



The Church of Scotland

Mission and Discipleship Council

e-news

Edition No 83, August 2013

Welcome to another edition of e-news, giving information on events and resources from the Mission and Discipleship Council.

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Conferences and Events

SESSION CLERKS' CONFERENCE will cover various aspects of this important leadership role, and is primarily for new Session Clerks, those who have not had the opportunity to participate in such a training event before and those who are considering taking up this post (although those who have been Session Clerks for some time will also be welcome). **6–8 September**, Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, Kincardine-on-Forth, Fife FK10 4BE. £120 (residential). **Booking deadline is 19 August**. For further information and to book, visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/session-clerks-conference

Some comments from a few of the 99 delegates at the January event:

- *I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and benefited greatly from it. There isn't one particular session that I could pick out as being the best, as I felt that the whole mixture of sessions/speakers/group work/worship/etc made it a very well rounded, informative time and we finished with an uplifting reflective session.*
- *The weekend was marvellous, so full of information and advice and extremely welcoming and friendly.*
- *As a new Session Clerk, I found the information, the camaraderie and the whole atmosphere quite inspirational and rewarding. I know I have much to learn but I have connected with local Session Clerks and I can see I have support and help as I need it.*
- *The weekend surpassed my expectations. Besides gaining learning from those who led the sessions, it was a great opportunity to network with other Session Clerks. I think the right balance of topics was reached – the weekend stimulated and energised me.*

YOUNG ADULTS AND THE ELDERSHIP CONFERENCE is for those aged 18-30 who are already elders or are interested in becoming elders, and is an opportunity to get together to share experiences and to receive training that recognises the unique challenges being young brings to the role of elder. The conference will run alongside the Session Clerks' Conference, **6–8 September** at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan (5.30pm Friday to 2pm Sunday). The Mission and Discipleship Council is subsidising the event so that the cost to participants is £50/person (or £30 if from an urban priority area church). It is recognised that, along with travel costs, this may still be too high for some, particularly those who are students, so

Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions are encouraged to think about offering some sort of financial support to those they feel would benefit from attending. For further information and to book, visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/young-adults-and-eldership-conference **Booking deadline is 26 August**, but please note that places will not be confirmed until after this date. Booking forms and flyers are also available to download.



SPIRITUAL JOURNALING Would you like to refresh your spiritual life? Why not come and join a day's retreat focused on journaling, an old and rich practice that charts our journey towards God. Journaling helps us gain from the past, embrace the present and move with faith into the future and is a tool for learning and discovery, and for helping to hear God's voice. No special skills are needed, and this retreat is for anyone who wants to deepen their devotional life. Whether you have never tried journaling before or you are an old hand looking to discover fresh approaches, it promises to be a day that will inspire and equip. The retreat will be led by Merryn Glover (Author) and Steve Aisthorpe (Mission Development Worker). **21 September**, 10am–3.30pm, The Mission Hall, North Kessock IV1 3XN. There is a charge of £15 to cover costs, and pre-registration is required. Tea/coffee will be provided and people are asked to bring their own lunch. Online booking is now available, at www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/spiritual-journaling

EQUIP – Inspiring and resourcing your congregation Following on from similar events held in Perth, Inverness and Paisley in 2011-12, Equip is now heading south east, and will feature speakers, practical ideas and useful resources to help congregations be more relevant in reaching out to local communities. Keynote Speaker, Rev Graham Duffin (minister in Loanhead, and Congregational Development Co-ordinator for Lothian Presbytery) will speak on 'Being Relevant'. Workshops/Seminars will run morning and afternoon, allowing delegates to choose two options from: *Anam Cara*, *Café Church*, *Messy Church*, *More Than Gold*, *Websites Made Easy* and *Worship*. The event is FREE, but registration is required (for catering purposes – tea/coffee breaks and lunch) and places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment! **5 October**, 10am–3.45pm, North Church, John Street, Penicuik EH26 8AG. Please register online in the first instance, here:

www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/equip-penicuik Full details of the workshops/seminars will be added to the web page in due course, and delegates will be contacted nearer the time and invited to make their choices.

NEW!

