

“Encourage one another and build each other up...”

1 Thessalonians 5.11 (NIV)

You can choose your friends . . .

...but you can't choose your relatives, right? Well, not to hear it from retired banker Gordon Rutherford.

The church where Gordon serves as organist and treasurer decided to become a twin five years ago.

And, he reckons, St Andrew's Milngavie hasn't looked back since making its kinship link with a parish in Byumba, Rwanda, one of two Companion Dioceses to Glasgow & Galloway.

The relationship started when Pastor Elson Mageza came to St Andrew's Church on a visit to Scotland.

“He stayed with us for a few days,” Gordon recalled, “and was able to see the Scottish countryside. He showed a particular interest in the agriculture as he guides his flock of 2,500 in farming methods.”

Elson's hosts wondered they could usefully provide for his work back home. He asked for help to buy a motorbike to get round the congregations he serves.

It was a modest request: Muhura parish covers 900 square miles. Imagine nine Renfrewshires with a very different standard of roadways and you start to get an idea of how vast the place is. The St Andrew's congregation were glad to help.

The Scots church's next funding

project for Muhura was to help build a hostel for female teachers. It was to be the first of five.

Not only would this local accommodation spare the women a long and dangerous commute on foot to the secondary school, it would generate rental income for the church.

The gift of a wireless computer followed. It helped Elson widen his communication network, and he was able

Imagine nine Renfrewshires with a very different standard of roads and you start to get an idea of how vast the place is.

to attract sponsorship for 120 parishioners from a US-based Baptist organisation.

Pastor Elson was moved last year from Mulhuro to another parish, Bushara. Only 25 miles from Rwanda's capital, Kigali, his new home still had no reliable water supply or electricity.

So St Andrew's folk got approval

from Bishop Onesphere to send £400 for a water tank (sadly arriving not quite in time to catch the spring rains).

And, by carol-singing in a local restaurant and then hosting a strawberry tea some months later, the Scots have drummed up £500 to buy a solar panel. It means Pastor Elson can power his computer without a 50-mile round trip to Kigali.

Meantime, in Muhura, the Milngavie links remain strong. The parish's new pastor is Dismas Ngendabanga. Recently qualified from Ugandan Christian University, Dismas has fallen heir to that five-year-old motorbike.

Communication with Muhura parish is mainly by e-mail. It's sporadic, but reliable, Gordon says.

“We also send our magazine out there and it does arrive. We pray for each other and share subjects for prayer.”

Just last month, St Andrew's staged a variety show to raise cash for building another hostel.

TRIPLETS

The Milngavie congregation is now making moves to twin with one in Kentucky, Glasgow & Galloway's other Companion Diocese. Or rather to 'triplet', for they're keen to make it a three-way relationship that equally involves the African Christians.

There's an opportunity for another church to twin with Pastor Elson's new Bushara parish.

Gordon would recommend the experience: “We have found the relationship very positive. We feel closer to our friends in Rwanda and have standing invitations to visit.

“We can let anyone have Pastor Elson's and Bishop Onesphere's e-mail addresses if this were of interest.

“Equally, we would be interested to hear how others of our diocesan churches have approached the idea of twinning with Byumba.”

You can contact Gordon by e-mail: wgordon@talktalk.net.

Also in Diocesan News this month...

Half-century celebration for New Town's first church

Cash to help you grow your talents

Taking stock of our worshipping life

Taking care of church land and buildings

Wanted — the story of a day to remember

Meg's back again from Africa

Conferences and events to stir and inspire you

Golden celebration for New Town's first church

CUMBERNAULD'S first church is 50 this year and you're invited to help the congregation celebrate.

Holy Name will have an open day on Saturday 20 September, 10am-2pm, with items from the archives on show, and members on hand to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday 21st sees a concelebrated Eucharist and gift day to mark the anniversary of the church's dedication at 10.15am. The Dean will be among the concelebrants. All are welcome.

As the first church opened in the New Town, its history mirrors the timeline of Cumbernauld. Although the building dates from 1962, it is 1958 that marks the true start of the church, when Revd George Sessford arrived and gathered a congregation of Episcopalians moving to the area.

