

Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan News

October 2007

Issue 069

The Rhythm of Prayer

Some years ago I attended a weekend exploration of the early tradition of Christian Daily Prayer. The leader of our weekend told us about a cycling holiday on which he planned his route so that he would arrive each evening at a series of hostels so that he would have shelter overnight and the opportunity to wash, rest and prepare himself for the following day's cycling. One evening he didn't make it in time and as it was rather remote, he decided to cycle on through the night and include an extra detour he had thought he wouldn't be able to manage. As he cycled literally into the sunset, the beauty and rhythm of our created world became very real for him and all sorts of feelings, including ones of anxiety, welled up within him as night fell. When he stopped for rest at various stages in the night, the darkness was all engulfing as he switched off the lights on his bicycle and he felt very alone. Switching on these tiny lights, he continued into the night which gradually began to give way to the dawn and with it, new hope. He looked forward eagerly to the sunrise and the new day ahead, wondering both at what it would bring and at the power of the sun and its creator.

The pattern of Daily Prayer which the Christian Church has developed through the ages as its response to God, the creator of this daily cycle of our world, echoes many of the thoughts and feelings experienced by the cyclist. Morning and Evening Prayer, collections of Biblical texts which acknowledge our relationship with God, as revealed to us through Jesus Christ, provide a framework which spiritually refreshes us, assures us of God's presence in difficult times and links us with others engaged in the same endeavour of knowing God more deeply.

The most recent version of our Church's Daily Prayer (1990/2006) is particularly attuned not only to the daily rhythm of our lives but also the cycle of the church year. The prayers at the end of Morning and Evening Prayer illustrate the daily rhythm experienced by the cyclist:-

Morning: God most Holy, we give you thanks for bringing us out of the shadow of night into the light of morning; . . .

Evening: Lord God almighty, come and dispel the darkness from our hearts, that in the radiance of your brightness we may know you . . .

The changing themes - *Anticipation, Incarnation, Returning to God, The Suffering Christ, New Life the Lord, New Life the Spirit, Ordinary Time, Festivals and Commendation* - remind us of the story of salvation in Jesus Christ.

This Order of Daily Prayer is described on the Provincial website as being designed to allow Scripture to stimulate and to express worship of the God of whom Scripture speaks. A number of people meet with me in church to observe this rhythm and discuss the Bible readings set for the day. We find many blessings and challenges in the process.

For more information, and to obtain copies if they are not available in church locally, see the Provincial website; specifically:

http://www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/publications/publication/daily_prayer/

Shorter versions of Morning and Evening Prayer are also available:

http://www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/publications/publication/daily_prayer_a_short_form_of_morning_and_evening_prayer_1988/

These simpler forms of morning and evening prayer are designed to encourage attentive prayer, either by groups or by individuals.

I encourage any Diocesan News Service readers who are unfamiliar with these patterns of Daily Prayer to try them.

*Rev'd Canon Robin Paisley
St John's Dumfries*

Ecumenical Relations

It has been an exciting year for Ecumenical Relations both at home and abroad. Here are some snippets to give you a taste of what's happening and where.

St John's Dumfries have agreed on a covenanted partnership and will become a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) with the Methodist Church in Scotland. On 30th September this agreement will be signed in St John's Dumfries and will form part of the "BIG SING" service being held that afternoon.

St Andrew's Irvine continue the discussions in forming a LEP between themselves and the Church of Scotland. They have shared the building for many years and now the possibility of signing a covenant and constitution seems imminent. This commitment will deepen the ecumenical links that already exist between the two congregations. More good news soon we hope.

Drumchapel Churches Partnership are looking to future ministry in their area and have plans well in advance for an Ecumenical Ministry Team.

Gothenburg Link

We enjoyed the presence of the delegation from Gothenburg in January. The service at St Mary's Cathedral inspired the visit and which confirmed the signing of a covenant within the Porvoo Communion.

Bishop Idris led a group to Gothenburg in May and we were asked to take part in discussion concerning the future of a Conference Centre run by the Gothenburg Diocese. They have plans now to develop this into a retreat centre and possibly a place of pilgrimage.

The Dean, with support from the ministry development group took part in an ordination at Gothenburg in June. Maria Liffe, one of the priests ordained that day will join the ministry team at St Ninian's, Pollokshields in January for three months.

Another appointment has been made at Christ Church Lanark and Rev Dan Gafvert has joined us from Gothenburg.

Two Mothers Union representatives were invited in August to the Women's International Gathering in Åre, in central Sweden. The subject of the conference was based on The World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence, 2001-2010, and women from churches throughout the world joined with women from Sweden in this gathering.

On 2nd September the choir from St Ninian's Pollokshields visited a parish in Gothenburg, returning the visit the Swedish choir had made last year to Glasgow.

Another invitation was extended in September to a Conference on Worship and nine people from Glasgow and Galloway set off for this five day symposium. They were joined by the choir from Holy Trinity, Ayr who had been called upon to sing Evensong on the Sunday evening of the conference at the cathedral in Gothenburg.

