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Magazine Material

Material for the April 2009 issue of the Magazine should be submitted by ***Sunday 22nd March*** so that the magazine will be available on Sunday 29th March. Material can be supplied as usual on paper but (preferred option) as a computer file on floppy disk or by e-mail to the editor at: raanderson1@btinternet.com All Saints’ material: please post or deliver to the editor (19 Craighdu Road, Milngavie, G62 7TH). St Andrew’s material can be given to the editor at church, as usual.

The new Charities References in Documents (Scotland) Regulations 2007 require us to include charity information in documents from April 1st. The Magazine needs to carry this information as an “official publication”

All Saints Church is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC005552
 St Andrews Church is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC008683
 Drumchapel Church is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC023102

PASTORAL SECTION

Pastoral Letter

March, 2009

Dear Friends,



Following on from Fraser's letter last month in which he commended the Lent courses on offer at St Andrew's and All Saints, I was prompted to consider the content of these courses as described elsewhere in the magazine. In both cases, the session headings pointed to qualities or characteristics of the Christian faith which, were we to exhibit them in our daily living, would make our faith a winsome one.

The course being undertaken at Bearsden is entitled *Spot the Difference* and apparently, the final question it asks is: 'If you were put on trial today for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?' This was the question put to both our congregations by Ken Shaw at the end of his sermon on Sunday, January 11. Another way of putting that question might simply be, 'How seriously do we take our faith?' and it's a question worth asking if we are to offer some sort of response to the diocesan conference held last spring on the theme of 'Leading your church into growth'.

The most obvious thought that springs to mind, perhaps, as we think about that title, is a drive to increase congregational numbers – that would be church growth purely in a numerical sense, and it may indeed be part of the story. It's one thing though, to attract people to come to church initially; it's quite another to get them to stay and grow spiritually. The latter, I believe, is a far more important aspect of growth, and is what Jesus was concerned to address in the parables of growth, (Matt. 13) including the Parable of the Sower (Verses 1-23). In that parable, we may recall that of the four types of soil that the seed (God's word) landed on, only one yielded a true harvest. As Jesus explains the parable, it becomes clear that it is the quality of our faith that counts – faith that endures through thick and thin and doesn't wilt at the first sign of trouble, or balk at the total commitment required of us.

The fruit of that true harvest will include the qualities to which the Lent study session headings allude. These qualities will be far more convincingly evident in our lives if we have a thorough grasp of the truth that lies at the heart of the gospel, for our best efforts at getting people to come to church will yield

nothing in the long-term if we fail to communicate the message that underlies our faith.

So as well as a lifestyle that is transparently in line with the values of God's kingdom, there must also be proclamation. In a book entitled *Humble Apologetics*, the author, John Stackhouse, makes the following statement: "...we must recall that just as the Christian religion is not to be reduced to 'good ideas,' it is also not to be reduced to 'good morals' or 'positive feelings' or 'charitable acts.' The gospel bears fruit in all of these respects to be sure. But the gospel is primarily the salvation message of God's love for us and his caring for us especially in Christ. And that very particular content cannot possibly be inferred from mere good Christian behaviour."

Many people – including, amazingly, some within the Church – seem not to have understood that salvation message, for their perception of the Church is of a body of people trying to make themselves acceptable to God by good works, thus 'earning' their entry to heaven. Nothing could be further from the message Christ lived and died to bring home to us. Instead, we should see ourselves as people who, by their own best efforts, could never hope to get to heaven; who could never, by any stretch of the imagination, justify themselves before an all-holy God. We should, in fact, see ourselves as people who have been reconciled to God through Christ. Recognising that all the work of atonement has been done on the cross, our response is to repent of our past failures and, out of gratitude for what God has done for us, gladly do good works. (Remember, God loves a cheerful giver, not one who, grudgingly, feels obliged to perform good deeds in an attempt to please him.) Knowing this, we ought, then, to proclaim what God has done in our lives. In Ps 107:2, we read: 'Let those who have been redeemed by the Lord, say so...' It is essentially the same message that Ken Shaw gave us in his sermon of 8 February.

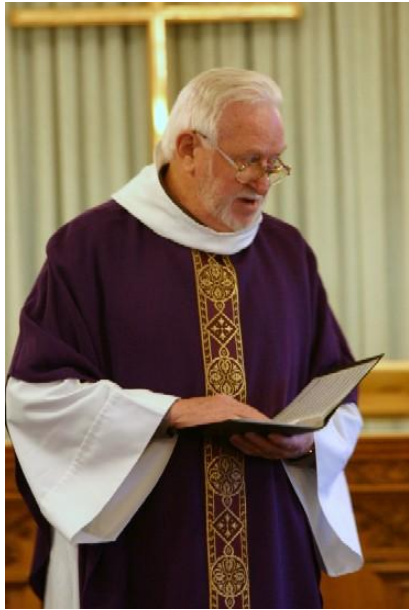
Elsewhere in this magazine, I believe there is a notice about the Scottish Episcopal Church's Provincial Conference to be held in Aviemore later this year. The conference aims to equip us for mission, and if we think this is a matter of no consequence, we should reflect carefully on the quotation by the Rt Revd Dr Bob Gillies, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney, at the end of the notice.

Once again I ask, how seriously do we take our faith?

Yours sincerely,

Michael

Ken Shaw's Sermon on Epiphany VI



Mark 1:40-45

Today's readings contain interesting reflections on the notion of "social acceptability." Two thousand and more years later the topic has become part of our national make-up. For when people are different, those with the most features in common band together and single out *'the other.'* The nature of any perceived *'difference'* can determine the way children are incorporated into the community. International wars have been started over these *'differences'*. Meanwhile, we continue to harass the *'different.'* Some are seen as *'social defects'* -- like people who are obese, or have HIV/AIDS, or are paraplegic, or are refugees from less humanitarian countries than our own. As a consequence we limit

our range of social contacts with them and we limit their contacts with society as a whole.

The leper seeking healing was one of *'those other people'*. Unlike Naaman, commander-in-chief of the Syrian army, he did not have a high status -- indeed, as an outcast, he had no status at all. To the average citizen in his community, he was nothing more than a faceless beggar. We are not even given a name for him. We have no sense of family or any other significant relationships in his life. What we do know is that he did not need *'the right connections'* to have access to a holy man. He went to Jesus directly for help. No ritual was required, and no one *'worked the system'*.

