

**To: All Clergy, Lay Readers, Lay Representatives, Alternative Lay Representatives, Vestry Secretaries and Treasurers – and for passing on to your congregations...**

**From John Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary**

**16th June 2021**

**As usual, our quarterly Diocesan office Update begins with a message from Bishop Kevin...**

Trust is a very precious gift. Constantly, we are being told that trust in institutions – the law, the medical profession, the monarchy, the church – trust is at an all-time low in such institutions, all of whom have great influence over our lives. Trust is a gift of love which, like all gifts of love, reflects God's life in our own lives.



God is love and God trusts each one of us to show this love in our lives, and that is what it means to build the Kingdom of God. God trusts us to build his Kingdom in building relationships, and the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ shows just how much trust God puts in each one of us. This, to me, proves that trust in God is worthwhile, it gives confidence in faith itself. Trust is a gift of love which grows when given away; our trust in God, in love, grows as love responds to love.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus's encounters with individuals show trust in the simple fact that we are made in the image of God and have so much God-given human potential to grow into the people God trusts us to be. The disciple is one who recognises the call of the Jesus of the Gospel, trusts in God and the love which encourages us to be the people God knows we can be. Peter's denial, Thomas's doubt, Mary Magdalene's grief: the individual disciples grew, grow, through their experience and trust in God.

Holiness was the word the Psalmist used to describe the longing for God and the trust in God that the disciple knows and feels. Jesus proved that God is with us in that longing and gives us as many second chances as we need, despite our denial, and our grief, and our doubt. The mark of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the confidence we feel that God is with us in these horrible things we would rather not experience, and we trust that we grow through them and see meaning and purpose in them, so that in every aspect of our lives we grew more into God's image, we grow in integrity. Integrity is perhaps the synonym for what previous generations called Holiness.

Why is trust the subject of this reflection at this particular time? It is because at this time of transition and change, as we enter the new reality post-COVID, Trust in God will bring us trust in each other and give us confidence to face the future. At Diocesan Synod in July we have the life of our whole diocese to consider and equip to face the future. Confidence in building God's Kingdom in Glasgow & Galloway is why the Synod meets, and trust in God, in each other, in being disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, trust will guide give us confidence to make our vision real.

With every blessing...

+ **Kevin**

### **Diocesan Synod 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

Our postponed Diocesan Synod remains scheduled for 31st July, and will take place via Zoom. Papers should arrive with attending clergy and lay representatives by 17th July, and any motions for debate should be submitted for consideration as soon as possible, and certainly no later than Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July if they are to be included with the papers. Such submissions should be emailed to Bishop Kevin at [bishop@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@glasgow.anglican.org), and copied to me, John Mitchell, at [diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org)

**Constitution:** One of the items for discussion and debate at Synod will be our proposed new Constitution. This development of a new Constitution has been a long-running saga in the Diocese, and one which Bishop Kevin is keen to conclude and complete, by introducing a Constitution that reflects what our Diocese does, rather than what it used to do, and a constitution which is more in keeping with the Canons of our Scottish Episcopal Church as well as offering more transparency, flexibility, and bringing us closer to Synodical arrangements that exist in the other dioceses of the Province.

To that end, the proposed new Constitution (now in its ninth draft) has been compiled by a small group comprising Bishop Kevin, Dean Reuben, The Chancellor, Provost Kelvin Holdsworth and myself, then submitted to Bishop's Staff Group for their review and further fine-tuning, after which it was submitted to Diocesan Council in their May meeting, where it comprised the main bulk of our business. After much discussion, a final draft was agreed, and will be included with the Synod papers.

**Synod by Zoom:** as already intimated, our Synod will be conducted via Zoom. If anyone due to attend is in any way concerned about accessing Synod in this way, then one-to-one training is available at any time in the weeks leading up to

Synod – but please don't leave it until the day before! Please email Petko Marinov at [digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org) as soon as possible or call him on **07719 611007**. Alternatively, contact me (details at the end of this update): we are happy to offer any assistance necessary. It is possible to access (and contribute to) Synod by telephone if visual access is impossible; again, contact Petko or me for details and training. There will also be training by *Sanctus*, our technical support agency, nearer the time, but this will assume a basic knowledge of Zoom, so please take advantage of our Diocesan offer first if you've not used Zoom before, or are in any way unsure about it.

