

Mission and Discipleship Council
e-news
Edition No 63, December 2011

Welcome to another edition of e-news, with information on events, resources and websites that may be of interest to church folk throughout Scotland. It may be that some of the Conferences and Events listed are outwith Scotland, but we consider it important to make you aware of what is happening elsewhere and to offer you the opportunity of accessing additional information through website links.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!!!

Conferences and Events

JUST SCRIPTURE: Contextual Bible Study with Christian Aid Join with groups across Scotland and the world reading the Bible, closely, together and in context. **24 January 2012**, Cathcart Baptist Church; **16 February**, New Kilpatrick Parish Church; **27 February**, Easterhouse Baptist Church. 7–9pm each time. For further information and/or to enquire about having a Just Scripture study facilitated in your area, contact Wendy Young, Churches Development Officer at Christian Aid, on 0141 241 6137 or wyoung@christain-aid.org

TRUSTEES: CAN'T WORK WITH THEM – OR WITHOUT THEM! is a day to help develop effective governance for your project and to draw out the best in your trustees. Whether you call them your Board, Steering Group, or simply your team of loyal supporters – you have to have them, however small your project – trustees. This day will help you: Understand the legalities, especially as they apply to smaller charitable groups; Grasp more fully what good governance is, and how it differs from good management; Explore what qualifications and qualities you need in your trustees; and Grow in confidence to train your trustees and put in place strong and effective Boards and Steering Groups. **31 January 2012**, 9.45am–3.45pm, [St Georges Centre](#), Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3BR. £20, including lunch. For further information, contact Ruth Smith on 0113 350 8070 or rsmith@livability.org.uk. [Book and pay online](#)

SESSION CLERKS' CONFERENCE This annual Mission & Discipleship Council training event will look at topics such as 'The Session Clerk & The Minister', 'The Role of the Session Clerk', 'Working with the Kirk Session', 'More Effective Meetings', 'Legal Questions' and 'The Spirituality of Leadership'. **3–5 February 2012**, Carberry Conference Centre, Musselburgh, East Lothian. For further information and to book, contact Lesley Cameron on lcameron@cofscotland.org.uk or 0131 225 5722 ext 2288.

EQUIP The third of these Mission & Discipleship events – featuring inspiring speakers, practical ideas and useful resources for mission – will take place on **4 February 2012** in Paisley Abbey. Delegates will be able to attend a number of different workshops on topics such as worship and leadership, and a range of resources will be available. The event is free, but places are limited and registration is essential. Visit www.madstuff.biz email mandd@cofscotland.org.uk or telephone Mission & Discipleship Council staff on 0131 225 5722.

YOUR KINGDOM COME is the title of Alpha Scotland's Vision Day 2012, billed as 'One BIG day to be inspired, equipped and envisioned in prayer together... "Your Kingdom Come" and launch the Kingdom Come 2012 year of prayer across the nation'. Key speakers include Nicky Gumbel (Alpha pioneer / Holy Trinity Brompton) and Pete Greig (24/7 Prayer founder / Alpha Prayer Director). **4 February 2012**, Glasgow University, Bute Hall, University Avenue. For further information, visit <http://uk-scotland.alpha.org/visionday> or [Book Online Now](#)

Resources

CHRISTIAN AID In the run up to Christmas, check out their website to find out more about the [Christmas appeal](#) and to get inspiration for gifts on the [Present Aid](#) site. They have just launched this year's [Big Christmas Sing](#) and hope that people are considering getting involved in [Christmas Fun Runs](#). The Scottish one this year is in Edinburgh at the start of December. Click on the links above or visit the main website at www.christianaid.org.uk/

DIFFERENT VOICES is an online magazine about church music in Scotland, produced by the Mission & Discipleship Council. It is for all those who sing in choirs, congregations and praise groups, play organs or other instruments, and all who plan, lead and choose music and hymns for worship. Advent 2011 is the first online edition and will be completely free for everyone. To download your FREE copy, click [here](#). Thereafter the price will be £4 per issue and information on how to subscribe will appear here in due course. There are many advantages to this move to a new media – networking the readership more easily, embedding mp3 files and videos of new music into the magazine, linking directly to external resources, allowing the reader to change font size to suit and even voice reading software for the blind (via pdf reader programmes).