He went to Jesus willingly, and his healing was immediate. Whilst Naaman had found his faith only *after* he experienced healing, it was *by* faith that the leper in the Gospel was led to Jesus. And it was *in* faith that he went to Jesus. He needed no proof of Jesus' power - he believed that Jesus could do whatever he chose. And in response, Jesus the

Jew did not shun the company of this *'unclean'* man. To the contrary, he restored his health - simply for the asking. And having made the sick man well, he sent him back to the synagogue to be restored to the community of the

faithful.

Both the stories of Naaman and the leper consider healing to be a holy action, gained by divine intervention. But the latter of the two affirms the reality that one does not need high status or affiliation with the right people to receive blessings from Almighty God. We might cherish material comfort, social connections, and homes in the ‘*right*’ communities, but the Gospel always calls us to consider the ways in which such advantages can become obstacles in our pathway to God.

For instance, whilst leprosy is without doubt a terrible disease to have, is it not more terrible to be unloved, unwanted, or abandoned? One of the worst things that can happen to a human being is to be rejected – for rejection hurts beyond any other state or emotion. It damages one's self-worth. It makes a person feel worthless. It makes one want to shrivel up – or, conversely, openly rebel.

Rejection is particularly devastating for children, the elderly, and the handicapped. To a child, abandonment by its parents is equivalent to death. The elderly fear rejection more than all their infirmities put together. And the deepest wounds of the handicapped are caused, not by their physical or mental limitations, but by the rejection they experience.

And the rest of us, I’m sure, have experienced the pain of rejection at some time in life. Of course there are ways of insulating oneself from rejection - risking little, wanting or needing nothing, avoiding relationships. At times it might seem better to build walls and avoid relationships than to risk suffering rejection. But is this not a bit like cutting off ones feet so as not to need shoes?

The leper who approached Jesus was a reject. He was forced to live outside the community. People wouldn't even touch him. He was considered to have been rejected by God. So, the worst suffering came not from the leprosy itself, but from the pain of being ostracised by all. But Jesus cut through all of this. He was moved with compassion, and then he did the unthinkable. He reached out and touched him. He gave him a sign of welcome and repaired his sense of being dirty and unworthy, of being nothing but human scrap. In other words, before healing his broken body, he healed his broken self-image. So when we reject people we are in effect treating them as 'lepers', even though we may not be conscious of so doing. And think on this. It is very easy to reject a person in small but subtle ways - by the tone of ones voice or even by a look. But these pinpricks of disapproval have the habit of accumulating into serious long-term damage.

The flip side of the coin, of course, is acceptance. Acceptance is the *only* answer to rejection. Acceptance gives you a feeling that you are worthwhile. Jesus accepted the leper just as he was. And each of us longs to be accepted for what we are. This is how Christ accepted the leper, and how he accepts us. And how, in our turn, we should learn to accept others, and to reach out to those who are suffering the pain of rejection.

We have seen Jesus' reaction to the stigma of leprosy as he embraces the outcast and thereby becomes an outcast himself. For a few moments, in the place of the leper, let us see – in our mind's eye - some of the 'outcasts' in our society, and consider how the hand of Jesus, through us, can be stretched out to embrace them.

See the anxious face of the nine-year-old in the school playground, the persistent victim of bullying. Ask yourself how the hand of Jesus can be stretched out to restore the battered self-esteem.

See the haunted face of the adolescent trapped in growing substance - dependency, avoiding the interrogation of family, friends and the law. Ask how the hand of Jesus can be stretched out to restore the lost autonomy.

See the weary face of the single parent struggling to survive on ever - decreasing benefit, unable to afford life's social pleasures. Ask how the hand of Jesus can be stretched out to restore the lost self-confidence.

See the unshaven face of the middle - aged man grappling with the loss of employment and with the recognition that he is now unlikely to be re - employable. Ask how the hand of Jesus can be stretched out to restore the loss of self-respect.

See the greying face of the ageing widow trapped within the home she can no longer properly maintain, increasingly forgotten by family and friends. Ask how the hand of Jesus can be stretched out to restore the lost peace of mind.

Throughout the Bible our attention is focused on the uncomfortable truth of a God who simply does not work in ways we might, today, consider 'proper'. In human society we measure people's value by their relationship to what we consider to be the centre of 'the action' - whether it's based on material wealth, or culture, or geography, or national origin, or gender, or age, or orientation, or profession, or whatever determines who's 'in' or 'out'. But Divine Action - the healing, transforming power of God - is invariably found among the people we consider the most unworthy.

God is calling us to rethink all those circles we create to include some

people and exclude others. As he does every day Jesus is calling us to re-examine the barriers we raise to ensure that only the '*right*' people come into the framework of our fellowship. And the Holy Spirit is calling us to remember that the systems of power that we construct on a local, national or international scale, do not limit the power of God's action to heal and transform the world. Weapons of mass destruction, vast arsenals of military machinery and technological superiority notwithstanding, the Scriptures teach us, time and time again, that Jesus came into the world not to support the 'centres' of the powerful but to touch and heal those on the 'margins' – the powerless, the abandoned, the excluded, the degraded and exploited of every race, nationality or creed - the ones with whom '*right*' people do not associate, but whom righteous people recognize as fully God's own. The challenge of the Gospel then, is not to include them into '*our circle*' but to allow God to expand that circle until it most fully reflects the richness that he alone has created, where relationships mirror the love that he has for everyone, regardless of social station.

It should be part of our daily prayers that our eyes may be opened to see the hand of God at work in our fellowship of faith – our hearts be opened to the helping, healing touch of Christ in our lives - and our arms be opened to uphold, empower, and strengthen all who walk in the Spirit. And that we may play our part in bringing the healing of the Gospel to the outcasts of this present day world.

Ken Shaw

Update on the Vacancy and Rectory

Vacancy:

As many of you will know, advertisements for a new Rector have now been placed in 'Inspires' and 'Church Times', and our Profile is available on the Diocesan website. The deadline for applications is March 6th, and there has already been a certain amount of interest in the position. Please continue to pray for all those involved in the selection process. If all goes well, we should have found our new Priest by the end of April.

Rectory:

A new Rectory, at 67 Stockiemuir Avenue, has been purchased. This well-equipped modern house, in excellent condition, satisfies all the requirements of the Provincial Guidelines on clergy housing and is well-placed for access to All Saints and St Andrew's.

Let our Children Have a Childhood

Letter from Margaret Sherwood

To: All Concerned Parents and Grandparents, Faith Groups and Members of the Community.

As the Social Policy Contact for the Mother's Union (MU) in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, I have just received information from The Mother's Union Headquarters in Mary Sumner House, which is of potentially great importance, not only to the concern which we espouse in MU but also to the wider community but there is a need to act quickly and not delay.