FRESH EXPRESSIONS VISION DAY Come and learn what the Spirit is doing through new forms of church. The day will include: Stories of fresh expressions of church in Scotland and beyond; Input from Scottish church leaders plus Bishop Graham Cray and Andrew Roberts of Fresh Expressions; Creative worship and prayer; and a celebration of the Church of Scotland joining the Fresh Expressions partnership. **2 November**, 10am–4pm, St Andrew's & St George's West Church, 13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA. £12 (includes refreshments and lunch). Delegates are warmly invited to stay for a short Commissioning Service for the new Fresh Expressions Development Worker, from 4.30–5.30pm. For further information and to book, visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/fresh-expressions-vision-day



MORE THAN GOLD With less than a year to go now until the **Commonwealth Games – 23 July to 3 August 2014** – the clock is ticking! More than Gold aims to help churches make the most of the mission opportunities the Games offer – although they are hosted by Glasgow, churches the length and breadth of Scotland can get involved by holding community festivals, being involved in Sports Ministry, supporting the event in prayer, etc. For further information, visit www.morethangold2014.org.uk

Scottish Storytelling Centre and Network

43–45 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

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"It is the word, blossoming as legend, poem, story, secret, that holds a community together and gives meaning to its life". [George Mackay Brown]

NEW!

EVENTS

For tickets, contact Reception on 0131 556 9579 or reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com

SCOTLAND ON THE THRESHOLD: ARTS, ENVIRONMENT, TRADITIONS 1–7 August

Scotland is in a time of change, whatever the outcome of the Independence Referendum. Delve below the rhetoric to explore the culture, environment, arts and traditions of Scotland. Encounter Scotland, the nation that invented itself on the northern edge of the Atlantic, with some of the best guides available with daily overviews for discussion and explorations for development. (Developed in association with TRACS [Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland])

If you are booking more than four of these events please call 0131 556 9579 to receive a 10% discount.

OVERVIEWS: Daily at 1–1.50pm | £5 (£4)

Who are the Scots? How people came to Scotland and a nation was made, with Donald Smith. **1 August**

Scotland's Environment How the landscape has shaped Scotland's culture and sense of itself, with Mairi McFadyen. **2 August**

Accents of the Mind Languages and Poetry of Scotland, with Donald Smith. **3 August**

Scotland's Literary Renaissance: A modern literature reborn? With Corey Gibson. **4 August**

Seeing Scotland Visual Arts and Scotland's identities, with Mairi McFadyen. **5 August**

Hearing Scotland The people's music – the instruments, the songs and the stories, with Dave Francis. **6 August**

Contesting Scotland Theatres of change and debate, with Donald Smith. **7 August**

EXPLORATIONS: Daily at 2.30–4.30pm | £8 (£6)

The Power of Story Folktales, mythology and history in Scotland, with Stuart McHardy. **1 August**

Robert Burns and the National Music Experience the art of Burns through songs and music, with Fred Freeman. **2 August**

Poetry on the Ear and Tongue From the Bards to Burns and the moderns, speaking the poems, with David Campbell. **3 August**

Traditions of Dance Country, ceilidh, reels and step dance, with Sheila McCutcheon. **4 August**

Dance Music Social and popular tradition, with Freeland Barbour. **5 August**

Gaelic and Scots Song Carrying streams of song, springing from tradition and constantly refreshed, with Patsy Seddon. **6 August**

Drama and Religion The sources of Scottish religion and its changing patterns, with Donald Smith. **7 August**

THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES Back by popular demand, this multi award-winning adaptation of Jean Giono's classic environmental tale by Edinburgh-based Puppet State Theatre Company has been touring internationally for the past five years, with appearances

off-Broadway and at the Sydney Opera House. It's a unique blend of comedy, puppetry and inspiring storytelling. **30 July – 16 August** (not 5 & 12), 3pm (1hr 5mins), £10 (£7.50), 7+. 2-for-1 on 6 August. www.puppetstate.com

RUMPELSTILTSKIN & THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE Poor Polly Buckwheat is in a bit of a pickle! If she doesn't turn a roomful of straw into gold by morning, the greedy King will turn a bit nasty. But should she accept the help of an eccentric dwarf who mysteriously appears in her prison cell? Of all the fairytale characters, Rumpelstiltskin is the most mixed up. He is helpful yet demanding; secretive yet nosy; short yet owning a name as long as his beard. Not surprisingly, this story of transformation will make you laugh and gasp at the same time! **1–25 August** (not 19) | 1pm (55mins) | £9 (£7) | 4-10yrs. www.theatre-of-widdershins.co.uk

Starbird Toto Tales / Mull Theatre The beautiful Starbird loves her chicks and when the sun sets, she flies up high with sparkling wings, and shows them how to light up the stars until they sing, giggle and glow. But when a greedy hunter enters her magical forest, everything changes. Storytelling theatre with a dazzling fusion of Scottish and African music, story, dance, costume and puppetry. Colouring sheets to take home available at each show! **2–26 August** (not 7, 14, 19) | 11am (45mins) | £8 (£6) | 3+. Preview: 1 August | £5. 2-for-1: 5 & 6 August. www.tototales.co.uk

