

April date for consecration

WHILE numbers will be limited to attend the consecration service of our next bishop, all will be welcome to a special celebration Evensong in the Cathedral the following Sunday.

The consecration of Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan as Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway will be held in St Mary's Cathedral, Great Western Road, Glasgow, at

6.30pm on Friday 23 April. Due to the large number of official guests and the capacity of the Cathedral, admission will be by invitation only.

Official guests will include people holding positions of responsibility in the diocese; all diocesan clergy; and all electoral synod members (i.e. one Lay Rep per charge). When acceptance numbers are known, any spare places will be balloted among other members of the diocese, including spouses of those invited, who should advise the Diocesan Centre (office@glasgow.anglican.org) by 19 March of their wish to attend.

There will be a celebratory Evensong in the Cathedral on Sunday 25th April, for the diocese to celebrate its new bishop and at which the new dean will be installed. All will be welcome to

Swedish lesson for new seaside rector

SWEDISH visitors joined the congregation of St Ninian's Troon when Revd Canon Tom Montgomery was instituted as rector on 12 February.

Revd Pastor Jösta Björling and his wife, Lena, came from the Dalstorp Pastorate, which is linked with St Ninian's. Pastor Björling read the lesson in Swedish, reflecting a close link that has built up over the last few years.

The church was packed to overflowing for an uplifting service with many more of Tom's friends and relations joining with St Ninian's members to share in the happy occasion.

Neil gets ready for global adventure

A LIFE-CHANGING adventure awaits Neil Thomson-Turner as he prepares to start a six-month cultural exchange programme with the charity VSO-Global Xchange.

Neil, a member of St Ninian's Troon, will have two placements working with disabled people: one in Hounslow and the other on Cebu Island in the Philippines. He'll be part of a team of 18-25-year-old volunteers, of whom half will be from the Philippines. In both placements he'll be living in a host home, gaining a real experience of local culture.

Make a mother's day with a virtual gift

MOTHERS' Union's Make a Mother's Day campaign offers ethical virtual gifts that help family carers through some of life's most challenging difficulties.

They range from £7 to £168, ducks to chicks, seeds to goats.

Said MU spokesperson Fiona Thomas: "My particular favourite has to be *Childhood is going bust* for £40 –with the message: 'Help us ban bras for seven-year olds. We believe the sexualisation of pre-teen girls is wrong.'

"I'll be doing my bit to protect my own daughter's childhood by helping Mothers' Union lobby against the aggressive marketing to children by buying this in memory of my mother this year. She would have heartily approved."

Buy online: makeamothersday.org.

Volunteering with VSO-Global Xchange is an ambition 24-year-old Neil has nurtured since school days, when he heard another St Ninian's member give a talk about his experiences with the charity in Kazakhstan.

He was accepted on to the programme after a rigorous selection process last September, and has since been in Birmingham for a week of training and team-building.

Neil needs to raise £600 for the challenge. He's already started fundraising and will be doing a sponsored Ben Nevis trek this month. You can contribute online: original.justgiving.com/neiljamesthomsonturner. Neil will also be available to give talks on his experiences when he's back home in October. You can call him on 01292 314158.

Companions look for bishop across the pond

AS we prepare in Glasgow & Galloway to consecrate our next bishop, the search goes on for the eighth Bishop of Kentucky, our companion diocese.

Four candidates, all males aged 49 to 56, will visit that diocese in May for 'walkabouts', forums in three locations in the diocese to give those participating in the special electing convention an opportunity to meet and question all the candidates to be presented for election in June.

The nomination process began more than a year ago after Bishop Ted Gulick announced his retirement plans. There were 78 applicants – a surprisingly high number.

A source said: "The response far exceeded our expectations and, we believe, the experience of other dioceses in recent searches. Not only the numbers but the gifts for ministry of the candidates were wonderful."

After an extensive screening process, the search and nomination committee announced four names in January.

The consecration is expected to take place in September.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

THIS year's Diocesan Synod took place on Saturday 27 February at the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew.

A copy of the reports from Action Networks and others is available for all church members. Please ask your magazine editor.

CHRISTIAN AID BOOK SALE

PRICES start at 10p when St Ninian's Pollokshields (1 Albert Drive) hosts a Christian Aid book sale on Saturday 10 March, 10am-1pm. The £1 admission charge includes refreshments. Contact Rosemary Anwar (0141-637 8324).

Earth Hour blackout

ON 27 March at 8.30pm, lights will go off all round the world for an hour.

Homes, businesses, buildings and landmarks will black out in a demonstration of support for international action on climate change.

They'll be sending the message that people around the world care about climate change and continue to support action by global leaders to get greenhouse gas emissions under control. Find out more and sign up at wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the April issue may be submitted up to **Monday 14 March** 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, or dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

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Fountain link with Lenten lifesaver

CASH raised by last year's Bishop's Lent appeal – for disaster-aid Aquaboxes – was celebrated with the turning on of a historic Glasgow fountain.

The newly restored Stewart Memorial Fountain in Kelvingrove Park, was brought back to life to mark the £12,654 donation from the Bishop's 2009 Lenten Appeal, as pupils from Dowanhill Primary looked on.

While the landmark was built in the 19th century to coincide with the first supply of clean water from Loch Katrine to the city, our donations will send life-saving water purification supplies to Asia and Africa.

