Rev Lindsey Sanderson -
moving on from ACTS

Congratulations to Rev Lindsey Sanderson, Assistant General Secretary, who is leaving ACTS to take up parish ministry. Lindsey has been selected for the joint pastorate of East Mains and Righead URC congregations in East Kilbride.

This is wonderful news for Lindsey and her new congregations and we rejoice with them. At the same time, she will be very much missed in ACTS where for the last eight years she has been at the heart of so many initiatives and projects as well as being the mainstay of the Office Team and administration.

Congratulations and tributes to Lindsey have poured in from all across ACTS and our ecumenical networks: from individuals and denominations, Trustees and Members Representatives, and groups like the National Sponsoring Body, Racial Justice and the recently established Anti-Human Trafficking Group.

Lindsey will bring her characteristic inspiration, vision and enthusiasm to her new apostolate. We are sure we will hear more of her in the months and years ahead.

On Saturday 8 September, Lindsey will be inducted into her new pastorate. ACTS staff and other ecumenical friends will be there for the celebration.

We encourage all ACTS friends to pray for Lindsey, her family and her new congregations and work – as well as the family and work of ACTS.
What does GOD require of us?....

Is the title of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity material 2013 and comes from Micah 6.8 .. “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

The 2013 theme originated with the Student Christian movement of India, who decided that in a context of great injustice to Dalits in India and in the Church, the search for visible unity cannot be disassociated from the dismantling of casteism and the contribution to unity by the poorest of the poor. So during the Week of Prayer 2013 (18th – 25th January) Christians all over the world will explore in ecumenical fellowship what it means to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6: 6-8)

The material is available to download from the CTBI website at: www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer and may also be purchased in hard copy from Norwich Books and Music www.chbookshop.co.uk or by telephone 01603 785925. English, Welsh and large print copies are available at £1 each and posters (in a pack of 2) are £1.50

What’s on?

eXchange:
Scotland at a crossroads
Friday 5th October 2012
Central Hall, Edinburgh

As we make key choices for the future of our communities in Scotland, we invite you to exchange 2012 to discover and discuss how the Scottish Governments’s priorities for sustainability and growth affects us all. Further information and booking from www.bethanychristiantrust.com/exchange2012 or telephone on 0131 561 8930

VOICES:
National Music Event
Friday 15th – 16th March 2013
St Cuthbert’s Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh

More information and booking online at www.madstuff.biz or contact Church of Scotland’s Mission & Discipleship by telephone on 0131 225 5722 or email enquiriesDV@cofscotland.org.uk
Scotland’s national ecumenical Racial Justice Sunday Service, held in Morningside United Church during the evening of September 9th, was attended by approximately 200 people. Leaders of Scotland’s long established Churches joined with leaders of the emerging churches of Minority Ethnic Christians Together in Scotland (MECTIS) in leading the worship. Prayers were read by John Humphreys, Moderator of the Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church, Cardinal Keith Patrick O’Brien of the Roman Catholic Church and by Bishop John Armes of the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Bible lessons were read by Rev. Francis Alao, Secretary of MECTIS, and by Mrs. Eileen Baxendale, Treasurer of MECTIS.

Rev. Aftab Gohar, Convener of Asian Concern Scotland and minister of Abbotsgrange Parish Church in Grangemouth, preached on the theme of “Growing Together in Faith”. The praise in the Service featured traditional hymns, spirited pieces from the Scotland African Choir and a hymn featuring a chorus in Urdu which was led by a group formed of members from the Scottish Asian Christian Fellowship and Asian Concern Edinburgh.
Scottish Friends of Ecumenism (SFoE)

SFoE has existed under various names over the past 50 years. It began at a time of great ecumenical enthusiasm, and here in Scotland with the opening of Scottish Churches House. It sought to do what Friends do – support, help, and contribute in various ways to the development of that ecumenical endeavour. With the closure of Scottish Churches House in 2011, SFoE found itself at a crossroads as to its own future. A group was asked to address this issue and reported to the Annual Meeting in June of this year. The report described its ecumenical vision as enabling the churches to be “an instrument, sign and anticipation of the unity and renewal of humankind”. It proposed the need for some form of “catalytic community” to emerge in Scotland, of ecumenical motivators who would encourage foretastes of an ecumenical encounter that would be all-inclusive.

The Annual meeting of over 60 friends endorsed the thrust of this report. The task is now to put some flesh on it. The SFoE committee have begun a process of consultation with various individuals and groups both local and national. This in many ways is the difficult part for such a consultation has already raised a number of questions. But we do believe that there is an opportunity for SFoE to become something different to its present mode of operation and with others to stimulate the ecumenical task in Scotland for the coming decades. Copies of this report are available on the ACTS website under Scottish Friends of Ecumenism

Bruce Cameron

Working with Children Conferences

The programme for the Conferences, which the Working with Children Group are organising in Aberdeen (10th November) and Edinburgh (24th November), will be published during September. The Theme of the Conferences is “What Matters NOW in Children’s Ministry”. In the morning session there will be short presentations of five topics which members of the Working with Children Group believe matter now (People – Lorraine Darlow: Leadership – Stewart Cutler: Mission – Richard Knott: Worship – Fischy Music; Story – Vicki Shaver and Aileen Pender) and then an opportunity to explore one of these topics more fully with the presenter(s). The afternoon session will be devoted to workshops from which it is hoped participants will take away something which they can use in their own situations. Topics for the workshops include creativity, Bible, inclusion, schools and starting from scratch. For the first time booking of places will be able to be done using the web. Booking forms will be found by going to ACTS’ web site (www.acts-scotland.org) and clicking on the “Working with Children” tab.