



NetWork

St Peter's Episcopal Church

Inverkeithing

April May 2011

www.inverkeithingepiscopal.org.uk

NetWork

The next issue will be at the beginning of June; contributions by 28th May 2011 please. Contributions can be sent by email to andrewmorris53@o2.co.uk as well as on disk, in print or handwritten.

In NetWork

- Rector's Letter
- Casting the Net
- Calendar
- Readers
- Lent Bible Study
- World Day of Prayer

RECTORS LETTER

Dear Friends,

In my last letter I wrote that we would be holding a commissioning service for the Revd Maureen Stirzaker. As often happens, things didn't quite go according to plan. There was a hold up in processing the mandatory Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection clearance and so, rather than wait for another slot in Bishop David's very full diary, Maureen was given her commission in the Diocesan office. She is now canonically a member of our ABI ministry team.

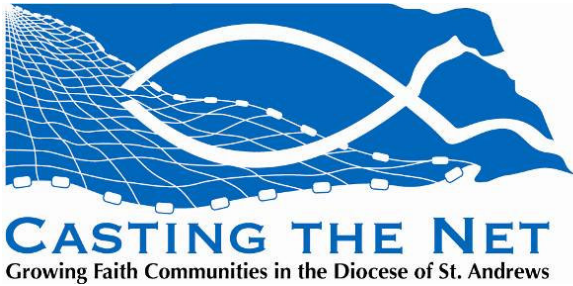
The ABI Mission Action Planning Workshop went ahead on Saturday 2nd April and I was delighted with the number of you who took time out to attend and participate so enthusiastically. We have a clear commitment to engage in developing our Mission Action Plan for the next three years. I look forward to working with our planning groups and Vestries on that, with the help of our facilitators and resourcing from the Diocese through the Children & Young People and Ministry & Education Groups. If all goes well we should be able to have a joint ABI service in August with Bishop David to launch our Mission Action Plan.

So, as we enter the season of Passiontide we have much to reflect on. Christ died for us so that we might live, let's celebrate that gift of life, take courage and reach out to our neighbours in ways that reveal the love of God. The resurrection of Christ working in us, as St Paul says.

Yours in Christ

Val Nellist

Rector: 28 Glamis Gardens, Dalgety Bay. Telephone: 01383 824066



Quietly over the past year a plan has been unfolding in the ABI churches. Meetings have discussed, vestries have pondered, groups have met in houses. Finally, on Saturday the 2nd of April, the plan went public when thirty or so people from the three ABI congregations met at St Peter's for a Mission Action Planning Day (MAP).

Why were we there? Several reasons:

- To learn more about the congregational life of each of the three churches.
- To 'Audit' our congregational strengths and weaknesses.
- To be inspired and guided by the Diocesan Casting the Net team

In each congregation three people have been designated as the Mission Planning Team (for St Peter's they are Marjorie Smith, our CTN contact person, Alison LeGood and Sue Mowat). One of the remits of each team was to put together a presentation about their church's history and building, congregational life, the kind of community the church is part of and the contacts which have been made with that community. At the MAP day each church showed its presentation and we all learned more fascinating facts about each other.

For the 'Audit' of our strengths and weaknesses we were divided up into groups, two for each church, and each group worked through a series of questions based on the Nine Marks of Mission:

1. Worship that Renews and Inspires,
2. Transformed Lives and Communities
3. Lifelong Christian Nurture
4. Reaching out to Children and Young People
5. Rooted in Prayer, Word and Sacrament
6. The Welcome of Newcomers and Celebration of Life Events
7. Sharing Faith by Confident and Sensitive Evangelism
8. Serving the Community in Practical Ways
9. Ready to Seek Growth and Cast the Net

There were five statements about each Mark and the groups gave each question a score according to how well or otherwise it was being fulfilled in their particular congregation. At the end the scores were correlated by the Diocesan CTN team and a clear picture emerged of the points that the ABI Group needs to work on.

The weakest areas were numbers 2, 3 and 7; all of them connected with our growth in faith. There was a general agreement that we all need to work on this, both as a group and as individual congregations, and various suggestions were made as to how we might do this. The Diocesan CTN team will be putting together a report on the discussion, which will be available to everyone as soon as possible.

