



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

Diocesan News

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Gong for wing-walker (72)

BARBARA Barnes JP, a vestry member and Sunday school teacher at St Augustine's Dumbarton, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for voluntary and charitable services to the community of Dunbartonshire.

Barbara, well known for her intrepid fundraising stunts like a wing walk on her 70th birthday, celebrated the news by serving coffees and running a tombola at church. Raising funds is only a small

part of Barbara's commitment to others, though, as she is heavily involved in the caring side of the charities she supports, notably Alzheimer's Scotland.

A retired local schoolteacher, Mrs Barnes, as many Dumbarton people call her, is also an Inspector of Care Homes, and is deeply involved in the welfare of older people.

St Augustine's rector Revd Kenny Macaulay said: "Everyone at St Aug's is absolutely delighted that Barbara's work and her commitment to others has been recognised in this way. It is greatly deserved, and we are rather proud that she is 'one of us'."

When she's not leaping from tall buildings or throwing herself out of planes with a parachute, or serving on many committees and steering groups with MPs and local politicians, Barbara can also be found cleaning in the church's community hall or visiting folk in the congregation.

"Perhaps, soon, she will opt for the quieter life," Kenny added, "but we doubt it!"

Michael made MBE in birthday honours

AYR'S Holy Trinity's congregation are celebrating after a popular stalwart was made MBE in the Queen's birthday honours.

Retired horticulture lecturer Michael Hitchon said he was thrilled to receive the honour for his service to the community.

As president of Kyle & Carrick Civic Society since 1981, Michael has contributed much to its work of promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of the area.

He has been a key player in the running of Ayrshire's Doors Open Day programme for more than two decades.

Hardworking Michael has served as treasurer of Ayr Arts Guild for over 30 years too, and it is largely thanks to his work through the Guild that the town has consistently enjoyed an annual concert series worthy of a major city.

On retiring from the Scottish Agricultural College's Auchincruive campus in 2006, Michael was awarded the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's 'Dr Andrew Duncan' Medal. And in 2010 he became one of the elite to receive a rare Provost's Medal.

Harmony at All Saints

MEMBERS of All Saints Jordanhill joined more than 100 pupils, parents and performers from Jordanhill School on 14 June for a summer's evening of music.

The concert was a prelude to the School's annual show, and head of music Mrs Karen Gilmour told the audience she welcomed the opportunity to let some slightly nervous pupils test their mettle in more intimate surroundings.

"We would like to thank All Saints for their continuing support for Jordanhill School and the opportunity to perform here," she said.

"We have a big hall in the school which can be intimidating for some of the performers. This church is a great venue – a beautiful building with wonderful acoustics."

The evening raised almost £300 to benefit one of All Saints' charities, African Steps, and the charity chosen this year by the School's sixth form, Marie Curie Cancer Care.

One star of the night was guitarist-singer Zoe Graham, daughter of All Saints members Hugh and Annette Graham.

As Mrs Gilmour told the audience: "If there's anyone in the music industry out there..."

Some of Zoe's original and cover music can be found online at soundcloud.com/zoe-graham-100.

Also in this issue . . .

Glimpses of life in occupied Palestine

Fifty years in the priesthood

Six ready for second year of action planning

Swedish bishop joins Pride parade

Women, violence and the United Nations

Courses and opportunities

Six poised to MAP out another year of action

SIX congregations – Dumbarton, Largs, Maybole and the North Ayrshire Team – have now undergone their first MAP (Mission Action Plan) review meeting with the Bishop, and all have enjoyed this enormously. The process has proved to be encouraging for congregation and Bishop alike, and a helpful means towards the creation of the second year's MAP goals.

There will shortly be a further training for new MAP facilitators, so if you are interested in seeing whether you are suited to this task, please contact the Dean (ian.barcroft@btopenworld.com) or

myself as soon as possible.

MAP facilitators work with up to three congregations, accompanying them as they produce their action plan, and thereafter keeping a watching brief as the charge seeks to implement the actions it has identified.

We are looking for people who are self-aware, able to set clear boundaries and guide without needing to be in the limelight, naturally collaborative, organised and self-disciplined - and with a good sense of humour.

Meanwhile the fruits of the process continue to burgeon, with God's grace. Accounts of these de-

velopments appear regularly on the MAP website. Webmaster Carol Lovett is always keen to have more, so do please send your photos and stories to her: Carol@thelovetts.info.