Early members included Anglicans from England and Ireland who had been attracted to Cumbernauld by the new industries. Services were held at first in schoolrooms on Sundays and in the priest's house on weekdays.

Bishop Francis Moncrieffe took a special interest in Cumbernauld and raised an appeal across the diocese and beyond for funds to build a church.

The £28,000 church was the first to be built in the New Town, opened and dedicated to the Name of Jesus on 22 September 1962.

The architect, Hugh Wilson, a member of the congregation, was involved in the early part of the new town and also designed Abronhill Parish Church.

For more information visit holyname.bravehost.com.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness?

How was your summer? Despite the unsettled weather did you manage to have a rest and are you now refreshed and ready for the fray?

Now I'm in mid-life, my summer is usually characterised by long spells in the garden, endless cups of tea and mountains of books, interrupted from time to time by the odd wedding and the occasional visit to the hospital.

This summer has been completely different.

I've hardly managed any time in the garden. I've never been away from the hospital and my huge pile of books has gone unread. This, in fact, has been due to the weather, to the fact that several people for whom I have a pastoral concern have been seriously ill, and because I was involved in a small way in helping with some of the hospitality as the Diocese hosted six Anglican bishops prior to the Lambeth Conference.

Though very different from my usual summer, it has been challenging and rewarding and I feel glad that I've had the opportunity once again of listening and learning both from people in my own congregation and from around the world.

VISITORS

It is very easy to become absorbed in one's own patch – so it's quite refreshing when visitors lend a different perspective and bring a new sense of hope and joy.

Now the Lambeth Conference is over and the bishops who visited us will be back home.

I do hope their conversations and sharing have ensured that our communion does not fall apart and that the key Anglican characteristics of tolerance, acceptance and mutual love and respect hold sway.

Time will tell.

My prayer is that, irrespective of what happens, Christian people of all persuasions continue to talk to one another and work wholeheartedly to incarnate Christ's compassion in a world where so many cry out for inclusion, affirmation and affection.

I hope, too, that when the nights begin to draw in and the evenings become cooler, we may not lose sight of our mission to proclaim the gospel and to voice God's concern for justice, peace and the welfare of all his children; that we may accept this our common task and work together once again to serve our common Lord.

*Revd Canon Tom Montgomery,
St Margaret's Newlands, Glasgow*

Take a day to learn about the MU's worldwide work

Largs: 4 October

Castle Douglas: 21 October

THE Mothers' Union is holding two one-day meetings to give a wider perspective on the valuable work of members in 78 countries.

The meetings will cover Glasgow & Galloway's links around the world, funding of projects, literacy, parenting and family life.

You do not have to belong to Mothers' Union (or be female) to participate.

The first meeting will be at St Columba's, Aubery Crescent, Largs KA30 8PR.

It is on Saturday 4 October.

The second day is at St Ninian's, Whitepark Road, Castle Douglas DG7 1EX, on Tuesday 21 October.

There will be a stall at both events, with Christmas cards, diaries, calendars, prayer books and mugs for sale.

Both meetings run 10.30am-3pm with light lunch provided.

Booking is not essential, but would make it easier to plan catering.

If you would like to attend, contact Hilary Moran for the day at Largs (01475 686213) or Ruth McLellan for the Castle Douglas event (01387 255283).

THE Scottish Episcopal Church's next Provincial Conference will be at MacDonald Highland Resort, Aviemore, 2-4 October 2009.

The theme is *Living Well: Proclaim, Discover, Respond*, with the underpinning Bible passage of John 4:3.43 – the Woman at the Well. The conference also encompasses the five Marks of Mission agreed by many Christian denominations:

- ◆ *proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God;*
- ◆ *teach, baptise and nurture new believers;*
- ◆ *respond to human need by loving service;*
- ◆ *seek to transform unjust structures of society;*
- ◆ *strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

Speakers will be Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading; MSP Annabel Goldie; and the Kirk's Revd Erik Cramb.

Organisers are hoping for 300 participants, including delegates from the Provincial Youth Network, for what they promise will be an 'exciting, challenging, and thought-provoking experience'.

