

# Dioceesan News

ISSUE 99: OCTOBER 2010

## Hunterston – are we turning our backs on the world’s poorest?

**MANY west-coast residents still have not woken up to the full impact a massive coal-fired power station in our diocese could have on the world’s poorest communities.**

That’s the concern within a rainbow coalition of charities and NGOs who are pressing North Ayrshire Council to object to proposals to build Scotland’s first new fossil-fuel power plant for decades at Hunterston, near Largs.

Christian Aid, the Church of Scotland and World Development Movement fear Ayrshire Power’s plant could result in many more climate refugees like those in Pakistan’s recent catastrophic floods.

Friends of the Earth estimate it could increase Scotland’s yearly greenhouse gas output by up to 8million tonnes - roughly a quarter of the entire nation’s 2020 target level.\*

However, according to the RSPB, relatively few local residents seem to have asked the council to object to the scheme. Doing so would result in a Public Local Inquiry, exposing the application to further scrutiny.

Christian Aid Scotland’s Una Bartley said: “Unabated coal is a leading contributor to climate change, which is disastrously affecting the livelihoods of many of the communities that Christian Aid works with.”

Hundreds of Christian Aid supporters responded by urging the Scottish Government to throw out the plan, along with an estimated 14,000 other objectors during the government’s public consultation period this summer.

The Church of Scotland has also taken a stand. The Kirk’s Revd Ian Galloway warned the government that the technology is not sufficiently developed to capture all the greenhouse gas that the plant will pump out from the outset: “Any such increase in emissions will make the national targets of Scotland’s Climate Change Act difficult if not impossible to achieve.”

He added: “The Church of Scotland is concerned that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to the poor of the earth; and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God’s creation.”

To inspire more local folk to get involved, the RSPB has commissioned artist Jamie Wardey to create a giant sand sculpture on Irvine beach. This one-day stunt, on Monday 27 September, also involves a fun sand art competition for visitors. It’s on the same day that NGOs put their evidence to a special council meeting about the plans.

### **Weigh up the facts...**

- ◆ Ayrshire Power puts the case for its Hunterston proposals at [www.ayrshirepower.co.uk](http://www.ayrshirepower.co.uk).
- ◆ The website for Communities Opposed to New Coal at Hunterston (CONCH) is [www.conchcampaign.org](http://www.conchcampaign.org).
- ◆ Also campaigning against the plan are Oxfam, Planning Democracy, and WWF Scotland.
- \* Friends of the Earth Scotland’s detailed submission to the Scottish Government can be downloaded from <http://foe-scotland.org.uk/node/803>

### **Also in this issue . . .**

The new growth strategy takes another step forward

Cathedral runners clock up more than 26 miles for charity

A day to look at children’s ministry

# Growth strategy gathers momentum

*Planning a growth strategy will be the work of a new working party representing all seven regions of the diocese. They'll be guided by feedback from questionnaires sent to every charge this summer (the Summer Project). Ministry development officer Anne Tomlinson reports on progress...*

**STAGE 1 of the diocesan growth strategy process is now almost finished, with six of the seven Regions having met to consider the collated Summer Project responses.**

The level of participation in the process has been extraordinarily encouraging: 80% of the questionnaires have now been returned and over 270 people have attended meetings across the diocese, turning out in all weathers and travelling long distances to be present.

As we have listened to each other's replies, organised by means

of the Kingdom image in Luke 13:20, there has been evident delight in sampling the special 'ingredients' that form each congregation's 'loaf', energy in being 'kneaded' together and 'yeastiness' galore.

Six people have volunteered to form the working party to take the work forward over the months leading up to the strategy's launch next Pentecost.

They are:

- ◇ Jamie Hill, Lanarkshire
- ◇ Liz O'Ryan, Renfrewshire
- ◇ Roger Cutler, Galloway

- ◇ Betty Matheson, Ayrshire
- ◇ John Lewis, Glasgow NW
- ◇ Andrew Morgan, Glasgow NE

They will be joined by one further representative following Glasgow South's meeting on 11 October.

As I write on the feast of St Ninian, I ask your prayers for the working party that it might be given the 'zeal and patience' to see the work through to its fruition next spring, those charisms which sustained St Ninian in his strategy for growing the Kingdom in this land all those centuries ago.