The main advantage will be user-generated content – that is, the ability for readers to make contributions, comment on existing articles, ask hard questions and share practical ideas with one another. This opportunity for interaction with one another certainly promises a new way of experiencing 'Different Voices'. Further enquires can be made to areid@cofscotland.org.uk

FREE PREACHING RESOURCES At the end of each month, from now until October 2012, the Mission & Discipleship Council is publishing a short monthly manual on preaching, to develop your own skills or to train others. These manuals have been written by some of the church in Scotland's most practised preachers, and are aimed both at those familiar with the art of preaching and those brand new to it. The materials cover issues such as: 'How to invite dialogue whilst preaching', 'What is the first thing to do to prepare for preaching?', 'How to connect the story with the daily news?' 'What is the most important thing to keep in mind as a preacher?' To download the material, visit [The Church of Scotland/Worship](#). For any further information contact Graham Fender-Allison, Worship Development Worker for the Faith Expression Team, on 0131 225 5722 ext 2365 or gfender-allison@cofscotland.org.uk

OH WHY ARE WE WAITING is the title of this year's Advent resource from Action of Churches Together in Scotland, prepared by the Quaker Representative on its Church Life Network. It is available to download free from www.acts-scotland.org

PRAY NOW 2012 – Daily Devotions on the Theme of Time from the Pray Now Group This popular annual collection of modern prayers, written by individuals, prayer groups and leaders of worship, is for everyone, whatever their denomination. It offers a place to start when you feel you have no words of your own, and prayer activities that allow time to think and space to listen. This year's theme is 'Time'. The Pray Now Group is a team of experts who care deeply about the role of prayer in our lives. Drawn from an ecumenically minded Church of Scotland group, their work is written for a wide, diverse and international readership. OUT NOW! ISBN: 9780861535972

PRAY NOW 2012 bulk offer (UK addresses only) – 1-9 copies are priced at £7.99 each. 10 or more are £6.99 each. If you order 100 or more, they are £4.99 each. Order online from www.standrewpress.com

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND YEARBOOK 2011/12 This compendium of vital information includes every contact within the Church, procedures, protocols, amendments, statistics and an extensive index, and is the essential resource for all who work within or with the Church of Scotland. OUT NOW! ISBN: 9780861536238. £18.99 each. To buy: order from all good bookshops; online from www.standrewpress.com; by phoning Norwich Books & Music on 01603 785925; fax 01603 785915; or e-mail orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk. Orders are fulfilled quickly and you can pay by credit or debit card. Postage & packing: add £2.50 for orders below £25; add £5 for orders between £25 & £75. P&P is free for orders over £75.

PRAY IT FORWARD This new initiative from Mission & Discipleship features an attractive collection of high quality cards carrying a range of blessings inspired from scripture, for churches and individuals to give away free to others. The aim of the cards is to encourage and bless the recipient, and to encourage them to pray for, and bless, someone else in turn, i.e. to focus outward, and not just on what God can do for ME! They are ideal for use in outreach, pastoral care and personal contexts, e.g. pop one in with each Christmas card you send. Each box of 80 cards features an assortment of 8 different designs. £5 per box. To order, visit www.madstuff.biz/browse-resources/details/49/5/books-and-resource-packs/pray-it-forward-cards.html

PRESBYTERY ADULT TRAINERS are available to run training events in congregations and Presbyteries. If anyone would like to contact a PAT, or find out how to become a PAT themselves, contact Pauline Steenbergen, Leadership Development Worker, on 07854 711988 or psteenbergen@cofscotland.org.uk

SEEDS & ROOTS This DVD tells the stories of seven 'fresh expressions' of church, most of which are not quite what are generally recognised as church yet, but the missional instinct of these pioneers is driving them on to plant new expressions of church in areas and among networks not presently being reached by our churches. Discussion starters are included for use with Kirk Sessions, Bible Study groups or other small groups to see if they might feel called to consider a new expression of church where you are. The DVD can also be shown during worship or in other public meetings simply to raise awareness of this important agenda for today, to inform and to encourage those who are interested in one of the ways God's Spirit is moving in our land. £10. To order, visit www.madstuff.biz/browse-resources/details/48/seeds-&-roots-dvd.html

STARTERS FOR SUNDAY offers a range of suggested material which can be used each week for individuals and congregations to develop. Sometimes there may be background material to the readings, at other times it may be ideas for deepening prayer, or involving children, or using drama. Musical suggestions are usually included. For further information, visit www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/starters_for_sunday

THE CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND PUBLIC ISSUES has gone digital! Connect with them online to find out about the latest news and in-depth insight on CTPI research and events. CTPI are engaged in exploring the meaning of public faith in the 21st century through these online connections and resources: Subscribe to the Public Faith Blog: <http://www.centreforthologyandpublicissues.wordpress.com>. Join them on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/kcuuaa>. Follow them on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CTPIEdinburgh>. Learn about them on Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_for_Theology_and_Public_Issues

Since 1984, CTPI has published nearly 50 occasional papers. These are substantive collections of scholarly essays on a variety of topics, all of which are now available in their entirety online. See the page of Wikipedia with links to find them on Google Books.

