



GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

Diocesan News

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BIG SING SUCCESS

Tears and huffy faces. Not the most promising start to 16-year-old Aidan's brainchild of a children's choir at his church. Could he and mum Angela Watson, a professional musician with the Scottish Ballet orchestra, pull it off in one week of the summer holidays? Of course!

Angela records how it all came together at St Margaret's Newlands...

THE Big Summer Sing took place for two hours each morning for five days, with a steady stream of church helpers and friends plus husband Kenneth who spent the first week of his holidays roped in as head jannie, doorman, organist, chauffeur, and signage and props department.

As we registered the children on the first morning there were some tired, huffy faces ('We could be out playing football!') and even some tears. It made us wonder what we were in for.

But, as the days went by and more siblings joined up, numbers increased to 19. Every child who registered on the first morning came back every day – even the five boys.

As sole accompanist, Aidan was a big hit, belting out songs on the keyboard and guitar and showing admirable patience with the children who relentlessly hung around him and his instruments at every opportunity!

The first two days were in the church hall but after that the church space was used to the delight of the children. A large clearing was made at the front, precious objects fenced off with chairs and the fun began.

Many of the songs and games were drawn from the early years training programme of the National Youth Choir of Scotland which uses music and rhymes, and draws much on Scottish children's street games that our grannies would recognise.

The event originated as a fundraiser for the organ restoration project. The church venue presented an ideal opportunity to invite parents to visit and look around our beautiful building and allow them and our young singers to experience some live organ music. So, as planned, Kenneth discreetly slipped into the Lady chapel on the Thursday morning. Once the children had figured out that the

mysterious pipe music that began to circulate after their juice-and-biscuit break was being generated from behind the curtain (shades of Wizard of Oz!) they moved up into the choir stalls to marvel at the dozens of pipes. Even more exciting – they got to crowd around Kenneth at the console and see the controls up close.

On the last morning, parents attended an informal performance of a few of the songs and games which had been learned including the popular 'Zulu Warrior' song complete with scary war cries before marching round the church, singing and drumming on their handmade shields (decorated frisbees with beaters made by our resident wizard from canes and duct tape).

A comments book let children make suggestions and tell us what they liked. It was a relief that only one referred to the 'nice biscuits' so we felt we were getting it mostly right!

Parents enjoyed seeing the church and their comments on the evaluation forms at the wee concert were very rewarding. Many reported that the songs were being sung at home all that week – and most were definitely looking forward to next year's Big Summer Sing.

CORE SKILLS FOR CHILDREN UPDATE

A NEW edition of **Core Skills for Children's Work** has just been published and can be ordered from brfonline.org.uk.

Core Skills is an interdenominational modular scheme and offers foundational training for all those involved with church-based children's ministry. The material is designed to refresh children's workers at all levels of expertise and experience.

Our diocesan development team for young people has been running Core Skills this past year, helping Sunday School leaders to use the material and train others in its usage.

The six stand-alone sessions are: Child development; Working as a team; Programme planning; Children and community; Pastoral awareness; The Bible and prayer.

For more information, contact team convener Lorraine Darlow at lorraine.darlow@sky.com.

Also in this issue...

Dancing under a midsummer night sky

Ignatian spirituality tasters

No rest for the mission-minded

Courses and opportunities

Welcoming space in the heart of the city

GLASGOW'S Ignatian Spirituality Centre (ISC) offers one-to-one spiritual accompaniment and a varied programme of events, courses and retreats grounded in the Ignatian spiritual tradition.

Members of the ecumenical team are delighted to welcome those who are seeking to explore their spiritual life or who wish to go deeper into their spiritual journey.

The full 2013/2014 programme is now available. Regular events include Taizé evenings, film nights, carers' renewal afternoons and - new this autumn - the use of dance as a way to stillness and contemplation.

September highlights include:

First Friday Retreat Space - Friday 6 September and thereafter on the first Friday of each month (10am-1pm). Quiet, peaceful reflection with some gentle input and use of the centre facilities.

Free 'Taster Day' - Saturday 14 September (10.30am-4.30pm). An opportunity to 'sample some of the different things on offer at the centre. Visitors can take part in themed and creative workshops, spend time in quiet reflection and engage in informal conversation. Those interested are invited to stay for the whole day or drop in for individual sessions.

