



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

# Diocesan News

ISSUE 113: APRIL 2012

## Message from Bishop Gregor

**IN his most extended discussion of resurrection in general and the resurrection of Jesus in particular** (1 Corinthians 15.12-57 – well worth a very careful read at any time of the year) St Paul at one point says, *in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...* (verse 20a).

As he not infrequently does, St Paul points us to the heart of the matter. For, when we come to the Feast of Feasts, it is supremely important to know what we are celebrating. We are not celebrating the faith of the women who were the earliest witnesses, or the faith of the apostles who, incredulous at first, eventually followed their lead. And we are not celebrating some new insight that somehow dawned on the dispirited

followers of Jesus that he was still with them and they could carry on. In other words, at Easter we are not celebrating anything that they did or believed or thought or that we do or believe or think; no, not at all.

Rather, **we are celebrating what God has done.** And what God has done is raise Jesus from the dead. Nobody saw God do this, nobody can describe what God did – and most efforts in art to do that fail – or exactly how God did what God did. Yet, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead.

We're not celebrating faith, the faith of the women at the tomb, the faith of the apostles, or our own faith, because faith does not make it true; rather, Christ's being raised from the dead makes faith possible. It is the proclamation of that Good News which either leads to faith, or evokes ridicule, or meets with doubt or indifference.

If it leads to faith, then what kind of faith? Well, certainly, as Paul also says in 1 Corinthians 15, faith that we can hope in Christ for a world beyond this, a world free from all that disfigures life, above all free from death, the last enemy to be destroyed as Paul has it. But faith, too, that it is supremely worth it now to live towards that kind of world we await and long for, by committing ourselves to the kind of Christ-like living that passes beyond death to resurrection, that meets vindication by God as Christ did.

At the Easter liturgy, in our churches, we have the chance to renew our baptismal promises, including the promise about serving Christ in all persons and pursuing justice and peace. To these, and many others of the questions, the response laid down is *I will, with God's help*. But it could equally at Easter, and perhaps more powerfully because of what it is we celebrate, be this: *I will, because in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.*

### **NO COSTUMES, NO PROPS — JUST PASSION**

**THE Mark Drama is coming to St Margaret's Newlands for one night during Holy Week.**

Billed as a gripping, innovative way of experiencing the Gospel of Mark and communicating it to others, it is performed as theatre-in-the round.

There are no props or costumes and the performers are amateurs. It will be at St Margaret's (353 Kilmarnock Road) on Wednesday 4 April at 7.30pm.

This is an opportunity to invite friends, family or neighbours who may find the setting of the Gospel as drama a more comfortable way in which to understand the story of the Passion.

Entry is by donation (suggested £10 per ticket). All proceeds will go to the church organ fund. Tickets are limited to 100, so early booking is recommended. Call 0141 636 1131 or 0141 423 2801. For more information on the production visit [www.themarkdrama.com](http://www.themarkdrama.com).

**S T Mary's Church in Bridge of Weir hosts its annual lecture on Wednesday 2 May at 7pm.**

Revd Professor David Atkinson will be speaking on '*Food Supply and Biotechnologies: Getting it Right*'. Formerly academic director of the Scottish Agricultural College, David still lectures at Aberdeen University and recently edited a report on fair trade in food. The lecture will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity for informal conversation and questions on this important issue.

The church is on Johnstone Road.

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# What happened at diocesan synod

**THE annual diocesan synod** was presided over by the Bishop, Rt Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, on Saturday 3 March, at Barony College, Dumfries-shire, and was attended by the Lay Reps of most charges, most of the clergy in the diocese, and visitors from other denominations and from our companion diocese of Gothenburg.

The Bishop's Charge spoke of the issue of identity in the context of the proposed referendum on independence. He expressed the hope that this Church, fully part of the Scottish scene but not wholly defined or contained by it, might find the chance to grow, finally to break free from anxieties about its Scottish identity and credentials, and discover a new sense of being a church for a future Scotland, whatever that future may turn out to be.

## Synod:

• **Appointed** the diocesan secretary, diocesan treasurer, the property committee, the boundaries committee, and the diocesan auditor;

• **Elected** diocesan reps to General Synod, the Provincial administration board, the panel for episcopal elections, the Provincial information & communications committee, and the Provincial home mission committee. The House of Clergy elected Revd Shelley Marsh as the Synod Clerk, and Revd Dr Scott Robertson Canon.

