

Concord

The magazine of
St. Andrew's and St. Peter's
Your Scottish Episcopal Church
in Ardrossan, Irvine and Dalry



Lent

February 2008

Scott writes

My father-in-law recently showed me an article from the *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper. It was about Robert Burns and how various interest groups have taken it upon themselves to take him for their own. So, for example, there are those who see Burns as militantly anti-English, or at the very least anti-Unionist simply by taking one or two passages of his and quoting them out of context. The writer of this particular article, Tom Brown, makes the point that the evidence is overwhelming to the contrary that Burns was for the Union, but not for those who sought to take advantage of the union for their own personal gain. As Brown states:

The truth is that Burns was an internationalist libertarian before his time and his ideas are to this day bigger than questions of Britishness/Scottishness. Far from being thirled to nationalism, he believed in 'the brotherhood of man'.

I mention all of this because, of course, we have come round again to the celebration of our national bard – the gloriously fallible figure that is Robert Burns. As an Ayrshire man born and bred I can't help having some affection for Burns, if only because he shows me as clearly as anyone can that there is life before Harry Potter... and, indeed, that there is life after the wizard of Ozzzzzzz. (Sorry, couldn't resist) To have as an Ayrshire man a figure of such literary significance shouldn't necessarily be a source of excessive pride for us. Burns, I'm sure, would have thought that and all the concomitant drunken Burns' Suppers around the world, ridiculous. But it does indicate that each of us has an opportunity this side of the grave to look at greatness and fragility at the same moment and simply reflect on life.

Of course Burns wasn't the first nor will he be the last to be hijacked for political reasons. Jesus, too, always has been hijacked one way or another. Even as we was going about his ministry there were those who had him labelled as 'revolutionary' or 'magician', or 'heretic'. There are those these days who look at his lifestyle and argue that he was a kind of proto-communist. Others will argue that this particular kettle is black by suggesting that the point of salvation is not just to have spiritual gain, but material advancement too – an

address to the General Assembly some years ago by a certain Margaret Thatcher is a case in point. And of course beyond the political or economic sphere, you get the plethora of so-called spiritual or theological interpretations of who Jesus is and what he is supposed to offer us. Everyone likes a piece of Jesus. He's good PR as long as you can handle or market him right.

And there's the rub. It is dead easy after the fact to think that we can, like the nationalists do with Burns, interpret Jesus to fit into our grand schemes. The reality is that figures of greatness like Burns (don't worry, I'm not exactly comparing him to Jesus!) consistently explode the limitations we set up. Even Tom Brown's interpretation of Burns as an internationalist (which I have a lot of sympathy with) will no doubt be challenged in the future. The point is that we encounter Burns where we are today and we read him today because poetry encounters us. That is all we can say about great art, it seems to me. It speaks to us as we encounter it in the moment.

To that extent, Jesus is like the great artists. He encounters us as we encounter him. We pass no judgements on him, as he refuses to pass judgement on us. We simply meet. If we think that we have 'understood' Jesus or got a handle on him in some way, then I would suggest that we haven't really met him. Remember those two disciples who, having walked some distance with a man they didn't know, only realised that it was Jesus as he broke bread with them? I think we can be blind like that to the greatness of Jesus simply because we think that, like them, we have the story sown up. But the point of the story is that it actually does not end. Like the resurrection you can't keep a good story down. And our story is a love story that has no end.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?

Let's hope not.

Love for a' that an' a' that.

Scott

News desk



Prayer Support Team

This month please pray for

Stuart Mitchell & Anna Sinclair

As they pray for

Sandy Montgomerie
Keith & Gillian Reeve
& Family
Sadie & Joe Temple
Matt & Nicola Still
Mr & Mrs Moodie
Mr Jewkes

Joan Bennett
Anne & Samuel Wilkes
Mr & Mrs Carter
Mr & Mrs Grayson
& Family
Helen & Graham Ternent
& Family
Pamela Blackwood
& Family

Educational Opportunities

The Cathedral & College of the Isles is offering a range of residential and day courses from now till the end of March. These range from the theological to the practical with courses on painting, patchwork and gardening. A full list is available on the notice boards at church with details of how to apply. Please check it out as you may find something of interest to you.

New Year Review

This is the time of year when I review our prayer team lists. If you are a member of our prayer team and want to change or if you would like to join then please let me know soon. This involves praying for up to seven members of our church family.

Cont/...

News desk

Congregational Christmas Card

Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas card appeal. The

amounts raised are as follows and will be donated to 'Click Sargent', better known to most of us as Malcolm Sargent.

