



The Scottish Episcopal Church

Welcomes You

July/August 2014

Welcome to the July/August 2014 edition of inspires online - the monthly electronic newsletter of the Scottish Episcopal Church. July and August editions have been combined to take account of the summer holiday period.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of inspires online and continue to send me any comment and feedback you may have.

Lorna Finley
Communications Officer

WW1 Reflection

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says “The Centenary of the outbreak of the conflict which became the First World War deserves quiet reflection with humility on the part of people, nations and their leaders around the world. During the next four years, we shall constantly be reminded of the unimaginable suffering and loss of that period.

“It seems that we have learned little during the past century. The world is beset by vicious conflicts, and suffering continues unabated. It is a particular concern that global institutions such as the United Nations seem relatively impotent and unable to fulfil the hopes of people across the world for a peaceful and just world order.

"People of faith as always must commit themselves to prayer and to the task of building peace. Peacemaking is as much a spiritual as a political task. Our prayer must be that the suffering of the past will not have been in vain.”

Cascade Conversation

Following on from the Cascade Conversation event in Pitlochry at the end of April, the Cascade process of discussions and meetings continues within Dioceses. Over the coming months details of these discussions and meetings will be highlighted in inspires online. Some of the Dioceses have been highlighting Cascade progress on their websites and the Diocese of Brechin has produced a summary which it has used as a basis for its cascade process. You can read the leaflet [here](#).

The Design Group, established by the Mission and Ministry Board, for discussing same-sex relationships met in July to reflect on and assess progress of the Conversations following the Cascade event at Pitlochry in April and discussions at this year's General Synod.

It is expected that the task of the Design Group will be completed by the end of 2014 and that the model of Cascade Conversation will continue to be used throughout the Church to facilitate discussions and conversation on a range of topics and issues.

SEC Statements

In his role as Senior Bishop in the absence of the Primus (who was on holiday at the time) the Rt Rev Dr Bob Gillies, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney issued statements on the developing situation in Gaza and on the forced expulsion of Christians by ISIS militants in Mosul and Northern Iraq. Both statements can be viewed on the news page of the SEC website

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/news-and-issues/>

Scottish Independence and how it is being debated

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church recently wrote an opinion article for Scottish Global Forum website on Scottish Independence and the Referendum. You can read it here

<http://www.scottishglobalforum.net/opinion---bishop-david-on-independence.html>

Referendum Prayer

A Prayer from the Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain, on which the Scottish Episcopal Church is represented, to be said at the time of the Scottish Independence Referendum. The prayer is inspired by Psalm 104:

*Lord, we bless you
for you have fashioned our land and daily refresh it;
you have sent forth your spirit and created us;
you have opened your hand and filled us with good things.
Bless us, your people, as we consider the future of our nation.
May your glory endure here for ever and may we sing to you as long as we live;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) has also produced liturgical resources to be used at this time which are now available on its website: www.acts-scotland.org

New Communications Assistant at General Synod Office (GSO)

Katie McCafferty recently joined the GSO staff team as Communications Assistant. Katie will primarily assist the Communications Officer in the areas of the Scottish Episcopal Church's publications, database, website and social media activity. Katie replaces Joy Black.

Across the Dioceses

For news of activities and events across the seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church, check out the diocesan websites:

Aberdeen & Orkney www.aberdeen.anglican.org

Argyll & The Isles www.argyll.anglican.org

Brechin www.brechin.anglican.org

Edinburgh www.edinburgh.anglican.org

Glasgow & Galloway www.glasgow.anglican.org

Moray, Ross & Caithness www.moray.anglican.org

St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane www.standrews.anglican.org

Faith in Action

The *Faith in Action* guide for the year (produced by the Provincial Church in Society Committee) is on the Scottish Episcopal Church website

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/faith-in-action/>

and covers a separate theme each month.