A new leaflet describing the diocesan strategic intention for growth can be downloaded from the MAP web site: map.glasgow.anglican.org.

Similarly the history of the process has been brought up to date, and this is available from the resources section of that site.

*Revd Canon Anne Tomlinson,
Ministry Development Officer
(mdo.gg@btinternet.com)*

50 YEARS IN PRIESTHOOD

A CONGREGATION of more than 100 drawn from all over Scotland gathered in All Saints Jordanhill on Tuesday 11 June for a special Communion service to mark Revd Donald Strachan's 50 years in the priesthood.

Fr Strachan said: "I was ordained priest on Sunday 9 June 1963 by the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney and presided at the Eucharist for the first time on 11 June, and so I am marking the 50th anniversary of that celebration today.

"In a sense, the most obvious work in a priest's life is his celebration of the Eucharist, and for me that has been part of my everyday life."

Fr Strachan presided again at the jubilee Eucharist, assisted by Bishop Gregor Duncan, with Revd Sydney Maitland, priest-in-charge of All Saints, whom Fr Strachan had helped in his own training for the priesthood.

The Bishop had earlier preached on the theme of Communion as the meal which draws Christians together, based on readings for Corpus Christi chosen by Fr Strachan - 1 Corinthians 10.16-17 and John 6.51-58.

Members of All Saints' choir were joined by colleagues from neighbouring St Bride's Hyndland, and the organist was also from St Bride's. At the end of the service Fr Strachan distributed thanksgiving

cards bearing the text of Psalm 110.4, in Gaelic: *Is Sagart thu gu bràth, a rèir òrdagh Mhelchisedeic* (The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek').

Father Strachan was joined by three other priests who, like him, had trained at St David's Lampeter, including Rt Revd John Crook and Revd Canon John Woodley. Fellow members of *Societas Sanctae Crucis*, a congregation of priests in the Anglican Communion who live and minister under a common Rule of Life, also came to share the celebration.

BIG SUMMER SING

IN Newlands, St Margaret's Church, Kilmarnock Road, is running a week-long music club called 'The BIG Summer Sing', for 7-12-year-olds.

It will run Monday-Friday, 1-5 July, 10am-12noon.

The charge is £10 for the week (£5 for siblings).

There will be games and activities based around music, and songs to learn from all over the world.

Ring 0785 768 9312 or email singmargarets@gmail.com.

Understanding the path to end global hunger

A FREE debate on how fresh thinking could help to fight global hunger takes place in Holyrood on Friday 5 July.

Organised by the European Parliament Information Office with World Development Movement (WDM), it looks at the vital differences between food security and food sovereignty.

Said a WDM spokesman:

"Not all ways of achieving food security are equal, and not all of them address the huge imbalance of wealth and power that underpins the food system.

"This event will examine some of the policies that the European Union, UK and Scotland need in order to tackle the root causes of hunger."

Speakers will be WDM director Deborah Doane and Pete Ritchie, director of Nourish Scotland. Panel members are Euro-MPs Alyn Smith, George Lyon and David Martin.

The event takes place 10.30am-12.30pm at the European Parliament Information Office, The Tun, Edinburgh EH8 8PJ.

Attendance is free but places should be booked. To book email liz@wdmscotland.org.uk.

Glimpses of West Bank life

A CAT-AND-MOUSE life with 'Looking-Glass' laws was how Florence Germain described the occupied Palestine she experienced as a volunteer peacemaker.

Speaking at Ayrshire Regional Council's June open meeting, Florence, a Frenchwoman who's lived in Scotland for the past two decades, was describing her recent three-month placement with EAPPI, the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Israel and Palestine.

Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) provide an unbiased protective presence to vulnerable communities, monitor and report human-rights abuses, and support Palestinians and Israelis working together for peace.

Florence described how year-round EAPPI presence preserves the tiny hamlet of Yanoun, near Nablus. It is surrounded by Israeli 'settlers' who illegally grabbed prime land to create hostile outposts. Though such settlements contravene international and Israeli law, there are now around 200 which enjoy army protection.

Florence met Palestinian farmers prohibited from ploughing their own fields near a settlement for all but two days in the year, and others who got only saplings in compensation after saboteurs burned their mature olive groves to the ground.

She saw how only 6% of Palestinian planning applications in 'Area C' of the West Bank get approval from the Israeli authority.

