

## DIOCESAN CELEBRATION

Sunday 22 November, 4.30pm

Preacher: Rt Revd. Trevor Williams,  
Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe

As this is the first time that the Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane has served as Primus since 1907, Bishop David wants to use the opportunity of his appointment to hold this diocesan event to celebrate our life together as a diocese.

All are welcome to attend this service, which will seek to tell some of the story of the diocese in the last few years and pray together for our mission.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (CYP)

We are sorry that Veronica Kinahan has been enticed back into full-time employment and so resigned from her post as CYP Development Officer. She has made an immense contribution to our work in a very short period and we look forward to seeing her at future CYP events as an enthusiastic volunteer!

The post of CYP Development Officer is being advertised again during October. **Please pray that we identify the right person for this very important post, which is at the heart of our mission work as we remember that mission-shaped churches seek to engage children and young people.**

We'll be developing accreditation for churches to become 'a child friendly church'. As part of this we launched a poster competition across all churches, to create a Diocesan logo to signify a child friendly church. We never knew there were so many budding artists amongst our youngsters—**thank you all for your wonderful drawings and paintings.**

Congratulations to Iona Gibson (aged 8) of St Saviour's in Bridge of Allan



and Sarah Cromwell (Age 6) of Holy Trinity Young Church in Dunfermline



whose pictures will be used to create the promotional material for the child friendly church in our diocese.

Rev. Anne Haslehurst  
CYP Action Group Convenor  
01334 652982  
[annehaslehurst@talktalk.net](mailto:annehaslehurst@talktalk.net)

## FROM BISHOP DAVID ..

If we offered people the opportunity of spending a day in the Diocesan Office, I suspect we wouldn't have many 'takers'. It doesn't have quite the glamour of a visit to a film set or a day in the life of an airline pilot. But your day would tell you a lot about the nature of the church.

The tide comes in every day here. It brings letters, emails, financial statements, phone calls, church magazines, applications for changes to buildings.... It's all the 'stuff' of church life. Times are testing for our churches. Money is short. It doesn't get any easier to find volunteers. We all know the problems.

But in and through all of that is another tide of hope and possibility. Casting the Net is the centre of that. It's a determination that, in the midst of all the 'stuff' which demands our attention, we shall persist in moving forward in mission.

In my own life and ministry, I've reached the stage where this isn't an 'either/or'. I know that I have to deal with all of the 'stuff' that comes my way. But I wouldn't be able to keep going at it unless, in other parts of my life and ministry, I was working with people to move forward in mission.

We need to be faithful in the everyday things. But we need to prioritise the new. I look forward to seeing the Pilot Casting the Net Congregations moving forward. We hope to learn from their experience as we cast our net over all the other congregations in our diocese.

## CASTING THE NET (CTN)

I came across some interesting remarks by a Rabbi about the story of the Exodus: *"Moses' task, of course was to envision the future. It was Moses who went off alone to encounter God face to face. He would return with new energy, a sense of direction and a visible radiance from that encounter. Aaron, on the other hand, was the voice of management. He structured the trip day to day, organizing tasks and assigning responsibilities."*

After leaving Egypt, for God's people to move toward God's future for them, both Moses and Aaron had to work together. Progress required the visionary leader and the experienced manager, the spiritual and the practical, hand in glove. We are trying to embody this in the CTN process, the bonding of the spiritual and the practical. We are creating a way to help congregations hear God's voice speaking to them about their future and then work out and live out the practical implications of that God given call.

We are committed to this, because without the spiritual dimension of the process, God's voice won't be heard, and without the practical dimension, God's vision won't be turned into reality.

One of the key resources to support the spiritual dimension of CTN is a book called, *Mission-shaped Spirituality: The Transforming Power of Mission* by Susan Hope. It can be obtained through any Christian bookshop or the amazon website. It can be read individually, but may have greater impact if used in local discussion groups, perhaps over Advent. A study guide is being written for the book and will be available in November.



Moving on to the practical dimensions of CTN, we are recruiting CTN Liaison Officers in every congregation. These are people who will not just keep churches informed about the latest developments with CTN, but also champion it in their congregation, network to share ideas and provide feedback to us. This will help us to become as effective as possible. I am looking forward to meeting those who have been appointed and thinking together about mission in our churches.

