



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

Diocesan News

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Bishop Gregor writes...

ONE of the nicest things that can happen to anyone in the world of work is to be approached about a job, to be 'head-hunted'.

It's a very good experience, knowing you're *sought after*. It makes you feel good about yourself, knowing that you are recognised and valued.

Of course, this kind of experience isn't confined to

More than 60 prayer leaders come forward for training

DURING the past few months, congregations in Glasgow, Ayrshire and Galloway have hosted training for those involved in leading prayers at public worship.

These sessions have been planned with representation from the diocesan Education, Spirituality and Liturgy Action Groups – sharing wisdom and experience from their particular perspectives.

More than 60 people have taken part so far from 15 congregations, with clergy involved in most locations.

Leadership has been shared between a member of one of the three Action Groups and an experienced local intercessor.

Requests for more sessions are coming in – all welcome!

We've had some fascinating discussions about the theology of intercessory prayer. Does anything change when we pray? How do you pray about something apparently intractable? How do you judge what to leave out when planning the prayers?

Alongside the theory came the practical sessions, and when there was a mix of experienced folk and beginners, the exchange of ideas became particularly rich and enthusiastic.

Books were on display, website addresses shared, and handouts distributed, but everyone agreed with the advice that this should be just the groundwork for our leading in our own worship location.

Custom and practice vary in different congregations and intercessors left with the intention of meeting together in their own church with their clergy, to practise and to exchange ideas and comments and to get friendly feedback on their performing skills!

Regional Councils and individual congregations can contact the Diocesan Centre (0141 221 5720) for more information or to request a 'groundwork' session.

Gill Young, secretary, Liturgy Action Group

one's work or career. People may 'seek us out' in all sorts of circumstances – but the point remains that this is usually good news for our sense of worth, our sense of self.

However, what I've just described isn't a universal experience. It doesn't happen to everyone, maybe not even to most people; rarely, certainly, to me.

But at Christmas we celebrate something that is for everyone: in his birthday—for that is what the birth of Jesus Christ is, God the Son's human birthday—God head-hunts each and every one of us, seeks for each and every one of us, so that none of us need feel forsaken. God comes among us to assure us that each and every one of us is of huge worth, precious in God's sight from all eternity.

You only head-hunt someone you judge to be worth troubling yourself about, somebody you need. And so it is with God. God's desire to love us and be loved by us is of an overwhelming passion we can hardly conceive.

There is a psalm, Psalm 93, long-associated with this Christmas season. It begins, in the Prayer Book version:

The Lord is king, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.

In the long Christian tradition of prayer and worship, these words have come to refer to the Word made flesh, to God's sharing in our human life, putting on our life as it were. So they are made to suggest that in that sharing we see just how valuable and esteemed our life is with God. As the poet Anne Ridler says: *Christmas declares the glory of the flesh.*

Christmas declares the glory of the flesh – the celebration of this season is an affirmation of the preciousness and of the glorious potential of human life in God's sight, and purposes and love. Let us therefore keep the feast, all 12 days of it, with a faithful and unquenchable joy.

Also in this issue . . .

Concrete or spiritual? Make it both!

Getting mission-shaped in the vestry

Experience of a lifetime at Happening #20

Courses, events and opportunities

Helping vestries get mission-shaped

IF charges are to be mission-shaped, writes ANNE TOMLINSON, then they require energetic leadership from dedicated, outward-looking clergy and vestry members working well together; and that requires the diocese to offer continuing ministerial development (CMD) for such ministries.

So it was with alacrity that John MacLeod and I accepted Glasgow North-East Regional Council's invitation to come and lead a half-day's training in St Matthew's Posilpark on 'the responsibilities and challenges of being a vestry member today'.

John, with his usual flair, competence and legal acuity, steered us through the implications of the 2005 Trustees and Charities Investment (Scotland) Act and OSCR's resultant oversight of the Scottish Charities Register, deftly answer-

ing the many questions that emanated from his listeners, some of whom are currently involved in changing to the Model Constitution.