Ardrossan: £55.90
Irvine: £46.80 + £98.00 from the Carol Service = £144.80
Dalry £14.20
Total £214.90

Thank you to all who contributed.

Jeanette

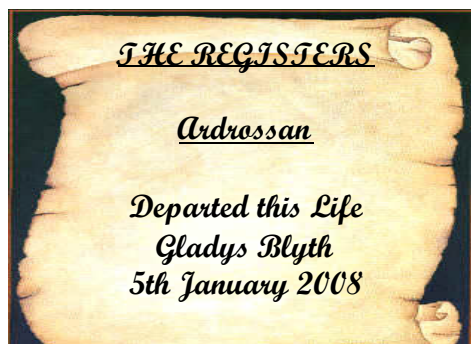
Advance Notice –Various Lent groups – Monday 11th February

Monday 11th Feb. Various Lent groups – speak to Clergy

Advance Notice

Tuesday 22nd April. Training evening for anyone interested in taking part in worship or adding to what they already do: intercessions, leading worship, Eucharistic Assistants.
7.30pm Ardrossan

Linda



Mothers Union

Monday January 28th at 2.00pm is the A.G.M, please come along with ideas or suggestions for the new Syllabus. February 25th will be the Lenten Address. Everyone welcome to both meetings.

Freda Allison

Lent Groups

Our Lent Groups begin early this year! We are having three fortnightly sessions which begin the week commencing Monday 11th February. Our theme this year is the Journey of Faith. All are very welcome to join us on the journey.

Scott

Shrove Friday

I know it's not the done thing given that we're in Lent, but a *Shrove Friday Party* is planned for Friday 8th February in Ardrossan at 7pm. The idea is that we bring our own food (main course and/or dessert) along with (preferably) paper plates, cutlery etc. and share the meal together. Entertainment will be on offer afterwards with folk showing off their various musical/literary/other talents. All are very welcome to join us for what promises to be a fun-filled evening.

Scott

Ladies Group

A big thank-you to Nicola Still for her talk about Romania, it was very informative and interesting. Our next meeting is the 4th February at 7.30pm, when we will be having a Beetle Drive. This meeting is open to everyone in the congregation. It promises to be a fun evening. We are looking for raffle prizes, if you would like to donate a prize, please bring on the evening.

Denise Allen

Glasgow & Galloway
DiocesanNews

February 2008

Issue 72

IS NOT this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house? *Isaiah 58.6-7a*

Time for preparation

GOODNESS, can Lent really be upon us so soon? I am writing this with the needles from the Christmas tree scarcely brushed away and yet plans for Ash Wednesday have to be made already.

Easter comes early this year – almost as early as it can be – and so there is not much time to get things in order. But that is what Lent is for, of course. It is a preparatory time – a time not only for getting the church ready for Easter and preparing the glorious festival but also for preparing our hearts for what is to come.

It used to be that Lent was the time when people were prepared for their initiation into the Christian faith. Baptism and First Communion went together and came at the Easter Vigil. Can we still keep the ceremonies if we don't have new people to induct into the faith?

By tradition, the Church has a Sunday in Lent when the discipline is relaxed a little. The fourth Sunday in Lent became known as Refreshment Sunday. It was also called Laetare Sunday because in the middle ages the words of the main service began with the words Laetare Jerusalem – Rejoice Jerusalem.

Nowadays, most people keep that Sunday as Mothering Sunday.

However you keep it, you are warmly invited to St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow for some rejoicing in the evening. Choirs from around the diocese will be leading Choral Evensong at 6.30pm and everyone who can come is welcome. Joining our voices together in praise of God is one way to prepare ourselves for the emotional power of what is to come at the Feast of Feasts.

One of the other things that we do in the Cathedral all through the year is to pray for the life of the diocese each day. We remember Bishop Idris each morning and call to mind through the diocesan cycle of prayer each of the congregations in turn. This year during Lent, we will be praying for each church as we all, as God's people, turn our hearts and minds back to God.

Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth, Provost, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

Journey in Faith grows

THE Journey in Faith course is continuing in Paisley as well as Dalbeattie where the days and dates have been changed to help participants of Unit 1 who had difficulty with travelling conditions at night.

Unit 1, covering Liturgy, Sacraments, the Bible and Prayer, has started in Hamilton.

Unit 2 will commence in Hamilton on 23 April, covering Doctrine, History and the Church now.

To gain the Bishop's certificate for any unit, participants must attend four of the six sessions. Certificates will be presented by the Bishop on Saturday 7 June at a Eucharist held at Holy Trinity and St. Barnabas, Paisley, at 11pm, followed by lunch.

