



Russell gears up to cycle 100 miles a day

ARE you sitting comfortably? Revd Russell Jones might not be – at least, not right after he's done nearly 100 miles a day on his bike for 10 days.

Episcopalian priest Russell, who is chaplain at the Marie Curie Hospice in Glasgow, sets off this month to ride from Land's End to John o' Groats.

He will be in a group of about 20 people who will cycle the 984-mile route to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

"I've ridden around the west of Scotland and toured in the Outer Hebrides before now, but 70 miles is the most I have done in a day, and that was a long time ago," Russell confessed.

DEVOTION

"Having seen how people live so courageously with their illnesses; seeing the devotion of staff, volunteers and carers, I'm pleased to do this now to draw attention to the charity's work and to raise money for Marie Curie.

"I'll be there as a member of staff but for many of the participants the ride will be a pilgrimage and an opportunity to remember loved ones."

As chaplain, Russell takes the lead in offering religious and spiritual care to everybody at the hospice.

He said: "**Not everyone wants a chaplain's care, but sometimes the deepest conversations I have are with people who say they have no faith.**

"I'm not the only person offering spiritual care. All the staff and volunteers do, and I know that some members of staff say a quiet prayer for the people that they meet. The hospice cares for people from many faiths and cultures so we make sure that everyone gets the religious care they want and need.

"The offer of chaplaincy means that everyone has the opportunity to say what is on their mind, heart and soul in a dreadful time."

REPRESENTATIVES from Episcopal churches across Scotland gathered in Edinburgh for the annual meeting of the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, 9-11 June.

Matters ranging from social issues to church policy were debated. To read a digest of the three days' proceedings, visit www.scotland.anglican.org.

The 30-bed hospice is just one part of a network of care, voluntary work and fundraising that includes day services and community nursing for people with terminal illnesses – not just cancer but, for example, heart failure and motor neurone disease.

Russell said: "We all reflect on questions like 'what does this illness mean?'. We are all mortal and we do wonder about matters of life and death.

"People are worried about themselves, their family, friends and God. They are recounting people they cherish, the love that they know. We think about the value of life.

"We do this with the help of the stories, liturgies and resources that we have. Religiously, these can be stories like Jacob being smitten hip and thigh, or facing the fiery furnace or lions' den of Daniel. Of course, for Christians, there is all that the events of Holy Week and Easter mean for us."

If your church would like to hear more about the work of Marie Curie Cancer Care contact Russell at Marie Curie Glasgow Hospice, 133 Balornock Road, Glasgow, G21 3US (0141 557 7465). Any donations for this sponsored ride will be gratefully accepted at that address. Or to donate online, visit www.justgiving.com/Russell-Jones1. The page is 'Russell Jones – Marie Curie – Lejog'.

Russell and his fellow cyclists will be on the road from 28 July to 8 August.

Also in this issue . . .

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AMAZING DONATION TO MERCY SHIPS

‘AMAZING’ was the response from Mercy Ships at the sum raised for the charity’s work by the Bishop’s Lent Appeal in Glasgow & Galloway this year.

And now our giving has been match-funded.

Writing to Bishop Gregor, Susie Hope, Mercy Ships fundraising manager for Scotland, said:

“I am delighted to confirm that the donation has been accepted for our Easter Matched Giving Appeal, taking the total to £28,580! I also understand from Jean that she is sending a cheque for a further £498 – absolutely amazing!

“As you know, Mercy Ships is an international Christian charity that provides free medical and development services to the people of West Africa through our hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*.

“The *Africa Mercy* is now docked in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The World Health Organisation ranks Sierra Leone in the bottom three countries in the world on the Human Development Index. More than 75% of the population lives on less than £1.20 a day and there are only two doctors for every 100,000 people.”

She went on: “Right now on board the *Africa Mercy*,

the six operating theatres are full of patients. Our crew of over 450 extraordinary volunteers, including doctors, nurses, dentists, engineers and cooks, will support the Sierra Leone health care system this year by providing more than 5,000 surgeries, 10,000 eye treatments and 20,000 dental procedures – free of charge – to patients in a country where there is devastating poverty and the need for health care is acutely desperate. Off-ship, our volunteer teams are helping local communities develop sustainable water, agriculture and education programmes.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with everybody at the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway – a project like this, meeting wonderful people who, despite tough challenging times are overwhelmingly generous to a cause I feel so passionately about, really does make me remember why I became a fundraiser!”