The leaflets include prayer suggestions which could be used for Intercessions for the month as well as ideas for actions which either individuals or groups within congregations and communities could become involved with. Feedback on the prayer guide is always welcome, so please contact Elspeth Davey at ChurchRelations@scotland.anglican.org with any comments or suggestions for additional resource material or contacts

Faith in Action in August reminds us of the gifts of the Elderly. The suggested prayer for possible use in Intercessions in August is:

Lord,

We thank you for the gifts of Age,

the wealth of memories; the peace of prayer;

the wisdom that has grown beyond all striving to rest in your grace alone.

When increasing frailty of mind or body threaten,

be with us as living water in the desert, a rock to give shelter.

In word and sacrament, in the fellowship of your people give us the assurance of your everlasting care.

And to us give the grace to receive all that

your love brings to us. Amen

The Annual Directory 2014-15 on sale now

The new Annual Directory 2014-15 (or the 'Red Book' as it is known) is now available from the General Synod Office. The Directory contains information on the various Boards and Committees of the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocesan and individual church information, clergy biographies and other useful contacts.

If you are interested in receiving a copy (Cost £8.50 plus P&P) please contact the

General Synod Office, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EE or phone 0131 225 6357 or email reception@scotland.anglican.org

Creation Time 2014 - *God, Whose Farm is All Creation*

The Scottish Episcopal Church sponsors EcoCongregation Scotland and more than 30 of our churches and cathedrals are actively engaged in projects that will receive an EcoCongregation award, or have already received their first award.

Richard Murray, Lay Reader in the Aberdeen & Orkney Diocese and a member of the Church in Society Committee, has recently been part of an ecumenical group producing worship material to help in the celebration of 'Creation Time' during September.

The group decided that the Revised Common Lectionary readings for this year could not be easily applied to the chosen theme so have adopted a lectionary specifically produced for Creation Time by the Diocese of Bath & Wells. The resources can easily be incorporated into the current draft of the *Service of the Word*. The resources for each week provide a short commentary on the four Bible readings, some thoughts for a sermon, prayers, suggested hymns from a variety of hymnbooks and an idea for a children's talk or activity. Background information and other online resources are also provided.

The material has been produced in pdf format but for those who cannot read pdf files links have been provided to alternative web versions. Access to all the material is [available here](#).

For further details or information contact Elspeth Davey, Church Relations Officer, ChurchRelations@scotland.anglican.org

Peacemaking Sunday

This year United Nations Peace Day and the churches' Peacemaking Sunday are coming together on Sunday 21 September. This will also be the first Sunday after the referendum. Churches pray for peace all the year round but an annual focus is very important. It gives an opportunity to pray for those caught up in specific conflicts.

Some local churches join together with an ecumenical or interfaith vigil or service. Religion should be seen as a power for reconciliation rather than conflict or division.

Uniting for Peace is producing special worship resources for Peacemaking Sunday. If you would like a copy, please send £5 (cheques payable to 'Peace services') to the Rev Brian Cooper, 144/1 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH9 2AN (0131-446-9545)

It would be helpful to the Provincial Church and Society Committee to know how many churches are planning to mark this day – please contact Elspeth Davey, Church Relations Officer (ChurchRelations@scotland.anglican.org) or the Rev David Mumford, Brechin Diocese (dmumford@phonecoop.coop)

Just in time for the just Festival

just Festival is running between 1-25 August at St John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh

The festival, formerly called *The Festival of Spirituality and Peace*, is now looking forward to its fourteenth year. It partners with over twelve faith, belief and non-faith communities, including the Scottish Episcopal Church, to encourage community by exploring diversity. Interested? Click here for the full programme of events

www.justjust.org

Money for All – Citizen's Income. What might the future of economic and social cohesion look like? What about a 'Citizen's Income'?

Conversation sponsored by the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Office on the 19 Aug 6-7.30pm in the Hall at St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh at the *just Festival*

The event is part of the *just Festival's* 'conversation' series, and the panel includes Annie Miller, Chair of the Citizen's Income Trust. The Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh, will chair this event. With so much attention on 18 September, it is hoped that this event might be an opportunity to raise our eyes beyond the horizon to imagine what might the future of economic and social cohesion look like in years to come. The idea which will be explored is a 'Citizen's Income', where all members of society would receive a basic income: is this a fair way to eradicate poverty or just a recipe for producing a something-for-nothing society?

Tickets are available through the *just Festival* website: <http://www.justjust.org/>

Retreats at Bishop's House, Iona

Toben Lewis, Warden, Bishop's House, Iona writes:

Thinking of retreating somewhere? Two opportunities have come up at the Bishop's House on the island of Iona which you might be interested in:

Sanctus: a space to pray and play together through song

20 – 25 October 2014

Singing is a mind, body, spirit 'thing' and in the simple act of singing with others we come closer to ourselves, closer to others and closer to God. Our singing could lead us into community, movement, stillness, silence, pilgrimage, eating, intercession, action, laughter, tears... Drawing on music from the global church and the music within each of us, we will spend time learning songs, singing together, intentionally (and unintentionally) worshipping and praying, exploring Iona, as well as having time to be together and time to be alone. You don't need to submit an audition tape or qualification and you don't have to read music (although if you do that's great!). All abilities and voices are welcome. The only requirement is that you are open to learning new songs and singing with others! Only £395 per person for these five days, with all meals included.

[Not a] Retreat: a retreat for extroverts

25 – 29 October 2014

Putting the treat back in retreat! It's a retreat for those who don't do retreats. The thought of a silent meal time bring you out in a cold sweat? Feel like a misfit in the church? I used to think people who went on retreat just were not trying hard enough when it came to beach holidays. Explore what it means to be an extrovert in a retreat context. A big quiet island so we can talk lots and not disturb the quiet introverts. Time for space (and maybe even a little silence) but with others who, like you, have an extrovert nature. Opportunities for conversation, debate, creativity and laughter assured, meeting with the God of life in all its fullness, a certainty. And I promise if there is any silence there will be lots of opportunity to talk about it afterwards. Bring a bottle. £315 for the full retreat, with all meals included.

World Council of Churches' Unity Statement Study Guide available

A Study Guide regarding the Unity Statement adopted by the 10th World Council of Churches' Assembly has been distributed by the Inter-Church Relations Committee, for use by Dioceses and congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The Study Guide was produced by those who represented the member Churches from Scotland at the 10th World Council of Churches' Assembly which was held in November 2013.

The Inter-Church Relations Committee is interested in receiving feedback on the Study Guide and if you would wish to provide feedback and how you used the Study Guide in your context please email Elspeth Davey on ChurchRelations@scotland.anglican.org

The Study Guide is downloadable from the [Scottish Episcopal Church website](#).

New Grosvenor Essay published

The latest Grosvenor Essay (No.10) entitled *The Church and Scottish Identity* has been published and is now available in either downloadable format through the [Scottish Episcopal Church website](#) or in paperback by requesting a copy [by email](#) or in writing to:

General Synod Office
21 Grosvenor Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 5EE

The publication costs £5 and for more information, [check out the website here](#).

Is God calling you to Brechin Diocese?

The Bishop is looking to enhance the ministry team in the diocese and would be pleased to hear from clergy contemplating a move in the foreseeable future.

Stipendiary posts, full or part time and house for duty are or are becoming available – in the city of Dundee and in the towns of our attractive east coast.

The Diocese of Brechin offers wonderful opportunities for ministry. Our vision is to be more missional and outward-facing. We need imaginative and collaborative clergy who pastor and promote the gospel well in varied contexts.

Priests coming to the diocese join a friendly and compact clergy team which values mutual support, continuing ministerial learning and social times together in order that we each flourish.

To arrange a visit or conversation with the Bishop please contact Jackie Milton, Bishop's PA at the Diocesan Office in Dundee. office@brechin.anglican.org 01382 562244

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Please encourage others to sign up for these regular e-mails at www.scotland.anglican.org

Comments and feedback are always welcome and can be directed to the Communications Officer, Lorna Finley on press@scotland.anglican.org

Please note that the views expressed on websites linked in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

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