'The Poetry of Place' - Sunday 22 September (2-5pm). Ronnie Renton will lead an afternoon looking at Scottish poetry and literature with some echoes of Gerard Manley Hopkins.

For more information about these and other events visit iscglasgow.co.uk or contact Ignatian Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, Glasgow G3 6PE, 0141 354 0077, admin@iscglasgow.co.uk

Dancing under a midsummer sky

FIONA Welsh, from St Ninian's Troon, spent five midsummer days with 11 young people from Sweden's Dalstorp Pastorate when they stayed at the Cathedral of the Isles on Cumbrae preparing for their confirmation.

The Friday evening, 21 June, was Midsummer's Eve, an important celebration in the Swedish calendar, and a small group from St Ninian's joined the visitors for the evening, when Evening Prayer and supper were followed by traditional midsummer dances in the College grounds and strawberries and cream.

Fiona relives other highlights...

"Strawberries and cream always taste good but especially so after an evening of garland-making, midsummer song and dance!

"However, the lovely summer weather did not last for our Saturday walk, or rather squelch, over the Cumbrae hill. Sunday's service was served with a Swedish twist, reflected in the readings and music contributed by the youngsters and led by Swedish pastor Jösta.

"Among the lessons preparing the youngsters for their confirmation, I helped to lead activities and games which explored faith and brought some sublime moments of hilarity. After several pieces of shortbread, a great fiddle recital and an impromptu yet victorious football match against some Millport youths, I waved my new friends off and ate my Nardini's cone safe in the knowledge that they were now also educated in the difference between a mosquito and a midge."

SELF-Help Africa has produced a harvest resource which connects the Bible with its work of helping rural farmers to overcome hunger and poverty.

Paper copies can be ordered through the charity's office (01743 277170) or the pack can be downloaded from harvest.selfhelpafrica.org.

Workshops on abuse, equality, diversity and mental health

POSITIVE Action in Housing, the Glasgow-based charity dedicated to supporting people from new migrant, refugee and minority ethnic communities, is offering the following September courses.

Domestic abuse awareness (with Glasgow Women's Aid), 10am-4pm, Wednesday 11 September. Domestic violence accounts for around a quarter of all recorded crime and is one of the leading causes of homelessness for women. Explore the effects of living with abuse and find out what women do and don't want from your organisation. This training offers good practice guidelines for working effectively and sensitively.

Cultural awareness workshop, 10am-1pm, Thursday 12 September. Exploring aspects of cultural difference that may affect our interactions and the services we deliver to a multi-cultural community.

Equality and diversity, 10am-1pm, Thursday 17 September. The impact of discriminatory behaviour and what the latest equality legislation means in practice to staff, volunteers, committee members and service users.

Mental health awareness (with Scottish Association for Mental Health), 10am-4pm, Tuesday 24 September. This course has a particular focus on the additional pressures faced by migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers and it outlines the signs and symptoms of the most common forms of mental illness.

Places are limited. For detailed course information and booking instructions visit paih.org, or call training manager Zandra Yeaman on 0141 353 7971. All profits from training go to PAiH's homelessness and destitution service for migrant and refugee communities.

News and events in brief . . .

A NEW diocesan secretary has been appointed. He is Chris Zochowski, a member of St Ninian's Pollokshields.

Chris has been in post since 1 August. He succeeds Gib FitzGibbon, who retired this summer. Please offer Chris your support and prayers for this important role.

ST AIDAN'S Clarkston (G76 7ER) hosts another of its 'St Aidan's Lectures' on Monday 2 September at 7.30pm.

Entitled *When I am calling you; the role of the laity in the Church*, it will be given by Revd Canon Dr Scott Robertson, rector of St Margaret's Newlands and honorary lecturer in Theology, University of Glasgow. All are welcome. Refreshments from 7pm. Contact Revd Nicholas Taylor, nicholas.h.taylor@btconnect.com.

GLASGOW Churches Together's AGM is on Monday 23 September in The Ogilvie Centre, Rose Street, Glasgow. Keynote speaker is Matt Oliver, chief executive officer for More Than Gold.

Welcome from 6.30pm, formal business at 7pm followed by refreshments then keynote address.

Anyone may attend; email Elspeth Glasgow by 18 September (office@glasgowchurches.org.uk) if you are going to help her get numbers right for catering and seating.

