

Concord

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



Ascension

May 2008

Scott writes

Most of you will now be aware that later this month I go on sabbatical leave. I'm off after the joint service on Trinity Sunday (18th May) and return at the beginning of September. As I'm sure you all know, the idea behind sabbatical leave is, as the name suggests, based on the Sabbath, whose name itself stems from the Hebrew number for seven, 'shibah'. So the idea that God rested on the seventh day at creation carries on through to the idea of a sabbatical being traditionally a time of rest and regeneration every seven years. The Episcopal Church, however, doesn't quite operate that way. This will be my first (and, who knows, possibly last) sabbatical leave in eighteen years of ministry!

I'm very grateful to the vestry and all of you for allowing me this chance to take some time out to recharge the batteries, as it were. Having given you this big build up you probably won't even notice I'm away because the team have rallied around and are organised to cover the weeks that I won't be here. I'd ask for your support for Sandy, Jeanette and Ian as well as the others in the ministry team as they lead the churches over the summer period. I'm very grateful to them as they willingly take up the reins. As far as the sabbatical itself is concerned

there are meant to be three basic components: study, retreat and holiday. Thus far I have organised some study time at St. Deniol's Library in north Wales. I'll be there working on a project regarding the relationship between literature and theology (something I've been interested in for many years). I've also arranged a short retreat at a house near Inverness later in the sabbatical. As well as this, there will be time for holiday with Alison and the boys. You can be sure I won't be twiddling my thumbs!

Having said that, the rest component is a crucial one. And by rest I obviously don't mean simply lying on a beach doing nothing. Rest can mean the absence of activity but it can also have the more positive meaning of planting yourself in a place of refreshment and development. Remember Jesus said, "Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." I think you can see in this verse from Matthew's Gospel that, in order to enter into rest you have to actively *do* something – you have to come to Jesus. I think the problem that many of us have is that we find ourselves being busy doing all sorts of things to the extent that we find less and less time for perhaps the more important things - like thinking and praying. The story of Martha and Mary in John's Gospel is a good illustration of this. We can

be all too busy like Martha and actually miss the point of what life and faith are about. So, for me, the sabbatical will be about getting back in touch with these important things, as I said, recharging the batteries.

It does seem strange to be writing a kind of farewell letter, but I do wish you well over the holiday period, and I look forward to being back with you in body and in spirit in early September.

Yours in his rest,

Scott

Prayer Support Team

This month please pray for
Pauline Thompson & Ron Coutts
As they pray for

Betty Welsh
Cathie Murphy
Eileen Booth
Jean Sylvaria
Agnes Mcneil
Susan & David Garner
Mrs Wright & Mrs Fowler

Minette Angus
Jim & Margaret Robertson
Susan & Tom Barlow
& Family
Hazel & Malcolm Inch
& Family
Ruth McNab
John & June Johnstone
Mrs Sneddon



Joint Outreach Lunch

Our joint outreach fundraising lunch will follow the Joint Service at Ardrossan on Sunday 18th May. It has been suggested that this year we support the 'Smile Train'. This is an organisation that reaches across the globe to offer new smiles and new lives to children with clefts. A leaflet outlining their work and showing pictures of how the children are 'transformed' will be on the church notice boards, so please take a look at the pictures. This is a worthwhile cause, so please put the date in your diary and give us your support. Tickets for lunch are available at £3 for adults and £1 for children. If you are truly unable to be there then please consider making a donation.

Jeanette

3TFM

Community Radio for the Three Towns (Stevenston, Saltcoats, Ardrossan)

A new radio station went live on Saturday 19th April reaching North Ayrshire. This community project trialled, last year and has now been granted a license for 5 years.

As it is for the community we have been asked to contribute on a "Thought for the Day" slot, Monday to Friday for 1minute 30 seconds max. each day and transmitted between 9-9.30am. This would be pre recorded, so you would not have to be present at transmission time. Please contact any of the clergy if you could help in this project as we have been offered four weeks during May to December and need people interested in sharing their thoughts with others to speak on the programme.

Don't forget to tune in to **3TFM on 103.1fm** to catch all the local news and views.

Join The PS WAVERLEY on a Charity Evening Cruise

- *Vine Trust*

There will be Charity Evening Cruise on board the Paddle Steamer Waverley on 18th June, departing from Ardrossan Harbour at 18.15pm and Millport at 19.15 pm followed by a cruise round Rothesay Bay and the Cumbraes. This is in aid of the Vine Trust which supports relief projects in Peru and includes the work of the Amazon Hope Medical Ships.

