



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

Diocesan News

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FIRST CHURCH ON THE MAP!

GLASGOW & Galloway's first congregational Mission Action Plan (MAP) is now ready—earning plaudits for St Augustine's Dumbarton.

The team there has been working with the MAP process for two years, long before it became policy to encourage congregations to follow such a process as part of the diocesan Growth Strategy.

The outcome is a detailed document taking into account the needs and hopes of the neighbourhood in which the charge is set, and the ways in which St Augustine's members can deepen their work within and for their local community.

With the help of a MAP Facilitator, a small group from the congregation has been working hard over the past three months to refine the existing plans and graft them on to the diocesan vine. The resultant plan was signed on Sunday 15 January during the main service.

'SLOG'

Rector Revd Kenny Macaulay explained: "It's been a long slog: the culmination of two years' hard work, with a lot of navel-gazing, a lot of affirmation of current ministries, and lots of hopes and dreams for the future.

"The MAP ensures that we don't stand still or rest on our laurels, but continue to grow in our witness, ministry and mission"

NEW COMMUNITY AUDIT TOOLKIT

ONE of the strengths of St Augustine's MAP is the detailed knowledge it displays of the needs of the neighbourhood.

Now there is a toolkit to help other congregations take stock of their own surroundings, with all the tools they'll need to carry out a survey. Called 'Conducting a Community Audit', it has just been added to the list of downloadable diocesan workbooks.

Produced by ministry development officer Anne Tomlinson with members of the Church in Society Action Group, it is a resource for Stage 1 of the MAP process, helping participant congregations to survey their local neighbourhood, discovering its riches, resources and needs.

It also helps them to reconsider their own relationship with the communities resident or working therein; to look 'with fresh eyes' at their setting and their place within it. It can be downloaded from <http://md.glasgow.anglican.org>.

Kenny acknowledges that the MAP exercise may appear daunting at first, especially to smaller congregations. But it's worth persevering.

"If done properly," he says, "it should be a positive exercise which commends, affirms and supports the little charges who struggle on struggling on!"

Ministry development officer Revd Dr Ann Tomlinson and Dean Revd Ian Barcroft have been meeting with charges across the diocese for more than a year to shape and promote the Growth Strategy.

START

The Action Plan is the start of the process for each congregation. It includes an audit of the local community – and now there is a toolkit available to make that job easier.

Ann said: "One of the strengths of St Augustine's MAP is the detailed knowledge it displays of the needs of the neighbourhood in which it is set.

"Well done to the Dumbarton congregation for setting their goals so smartly (in every sense) for the coming year, and encouraging us all in this way. We look forward to others following their pioneering lead."

Ian added: "There has been a terrific response from charges to MAP-ping and 17 congregations have now embarked upon the process!"

"Huge thanks go to the facilitators for their willingness to give of their time and energy to accompany these congregations on their journey of discovery in 2012.

"This work could not happen without such dedication and energy, and for that we are truly grateful."

Also in this issue . . .

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Lightning strike brings down bell tower

Learning about Trinity and Church

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ADDICTION REMEMBRANCE

A service of remembrance for those who had died as a result of addiction proved a moving occasion last December at St Augustine's Dumbarton. Rector KENNY MACAULAY reports...

THE church was fairly full with mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends and caseworkers of young people who had died as a result of drug misuse, and of people who had died as a result of alcoholism.

Everyone was given the chance to name someone they had lost, and light a candle in their memory. There was a lot of healing and some closure going on.

The liturgy flowed well, and ended by remembering those still suffering on the streets and at home, with a great feeling and message of hope for all.

Afterwards we had coffee, tea and eats in the hall, where we were joined by a large gang of Narcotics Anonymous folk in recovery. That certainly gladdened the heart!

Hopefully, it will only be the first one of these services, and it will become an annual event in the town.

There were 18 drug-related deaths in West Dunbartonshire in 2011 alone. Unfortunately that number will be added to as the weeks and months and years progress.