Since Susie’s letter arrived, a further £1,343 has been forwarded to add to the total.

Good beginning as Growth Strategy launches roll out

AS this DNS goes out, two of the six services launching our diocesan Growth Strategy have taken place: one in St Ninian’s Castle Douglas for the Galloway Region and the other in Holy Trinity and St Barnabas Paisley for the Glasgow South and Renfrewshire Regions.

Between them, they attracted nearly 300 people, a most encouraging response.

The services followed a specially written liturgy, common in the main but interspersed by Regional intercessions and a presentation depicting local signs of growth and hope. Huge creative imagination was evidenced on the part of those presenting, testimony to much co-operative work within and between congregations.

Many people have commented on the choice of hymns, all of them written post-1950. They focused upon the mission imperative, that divine call to the Church to join in with what God is already doing in the world; that vocation to look outwards and upwards, not simply inwards. The launch services have been deliberately set in the octave of Pentecost

- ◇ to signal that this work can only be done by God’s grace and in the power of the Spirit;
- ◇ to open us to the possibilities of the new;
- ◇ to remind us of the imperative for mission and evangelism.

Bishop Gregor offered a ringing endorsement of the Strategy in his sermon, drawing from the three readings examples of God’s encouragement, energising and challenge; a reminder of the divine guidance and companionship that will be with us as we embark on this adventure as a diocese. He also commissioned the Mission Action Plan Facilitators from the different Regions with the laying on of hands and prayer.

“I have been much moved, encouraged and heartened by the response so far – it is a good beginning”, he commented, a response that was echoed by the Dean: “a great beginning to the Growth Strategy launch; full of anticipation but no expectation – wonderful!”

Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson, diocesan ministry development officer

50-YEAR-OLD MU BRANCH CLOSSES

THANKSGIVINGS were much in evidence as All Saints Bearsden branch of Mothers’ Union closed by celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Friends old and new enjoyed an evening of reminiscing and fellowship on Saturday 7 May. This was followed on Sunday by a thanksgiving service led by Mike Graham and Fraser Gold.

Barbara Elliott, former diocesan president and the first treasurer at Bearsden, reflected on the activities of the branch over its 50 years. She spoke warmly of other founder members – enrolling member Gwen Mawbey and secretary Joyce Young – and the support provided by Canon Bisset. Branch members have left a legacy of faith in action with a strong emphasis on prayer.

The branch was officially closed with prayers of thanksgiving for the past, forgiveness and hope for the future.

After the service the congregation gathered in the hall for refreshments provided by the vestry, and a special 50th anniversary cake was cut by Barbara.

MU members hear of work with rape victims and children

Members from MU Glasgow & Galloway were in Edinburgh last month for the Mothers' Union General Meeting.

Keynote speaker Professor Tanya Byron focused on the joys and challenges of childrearing, and chief executive Reg Bailey spoke frankly of the strengths and weaknesses of the government report on the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Children, which he had chaired.

Nicola Lawrence, head of action and outreach at MU's London HQ, Mary Sumner House, reported on her visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The rape of women and girls continues, she said – 48 are attacked there every day. Women return to their village pregnant or with a child.

While husbands may reunite with their wives, the children are 'orphaned'. MU workers are involved in

counselling mothers and the support of orphans.

The meeting coincided with the Scottish Episcopal Church's General Synod, and during the lunchtime slot, MU members presented a powerful drama there. *The Empty Chair* opens the issue of domestic abuse to the grace and healing power of God; and gives survivors of abuse space to tell their story. It was performed by Fiona Buchanan (information officer for Scottish Women's Aid), Elaine Cameron (Intra Anglican Women's Network Link), Esther Muchena (MU member from Bishopbriggs and previously Harare, Zimbabwe) and myself.