On December 2nd the Scottish Parliament's Committee of Equal Opportunities held a debate on the subject of

“Sexual Imagery in Goods Aimed at Children”.

Comments were made by a number of people from groups likely to be concerned such as NSPCC, the Scottish TUC, the Solicitor General etc.

Points were raised that certain products and activities could be damaging to children in their development.

- It was thought that some products e.g. clothes with inappropriate words on them, may lead to children becoming innocent victims of paedophiles or encourage some children to behave in “sexy” ways that they believe are adult – again opening them to danger;
- It was not clear to the meeting at what age children are able to understand inappropriate messages that are actually being advertised or presented to them;
- It was also not clear who is directly responsible for placing these sexual images in front of children. Is it the responsibility of the producers, is it the responsibility of the retailers of the goods being sold, or is it the responsibility of their parents to monitor all that their children see or buy?

It certainly seems completely against MU ideals that anyone should be selling a child's Pole Dancing Set.

THE FINAL OUTCOME of the meeting was that further research needs to be done on this subject in order that the problems can be overcome. With many issues involved here it is important that our laws are fashioned in a way that can become effective.

The whole of the discussion can be read at:

<http://scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-1702.htm#col1702>)

Unfortunately it appears that because of their limited budget the committee is likely to be unable to proceed with this issue unless there is sufficient evidence from the public about their concern.

THIS IS WHAT CONCERNED PEOPLE CAN DO

Please will you yourself along with as many other members and friends as possible, contact the Equal Opportunities Committee indicating how important we consider the issue of Sexual imagery in goods aimed at children and that it is vitally important that more research is done on this subject. Children, parents and wider society are affected by commercialisation and the Scottish parliament has a vitally important role in addressing it. It might be an advantage to stress in your response if you are a member of a Christian organisation or MU whose principal aim is the welfare of Families.

You can contact the Equal Opportunities Committee Clerk, Terry Shevlin at either:-

terry.shevlin@scottish.parliament.uk

or

RoomT3.40, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh , EH99 1SP

You may also like to express your thoughts to your own MSP

e.g. G 61 David Whitton –David.Whitton.msp@scottish.parliament.co.uk;

G62 –Des Mc Nulty - Des.Direct@scottish.parliament.uk

If you feel it would help to have a draft e-mail/letter on which to base a response, here is one format below. Please use whichever parts of this you feel most strongly about.

DRAFT LETTER

TO The Equal Opportunities Committee of the Scottish Parliament,

I have recently learned of the discussion you held on the 2 Dec 2008 on the subject of “Sexual Imagery in Goods Aimed at Children”, and learned with regret of the situations highlighted by your witnesses. I am sure that families already find the pressure of commercialisation on their children and the pester

power that accompanies it, a great burden. Having spoken to many parents, I know that they find the added problem of sexual imagery on goods intended for children, greatly alarming, as I do.

This is a problem that affects the future adults of this country. They, in their formative years, are absorbing distorted ideas and being affected mentally, socially, dietarily and educationally. The future success of this country could be placed in jeopardy.

We need a society where there is responsible, retail marketing of products. The protection of children is paramount. It is vitally important that more research is done on this subject. Children, parents and the wider society are affected by all commercialisation and the Scottish Parliament has a vitally important role in addressing it.

I do hope that you will press for support to continue the vital work of addressing this problem.

Yours faithfully, etc.

Companions together or Twinning by Another Name

As you may have read in the February Magazine, the Province is to hold a conference in Glasgow on Saturday 21 March. Sue Brough and Jan Macdonald will be attending and we are pleased that in response to our invitation, Revd Elson Mageza, (Pastor of our twinned Muhura Parish in Byumba, Rwanda for nine years before he moved to Bushara Parish) will be coming up to Glasgow to visit us from 20 until 22 March. We shall be having a buffet supper on Friday 20th March in St Andrew's Hall to welcome him and names for this evening should be given to Sue Clarke. On the Saturday Elson will attend the conference at which we at St Andrew's have been asked to address the meeting on our experience of twinning over the last few years. There are still places available for this conference (see last magazine for information).

Elson has been invited to preach at our 9.15 a.m. Mother's Day Family Service on Sunday 22 March after which we shall have an extended coffee hospitality in the hall. He is going to teach us an African Hymn and we look forward to that. Although this is not a Joint Service it would be really nice if we were joined by a few members from All Saints that morning – Elson is used to around 2000 at his services so it would be good to fill St Andrew's!!

Latest news: our efforts to twin with a parish in Kentucky have now

borne fruit and we are in touch with St Andrew's, Glasgow, Kentucky and the Revd Susanne H Barrow, who is their full time vicar, has been in touch with us. Her e-mail is copied below. Sue Brough has offered to be the correspondent with Kentucky.

W Gordon Rutherford

From St Andrew's, Glasgow , Kentucky

e-mail from Revd Susanne H Barrow

Dear Gordon,

How nice to hear from you... it's so exciting to begin this journey of faith together. I couldn't open the attachment, but I have someone in the congregation who is what I call a computer "guru" and I'm sure she can figure it out. As vicar to St. Andrew's, I am full time and very fortunate that the Diocese of Kentucky supports this ministry here in South Central Kentucky. We are a growing congregation and look forward to sending you more information of all we do. I also pastor a Presbyterian Church in Munfordville, Ky, as a way to bring both denominations together in service to rural folks. So I have "very Scottish" roots of faith I represent!! Thank you for getting back to me.... Blessings, grace and let's begin the "work God has given us to do",

Suzanne+

St Andrew's Charitable Giving

In response to various requests we have now sent the following sums from our Annual Tithing Allocation:

- RNLI - £50, to mark their 150th anniversary on 30 January
- Mission to Seafarers - £50, in response to their Lent Appeal, AND
- Emmanuel Home, The Evangelical School in Ramallah - £100, as a further gesture in the present difficult and stressful climate in that country. We hear that a group of the children from 7th year were able to visit the Holy sites in Bethlehem as well as Nablus and Sabastia although the return was delayed by four hours because of difficulties at Check Points. Children were very excited with the experience. A further group from 3rd year were also proposing to visit Bethlehem but we do not know if that was permitted.

W Gordon Rutherford

NOTICES

From All Saints Registers

Funeral

20 January Nan Leckie (mother of Sheena MacDonald)

The Eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33:27

Baptism

15 February Gavin Stuart Bryson, son of Yvonne (Hall) and Graham Bryson

Lunch date for your diaries

The youngsters in the discussion group would like to invite the congregation and any friends to a Spring Lunch on Sunday 26th April. Soup and sandwiches will be served after the service that morning. They are hoping to raise some funds towards the cost of their Scripture Union camp in the summer holidays, so we hope as many of you as possible will come. They get great benefit from these holidays, making friends with other young Christians, and having time to think about their beliefs - as well as having fun.

