Moving to Pastures New

Departing from Scotland in July to a new ecumenical appointment will be Major Stephen Huyton of Rutherglen.

Stephen, with his wife Margaret arrived in 2005 after five years in Kent, with joint responsibilities both for Canterbury Corps and as County Ecumenical Officer (SA) for Churches Together in Kent. They return back south of the border to Maldon, Essex where again the roles of spiritual leadership and County Ecumenical Officer (SA) for Churches Together in Essex and East London (CTEEL) will be their responsibilities.

During his five years in Scotland, Stephen’s ecumenical role has seen him travelling to Dunblane and Edinburgh for regular ACTS Church Life & Scottish Bible Society Meetings plus as a part of the executive committee of Glasgow Churches Together.

In the later role he served for two years as Vice-Chair and since summer 2010 as Chair.

“When we returned to Scotland on this last occasion, Stephen Smyth was the Ecumenical Officer for GCT.” said Stephen, “He proved an invaluable friend and guide in introducing me to the Scottish way of doing things. Stephen was a great loss to GCT when appointed General Secretary of ACTS but as is so common in Scotland; his influence has spread out over the whole of the country. Stephen was a hard act to follow, but with the appointment of Margaret Long as his successor, GCT began to benefit from her input and insights. I’ve greatly enjoyed my involvement on the Committee and with the senior Church and Civic Leaders, but recognise that God’s calling is taking us to new

… continued on page 2
pastures and back nearer our grandchildren in Kent and Surrey.

Speaking of his involvement at national level through the ACTS Church Life Network, as a member of the Strathclyde Regional Advisory Group and as an occasional attendee of the National Sponsoring Body (for LEP’s), he again is appreciative of friends made and the work done.

“Whilst we have enjoyed two previous appointments in Scotland, these past five years have given me a special insight into the different dynamics between the English model of Local, Intermediary (County level) and National levels as opposed to the Scottish two tier of local and national. Many English counties have more ecumenical partnerships that we do in the whole of Scotland; however the depth of mutual trust and co-operation amongst the denominations is something special. True, we could look to across the border for examples of good practice, but in many other ways the Scottish ecumenical scene has much to be celebrated. I have particularly enjoyed the sharing of experiences and the creative discussions through membership of the Church Life Network – even the past two meeting where circumstances meant me taking on the role of Acting Convener.”

“We shall miss Scotland when we move; opportunities to wear my kilt and enjoy a ceilidh will be few and far between, but return holidays for birdwatching and wildlife photography are planned with our faithful folding camper in town.”

Major Stephen Huyton

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Re-shaping Ecumenical Theology

A Consultation based around a significant new book by Paul Avis ‘Re-shaping ecumenical theology’ which will be published by T & T Clark in February 2011 will take place from 8 – 9 June 2010 (lunchtime to lunchtime) at Luther King House, Manchester. All participants will receive a complimentary copy of the book, and the conference will be shaped around the responses to various chapters of the book.

The conference hopes to attract ecumenical officers as well as theologians from the various traditions so that together it may become clear what path of theological engagement might best help our communions on the next stage of the ecumenical pilgrimage.

The programme has yet to be finalised. The Cost will be £70.

Bookings to: Carole Golden, Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH. Please give names, addresses and emails of participants together with a note of their denomination and enclose a £20 deposit for each participant to secure a place. Cheques should be made payable to Churches Together in England.
**Being Church**

ACTS Mission Network’s Task Group ‘Being Church in areas of new development’ reached a crucial stage in achieving consideration for worship space in a new housing development being planned at Forestmill, Clackmannanshire, at its meeting on 18 March.

This new development will be a new ‘super-village’ with housing, hotels, leisure complex, golf course, business centre and a craft shop area. The theme of the village is that of a small market town and the developers are keen to encourage a strong community atmosphere.

This meeting brought members of the Being Church Task Group together with those from Clackmannan Parish Church and the Agent and Developer of the new planned area. During our meeting, the agent and developer of the site said their vision of a strong community would naturally include space for the churches to use and meet and were keen to include space for this to happen in their outline plans. They concluded their talk by offering to meet with the group again, and any others from the churches at various stages in the development, if we were happy for this to happen.