With the Glasgow & Galloway delegation were guests Olu Akitoye, from the link diocese of Lagos Mainland, and Renata Andersson and Christina Bernerus from the Porvoo-linked Church of Sweden.

Ann Glenesk, G&G MU president

ACTION GROUP FOR SPIRITUALITY

INTRODUCTION TO THE ENNEAGRAM

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

11AM-4PM

HOLY TRINITY, AYR

THE Enneagram can be used to help us recognise and acknowledge our areas of giftedness and limitation.

By enabling us to appreciate more fully the ways we differ as individuals, it can also help us find ways of relating to one another with greater understanding and compassion.

A day introducing the Enneagram will be led by Ali Newell of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre on Saturday 8 October, 11am-4pm at Holy Trinity Church, Fullarton Street, Ayr KA7 1UB.

Participants are asked to bring their own packed lunch. Tea, coffee, fruit juice and biscuits will be provided.

Donations to help cover costs will be welcome on the day.

To find out more or to book a place, e-mail Caroline McKillop (carolinemckillop@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone her on 0141 339 7000.

Blooming success

TINY St Oswald's made a big impression at the start of Maybole's gala week with a flower festival designed to involve many of the local community.

Staged over the first weekend of June, it was heralded in April by a coffee morning to raise awareness (and some funds) on Holy Saturday, *SUSIE BURR* reports.

This featured a large flower cross in the front garden which would be repeated in the festival.

The festival theme – *Seasons and Festivals of the Church Year* – was decided by the vestry last autumn, together with a broad outline of what we might do; but, as usual, the festival grew.

Detailed planning continued, involving our local churches in Maybole and the other congregations of the Episcopal South Ayrshire Team: Ayr and Girvan.

Our local schools, Carrick Academy, Cairn, Gardenrose and St Cuthbert's primaries also agreed to help. The children of our own Sunday School contributed the Advent arrangements of foliage candle wreath and Christingle oranges.

On Thursday 2 June we started our decorating and collecting window boxes made by the schools. On Friday morning the finishing touches were added to the church. We put up exhibitions of the congregation's handiwork in the hall, and sorted the sales table and the baking produced by everyone.

Individual arrangements were great but the whole building looked fantastic and was well beyond our initial vision.

At 2.30pm on Friday we opened to a

steady trickle of visitors, then a group of P4 pupils from Gardenrose came down to see their work which included beautiful pictures as well as flowers.

That evening saw a *Songs of Praise* service with readings and nine hymns based on the festival theme. Our Rector, Revd Dr Ian Meredith, provided the links. A good turn-out helped our singing and inspired us, and the church looked beautiful.

Over the weekend we had many visitors, including Bishop Gregor.

All three congregations in our South Ayrshire Team of Girvan, Maybole and Ayr came together for a joint Sunday morning service with Revd Anne Tomlinson in the pulpit.

Some stayed for lunch and went on to the annual ecumenical open-air service at Crossraguel Abbey in the afternoon.

At the close of a busy weekend we had had a fantastic time with church friends and the community of our town. It was great to welcome everyone who visited.

Over £1,100 was donated for Save the Children and church funds.

A fantastic thank-you goes to all our flower arrangers, bakers and everyone who helped to make it a very successful festival.

Pictures of the arrangements can be seen at <http://episcopalglasgow.co.uk/maybole>.

Dr Susie Burr is treasurer at St Oswald's

Small grants that can make a big difference

A fund providing for essentials most of us take for granted can turn a troubled family's life around, as family support worker JANET RAE discovered . . .

WORKING for Circle within the Families Affected by Imprisonment (FABI) team, I deal with many children and families who are experiencing extreme hardship, deprivation and homelessness.

Often the children I work with will move home many times, they will often lose their possessions and feel that they really have nothing to call their own.

Their parents will often lose the whole contents of the family home if they are sent to prison and it can be almost impossible to try to rebuild a family home on release.

I became aware of the St Martin's in the Field Vicars' Relief Fund (VRF) as I work with Revd Kenny Macaulay, rector of St Augustine's Dumbarton, and I applied for the full amount for one of the families that I was working with.