Thanks for your support,

Kate & John

Bishop's Lenten Appeal

The 2009 Bishop's Lenten Appeal is for Aquaboxes, which are a fast and economical way to deliver water purification supplies to communities at risk of water-borne disease. They have been used extensively in disaster areas. Cash raised will be passed to Rotary to buy Aquaboxes. Rotarians in our congregations may be able to arrange a speaker and/or additional publicity. More information on Aquaboxes can be obtained in the Diocesan News and at:

<http://www.aquabox.org/project.asp>

All Saints Lent Study, March 2009

- starting on March 4th and 5th at 7.30 p.m.

Plans are well underway for our joint Lent Study with New Kilpatrick Church based on the booklet, **Spot the Difference**, by Nick Fawcett. For those of you who heard Ken Shaw's sermon on January 11th and the final question he asked of us:

**"If you were put on trial today for being a Christian,
would there be enough evidence to convict you?"**

This is also the question asked of us in this study. Five qualities of a Christian life are explored, one each week: *a quality of love, a spontaneity of witness, a disposition of joy, a generosity of spirit and a vibrant inner faith.*

We will meet weekly on **Wednesdays at New Kilpatrick small hall, Thursday at All Saints, Glenburn Hall** - choose which night suits you. The Revd David Scott will hold a communion on both final evenings. Of course it would also be open to people from other churches to join. It would be lovely if as many of you as possible joined one or other of the evenings each week - and bring a friend too! New Kilpatrick will fund half the cost of the 30 copies of the booklet (price £6.99) now purchased. *It would be very helpful to have an idea of who would like to attend so that we can order sufficient books.*

For further details please contact Janet Stack 942 3921 or email:

janet.stack@btinternet.com

Lent Course in St Andrew's

The recently produced York Course under the title 'These Three ... Faith, Hope and Love' will be used on five Wednesday evenings in Lent in the church, starting on 4th March. The course explores the famous passage in I Corinthians 13. Five recorded interviews of about 15 minutes each feature Tom Wright (Bishop of Durham), Christopher Jamison (Abbot of Worth) and Anne Atkins (novelist and broadcaster) answering questions posed by Canon Simon Stanley. Each discussion has a closing reflection by Methodist minister, Professor Frances Young. There are suggestions for discussion and other resources for each session, which will last for one hour. The session titles are Believing and Trusting, The Peace of God, Faith into Love, The Greatest of These, and All Shall Be Well.

Provincial Conference, 2 - 4 October 2009

MacDonald Highland Resort, Aviemore

The theme of the conference is "**Living Well - Proclaim, Discover, Respond**" and is based on the Biblical story in John 4:3-43 – the encounter between Jesus and a woman at a well. The Principal speakers include the Bishop of Reading, the Rt. Revd Stephen Cottrell, Mrs Annabel Goldie, MSP and the Revd Erik Cramb of the Church of Scotland. Between them they will explore the main themes of the conference based on the **Five Marks of Mission**.

A large number of group leaders will be working at the conference with groups exploring different aspects of the Five Marks of Mission in relation to the biblical story in John's Gospel about the woman meeting Jesus at the well, her going off to tell the Samaritan villagers about Jesus and then them coming to him and believing the story of his message.

How does the Five Marks of Mission theme link to the key speakers?

Stephen Cottrell will be addressing the first three:

- proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God
- teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- respond to human need by loving service

Annabel Goldie will lead us in how to:

- strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Erik Cramb will look at ways to:

- seek to transform unjust structures of society

A quote from an interview with **The Rt Rev Dr Bob Gillies, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney**, chair of the Conference Planning Group:

"If Anglicans do not fundamentally start thinking about what mission means and how they are going to apply mission and how mission applies to them then we are really losing the plot about what being a Christian is all about. Unless we are concerned about mission then we may as well pack up our bags and go home and become secular social workers. "

Members wishing to attend should obtain application forms from the Diocesan Office (0141 221 2694, e-mail: office@glasgow.anglican.org) or from the Provincial website at www.scotland.anglican.org where there are more details about the conference.

CHURCH GROUP ACTIVITIES**Mothers' Union**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, namely the British weather, the AGM which would have been held on 9th February had to be cancelled. However, it is now planned to hold it at 6.30 p.m. on 9th March before the Branch Meeting, which is also our Quiet Evening.

Nine of us were at January Intercessions, followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. We took the opportunity to discuss the branch, as it is now and the way forward. In 2½ years time we are due to celebrate the 50th Birthday of our branch, started in 1961 by Gwen Mawbey and others, at the suggestion of Canon Bisset.

Dates for your diary:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----|---|
| February | Sun | 28 | Intercessions, Choir Vestry, 10.45 a.m. |
| March | Mon | 2 | Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. |
| | Mon | 9 | AGM, 6.30 p.m., Quiet Evening, 7 p.m. with leader Mike Graham |
| | Wed | 11 | Holy Communion, 10 a.m. (MU Corporate Communion) |
| | Sat | 14 | Diocesan Council meeting in Kilmarnock |
| | Mon | 30 | Intercessions in choir vestry, 10.45 a.m. |

June Roac

GLASGOW & GALLOWAY DIOCESAN NEWS

March 2009, Issue 83

THREE WEDDING FAIRS AND...

'ARE you the bride? Where will you be getting married? Would you consider a church wedding?'

Last month, when the Scottish Episcopal Church took part in the Scottish Wedding Show at Ingleston, Ayr's Holy Trinity had a stand at another two-day wedding exhibition at Ayr Racecourse.

It was our congregation's first foray into the marriage industry marketplace. Within days we had an invitation to exhibit at a smaller wedding show the following Sunday at the town's Horizon Hotel.

Both events proved a worthy experiment and a great learning experience, even though many visitors had booked their venue already.

Many had started their families already too. Convoys of baby buggies rolled past us – their passengers often feasting stickily on kebabs from the chocolate fountain stand.

At first, people were taken aback to see a church in the marketplace. But on reflection they admired our enterprise and the intention behind it. To the press, we were a compelling novelty. A red-top journalist rang up for details. We got a half-page write-up in our local paper too. That exposure alone resulted in a booking ahead of our first exhibition.

Our stand team was three congregation members plus rector Ian Meredith. We took the initiative to engage with visitors, listening more than telling, stewarding our time and theirs thoughtfully. I think we would have made any sales manager proud.