## On the run. . .

**TWO cathedral members are collecting charity donations after committing to run more than a marathon between them.**

Liffy Grant's event is the first Scottish Kilomathon (26km) in Edinburgh this month.

She's already got pledges of more than £1,000 for Action for Children, which tackles the consequences of neglect and poverty.

And Beth Routledge is still collecting donations after completing her first half-marathon (13.2 miles) last month.

Liffy said: "I used to be a member of the children's panel here in Glasgow. The problems of neglect are real and serious and hard to shift but not impossible, so this is well worth supporting."

Beth's finishing time in the Great Scottish Run was 3 hours, 4 minutes and 27 seconds.

"It was an incredible experience," she said, "with great crowd support (and chocolate buttons and garden hoses!) from the people of Glasgow."

"The race was hard and hilly and, eventually, hot, but I survived to tell the tale. This was the first time I'd run a half marathon and I hoped to raise money for a really great cause by doing so. The madness was undertaken to raise money for *Medicins Sans Frontières*.

"MSF is an independent humanitarian organisation that provides medical aid, both in crisis situations and in areas where basic healthcare is inadequate.

"In just the last few months, MSF has been providing medical relief to the victims of violence in Pakistan and the Sudan, and to those who were affected by the devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Chile."

You can Gift-Aid a donation and see photos of the two runners at: [www.justgiving.com/BethRoutledge](http://www.justgiving.com/BethRoutledge), and [www.justgiving.com/LiffyGrantkilomathon4kids](http://www.justgiving.com/LiffyGrantkilomathon4kids).

### ***Piskie Eco-congregation praised***

**MEMBERS of St Michael's and All Angels in Helensburgh have been praised after raising £130 for Eco-Congregation Scotland by holding an after-church stall on a Sunday morning.**

Eco-Congregation Scotland, which has been financially supported for some time by the SEC, is appealing for fresh funds now that it has charity status. A spokesman said:

"In the past Eco-Congregation Scotland has received money from the Scottish Executive, from church denominations and from Keep Scotland Beautiful. In the difficult financial times that may lie ahead the charity can not rely on outside bodies to fund its activities; it must seek to secure its financial independence by developing its own funding.

"To do this it is suggested that all congregations try to raise at least £100 each year. Some congregations have already started to do this. We urgently need others to do the same!"

Eco-Congregation Scotland is considering a new award similar to England's Ecodiocese. A key element of the diocesan scheme is the practical demonstration of leadership on environmental issues.

### **Diocesan Advent Quiet Day**

Saturday 27 November, 10am-4pm. Choice of venues:

***St Ninian's, Castle Douglas (led by Bishop Gregor)***

***Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley (led by Revd David Wostenholm)***

*There will be a series of reflections with space in between for silent prayer and meditation. Tea and coffee will be provided. Participants should bring their own lunch. Book by contacting Jennifer FitzGibbon:*

*j2fg@aol.com or c/o Diocesan Centre  
5 St Vincent Place Glasgow G1 2DH.*

# Obituary: Revd Charles Arnold Simister

Charles Arnold Simister (always known as Simmie) was born in 1919 and therefore found himself in the army during the 1939-45 War, *Canon CLAUD BROWN* writes.

He was awarded the MM for bravery in Italy and later took part in the commando raid at St Nazaire, receiving the Legion d'Honneur (rather late) in 2006. There is much more to that story; he was badly wounded there, and carried bullets in him to his dying day. The SS were bayoneting the wounded so he pretended to be dead and escaped. As a result his life changed and he vowed that if he came safely through the war he would give his life to God in the ministry. And indeed he did, very much so!

He entered our Theological College in 1949 and was ordained deacon in 1952 and priest the following year. After a five-year curacy in Glasgow Bridgeton (where he first met Cathie) and six years in England, he became rector of the two congregations of Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse of Fleet where he served for 21 years till he retired in 1984. Having given away most of his money, he was eligible to be allocated an upstairs council house in the High Street, and continued to live with Cathie in the heart of the place he had devoted himself to.

Although I had known Simmie as a fellow priest in our diocese, one who was clearly proud of the two congregations

he had built up, he seldom spoke at Synod, being humble and self-effacing (unlike me); it was not till I came to be rector there in 1988 that I began to realise what a wonderful priest he actually was.