Units 3 and 4 of the course have now been planned and will commence in Ayr on Tuesday 1 April and in Paisley on Wednesday 2 April. Unit 4 will start after the summer on 16th/17th September.

These two units go more deeply into the topics covered by the previous units.

Certificates will be awarded by the Bishop on Saturday 25 October at a Eucharist in Paisley. Each unit costs £10.

For further information contact Linda Whitby, of the Diocesan Education Network: 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine KA12 8RQ (01294 276838) lindawhitby@btopenworld.com

Annual service in celebration of authorised ministry

Saturday 31 May – St Mary's Cathedral, 11am

TO CELEBRATE and affirm the ministry of all those involved in licensed and authorised ministry in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, all lay readers and those in authorised ministry – eucharistic assistants, worship leaders and pastoral assistants – are invited to attend along with those who wish to support them.

This year the focus will be on the lay readers, who are required to have their licences renewed as part of the three-year cycle in accordance with recent practice.

The Bishop regards this service as a significant event in the life of our Church and encourages attendance wherever possible and practical.

Refreshments will be provided after the service.

If you have any queries about the service, or about authorised ministry, please contact Revd Shelley Marsh, diocesan adviser for diaconal ministries: dma@episcopalglasgow.org.uk 0141 585 5845.

Winning the peace — victory for footballing immams

Peter Andersson reports from Sweden on events in our partner diocese of Gothenburg

THE date 9/11 is often associated with of hostility between Islam and the West.

But in Gothenburgh, a group of Christians and Muslims decided to present another image, so they arranged a friendly soccer match.

One team consisted mainly of ministers and the other of imams. Jewish players were represented in both teams. The match took place on a big outdoor area and got good media coverage. The Muslims won 1-0.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

GLASGOW and Galloway Diocesan Synod will be held at the Glynhill Hotel, Paisley Road, Renfrew, 9am for 10am, Saturday 8 March.

Fairtrade status for diocese

GLASGOW and Galloway is working towards becoming a Fairtrade Diocese, which requires more than half of its charges achieving Fairtrade Churchstatus.

Revd Ian Barcroft, convener of the Church in Society network, says: “The requirements are very straightforward and an application form can be downloaded from fairtrade.org.uk.”

Before completing the application form, churches ready for Fairtrade status are asked to email the network's secretary, Mrs Jennifer FitzGibbon (j2fg@aol.com) of St Columba's, Largs.

Pathway to Prayer Saturday 8 March

PATHWAY to Prayer is an annual gathering of more than 150 people exploring their relationship with God through prayer.

Participants choose up to three out of six workshops. Led by experienced leaders from different denominations, each has input, discussion and time for prayer. Workshops are:

- Exploring the Bible prayerfully and creatively (Rev Sheila Mitchell)
- Finding God in the paradoxes and ambiguities of our faith (Fr Stephen Motroni)
- Inner peace (Maria McMahon)
- Celebrating God's Kingdom – songs of love joy, peace and justice (Mairi Munro)
- Franciscan spirituality (Rev Colin Mylne)
- Celtic Christianity for the 21st century (Deaconess Chris King)

10-15am-4.30pm, Portland and St Meddan's (CoS) Church halls Registration £7 (unwaged £5). Lunch provided (donation welcome). More details and booking form from Chris King (01563 851197).

Regional Advent Quiet Days draw bigger numbers

An Advent Quiet Day arranged by the diocesan Action Group for Spirituality attracted 88 people around the diocese. Group convenor *Edith Thorp* reports...

ON A very wild, wintry and cold day, 8 December, the Spirituality Group hosted a Quiet Day in each of the seven regions of the diocese.

The theme was *I am the Light of the World*, and the groups used the Holman Hunt picture of that name as a common focus for the day.

Previously the Group has held a single event in one venue, attracting 25-30 participants on average. But with each region hosting its own Day this time, 88 people took the opportunity to set time apart to reflect. The Group is grateful to the charges that hosted the Day, and to the leaders who guided it.

The next Advent Quiet Day will be Saturday 29 November, the ACTS National Quiet Day. If your charge would like to host the Day for your region, e-mail: edith.thorp@virgin.net.

Ignatian retreats

WEEKEND retreats run by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre include events on Bute and in Skelmorlie, Ayrshire.

Two days of Celtic workshops including a pilgrimage to the ancient monastic site of St Blane's on Bute take place over the weekend of 6-8 June. The following weekend sees individually guided retreats at Skelmorlie's Notre Dame Centre. Longer retreats are also offered in Spain, Ayrshire and Iona. For the full programme call 0141 354 0077 or visit iscglasgow.co.uk.