**Apologies or Permission for Absence:** if a Lay Representative is unable to attend Synod, please send apologies and arrange for the Alternative Lay Representative to attend. If the Alternate is also unable to attend, that person should also send apologies. Please send such apologies to Christine Hughes at [christine@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:christine@glasgow.anglican.org). Voting Clergy are reminded that they need to seek permission from Bishop Kevin to be absent from Synod, and should request this by email to [bishop@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@glasgow.anglican.org), copying in Christine Hughes.

### **Lent Appeal**

At the time of writing, the impressive total of monies raised for our Lent Appeal in support of Aberlour Child Care Trust is **£9,783**, including donations sent directly to Aberlour as well as those sent through the Diocesan office and the JustGiving page.

The appeal will close at the end of August, so this is a final reminder that the easiest way to donate (and allow Gift Aid to be claimed back) is to go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/diocese-of-glasgow-galloway>

**Whether donating as an individual or as a Church via your Treasurer, please add the name of your church to the Donation Notes** (even if you are an individual who prefers to remain anonymous).

**Cheque Payments** are also acceptable for passing on to Aberlour: cheques should be made payable to **Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway**. Please include a note to confirm the name of your charge and your contact details. Send to: ***Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway, Bishop's Lent Appeal, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.***

**Electronic Transfer to the Diocese:** send by BACS to: Sort code 83-41-00, Account Number 00162089. Account name is ***GW & GALL GEN FUND 7.*** Please use the reference **Lent21** and (if sending from a charge) your quota number for ID, and **also** email Iolanthe Stack at [iolanthe@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:iolanthe@glasgow.anglican.org) to confirm a donation has been sent, and from which charge.

## **New Diocesan Centre**

The handover of our new Centre is fast approaching. Almost inevitably, Covid-related issues regarding working practices have delayed this handover until late-June, but we remain confident that this promised date will be maintained. More details – and pictures – will be available at, and after, Diocesan Synod.

## **Our Digital Church Seminars on Zoom**

Petko, our Digital Missioner, will offer hour-long Zoom seminars, focussing on a variety of easy-to-achieve actions to improve the online presence of our churches, as a continuation of *Our Digital Church* every first Monday of the month, beginning on Monday, 5 July at 6.30pm.

July's seminar will focus on claiming the Google search card associated with your church through Google My Business, a free and easy-to-use tool for organisations to manage their online presence across Google, including Search and Maps.

The seminar is open to all, particularly intended for those who manage websites and social media on behalf of Scottish Episcopal churches. To receive Zoom details, email Petko at [digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org), or you can always reach the Digital Missioner on Mondays, 10-11am during Zoom Office Hours, on email, and on 07719611007.

## **Clergy and Lay Reader News**

**Rev Liz Crumlish** will be ordained to the Priesthood by on Saturday, 3rd July at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. She will continue to serve as Curate at St Oswald's Church, Maybole, where she has been serving as a Deacon since her ordination there last December.

Bishop Kevin is delighted to ordain Liz to the priesthood, as she continues to bring to the diocese so much experience, which will be a great asset to the Ayrshire Region as well as the wider diocese. Liz brings a wealth of experience in ministry, having been ordained in the Church of Scotland 25 years ago. She has worked as a Health Care Chaplain in Greenock and in parishes in Inverkip and Ayr.

Please pray for Liz as she prepares for her priesting, and also pray for her family. Liz is married to Idris. They have two grown-up children, Ruaridh and Zara, and a granddaughter, Evie.

**Rev Keith Thomasson** has been appointed as Rector of St Ninian's Episcopal Church Troon. Originally a teacher, Keith trained for ordained ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Geneva. It was in Switzerland that he met his future wife, Anna-Claar, who was preparing for ministry with the Remonstrant Church in the Netherlands.

He was ordained in Blackburn Cathedral in 2002, and currently ministers with those who are vulnerable due to homelessness and those with a learning disability. Keith has degrees in music, theology, and 'approaching Christian leadership'. He is a keen musician who enjoys working with community groups as conductor and composer. Keith is a pastoral supervisor, with an interest in nurturing vocation. He looks forward very much to contributing to diocesan life.

Keith's wife, the Rev Dr Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh, is an Anglican priest, theological educator, and author. She is looking forward to moving to Troon and learning how to kite surf. Together they have three school-aged children, Susannah, Reuben and Johan.

Bishop Kevin says, "We are delighted to be able to welcome Keith and his family into the life of the diocese. Keith brings many gifts and passions which we look forward to him sharing with the people of Troon, the wider life of the Ayrshire Region and the whole diocese. I look forward to Instituting Keith in the summer months."