He urged vestries to offer some form of induction to new members, whether that be by means of a pack of documents or a training session. Indeed, some vestries are ensuring that their first meeting after the AGM is an away-day (or even residential weekend) dedicated to helping the team (re)form after the election of new members and so move speedily towards storming/norming.*

After lunch, we looked at 'the F words' that tend to dominate vestry agendas – Fabric, Finance and Fundraising – re-imagining these as 'tools for mission' and meetings as 'worshipful work'. It was good to hear of ways in which such ap-

proaches are already permeating the lives of some vestries, and encouraging to know that many of those present have gone away keen to try out some of the other strategies that effect such a culture change.

Sadly only three of the vestries in the Region were represented. Nevertheless it was certainly worth running the event for the folk who turned up, and John and I are happy to offer it (or similar) to other Regions. Contact me to discuss: mdo.gg@btinternet.com.

Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson is ministry development officer to the diocese; Revd John MacLeod is a solicitor and a non-stipendiary priest at St Mary's Hamilton.

*After Tuckman BW, 1965. 'Development sequence in small groups. Psychological Bulletin 63, 384-399

HARDSHIP CASH

WINTER, particularly around Christmas, is often a time of hardship, with inclement weather and a surge in family breakdown.

The St Martin's Vicars' Relief Fund is intended to cushion the blow of a sudden change in circumstances, and will provide small sums to help set individuals on their feet again. In this diocese, the fund is administered by the diocesan Church in Society network.

St Martin's has fairly strict criteria for eligibility, but we aim to consider requests and respond within a week. Recently, a homeless person who was rehoused was in urgent need of a cooker. The request was made on a Wednesday, and the cooker acquired and installed on the following Monday.

For a copy of the conditions, and an application form, contact the Diocesan Centre or e-mail Jennifer FitzGibbon on j2fg@aol.co.uk.

ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday 10 December, 10am-4pm

THIS is a day of prayer and reflection on an Advent theme. There is a choice of two venues: Paisley and Castle Douglas.

It will be led by Bishop Gregor Duncan at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley. Bishop Gregor's theme will be 'Anglicans in Advent'. Bishop Gordon Mursell will lead at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas, taking the theme 'Preparing for Christmas - Prayer in Advent'.

Participants are asked to bring their own lunch; tea/coffee will be provided.

To book your place contact Jennifer FitzGibbon (secretary, Action Group for Spirituality), 01294 823992, e-mail j2fg@aol.com, or write to the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH (mark envelope 'Advent Quiet Day').

Journey in Faith course on worship, Bible and prayer

THE Diocesan Education Action Group will once more be offering new participants the opportunity to join in Unit 1 of the Journey in Faith course.

With two sessions each on worship, Bible and prayer, the course is for all those interested in exploring their faith and requires no Biblical or theological expertise.

Session 1 is on Liturgy and Session 2 covers the Sacraments.

Session 3 explores the Bible: background; times of writing, types of writing, bringing the writings. Session 4 is on reading the Bible.

Session 5 asks 'What is prayer?' and Session 6 looks at ways of praying.

The course runs on Tuesdays, 7.30–9pm, from 10 January to 14 February, at All Saints' Church Hall, Drymen Road, Beasden.

Registration is £10. For details and a booking form contact Revd Gordon B Fyfe, Education Action Convener: 01475 673143, gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com

Concrete or spiritual? Make it both!

What's your Real Presence up to as a church? asks David Wostenholm, convener of the diocesan Action Group for Spirituality, and priest at St Matthew's Possilpark

I'VE noticed an increasing number of workshops on the 'spirituality of the body' in recent years.

When this transcends the level of 'self-help therapies', it can bring us to a deeper engagement with our physical presence on this earth.

At this deeper level of awareness we often discover unexpected commonality and friendship with those of differing or of no religious conviction and then can speak of a shared spirituality.

This isn't surprising.

If our search for God ignores our physicality, then it will remain an abstract exercise – not a spirituality.

Our Diocesan prayer is right to include that whatever God's desire is for us, that it will TAKE FLESH.

Contrary to the intentions of the liturgical calendar, Advent usually becomes a time when our personal flesh is consistently tempted to increase!