She witnessed vital water cisterns raked by settler gunfire, and escorted Palestinians through armed checkpoints on their way to work, school or hospital.

Accounts of Palestinians being arbitrarily delayed for hours at checkpoints or turned away were common. When it happened to those whom Florence was accompanying one day, the soldier on duty would only offer proof of authorisation to her and not her companions, and only if she first crossed the checkpoint and didn't go back to join them.

But she stressed that not all Israelis support their country's regime; there are courageous activists who campaign for peaceful and just resolutions to the conflict.

EAPPI encourages Holy Land pilgrims to meet people on both sides of the divide, and to be guided by the West-Bank-based Alternative Tourism Group's code of conduct: www.patg.org.

At home, Florence suggested, Christians in Scotland can support Israeli peace groups; monitor the media for biased news reporting; and lobby politicians and shops for a ban on imports from settlements.

To request a talk from an EA, call 020 7663 1144 or email eappi@quaker.org.uk.

Tribute to Shelley at ministry celebration

PISKIES from all over the diocese gathered in St Mary's Cathedral for the annual Ministry Celebration Service in June. This year, the focus was on Eucharistic Assistants.

The work associated with overseeing the training pathways, authorisation and affirmation of those undertaking this lay ministry and those of Pastoral Assistant, Worship Leader and Lay Reader has been undertaken by Revd Canon Shelley Marsh for some years. But she is about to hand over this work to allow more time for her new role as Synod Clerk of the Diocese.

At the end of the service, Bishop Gregor paid tribute to all the work Shelley has done over the years as Bishop's Officer for Diaconal Ministries—to resounding applause from the congregation.

BISHOP IN WEST PRIDE PARADE

Peter Andersson writes from our linked diocese, Gothenburg

THE Bishop of the Diocese of Gothenburg took part in the West Pride parade in the city of Gothenburg on 2 June.

"Each and every person has the right to feel happy and proud, regardless of his or her sexual orientation", said bishop Per on his decision to participate in the parade.

ON Sunday 16 June ten candidates were ordained to the priesthood in Gothenburg Cathedral by Bishop Per.

THE Diocese of Gothenburg has decided together with other organisations to support the establishment of a legal assistance office in Gothenburg for asylum seekers.

TOGETHER with pilgrimage movements in Norway, Denmark and Sweden, the Diocese of Gothenburg is organising the Nordic Ecumenical Pilgrimage Meeting at the Åh conference and retreat centre, 23-25 August.

BISHOP Gregor is to visit Gothenburg with a small delegation at the end of August. Their programme includes attending the ordination of deacons in Gothenburg Cathedral.

Bishop Gregor will also deliver a talk on in 'The way of mission today – how to spread the word about Jesus in contemporary Scotland' at the diocesan meeting for theologians in Gothenburg.

ALL Saints Jordanhill made its West End Festival debut on Sunday 2 June, with a special Evensong marking the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

Regular singers were joined by the Jordanhill Liturgical Choir. Directed by Alan Tavener, this ecumenical choir was formed in 2011 and draws its members from All Saints, Jordanhill Parish Church of Scotland, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Roman Catholic Church, and other neighbouring churches.

Nearly 60 people attended, and a retiring collection raised £118 for the Storehouse foodbank.

Violence against women — a United Nations perspective

Ann Glenesk was one of six Scottish delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSD57) when it held this year's session in New York. Here she recounts her experience...

IT was a great pleasure to be one of the Scottish group who attended UNCSD57 and I am very grateful to the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) for supporting me.

The SEC has been represented at CSW for the last five years. The invitation to attend comes from the Anglican Church at the UN. This year I was one of 19 women from 17 different countries. Part of our time together was spent sharing our countries' stories. This was both challenging and inspiring.

There was Vijula, the Sri Lankan young lawyer working with Tamil widows, who shared that while those in power have corrupt practices, justice is seldom achieved. Although not a supporter of organised religion, Vijula spoke highly of the work of pastors and grassroot church members in Sri Lanka.

There was Harriet, from South Sudan, who set up safe houses for orphans and victims of forced early marriage.

Ilcilia, from Brazil, works with those suffering from HIV/AIDS. Mathilde, from Burundi, heads up a Mothers' Union literacy and finance programme.

'DAMAGING'

Nigerian Chinelo, another lawyer, spoke of the good work of the churches, but also of the damaging practices of some Mothers' Union and church members who insist widows marry their deceased husband's brother and that they shave their heads and drink the water the deceased person has been bathed in to identify their mourning.