Cash to help develop your skills

WOULD going back to school help you in your voluntary work?

If your annual income is no more than £18,000 you probably qualify for an Independent Learning Account worth £200 a year towards part-time higher education classes.

As well as stand-alone classes, you may enrol for single modules within many full-time university or college courses.

There are hundreds of subject choices, including addiction studies, child care, first aid, food hygiene and desktop publishing.

Classes typically are one evening or half-day a week for 10-12 weeks. On-line training is also offered for some courses.

Many colleges waive fees for students on Jobseekers Allowance. And the University of the West of Scotland, with campuses in Ayr, Dumfries, Paisley and Hamilton, is one institution that offers a free module to newcomers.

Call 0808 100 1090 for an ILA Scotland application form.

ACTION GROUP FOR SPIRITUALITY

Tapestry of Prayer

10am-4pm

Saturday, 13 September — St Margaret's, Newlands

An opportunity not to be missed, with the eight threads of the tapestry woven by clergy from the diocese.

Understanding prayer in Old Testament contexts – David Kahan
Spirituality and cinema – Scott Robertson

An Ignatian approach – Caroline McKillop and Rosie Rutherford
Hymns as prayer – Kenneth Stephen

Windows of Heaven: Liturgy as encounter – Ian Meredith
Icons – Ann Shukman

Prayer and art – Donald Orr

Nature and the outdoors – Alex Laing

Participants are invited to choose up to three threads. In case some threads get fully booked, it would help if you could also give one alternative. A £5 cheque payable to the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway and sent to Rosie Rutherford, Greystone, 53 Moffat Road, Dumfries DG1 1NN, will secure you a place.

Footprints workshop

OUR Footprint in Society is a one-day workshop hosted by Education Action to look at three areas.

1. The environment. Everyone is concerned about our planet: the cost of food, the price for keeping warm, the price of fuel for our cars and alternative means of transport.

We are concerned about waste, both from our tables and from packaging. We hear about famines, droughts and flood in various parts of the world. What about the future – for us, our families, and others across the world?

What can we do to help protect the resources of our planet? Eco-Congregation Scotland (ecocongregation.org/scotland) has some ideas for participants to explore and hopefully take on board.

2. How we respond to the faith of older people. We are all getting older! There are many challenges associated with ageing: we become more creaky, we start turning into our parents. But we are all in need of care and attention. We all experience the same concerns about ageing and death. Faith in Older People (faithinolderpeople.or.uk) aims to celebrate the lives of older people and to support the spiritual care of older people and their families. There is sure to be some valuable information for all in hearing about Faith in Older People's work.

3. What the Church does for others. Church in Society Action Network helps local churches in the diocese develop partnerships and networks to engage with other organisations in responding to the needs of the community. The workshop will hear about the grants they are able to give, projects being worked on and hopes for the future.

Our Footprints in Society will be on **Saturday 6 September** at Holy Trinity Ayr (next to the bus station), 9.30am-3pm.

Booking isn't essential but it would be helpful to have some indication of how many will be attending to allow organisers plan for the free lunch!

Contact Linda Whitby, 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine KA12 8RQ (01294 276838), lindawhitby@btopenworld.co.uk.

Surveying our worshipping life

Convenor Darren McFarland reports on the Diocesan Liturgy Group's work . . .

TWO main areas of the Diocesan Liturgy Group's work will impinge upon the worshipping life of congregations in the near future.

Revision of the 1997 Communion from the Reserved Sacrament (administered by a deacon or lay

person) has been authorised.

In the short term this means the addition of an introduction on what the Church is doing when it provides for the use of the Reserved Sacrament at a public act of worship.

Also, the liturgical guidance

notes have been expanded and made more explicit.

Long-term, the liturgical text will be revised and will include a framework for its correct use within the main Sunday service and also seasonal material.

One spin-off from this is likely to be a Liturgy of the Word which can be used on a Sunday morning when a celebration of the Eucharist is not possible.

You may have noticed that last year was the silver jubilee of the 1982 Liturgy.

