

Summer Blues

By the time we get to this point in the year most people are in need of a holiday. They're tired, they could do with some sunshine and they'd love a break from their usual routine.

In the busy, demanding world in which we live, a holiday can provide a welcome respite from responsibility and enable us to be restored and renewed in body, mind and Spirit. So much so, that when we return home, we both look and feel different, ready to face the challenge of the season that lies ahead.

That is, of course, provided the holiday works out o.k., there are no major transport difficulties, accommodation problems or family crises. If it all goes well, it can make a world of difference restoring our energy levels, giving us a greater sense of perspective, helping us rejoice in being human. If it doesn't, it can be disastrous and we can get back even more wrung out than we were before we left.

I do hope that your holiday plans work out well and that you do benefit from some "down-time". Even if circumstances don't allow you to get away try to create some time and space for rest and relaxation.

You may be amazed to learn that even the Lord Jesus didn't work 24/7. He wasn't always proclaiming the Kingdom, feeding the multitude or engaging with those around him. He spent time with his family. He "bunked off" with his friends, he had time on his own. For him these occasions were restorative and renewing, enabling him to carry out the tasks the Father had given to him – the tasks that led to the restoration and renewal of the whole world.

Those self-same occasions can be restorative and renewing for us as well. They can enable us to carry out the tasks that God our Father has given us – they can help us rediscover the energy and insight to proclaim the Kingdom, feed the multitude and engage with those around us. They can help us be an Easter People with "Alleluia" as our song.

So enjoy the summer, rejoice in all the good things God has given us and be thankful.

*Revd Canon Tom Montgomery
St. Margaret's, Newlands*

Liturgy

In the aftermath of a General Synod there is always something to report about Liturgy. In recent years this has nearly always been about liturgical revision and new forms of services. In 2006 the Liturgies for Baptism and Affirmation of Baptismal Faith were finally authorised after eight years of experimental use and revision. This year it was the turn of Marriage. This has been a more difficult period of experimental use, which began in 2002, because it is probably the liturgy which is used least in our congregations. Despite this there was a lot of comment from clergy over the years via the questionnaires and bits of the service were “tweaked” in response. However, over this last twelve months the Liturgy came up against criticism that shocked those of us involved with Liturgy. One diocese even brought a motion to General Synod proposing that after 5 years the service was far from ready to be authorised for use in our Church. Thankfully this failed convincingly and the SEC now has the Marriage Liturgy 2007. For now that concludes the work on new liturgies – work which is carried out only at the request of the Faith and Order Board.

All the Anglican liturgy committees in these islands are now turning their attention to Liturgical Formation and you will be hearing a lot about this in the coming years. “So what is this new and exciting venture?” I hear you ask! Liturgical Formation hopes to equip members of the church to understand what liturgy does for us as individuals, as members of the Christian Community and as people called to mission. This year, members of General Synod were asked to consider a number of questions including, “What for you makes an act of worship good or bad?” and, “What ideas help you make these judgements?” More on this in the years ahead.

This year there are three main liturgical conferences at which the SEC will be represented. The international Anglican consultation meets in Palermo in August to discuss funeral liturgies, followed by *Societas Liturgica*, the international ecumenical conference, entitled “Liturgy & the Public Square”. As part of our link with the Diocese of Gothenburg a number of people from the diocese will attend a worship conference in September entitled “God in our midst”. We look forward to a sharing of ideas & resources from these worthwhile events.

Revd Darren McFarland, Convener, Diocesan Liturgy Network

Individually Guided Retreats

Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, Summer 2007

Mon 6th August—Fri 17th August Mon 24th September—Fri 28th September
Come for any number of nights during these periods. Suggested donation £35 per day (B & B and guide). More details from Alison Moody, 22 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 4JN, e-mail: malisonoody@hotmail.com

Nexus Scotland

An exciting event for churches across Scotland organised by a new partnership between Scottish Christian Resources Exhibition and Clyde Presbyteries, Thursday 23rd—Saturday 25th August 2007 at the SECC, Glasgow. More details can be found at www.nexusScotland.org or tel: 01844 271479. **Look out for our Diocesan MU Stand!**

Companion Dioceses

Reflections and comments following the recent visit of friends from Byumba and Kentucky are very welcome. We are also beginning to receive requests for congregational links from both Dioceses. If you are interested in exploring closer links between your congregation and one from our Overseas Companion Dioceses please contact the Diocesan Centre or Gill Young at gill.young@ukonline.co.uk

New Mothers' Union African Branch in Glasgow

At the recent MU Festival service in Bearsden the MU in Glasgow & Galloway were delighted to admit 11 new members who come from many different countries within Africa. They are hoping to start a new branch with the help of their minister Rev Lucas Njenga. Their church is affiliated with the Anglican church (at present they worship in Glasgow Caledonian University) and they run the 'Chat House' in Maryhill road, a prayer and Christian outreach centre. Their choir lifted our worship and the spectacle of everyone in their national dresses was wonderful.