• **Received** reports on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, and the numerical state of the Diocese;

• **Approved** the accounts for last year, and the budget for the current year. The treasurer noted that the Action Network expenditure had risen, although still below budget, indicating an increase in the missional activities of the diocese. The budget reflects the transition from the Action Networks to the Development Teams as the diocesan growth strategy develops.

• **Discussed** proposed changes to Canon 63 (to enable religious communities with regular lay worshippers to elect a lay representative); Canon 66 to enable bishops to authorise Church Army officers and to provide for further lay ministries to be added to the proposed schedule to Canon 66 in future as the need might arise; Canon 13 to enable bishops to have more flexibility and more time to deal with situations where stipend could no longer be afforded, because of an unintended side effect of the changes made to Canon 36 a couple of years previously; Canon 65 to focus on the work for which the Committee for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

• **Amended** the diocesan constitution section 2.6 (Quorum) to read 'A quorum shall comprise a majority of the voting members of the Council'; and to delete in 3.8.3 the reference to Alternate members of diocesan council.

• **Moved** that Holy Cross, Knightswood, having become so reduced in numbers and in financial resources that the constitution of the church can no longer be kept in

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## Going for growth—the latest

A **SECOND** charge has now completed its Mission Action Plan, namely St Aidan's Clarkston.

Like St Augustine's Dumbarton, this congregation had been using the MAP process for some time in its annual missional planning, so was able to plunge straight into Stage 3 of the process: the discernment of the upcoming year's goals and the forming of specific plans.

Members have already embarked eagerly on their planned actions and will be soon be sharing news of progress with their neighbours in the Glasgow South Region.

**R**EGIONAL Council conveners met for a delicious buffet supper at the Bishop's House last month and then spent time together learning more about the Regional Growth Funds and ways of encouraging the sharing of MAPs at Regional Council meetings.

Given these extra dimensions to

their role, the conveners agreed that it would be good to meet twice a year for support and sharing.

"That in itself is evidence of growth," said one participant, "as we've never met before in all the many years I've been involved!"

**S**EVERAL of the new Development Teams gave presentations or led workshops at Diocesan Synod, demonstrating the area of expertise for which they are responsible.

The remit of each new Team, aligned to the six strands of the diocesan strategic intention for growth, is twofold: responding and initiating...

- ◇ to respond to requests for help and support from charges whose MAP priority falls in the area covered by this strand;
- ◇ to identify and/or to prepare suitable study and working materials to be made available to charges both online and in print; to have members trained

and ready to help deliver such materials in charges, groups of charges or Regions where needed, or to support clergy and charge members in doing so; to organise annually at least one diocesan and one Regional event in the areas covered by this strand.

In other words, these teams are going to be the major source of training, support and expertise for congregations as they start to 'live their MAPs'.

**A**T a recent Glasgow South Regional Council meeting, Mrs Jenny Whelan was elected as Growth Strategy Regional Rep in place of Dr Sue Cowling who is moving south.

Huge thanks go to Sue for having been part of the team which worked tirelessly to give birth to the strategy and craft the launch services at Pentecost, and a warm welcome to Jenny.

*Anne Tomlinson, Ministry Development Officer*

operation, shall cease to be an incumbency, and that the Bishop shall make due provision in terms of Canon 36.2.

**Moved** that this synod, mindful of the desire of the congregations of Moffat, Gretna, Eastriggs, Portpatrick and Stranraer to come together, with other congregations, to form linked charges, approves the formation of a committee under Canon 39.3, with Canon James Milne as convener with power to select members to consider the financial status of these congregations and to make recommendations to the Bishop and to synod concerning any necessary change to their congregational status.

- A DVD was received on this year's Bishop's Lenten

**P**ASTORAL care training will be held in the Diocesan Office during May (dates to be announced) for participants from the SEC, URC and Methodist Church.

The course follows a similar one hosted at Elshields, Dumfriesshire, which was over-subscribed. Ten trainees each from the SEC and CoS were nominated by their local clergy, and another five names went on a waiting list.

## Eco-gathering to focus on climate

**ECO-CONGREGATION** Scotland's annual gathering takes place on 21 April in Bridge of Alan.

The theme this year is 'Behaviour Change', looking at local and global issues of sustainable living. MSP Stewart Stevenson, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, will be the keynote speaker.