Altogether a significant number of us have enjoyed the hospitality and energy of sharing with our friends in Gothenburg this year.

We must add the possibility of the links between our congregations and parishes in the Gothenburg diocese. Already there are seven congregations wishing to explore linking with our Swedish friends and the process for this has already begun, more good news of this development should appear soon.

If you would like to know more or have any ecumenical news to share, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Advance Notice of Advent Carol Service

The Advent Carol Service will take place in St Mary's Cathedral, 300 Great Western Road, Glasgow on the first Sunday in Advent at 6.30 pm. Friends from around the diocese most welcome.

Education Network – Journey in Faith

As reported last month, Journey in Faith Unit 1 is running at Holy Trinity and St. Barnabas, Paisley and Christ Church, Dalbeattie. Unit 2 will start after Christmas on 16th January.

The course was still at the planning stage for the Lanarkshire area when I reported last month, but I can now confirm that Unit 1 will start at St. Mary the Virgin, Hamilton on 16th January at 7.30pm with Unit 2 commencing 16th April.

For information on the Journey in Faith course please contact me by e-mail: lindawhitby@btopenworld.com

Linda Whitby

Organ Recital at St John's, Lovers' Walk, Dumfries

Dr David Hill will give a recital in aid of St John's Dumfries Organ Appeal Fund on Saturday 27th October at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available at the door priced £10 and will include a glass of wine. Originally from Carlisle, David Hill was assistant organist at Westminster Cathedral, before becoming organist at Winchester Cathedral and St John's College, Cambridge. He is much in demand as a choral director and has just taken up the post of principal conductor of the BBC Singers. The recital will have added interest for those who heard John Robinson's recital in February, as David Hill was John's teacher at St John's College. Further information is available on St John's website: www.episcopaldumfries.org

Second Sunday on the South Side A new Concert Series for St Margaret's Episcopal Church.

St Margaret's Church is pleased to announce a new series of hour-long concerts at 3.30pm on the second Sunday of each month. Featuring local professional musicians (including chamber groups from the RSNO, RSAMD and Scottish Opera) and members of the congregation, this series will feature vocal and instrumental music, and even a little jazz, making good use of the church's new piano.

The first concert, on Sunday 14th October, will feature Brahms' Sonata in F minor for Clarinet and Piano and the Trio in A minor for Clarinet, Cello and Piano, performed by Alex South, Oliver Rundell and Sonia Cromarty.

Tickets are available on the door: £5 (adults), £3 (seniors), under 16s free. To be placed on the e-mailing list, please contact Michael Bawtree michaelbawtree@cantab.net

Monthly Prayer Corner

During October please pray especially for:

- The congregation of St John's, Dumfries as they formally begin their Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) with the Methodist Church in Scotland.
- All those taking part in the new Journey in Faith courses at Paisley and Dalbeattie.
- The choir at St Mary's Cathedral as they start their new section for boys and girls.

St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Choir for Boys and Girls

St Mary's Cathedral Choir is to form a new section of Boys and Girls to supplement the adults of this nationally famous choir.

The Choir:

St Mary's Cathedral Choir has established itself as one of the finest Church Choirs in Britain. As well as providing the music for regular services in the cathedral, they have made CD recordings, sung in various Cathedrals in Britain (including Salisbury, Lichfield, St Mary's Edinburgh, and Tewkesbury Abbey) and are the most broadcast choir in Scotland, featuring regularly on BBC Radio 2's *Sunday Half-hour*, BBC Radio 4's *Morning Worship* and *Daily Service* as well as many special programmes on a variety of radio stations. They have also appeared twice on BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*. One of the choir's youngest current members was a finalist in the *Young Choristers of the Year Competition* run by Radio 2 and broadcast from Westminster Abbey. That same chorister was also the first Scottish chorister under the age of 18, to gain the Royal School of Church Music's prestigious *Gold Award*.

Now the Cathedral Choir, under the leadership of its Director of Music, Frikki Walker, seeks to form a Boys and Girls section to the choir. He will be looking for boys and girls aged approximately 8 – 14, who are confident readers (of words, that is, we will teach them to read music!) and have a responsive ear.

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals will be on a Thursday evening, and the boys and girls will sing in the Cathedral services about twice a month, and on special occasions, including at Christmas and Easter, and other festivals.

Membership:

Entry to the choir will be by a short informal audition, and membership will be entirely free of any costs or subscriptions. Furthermore, choristers will receive:

- A first class musical training from the cathedral's staff of professional musicians
- The opportunity to gain a sense of achievement from performances of some of the finest choral music
- The opportunity to sing with one of Scotland's finest organs, and occasionally with an orchestra
- Participation in Radio and TV broadcasts
- Tours to other Cathedrals
- Participation in the RSCM's *Voice for Life* award scheme, and regional and national RSCM events
- Development of social skills, self-discipline, commitment and team-work
- Introduction to foreign languages (the Cathedral Choir has sung in Latin, Greek, French, German, and even Icelandic!)
- Social trips and events
- Introduction to like-minded friends

The Cathedral Music Staff:

The Director of Music, Frikki Walker, is a highly experienced choral trainer and conductor. In addition to his duties with the Cathedral Choir, he has worked, and continues to work with choirs of all ages and abilities, including the Chamber Choir of the Junior RSAMD, the RSNO Chorus and Junior Chorus, the Glasgow Chamber Choir, the choir of Bearsden Academy, and the Chamber Choir of the High School of Glasgow. Frikki is also an examiner for the RSCM.