Members of the group and the local churches are to report on the progress of this venture to their various denominations and the next meeting has been provisionally arranged for September to give enough time for this to happen.

If anyone would like to know more about this Group please contact:
Shona Paterson 01259 222362
email: shonapaterson@acts-scotland.org

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**A Quiet Day for Scotland** is a Working Group of ACTS Church Life Network. Their remit is to encourage local churches to work ecumenically in offering an opportunity to the local communities throughout Scotland to come together in a time of quiet reflection and/or prayer. The event takes place annually over the nearest weekend to Saint Andrew’s Day and those hosting events are asked to consider the Scottish context in their planning of the day.

The event has been growing in popularity and the Working Group have produced a series of leaflets and booklets to help those interested in hosting an event. There is also an annual Gathering Event – this year’s will be on 14 June at St Ninian’s Cathedral, Perth from 10am to lunch time (included). This event brings together those who have hosted events with those who are considering the idea and the time spent sharing ideas and experiences of good practice have been well received over the past few years. A new website is still in the ‘design stage’ but this is hoped to be up and running by the summer.

Further information or to book a place at the Gathering please call Shona Paterson on 01259 222362
World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel
29 May – 4 June 2010
Joint action for just peace convened by the World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches is inviting member churches and related organisations to join a week of advocacy and action for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. Those who share the hope of justice are invited to take peaceful actions, together, to create a common international public witness.

How to get involved
During the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, churches in different countries send a clear signal to policymakers, interested publics and their own parishes about the urgent need for a peace settlement that secures the legitimate rights and future of both peoples. Participants are requested to plan their activities around these points:

1. Pray with churches living under occupation, using a special prayer from Jerusalem.
2. Educate about actions that make for peace and about facts on the ground that do not, especially, settlements in occupied territory.
3. Advocate with political leaders using ecumenical policies that promote peace with justice.

Visit: www.worldweekforpeace.org

Grasping Nettles Programme:

Healing Retreat: One Water, Many Streams – Monday 17 to Thursday 20 May
Spiritual Healing is like a Stream that flows out of your personal spiritual life. Using talks, dialogue, silence and meditation, we will seek to allow this to become a reality. Jim Pym is a Quaker, a Spiritual Healer for 40 years and a member of the Quaker Retreat Group.
Cost: £240 en-suite single; £210 shared

Affirmation Scotland Retreat – Fri 4 to Sun 6 June
In worship we bring our stories into God’s presence. This weekend will affirm the place of worship in the church and explore how it can sustain the diverse lives of those who seek God. Contact: Blair Robertson at blair.robertson@tiscali.co.uk
Cost: £70 or for Sat only: £15

Further information or reservations from: reservations@scottishchurcheshouse.org or telephone: 01786 823588
website: www.scottishchurcheshouse.org

Christian aid – A forward Date for your Diary.
Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty. Join their next supporter event and join them in strengthening that vision. Hear how they can bring an end to poverty, share in celebrating their achievements, and back their call for change. Speakers include: Kathy Galloway of Iona Community and Loretta Minghella of Christian Aid.
Wednesday 20 October 2010 11am – 2.30pm: supporter event, including service
Lobby of Parliament: 2.30pm – 4pm: put your faith into action by talking to your MP about the importance of tackling world poverty. They will arrange for you to the meet them and they can give you all the guidance you’ll need. Reserve your place at Email: info@christian-aid.org
Christians and Churches Call for a world free from nuclear weapons

Only a decade to bring nuclear weapons under control, says PM's advisor on nuclear proliferation - Baroness Shirley Williams is warning that the proliferation of nuclear weapons is one of the greatest threats to the survival of humankind.

The Prime Minister's advisor on nuclear proliferation made the statement just days after the White House indicated plans for 'dramatic reductions' in the nuclear arsenal of the United States of America. Baroness Williams was endorsing a campaign by an alliance of nine UK Churches, which calls on the British Government to make a commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, building a safer future for all.