But what about just looking nearby during the Incarnation Season (plenty of time – it's traditionally Advent to Candlemas!) to what your church does physically? What is your Real Presence up to as a church?

News from Gothenburg

Peter Andersson writes from our linked diocese in Sweden . . .

BISHOP Per has started a tour among the 16 deaneries of the diocese in order to listen to all the vestries and vicars in each deanery.

Each vestry has been asked to present the possibilities and challenges they find locally and also what they would like to focus on in the future.

THE diocesan board is to investigate the possibility of restructuring the boundaries of the 29 ministry teams of the city of Gothenburg into about 10 teams.

The reason is the proposed new model of local structure of the Church of Sweden, expected to be adopted by its General Assembly next year.

THE Church of Sweden youth organisation of the diocese was happy to have two young representatives from Glasgow & Galloway at its All Saints meeting in November.

BISHOP Graham Cray (CofE) was given an enthusiastic reception when he gave a talk about 'Fresh Expressions' and 'Mission-Shaped Church' at a seminar in October.

BISHOP Per has expressed support for the partnership diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa after police turned up in force at its premises in Mbabane, Swaziland, to stop a prayer meeting planned by labour unions and democracy activists.

I look at St Matthew's, here in Possilpark. At one end of the physical plant, The Place is now taking shape in the former rectory.

After a year of plans, plumbing disasters and redecoration, it is now the exclusive home of Faith in Throughcare: somewhere we can train volunteers as mentors supporting people on release from prison.

It has become a therapeutic place too and a neutral ground where often-fragmented families can begin to reconnect.

We have experienced challenge and transformation, are constantly examining our policies for safety and boundaries and have four times taken the group away to a quiet place in the countryside, to reflect on what the project is doing.

At the other end of our grounds, we have reclaimed wasteland and slowly built up volunteers to 'grow' the Concrete Garden.

This previously derelict post-industrial concreted quarter-acre now has more than 20 moveable raised beds, two greenhouses, a strawberry wall, a herb wall, a composting area, two storage sheds and a potting shed.

PHYSICAL

This has been a very physical exercise, and one could say it's about reconnecting people with the land, so not exactly spiritual.

However, it's also been an arena of transformation for vulnerable individuals and groups. It has provided the context for much celebration in times marked by uncertainty.

I'm told that the economic recession can't affect our sort of area much because here we are so welfare-dependent.

In fact, though, trying to establish transforming projects in such places with decades of historical poverty is an increasingly uphill struggle as we look to dwindling grant-making trusts week after week.

Nonetheless, this little report comes not from a despairing development worker (which is how I feel) but from a priest who is privileged to celebrate the Eucharist in the midst of this muddle of brokenness and transformation, taking it into a 'place' where all things find their fulfilment in Christ.

Thus I have discharged my duty for any writing on the Incarnation Season – I have described Hope!

I can neither understand it nor articulate it. (And there are no boxes for Hope on the funding applications!)

But I see it physically week by week in people's lives and find that nothing less than the Eucharist can express it. A physical response from the Church becomes transforming for people's lives here and now, and gives Hope.

It's a spirituality!

HELPING TO WRITE THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE? JUST THE JOB!

HAVE you ever thought that you would like to be part of history and leave a unique legacy for future generations?

For most of us the opportunity doesn't arise. However it did for some people in Troon on 30 August in the unlikely setting of a tent pitched outside the front door of Morrisons.

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, Bible Society and Scottish Bible Society have created an online version handwritten

Talking pilgrims...

I AM keen to talk to any church groups or individuals who may be interested in playing a part in the Ayrshire Pilgrims' Trail—or just learning more about it.

The discipline of pilgrimage is on the increase, and not just among the 'usual suspects'. Christian pilgrims of all backgrounds are being joined in large numbers by others with open hearts and minds.

Miles of beautiful scenery and landmarks await 21st-century pilgrims en route to Whithorn.

Most of all, though, it is the people our visitors encounter who may make this journey one that has a special impact on their lives.