Numia, from New Zealand, and Karen, from Australia, spoke about the discrimination and persecution of indigenous women who are reluctant to report crimes against them, because of the fear of having their children removed. The churches act pastorally and by campaigning for change, for justice. The church plays a vital part in these countries. Some delegates keep in touch via the International Anglican Family Network.

Every morning at 8am the Ecumenical Women Organisation delegated the planning of worship held in the UN Church Centre Chapel to individual traditions. The result was vibrant, challenging and moving: an eclectic mix of spirituality. With much theatre, colour, music and dance (even to a man standing on his head), all the worship laid the issue of violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) open to the grace and healing power of God, re-

ANN GLENESK is Glasgow & Galloway president of Mothers' Union, whose flagship programmes in the diocese are supporting women and children in refuges and families affected by imprisonment. Ann chairs East Dunbartonshire's Women Aid and visits women in the Bishopbriggs refuge.

membering the lives of the women in the shadows – victims of domestic abuse, trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced early marriage, widowhood, sexual violence, rape, rape as a weapon of war, cyber bullying, female genital mutilation and cutting and femicide.

During Anglican worship, prayers and resources from our own countries were used. From Scotland, the words of a woman trafficked for sexual exploitation and advice from children being supported by East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid were offered.

It was a great privilege to have this experience, yet it seemed at times the group was distant from the main event. We were in the UN premises, but the precious 'purple pass' to the main event was restricted to few. This was a frustration for some of the delegates, including a Burundi member who suggested that the Anglican Communion should fund its delegates through government official lists as the lack of official passes limits their influence. I would endorse this view.

When I did have the pass I got to the main event, listening to delegates' prepared speeches on what their countries do concerning VAWG.

I attended two government side events. One was hosted by the Holy See on the day the new Pope was announced. The other was hosted by Burundi – a country in a post-conflict situation which appears to be investing much energy concerning the issue of VAWG.

SWEDISH MODEL

I attended several parallel events. One of particular interest was from Sweden. As is known, Scotland hopes to follow the example of Sweden by criminalising the purchase of sex. Since such legislation was passed 13 years ago in Sweden, street prostitution is down by 50%, and there is less trafficking. Now, as it is estimated that one-third of sex purchased by Swedish men happens when they are abroad on business trips, Swedish companies are beginning make staff accountable for their actions and subject to the same sanctions wherever they are. The hope

is to get Europe free of prostitution.

One such company is Delta Airlines whose employees have written into their contract that they will not engage in sexual entertainment. It was suggested such a practice could be promoted similar to Fair Trade, green issues or the avoidance of sweatshop labour.

Another event was the launch of Untying the Knot – exploring early marriage in fragile states. Evidence purports that early marriage increases in the immediate aftermath of conflict and natural disasters, due to the anticipated rise in rape and sexual violence that is prevalent in refugee camps. There was also evidence that parents wanted their daughters married early with the hope that their husband would care for them. However, the reality is that following rape the victim and her aggressor often marry.

In Scotland we have difficulty getting data on maternal morbidity. We can only imagine what pain and suffering is experienced by such early childbirth, where hygiene and medical services are lacking. There is also the desire to avoid the stigma of unmarried pregnancy - not dissimilar to Scotland some years ago.

There were many highlights for me, but the most moving was the 8.45am debrief when information was shared by those in the nitty-gritty of negotiations.

sometimes, the unity of purpose was palpable in the room; everyone was concentrating, everyone was focused. This was no jolly, no time for any other agenda but to get the right words in the Agreed Conclusions to help end VAWG. Wherever, we are, whether we are in an organisation, or individually we must do what we can.

I finish using some words from the SEC Faith in Action Leaflet for November: "We call on churches to name and denounce all the various forms of violence against women inside and outside the church. We call on church leaders to declare together that violence against women is a sin. We urge them to take the side of the victim, instead of sheltering the aggressor, to offer pastoral counselling that targets a concrete improvement in the victim's life situation instead of simply preaching patience, silence and submission."

The Scottish Episcopal Church has started its journey, the words have been written – so have the words of the Agreed Conclusions. With the help of the God of love, mercy, compassion and justice I believe actions will follow.

News and events in brief . . .