Rotary International's Aquabox scheme is sending more than 88,000 boxes containing a filter cartridge and welfare items such as kitchen utensils and small hand tools, to the areas.

Aquabox is also contributing to the Haiti relief operation with hundreds of boxes arriving in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Said local Rotary chairman Ian Dickson: "Clean water was new to the city in 1860, but is the norm for us today. Our task must be to make clean water the norm throughout the world."

This year's diocesan Lent appeal is in aid of the St Matthew Centre in Possilpark.

Greenbelt backs June festival for Scotland

A NEW Scottish festival of art, faith and justice takes place 25-27 June at Wiston, Biggar.

Independently run, Solas 2010 is backed by Christian festival Greenbelt and Christian Aid Scotland and aims to be hospitable to a range of faith traditions.

Said one of the organisers: "Our dream is that this all-age week-

end will light up the Scottish festival landscape with a vivid mix of music, debate, theatre, comedy, film and visual art and will quickly establish itself as a unique location to celebrate and question our commitments to art, faith and justice within Scotland's cultural life. Come with us on the journey."

Visit solasfestival.co.uk to register for booking details and updates.

Fairtrade status for G&G

Glasgow & Galloway has now been declared an official Fairtrade Diocese.

It means more than 50% of our churches are Fairtrade Churches and we are also an active diocese when it comes to promoting fair trade, especially during Fairtrade Fortnight.

There are now about 6,000 Fairtrade Churches in the UK and we join the Dioceses of Aberdeen, Brechin and Edinburgh as Fairtrade dioceses in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Over seven million people in 59 developing countries, farmers, workers and their families, benefit from the added income, security and market awareness which selling to the Fairtrade market provides.

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs till 7 March. The theme is 'The Big Swap',

the aim being to get people to swap their usual brands of goods for Fairtrade ones.

More than 4,500 Fairtrade products are now licensed in the UK so there is plenty of scope to swap your tea, coffee, biscuits, sugar, cotton T-shirts or even cotton underwear!

Said Revd Ian Barcroft, convenor of Glasgow & Galloway's Church in Society Action Network: "It would be great to have masses of fair-trade tea parties and coffee mornings across the diocese this year."

More information about Fairtrade in general, Fairtrade fortnight or Fairtrade goods for sale can be found at fairtrade.org.uk.

Explore sustainable living

A WEEK of Exploring Sustainable Living is offered by the Iona Community at its Camas Centre on the Isle of Mull, 22-28 May, experiencing and discussing life on the other side of the oil revolution.

Using the renovated Camas as base and case study (with off-grid electricity, locally produced, organic and fairly-traded food, environmentally friendly toilets, simple lifestyle, and valuing its natural surroundings), this is a week to explore how we can live a satisfying and enjoyable low-carbon life. It flows from the Iona Community's commitment to the Christian Aid 'Cut the Carbon' Campaign and will be of interest to people in Eco-congregations, Transitioners and those curious about what life might be like without oil. Start by travelling to Camas by public transport and sharing with others any difficulties you have had in getting there!

Raymond Young, a regeneration consultant and member of the Iona Community, will be leading discussion and activities, assisted by the staff at Camas.

Activities may include working in the organic garden, sea fishing, traditional peat cutting, visits and tours to other local producers and sustainable systems at Camas.

The charge is £225 for six nights, including all food, accommodation and activities. To find out more visit iona.org.uk/Camas_Individuals.php.

Eco-congregation annual gathering

ECO-CONGREGATION Scotland's Annual Gathering will be in Stirling on Saturday 20 March.

Alastair McIntosh, author of *Hell and High Water*, will give the keynote address. Alastair has written extensively on the spiritual challenge that our consumer lifestyle has on the earth and he will challenge eco-congregations to consider why and how they must change the way they live in the 21st century.

The Gathering takes place at Stirling Baptist Church, 67 Murray Place, Stirling FK8 1AU from 10am to 3.30pm. A light lunch will be served. To book, contact aschuetz@cofscotland.org.uk.

Sacred music diploma for chorister

DAVID Sutherland, from St Ninian's in Troon, successfully completed the Royal School of Church Music's Diploma in Sacred Music Studies in mid-2009 and awaits information about a formal presentation of the award at the RSCM's Commemoration Day service at Durham Cathedral this spring.

He says: "The course was a highly efficient distance-learning experience, organised by the RSCM through the University of Wales at Bangor.

"It took just over two years to complete and was a mixture of theory, prac-

tical church musicianship and summer schools."

Dr Sutherland (65) has no plans to develop a career in church music though he has held several organist posts within the Church of Scotland before becoming an Episcopalian several years ago.

He described the course as an enormous intellectual challenge adding depth and meaning to his present role as a choir member in Troon.

He is a strong supporter of the work of the RSCM in Scotland.

MU president commissioned

A SERVICE for the commissioning of Hilary Moran as new president for the Mothers' Union in Scotland was held at St Mary's Cathedral last month.

The Primus, Most Revd David Chillingworth, preached on leadership; a video of his sermon can be viewed on thurible.net/20100213.

Thanks were given to Sheila Redwood who has held the position for the last three years.

Glasgow & Galloway's bishop elect, Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, was there to give his support and Revd Dr Scott Robertson, MU chaplain, commissioned the trustees in Glasgow & Galloway.

With local members and visitors and friends gathering from far and wide, it was, said Hilary, a joyful occasion.