As in medieval times, local churches can enrich their pilgrim visitors' experience –and provide practical help to keep them going.

Ways to be involved include:

- ◇ *Meeting, talking and praying with pilgrims;*
- ◇ *Keeping church doors unlocked by day;*
- ◇ *Stamping pilgrims' passports;*
- ◇ *Offering a morning or evening meditation;*
- ◇ *Filling the gap where B&Bs are sparse;*
- ◇ *Making toilets/washing facilities/drinking water available.*

Please get in touch for more information, to join the mailing list or to arrange a meeting or talk.

Call 01292 610790 or e-mail susi@cormackbrown.com.

Susi Cormack Brown

by people across Britain from Troon to Taunton and from Wیشaw to Winchester. The project began at Edinburgh Castle on 19 June, the anniversary of the birth of King James VI of Scotland (James I of England) there in 1566. It ended at Westminster Abbey on 16 November with the presentation of the completed new Bible.

All Troon churches provided volunteer helpers so that, however computer-literate or nervous of new technology, every person who came along would be able to write two bible verses and add a personal dedication. The team from St Ninian's, namely Morag Ogg, Linda Rayner, Jane Thomson, Mary Thomson-Turner, our rector (Revd Canon Tom Montgomery) and myself, with the help of the People's Bible Touring Crew, ensured the verses were uploaded correctly. I played to my strengths

– either encouraging wet shoppers to come in and add their verses, or providing confidence to the more nervous e-scribes to work through the process.

I had hoped we would be able to choose our verses but we had to take the next ones yet to be written, so Troon will go down in history for writing up the slightly gloomy parts of the later chapters of Job. However, adding our own dedication meant it was a very personal experience. I was able to dedicate my handwritten verses to family, which had just been extended to a new generation with the birth of my great-nephew six days earlier.

The website for the People's Bible is www.thepeoplesbible.org. There you can view the verses and dedications written by famous people as well as your friends and relations in Troon or elsewhere.

Mabel Hildebrand

Call for churches to combat domestic abuse

THE Scottish Episcopal Church's Church in Society committee is supporting Scottish Women's Aid STOP campaign with the following guidelines on what faith communities can do to stop domestic abuse.

- ◇ Develop a statement at your place of worship which highlights that domestic abuse is contrary to the teachings of your religion and promote this on posters and in leaflets and faith community newsletters.
- ◇ Ask those with responsibility for leading prayers at your place of worship to pray for those experiencing domestic abuse and to help them understand that it is not their fault but the responsibility of the perpetrator.
- ◇ Check whether your place of worship has a domestic abuse policy that links to its child protection and adult support and protection policies. If so, encourage those with responsibility to receive training on domestic abuse.
- ◇ Ask for, or organise, domestic abuse awareness events at your place of worship.
- ◇ Make links with other faith communities working on this issue and arrange an interfaith event as part of the 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women (25 November – 8 December each year).
- ◇ Write letters and articles about domestic abuse, the Scottish Women's Aid 'Together we can stop it' campaign and any other initiatives you are involved in for your faith community newsletter or website.
- ◇ If you think someone at your place of worship might be experiencing domestic abuse, make it possible for her [or him] to tell you or someone else. You can get advice about how to go about this from your local Women's Aid group or the Domestic Abuse helpline 0800 027 1234.
- ◇ If you think someone at your place of worship might be perpetrating domestic abuse or condoning it, challenge this. You can get advice about how to go about this from the White Ribbon in Scotland campaign.
- ◇ Promote helpline numbers in your faith community leaflets and newsletters, posters and websites.
- ◇ Contact your local Women's Aid group to find out how you can support it.

For more information, visit <http://togetherwecanstopit.org> or contact provincial church relations officer Elspeth Davey (ChurchRelations@scotland.anglican.org).

'Experience of a lifetime' at Happening

Student Joanna Wilson prays that more young Scots will have the chance to go on a weekend she found inspiring and unforgettable. Here, she and Anthea Clarke offer a glimpse of what the Happening has to offer...

ANTHEA: It's the 'Happening' and it happened in September at Whalley Abbey in the Diocese of Blackburn.