He was clearly loved by his people, not so much as a preacher (simple and honest) or as a taker of services, as being an utterly devoted pastor who was full of the love of God for anyone and everyone.

Many a story of his goodness and kindness did I hear from people's lips. Was anyone in trouble or ill, it was Simmie who was on the doorstep with offers of help, his ministry a completely local and practical one, his whole life poured out in service of God and man.

In my whole ministry I have only known one other priest as devoted as him, or so humbly following in the footsteps of his master. In my opinion he was one of the saints our Church should remember and be inspired by. Now at last freed from the sufferings of his last few years, he has gone before us to where he will certainly be continuing to pray for us.

Here, he is survived by his wife Cathie who was a wonderful support to him in his ministry right up to the end.

*Revd Claud Brown is an honorary canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow*

## A celebration of volunteering

**If you seek encouragement, advice and a network of support across the SEC then this event is for you.**

It's on Saturday 16 October, 10.30am-3.30pm, at the Royal Ivy Hotel, Henderson Street, Bridge of Allan FK9 4HG.

The day is an opportunity for members from small or large churches in the SEC to gather from each diocese and share the experience of community engagement and the role of volunteering as a practical expression of faith in the local community.

Explore the opportunities for local church growth through the celebration of volunteering.

Meet others who share the same joy and struggles.

Alison Elliot, SCVO convener, will be guest speaker.

The day is organised by the SEC Church in Society Committee. Lunch will be provided.

To register, e-mail the Dean ([ian.barcroft@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.barcroft@btinternet.com)).

## Diocesan children's ministry day

*Saturday 20 November*

**Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley, 10.30am – 3pm**

With Dr Rebecca Nye, researcher and consultant in children's spirituality, author: *'Children's Spirituality: What it is and Why it Matters'*.

This will be of interest to all lay people and clergy who have an interest in children's spiritual nurture. Sandwich lunch included.

Book your place with Judy Page (Children's Ministry Network):  
01505 703122, [judypage@btinternet.com](mailto:judypage@btinternet.com).

## Planning a retreat on Iona?

**BISHOP'S House is the Episcopal retreat house on Iona, providing a unique venue for parish groups close to Iona Abbey.**

It has accommodation for up to 23 people in 10 twin and 3 single rooms.

Available group dates in 2011 are:

- ◇ Six nights, arrival Tuesday 29th March, departure Monday 4th April.
- ◇ Two nights, arrival Saturday 8th October, departure Monday 10th October.
- ◇ Three nights, arrival Saturday 15th October, departure Monday 18th October.
- ◇ Seven nights, arrival Saturday 29th October, departure Saturday 5th November.

Individuals may book to stay for an open week:

- ◇ Easter Retreat, arrival Wednesday 20th April, departure Friday 29th April, up to nine nights.
- ◇ August open week, arrival Saturday 6th August, departure Saturday 13th August, seven nights.
- ◇ September open week, arrival Saturday 24th September, departure Saturday 1st October 2011, seven nights.

To learn more call 01681 700 111 or email [iona@island-retreats.org](mailto:iona@island-retreats.org) or visit [www.island-retreats.org](http://www.island-retreats.org).

## Another world is possible

HEAR speakers from Scottish NGOs on making the world a fairer place.

Speakers: James Picardo (Jubilee Scotland), Liz Murray (World Development Movement), Diane Green (Christian Aid), Bernard O'Hear (Amnesty International), Friends of the Earth. Event organised by WDM Ayrshire. There will be time for discussion.

Carnegie Library, Main Street, Ayr, Friday 22 October, 7.30pm.

# News and events in brief . . .

REVD Dr Donald Orr has recently been appointed diocesan curator of art by Bishop Gregor with ex-officio status on the diocesan property committee.

His initial task will be in assessing and advising on painting and sculpture, textiles, furniture, silverware and the catch-all of objets d'art - all objects considered to be of artistic worth, and compiling an inventory of them.

Vestries will be contacted shortly with direct information about the development of this record.

At a later date a catalogue of stained glass, murals and noteworthy in-situ architectural items could also be called for.