Tickets are now available for this exciting cruise on the firth of Clyde and cost £18 Adult / £8 child from Ardrossan. These are available from many of the local churches and from Stuart McMahon on 01294 603848. Email: tickets@charitycruise.info

Look out for posters in the churches for more details.

Bibles for India

Wesley Owen the Christian book people are looking for any spare bibles to send to India where they will be a treasured gift. The scheme is running from 29th March until 30th May and Joan Fish from the Church of Scotland congregation in Irvine is collecting them to be taken to Wesley Owen. So if you have any extra bibles that need a good home Joan will be pleased to receive them and pass them to the India mission.

Dalry Bingo Evening

A very successful night was held on behalf of St Peter's Dalry on Monday 14th April. The sum of £394 was raised for church funds and our thanks go to Anna Sinclair and her ever faithful team at Dalry Bowling Club for a great evening of fun and fellowship.

Sandy



Ardrossan

Now that May is upon us there are only a couple of weeks left till Christian Aid Week, 11th to 17th and I'm once again looking for volunteers to help with the door to door collecting.

The Collectors Street Sheet is at the back of the Church so please put your name against a street or two. If you've helped in the past then I need your help again so why not quickly get your name against your favourite street. If you've not collected before and want to help but are wary of collecting on your own. Then why not join me and my 'collecting team'. So if you have a couple of hours to spend during that week please see me.

Stuart Mitchell

Irvine

Reminder – Collectors needed.
Please contact Margaret Ferguson

LADIES GROUP

Thank you to Bill Greig for coming along to our last meeting and showing his slides of a Rhine Cruise, the ladies enjoyed the show.

Please note our next meeting is the A.G.M, the date has been changed from the 5th May to the **12th May**. If you have ideas for the new session please bring them with you on the evening. We will end the evening with Fish Suppers.

DENISE ALLEN

Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland.

Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland are looking for volunteers to help in their essential work of rehabilitating CHS sufferers .

YOU can help by:

- Offering conversational support
- Offering social support
- Driving our members

YOU can:

- Learn new skills
- Socialise with other volunteers
- Take part in team activities
- Have a chance to give something back to your community

You can contact the organisation on phone number 0800 169 5139
or E-mail volunteering@chss.org.uk
or the web site www.chss.org.uk/volunteering
or you can contact John Boss in Ardrossan.

John Boss



MOTHERS UNION



Lesley McCowatt proved to be an excellent, amusing speaker, when she spoke of her experiences of Earthquake, Fire and Flood, all due to her Army background. Thank you Lesley.

The next meeting is Monday 28th April, when Linda and Ray will be talking about the Children's Panel. Everyone welcome.

Visit to New Reform Synagogue and High Tea at Burnhouse Manor is Wednesday 21st May. If you wish to go, please let me know.

Freda Allison

OUTREACH

Malawi Back Pack Appeal

Aimed at helping the children of **MBANDANDA** go to school.

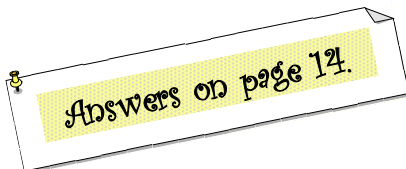
After our next 'Joint Service', on 18th May at St Andrew's Ardrossan, Back Packs will be handed out to parents. Over the summer period, you will be able to add items to the pack. To help you select items, a 'suggested list' will be provided. Those who don't want a Back Pack can just use the List.

Susan Garner

QUICK QUIZ



1. What meteorological superstition is attached to St. Swithin's Day?
2. What is the 5th (fifth) letter of the Greek alphabet?
3. Where will you find 'Buttertubs Pass'?
4. Which river flows into the Irish Sea at Fleetwood?
5. What is a Glengarry?
6. A Boeing 747 weighs approximately the same as how many African elephants?
7. What was Trotsky's first name?
8. Which country-dwelling character was first introduced in the 1930 novel 'Murder at the Vicarage'?
9. In Islamic mythology, Adam and Eve went to which island after being expelled from the Garden of Eden?
10. Which of the following is not a North American Great Lake? Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, Simcoe or Superior.