Smithstone House courses and retreats

SMITHSTONE House conference and retreat centre has published its programme for 2008. Near Kilwinning, the ecumenical centre offers short courses and weekend or midweek retreats. The next course is Listening ear – for all interested in pastoral visiting. (7.30-9pm, Wednesdays 14, 21 & 28 February). One-night themed retreats and two-night relaxing mid-week breaks are also of offer from 15 February. Call Fr Stephen Motroni (01563 851197) for a programme.

The Southside Passion

For Holy Week, Catholics and Protestants from some of the Glasgow Southside Churches are staging a Passion play. telling the story of Christ.

Dates: Wednesday 19 March & Friday 21 March, 7.30pm

Venue: St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 353/355 Kilmarnock Road, Newlands

Email: southsidepassion@yahoo.co.uk for details.

A Wee Taste o Scotland

St Columba's, Aubery Crescent, Largs – Friday 8 February, 7.30pm

A sit-doon supper o' grand Scottish fare wi' a guid variety of drink an' entertainment

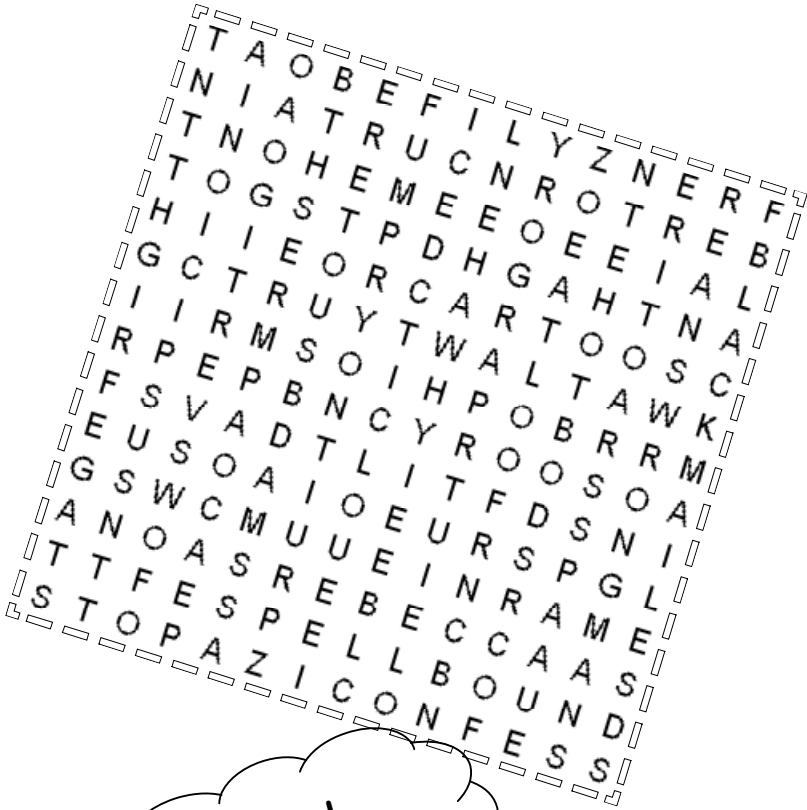
Tickets £7 .Call 01475 686213 to book

EndofDiocesan News

Fun pages

HITCHCOCK'S FILM WORD SEARCH

Find the Alfred Hitchcock movie titles that have been hidden in the grid, then read Hitchcock's nickname.



"Who's is Alfred Hitchcock then?"

Answers on page 14.
No looking!

Fun pages

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007



Can you answer the following questions on various events that took place in 2007?

1. Which country won the 2007 Cricket World Cup?
2. Why was Gillian Gibbons in the news in 2007?
3. Which author was knighted in June 2007, leading to many protests around the world in countries with mainly Muslim populations?
4. Unveiled in July 2007, the logo for the 2012 Olympics designed by Wolff Olins, cost how much money? £4,000, £40,000 or £400,000
5. What was the new name for the Millennium Dome when it re-opened in 2007?
6. If you were sixteen years old, what could you have done up to the end of September 2007, but not at any time after?
7. In January 2007, whose single became only the second ever to top the singles charts on downloads alone?
8. In October 2007, it was announced that which country would host the 2014 Football World Cup?
9. Which company raised over two million pounds for Comic Relief in 2007 by selling Red Nose Day t-shirts in their stores?
10. What was the name of the man who disappeared in his kayak in 2002 and reappeared in 2007 claiming he had amnesia?



