoon by hearing about the work of Church in Society.

**EDUCATION** Action Network provides small grants to churches wishing to promote educational matters within their parish. Applications should be received by **23 June**.

If you would like the Network to consider providing your church with a grant, contact Linda Whitby: 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine KA12 8RQ (01294 276838) or e-mail [lindawhitby@btopenworld.com](mailto:lindawhitby@btopenworld.com).

## Next month's Diocesan News

**IS your church boring? No? Then inspire and encourage your fellow Piskies by sending your news to DNS.**

- ▶ Summer's on its way. If you run children's missions or holiday clubs and have great ideas to pass on, share them with DNS.
- ▶ Do the stories in your local paper keep you awake? Tell us what people in *YOUR* church are doing about them. Tell us why you want our prayers.
- ▶ If you had delegates on the diocesan church growth course, tell us *ONE* thing that made them sit up. Just in a few words. (And remember to tell us what went right when you have put your plans into action.)
- ▶ Is something exciting about to come up? Don't keep it to yourselves!

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*Items for the next issue should be mailed by **Monday 12 May** to editor Susi Cormack Brown: [dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk) or c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.*

## Stewardship and the 'Nazareth Manifesto'

**CHARIS** (say 'carries' with a soft S at the end) is the Scottish Episcopal Church's resource for stewardship.

It has six scripture texts with guidance on further reflection and study.

The Diocesan Stewardship Committee hopes that these texts and study tips will stimulate thought and discussion. The first five have appeared in DNS. Here is the last.

Luke 4:16-22a

Good News for the Poor

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went

**D Y A N**

**Diocesan Youth Action Network**

An event for young people of  
secondary age + leaders  
at

Holy Trinity & St Barnabas' Paisley  
St James' Place, Moss Street,  
Paisley  
[www.episcopalpaisley.org.uk](http://www.episcopalpaisley.org.uk)

**Sunday 15 June**  
**Friendship**

Arrival between 2pm and 2.30pm  
Worship, followed by food

Then to **Xscape, Braehead**,  
for bowling, approx 4.30 – 6.30  
Disperse after 6.30 from Braehead  
All groups responsible for their own  
transport to Braehead

Numbers, please, of young people and  
leaders, for both food and bowling, by  
**27 May**, to Judith Johnstone  
[judith.johnstone@ntlworld.com](mailto:judith.johnstone@ntlworld.com)  
(0141 583 4051) or Bobbie Lundy,  
[mrslundy@btinternet.com](mailto:mrslundy@btinternet.com)

into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." [Isaiah 61.1,2]

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. (NIV—UK Edition)

Q1 What jumps off the page at you?

Q2 List all the people and groups of people who appear in this passage.

Q3 Choose one person or group of people from the passage. What do you think might be this person's or group's response to Jesus' message of "good news to the poor"?

Q4 Why do you think Luke has placed this passage at the beginning of Jesus' mission?

Q5 What relationship does this passage have to Charis?

Q6 Where do you see signs of 'good news to the poor' in our society both from within and beyond the Church?

Q7 We are now at the end of this series of scripture studies that form part of the Charis programme.

What practical response might we be being called to make as part of our responsibility for the ongoing and transforming mission of Jesus?

"When I put this to Vestry, after the expected reaction, stories came out of visitors who said they wouldn't be back because of the lack of comfort.

"Of someone with osteoporosis who found the pews agony.

"How hard it is to kneel. And so on.

"I think we may be on to something."

**❑ MASS rallies with dramatic altar calls to 'give your life to the Lord' aren't how most people come to faith.**

Typically, in fact, the process takes 4-5 years from first contact to commitment.

A realistic aim for mission-minded congregations is penny-number increments year on year, we were told.

Start by integrating a plan with what the congregation already does confidently — coffee mornings, perhaps.

Good results come from focusing mission on a specific group for a short period at a time—such as mums with tots one year, elderly people the next. It's a gradual, steady process.

**❑ ONE-THIRD** of the UK's working population works on a Sunday.

**❑ ONE-QUARTER** of home-movers drop the church habit at their new address. Back-to-Church Sunday, on 28 September, could win them back again. Members of a congregation invite friends they haven't seen in church for a while to come to a service with them—and the church makes an effort to be especially visitor friendly.