REVd Moira Jamieson will be licensed as non-stipendiary priest in charge at the Church of the Holy Name, Fleming Road, Cumbernauld, on Saturday 6 July at 11.30am. Bishop Gregor asks for your prayers for Moira and all the people at the Holy Name as they prepare to work together.

ST John the Evangelist Johnstone will hold a yard sale in the grounds in Floors Street on the morning of Saturday 14 September. Stalls will be selling a large range of items from the quite ordinary to totally bizarre, all in aid of church funds.

IF you are involved in the formation and training of candidates for Readership or Ordination, you are welcome to an open meeting convened in Glasgow by Bishop Gregor to look at the Ministry Council's Inspection Report of TISEC (Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church).

It is in the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, on Wednesday 28 August 2013, 7-8.30pm.

The report can be viewed online: scotland.anglican.org/index.php/tisec/revalidation_and_inspection_reports.

BISHOP Jack Spang will deliver two lectures in Glasgow linked to his latest book, 'The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic'. The first, on Wednesday 23 October at Orchardhill Church Giffnock at 8pm, is entitled 'Exploring John's origins; not a literal text but an interpretive portrait'. The second, at Cairns Church Milngavie at 8pm on Thursday 24 October, is on the topic 'Beyond Incarnation to mystical oneness; John's story of Jesus'. Tickets will be £12 per lecture and will include refreshments. Early booking is recommended. Contact 0141 956 4868 or office@cairnschurch.org.uk.

THE Fifth International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality takes place in Edinburgh, 7-10 July. The programme in-

cludes master classes, workshops, academic papers and presentations on projects. To view the programme and book a place go to fiop-mha.events-made-easy.com.

THE fourth meeting of the Galloway chapter of Church and the Academy is on Tuesday 1 October, 12.30-2pm, St Peter's Dalbeattie DG5 4AX. Bishop Gregor is the speaker. His topic: 'Christianity and the state: reflections stimulated by Romans 13.1-7'. Early arrival is recommended to be sure of a seat. Take sandwiches; tea and coffee provided.

THE paper on assisted dying which Revd Scott McKenna presented at a recent Church and the Academy session in Dalbeattie can now be found online. Visit md.glasgow.anglican.org and navigate to the 16 June entry for a link.

PILGRIMS walking 750 miles from Scotland to London are on course to reach their destination on 20 July.

Participants on the Just Peace Pilgrimage left Iona on Pentecost Sunday, 19 May. They want the UK Government to drop plans to renew the Trident nuclear missile system and instead spend the money on health, education and social welfare.

Two pilgrims will complete the entire route, while others will join them for part of the way. Accommodation and hospitality is provided by supporters.

The launch coincided with celebrations on Iona to mark the

1450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba.

SCOTTISH Interfaith Week offers the opportunity to meet with or learn about people of different faiths.

This could involve inviting a member of another faith to speak about their faith, inviting a member of the Churches Agency for Interfaith Relations (CAIRS) to speak about interfaith in Scotland, or visiting a local place of worship. The aim is to break down barriers and increase our understanding of others – all ways of making our world a safer place and promoting the Kingdom.

The Week runs from 24 November to 1 December.

Visit interfaithscotland.org for details of events all over Scotland, or call Tom Moyes at Action of Churches Together in Scotland on 01259 222363 for more information.

REVd Dr Andrew Adam, lecturer in New Testament at Glasgow University, and non-stipendiary priest at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, is moving to be senior tutor and tutor of New Testament at St Stephen's House, Oxford.

MORE than 100 pilgrims were set to arrive in Whithorn on 29 June, marking the completion of a walk from Paisley Abbey in monthly stages.

Those walkers who have done all 11 instalments of the pilgrimage will have clocked up around 110 miles in celebration of Paisley Abbey's 850th anniversary.

The pilgrims will be treated at journey's end to a celebratory barbeque and the chance to visit the Isle of Whithorn and St Ninian's Chapel.

Despite its role in welcoming visitors to the cradle of Christianity in Scotland, Whithorn's visitor centre is under threat of closure this year because of an £18,500 funding shortfall.

For an update, visit Save the Whithorn Trust's Facebook page.

NEXT DIOCESAN NEWS

ITEMS for the September issue may be submitted by **Monday 12 August** as ordinary prose (not leaflets, adverts, posters or PDFs, please) to the editor, Susi Cormack Brown, c/o Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH, or dns@episcopalglasgow.co.uk.

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