'Happening – A Christian Experience' is a programme for teenagers and, like its name and butterfly emblem, it represents the Paschal mystery, recalling the resurrection of Jesus and what happens to all those who, with him and through his grace, are transformed by God's love.

The 'Happening' seeks to bring young people to a fuller personal knowledge of the Lord and to a deeper level of commitment and discipleship. It stemmed from a group of parents within the Cursillo movement who, having had their 'Cursillo Weekend', wanted their teenage children to have a similar experience.

JOANNA: I have just returned from the most amazing weekend of my life spent at Whalley Abbey for Happening #20.

Unsure of what to expect and knowing none of the other participants or young people on Team (those who run the weekend), I was quite nervous in the lead-up to the weekend.

However, the second I arrived I was completely and utterly embraced, both literally and metaphorically, by all the young people, most of whom knew each other from church and previous Happening weekends, by the adult 'Mums and Dads' (assistants) and by the Spiritual Advisors (SAs). None of these people knew me but I was made to feel fully accepted by, important to and, very quickly, loved by each and every one of them.

I was, from the very start of the weekend, made so aware of the unconditional love and acceptance of a Christian life. The relaxed nature of the weekend's activities gave me the freedom and encouragement to fully and wholeheartedly reciprocate in every possible way the warm welcome I had received when I arrived and the affection that so freely and warmly flowed through the Abbey. This is a feeling which, through praise and prayer, I have carried with me in

my post-happening experiences and I fully intend to carry on doing so forever.

The weekend was a perfect blend of study, creativity, peace and joy. From inspirational and thought-provoking talks and teaching from Team and SAs, post-talk prayer, discussion and group artwork, to very special times of worship in the Abbey, incorporating anointing and the laying on of hands, to the singing of some modern and very meaningful hymns accompanied by one of the young Team on the guitar, every activity and experience was touching and significant in its own special way.

ROLLERCOASTER

It was quite an emotional rollercoaster, with one minute the joyful experience of receiving Caritas (gifts of love through prayer) for the first time and realising the glorious power of prayer and the love of God, to an emotional walk with Christ to Calvary through readings and prayer, to a most profound moment of quiet found in the chapel following the evening service.

Throughout the entire experience, however, I felt nothing but joy and peace. While we shared a quiet moment in the chapel, wanting not to talk but simply to be together, Marion, one of the SAs, said at that

During the weekend the teenagers are encouraged to take a renewed faith back into their worlds to 'make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ'. They do not automatically become members of the Cursillo movement - the 'Happening' is a totally separate Christian experience - though they can be part of a Cursillo weekend when they are older, if they wish.

During the summer I spoke about the 'Happening' to teenagers at my own church, Holy Trinity in Ayr. One of them, Joanna Wilson, was very keen.

So it was that, ahead of moving to Spain to continue university studies, Joanna met Bernadine Williams, a member of St Mary's Cathedral and St Silas in Glasgow and Scottish representative for the 'Happening', and they travelled together to Whalley Abbey.

moment that she could see the joy of Jesus in my eyes. Upon my sadness at the prospect that this moment would have to end, she told me that this was a little glimpse of heaven to be treasured forever. I treasure this moment and these words in my heart.

I was overwhelmed by the deep, confident and open faith of all the other young people and have been inspired to use my own faith in every aspect of my life from that day forward.

I have no doubt that my experience of Happening has changed my life, giving me a sureness of self and faith for which I am truly thankful. I will carry that sense of joy and peace now with me in all that I do, trying every day to pass that on to all that I meet.

I met such awesome people who, I am in no doubt, have become life-long friends.

I cannot wait for my next Happening, next time as a member of Team, and I pray that then there will be others from Scotland lucky enough to enjoy this experience of a lifetime. It is truly the most amazing and unforgettable experience.

□ For more information about 'Happening' or Cursillo, contact Bernadine: 0798 334 9519 or email bernadinewilliams@gmail.com.

