



Glasgow & Galloway Diocese

Scottish Charity: SCO23885

NEWSLETTER 1

Welcome to our first newsletter, introduced by Elaine our Diocesan Secretary. Our main communication will continue to be Newslink – where we are all encouraged to share our stories, but as there is often news in between, the newsletter will combine as much as possible to limit the number of emails you receive. Please disseminate to your branch members as far as possible.

Please let Elaine know your views on Newsletter 1!

- ❖ **Spring Council, Lady Day** – Paul has produced a stunning photo gallery, please see on www.muscotland.org
- ❖ **Festival Service 10th May, 11am at St John's, Dumfries** – hope that you all have this noted in your diaries and are looking forward to attending. Carolynne has provided the following directions for those travelling to St John's by public transport
 - **Bus** – leave bus at Dumfries Academy – walk along Lover's Lane to church
 - **Train** – from station walk short distance in direction of Church spire/ War memorial
 - **Banners** – Elsie Murray will meet Banner Holders in the meeting room at the back of the church at 10:45ish (Elsie will be carrying the Diocesan banner - If your branch needs someone to carry your banner speak to Elsie
 - **Tree Blessing** – Elsie has written a blessing for us all to sing – words will be on Service sheet, but it would be good if we could all do a little practice. The tune is Ye Banks and Braes and here are the words:-

Give thanks and praise to the Lord of creation,
Sustainer of seed and soil, flower and tree;
For witness of members here gathered together
And those we remember but no longer see.

May this tree remind us of all God's bounty,
Her roots buried deep in the soil of Dumfries;
May her branches grow strong and produce leaves aplenty.
We ask for a blessing now on this young tree

- ❖ **Provincial Training day** – 27th May at St Ninian's Perth – 10.30am. Please invite your clergy to attend.
- ❖ **Peter's retiral** – as I am sure you will all know Rev. Peter Douglas will be retiring from Holy Trinity Church, Kilmarnock at the end of July and also from his role as our MU Chaplain – he hopes to spend a good part of his retirement in Spain. In order for members throughout the diocese to say farewell to him, Peter has invited as many as possible to attend his home, Whinneyknowe in Galston, just outside Kilmarnock, on Saturday 14th June. The afternoon will start with a Eucharist at 12 noon, followed by a bar-b-q! Please bring enough sausages/ burgers for your own branch plus any extras you may wish salad etc. Numbers hoping to attend please to Ann or me. The trustees will make a small presentation to Peter on the day to mark our appreciation and thanks for his work as Chaplain. We wish him well in his retirement.
- ❖ **Fund Raising Concert** – In order to celebrate the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow this summer there will be a Mothers' Union Fundraising Concert on Thursday 24th July at St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Cathedral, with **Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society** and **Glasgow Senior Citizens Orchestra** – ticket prices and more details to follow. It is hoped that the event will be advertised to a greater audience by 'More Than Gold' (MTG) www.morethangold2014.org
- ❖ **UN GIFT boxes** – Also during the Commonwealth Games the social justice team of MTG hope to place 4 UN GIFT boxes in different central Glasgow locations to raise the public's awareness of human trafficking. The information boxes will be staffed by volunteers (four at a time in a 4 hour long shift). Training sessions are as detailed below - all volunteers must attend one 2 hour session. If interested please contact Marie Cooke on 07876787713
 - **Wednesday 14th May** – 2 separate sessions – **2.30 - 4.30pm** or **7- 9pm**
 - **Saturday 24th May** – **10.30am -12.30pm**
 - **Thursday 12th June** - 2 separate sessions – **3 - 5pm** or **7 - 9pm**
- ❖ **Date for Autumn Council** – Saturday 18th October at St Ninian's, Pollockshields.

Best wishes

Elaine McAlpine