Please pray for Keith and his family as they prepare to move to Troon during the coming months.

**Rev Kirstin Freeman** has been appointed as Rector of the Charges of Holy Name, Cumbernauld and St Paul & St John the Evangelist, Monklands, and comes to this post from the Charge of All Saints, Bearsden where she has served since 2009.

Kirstin says, 'I am excited to be joining the congregations at Monklands and Cumbernauld; and as we work together for the glory of God in the north-eastern corner of the diocese, I am hugely looking forward to the great adventure that God has called us into.'

Bishop Kevin says, 'We are delighted that Kirstin is perceiving the call of these two Charges to help them discern the Holy Spirit's promptings to engage in the development of ministry for the coming years in Cumbernauld and Monklands. She brings with her much passion, imagination and commitment to growing creative ministry in both Charges as they look to a future through and beyond the pandemic experience. It is vital to the future life of these Charges that Kirstin is able to bring fresh and vital energy, direction and vision to the work



of the Scottish Episcopal Church in both areas. The excitement of the potential for the future in both Vestries is a source of enormous consolation for all concerned and I look forward to the work of the Vestries and Property Committee in enabling the housing needs to make this work able to flourish for the life of our Diocese.'

Please pray for Kirstin and her family as she prepares to leave Bearsden in the coming months and move to Holy Name and St Paul & St John the Evangelist.

**Ray Gascoigne** has recently been appointed Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers. Ray has been a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church since 1972, serving at Holy Name Cumbernauld. During this period, he assisted each priest in the sanctuary before answering the call to train as a Lay Reader in 2010 and after a period of discernment and subsequent training was licensed in October 2013.

In the role of Warden of Lay Readers, Ray succeeds Kevin Boak. The Warden is an advocate for the ministry of Readers in the diocese, who are lay people who preach and teach as lay theologians, and are often involved in pastoral work as well. They work closely in collaboration with others to support and develop the life of the congregation. Some of them have a particular ministerial role in the wider community.

We wish Ray well in this new endeavour and pray for him and all Lay Readers in our diocese, asking God to bless their ministry across communities in Glasgow and Galloway.

### **News from Paisley**

**As reported by the Rev Deborah Davison, Trinity Sunday** was a time of great celebration at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas in Paisley, "when we welcomed unexpectedly clement weather to celebrate our patronal festival as well as completion of the choir room roof. This was the culmination of much hard work, diligence and commitment, particularly by Bob Lundy, Denis Meney and Alan Potter.

Denis gave a warm and humorous speech, during which he thanked all those involved, particularly Treasurer Bob who has spent considerable time and care over the past 2 years, as well as other tasks, applying for grants. Our youngest member present, Olivia, assisted ably with the holy water, as well as steadying the ribbon when older members risked toppling the stands...! and passed scissors at the key moment.

We are particularly grateful to those who helped with funding – The Scottish Episcopal Church, The Baird Foundation and The Garfield Weston Foundation. Thanks are also due to Architect Rebecca Cadie who, to quote Denis 'kept us

right' and also legal! Thank you, Rebecca. The roof was completed swiftly, thanks to the care and skill of the great roofers and builders – Martin Carr and team, aided too by unusually good weather.

As more people have been able to emerge from separation, it was a great blessing to share Communion, in person, this Trinity Sunday and be able to gather (or rather 'distance'...) together in the fresh sunshine and raise a modest 'glass' to those involved. It is good to know this will not only shelter the choir and community groups once they regather but that it will be there for another couple of hundred years, by which time, the current Vestry Members very much hope to have been allowed to hand things on!"

### **Rev Paul Romano**

Finally, 30th May witnessed the retirement of **Rev Paul Romano**, a long-standing and highly popular presence in the Diocese. Paul initially enjoyed an extremely successful career in law, latterly as Chief Solicitor (1996-2007), and then Executive Legal Manager (2007-11) of Glasgow City Council (where he also served as the Council's first Assistant Chaplain from 2005-11).

Paul's vocational call began as a member of Good Shepherd, Hillington, after which he was ordained Priest in 2006, thereafter serving as Associate Priest in St Margaret's Newlands before becoming Rector of St Ninian's, Pollokshields in 2011. Much beloved of his congregation, he has also contributed hugely to Diocesan and Provincial life in the guise of his presence on many committees and also his sage tendering of legal advice when required, especially as Legal Assessor to both General and Episcopal Synods from 2000-11. We wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Kind regards

John Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary  
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