<p>Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan News</p>	<p>CHRIST died for us, so that we could live with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. That's why you must encourage and help each other, just as you are already doing. <i>1 Thes 5.10-11 (CEV)</i></p>
<p>May 2008</p>	<p>Issue 75</p>

I'M WRITING this during the week of the third Sunday of Eastertide, continuing to celebrate with joy the Lord's resurrection, with the ringing out of our Alleluias, and our supreme re-joining in the message of the promise of LIFE in the Lord.

Last Sunday (6. April) we read in the Gospel of St Luke the very familiar narrative of Jesus' encounter with disciples on the road to Emmaus and of his being made known to them **'in the breaking of the bread'**.

There is a significant moment here, when the disciples realise that the Lord has risen:

'Without a moment's delay they set out and returned to Jerusalem... described what had happened on their journey, and how he had made himself known to them...' (*Luke 24.33,35 REB*)

During March's diocesan course, Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) in which I took part, we were encouraged to share with a neighbour, for a few minutes, our 'faith stories' – aspects of our coming to faith and significant moments on our Christian pilgrimage.

Some admitted they found this difficult. Perhaps they had never engaged in such sharing before.

But several then said they discovered that the exercise opened up for them a realisation of differing highlights from their particular journey in faith and pilgrimage, and brought an increased confidence in using a variety of opportunities to speak of their faith.

Pleasantries

I was reminded yet again of the times in my early years of ministry when I merely talked social pleasantries with those whom I was visiting, doing nothing significant to convey to them the 'good news' of forgiveness and life in the Lord which I was charged at my ordination to convey.

I was perhaps 14 years into my ordained ministry before particular formative experiences of the presence of the Lord in my life brought the realisation that I had to take all opportunities given to 'give account for the faith that is in me'.

All of us on the course were reminded of our baptismal commission:

‘God calls the Church to reflect Christ’s glory, in baptism to declare Christ’s new life, in fellowship and mission to share it. Do you accept God’s call?’

And we were reminded of the re-sponse we give: **‘We hear and accept God’s call.’**

‘Will you proclaim the good news by word and deed, serving Christ in all people?’

‘With the help of God, I will.’ (*Revised Baptism Rite 2006 Scottish Episcopal Church*)

We seek daily the help of God that we might have courage and forth-rightness in proclaiming Jesus as Risen Lord and Saviour.

Revd Canon Kenneth G Stephen, Christ Church, Dalbeattie

HEADLINE of the year thus far is down to Revd Dan Gafvert, who prompted his local paper to publish an article headed ‘We’re not English Kirk’.

There can’t be many Piskies this side of the border who’ve not muttered those words in exasperation. But it took a historian from Sweden to set the record straight in newsprint.

Dan, who became priest-in-charge at Christ Church, Lanark, last June, used its 150th anniversary to win attention-grabbing press coverage.

In a 1,400-word feature, *Lanark Gazette* journalist Ron Harris wrote:

“Far from being just the Church of England’s North British branch, it [the Scottish Episcopal Church] actually has a rather fiercely patriotic Scottish track record, including preserving the nation’s ancient Celtic Christian roots and championing King Robert the Bruce!”

Reaction to the piece has all been positive, Dan told DNS. Some readers hadn’t even known the Hope Street building existed. For others, it’s awakened a realisation that there is intelligent life in the Church.

“There are people who imagine the Church is as it was 50 years ago,” Dan said. “They don’t realise how it has developed.

Dan is used to cultivating good relations with the local press. Handing over a ‘press pack’ of pithy, quotable background material doubtless helped in the making of a good spread.

“It doesn’t help if we always seem to be speaking out against something,” he added. “But I do find journalists are interested if you have ideas and insights they don’t expect from a minister.”

You can read the full article online at lanarkgazette.co.uk/news-feature/We39re-NOT-English-Kirk.3950168.jp.

STEWARDSHIP AND THE 'NAZARETH MANIFESTO'

CHARIS (say 'carries' with a soft S at the end) is the Scottish Episcopal Church resource for stewardship.

It has six scripture texts with guidance on further reflection and study.

The Diocesan Stewardship Committee hopes that these texts and study tips will stir thought and discussion. The first five have appeared in DNS. Here is the last.

Luke 4:16-22a

Good News for the Poor

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went in to the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." [Isaiah 61.1,2]

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "This scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. (NIV—UK Edition)

Q1 What jumps off the page at you?