This family was being cared for by their father as their mother was in prison. The children had experienced living with drug use, criminality and instability for most of their lives. While I was working with the family the father was able to stabilise his life sufficiently to care for his children and prevent them being taken into care.

The money we received let him get some second-hand furniture: a three-piece suite, table and chairs, living-room cabinet, two single beds and assorted crockery and kitchen equipment. He was also able to buy paint for the whole house and purchase a second-

hand tumble drier as well as a clothes horse to keep down the cost of drying the children's clothes. He also bought character bedding sets for the children. They chose it themselves, allowing them to put their personal stamp on the bedrooms and make it really feel like it was their own.

Most people have these basics without giving them a second thought; however most of the families I work with do not.

The VRF allowed a family to furnish their home with items that some of us take for granted and it also allowed the children, at the very least, basic home comforts. This made a huge difference to the amount of strain that the father was under, living on benefits with no extra money to buy things for his home. He was extremely grateful for this.

I encourage others to apply for money from the St Martin's Fund.

VRF grants of up to £250 are administered by G&G's Church in Society Action Network. Priority goes to people in danger of becoming homeless, or who are already homeless, destitute and/or vulnerable, and those attempting to establish or maintain a tenancy. Grant forms (which should be submitted by a clergy member) and guidelines are available from office@glasgow.anglican.org.

Janet Rae works in Dunbartonshire and Argyll with women coming out of prison and their children.

Vocation, vocation, vocation

OUR diocese is renowned for the work that has been done in recent years by Revd Shelley Marsh and the Ministry Advisory Group in the area of licensed and authorised lay ministry.

The annual Ministries Celebration Service is hugely valued within the diocese and admired outside, and vocations for the four roles of Lay Reader, Worship Leader, Pastoral Assistant and Eucharistic Assistant have been strongly encouraged and supported, not least by the development of helpful protocols for training and deployment.

As the church embraces an ever-more 'mixed economy' of ministry provision, the need for these vocations becomes even greater.

To this end, a half-day session is being run this month in St John's Annan entitled *Viewing Various Vocations in the Annandale Group*.

The purpose is to inform, foster and encourage: to advertise these four ministries and enable those attending to begin reflecting on a possible calling.

Four people from outwith the Group will tell their vocational story, speaking from their own perspective and experience, and these personal stories will be set within the wider context of ministry provision across the diocese and Province, and of the 'Whole Church Mission and Ministry Policy' received by General Synod last month (details on the SEC website: www.scotland.anglican.org).

The day can be run in your Region or cluster if wished; contact me (mdo.gg@btinternet.com) for more information if interested.

Anne Tomlinson, G&G ministry development officer

Three to be ordained

THREE people will be ordained to the diaconate in September.

THE ordination of Maggie McTernan takes place on Friday 9 September at 7pm at St Margaret's Newlands where she will become a non-stipendiary minister (NSM).

Liz O'Ryan's ordination takes place at St John the Evangelist, Union Street, Greenock on Saturday 24 September at 11am. Liz will serve as NSM with St John the Evangelist Greenock and St Bartholomew Gourock.

Kevin Francis will be ordained in Glasgow University Chapel on Sunday 25 September at 2pm.

Bishop Gregor asks your prayers for all three, and for the people and clergy of St Bride's Kelvinside, of St John the Evangelist Greenock, St Bartholomew Gourock, St Margaret's Newlands and the growing Anglican community in the University of Glasgow.

Churches to be asked to press for sex-trade law reform

Glasgow is Britain's second prostitution capital, claims JACCI STOYLE. Now, as she explains, a call is to go out to congregations to campaign for the law to target sex workers' clients

THE Mothers' Union has always been at the forefront of issues concerned with violence against women like domestic abuse and trafficking.

Recently, the MU supported MSP Trish Godman's Criminalisation of the Purchase and Sale of Sex (Scotland) Bill. The Union submitted a consulta-

tion paper to ACTS advocating the criminalisation of the purchase of sex. Basically, this means that the punter has to take responsibility for his actions, not the prostitute, who is often trafficked, a drug addict or a highly vulnerable young woman.