Answer Page



- 1 Australia
- 2 She was the teacher in Sudan who allowed children in her class to name a teddy bear Muhammad?
- 3 Salman Rushdie
- 4 £400,000
- 5 The O2
- 6 Bought tobacco products
- 7 Mika's (with the song Grace Kelly)
- 8 Brazil
- 9 TK Maxx
- 10 John Darwin

'Fings wot 'appened in '07 (See page 13)



Birds	Notorious	Stage Fight
Blackmail	Psycho	Suspicion
Family Plot	Rear Window	To Catch a Thief
Frenzy	Rebecca	Topaz
I Confess	Rope	Torn Curtain
Lifeboat	Sabotage	Vertigo
Marnie	Saboteur	Wrong Man
Murder	Spellbound	

Did you get the all the answers. The films were:-

Hitchcock's Films (See page 12)

Answers Page

WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN...

FEBRUARY 2008

Monday 3rd	Ladies Group Beetle Drive Ardrossan 7.30pm Irvine Guild 7.15pm
Wednesday 5th	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at Irvine 10am Holy Communion at Ardrossan 7.30pm Holy Communion at Dalry 7.30pm
Thursday 7th	Explorers Bible Study Group at 48 Cramond Way, Irvine 7.30pm
Friday 8th	Shrove Friday Evening at Ardrossan 7pm
Sunday 10th	Lent 1 Joint Service at St Andrew's Irvine 11.15am <i>(Please note no Service at Ardrossan or Dalry)</i>
Monday 11th	Irvine Guild 7.30pm Various Lent groups , speak to Clergy and see page 5.
Tuesday 12th	Housegroup at 4 Gleneagles Ave. Kilwinning 7.30pm
Wednesday 13th	Holy Communion at 60, Galt Avenue, Irvine 10am Housegroup at 6, Willow Gardens Irvine 7.30pm
Thursday 14th	Housegroup at 15, Adair Avenue Saltcoats 7.30pm Irvine Men's Club 7.30pm
Sunday 17th	Lent 2
Monday 18th	Irvine Guild 7.15pm
Wednesday 20th	Holy Communion at Ardrossan 10am
Thursday 21st	Explorers Bible Study Group at 19 Adair Ave., Saltcoats 7.30pm
Sunday 24th	Lent 3
Monday 25th	Irvine Guild 7.15pm Ardrossan Churches Group at Park Church 7.30pm
Tuesday 26th	Joint Vestry at Dalry 7.30pm
Wednesday 27th	Holy Communion at Ardrossan 10am Housegroup at 4 Gleneagles Ave. Kilwinning 7.30pm Housegroup at 6, Willow Gardens Irvine 7.30pm Housegroup at 15, Adair Avenue Saltcoats 7.30pm
Thursday 28th	Irvine Men's Club 7.30pm
MARCH	
Sunday 2nd	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday
Monday 3rd	Irvine Guild 7.15pm Ladies Group Ardrossan 7.30pm
Wednesday 5th	Holy Communion at Ardrossan 10am

Last Writes

From the new "News" Sub-editor

My first magazine at St Andrews, hopefully it won't look too bad. All your suggestions, and particularly inputs, will be gratefully received. If you don't have a computer, don't despair, you can always send it to me in "real" writing. Drawings and photographs can sometimes be included.

You can get me at, 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine, phone 276838 or e-mail mikewhitby@btopenworld.com.

Michael Whitby

St. Andrew's, Ardrossan, St. Andrew's, Irvine and St. Peter's, Dalry form the North Ayrshire Team Ministry of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

A warm welcome awaits you at any of our services.

Service Details:

St. Andrew's Ardrossan

Sundays 11.15am Family Communion, Crèche and Sunday School
Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion (except 2nd Wednesday)

St Andrew's Irvine

Sundays 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School

St. Peter's Dalry

Sundays 10am Holy Communion

For other services not listed please see Diary inside

Church Web Site Address: www.standrews-stpeters.org.uk

Clergy Team details:

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Asst. Priest Rev Jeanette Jenkins 4 Gleneagles Ave, Kilwinning KA13 6RD Tel **01294 553383**
e-mail: revj.jenkins@btinternet.com

Asst. Priest Rev Sandy Montgomerie 105 Sharpill Rd Saltcoats KA21 5QU Tel/Fax **01294 465193**
e-mail: sandy.montgomerie@btinternet.com

Asst. Priest Rev Ian Boffey 2 Kinloch Ave Stewarton Kilmarnock KA3 3HF Tel **01560 482586**
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