A book of remembrance has been started, and it will be housed in St Augustine's.

Nothing can be done without drama at St Aug's, however, and after everyone was safely in the community hall blethering, the candles on the table at the front of the altar exploded into a huge flame.

A large dollop of baptismal water was used to 'pit it oot'!

Worth doing? Certainly!

Journey in Faith course: Trinity and Church

THIS six-week evening course, from the Diocesan Education Action Group, follows on from Journey in Faith 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 Tuesdays) and St Margaret's Newlands (led by Bishop Gregor on Wednesdays).

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

Dementia and faith workshop

FAITH in Older People, in collaboration with Dementia Positive, is running a day workshop on ***Creative Communication: finding ways to connect with people with dementia.***

It's on Friday 23 March in the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow.

The workshop will be participatory, offering new ideas and perspectives together with very practical approaches drawn from the experience of the presenters.

It will be facilitated by Kate Allan, a psychologist whose interests include communication, creativity and well-being in dementia, and writer John Killick, who has championed for many years the role of the arts for people with dementia.

Visit faithinolderpeople.org.uk for details.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

THE 2012 Diocesan Synod will be held at the Barony, Lochmaben, on Saturday 3 March.

Celebration service for lay ministries

THE annual service of Celebration and Renewal of Lay Authorised and Licensed Ministries will take place this year in St Mary's Cathedral, Great Western Road, Glasgow, at 1.15pm on Saturday 26 May.

A light lunch will be provided at 12noon. All Lay Readers and people in Authorised Ministry are encouraged to attend to celebrate their role and renew their commitment.

This year Pastoral Assistants and Worship Leaders will, with the continued support of their rector and vestry, require to have their authorisations renewed as part of the three-year cycle of re-authorisation.

Friends, family and supporters from the congregations are welcome to attend to celebrate and affirm the commitment of those who serve the church in these particular roles.

Lent pilgrimages to the Cathedral

BISHOP Gregor warmly invites SEC members across the diocese to join him during Lent on a day of pilgrimage to our Cathedral.

There are three dates, each allocated to one or more of the diocesan regions.

Starting with coffee at 10am, the morning programme will include a tour of the Cathedral, led by the Provost, on the theme of Sacraments, then time for photos and personal exploration of the building.

After lunch at noon, there will be the chance to visit a Gurdwara or a Mosque. Bishop Gregor will celebrate Eucharist at 3pm, before the pilgrims' blessing and departure.

Pilgrims should register through their own church. They are asked to bring a packed lunch. Coffee and tea will be laid on.

The dates (all Saturdays) are: 25 February for Ayrshire and Renfrewshire members; 17 March for Glasgow and Lanarkshire members, 24 March for Galloway members.

Mission, growth, and all that . . .

The Vestry of St Columba, Largs, made the Diocesan Growth Strategy the theme for our Awayday last month, writes **JENNIFER FITZGIBBON**.

We first of all had to tackle the questions ‘what is mission?’ and ‘why mission?’

‘What is Mission’ was fairly easy – and there were lots of answers. But when it came to the ‘why’, things were not so clear-cut. The obvious answer was to quote the biblical injunctions, but using these alone seemed like preaching to the converted.

The elephant in the room was, of course, that without mission there would be no growth, and without growth our church would wither and die from lack of funds – not very convincing to those we are trying to attract!

We reflected on what our faith, our church, our worship means to us, and

how it helps us in our lives. Everyone has patches of trouble, loneliness, fear, insecurity, grief. We found in various ways that the Church gave us security, peace, and companionship in the ‘grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit’.

This is not to say that we have all the answers, or that we are members of an exclusive club.

What the church offers is available to all, and mission does not mean offering ‘membership’ to ‘non-members’, but rather a reminder that there is a place for everyone who wants to find peace and be valued unconditionally in their own right.

Christmas can be an ideal opportunity to get that message across. It is a notorious time for loneliness, when people realise that there is something missing in their lives. It is a time when people who forget about the church for 364 days of the year are apt to feel the

stirrings of nostalgia and turn up to a carol service or a Christingle, or even to Midnight Mass. That can be the first point of contact which could draw them in when they are reminded that there is a place for everyone here.