Rural Church

RURAL MINISTRY COURSE Rural ministry is a specialist ministry for which particular insights and skills are required. This course is for all engaged in rural ministry, both lay and ordained, especially those who are new to ministry in rural areas. Areas covered will include 'Partnership of church and community', 'Rural mission and theology', 'Working collaboratively and ecumenically' and 'Patterns of worship, service and evangelism'.

20–22 March 2012, the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG and Offa House, the Coventry Diocesan Retreat House. Cost £220 (which includes a free subscription for one year to Country Way magazine). For further information and to book, contact Katrina Sealey, on 024 7685 3075 or katrinas@arthurrankcentre.org.uk or visit

www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/arc-training/rural-ministry-courses

GOOD NEWS

George Mackay Brown: The Wound and the Gift This book by Ron Ferguson, published by Saint Andrew Press, has moved from having been nominated to being short listed for the Saltire Award Research Book of the Year. The book is available from the Saint Andrew Press website: www.standrewpress.com/

Trusts/Funding

EMERGING MINISTRIES FUND was set up in 2008 by the Church of Scotland to explore and encourage new patterns of church around Scotland. The fund is available to congregations and Presbyteries, who can apply for grants in relation to local or Presbytery-wide need. Applications will be considered by the Emerging Ministries Task Group at regular meetings throughout the year. For information on how to apply and to download the guidance notes, visit www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/emerging_church#fund

NOVUM TRUST provides small short-term grants – typically between £200 and £2,500 – to initiate projects in Christian research and action which cannot readily be financed from other sources. Special consideration is given to proposals aimed at the welfare of young people, investment in training, new ways of communicating the faith, and work in association with overseas Churches or on behalf of immigrants in Scotland. The Trust cannot support large building projects or individuals applying for maintenance during courses or training. The Trustees will next meet in May 2012 and the deadline for completed applications is 15 April 2012. For an Application Form and Guidance Notes, contact novumt@cofscotland.org.uk

PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND/PRIORITY AREAS STAFFING FUND All over Scotland there are congregations who have found that they are able to do what they never thought they could do because of money which they have received from the General Assembly through the Parish Development Fund. If you are seeking to develop work which is community focussed and is responding to local needs and issues, the Fund may be able to help. If you are a Priority Area parish on the main or supplementary list, funding is available towards staffing costs for posts additional to those agreed in your Presbytery Plan. For further information, contact Development Workers Jessie Bruce, David Smith or Fiona Thomson on 0131 225 5722, pdf@cofscotland.org.uk or visit <http://churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/pdfund/index.htm>

The Garfield Weston Foundation. This Foundation makes grants of between £3,000 and £20,000 to UK charities, including churches, and its focus is education, arts, health, welfare and the environment. There is no application deadline and grants are made for one year.

The Ironmongers Company. Charities that work with disadvantaged children and young people in the UK under the age of 25 can apply for a grant of up to £10,000. **Deadline for applications is 31 January 2012.**

The Leathersellers' Company. UK registered charities working with Children and Young People, those with disabilities and people affected by deprivation, can apply for grants. There is no application deadline.

Some Websites to Explore

<http://www.alternativity.org.uk/> – ALTERnativity is an organisation which began in the churches and whose main aim was to recapture some of the values of the first Christmas. The website gives ideas for starting conversations to help make this Christmas one that's simple, just and peaceful.

www.irenic.org.uk – is the website of the Inter-Religious Encounter Information Consultancy, which is 'committed to aiding peaceful dialogue between people of different religions'. Latest posts include: 'The Big Interfaith Tent at Occupy Oakland – faithfully engaging the 99%'; 'Why the world needs faiths'; and 'Inter-religious University'.

www.scottishbiblesociety.org/about/ – Their mission is to provide God's Word to all people in a language they can understand, in a format they can use and at a price they can afford. Sections of the website include 'Spread the word', 'Get involved' and 'Get stuff to use'.