Glasgow has the highest number of prostitutes outside London and 50% of these (often teenage) women are from overseas. Many are trafficked here: abducted to serve up to 30 clients a day. In any other context that would be called daily gang rape.

Trish Godman's Bill fell at the dissolution of Parliament, and she has now retired. However, there is still cross-party support for it. It could easily be resurrected if enough voters wrote to their MSPs to lobby for it.

Last month the ACTS Anti-Trafficking group agreed to send a letter to all churches which congregations can use to lobby their MSPs when Holyrood reopens in September.

It is vital that we step up our action for this campaign as part of the preparations for the Commonwealth Games to be held here in 2014 as experience shows that major sporting events increase the incidence of trafficking for the entertainment of male tourists.

You can also vote to support reform of prostitution and trafficking by using the *End Prostitution* link at www.muscotland.org.uk.

Dr Jacqui Stoye, a member of St Fillan's Kilmacolm, is the Scottish Episcopal Church's anti-trafficking representative to Action of Churches Together in Scotland.

News and events in brief

A RECITAL by Chris Bragg (organ) and Richard Craig (flute) takes place in St Bride's Church, 69 Hyndland Road, Glasgow, on Thursday 7 July at 8pm.

On Thursday 21 July at 8pm, Gijs Boelen (Netherlands) will give an organ recital at St Bride's.

Tickets (£6) at the door for these concerts include wine and cake.

At 7.30pm on Friday 29 July, St Bride's is hosting a concert in aid of the church restoration fund and St Margaret's Hospice. Fiona Robertson (violin), Christine Anderson (viola) and Victoria Atkinson (soprano) will give a programme of songs, solos and duos for violin and viola.

U NITY in The Community's No Borders Bookshop, the only bookseller in Govan, wants volunteers who are passionate about books and can offer a half-day or more a week. The charity is also looking for some-

one able to take on a long-term management and coordination role. Contact info@unitycentreglasgow.org.

Y OU can subscribe to an e-mail news supplement to the Scottish Episcopal Church's magazine at <http://www.inspires.org.uk/subscribe>.

B ACK to Church Sunday is on 25 September. You can register online at: www.backtochurch.co.uk, and download free online service resources. Contact Helen Ball: ballhelen89@googlemail.com.

T HE Scottish Episcopal Church's Community Fund has run low, resulting in some requests being turned down. It is financed by an annual Gift Day established by General Synod in 2007 to take place throughout the whole of the Scottish Episcopal Church on the last Sunday in June, thereby raising the profile, as well as the reserves, of the Fund.

T HE people of Holy Cross in Knightswood were the generous hosts for this year's diocesan Mothers' Union Festival Service.

Members travelled from around the diocese to participate in the worship which was led by Bishop Gregor and G&G MU chaplain Revd Peter Douglas. The music was provided by Alan the organist.

The focus of the Bishop's address was Hosea's assertion that God's compassion is greater than God's wrath.

Following worship, the whole company, including guests from the United Free Church, the Church of Scotland Guild, the Scottish Baptist Women's Fellowship and MU provincial president Hilary Moran, enjoyed lunch and fellowship.

A SUMMER fayre takes place at St Bride's, Kelvinside, on Saturday 27 August, 2-4pm, with various stalls and tea room.

Calling dreamers and visionaries aged 12-18

THIS is your chance to shape the future of the diocese.

The Diocesan Youth Network wants to know how the church can support young people now and in the future.

A day has been planned with fun, games, laughter and potential adventure as well as fellowship, discussion and worship.

It is at Elshieshields, Lochmaben (near Lockerbie), Monday 11 July, 10.30am-6.30 pm.

Contact: Revd Christian Okeke (bishopc7@yahoo.com; 0774 859 0407) or download a form from the Diocesan Youth Network page. Transport from Glasgow is available.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the September issue may be submitted by **Monday 8 August** as ordinary prose (**not** leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to locum editor Marilyn Pope, c/o Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, or dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

Diocesan News Service is published 10 times per year by the Scottish Episcopal Church, United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway (Scottish Charity Number: SC013925). Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the Scottish Episcopal Church.