Lay and clergy facilitators who will help congregations work through the CTN planning process are being recruited as well. There is also a group of very talented "Aarons" who are working behind the scenes on all sorts of things, like writing training courses, working on the new Diocesan Website and other practical aspects of CTN. So its all "go" right now with CTN.

I hope you can begin to sense that what were previously only plans are gradually becoming reality.

It's also been a great pleasure for me to get out and about to meet people from across the Diocese to talk about Casting the Net in church services and at Area Council Meetings. I wanted to thank so many of you for making me feel welcome and showing your interest in Casting the Net by coming along to these gatherings. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

*Revd James Petticrew*  
Casting the Net Development Officer  
01738 443173  
[castingthenet@standrews.anglican.org](mailto:castingthenet@standrews.anglican.org)

## MARK 8: SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN PRACTICAL WAYS, REACHING OUT TO OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEED

*To illustrate that you can start working on the Nine Marks of Mission at any point, we'll be sharing activities that are being tried in our congregations. For this edition, we are grateful to Charmian Paterson at St Anne's Coupar Angus, who's started an initiative to serve the community in practical ways, which also reaches out to children.*

The success of being part of the Quiet Space for Scotland in November 2008 and the spin off which resulted in regular contact with the local primary school, encouraged the members of St Anne's Episcopal church to try and interact more in the community. We started a "Drop-In" centre in the church hall in January 2009 on the first Monday of each month from 9.30am - 12.30pm.

The aim was to attract all age groups - both young and old - to come in to a friendly environment, relax and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and home baking. We were given some good play equipment and asked for 25p donations, to cover the costs of the catering, which was all prepared by volunteers.

The project was covered for insurance purposes and disclosures by the Mothers' Union (MU) and seed money was given by both the local MU branch and church vestry. It was agreed at the outset that it would run for a 6-month trial before being evaluated.



The review after 6 months found that although it had attracted some regular visitors it had not really succeeded or grown as hoped. One reason for this was thought to be the timing. Anecdotal evidence suggested people just forgot which day it was because it only opened once a month and also there was confusion as to who should attend.

We have decided to re-launch this autumn but on a regular weekly basis - every Monday between 10am and 12 noon, with focus on young parents, babies and toddlers. So it will now be a Parent & Toddler group and have a paid leader backed up by volunteers.

The NHS Health Visitors are very enthusiastic about it as no other Parent & Toddler group exists in Coupar Angus and the local 'Home Start' group only take mothers and babies by referral.

We are getting helpful advice from Perth & Kinross Child strategy scheme as well as prayer support from the church and local branch of the Mothers' Union. We'll keep you posted on progress!

## A PRAYER FOR MISSION

*God our Father,  
After His resurrection your Son  
commissioned his apostles to make  
disciples of all nations.  
Empower us by your Holy Spirit for this  
same work, to proclaim His gospel, share  
His forgiveness and build up your Church  
in love, trusting His presence to with us  
always to the end of time.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ  
our Lord and Saviour. Amen*

*Celia Matthews, Spirituality Group*  
[cmatthews@toucansurf.com](mailto:cmatthews@toucansurf.com)

## MINISTRY AND EDUCATION

The Ministry and Education Action Group will be offering two general 'discipleship' courses – one is a 3-session course called '**Compass**', which can be delivered in congregations or Area Councils. This is suitable for those who have recently joined a congregation or who are undertaking a lay ministry. It seeks to introduce the faith and values of our church through reflection on our practice. The other is a longer course called '**Exploring our Faith**', which covers worship, the Bible and the contemporary world.

Resources more directly linked to the Nine Marks of Mission will be posted on the new Diocesan website, which will be finalised this month. We hope that this will also become a place where resources and good practice in our congregations can be shared with others.

***Please let us know of events & courses so that we can develop a lively culture of learning & sharing to underpin our mission.*** Events coming up in the next few weeks include:

**Workshop on the Healing Ministry**  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October: 10am - 4pm  
St Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan.  
Cost: £5 (bring your own lunch)

**Workshop on King David: the Biblical narrative, led by Prof. David Jasper**  
Saturday 14 November: 10am – 3.30pm  
Allan Park South Church, Dumbarton  
Road, Stirling FK8 2LQ  
Cost: £5 (bring your own lunch)  
Registration: contact Alison Peden

*Canon Alison Peden, Convenor:*  
01877 330488  
[alison@pedens.plus.com](mailto:alison@pedens.plus.com)