This prompted a request from the Faith and Order Board to initiate a survey on its use.

The volume of response from clergy and others responsible for the liturgical life of congregations was excellent, and members of the committee got some heavy summer reading as a result, which I doubt they were taking to the beach!

The plan is that the questionnaire responses will be used to prepare an initial overview for this month's Faith and Order Board meeting.

REVISION

Following the response and comment of the Board, a more detailed reading of the questionnaires will be required to enable the committee to identify if the 1982 Liturgy requires revision and, if so, in what areas.

More locally, the convenor's work is responding to requests from clergy and congregations for advice, material and texts for celebrating seasons, feast days and one-off liturgical extravaganzas.

In 2009 there will be a joint venture with the Education Group on music in the liturgy.

The group is looking for new members. If you are a priest or lay person with a passion for liturgy and all that it involves, please get in touch with me for more details: rector@paisley2.freemove.co.uk.

Wanted — the story of a day to remember

CAN you tell the story of a truly unforgettable day that's been part of your faith life?

Days Like This is a nationwide writing project run by Scottish Book Trust and BBC Radio Scotland.

JOURNEY in Faith courses are on offer from this month in Ayr and Paisley.

The courses are delivered by the Diocesan Education Action Network.

Units 3 and 4 of the Journey cover The Bible: Contextual Bible Study, Matthew, and Paul's letters; and all the Sacraments; Prayer in Monastic and daily life, in Scripture and tradition; Liturgy and Worship; and Lay Participation and Authorisation.

Unit 4 will run in Ayr from Tuesday 16 September and in Paisley on Wednesday 17 September. Planning has started for Units 3 and 4 to be offered in Hamilton in October.

More details here next month. Contact Linda Whitby, 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine KA12 8RQ (01294 276838, lindawhitby@btopenworld.co.uk).

Said a Trust spokesman:

"We're getting people to write about an important day in their life: one that left a strong impression on them. It has to be true and about just one day.

"It could be the day they didn't get married, or the day they got lost in a supermarket. It could be a childhood memory or something that happened yesterday.

"We are trying to involve a diverse range of people with unusual stories to tell and we're very interested in hearing stories from a variety of faith groups."

Submissions should be no longer than 1,000 words. All will be posted on the BBC website.

The judges' favourites will be recorded and discussed on radio. A book of the best will be published in 2009.

The deadline is 1 November.

For details visit bbc.co.uk/scotland/radioscotland/dayslikethis

Meg returns to Glasgow on visit from Africa

ALREADY known to many in the diocese, Revd Meg Guillebaud is here again on a two-week visit from Africa.

Now retired, Meg worked for many years with Bishop Onesphore in our Companion diocese of Byumba in Rwanda. There will be a chance to meet her at a meeting in St Mary's Cathedral after Choral Evensong on Sunday 31 August. She will be showing a film, *Choices*, followed by discussion and questions.

Meg preaches at St Andrew's Milngavie on Sunday 7 September.

Coming next month from our other Companion Diocese, Kentucky (which Canon David Bayne recently visited), are Revd Lucinda Laird, of St Matthew's Louisville, with Bob Nesmith and his wife. Details from Gill.Young@ukonline.co.uk.

Taking care of church land and buildings

The Diocesan Property Committee exists to offer help, advice, support and encouragement in all aspects of the care and development of church properties.

Its convenor, Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, Dean, sums up its main work over the past year . . .

OUR official remit is: to promote and encourage good stewardship and imaginative use of properties for the ministry and mission of our congregations.

In pursuance of this remit we meet monthly at the Diocesan Centre.

Members also undertake visits to churches in connection with various building projects and Canon 35 matters (alterations to church buildings).

The Committee administers all properties belonging to the diocese and advises the Diocesan Trustees on all

sales of property in the diocese, whether it be land or buildings.

To help those particularly concerned with the care of properties we have recently started to invite people region by region to attend a presentation at the Diocesan Office on what we can offer, to stay on over lunch and to observe a meeting of the Property Committee. So far two such events have been held and response has been very favourable. We hope that in this way our work will become better known and our

capacity to help will be improved. (Galloway people – don't worry: *we will come to you!*)

From time to time we still encounter uncertainty about the procedures under Canon 35, despite our best efforts to make them known.