Malcolm Rooney, minister at Kirriemuir, will lead a workshop on changing behaviour in a presbytery based on his experience of promoting climate change action in Angus.

Dane Sherrard, Kirk minister at Luss, will lead a workshop on green pilgrimage.

Andrew Faulk, of Consumer Focus, will look at sources of financial support, including details of the new 'green deal'.

Christian Aid and SCIAF will lead a workshop on climate justice and international development.

Charles Agoboklu will describe how churches in Ghana are helping people respond to climate change.

The Green Team of the Scottish Government will lead a workshop on the Climate Challenge Fund and the opportunities it offers congregations.

For more details and a registration form visit the events page at [ecocongregationscotland.org](http://ecocongregationscotland.org).

Appeal, which is for Waverley Care, a Scottish charity providing support for people whose lives are affected by HIV and Hepatitis C. The video can be seen on YouTube.

- Participants attended one of six workshops on the diocesan Strands of Growth;
- Participants took part in a consultation on whether General Synod should agree to the Scottish Episcopal Church supporting the Anglican Covenant, the prevailing consensus being against the notion.

General Synod takes place 7-9 June.

The provisional date for the 2013 diocesan synod is Saturday 2 March.

## Changing prisons, changing lives

**WHEN** Scotland's newest prison went into operation last month in Bishopbriggs, Mothers' Union members had already rallied a team of fellow Christians to play their part.

'Changing Prisons, Changing Lives' is the mantra at HMP Low Moss, Scotland's first public-sector prison to be built since 1978.

The aim is an environment that will provide the 784 prisoners with the opportunities to transform their lives; by learning new skills while working a 35 hour week, and engaging in education courses, sport and the creative arts. Worship and discussions on faith issues will be led by the chaplains in the multi-faith centre, supported by members of Prison Fellowship.

Christian communities in the surrounding areas have responded enthusiastically to a call by Mothers' Union to form a band of volunteers to support visiting friends and family, including children, during visiting times.

This ministry includes providing a welcome, hospitality, care of young children, and assisting prisoners and their children during homework visits. There are also plans for other innovative ministries with young people. More than 60 volunteers have come forward and more will always be welcomed to share God's love with our neighbours.

Both ministries are dynamic and will continue to be guided and sustained by prayer. Thus, the MU volunteers and their ecumenical partners show a willingness both to work together as Christians and to work with those of other faiths or none in an environment that will be challenging and take them out of their comfort zones. However, by God's grace, there is hope that all involved – prisoners, families, chaplains, staff and volunteers – will be open to their lives being transformed in Low Moss.

*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured as though you yourselves were being tortured. (Heb 13.1-3)*

*Ann Glenesk, diocesan MU president*

### **FOR INTERCESSORS**

**Do you lead intercessions** at your church? Saturday training days for intercessors are being offered at a choice of three locations:

- ◇ All Saints Lockerbie, 31 March, 10.30am-3pm;
  - ◇ Greyfriars Kirkcudbright, 14 April, from 12.30pm;
  - ◇ St Augustine's Dumbarton, 19 May
- This will be a chance for those new to this ministry, as well as clergy and laity with more experience to share resources and experience.

Register with your clergy or tell the Diocesan Centre (0141-2215720) if you are coming, so that more information can be sent to you.

**N**EXT ISSUE... Items for the May issue may be submitted by **Monday 16 April** as ordinary prose (**not** leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to editor Susi Cormack Brown, c/o Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, or [dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk).

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## News and events in brief...

**G**LASGOW Chamber Choir and Örgryte kyrkokör from Gothenburg give two concerts of music from Scandinavia, Britain and beyond. Both programmes feature the choirs on their own and together to form a 40-strong chorus. Tickets are £10 (£5 students) with proceeds going towards the churches' music funds. The performances are on Saturday 28 April at 7.30pm, St Margaret's, 353 Kilmarnock Road, Newlands; and Sunday 29 April, at 6pm, St Ninian's, Bentinck Drive, Troon.

Glasgow Chamber Choir and Orchestra perform Handel's Messiah on Saturday 31 March under conductor Michael Bawtree at 7pm in St Bride's, Hyndland Road, G12 9UX. Tickets are £10 (£5 student concessions).

