Celebrating 21 Years of ACTS

To mark ACTS 21st anniversary we are organising a service on Wednesday 26 October 2011 to which all our friends and fellow pilgrims are invited. The service will be held in Coatbridge Calder Parish Church.

The service will be a public part of the annual overnight ACTS Members Meeting. This takes place Wed 26 – Thu 27 October, in the Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, just across the park from Calder parish.

Plans for the service are still being finalised. Some of those participating also took part in the inauguration service of ACTS on 1 September 1990 in Dunblane Cathedral. Local churches are actively involved in the preparations.

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NEW CONVENER FOR ACTS

The Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith has recently been appointed the new Convener of ACTS, a role which takes in the convenership of ACTS Members Meeting and the Trustees of ACTS, leading the work of ACTS on behalf of the member churches.

Douglas is no stranger to ACTS, having taken on many roles in the past. He is a former Network Convener for Church Life, and has also been a significant member of many of the related Associated Ecumenical Groups and Working Groups. In his role, within the Church of Scotland, he also acted as Ecumenical Officer during the Very Rev Dr Sheilagh Kesting’s year as Moderator and thus, part of the ACTS Member Church Contact Group. You could say he is an ‘old friend returned home’.
'What's the food like? ', 'Who is providing the food? ', 'Is there enough food to go round? ' Our everyday talk constantly makes reference to food, which is no surprise, as food and drink are essentials for life and survival.

When we pray "Give us our daily bread" we are both acknowledging our dependence on God’s generosity and our realisation that the answer to that prayer needs to include agriculture, commerce, sharing, trade-justice, animal welfare, diet and a host of other considerations.

Our Creation Time resources, which encourage and assist churches, groups and individuals to observe a Time for Creation each year between 1 September and 4 October for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles, focus this year on Food in God’s creation. May God make us more aware of his generosity and our responsibilities as we pray for our daily bread.

The 2011 resources available for free download include:

- Sermon notes based on the Lectionary readings for the 5 Sundays
- Other sermon outlines
- Prayers of intercession / bidding prayers for a Sunday liturgy
- Service outline for a mid-week / ecumenical event, with accompanying PowerPoint
- Group study notes
- New harvest festival ideas
- Background information on food and agriculture
- A range of other liturgical material

Visit: [www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime)
Experiencing a new form of worship in Perth

In Perth’s city centre. St Matthew’s Church have been experimenting a completely different style of worshipping, challenging the more stereotype pattern of 11am Sunday. This traditional time is now proving to be less attractive in our modern lifestyle.

Linking in with a national initiative, ‘Sanctuary First’ the doors of St Matthews are open on a Saturday from 8pm to 10pm – and there’s no sermon, no hymns or intimations. Instead, prayers, scripture and Christian education are very much offered rather than imposed and regular church members, together with those on their way to other functions, theatre, dinner, or tourists out for a wander are welcome to enter the open building and interact with the ‘pray stations’ located around the sanctuary.

A great deal of emphasis in placed on creating the right atmosphere through music, subdued lighting, candles and creative images inviting those attending to engage without pressure.

If you are in Perth on the first Saturday of the month why not go along to see for yourself?

Celebrating 21 years of ACTS....
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21 years! In the ecumenical life and journey in both Scotland and beyond, we have experienced a lot of joys and jump-starts, developments and disappointments, changes and challenges. There are many things for us to remember, some to regret, others to look forward to – but in all to give thanks and praise to the Lord.

Wednesday 26 October should be a really enjoyable evening. We invite you to join us. If you are not able to come in person please keep ACTS and all our Member Churches, Networks, Projects and Working Groups in your prayers as we step forwards into our next 21 years.

The People’s Bible
The Scottish Bible Society’s project is doing very well following the launch at Edinburgh Castle in June. Since then more than 30 towns have been visited, including Orkney and about 7,000 verses written. More importantly it’s a project which is engaging directly with the people of Scotland in an interesting and inspiring way.
Pilgrimage Routes

Following two very successful conferences earlier this year Scottish Churches Rural Group’s Pilgrimage Walking Routes initiative is attracting a lot of attention, including members of the Scottish Parliament and the BBC. Pilgrimage Convener, Nick Cooke recently gave a brief interview to the BBC on what is now hoped to be achieved. Please visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b013sbgx/Reporting_Scotland_23_08_2011/

The interview starts about 15.10 (move the forward slide at the bottom of the picture) the interview lasts about three minutes.

BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE: Working with Children in the Church Community Change is never easy or without pain, but it is possible. Speakers from a range of churches will talk about their work with children in the church and changes they have sought to implement in order to make their work more effective. There will be workshops such as ‘Creative use of the Bible’ ‘Working with Local Schools’ and ‘Introducing Creative Prayer’, designed to help equip delegates to make changes in their own situations, providing new ideas to overcome difficulties and …..

Autumn Conference

This year's event, run in conjunction with the Church of Scotland Committee for Ecumenical Relations will focus on Local Ecumenism. This year the twin focus will be the Third Article Declaratory and the recent International Ecumenical Peace Convocation which marked the end of the WCC Decade to Overcome Violence. Through the presentations and discussion we will be focussing on the local impact of this national and international work. The event will be held at the Church of Scotland Offices, 121 George St, Edinburgh on 28th October from 10am-3.15pm. A booking form is available to download on the ACTS website at: http://www.acts-scotland.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=388:autumn-conference-2011&catid=67:project-news

Bookings should be made with Ros Milne at the Church of Scotland offices. (Tel 0131 225 5722) There is no charge for this event. Tea, coffee and lunch are provided.

…..suggesting new approaches to enliven work. 29 October, 10am–3.15pm, International Christian College, 110 St James Road, Glasgow G4 0PS. £10 (includes lunch). For further information contact Tom Moyes on 01259 216980 or tommoyes@acts-scotland.org Booking forms will be placed on ACTS’ website and sent to the Churches for distribution to congregations at the beginning of September.