Hilary Moran

Mariapolis Scotland 2007 9th—13th July, Cupar, Fife

A residential event organised by the Focolare Movement. The aim is to enjoy time together as a community, drawing inspiration from Christ's prayer, "may they all be one" (John 17.21) and seeking to live out the mutual love called for in the Gospel. Worship, presentations, workshops, reflections, games, outings, ceilidh. More information from Ardmory, 30 Langside Drive, Glasgow. G43 2QQ, tel: 0141 637 3316 or e-mail: focolareglasgow@onetel.com

Monthly Prayer Corner

Over the summer please pray especially for:

African members recently admitted to the MU in Glasgow who hope to start their own branch.

The eleven priests recently ordained in the Diocese of Gothenburg as they continue their journey in ministry.

Everyone at St Bartholomew's, Gourrock, as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary the weekend of 24th—26th August.

Diocesan News is published 10 times per year by the Scottish Episcopal Church, United Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those held by the Editor or the Glasgow and Galloway Information and Communications Group. Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to the Editor, e-mail: dns@allsaints-holycross.com by Monday 13th August 2007. Or c/o Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow. G1 2DH tel: 0141 221 5720/2694

From the Editor

After seven years I have decided to hang up my "DNS Editor's Hat" and this will be my last issue. As yet a new editor has not been appointed, if you think you could help with Diocesan News please get in touch with Revd Ali Chesworth, Convenor of the Diocesan Information and Communications Group, e-mail: dns@allsaints-holycross.com, or tel: 0141 959 3730. Any copy for the next issue can also be sent to Ali who will forward it to the new editor.

Marilyn Pope

Ecumenical Event in George Square

On Saturday 8th September at 2pm there will be a special ecumenical event in George Square to highlight human trafficking as part of modern-day slavery. The programme will include a choir, bands, singers, and speakers. People will be asked to sign a petition on trafficking which will be presented to the Scottish Executive later in the year. Please come along, enjoy the afternoon and help to raise awareness of the human trafficking in Glasgow.

Summer Services in Jordanhill and Knightswood

Sunday morning services during JULY will take place in ALL SAINTS Jordanhill at 10.30am

Sunday morning services during AUGUST will take place in HOLY CROSS Knightswood at 10.30am

TAIZE in Jordanhill

Tuesday 10th & 24th July 7pm - short meditative services in the style of Taize will take place in All Saints, Jordanhill. All are welcome

Busch-Bawtree piano duo

Sunday 8th July 2007 - 4.30pm
St Margaret's, Newlands,

Richard Busch, Michael Bawtree
pianists

Music for piano four-hands performed by this entertaining transatlantic duo at their first Scottish performance. Music by Beethoven, Sullivan, Lambert, Gershwin and pieces written especially by Richard Busch.

Tickets £5 (£3 concessions)

Summer Concerts at Holy Trinity, Ayr

Monday 9th July at 7.30 pm
VOCES 8

This *cappella* octet is an international award-winning vocal ensemble based in London. The singers, from institutions including the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama have been performing together since 2005. Extensive range, from early 13th century polyphony through to 20th century pop songs. More details on their website www.voces8.com Tickets £9 (conc £6) at the door.

Saturday 21st July at 7.00 pm
The Pontefract Music Centre
String Orchestra

Saturday 28th July at 7.30 pm
The Cologne New Philharmonic
Chamber Orchestra

A return visit by this talented group of young professionals playing popular classics.

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Newsletter from Diocese of Gothenburg—June 2007

Annual meeting of Christian Council of Sweden

In April, the annual meeting of the Swedish ecumenical body, Christian Council of Sweden (www.skr.org), took place in Gothenburg. It is a broad ecumenical council, divided into four “families”: the Lutheran church family, the Catholic family, the Orthodox family and the Free church family. At the annual meeting the Pentecostal movement and Interact (also a Baptist and evangelical church) were greeted as new members. The council now consists of 27 member churches. A policy document on the position of the churches on issues related to migration and xenophobia were also adopted.