The next ‘big opportunity’ is Easter. The sheer joy, exuberance of Easter music, and the embracing of regeneration and new opportunities can also make people wonder what it is that gives us such optimism.

As we approach Lent, perhaps, instead of private abstinence, we could engage more with the social ills in our community, such as poverty, domestic violence, injustice, and need. This could set people wondering what is it about these Christians that makes them love everyone so much, and perhaps make them want to find out!

Jennifer is secretary of the Diocesan Action Group for Spirituality

Drumming and dance in the Cathedral

KNOWN affectionately as ‘Chucks’ to friends and colleagues, Revd Chukwuemeka Iwuagwu was ordained priest by Bishop Gregor on the Festival of the Epiphany in St Mary’s Cathedral.

For the past year, Chucks has served as non-stipendiary curate at the Cathedral, and that church was filled with a large crowd to witness, and participate in, his ordination to the priesthood. Chucks will continue to serve on the Cathedral team.

A combined choir of some 50 adult and junior voices thrilled the congregation with their rendering of two anthems. At the end of the service, not to be outdone on the music front, an impromptu group of Nigerian musicians gave a vibrant and robust exhibition of drumming and dance.

Graeme Hely

BISHOP’S LENT APPEAL

THE beneficiary of this year’s Bishop’s Lent Appeal is Waverley Care, a charity which has, for 21 years been providing care and support to people who are living with or affected by HIV.

In many ways, the nature of HIV has changed. It is no longer a terminal condition and, with the right treatment and support, people can live relatively normal lives. What hasn’t changed, however, is the stigma of HIV. Those who live with HIV live with the added burden of secrecy, with both adults and children being unable to confide in friends or neighbours for fear of being judged or victimised.

People live in constant fear of others finding out. The impact of stigma on emotional and spiritual health is profound. This is where Waverley Care’s work can make such a difference.

The charity is there to provide support to everyone whose lives are affected by HIV. They work with adults and children from across every sector of society.

HIV doesn’t discriminate; anyone can be affected. Through one-to-one and group support, Waverley Care can turn lives around, rebuilding self-confidence and helping people to know that they are valued, loved and cared for.

INTERCESSION training sessions last year in Glasgow, Ayr and Galloway were well attended by clergy and laity and there have been requests for more.

If you or anyone else in your congregation would be interested in the next workshop, contact Gill Young (gill.young13@gmail.com) or write to the Diocesan Centre (office@glasgow.anglican.org).

Ayrshire Pilgrims’ Trail

I AM keen to hear from church groups or individuals interested in playing a part in the proposed Ayrshire Pilgrims’ Trail—or just learning more about it.

The discipline of pilgrimage is seeing a growth in interest—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 historic landmarks await 21st-century pilgrims on their way to Whithorn.

Most of all, though, it is the people our visitors encounter who may make this journey one that has a special and lasting 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:

- ◇ *Talking and praying with pilgrims;*
- ◇ *Keeping church doors unlocked;*
- ◇ *Stamping pilgrims’ passports;*
- ◇ *Offering a morning or evening meditation;*
- ◇ *Refilling water bottles;*
- ◇ *Testing some of the trail.*

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

You can call me on 01292 610790 or e-mail susi@cornackbrown.com.

Susi Cormack Brown

News and events in brief . . .

ST Margaret's Newlands will hold a Countdown to Earth Hour evening to mark Earth Hour, on 31 March.

Arrive at 7pm for supper, singing and other activities to raise awareness around climate change issues. Cost is £5 (or alternatively bring a contribution to the supper).

This year's Earth Hour will see people all over the world switching off their lights at 8.30pm for an hour – a rolling wave of darkness to remind governments that climate change needs a global response. More information at www.earthhour.org.