The stand looked attractive and businesslike. It inspired confidence in us and the people we wanted to trust us with their big day. Big photos of the buildings (Holy Trinity and our smaller sister church, St Oswald's in Maybole) took a trick. Many visitors loved the idea of being married in such a beautiful setting.

Most were surprised to find how affordable our rates are. Small wonder: this is a high-budget business. One exhibitor was offering a backdrop of white voile drapes with fairy lights to hire for the 'special' price of £275 – almost twice our fee!

It came home to us that church weddings are going out of fashion. It will not be long before few couples planning their nuptials will have attended a friend's wedding other than in a hotel or registry office.

That, too, is an opportunity, though. Couples who opt for a Christian ceremony in a non-church venue will at least have opened themselves (and their guests) to an encounter with a church leader who can command their undivided attention as they commit to a lifelong adventure. That moment may help them view their marriage not as an event but a daily sacrament.

The two exhibitions have brought us three bookings so far, slightly more than we needed to cover the cost.

But was it unseemly for a church to set out its stall in the marketplace?

With hindsight, I'd say it's something we should have done before now.

We went out and engaged with people by starting with their agenda, not ours. We got noticed, and in a positive light.

We capitalised on our assets like attractive architecture. I think the good stewards in the parable of the talents might have done the same.

We broke the ice and dispelled some myths with people who had the impression they weren't entitled to make their vows in church. For some, the gratitude for that discovery was almost palpable. Those couples would not have risked the humiliation of rejection by taking the initiative to ask.

If one encounter stood out for me, it was the mum we stopped who admitted she wasn't keen on a church wedding, but her partner might be. As we chatted, though, she began warming to the idea.

When she wondered, unprompted, if her toddler could be baptised too, it wasn't down to clever sales talk on our part.

All we'd done was open the opportunity for her to ask for something her heart already wanted.

Holy Land tour with the Bishop

A PILGRIMAGE through Israel and Palestine will be led by Bishop Idris in November.

It is designed to introduce people to the places associated with the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus, and to let them meet members of Christians communities in Palestine and Israel today.

Bishop Idris says:

“As we visit the Galilee, we will explore the principal sites of Jesus' ministry around Capernaum and his home town of Nazareth – and whilst there meet Anglican Christians involved in running a most remarkable church school in this predominantly Muslim town.

“In Bethlehem, as well as visiting the Church of the Nativity, we will visit a modern-day neonatal hospital run by Roman Catholic Christians, and a college and cultural centre that is the pioneering work of a Lutheran Pastor.

“In Jerusalem, as we trace the steps of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa to the place of his death and resurrection, we will also worship alongside the local Palestinian Anglican community.

“By coming on this pilgrimage you will have a chance to support many local Christians in the Holy Land.

“Accommodation and other local provisions are in the hands of well-established Christian companies, and the investment that this pilgrimage represents will play its small part in helping sustain the ‘living stones’ that help keep this land holy today.”

The dates are 9-19 November. Tour cost is £1,559 including return flight from Glasgow and half-board (some single rooms are available at a supplement). Full details are available online from Lightline Pilgrimages (lightline.org.uk).

Make your voice heard where it counts

Do you want to make your voice heard by people in power?

Do you want to influence decisions made by the council, Scottish Government, Westminster, the health service or other bodies that affect your community?

Have you started to campaign for change and want advice on how to get to the next level?

If so, this month's Sheila McKechnie Foundation campaign workshop in Glasgow is for you.

The day will provide: insight into the 'keys to success'; sessions on key steps in planning and evaluating a campaign; and the chance to consult experienced campaigners, MPs and journalists.

The workshop is for individuals and voluntary organisations and will be held on Friday 20 March at the Long Term Conditions Alliance Scotland (LTCAS), Venlaw Building, 349 Bath Street.

Places are limited. Fee is £10 per individual, which covers lunch and refreshments. Contact Ruby Coote: ruby.coote@sheilamckechnie.org.uk or 020 7770 7852.

Making more of international links

HAS your congregation any overseas connections? Would you be interested in visiting our companion dioceses?

If you please let us know what you have been doing, and come to an exciting conference on 21 March, writes *GILL YOUNG, Companion Dioceses Action Network convenor.*

Our diocese has many international links, personal, congregational and diocesan, both within the Anglican Communion and beyond, particularly through our ecumenical covenant with the diocese of Gothenburg.

Companion relationships with Byumba in Rwanda and Kentucky in the USA continue at regional and congregational levels. Clergy have visited Kentucky and a group from Kentucky spent time in Glasgow at the end of last year. Our friendship with Byumba is maintained through prayer, finance, emails and phone calls. Mutual visits form the mainstay of these relationships. Plans are afoot for various exchanges.

Hosted in Glasgow by the Provincial Overseas Committee, the conference will examine how we can develop our Companion Links. *Companions Together Worldwide: a day for exploring Companion Links*, will feature stories, challenges and the way forward for your church.

Speakers include Revd Canon Edgar Ruddock and Stephen Lyon. Pastor Elson from Byumba. Presentations from the MU and other dioceses will also share experiences of Companion Links.

If you are interested in attending or helping, or want to share what you are doing, please get in touch.

It's on Saturday 21 March, 10am–3:30pm, in the Albany Centre (off Woodlands Road). Coffee from 9:30am. Lunch provided.

A registration form can be found at companionstogether.org.uk, or you can contact me on 0141 332 2160, (info@companionstogether.org.uk).

Come as you are – back to church

Darren McFarland explains how this year's Back to Church Sunday will work here in the west...

BACK to Church Sunday is an initiative to rekindle churchgoing primarily amongst people who have, for whatever reason, stopped going to church.

At the heart of Back to Church Sunday is the invitation from one person to another.

It is held on the last Sunday of September each year. For a lot of people in the west of Scotland this is a problem as it is often a holiday weekend. So it has been agreed that churches in Glasgow & Galloway can choose the Sunday before, while at the same time staying prepared for newcomers on the Sunday that's advertised nationally.

Back to Church Sunday began in the Manchester Diocese in 2004 and in the last four years has grown exponentially. Last year, 37,000 people returned to church on Back to Church Sunday. Of those, 31,000 were Anglicans.

In all, around 3,000 churches took part – inspired by Tearfund research that recently revealed three million people (six per cent of the adult population) would come back to church if they received a personal invitation. Research by the Diocese of Lichfield after last year's Back to Church Sunday showed that, six months after the event, between 12 and 15 per cent of 'returners' had become regular members.

Why has Back to Church Sunday been such a success?

Two factors seem significant.

The first is the basic methodology of personal invitation.

At the beginning of September participating congregations will begin thinking about who they will invite to join them. In prayer, they will commit those people and themselves to God's care as they make their preparations for welcoming people.