The Churches’ campaign, entitled Now is the Time, joins the World Council of Churches and others in pressing for governments to put all bomb-grade material under international control and commit to making the use and possession of nuclear weapons illegal through a new Nuclear Weapons Convention. They are asking people to sign an online petition (at www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk) expressing support for these aims.

The alliance includes the Church of England; the Church of Scotland; the Methodist Church; the Baptist Union of Great Britain; the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); the United Reformed Church; the International Affairs Department of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales; the Catholic Bishops Conference of Scotland and the Archbishop of the Church in Wales. The Churches are voicing these concerns in advance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference this May, which they believe will be crucial for international disarmament.

The Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler Lord Bishop of Southwark, said: “We cannot tackle the threat of nuclear terrorism by simply rehearsing old doctrines of defence. The simple fact is that more nuclear weapons do not make for a safer world. We must instead turn to the universal adoption of common rules and standards, enforced by international treaties. It is crucial that all nuclear armed states now demonstrate a willingness to redefine their concepts of security.”

“Nuclear weapons instil fear. They are divisive and counter-productive to a sustainable peace between nations,” added Steve Hucklesby, Policy Advisor for the Joint Public Issues Team. “The recent commitment by the United States and Russia to reduce their missiles and warheads has injected new life into non-proliferation and disarmament negotiations. We must grasp this opportunity and commit our governments to the road to zero nuclear weapons.”

Alexander Duff Missionary and Drummond Trust Lectures
The World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, 1910 was the launching point of a phase in Christian history marked by vision of Christianity as a worldwide movement. As Christianity spread beyond Europe, the goal of ‘world Christianity’ interacted with mission practice. Lectures exploring three themes in the shaping of world Christianity since then – “Frontier”, “Friendship”, and “Fellowship” – and reflect on their significance for 21st century mission.

1. Mission Frontiers from Geography to Justice – 24 May 6pm - Glasgow
2. Friendship in the Creation of World Christianity – 25 May 7pm – Stirling

Further information from david.miller@icc.ac.uk (Alexander Duff Missionary Lectureship Trust) or donald@scottishstorytellingcentre.com (The Drummond Trust – Donald Smith)
**Back to Church Sunday** is an opportunity for worshippers to invite a friend to come with them to church on a particular Sunday. This year Back to Church Sunday falls on 26 September and as in previous years material is available to help congregations plan for and invite people to join them on that day.

Earlier this month, Michael Harvey, Back to Church Sunday developer, spent two days in Scotland introducing material for 2010 and reflecting on 2009 (first year) events. Back to Church Sunday had been widely marked throughout the country. Last year 383 congregations from denominations across Scotland participated and evaluation forms revealed that 5952 people accepted an invitation to come back to church. Of those 12% or 714 people, are now regular weekly attenders in congregations. Back to Church hopes to build on these successes in future years.

ACTS Mission Network is continuing to work in partnership with Back to Church Sunday to support congregations who wish to participate. As before worship resource material, with a Scottish flavour, will be produced for congregations to use, should they wish and there are resources and a Bible Study focussing on ‘welcome’ available to download from the ACTS website: [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org)

Ordering material is simpler this year. Orders must be placed through its own website: [www.backtochurch.co.uk](http://www.backtochurch.co.uk) and will be delivered directly to congregations. Invoices will be processed through ACTS.

**Deadline for orders is 15 June 2010**

Further information visit the Back to Church website or for specific enquiries please email lindseysanderson@acts-scotland.org
The Men’s Rites of Passage comes to Scotland
The Bield, Blackruthven, Perthshire
26th – 30th July 2010

Why do men so often reject the ‘inner journey’, mistaking it for being soft or weak? Why do men struggle with the spiritual? These are key questions for men today. It seems there is a need for authentic spirituality that speaks to a man’s soul and provides opportunities to live an authentic masculine life with wisdom and vision. Aiming to meet that need, MALEs are bringing the Men’s Rites of Passage to Scotland this summer:

Seventy three men from Ireland, Britain, Canada, USA, France, Norway, Gibraltar and Australia, seeking this spirituality, gathered in Southern Ireland last summer. The men were young, old, and in-between, from urban and rural homes, married, single and from all walks of life.