Åh retreat and conference centre celebrates 70th anniversary

In May, the Åh diocesan retreat and conference centre celebrated its 70th anniversary. Åh has been and still is an important place for church youth activities. All through the years, the activities have broadened. As well as parishes, today also private companies and public institutions use it for conferences and seminars of different kinds. The centre is also a place for retreat for private guests. At the anniversary were, beside Bishop Carl Axel, also guests from the partnership diocese Glasgow & Galloway in Scotland.

Ordination of priests in the diocese

On the 10th of June six women and five men were ordained priest in the cathedral of Gothenburg. Bishop Carl Axel celebrated the service and handed over the stoles – the sign of being a priest. The eleven priests will serve their first year as curates in parishes in the diocese. One of them, Maria Lif, will spend some of her first year in the partnership diocese of Glasgow & Galloway. *See report in next column by Revd Peter M Potter.*

Churches in summertime

During the Swedish summer, many of the activities usually taking place in the parishes take a break. At the same time many people have their vacations and have more time to visit church. In order to assure that they will not meet a closed church door, some 40 parishes in the diocese have chosen to arrange “Summer church” or “Road church”. That means the church is open every day a couple of hours and that there are people there to guide, serve coffee or to talk to. In 2003, an evaluation showed during that summer the 45 “road churches” were visited by some 30 000 people.

Conference on worship in September

As a part of the focus of the diocese of Gothenburg for three years on worship, a conference is to be arranged in September. From the 6th to 10th of September there is an opportunity to meet and talk on the theology of worship, sermon and music. In the programme there are also lectures on the revision of the worship book, worship groups, worship of confirmands and children and the relation between worship and the service for our neighbour. Three lecturers from ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) are invited: The conference is open for all who want to reflect on practical and theological issues related to renewal of worship.

Glasgow-Gothenburg Link gets Royal Seal of Approval

Well not quite but the latest group to visit Gothenburg did get to wave to the King and Queen of Sweden!

They were actually there to welcome the arrival of a tall ship back from China but our visit was to represent the diocese at the ordination of 11 new priests. At a packed service in the Cathedral the Dean, the Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, read the Gospel (in English!) and took part in the laying-on of hands. One of the new priests, Maria Lif, will be doing a placement at St Ninian’s Pollokshields in early 2008. It is the custom for parish representatives to welcome their new priest and Mrs Liz Booth, Rector’s Warden at St Ninian’s together with the Revd Peter Potter, convener of the diocesan Ministry Advisory Group, were among Maria’s welcoming party.

Although the service was in Swedish we were able to follow most of what was going on as it is very similar to ours. It was a great privilege to take part in the service in this way and it marks a new stage in the partnership between the two dioceses.

As ever, the welcome was warm and our hosts were generous. We were able to learn about each other’s system of priestly formation and to compare notes about the situations in which the Church ministers. The two dioceses are also currently engaged in matching up parishes who have expressed an interest in forming links.

So – who will the next Swedish group get to wave to when they visit us?

*Revd Peter M Potter
St Columba’s, Largs*

Education Network

Listening Skills

An evening for practising our listening to others

**St. Cyprian’s, Lenzie
Wednesday 29th August
7.30 – 9pm**

All welcome

Bookings by 25th August
to Judy Page, 36 Langside Drive,
Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, PA10 2EW
Tel: 01505 703122
Email: judy.page@btinternet.com

Journey in Faith

Diocesan programme of adult Christian education

We are moving round the Diocese!

Unit 1 – Worship, Bible, Prayer – will be held on 6 consecutive Wednesdays, starting on Wednesday 19th September at Holy Trinity & St. Barnabas’, Paisley and (provisional venue) Christ Church, Dalbeattie

Unit 2 – Doctrine, Church History and Models of Church to follow in the New Year

Bookings will be through the Diocesan Office and booking forms will come out soon.

Grants for Education Work

Education grants will in future be Diocesan rather than Provincial

For policy, guidelines and an application form, please contact Judy Page, (address, telephone & email as above), to whom applications should also be addressed

Applications must be received by Monday 10th September