Please make sure that you are familiar with the two-stage process for seeking consent to changes and all that it involves. You'll find it laid out in the Committee's very useful booklet, *Notes and Guidance for Vestries and Property Conveners*, which covers much else of interest. If you don't have a copy, it can be had from the Diocesan Office.

The best way to contact the committee is to approach the Dean, who is its convenor (0141 423 1247, fax 0141 424 3332, e-mail dean@glasgow.anglican.org). He is always willing to offer help or advice, if it is only to direct you to the right person!

As of August the committee comprises: the Dean (convenor), Elliot Glenesk (diocesan surveyor), Rebecca Cadie (diocesan architect), Terry Lillie (diocesan treasurer), Anne Sage (property convenor for the Bishop's House), Kirstin Freeman (minute secretary), David Bayne (convenor of organ sub-committee), Alan Wylie.

We wish to put on record our appreciation of the unfailing help and support offered to us by Jean and Christine in the Office.

Conferences, talks and courses

THE Edinburgh Churches Climate Change Conference on Saturday 11 October is open to all Christians interested in the science and theology of climate change and in how to respond to the challenge.

The day will be hosted by Bishop Brian Smith. Speakers include Chris Rapley, director of the Science Museum in London; Tearfund president Elaine Storkey; Michael Northcott, Professor of Ethics; and SEPA's John Ferguson. There will be a choice of 20 workshops on practical responses. To register visit edinburghclimate.net.

JEFF Halper, director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, will be speaking in Glasgow on 18 September.

The venue is Adelaide's, 209 Bath Street. The talk, 'The Plight of the Palestinians: from Occupation to Apartheid to Warehousing', begins at 7.30pm. The visit is sponsored by the Scottish Palestinian Forum with Scottish Jews for a Just Peace.

OLD age - wasteland or harvest field? is a conference organised by ACTS with the SEC and Faith in Older People. Speakers include Rt Revd Brian Smith; Fr Gerard Hughes; Margo MacDonald MSP; Prof John Starr; Alan Staff; CrossReach CEO; Revd Dr Albert Jewell.

Workshop options are :Worshipping with people with dementia; End-of-life issues; Safeguarding: the legal thicket; Continuing the church community outside the church building.

The conference takes place in Edin-

burgh, Wednesday 29 October. For booking form (to return by 10 October) and full details contact Tom Moyes (tommoyes@acts-scotland.org).

CLIMATE change is the topic of a conference with Christian Aid's Gavin McLellan at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, on Wednesday 17 September. For details and bookings (£20) call 01786 823588.

SCOTTISH Churches and Contemporary Migration is a conference hosted by ACTS on Wednesday 8 October (9.30am-4.15pm) at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh.

Workshops cover: Migrants' stories from Eastern Europe; Migrants' story from Africa/Asia; Impact on communities: COSLA and CS police; Economic perspective: agriculture and the food processing industry; Support organisations: union and Gangmasters' Licensing Authority; Churches: the Well, Glasgow, and the Catholic Church. For details and a booking form call 01259 216980.

THE coming programme at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre includes a spiritual accompaniment course for clergy, from 23 October for 18 Thursday afternoons. And starting on 14 October is a course on growth in prayer and reflective living. It's on Tuesday evenings plus two Saturdays, ending on 30 May. Contact the Centre at 35 Scott Street, Glasgow (0141-354 0077) or visit iscglasgow.co.uk.

News and events in brief...

MARKING the 100th year of St Mary's as cathedral church of the diocese, 6-7 September will be a Homecoming Weekend for all who have had a connection with the church.

A Saturday concert at 7.30pm features Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Tickets £7 (£5 concessions, under 16s free). Sunday's celebration choral evensong with choristers past and present has music by Tarik O'Regan, Stanford and Shephard.

CUMBERNAULD Male Voice Choir will be in concert on Thursday 9 October in St John's Greenock at 7.30pm. This is a second visit to Inverclyde for the choir.