Q2 List all the people and groups of people who appear in this passage.

Q3 Choose one person or group of people from the passage. What do you think might be this person's or group's response to Jesus' message of "good news to the poor"?

Q4 Why do you think Luke has placed this passage at the beginning of Jesus' ministry?

Q5 What relationship does this passage have to Charis?

Q6 Where do you see signs of 'good news to the poor' in our society both from within and beyond the Church?

Q7 We are now at the end of this series of scripture studies that form part of the Charis programme.

What practical response might we be being called to make as part of our responsibility for the ongoing and transforming mission of Jesus?

□ **“RETHINK the virtue of suffering discomfort in our churches?”
pondered Largs-based Gib FitzGibbon.**

“Ridiculous, I thought. Nobody expects ‘church’ to be comfortable!

“But I began to realise we have to look again through the eyes of outsiders. We have a beautiful traditional Anglican building – warm sandstone, lovely windows, arches soaring towards heaven.

“But...

“Draughts blow through the building. The narrow book ledges in the pews are a constant irritant, and the seats themselves are hardly welcoming. The choir stalls were designed for boy trebles.

“We may get people to try us out, but we also have to make the place not only beautiful, but also sufficiently comfortable to make them want to come back.

“When I put this to Vestry, after the expected reaction, stories came out of visitors who said they wouldn’t be back because of the lack of comfort.

“Of someone with osteoporosis who found the pews agony. How hard it is to kneel. And so on.

“I think we may be on to something.”

Workshops and courses

A CONFLICT resolution workshop is being held on Saturday 10 May at St Silas, Glasgow.

Registration is from 9.30am. Refreshments and lunch are provided.

For further information and to let organisers at the diocesan Education Action Network know how many are coming, contact Linda Whitby (see below).

THERE are still places for the Conference for Laity of all Denominations, 23-25 May, entitled *How do we as Christians ‘Walk the Talk’ in the 21st Century*.

It’s at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, with Professor Larry Hurtado and Alison Moody. For details, contact Lindy Whitby (below).

A FUTHER date for your diary is Saturday 30 August when a morning workshop at Holy Trinity, Ayr, will discuss ecological matters including climate change and how these issues may affect us personally and also our churches.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

This will be followed in the afternoon by hearing about the work of Church in Society.

EDUCATION Action Network provides small grants to churches wishing to promote educational matters within their parish.

Applications should be received by 23 June.

If you would like the Network to consider providing your church with a grant, contact Linda Whitby: 2 Hight Gardens, Irvine, KA12 8RQ (01294 276838) or e-mail lindawhitby@btopenworld.com.

D Y A N

Diocesan Youth Action Network

An event for young people of secondary age + leaders

at

Holy Trinity & St Barnabas' Paisley
St. James' Place, Moss St. Paisley
Scottish Charity No. SC015961

www.episcopalpaisley.org.uk

Sunday 15 June

Friendship

Arrival between 2 and 2.30pm

Worship, followed by food

*Then to **Xscape, Braehead**, for bowling, approx 4.30 – 6.30*

Disperse after 6.30 from Braehead

All groups responsible for their own transport to Braehead

Numbers, please, of young people and leaders,

for both food and bowling, by 27 May,

to Judith Johnstone, 0141 583 4051

judith.johnstone@ntlworld.com

or Bobbie Lundy, mrslundy@btinternet.com

News in brief . . .

□ AN ART and craft exhibition will raise funds for Christian Aid at St Mary's, Auchingramont Road, Hamilton, on Saturday 10 May, 10am-4pm. Exhibitors donate 25% of takings to the charity. To submit paintings or reserve a craft stall, contact Barbara Stobie (barbarastobie@yahoo.co.uk).

News in brief *cont/....*

❑ THERE is a new and improved diocesan website at: www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow. As before, each charge has a page on the site. Churches with no website of their own are invited to apply for a free, easily maintained one. For details, contact dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

❑ DRESSING up is optional when Friends of Britannia Panopticon lay on their Victorian Extravaganza of music-hall favourites in Ayr's Holy Trinity on Saturday 10 May at 7.30pm. Tickets, £10, include a drink. Proceeds in aid of the organ fund. The church is in Fullarton Street, next to the bus station.

❑ GLASGOW'S Angelus Singers are at Holy Trinity, Pitlochry, for a special Eucharist Evensong on Trinity Sunday (18 May) with a range of interesting music.