More details from Revd Lindsey Anderson who runs a workshop on this new initiative in Edinburgh on 29 April ([lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org](mailto:lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org))

### GROWTH GROUP

*TO STAY abreast of other churches' growth initiatives and exchange news, ideas or advice, sign up to Glasgow & Galloway's new church growth e-mail group on Yahoo!:*

[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/sec-church-growth](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/sec-church-growth)

### MINISTRY CELEBRATION SERVICE

**Saturday 31 May—11am**

St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

*A service to affirm and support all licensed and authorised lay ministry within the diocese*

*The Bishop invites all in these roles to attend along with their supporters.*

*This year the Lay Readers will have their licences renewed as part of the three-year cycle. Do come and join in this act of celebratory worship.*

# Overseas companionship

**IT'S HARD to believe it's a year since we welcomed visitors from Kentucky and Byumba for the Growing Together Project, writes GILL YOUNG, convenor of our Companion Dioceses Action Network.**

A DVD of some of the photos was shown at Synod and is available for anyone interested. Since those visits we have been exchanging news with both dioceses and continuing our links.

## Byumba

The Rev Meg Gillebaud, who has visited us over the years, is retiring from her role in charge of clergy and catechist training in Byumba.

Her successor is Canon Pheneas Zimulinda who was with us last April. He has started his new job and his family have moved from Muhura to Byumba town.

Bishop Onesphore tells us that many more clergy are needed and training is a priority. The Provincial Overseas Committee of the SEC has agreed to help with a grant towards theological training in his diocese.

Our diocesan project is also still running. Over the first two years we sent almost £30,000, in roughly equal allocations, to each of the seven projects we support.

St Andrew's Milngavie has well established links with Byumba. These started as a personal link with pastor Elson and his parish of Muhura. But Elson and his family have been sent to take charge of a distant rural parish. So as well as support for Muhura, with its new priest, Dismas, they help Elson in his new responsibilities.

St Andrew's had raised money to buy a motorbike for Muhura parish which, of course, Elson had to leave behind.

**Pastor Samuel, one of our visitors last year, told us: "I have to walk four hours to reach some of my churches."**

**That hit home with many of us, and a fundraising project is being started to buy motorbikes for pastors in the remaining six regions of Byumba.**

So far we have got £1,500, but at £2,500 per bike it is very much an ongoing fund! If you wish to contribute or do some fundraising please do contact me.

## Kentucky

Kentucky links continue. Bishop Ted, with wife Barbara, will be one of the bishops visiting the diocese before Lambeth, 11-15 July. Look out for more publicity.

Bob Nesmith, whom we met last April, is continuing to explore the possibility of a micro-credit scheme with Byumba.

Bob has passed on a request from his church, St Matthew's Louisville, which is seeking a link with Glasgow North-East region and hopes to visit Scotland soon. Another Kentucky church is planning a link with Milngavie.

Do let me know if you already have a link with either of our companion dioceses that's not mentioned here, or have other overseas interests, so that all information about overseas connections can be drawn together. Resources to help with making new overseas links are always available. [gill.young@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:gill.young@ukonline.co.uk)

# Community lifeline at risk

*Possilpark's St Matthew's Centre has a struggle for survival on its hands. Revd David Wostenholm explains why...*

**FOR well over 20 years St Matthew's Possilpark has pioneered engagement with its local community with a particular focus on those attempting recovery from addiction and those caught in the severe deprivation of the area.**

We have responded to need in various ways, involving many people – paid and voluntary – and have had substantial grant funding for the projects we have initiated and encouraged.

However, since Addaction Scotland and the Scottish Churches Community Trust moved to new premises, the regeneration funding on which our hosting of these groups depended, was withdrawn on 31 March.

What remains? Long-established AA groups still meet each weekday evening and a new group has opened on Thursday afternoons.

St Vincent de Paul Society still provides over 50 hot meals every Sunday for those in greatest need in our area. We host other groups through the week.

Unfortunately this activity does not meet the criteria that can attract council funding.

Had it not been for a six-month cash lifeline from our diocese, our present work would have had to close at the end of March.

Although a council priority is supposed to be 'employability', we have had to make our two caretakers redundant (in common with many other city-wide projects that have fallen foul of a 20% cut).

With the Voluntary Sector Network for North Glasgow, we feel that the consultation process over priorities has been less than helpful or transparent. We feel firmly placed at the bottom of the pile.

As the future appears so bleak and fragmented for many youngsters, so unsafe for older people and so pressured for those in work, one might have thought that those in control of the purse strings would have been able to take a long view on established centres that contribute to community cohesion.

Our experience is bitterly the opposite.

Where we have knowledge and experience of the family, gang, sectarian and drug -fuelled enmities that militate daily against any form of healthy living or progress, in an area shamed by some of the worst indices of morbidity in Europe, we are constantly distracted by having to respond to the latest – albeit mostly well-intentioned – bureaucracy to theme and programme our funding.

In this confusion many good projects go to the wall but here at St Matthew's you can be sure that we are pursuing all opportunities to continue our work.

It is a privilege to offer the Eucharist here – it certainly brings together the Great Three Days we have just celebrated with real meaning!

If you know of any groups who would like to use our excellent premises, please let us know!

*St Matthew's, 200 Balmore Road  
Glasgow G22 6LJ*