DIARIES, Filofaxes, smart phones and other time management aids were brought to St Mary's Cathedral for the Blessing of the Diaries on New Year's Day, to consecrate each person's time in the coming year.

PIANIST Gusztáv Fenyő returns to St Bride's Kelvinside with four recitals featuring the four greatest classical composers. His 'Vienna Series' juxtaposes Schubert's sublime last three sonatas with works by Haydn and Mozart, while the last con-

cert, devoted to Beethoven, concludes with the extraordinary 'Eroica' variations. Fridays at 8pm: 2 March, 30 March, 27 April, 18 May.

Phone 0141 339 2708 or visit www.fenyo-musicmakers.co.uk.

BISHOP Ted Luscombe's history of the Scottish Episcopal Church, 1688-1888 – *A Tale of Two Centuries: Scots and the developing Anglican Communion* – is available from Ann Shukman, Elshieshields Tower, Lockerbie DG11 1LY.

It costs £12.50 including p&p (cheques payable to Ann Shukman) or £10 if you collect from St John's Dumfries.

This 250-page study is a full and fascinating account of the growth of the influence of the SEC overseas and at home.

The Fellowship at St Ninian's Church, Bentinck Drive, Troon will hold a coffee morning on Saturday 18 February in the church hall. All proceeds will go to this year's charity which is Mary's Meals.

ASILENT prayer group meets at Elshieshields, near Lockerbie, on the first Saturday of the month, 9.30-10.30am. Call Ann Shukman, 01387 810280.

THE God Factor is a beginners' introduction to faith which has run several times at St Mary's Cathedral. If you would like to attend the next one, contact Revd Cedric Blakey at viceprovost@thecathedral.org.uk.

SECONDARY pupils across the diocese are invited by St John's Episcopal Church in Dumfries to a residential weekend of music, games, worship and Deep Stuff from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon., 17-19

February. Contribution £20 (reductions available for families and low-incomes).

Accommodation is in the church hall; delegates should bring a sleeping bag and mat.

Leaders are encouraged to bring a group (please contact first to discuss).

Full programme and application form at www.stjohnsdumfries.org.

Call 01387 254 126 or e-mail youth@stjohnsdumfries.org.

GALLOWAY priest Revd Dr Ann Shukman is one of an international line-up of speakers gathering in Moffat for a conference to commemorate Fr Alexander Men who was murdered in 1990.

It takes place in St Andrew's Church, 14-17 September.

Book before April to get the early-bird discount. Full details at www.alexandermenconference.com.

THE Bothy at Elshieshields, near Lockerbie, is a fully furnished and equipped one-room hermitage available for private retreats at £10 a night including firewood and linen. Ring Ann Shukman on 01387 810280.

ST Michael's Helensburgh needs good-quality, second-hand large (men's) black cassocks and white choir surplices. If you can help, contact john.sadden@btinternet.com.

WILL you give a virtual gift this Mothering Sunday, 18 March?

Mothers' Union's Make a Mother's Day gifts range from mosquito nets to mobile phone credit for a volunteer overseas. Whatever you choose will be funding the MU's work in some of the world's most deprived communities. The order deadline is 7 March.

For a catalogue call Hilary Moran on 01475 686213 or order online: www.makeamothersday.org.

Lightning brings down bell tower

A LIGHTING strike has inflicted further damage to the church building that used to be home to the congregation of St John's Girvan.

During last month's ferocious gales, lightning hit the bell tower, sending it crashing through the vestry roof, damaging tiles, and scattering debris over the road and neighbouring gardens. The bell itself landed in the grounds.

It was in 2008, only shortly after the congregation had stopped using the building and removed the furnishings, that the flat roof of the tower succumbed to rot and heavy rain and fell into the chancel.

Fortunately, no one was hurt on either occasion.

The property goes up for auction again this month, with planning permission in principle for it to be demolished and replaced by new homes.

Meantime it remains a burden on the small congregation, which now worships in Girvan's Methodist Church.

Next month's Diocesan News . . .

ARTICLES for the March issue may be submitted by **Monday 13 February** 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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