They will focus upon a wholehearted acceptance of people and offer a welcome which is genuine and appropriate to each individual congregation's context.

Back to Church Sunday produces resources to enable congregations in this process.

Each year has its own theme which is used on prayer cards, invitation cards, balloons, fairly-traded T-shirts and worship resources. This year's theme is 'Come as you are'.

All the resources are produced in partnership with Traidcraft which sponsors Back to Church Sunday.

The second factor is having a designated Sunday.

Research has shown that people are more comfortable coming back to church if they know that there are going to be other people 'just like them' there too that Sunday. Back to Church Sunday provides that more comfortable opportunity which is ripe for using as a good news story in local and national media.

Back to Church Sunday will have been launched at Diocesan Synod and information will be available from the diocesan clergy about a short training event at the beginning of March.

If you are interested in being involved or think you might have missed out on information please contact me at rector@paisley2.freeserve.co.uk or on 01505 812359. For further information about Back to Church Sunday visit backtochurch.co.uk.

Revd Darren McFarland is secretary to the diocesan Mission Core Group

MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY

Mothers' Union again is highlighting its work with mothers and carers facing adversity, through its Make a Mother's Day virtual gifts with Mothering Sunday cards.

Gifts include a £28 birthing kit, a place on an MU literacy circle, plants, livestock and latrines.

Supporters can also choose a gift in memory of their mother.

Last year the campaign raised £159,000 to help mothers, and carers of vulnerable and bereaved children. Visit www.makeamothersday.org. Order by 13 March to ensure delivery before Mothering Sunday, 22 March.

Want to brush up your presentation skills?

The Diocesan Information and Communications Network would like to hear from you if a workshop over one or two Saturdays would be useful for situations such as...

- *Discussing your faith journey;*
- *Pitching for a grant;*
- *Delivering an annual report;*
- *Addressing a public meeting;*
- *Briefing a project team.*

Please email the Network via dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk to register interest.

Getting more from your press opportunities

TRAINING in media relations may be arranged by the Diocesan Information and Communications Network if there is enough demand.

A course over one or two Saturdays could cover subjects such as writing effective press releases and making the most of media opportunities.

To register interest, e-mail dns@episcopalglasgow.com with some details about the topics and skills you'd like to work on.

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL

THE Bishop's Lenten Appeal this year is for Aquaboxes.

Run by Rotary International, Aquaboxes are a fast and economical way to deliver water purification supplies to communities at risk of water-borne disease. They have been used extensively in disaster areas.

Cash raised will be passed to Rotary to buy Aquaboxes. Rotarians in our congregations may be able to arrange a speaker and/or additional publicity. Visit aquabox.org/project.asp for more information.

MUSIC DAY HITS THE RIGHT NOTE

THERE was a very good attendance for Education Action Network's Music, Chants and Choices workshop on 31 January in Greenock, writes convenor LINDA WHITBY.

Our speakers were brilliant: Revd Darren McFarland, Ian McCrorie, Revd Anne Tomlinson and Frikki Walker. Grateful thanks go to them all for being inspiring, amusing and revealing about troubles in the pews and choir stalls.

They made us aware of our wonderful heritage and tradition, the varied modern music and words around today and how to manage where there is no choir or musical instrument

in the church. We tried new words to old tunes and old words to new tunes – great fun and very enjoyable. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Our May workshop will be ‘Pray it with Flowers’. More details soon.

PATHWAY TO PRAYER

PATHWAY to Prayer is an annual ecumenical day in Troon exploring our relationship with God through prayer.

This year it's on Saturday 28 March, 10.15am-4.30pm, at St Meddan's and Portland Church halls.

Participants choose three out of the following sessions.

Revd Ann Shukman: Praying with icons; Fr Stephen Motroni: Singing the prayers of the Psalms; Deaconess Chris King: Praying when God is silent; Sr Isabel Smyth: Insights into prayer from other faiths; Deaconess Muriel Wilson: Immersing ourselves in the love of God; Mrs Barbara McCulloch: Prayer junctions for intercessory prayer.

Lunch will be provided. You may book your place and workshops in advance or choose on the day. For a booking form and more details contact Chris King, 01563 851197.

Glasgow Chamber Choir and Orchestra

(director Michael Bawtree)

BACH: Cantatas, motets and a mass

Christ lag in Todesbanden

Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen

Missa Brevis in G minor

Komm, Jesu, komm

Der Geist hilft

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm - Hyndland Parish Church

Sunday 22 March, 7pm - Holy Trinity, Fullarton Street, Ayr

Tickets £10 (£6 conc) on the door.

News and events in brief...

THE 2009 Diocesan Synod for Glasgow & Galloway will be held on Saturday 28 February in the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, starting 10am. Registration from 9am.

WAVERLEY Care's 'Come and Sing' is a workshop conducted by John Rutter at Wellington Church, Glasgow, 28 March, 11am-5pm. It includes Rutter's 'Look to the day' and 'Mass of the Children' and Haydn's 'The Heavens are Telling'. Cost £13.50 (£9.50 conc). Registration form from waverleycare.org or 0131 226 2206.

A BOOK sale takes place for Christian Aid on Saturday 28 March at St Ninian's, 1 Albert Drive, Pollokshields, 10am-1am. Contact Rosemary on 0141-637 8324.

THE Scottish Episcopal Church is looking for volunteers to help at the Rural Churches

Stand at this year's Royal Highland Show, 25-29 June. E-mail m.robbs@carroglen.com.

THE Archbishop of Southern Africa, the Most Revd Thabo Makoba, requests a day of prayer throughout the Anglican Communion for the people of Zimbabwe. Bishop Idris asks that you include Zimbabwe in your prayers on Ash Wednesday.

ST Margaret's Talents hosts an art exhibition, 7-22 March, with original works for sale, including paintings, prints, textiles, photos and cards. It opens with wine and cheese on Saturday 7 March at 7.30pm. Visit St Margaret's, 353 Kilmarnock Road, Glasgow.

THE Arts Chaplaincy in Scotland with the Actor's Church Union in Scotland is presenting a conference titled 'The Drama of the Passion' in Perth Concert Hall on Saturday 21 March. Spaces are limited. Contact Revd Ann Mazur at ann@mazur.org.uk.

HOLY Trinity Kilmarnock will host a Tuesday gardeners' club for four weeks from 10 March. It's aimed at all levels and will cover a wide range of topics from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

GLASGOW'S Ignatian Spirituality Centre is offering a group retreat on Wednesday evenings from 11 March: 'A Journey with Christ through the Paschal Mystery in Preparation for Easter'. Contact Caroline McKillop (carolinemckillop@yahoo.co.uk).