Tickets £5; further details from Margaret Hanley (01475 729037).

FOCUS on Five, an exhibition and sale of paintings, takes place at St Mungo's Church, Alexandria, with works by Jim Murdoch, Jack Faulds, Ivor Jackson, Sally McDonnell and Bruce Williams. Opening times: Friday 12 Sept, 7-9pm (with cheese and wine) and Saturday 13 Sept, 2-4pm (with tea and coffee). Admission £2.

Next month . . .

- ▶ Is yours a budding Eco-congregation? Share your ideas and insights with the rest of us.
- ▶ Are you putting church growth plans into action? Help us all to learn from your experience.
- ▶ Is something exciting about to come up?
- ▶ Has something wonderful happened? Tell us and inspire us.

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*Items for the next issue may be submitted by **Monday 15 September** in prose text (not as leaflets or PDFs, please) to editor Susi Cormack Brown: dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk, or c/o the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.*

ST Ninian's Troon holds a St Ninian's tide service on Sunday 21 September at 6pm.

The music will be led by Stuart Muir, organist at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, with choristers from St Paul's and St Ninian's.

Preaching will be hymn writer John L Bell, member of the Iona Community. Wine and nibbles will be served after the service.

WHAT Are We Doing Here? – Daniel Klein's new documentary movie exploring the pros and cons of Western efforts to help poor countries – gets a special screening at Glasgow Film Theatre on Sunday 28 September at 7pm.

After the film will be audience discussion with a panel of international development specialists. More details on takeoneaction.org.uk.

FOR St Matthew's Day, Sunday 21 September, there will be a Patronal Festival Mass at St Matthew's Possilpark at 6pm with the choir of St Bride's, Hyndland. The celebrant and preacher will be Bishop Idris.

WDM Ayrshire's Funny Weather Pub Quiz on Wednesday 8 October has specialist rounds on climate justice amid the usual general knowledge trivia.

Quizmaster Mike McLean returns to chair this popular evening in West of the Moon, Arthur Street, Ayr, starting 7.30pm.

Booking essential: e-mail team name and number of members (2-6) to nem@fish.co.uk.

CATHY Wilson, a member of St Ninian's Prestwick, has become a Tertiary of the Order of the Holy Paraclete. Cathy took her third-order vows during morning service at her home church. The OHP Tertiary Order is a fellowship of 'ordinary' Christian women and men, united under a common discipline that is based on the rule of the Whitby-based Order.

THE diocese is to provide £2,000 to develop and maintain St Mary's Cathedral website, as it is seen as a shop window for the diocese.

AT Clarkston Toll, St Aidan's building extension had just been completed when the congregation learned the main contractor sadly had gone into liquidation. Other contractors have been taken on to complete the 'snagging'.

Said Graham Vahey at the church: "The memorial garden has been re-designed and looks splendid. The drains are being dealt with following past flooding, and the gardens are being re-landscaped. This will be completed in time for a wedding on 30 August and our patronal festival on 31 August when Bishop Idris will dedicate the new rooms etc."

THE congregation of St John's Girvan is planning to move to the town's Methodist church for a six-month trial of sharing from the end of September.

AN open diocesan meeting is to be arranged to discuss the Anglican Covenant. Two parallel approaches will be proposed to Diocesan Council – to invite anyone who has views and wishes to become engaged with the issue/process; and to encourage particularly Regional Conveners and Secretaries to attend and to have it discussed at Regional Councils.

WELCOME? is a compilation DVD of five short films on problems facing asylum-seekers and refugees and ways to help.

Available from Positive Action on Housing, copies are free for asylum-seekers, refugees and people on low incomes. Otherwise, the suggested donation is £15 for individuals and £75 for organisations.

Visit www.paih.org for details.

MAGAZINE EDITORS' DAY

Saturday 4 October

*St Margaret's, Newlands,
10.30am–4pm approx.*

Organised by the Diocesan Information and Communication Network. Light lunch and refreshments provided. Editorial teams or sole editors welcome.

Booking deadline 19 September

*To reserve a place e-mail
dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk*