

From the Rector:

Dear friends

By the time you read this magazine, we probably would have passed the middle of our Lenten observance. How far have we gone? How faithful have we been to our calling as the people of God? What has God to say to us here and what have we got to say to God?



Put in another way, what is our starting point and what are our priorities here this church? Are we communicating with God? We are called to discipleship and each of us here has a special calling, a call that demands an adequate response. What then is the starting point or the central focus of our call to discipleship? If we are true to our faith, as I suppose we are, like other Christians, our starting point is Jesus of Nazareth. This is true both of Christianity as a whole, and also of any individual in any age.

It follows that Christianity is not at its starting – point a set of beliefs or ethics or a sacred scripture or an ecclesiastical organisation. It is originally a response of discipleship to Jesus of Nazareth; and these other things have come as consequences of that response. When the community of the disciples reflected upon the implications of its response Christians beliefs began to be formed; when it sought to describe life within the ambience of that response it produced the New Testament; and through living in a world that was alien to it the community became moulded into the ecclesiastical organisation. But the primary and central fact remains the impact of Jesus of Nazareth upon mankind, which means ultimately upon individual men and women.

It also follows that the primary task of Christian communication is not to argue about theological ideas or about the finances and rules of the church but to try to relay to others, in and out of season, rich and poor young and old, in Palaces or in Nursing Homes the impact of Jesus of Nazareth thus making possible their own response of their own discipleship to him.

It is a matter of communicating the Christian starting point, and this is more a task of pointing out and proclaiming than of proving. While doing this, we must bear in mind that the message will not be kindly received in every place. Every disappointment should urge us on. Jesus himself was not unaware of such disappointment during his lifetime.

Here in Cumbernauld the church which is the ‘the Body of Christ’ needs its

has been called. God calls through ordinary human beings. Jesus as a human being lived in a particular country Palestine at a particular time and the response of the disciples to his call was a response to Jesus as a man, a response which eventually deepened into a religious faith.

Lent is a time to deepen our response, a time to think less of ourselves and think more of others.

Wishing you God's choicest blessings.

Barnabas



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

7.00pm-Stations of the Cross

HOLY THURSDAY

7.30pm-Holy Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altars and The Watch

GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm-Good Friday Service with the Veneration of the Cross



EASTER CELEBRATIONS

EASTER EVE

6.30pm-Easter Eve Service

EASTER DAY

9.45am-Morning Prayer

10.15am-Easter Family Eucharist

6.30pm-Sung Evensong

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

IN EASTER WEEK

10.00am-The Eucharist

April date for consecration



WHILE numbers will be limited to attend the consecration service of our next bishop, all will be welcome to a special celebration Evensong in the Cathedral the following Sunday.

The consecration of Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan as Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway will be held in St Mary's Cathedral, Great Western Road, Glasgow, at 6.30pm on Friday 23 April. Due to the large number of official guests and the capacity of the Cathedral, admission will be by invitation only.

Official guests will include people holding positions of responsibility in the diocese; all diocesan clergy; and all electoral synod members (i.e. one Lay Rep per charge). When acceptance numbers are known, any spare places will be balloted among other members of the diocese, including spouses of those invited, who should advise the Diocesan Centre (office@glasgow.anglican.org) by 19 March of their wish to attend.

There will be a celebratory Evensong in the Cathedral on Sunday 25th April, for the diocese to celebrate its new bishop and at which the new dean will be installed. All will be welcome to this service.

Bishop-elect names his successor as Dean

The new Dean of Glasgow and Galloway following the Consecration and Installation of the new bishop will be the Rev Ian Barcroft, Rector of St. Mary's Hamilton.

The Rev. Darren McFarland will continue to serve as the Bishop's Master of ceremonies and Liturgical Chaplain. Any other appointments will be announced after Bishop-elect Gregor takes up his office at the end of April.

**Christian Aid
book sale**

Christian Aid

PRICES start at 10p when St Ninian's Pollokshields (1 Albert Drive) hosts a Christian Aid book sale on Saturday 10 March, 10am-1pm. The £1 admission charge includes refreshments. Contact Rosemary Anwar (0141-637 8324).



LEARNING TO DRIVE

IKENNA OGUGUO

One of my Christmas presents was a couple of driving lessons. A very sweet thought from my brother – even if it is also a veiled statement. I am going to assume that a large proportion of you are drivers and that you will understand the things that I have to get to grips with.

Driving, of course, is a skill that is attained and mastered by a large amount of the adult population and like all skills, need practice. Practice makes perfect. Well, close to perfect. You have to have high standards or else you will be wasting time.

I have had only a few lessons. Something got my attention when dealing with the three pedals (clutch, foot brake, and accelerator). It is something that is so important that it must be taught and instilled into the pupils as soon as possible. In order to run the car, what is very important is attention to detail.

When you start the car, it will not move until you have set the gas. There must be a precise balance of pressure on the clutch and accelerator pedals. Well, either the car does not move or you run down the engine. Small, subtle adjustments can make a difference to how the car operates.

It seems to be a constant theme and, without sounding like a wannabe philosopher, it seems to apply to many other areas and activities. People who claim to be perfectionists and work to a high standard always seem to pay great attention to any minute detail that might affect their work. Musicians, artists, people in business, politicians, sportsmen, women, their coaches, and several others. Think about it. That is where discipline and hard work come in to the picture – and possibly the fact that you had nothing better to do.

It is also important to take your time and not panic when you are behind the wheel. The car is a potentially dangerous machine and like many dangerous things, it is perfectly safe when used with due care, attention, and patience. It is very easy to panic and act irrationally when under pressure – not that it has happened! However, there were occasions when I thought in hindsight: “I would not be surprised if that resulted in an accident.” It could just be me being over-cautious but I was weary of causing an accident. I do not see myself as having any boy-racer tendencies. I see some drivers speeding down the motorway, or if they are really stupid (or desperate to impress) on country roads. You will have seen them yourselves. I look at that and thank God that I am not like that, or that I do not aspire to be so. It is just not worth it in the end.

Learning to drive, from what I have observed so far, takes time. I have spoken to several people who have had varying times between their first lesson and them passing their practical driving test. For some it was a matter of months, for others; it took a few years. There were also those who had to take the test several times. It was reassuring that I felt that I did not need to rush to get on to the road – or maybe I was just reassured by the fact that I will not ride in a car with them!

It has been quite fascinating learning to drive, even if it is a little scary and nerve-racking, and I look forward to more lessons. The way I have seen it, driving is a life skill that can be transferred to other areas in everyday life. It also takes you out of your comfort zone and makes you do something a little different. That is what makes this an adventure.

Fairtrade status for the diocese

Glasgow & Galloway has now been declared an official Fairtrade Diocese.

It means more than 50% of our churches are Fairtrade Churches and we are also an active diocese when it comes to promoting fair trade, especially during Fairtrade Fortnight.

There are now about 6,000 Fairtrade Churches in the UK and we join the Dioceses of Aberdeen, Brechin and Edinburgh as Fairtrade dioceses in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Over seven million people in 59 developing countries, farmers, workers and their families, benefit from the added income, security and market awareness which selling to the Fairtrade market provides.

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs till 7 March. The theme is 'The Big Swap', the aim being to get people to swap their usual brands of goods for Fairtrade ones.

More than 4,500 Fairtrade products are now licensed in the UK so there is plenty of scope to swap your tea, coffee, biscuits, sugar, cotton T-shirts or even cotton underwear!

Said Revd Ian Barcroft, convenor of Glasgow & Galloway's Church in Society Action Network: "It would be great to have masses of fair-trade tea parties and coffee mornings across the diocese this year."

More information about Fairtrade in general, Fairtrade fortnight or Fairtrade goods for sale can be found at fairtrade.org.uk.

LAY REP'S REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

Margaret's report is on the noticeboard for you to read.

DIOCESAN ACTION GROUPS. There are also reports from the various action groups which the Diocesan office have asked me to make available to you. They are far too long for the magazine and are also on the noticeboard.

Joe Lochrie, Editor

EASTER LILLIES

To place a Lily in the church at Easter in memory of a loved one please see Joan. The donation to cover costs is £5.00

MOTHERING SUNDAY BUFFET LUNCH

Donations are asked for the Mothering Sunday Bring and Share Buffet, which will follow the Sunday Eucharist on March 14th. There is a list on the narthex table or see either Margaret G or K.

Thought for the month:

A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future and accepts you today the way you are.

FROM THE EDITOR

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL MAGAZINE IS SUNDAY MARCH 21st.

ANY COPY RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

This is in order to ensure that I am not tied up during Holy Week. The April edition will be out on Easter Sunday

Thank You, JOE LOCHRIE, Editor

MOTHERS' Union's
Make a Mother's Day
campaign offers ethical



virtual gifts that help family carers through some of life's most challenging difficulties. They range from £7 to £168, ducks to chicks, seeds to goats.

Said MU spokesperson Fiona Thomas: "My particular favourite has to be *Childhood is going bust* for £40 -with the message: 'Help us ban bras for seven-year olds. We believe the sexualisation of pre-teen girls is wrong.'

"I'll be doing my bit to protect my own daughter's childhood by helping Mothers' Union lobby against the aggressive marketing to children by buying this in memory of my mother this year. She would have heartily approved."

Buy online: makeamothersday.org.

CUMBERNAULD AGM OUR AGM took place on Wednesday, March 3rd.

make a mother's day

COFFEE EVENING AND LIGHT SUPPER

Cumbernauld MU are holding a Coffee Evening and Light Supper in aid of this year's 'Make a Mother's Day' campaign.

Tickets are £3 from Joan McKechnie.

Bring and Buy Stall

When is it?

FRIDAY 12th MARCH at 7.30pm in the hall.

SEE YOU THERE!

JUST FOR TODAY

Just for today I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle my whole life problem at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appal me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today I will be happy. Most people are as happy as they make up their minds to be.

Just for today I will adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take my `luck' as it comes, and fit myself to it.

Just for today I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

Just for today I will exercise my soul in three ways: I will do somebody a good turn, and not get found out; if anybody knows of it, it will not count. I will do at least two things I don't want to do — just for exercise. I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

Just for today I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticise not one bit, not find fault with anything and not try to improve or regulate anybody except myself.

Just for today I will have a programme. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

Just for today I will have a quiet half hour all by myself, and relax. During this half hour, sometime, I will try to get a better perspective of my life.

Just for today I will be unafraid. Especially I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful, and to believe that as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.