ELSHIESHIELDS Tower, Lochmaben, hosts an introduction to silent prayer over three Saturdays in Lent, beginning 28 February, 10-11.30am. Attend one or more. Contact Ann (ann.shukman@virgin.net) 01387 810280 or Louise on 07919204300.

THE next Provincial Conference for the Scottish Episcopal Church will take place 2-4 October in Aviemore. The theme is Living Well: Proclaim, Discover, Respond. The underpinning Bible narrative is the 'Woman at the Well' (John 4:3-43). Key speakers are Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading; Annabel Goldie MSP; and Revd Erik Cramb. Details from the SEC website.

THE Walsingham Festival for the Feast of the Annunciation takes place 28 March. It is an afternoon of devotion and celebration from noon until 4pm at Holy Trinity & Saint Barnabas, St James' Place, Paisley, with Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of Healing and Sung Eucharist. The preacher is Fr Gordon Fyfe, Rector of St Paul & St John the Evangelist, Monklands. Bring a packed lunch (drinks provided).

This year's Scottish pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham is 16-19 October. The cost is £220. Contact Sandra Fowles 01505 844865 or Fr Darren McFarland 01505 812359 or visit walsinghamanglican.org.uk. Places are limited.

Next issue . . .

ITEMS for the April issue may be submitted by **Monday 16 March** in prose text (***not*** leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to the editor, Susi Cormack Brown: dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk, or c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.

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DIARY SECTION
List of Preachers at Sunday and Midweek Services

| | | ALL SAINTS | ST ANDREW'S |
|-----------------------------------|----|--|---|
| March | | | |
| Sunday Lent 1 (P) | 1 | 11.00 FE Revd. Ken Shaw and Family Service Group 6.30 NP Mike Graham | 9.15 FE Revd. Ken Shaw |
| Tues | 3 | | 10.00 Ecumenical Prayer Group |
| Thurs | 5 | | 10.00 HE Revd. Ken Shaw |
| Sunday Lent 2 (P) | 8 | 11.00 SE Revd. Ken Shaw | 9.15 SE Revd. Ken Shaw 3.30 EP Robert Anderson |
| Tues | 10 | | 10.00 Ecumenical Prayer Group |
| Wed | 11 | 10.00 HE Revd. Ken Shaw | |
| Thurs | 12 | | 10.00 MP |
| Sunday Lent 3 (P) | 15 | 11.00 SE Revd. Ken Shaw 6.30 NP Bryan Stack | 9.15 SE Revd. Ken Shaw |
| Tues | 17 | | 10.00 Ecumenical Prayer Group |
| Thurs | 19 | | 10.00 MP |
| Mothering Sunday Lent 4 (P) | 22 | 11.00 SE Revd. Ken Shaw | 9.15 FE Revd. Ken Shaw 3.30 EP Gordon Rutherford |
| Tues | 24 | | 10.00 Ecumenical Prayer Group |
| Thurs | 26 | | 10.00 MP |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|--|-------------------------------|
| Sunday Lent 5 (P) | 29 | 11.00 MP Mike Graham 6.30 NP Simon Lowis | 9.15 SE Revd. Ken Shaw |
| Tues | 31 | | 10.00 Ecumenical Prayer Group |
| April | | | |
| Thurs | 2 | | 10.00 HE Revd. Ken Shaw |
| Palm Sunday (R) | 5 | 11.00 SE Revd. Ken Shaw 6.30 NP Andrew Long | 9.15 SE Revd. Ken Shaw |

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| HE | = Holy Eucharist (said) | RS | = Reserved Sacrament |
| HE(H) | = Holy Eucharist (with hymns) | EP | = Evening Prayer |
| SE | = Sung Eucharist | FS | = Family Service (non-Eucharistic) |
| FE | = Family Eucharist | NP | = Night Prayer |

Service Notes for All Saints and St Andrew's

Palm Sunday is called the Sunday of the Passion and will include a procession with palms and the Reading of the Passion

READINGS AND ROTAS

All Saints' Sidesmen

If unable to attend, please arrange for a swap

| | | Morning | | Evening 6.30 p.m. |
|-------|----|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | 8 a.m. | 10.15 a.m. | |
| March | 1 | 8 a.m. service suspended during the vacancy | John Sherwood Bryan Peck | Roy Thompson |
| | 8 | | Pauline Waugh Andrew Long | No duty |
| | 15 | | Mairi Ross David Hamblen | Bill Sharp |
| | 22 | | Janet Stack David Wheatley | No duty |
| | 29 | | Brian Dorrington Philip Escreet | Simon Lewis |
| April | 5 | | Bill Sharp Roy Thompson | Andrew Long |

All Saints' Readers and Intercessors

| | | 10.15 a.m. | | 6.30 p.m. |
|-------|----|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | Reader | Intercessor | Reader |
| March | 1 | TBA | TBA | Maxie Richards |
| | 8 | Ann Wheatley | Margaret Sherwood | |
| | 15 | Rob Smith | Rob Smith | Preacher |
| | 22 | Gillian Kingslake | Mike Graham | John Harrington |
| | 29 | Philip Escreet | Sheena MacDonald | Preacher |
| April | 5 | TBA | TBA | Maxie Richards |

All Saints' Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

| | | | | |
|-------|----|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| March | 1 | Ann Wheatley | Christine Fry | Sheila Benson |
| | 8 | Betty Neilson | Pauline Waugh | Fiona Hemple |
| | 15 | Elaine Perrett | Gladys Mitchell | Maureen Vaughn |
| | 22 | Barbara Thompson | Gillian Kingslake | Sheena Macdonald |
| | 29 | Jane Lewis | Dorothy Peck | Sheila Gray |
| April | 5 | May Campbell | Ruth Paxton | Margery Pollock |

*Name in **bold** to supply milk. Thank you for your support. Jean Stirling.*

All Saints' Readings and Hymns

| Sunday | Morning Readings | Morning Hymns | Evening Readings | Evening Hymns |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| March 1st Lent 1 | Genesis 9.8–17 1 Peter 3.18–end Mark 1.9–15 | TBC | Exodus 34.1–10 Romans 10.8b–13 | Night Prayer |
| March 8th Lent 2 | Genesis 17.1–7, 15,16 Romans 4.13–25 Mark 9. 2-9 | 270 316 438 MP 302 | Evening Prayer at St Andrew's, Milngavie, 3.30 pm | |
| March 15th Lent 3 | Exodus 20.1–17 1 Corinthians 1.18–25 John 2.13–22 | 451 453 324 MP 338 | Jeremiah 38 Philippians 1.1–26 | Night Prayer |
| March 22nd Lent 4 Mothering Sunday | Exodus 2.1–10 2 Corinthians 1.3–7 Luke 2.33–35 | 283 231 298 MP 225 | Evening Prayer at St Andrew's, Milngavie, 3.30 pm | |
| March 29th Lent 5 | Jeremiah 31.31–34 Hebrews 5.5–10 John 12.20–33 | 595 131 136 MP 162 | Exodus 24.3–8 Hebrews 12.18– end | Night Prayer |