The Diocesan CTN team consists of Karen Gaskell, Kimberley Bohan (Rector at Dunblane) and Susannah Silver the CTN officer. They have already worked with several individual congregations but this was the first time they have worked with a group of churches, so they were feeling their way to some extent. However, the day had been very well planned and the team were enthusiastic, supportive and inspiring. They made us feel that we were on the brink of something positive and significant, which will strengthen us and help us to be more confident about sharing our faith with people who are outside the church. The day ended with a short Evening Liturgy and hymns.

The next stage will be a meeting of the Mission Planning Teams of each of the three congregations on the 4th of May, with the Diocesan team and the Diocesan Education Officer to discuss further the conclusions of the MAP day and get a clearer idea of the way ahead. To bring you up-to-date on what the St Peter's Team have been doing, here's what's been going on over the past few months.



CALENDAR



Sunday 10th April Lent 5	Eucharist	11am	St Peter's
Wednesday 13 th April	ABI Lent Group 7.30pm.	7.30pm	
Sunday 17th April Palm Sunday	Eucharist	11am	St Peter's
	Music & Words for the Beginning of Holy Week	6pm	
Thursday 21 st April Maundy Thursday	Chrism Mass Chrism Mass Chrism Mass	11am 11am 7.30pm	St Ninian's Perth St Serf's St Columba's
Friday 22 nd April Good Friday	Meditation Meditation Taizé Service Sung Comline	12-1pm 2-3pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	St Peter's St Columba's St Serf's St Serf's
Sunday 24th April Easter Sunday	Eucharist	11am	St Peter's
Saturday 30 th April	Christian Aid Forth Road Bridge Walk - http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/walking/scotland.aspx		North & South Queensferry
Sunday 1st May Easter 2	Eucharist	11am	St Peter's
Saturday 7 th May	Witch Knowe Reminiscence Day	1-4pm	St Peter's
Sunday 8th May Easter 3	Eucharist	11am	St Peter's
Tuesday 10 th May	Area Council Meeting	7.30pm	Holy Trinity Dunfermline
Sunday 15th May Easter 4	Eucharist	11am	St Peter's
Saturday 21 st May	Casting the Net Gathering		St Ninian's Cathedral
Sunday 22nd May Easter 5	Eucharist & Baptism of Jessica Sykes	11am	St Peter's
Saturday 28 th May	Traditional Bazaar	1am- 2pm	St Serf's
Sunday 29th May Easter 6	Eucharist	11am	St Peter's
Thursday 2 nd June Ascension Day	Eucharist	7.30pm	St Serf's

Readings and Readers for March & April 2011

Sunday	Readings	Reader
Sunday 10th April Lent 5	Ezekiel 37.1-14 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.17-45	Dorothy & Jim Sue
Sunday 17th April Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11 Matthew 27.11-54	Pat & Philip Dramatised Reading
Sunday 24th April Easter Sunday	Acts 10.34-43 Colossians 3.1-4 John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10	Jan Jan Bob
Sunday 1st May Easter 2	Acts 2.14a,22-32 1 Peter.1.3-9 John 20.19-31	Mildred Mildred Bob
Sunday 8th May Easter 3	Acts 2.14a,36-41 1 Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24.13-35	Fiona Fiona Sue
Sunday 15th May Easter 4	Acts 2.42-47 1 Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10	Andrew Andrew Marjorie
Sunday 22nd May Easter 5	Baptism 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14	Pat & Philip
Sunday 29th May Easter 6	Acts 17.22-31 1 Peter 3.13-22 John 14.15-21	Jan Jan Sue
Sunday 5th June Easter 7	Acts 1.6-14 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11	Andrew Andrew Marjorie

**Readers of the Epistle, please collect the offertory
Andrew Morris Tel: 01383 734726**

Continued from Page 2

- An initial interview with the Inverkeithing Locality Manager to find out what the local needs are. There will be further follow-up on this to see if there is any way we can help.
- A meeting with the owner and manager of the Children's home next door to the church to find out more about their work. As a result of this a representative from our congregation will be attending their bi-annual Local Liaison meetings. We hope to develop further links with the home.
- We arranged the Lent Bible Study which is now in its fourth week, attended by eight members of the congregation.
- One member has carried out a Prayer Walk through Inverkeithing, and there will be more of these in the summer.