SATURDAY 21 September sees an intercessions training session at St Ninian's Castle Douglas (DG7 1EX) led in the church by rector Canon David Bayne, 10am to noon. All welcome; no need to book.

Contact dwbayne@aol.com.

ST Margaret's Newlands (G43 2DS) extends an open invitation to its 10th annual 'Time to Remember' service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the lives of loved ones who have died, whether recently or long ago. It's at 3pm, Saturday 26 October.

There will be music, readings, prayers, reflection and contemplation.

If you think a relative, friend or neighbour would find this service helpful, you are encouraged to invite and accompany him or her.

Refreshments will be provided at the end of the Service. Contact Eileen Smith, 0141 423 2801.

BEGINNERS' Hebrew classes start at Elshieshields, near Lock-

erbie, on Friday 11 October, 11am to 1.30pm, with tutor Fr David Preston. Bring a sandwich. Coffee and soup provided.

All will be most welcome even if just coming for a taster. Classes will be free and probably held monthly. Phone David on 01557 330650 or Ann on 01387 810280.

ESTHER de Waal, who is well known for her books on Benedictine monasticism and Celtic spirituality, will be speaking at Elshieshields, near Lockerbie, on Saturday 19 October, 10.30am. The title of her talk is yet to be confirmed. Contact Ann Shukman (01387 810280, ann.shukman@virgin.net).

THE Fresh Expressions movement hosts a Vision Day in Edinburgh on Saturday 2 November. It is an ecumenical exploration and celebration of fresh expressions of church. The day will include:

- ◇ creative worship and prayer;
 - ◇ stories of fresh expressions of church in Scotland and beyond;
 - ◇ input from Scottish church leaders plus Bishop Graham Cray and Andrew Roberts from Fresh Expressions, John Drane, Olive Fleming-Drane and Lou Davis.
- Visit resourcingmission.org.uk.

REVD Pat Smith will be ordained priest in St Augustine's Dumbar-ton on Saturday 28 September at 2pm. Revd Fred Tomlinson will preach and there will be a buffet after the service.

The next day, the Feast of St Michael and all Angels, will see Pat celebrating the Eucharist for the first time at 11am. Revd Sally Gorton will preach and the Bishop will be present.

CHRIST Church Lanark will host a Celtic Evensong for the Lanarkshire Region on Sunday 15 September at 6pm; tea served from 5pm.

AT the Church of the Holy Name Cumbernauld on 6 July Revd Moira Jamieson was licensed as non-stipendiary Priest in Charge.

Friends from far and wide shared in a liturgy of welcome that had its 'first reading' that day. Canon Shelley Marsh preached.

NINIAN Moments is a new inter-church venture in Wigtownshire's Machars area.

Led mainly by lay members of the

local churches, including All Saints Challoch, it takes the form of 10-15 minutes of quiet reflection with prayer and a Bible reading every weekday at noon in the Roman Catholic Chapel at Whithorn.

THE Wigtownshire congregations of Challoch, Portpatrick and Stranraer next month welcome their new priest-in-charge, Revd Michael Hills. Michael comes to Scotland from Hull.

REVD Dr James Currall will be ordained Priest at St Columba's Largs on Saturday 21 September at 11am.

A DAY conference on Church Growth takes place in Glasgow on Saturday 31 August, 10am-4pm in St George's Tron.

The day will be led by Michael Harvey, a co-founder of Back to Church Sunday.

Admission and lunch are free. Contact Revd Drew Sheridan at drew@frsheridan.fsnet.co.uk for more information or call 01475 732441 to book a place.

FEEDING the Five Million is a two-day conference exploring what it would take for everyone in Scotland to eat well and sustainably.

It takes place 3-4 September at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

The conference takes the form of a two-day enquiry.

Participants from different backgrounds will work in teams with specialists in all parts of the food system to explore the issues and produce a report which will subsequently be published. Email conference2013@nourishscotland.org.uk

NEXT DIOCESAN NEWS

ITEMS for the October issue may be submitted by **Monday 16 September** 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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No rest for the mission-minded!

ONE expects the summer to be quiet while congregations go into holiday mode, but that has certainly not been the case as far as Mission Action Planning is concerned!