Journey in Faith course Unit 2—Trinity and Church

THIS six-week course, from the Diocesan Education Action Group, follows on from Unit 1 but participants who have not done Unit 1 will also be welcome.

The sessions are offered at two locations: Holy Trinity Kilmarnock (led by Prof David Jasper on Tuesday evenings) and St Margaret's Newlands (led by Bishop Gregor on Wednesday evenings).

The first three nights cover:

- ◇ God the Father as Creator and Judge – including the problem of evil
- ◇ God the Son: Who is Jesus – divine and human?
- ◇ God the Holy Spirit: Who is the Holy Spirit?

◇ What does the Holy Spirit do?

Sessions 4 and 5 explore:

- ◇ The development of the early Church up to the end of the patristic period
 - ◇ How the SEC came into being
 - ◇ What a church is – by looking at different contemporary models of church
- Session 6 deals with God's call to the Church and to us as individuals.

The course runs from 17/18 April to 21/22 May.

For details and a booking form (registration is £10) contact Revd Gordon B Fyfe, Education Action Convener: 01475 673143, gordon.fyfe@virginmedia.com.

News and events in brief . . .

SOULS of our Shoes is an exhibition in St Mungo Museum, High Street, Glasgow, until Christmas.

Put together by the Scottish Inter-faith group (the Episcopal Church and the Mothers' Union are represented), who are working together to tackle domestic abuse, it is a display of shoes which speak on behalf of abused individuals, including some who die at the hands of their partner.

Other comments come from those who journey with them. Their reflections represent a faith perspective.

Further information from hilary.moran@btinternet.com or ann.glenesk@ntlworld.com.

STRUGGLING to make sense of the Euro-debt tangle? The BBC has produced a helpful interactive 'debt web', showing which countries owe what to whom. Try it out at bbc.co.uk/news/business-15748696.

One of the statistics it shows is that the UK's debt amounted to €117,580 per head of population in June.

FREE monthly newsletter *Inspires Online* complements the SEC's quarterly printed *Inspires*.

You can sign up by visiting inspires.org.uk/news.

ACHRISTINGLE service will be held at St Oswald's Kings Park on Sunday 18 December at 3pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. All welcome.

AYULETIDE afternoon takes place St Columba's Church

Hall, Aubery Crescent, Largs, 2-4pm, Saturday 3 December, with home baking and Christmas gift stalls. Tea ticket £1.50.

HOLY City is a monthly workshop and worship event for 'ecumenically-minded, curious folk'. It is hosted by the Holy City planning group and the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community.

The 2011-12 theme is 'Choice Cuts – faith and futures in a world in crisis'. Last Sunday of each month until 27 May at Renfield St Stephen's, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, 6.30-9.30pm.

UNTIL 14 January, Glasgow's Mitchell Library continues its exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of the 'Authorised Version' including two different copies of the original 1611 edition of the King James Bible.

AYR Fairtrade Shop will trade for two weeks from Saturday 3 December at 4 Beresford Terrace (near the Odeon). Staffed by volunteers, it will sell fairly traded Christmas gifts, cards and foods, Tuesday to Saturday.

St Margaret's Renfrew will be holding its annual Carols by Candlelight Service on Friday 16 December at 7pm. People of all faiths or none are welcome. There will be hot mince pies in the hall after the service.

ON Saturday 3 December there will be a 'Time of Reflection

for Advent', 10.45am-2.30pm, at Elshieshields Tower, near Lochaben, with coffee from 10.30pm. It is led by Canon Michael Bands. Participants should bring sandwiches; coffee is provided. Suggested donation £2. Contact Revd Dr Ann Shukman on 01387 810280.

THERE is a Taize service for Advent at St Columba's Largs at 4pm on Sunday 4 December.

AMEETING about a 'Brush up your New Testament Greek' group will take place with tutor David Preston at Elshieshields, near Lochmaben, on Friday 13 January, 11am-1.30pm. Bring a sandwich for lunch at 1pm. This will be an exploratory meeting to decide how to take things further. Contact Revd Dr Ann Shukman on 01387 810280.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the February 2012 issue may be submitted by **Monday 16 January** 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.

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