Frikki is assisted by two other professional musicians, Oliver Rundell, who is a répétiteur for Scottish Opera, and Christopher Hampson, who is on the staff of Hutchesons' Grammar School, and the Junior RSAMD. Both are experienced and talented organists and choir trainers.

Furthermore various members of the adult choir are professional musicians, singers and music teachers, and they, too will be offering their help and expertise to the boys and girls in the new section of the choir.

More Information:

Anyone wishing further information, or wishing to arrange an audition, please contact Frikki on: 07948 371997.

For more information about St Mary's Cathedral, see our web-site: www.cathedral.glasgow.anglican.org

Poverty Requiem

The Poverty Requiem uses music to tell the story of injustice and poverty – and the need to change it. Written by Dutch composer Peter Maissan with lyrics by Sylvia Borren, its five movements elaborate different ways in which poverty impacts on people: the suffering, the anger, the mourning, the humour and the hope. The work is scored for a choir of unlimited size, two soloists, and several percussionists. Singers of all ages and abilities can take part; the choir consists of a youth section, a male section, a 'scratch' section, and a section of experienced singers. The **POVERTY REQUIEM** had its official premiere at the CIVICUS Assembly held in Glasgow earlier this year, with singers from the RSNO Chorus, National Youth Choir of Scotland, Merchant Voices, the Scottish Youth Parliament, and delegates to the Global Youth Assembly all taking part.

Get Involved!

A Scottish performance of the **POVERTY REQUIEM** will take place at St Mary's Cathedral, 300 Great Western Road, Glasgow G4 9JB on Wednesday 17th October at 8pm. Singers of all abilities are required for the performance! Rehearsals will take place at the Henry Wood Hall, 73 Claremont Street, Glasgow G3 7JB on Tuesdays 9th and 16th October at 7pm – 9.30pm, and 17th October at 6pm-7.30. There is a £5 registration fee for singers to cover costs (concessions free). Members of the audience can purchase tickets on the door for £5 (£3 concessions). If you would

like to sing, please register by emailing Christine Walker with your name, contact details, and voice part: christine.walker@rsno.org.uk

About 17th October 2007

The performance on 17th October 2007 will mark the annual UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Australia, New Zealand, Suriname, Portugal, Argentina, Gambia, Senegal, Zambia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Singapore, Slovenia, Philippines, USA, Scotland, Germany, England, The Netherlands and Palestine are just some of the countries where choirs will be performing the **POVERTY REQUIEM** as part of a co-ordinated global action to **STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT** against poverty and inequality, organized by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty.

Stand Up and Speak Out

In the year 2000 leaders of 189 countries signed up to the Millennium Development Goals, a global plan to halve extreme poverty by 2015. Yet every day, 50,000 people die as a result of extreme poverty, and the gap between rich and poor is getting wider. On October 17th people all over the world will literally and symbolically **STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT**, demanding their governments keep their promises to deliver more and better aid, debt cancellation, trade justice, and take action to tackle climate change. Last year over 23 million people took action, setting a new Guinness World Record. This year we want you to help break this record, so the message rings loud and clear. Every person counts!

For more information visit:

<http://scotlandagainstopoverty.org>

<http://povertyrequiem.org>

<http://www.whiteband.org>

Contacts: Christine Walker Christine.walker@rsno.org.uk, Eilidh Whiteford ewhiteford@oxfam.org.uk

Stewardship Winter Studies

“CHARIS” is the Scottish Episcopal Church’s resource for stewardship. One section of CHARIS contains 6 biblical texts with accompanying guidance on further reflection and study.

The Diocesan Stewardship Committee hopes that these texts and study tips will stimulate thought and discussion over the winter months. The first text appeared last month, here is the second. The following four will be published in the next 4 issues of DNS.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34

Treasures and the Kingdom

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life^[1] ?

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Footnotes

1. 6:27 Or single cubit to his height

- Q 1 What jumps off the page at you?
- Q 2 What images or elements of this passage might you identify as
a) this worldly
b) other worldly
- Q 3 What are Jesus' key teachings in this passage?
- Q 4 In what ways, might people and society today respond to this kind of teaching?
- Q 5 Think of how Christians and the Christian community tend to live today. How might they be challenged and affirmed by Jesus' teaching and other people's reaction to it?
- Q 6 In some practical way, how might we here respond to these challenges and affirmations (either individually or as a community)?

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Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to the Editor, e-mail: dns@allsaints-holycross.com by Monday 10th September 2007. Or c/o Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow. G1 2DH tel: 0141 221 5720/2694