COME and Sing Day takes place on Saturday 9 October at St Margaret's 353 Kilmarnock Road, Newlands, in aid of Mary's Meals.

There is a rehearsal, 3.30-5.30pm, and the performance is at 7pm. Suggested minimum donation of £5. This event is organised by the diocese's Glasgow South Regional Council, and is open to choristers and anyone else who would like to come along and sing. It will be led by Michael Bawtree, music director at St Margaret's.

An audience for the evening performance will be very welcome. Wine and nibbles in the hall afterwards. For further information contact Jenny Whelan: j.whelan@nhs.net.

ST Mary's Cathedral has said a fond farewell to Peter Yardley-Jones, one of the assistant organists for the last two years or so. He has left, having graduated with a first class honours degree in Music from Glasgow University, to take up a post with an internet company in London.

MORE than 220 worshippers packed into Ayr's Holy Trinity Church to see Bishop Gregor ordain Nick Cox Deacon on 12 September.

Nick joins the South Ayrshire Team at Ayr, Maybole and Girvan from St Silas Glasgow. The sermon was preached by St Silas rector Revd David McCarthy.

A less formal welcome service took place the following Sunday morning,

with music from the Broken Chains Praise Band, and lunch afterwards. Nick and wife Karen have set up home in Ayr, and he has already started playing for Ayr RFC.

GLASGOW Churches Together's annual general meeting for 2010 will take place 7.30-9.30pm on Monday 25 October at the Ogilvie Centre, 25 Rose Street, Glasgow G3 6RE. A keynote speaker will be Revd Francis Alao, racial justice officer for Action of Churches Together in Scotland. All are welcome.

THE Fellowship at St Ninian's Troon is holding a coffee morning on Saturday 30 October, 10.30-12noon, in the church hall, Bentinck Drive, Troon.

All proceeds will go to Sukhita Child. Admission, £1.50, includes coffee or tea and home baking. There will also be a home baking stall.

A TIME to Remember is a special service on Saturday 30 October (All Saints Day), 3pm at St Margaret's Episcopal Church, 353 Kilmarnock Road, Newlands G43 2DY.

Members and visitors are welcome to come and give thanks to God for the lives of loved ones who have died.

This will be a time of peaceful remembrance with music, readings, prayers, reflection and contemplation.

If you know of a relative, friend or neighbour who would find this service helpful, invite them along too.

Refreshments will be provided at the end of the service.

For further details contact Eileen Smith on 0141 423 2801.

GLASGOW'S Ignatian Spirituality Centre begins its new programme with a day on 'Freedom in Scripture, Ignatius and Art' on Saturday 9 October, 10:30am-4:30pm.

It will be led by Fr James Crampsey SJ. Fr Crampsey has taught New Testament at Heythrop College and is currently parish priest of Sacred Heart Jesuit Church in Edinburgh. He has an interest in making scripture accessible through art and music.

Suggested donation £30 (£20). The following Sunday is an open day with

book fair, 10.30am to 3.30pm. For information about the ISC's full programme of courses, worship, events and retreats at its Cowcaddens base call 0141-354 0077 or visit [www.iscglasgow.co.uk](http://www.iscglasgow.co.uk).

HOLY City's 'Acting up' programme this year takes its cue from theatre, cinema and the early churches' revolutionary ways.

Workshops, reflection, discussion and worship will put centre-stage the economic, ecological and social challenges of our time.

Sessions are 6.30-9.30pm on the last Sunday of the month from October to May (December's date is the 19<sup>th</sup>).

The venue is Renfield St Stephen's Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow. Further information: [wrg@iona.org.uk](mailto:wrg@iona.org.uk); 0141 332 6343.

THE Children's Ministry Network has now visited five of the diocese's seven Regions and heard encouraging stories of successful holiday clubs and fun days.

It is hoped the remaining two Regions will be visited this month.

A day for all interested in children's spiritual nurture takes place in Paisley on Saturday 20 November (details elsewhere in this issue or from Judy Page: 01505 703122).

DIOCESAN Synod will meet in Bishop Court, Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley, on Saturday 5 March 2011.

## Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the next issue may be submitted up to **Monday 18 October** as ordinary prose (not leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to editor Susi Cormack Brown, c/o Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, or [dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk](mailto:dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk).

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