After the 4th of May meeting the St Peter's Team and the Vestry will be working on the plans which arise from that meeting and any others which may be forthcoming. Two items are already in the pipeline. On Saturday 7 May we will be holding a Reminiscence Afternoon for people who lived in Knowe Terrace, the tenement which used to stand to the south of the church. Also the committee which arranges floral enhancements for Inverkeithing want to clear the Jamestown pond this year and have asked us to get involved.

As a small congregation it is easy for us to feel that there is not much we can do, but some things are already on the go and as part of the ABI group there is more that we can achieve, with God's help. The most important thing is for all our efforts to be supported by the prayers of our congregation, so please pray that we will all be able to spread the Gospel in however small a way. An ocean is made up of tiny drops of water!

LENT BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday evenings a few of us are meeting in Inverkeithing for a series of informal discussions around the weekly Gospel readings. Beforehand, Sue Mowat gave us some excellent suggestions of ways to prepare ourselves for each week's discussion. Personally, I've been setting aside time each day to read the piece for the week and making a note of my thoughts and feelings. I thought that as we tend to have the same readings every season of Lent I would be familiar with them. However, when I look at them in detail, I've found things that surprise me and provoke questions. And from our discussions, this has happened to the others also. Some of our individual reactions are the same and others different but the discussions we have do help clarify things and answer our questions.

There are 8-10 of us and the form of the meeting is that there is time at the start for each of us to read through the gospel silently, then we each take a turn to share our thoughts with the others followed by a time of open discussion. The evening finishes with a shortened version of Compline including time for silent prayer.

We have been meeting at 7:30pm at Jan Benvie's house at 2 Roods Square, Inverkeithing but as she will be away on 13 April it's likely that we'll be meeting at the church on that day. Hopefully, the venue will be mentioned in the ABI Notes for Sunday 10 April but you may wish to check with Sue, Marjorie or myself beforehand. It doesn't matter if you've not been to the earlier discussions. You're very welcome to join us.

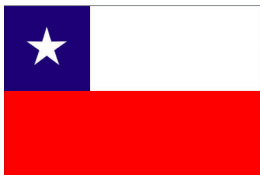
The readings for the next two meetings are;
13 April - Matthew 27: 11-54 20 April - John 20: 1-18

Pat Street

World Day of Prayer 2011

This year's World Day of Prayer service was hosted by St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Rosyth Methodist Church. These two churches work closely together, sharing a building.

It was the turn of the Christian women of Chile to prepare the order of service, this year. They based it on words of our Lord at the feeding of the five thousand: "How many loaves have you?"



On entering the church the first thing you noticed was the altar, where a display of the produce of Chile was laid out. Chilean flags hung from the roof. Of particular note was a model of the headgear of a mine to remind us of the produce of copper and of the deliverance of the Chilean miners trapped below ground last year.

There was a bowl of bread on the altar. Indicating the bowl, the service leader quoted the women of Chile, "Bread is the main food in our homes. No meal is complete without it. We show hospitality, even in the poorest homes by sharing coffee, tea or mate and some bread."

During the service we were reminded of the earthquake in Chile last year, the people who died and the homes destroyed. We were also reminded of the hard times suffered during the dictatorship of General Pinochet before 1989, when human rights were ignored and people disappeared.

At one point in the service we had to sit in small groups and think about "How many loaves have you?" That is: What are your gifts? And what can you share? We had to write down on a piece of paper the gifts named in our group. This was quite difficult for me as I am not used to contributing so much during a service. Do I have useful gifts? Some people wrote something and the papers were collected, read out and placed on the altar with the collection at the offertory. I was left wondering do I have gifts I could share but don't?

The Reverend Ross Kennedy of St Margaret's (and Holy Trinity) preached on the feeding of the five thousand. Ross brought our attention to an explanation of this miracle often expounded by Professor Barclay: that the five thousand had food all the time but were not willing to share what they had, until a small boy showed his five loaves and two fish. The question arose in my mind again: do I have gifts I could share but don't?

At the end of the service the leaders processed out and stood at the doors to distribute the bread from the altar.

After this very thought provoking service we were treated to tea and cakes in the hall.

Philip A Street



Christian Aid Week
From 15 - 21 May 2011