They were all gathered to experience the ‘Rites of Passage, developed by American Franciscan, Richard Rohr, together with the Centre for Action and Contemplation who realised the pressing need to re-establish male initiation.

Like the sacraments, the rites are a process of initiation – in this case to one’s manhood, one’s humanity. A journey of self-discovery challenges the participant to learn about his false self and his true self and involves a process of suffering, dying and rising in a way that is metaphorical but real.

The process isn’t easy and requires substantial personal demands, especially at an emotional level. It is a journey of illumination, intended to encourage and empower men to reawaken their masculinity and spirituality, to connect to their true self, and discover how to live an authentic life as a man, with more depth, energy, focus and courage.

“Initiation starts with an ending, and ends with a beginning”
- TS Eliot

To find out more, and apply go to: www.malespirituality.co.uk/rites or email David Bingham via dave@kudos-sustainability.com or phone 07525 689 082

Edinburgh 2010

This year the world church celebrates the Centenary of the World Missionary Conference, held in Edinburgh in 1910. Christians from all over the world will join in unity and explore different ways of Witnessing to Christ Today. Edinburgh 2010 is a multi-denominational and international project set up to provide new perspectives on mission for the 21st century. On 6 June the Edinburgh Conference reaches its culmination. Delegates will be joined by local and international visitors to commemorate all that we have received from God through many different expressions of faith down the centuries – and to commit ourselves to witness to Christ today. Christians all over the world are invited to join the celebrations online, or to set up an event in their local community to express joy, thanksgiving and commitment to mission. Visit the Edinburgh 2010 website @ www.edinburgh2010.org/en/participate/sunday-celebrations.html for more news and information.
Care for the Family

A Different Journey – A day for those living with loss
Saturday 15 May 2010 from 10am to 5pm
(registrations from 9.30am)
Inchyra Grange Hotel
Falkirk FK2 0YB

Cost: £18
(includes lunch and refreshments)

This is a day for those living with loss following the death of a partner whilst still young, whether your partner died recently or a number of years ago. At this special day you’ll discover:

- How to deal with emotions such as guilt, anger and despair
- Strategies for working through the pain or bereavement and shattered dreams
- Practical suggestions for coping with difficult times
- Support and encouragement from those who understand your heartache
- Comfort, hope and a way forward

For more information or to book your place please telephone 01506 846476
website: www.careforthefamily.org.uk

Care for the family – a Christian response to the world of need.

Scottish Charity no SCO 38497
Scotland Office: Bryerton House, 129 High Street, Linlithgow EH49 7EJ

Also registered in England and Wales

Building a People of Power

A conference on the practice and theology of community organising with Revd Dennis Jacobsen from the Gamaliel Foundation

Co-hosted by

Action of Churches Together in Scotland
Faith in the Community Scotland
Changemakers
Conforti Institute

3rd July 2010
Conforti Institute, Coatbridge
9.30am – 5.15pm

Churches are good at responding to need. They set up countless projects to help people and to provide local services. They campaign on individual issues. They raise a moral voice and talk about social justice. But they tend not to organise together as a vehicle for long term change. Instead they are too often divided around issues of individual morality, and around theology and ecclesiology. Dennis Jacobsen is a Lutheran minister in an inner urban church in Milwaukee, USA. He is director of the 1,000 strong national clergy caucus of the Gamaliel Foundation – the organisation which trained Barack Obama as a community organiser in South Chicago. For many years Dennis has used the principles and practices of community organising in the day-to-day struggles and hopes of urban ministry. In his book ‘Doing Justice’ he weaves the theological and biblical warrants for this model into concrete strategies for achieving justice in the public arena. Using these insights, the day conference will look critically at community organising as a change strategy and model for ministry; how it is developing in this country; and its potential in the UK for building disciplined coalitions of citizens to shape the common good. The workshop is free but registration is essential. Lunch and refreshments are provided. To register please contact: Jim Aitken, Conforti Institute, Calder Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 4JS tel: 01236 707901 Email@ jim@confortiinstitute.org
Web: confortiinstitute.org