

# Diocesan News

ISSUE 94: APR 2010

## ***Citizen of the Year***

**THE sacristan of St Augustine's Dumbarton has been named as the town's Citizen of the Year.**

Georgie Duncan is the third person in four years from the congregation to win an accolade of this sort, and the congregation are delighted for her.

Apart from her commitments at St Augustine's, Georgie is heavily involved in the local senior citizens group and she gives her time to help charity through the café at Dumbarton Sheriff Court.

She has been volunteering there for 15 years and, along with her colleagues, has raised over £62,000 for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) which runs Robin House in Balloch. The group, while serving drinks and snacks, collects cash for children's charity Beanfeast who present the money to CHAS.

Dumbarton folk are glad to know that Georgie is keen to carry on fundraising, as St Augustine's has always benefited from other efforts on her part. She said: "I will still try to make as much money as possible for the charities."

## **'Tough choices' looks at today's big questions**

**TOUGH Choices is a new 'Journey in Faith' course from the diocesan Education Action network exploring contemporary ethical issues.**

It takes place in Paisley over five Tuesday evenings, starting 27 April. Sessions are:

- ◆ 27 April *A Just War?* Revd Prof Michael S. Northcott
- ◆ 4 May *Climate Change* Prof Ian Arbon
- ◆ 11 May *Genetics* Prof Jim H. McKillop
- ◆ 18 May *Ethical Finance* Revd Kathy Galloway
- ◆ 25 May *End-of-Life Issues* Revd Prof David Jasper.

All sessions take place 7.30–9pm at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas Church Halls, Moss Street, Paisley (next to Gilmour Street Station). This non-certificated course is open to all. To register send a £10 cheque (payable to Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway) with your contact details to Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.

Details from Education Action convenor Revd Gordon Fyfe on 01475 673143 ([gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com](mailto:gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com)).

## **Faith in Older People**

**A CONFERENCE on 'The Spiritual Journey and Well-Being in Old Age' takes place on Thursday 27 May at Crichton Campus, Dumfries.**

Speakers include: Revd Maurice Bond, Revd Malcolm Goldsmith, Professor David Clark, Dr Harriet Mowat. There will be a presentation of the DVD *Spiritual Care - have you found any yet?* followed by discussion.

The fee of £35 includes lunch.

Bookings to: [info@fiop.org.uk](mailto:info@fiop.org.uk) or 0131 346 7981.

## **Consecration of our new bishop**

**THE consecration of Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan as Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway will be in St Mary's Cathedral on 23 April.**

Admission will be by invitation only because of space limitations.

As reported in *Diocesan News* last month, all members of the diocese could apply for an invitation, with a ballot to take place if applications exceed places.

Everyone will be welcome at a special Evensong in the Cathedral at 6.30pm on Sunday 25 April. As well as letting the diocese celebrate our new bishop, the service will see the installation of the new Dean, Revd Ian Barcroft.

## ***Climate science and Christian witness***

**BRIDGE of Weir's Episcopal congregation will host another keynote lecture this year.**

David Saxon writes: "Following the success of our centenary lecture last year, the 2010 St Mary's Lecture will be held in church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 May. Once again we have a top-rank speaker.

"Prof Michael Northcott is Professor of Ethics at Edinburgh University. He is an Anglican priest, a Traidcraft trustee and former academic chair of the Centre for Human Ecology.

"His topic is *When Prophecy fails: Climate Science and Christian Witness*."

There will be discussion after the talk, followed by refreshments. All are welcome. The white-painted church is on Johnstone Road. As you approach from Johnstone it is on the left, by the first street light. The car park is opposite, over the little bridge.

# What happened at Diocesan Synod

*Diocesan secretary Gib Fitzgibbon reports on the day's proceedings . . .*

**THE annual Diocesan Synod was presided over by the Dean, the Very Revd Gregor Duncan (Bishop-elect), on Saturday 27 February.**

It was attended by the Lay Reps of most charges, most of the clergy in the diocese, and visitors from other denominations.

**The Dean's homily** spoke of how, at times of grief and at times of joy, we realise that we really do belong to a community of love, a community of the love of God, love rooted in grief and joy, in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Appointments:** Synod appointed the Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, the Property Committee, the Boundaries Committee, and the Diocesan Auditor; and elected diocesan reps to General Synod, the Provincial Faith & Order Board; and the Provincial Mission & Ministry Board

Synod approved the accounts for last year, and the budget for the current year.

The finances of the Diocese are sound, and we have weathered the financial storms fairly well thanks to a well-structured portfolio, but the underwriting of the Paisley project will affect cash flow until the funds have been raised to repay the diocese.