❑ ELSHIESIELDS Tower, near Lochmaben, offers a residential course on painting icons in the Coptic tradition, 1-5 June, with Deacon Stephane Rene. There will also be an open evening with an illustrated talk for those living locally who are interested in the subject.

Prayer of the Heart is a workshop exploring the Orthodox traditions of prayer with Revd Philip Greenhalgh at Elshieshields, Saturday 12 July, 10.30am-3.30pm. Philip is Rector of Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirkclinton in the Carlisle Diocese. He has spent time on Mount Athos and is a practitioner of the Jesus Prayer. Cost £2. Bring sandwiches; drinks provided.

Contact Revd Ann Shukman 01389 810280 (ann.shukman@virgin.net).

Please note that a full copy of our DNS News is available. Copies available in Church. For those who would like soft copy over the internet!) contact the editor.

Michael Whirby.

End of Diocesan News

THE SPIRITUAL RAILWAY

The line to heaven by Christ was made
With heavenly truth the Rails are laid,
From Earth to Heaven the Line extends,
To Life Eternal where it ends.

Repentance is the Station then
Where Passengers are taken in
No Fee for them is there to pay
For Jesus is himself the way
God's Word is the first Engineer
It points the way to Heaven so dear,
Through tunnels dark and dreary here
It does the way to Glory steer,
God's Love the Fire, his Truth the Steam,
Which drives the Engine and the Train.

All you who would to Glory ride,
Must come to Christ, in Him abide
In First and Second, and Third Class,
Repentance, Faith and Holiness,
You must the way to Glory gain
Or you with Christ will not remain
Come then poor Sinners, now's the time
At any Station on the Line,
If you'll repent and turn from sin
The Train will stop and take you in.

from a gravestone 1846

Answers to "Quick Quiz" On page 7

1. Rain	5. Hat
2. Epsilon	4. Wyre
3. Yorkshire Dales	6. 55
7. Leon	7. Miss Marple
8. Miss Marple	8. Sri Lanka
9. Sri Lanka	9. Lake Simcoe
10. Lake Simcoe	

Diary for May

Thursday 1st	Ascension Day Holy Communion at Dalry 10am Ayrshire Region Ascension Day Service at St Andrew's Ardrossan 7pm
Sunday 4th	Easter 7 Evening Service at St Andrew's Irvine 6.30pm (Discussion on the Anglican Communion)
Monday 5th	Irvine Guild 7.15pm
Wednesday 7th	Holy Communion Ardrossan 10am
Thursday 8th	Holy Communion Dalry 10am
Sunday 11th	Pentecost Christian Aid Week begins
Monday 12th	Irvine Guild 7.15pm Ladies Group (AGM) Ardrossan 7.30pm (<i>Was 5th May</i>) Beith Ladies 8.00pm at 4 Gleneagles Ave, Kilwinning.
Wednesday 14th	Holy Communion 60 Galt Ave., Irvine 10am
Thursday 15th	Holy Communion Dalry 10am
Sunday 18th	Trinity Sunday Joint Service at Ardrossan 11.15am Followed by lunch in the hall, adults £3 children £1 (Please note: no service at Dalry or Irvine)
Monday 19th	Irvine Guild 7.15pm Joint Vestry at Irvine 7.30pm
Wednesday 21st	Holy Communion Ardrossan 10am MU / Ladies Group Synagogue Visit
Thursday 22nd	Holy Communion Dalry 10am
Sunday 25th	Pentecost 2
Monday 26th	Mothers Union Ardrossan 2pm Irvine Guild 7.15pm
Wednesday 28th	Holy Communion Ardrossan 10am
Thursday 29th	Holy Communion Dalry 10am
Saturday 31st	Lay Readers Commissioning Service at St Mary's Cathedral
JUNE	
Sunday 1st	Pentecost 3

Last Writes

From your "News" Sub-editor

Last month you remember, it was decided that it may be a good idea to issue, in full, copies of the **Diocesan News** to our three churches. To this end a small number of copies were made available with the Magazine issue. I had been hoping for some feedback on this. However, I will repeat the process again this month and if you would let me have your views on the idea it would be appreciated. Thanks.

Remember, you can also read this magazine on our web site. You can get me at, 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine, phone 276838 or e-mail: mikewhitby@btopenworld.com or scribble on an envelope.

June deadline for articles is Sunday 18th May

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

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