More information on these events at [www.glasgowchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.glasgowchamberchoir.org.uk).

**A**COURSE entitled *Mission Shaped Ministry Introduction* takes place on Saturdays 21 April and 26 May in Netherton Methodist Church, Wishaw.

Provided by The Methodist Church in Scotland working in partnership with the United Reformed Church, *Mission Shaped Intro* explores the 'why' of creating Fresh Expressions of church rather than the 'how'. Ideal for those new to this topic, it looks at the ever-changing nature of local communities and explores why the church needs to rethink its missional methods. SEC members are welcome.

To book a place, contact Fiona Inglis: [fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com](mailto:fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com).

**A**CENTENARY requiem will be offered in Largs for the passengers and crew who lost their lives on Titanic. The collection will go to The Mission to Seafarers, Scotland. It is at 6.30pm, Sunday 15 April, at St Columba's, Aubery Crescent.

**A**BOOK sale with crafts and afternoon tea takes place in Ayr at Holy Trinity hall (beside the bus station) on Saturday 21 April, 2-4pm.

**A**SCHOOL of Spirituality has been formed as a learning resource for spiritual exploration and nurture.

A series of Wednesday events has been arranged to which anyone interested will be warmly welcomed: 7.30-9pm, at St Mary's Cathedral.

Coming events are: 25 April - 'Art and prayer' led by Sheena Forsyth; and 23 May - 'Keeping a spiritual journal' (leader to be announced).

Phone 0141 339 6691 or e-mail [office@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@thecathedral.org.uk) to book a place.

**T**he annual service of Celebration and Renewal of Lay Authorised and Licensed Ministries will take place this year in St Mary's Cathedral at 1.15pm on Saturday 26 May. Light lunch at noon.

### **Journey in Faith course on Trinity and Church**

**THIS six-week evening course**, from the Learning and Discipleship Development Team, follows on from Journey in Faith Unit 1 but participants who have not attended Unit 1 will also be welcome.

The sessions are offered at two locations: Holy Trinity Kilmarnock (led by Bishop Gregor on Tuesdays) and St Margaret's Newlands (led by Revd Prof David Jasper on Wednesdays).

The first three nights cover:

- ◇ God the Father as Creator and Judge – including the problem of evil
  - ◇ God the Son: Who is Jesus – divine and human?
  - ◇ God the Holy Spirit: Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do?
- Sessions 4 and 5 explore:
- ◇ The development of the early Church up to the end of the patristic period
  - ◇ How the SEC came into being
  - ◇ What a church is – by looking at different contemporary models of church.
- Session 6 deals with God's call to the Church and to us as individuals.

The course runs from 17/18 April to 22/23 May.

For more details and a booking form (registration £10) contact Revd Gordon Fyfe, Learning and Discipleship Development Team convener: 01475 673143, [gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com](mailto:gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com).

## Lay Readers to get development review

**"THIS is a great process; it keeps me up to the mark."** So said a clergyperson the other day after his second Ministerial Development Review.

MDR was introduced into the diocese in its current form three years ago for clergy. The purpose is to help them reflect upon their vocational development, professional competence and leadership capacity in the context of the diocese's mission priorities.

It is neither exam nor appraisal, but rather a future-orientated process, looking at developmental needs. It is about affirmation and encouragement as well as challenge.

The scheme has recently been extended to include Lay Readers through the inclusion of three Readers Emeriti as 'Supporters': Linda Whitby (from Irvine), Graeme Hely (Jordanhill) and Richard Starkey (Dumfries).

Clergy and Readers are assigned a Supporter who conducts a 90-minute interview with them every 18 months using a specially written questionnaire based upon the vows made at ordination. These Supporters, lay and ordained, receive ongoing training and supervision from Canon Jeanette Jenkins and ministry development officer Anne Tomlinson. After the second interview, the interviewee immediately engages in a further review with the Bishop.

The process is iterative, enabling those who participate to see trends and discern developments in and for themselves. Some even request 'mid-term' meetings, so supportive do they find the accompaniment of their 'critical friend'.

A new questionnaire has been devised for the Readers, based on the vows they make at licensing.

Readers are also now eligible for a training budget – the 'CMD Learning Account' – indicating how seriously the diocese views their ongoing development and how deeply it values their ministry.