St Andrew's Rotas

| Month | Date | Depute Church Warden | Eucharistic Assistant | Intercessor | Coffee |
|-------|------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|
| March | 1 | Jan | Steve | Mary | Clare |
| | 8 | Clare | Robert | Jan | Mary |
| | 15 | Pamela | Sue | Sue | Wilma |
| | 22 | Rosamond | Fraser | Fraser | Margaret |
| | 29 | Jan | Steve | Pamela | Nan |
| April | 5 | Steve | Robert | Jan | Pamela |

St Andrew's Readers' Rota

Note: the Loop system will be in the 'ON' position

| | | |
|-------|--------|--|
| Mar | Sun 1 | Clare McVey |
| | Sun 8 | Richard Booth 3.30pm Rosamond Falconer |
| | Sun 15 | Dai' Smith |
| | Sun 22 | Wilma Williams 3.30 p.m. Mary Finlayson |
| | Sun 29 | Sue Clarke |
| April | Sun 5 | Palm Sunday readers to be contacted |
| | Thu 9 | 10.00 a.m., Maundy Thursday Pamela Rutherford |
| | Sun 12 | Caroline Logan |
| | Sun 19 | Jan Macdonald 6.30 p.m. Rosamond Falconer |
| | Sun 26 | Steve McVey |

St Andrew's Readings and Hymns

| SUNDAY | MORNING READINGS | MORNING HYMNS | EVENING READINGS |
|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY Ash Wednesday 7.30 pm. Setting: The Galloway Mass Organist: Sue Harrington Celebrant: Revd David Wostenholm | Isaiah 58.1-12 2. Corinthians 5. 20b – 6. 10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21 | 359 444 438 35 466 | |
| Sunday 1 March The first Sunday of Lent Setting:Galloway Mass Organist: Hugh Macdonald | Genesis 9. 8-17 1. Peter 3.18-22 Mark 1.9-15 | 333 103 438 440 595 | |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday 8 March The second Sunday of Lent Setting: Galloway Mass Green Book Organist: George Inwood | Genesis 17.1-7,15,16 Romans 4. 13-25 Mark 9. 2-9 | 270 114 172 409 (ii) Green 13 (CH4. 533) (Play in duple time) | 3.30 pm Evening Prayer Isaiah 51. 1-11 Galatians 3. 1-9, 23-end Psalm 105. 1-6, 37-end |
| Sunday 15 March 3 rd Sunday of Lent Setting: Galloway Mass | Exodus 20. 1-17 1. Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22 | 451 251 508 MP 988 146 | |
| Sunday 22 March Mothering Sunday Setting: Galloway Mass Preacher: Revd. Elson Mageza | Exodus 2.1-10 2. Corinthians 1.3-7 Luke 2.33-35 | Mission Praise 152 For the Beauty of the Earth 23(i) All things Bright and beautiful 225 He's got the whole wide world Green 22. eat this bread Green 24. Stay with me 486 Now thank we all our God | 3.30 pm Evening Prayer Psalm 27. 1. Samuel 16. 1-13 John 9.1-25 |
| Sunday 29 March 5 th Sunday of Lent Setting: Galloway Mass Psalms for Singers | Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5. 5-10 John 12.20-33 | 508 PFS 51 136 391 531 | |
| Sunday 5 April Palm/Passion Sunday 9.15 am in Hall Procession to Church | <i>Liturgy of the Palms</i> Mark 11. 1-11 <i>Liturgy of the Passion</i> Isaiah 50. 4-9a Phillipians 2. 6- 11 Mark 14.1 - 15.39 | THIS IS THE FEAST FROM "Hosanna!" to <i>"Crucify Him "</i> | |

St Andrew's Diary

| | | |
|-----------------|----|---|
| February | | |
| Tues | 24 | Shrove Tuesday, pancakes in the church hall, 6 p.m. |
| Wed | 25 | Ash Wednesday, Joint Service at 7.30 p.m. |
| March | | |
| Wed | 4 | Lent study group led by Fraser Gold, in the Church, 7.30 p.m. or 7 p.m., also on 11, 18, 25 March and 1 April |
| Fri | 6 | World Day of Prayer |
| Wed | 11 | Book Club: <i>Grace Notes</i> by Bernard McLaverty at Sue Clarke's house |

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Wed | 18 | Vestry Meeting, 8 p.m., after Lent Study group |
| Fri | 20 | Supper to Welcome Pastor Elson |
| Sat | 21 | Diocesan Seminar on Twinnig |
| Sun | 22 | Preacher at the morning service will be Pastor Elson, who will also teach us an African hymn |
| Sat | 28 | Daffodil picking at Silverwells |

Stop Press

ChristianAid

Gaza crisis



Christian Aid is supporting its local partner organisations in Gaza. They desperately need funds to respond to the dire humanitarian situation. The 1.5 million people of Gaza need your help now. Please give generously.

Go to: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2009

This year's Christian Aid Week focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo.

From worship resources to planning and publicity materials, Christian Aid has everything needed to help make the week a success.

Faith in Older People

Forthcoming Events



Faith in Older People (FiOP) aims to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of older people by working with those providing practical, pastoral or spiritual care.

We work primarily with those who provide care whether paid or unpaid in order to increase an understanding of the vital importance of spiritual care and its impact on wellbeing during the ageing process.

Our courses and much of our written material provide practical methods and tools for use with older people to help them feel valued members of society, particularly for those who have dementia or sensory loss.

The following one-day (10am–4pm) courses or conferences are being offered:

Friday 13th March 2009 – Spiritual Tasks of Ageing £45

Old Boys School, Cathedral Grounds, Inverness

Facilitator Dr Harriet Mowat - Harriet has worked in the field of ageing and care of older people for a long time. She started her working life in residential care for older people and now runs a small research and development business as well as working at Aberdeen University in the Centre for the Study of Spirituality, Health and Disability.

Friday 27th March 2009 – Spiritual Tasks of Ageing £45

Salvation Army Citadel, 28 Castle Street, Aberdeen, AB11 5BG

Facilitator Dr Harriet Mowat (see above)