Several congregations have enjoyed holding their end-of-first-year Review meeting with Bishop Gregor, sharing their stories of what has been achieved and attempted and being encouraged by him into the following year's missional journey. Others have begun working with their MAP Facilitator on their Year 2 goals, building on actions initiated in the previous year or else going off down completely new avenues; in one case it has been exciting to see children's ministry featuring in the Year 2 MAP when that aspect of church life had not even been in evidence the year before.

To read about these Reviews or to see the completed MAPs, do check the dedicated web-site from time to time: map.glasgow.anglican.org.

Development Teams have also been busy; members of that for Welcome, Integration and Numerical Growth, now lovingly called WINGS, have worked with Christ Church Dalbeattie and the Galloway Regional Council, while Kenny Macaulay, the convener of the Development Team for Imaginative Outreach into Local Communities, recently went south to St John's Stranraer to help them on their way with a Community Audit. Again, accounts of those meetings can be accessed on the website.

Embedded in St Oswald's Maybole's Year 2 MAP is the intention to equip people for certain Authorised Lay Ministries, and so that charge is organising two such courses in the autumn – one on Pastoral Care in October and another on Worship Leading in November – opening these opportunities out to their neighbouring charges in the Ayrshire Region.

The Development Team for Learning and Discipleship – alas, their adopted acronym is 'the LADDeTs' – is likewise responding to a request arising from another charge's MAP for training in a variety of forms of Bible Study, and will be offering a new Journey in Faith course shortly on that topic.

Looks like it's going to be a busy autumn too.

Revd Canon Anne Tomlinson, ministry development officer

Interchurch children's club is a hit

INTERCHURCH co-operation has again paid dividends in Troon with a successful joint holiday club.

Piskies from St Ninian's joined forces with Kirk members of Portland Parish Church and many young helpers from Seagate Evangelical Church.

The theme this year was Space Academy and over the whole week a total of 110 children attended, averaging around 75 each day.

Morning sessions were held at Portland Church where the children sang, danced and joined in team games. They listened to the story of Daniel and were enthralled each day by a drama set on a spaceship.

FAITH in Older People's Mary Moffet leads a training day on pastoral care and worship with those with dementia. It is at Elshields Tower, near Lochmaben, on Thursday 3 October, 10am-2.30pm. To book, email mdo.gg@btinternet.com, or call Anne Tomlinson at the Diocesan Centre on a Wednesday (0141 221 5720).

In the afternoon they walked to St Ninian's to eat their picnic lunches in the grounds and take part in games and craft activities.

Said Linda Rayner at St Ninian's: "One very important factor of this holiday club is the huge amount of effort put into it by all the Troon churches.

"Without this ecumenical participation the club would not have been possible."

WHAT CAN WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS?

THIS year St Aidan's Clarkston hosted the second of its annual series of public lectures, when rector Revd Canon Dr Nicholas Taylor presented 'What can we know about Jesus?', four lectures exploring our knowledge of Jesus as a figure of human history.

- ◇ Jesus as an Historical Person: the sources;
- ◇ The Teaching of Jesus;
- ◇ The Miraculous in the Life and Ministry of Jesus;
- ◇ The Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

All four talks have now been published in booklet form.

As Bishop Gregor writes: "Here is someone who is able to share his scholarship among the people of God in ways that all can grasp with benefit. In doing so he has offered us all encouragement to stick to the task of faith seeking understanding."

Copies (£3) can be ordered from the Diocesan Centre or St Aidan's, 8 Golf Road Clarkston G76 7LZ.

Pastoral care training dates

THE next diocesan pastoral care course takes place next month at St Oswald's Maybole over three evenings (7-9.30pm) and one Saturday.

It is expected that participants will attend the entire course.

A charge of £25 covers hand-outs and refreshments.

Pre-course reading will be sent to participants once they've booked.

- ◇ Friday 11 October: The core skill of listening (Revd Canon Anne Tomlinson)
- ◇ Saturday 12 October: Communicating well; Good Practice for Visitors (Anne Tomlinson)
- ◇ Wednesday 16 October: Visiting in the name of the Church (Revd Canon Jeanette Jenkins)
- ◇ Wednesday 30 October: Dealing with loss (Revd Jane Ross). Get a booking form from mdo.gg@btinternet.com or the diocesan office (0141 221 5720).