Synod approved the proposed changes to Canon 35, in the light of several years' experience, which will

make it easier to make minor changes to buildings; Canon 57 which will allow official communications to be sent electronically; and Canon 52 to tidy up membership of the Standing Committee of General Synod.

Synod received an update on facilities for the disabled in the churches of the diocese.

Presentations were received on...

- ◆ The St Matthew Centre – the subject of this year's Lent Appeal – which helps to bring hope and support to the disadvantaged in and around Possilpark;
  - ◆ The role of the Lay Representative;
  - ◆ The work and proposals of the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson
- Synod also heard from:
- ◆ Revd Tim Tunliffe, the newly appointed chaplain to Missions to Seafarers;
  - ◆ Representatives from our companion Diocese of Gothenburg;
  - ◆ Dr Jamie Hill on the proposal that the Stewardship Action Network develop a knowledge base on grants and external funding;
  - ◆ Revd Dan Gafvert on the Pilgrim Trust.

Notice was given by the Bishop-elect of his intention to appoint **Revd Ian Barcroft** as his Dean following the consecration.

**Next Synods:** General Synod 10– 12 June; Diocesan Synod 5 March 2011 (TBC).

For more details, see your Lay Rep.

## Happy youth 'give it up for Lent'

**MORE than 24 young people and leaders had a wonderful time at St Brides Hyndland with a *Give it up for Lent* day last month.**

Said youth chaplain Revd Christian Okeke: "The most encouraging part of the event was that we had young people from as far afield as Dumfries, Dundee and Glasgow.

"We spent the day working through two workshops - drumming and creating mandalas - having fun all the way. The day ended with a special worship time and Holy Communion.

"May I seize this opportunity to thank all those who prayed and supported the event, and also to encourage other young people in the diocese to come forward and identify with the Diocesan Youth Network."

You can contact Christian on [bishopc7@yahoo.com](mailto:bishopc7@yahoo.com) or 0774 8590 407. He'll be glad to forward a link to a gallery of photos from the day.

## Next issue . . .

**ITEMS for the May issue may be submitted up to Monday 12 April as ordinary running text (not leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to the editor, Susi Cormack Brown, c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, [orns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:orns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk).**

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## French connection

**A CONFERENCE celebrating Scotland's Cluniac heritage at the abbeys of Paisley and Crossraguel takes place in Paisley Town Hall next month.**

The event is one of hundreds all over Europe to mark 1,100 years since the foundation of the Abbey of Cluny in Burgundy.

In Scotland, festivities start with a free concert in Glasgow Cathedral by female voice ensemble, Canty with William Taylor on Friday 14 May at 4:15pm.

On Saturday 15 May Paisley Abbey will have a medieval tented village housing knights, ladies, alchemists, calligraphers, strolling minstrels, servants and craftworkers. Also on 15 May is the conference which addresses pilgrimage, monastic life and five centuries of French influence in Scotland. Details at: [www.cluny2010scotland.info](http://www.cluny2010scotland.info).

# Gothenberg set to seek new bishop

*Peter Anderssen sends news from our linked diocese in Sweden . . .*

## **BISHOP Carl Axel Aurelius is to retire next year.**

Writing to the clergy of Gothenberg diocese, Bishop Carl announced his plans to stand down in the latter half of 2011 for health reasons and to free him to complete his writings on Martin Luther. The nomination process for his successor will start in the latter part of 2010 and the election will take place early next year.

## **Congregations back asylum seekers**

Three parishes in the diocese of Gothenburg have started an initiative highlighting the fact that many asylum seekers from Iraq who belong to minority groups (for example Christians) are denied asylum in Sweden,

## ***Ministry celebration***

**THIS year's Ministry Celebration service will be at Holy Trinity Church, Ayr, on Saturday 5 June.**

A buffet lunch will be served from noon followed by the service at 1.15pm.

This year the focus will be on the ministry of Eucharistic Assistants. Contact Revd Shelley Marsh ([office@stjamesbishopbriggs.org.uk](mailto:office@stjamesbishopbriggs.org.uk)).

though they still suffer severe persecution in their homeland. The action encourages the asylum seekers to make a collective appeal to the Migration board. Some 1,000 appeals are expected from all over Sweden.

## **Church of Sweden campaign**

The Church of Sweden's Lent campaign for international mission and diaconia took the theme of drinking water.

The Church of Sweden works together with ACT Alliance and some other 100 churches and ecumenical organisations such as Christian Aid and Bread for the World.

ACT Alliance is a fusion of ACT International and ACT Development, and was officially launched on 24 March.

## **Seminar on leadership**

American theologian Norma Cook Everist was the keynote speaker when the diocese of Gothenburg held a seminar on Transforming Leadership last month.

Her lecture was based on her book: *Church as Learning Community*.