PIRATES AND MERMAIDS: A Fairytale for Adults Cameron is in NYC. Eilidh lives in Scotland. The technology in their pockets keeps them constantly in touch but you can't hold someone in your arms over Skype and a text doesn't show you someone's smile. A challenging, ambitious and universal story told on a very human scale, Pirates and Mermaids is an uplifting and surprising show about true love, family advice, favourite sweets and what whisky can do to you. Performed in a garden with some shelter, but please dress for the weather. **2–25 August** (not 5, 12, 19) | 10.30am, 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm (1hr 30) | £10 (£8) | 12+. Preview: 1 August | £8 (£6). 2-for-1: 6 August. www.thebellrock.org

SODDIN' FLODDEN 1513, Flodden Field: among the dead lay Scotland's most popular Stewart King. Who was James IV, the charismatic monarch with a fascination for women, alchemy, cannons and metal underwear? Were his 'three steps into England' just a madcap, ill-considered, naive adventure, destined to end in disaster? Or was he driven by the French, and suffering relentless provocation by the arrogant Henry VIII? Creative and quirky storytelling interweaves with a witty selection of songs to attempt to dispel the resulting 500 year-old inferiority complex – provided nobody objects! **2–17 August** (not 12) | 5pm (1hr) | £8.50 (£6.50) | 12+. 2-for-1: 5 & 6 August. www.ideoms.co.uk

LOCKERBIE: LOST VOICES For the 25th anniversary of the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103, this new play gives voice to six hypothetical passengers before and after the event. A US intelligence agent, a Scottish investigative journalist, a retired couple and a mother and her stepdaughter challenge each other with humour, love and courage to either accept the unacceptable or stand up for their personal truth. In poetic language and with original choral music, they speak from the neutrality of death and shed new light on the worst terrorist attack in the UK. **2–26 August** (not 7, 14, 21) | 7pm (1hr) | £10 (£8) | 12+. Preview: 31 July & 1 August | £5. 2-for-1: 5 & 6 August. www.the-elements.org.uk

A CREATION MYTH FOR SCOTLAND Out of the northern mists the ancient hag of the mountain ridges – The Cailleach – dropped from her creel the peats that formed her beloved Caledonia. Join master storytellers David Campbell and Janis Mackay, with musician Wendy Weatherby, as they tell, in words and haunting music, the powerful tale of how Scotland was created, where extremes meet and the Crone gives birth. **13–17 August** | 8.45pm (1hr) | £10 (£8) | 12+

CAFÉ VOICES Enjoy oral storytelling, poetry by memory, music and song in the relaxed ambience of the Storytelling Cafe. Come prepared with a piece to perform or just to enjoy the evening. Featuring special guest hosts Wendy Woolfson (14th) and Claire Druett (21st) and many friends. **14 & 21 August** | 7pm (2hrs) | £7 (£5) | 12+

ANGUS: WEAVER OF GRASS Angus MacPhee's life is a tale of illness, lost traditions and magical hats of grass, stunning like sunbursts. Raised on South Uist and traumatised by WWII, Angus spent 50 years in a psychiatric hospital. He did not speak: instead, he wove remarkable costumes from grass. This work is now in the Collection de l'Art, Brut, Switzerland.

Featuring Gaelic singing and grass replicas by Joanne B Kaar. Using sounds, songs and images of the Outer Hebrides, this is his tale. **19–25 August** | 4pm (1hr 15) | £10 (£8) | 12+ www.angusmcphee.blogspot.co.uk

HAND-MADE IN CHINA: MOONS, MIGRATION & MESSAGES It is 'Night of the Moon Festival', a time of transformation, reunion, dreaming and sending of secret messages. Come, listen and share in a bi-lingual evening of mythical and modern migration tales, told with music, tea and moon-cakes – all handmade in China. This storytelling event is created by Dumpling Dreams Theatre and Migration Project in association with Hua Dan, a pioneering Chinese NGO working through grassroots theatre with migrant women, workers and families in urban Beijing and rural Sichuan. Performed in English and Mandarin. **20 August** | 7pm (2hrs) | £5 | 12+ www.hua-dan.org

GUID CRACK A Fringe Festival special of Edinburgh's monthly storytelling club, upstairs at The Waverley Bar. Accompanied young adults welcome. **30 August** | 7.30pm (2hrs 30) | By donation (suggest £3) | Adults

Resources

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP'S TWO RECENTLY LAUNCHED WEBSITES:

www.resourcingmission.org.uk offers key mission resources from the Church of Scotland, for download (eg Quick Guides) and purchase (eg the popular Pray It Forward cards), and an online booking facility for Mission & Discipleship events (eg Equip). Please check back regularly, as new items are being added all the time. We'd welcome feedback – if there is something you'd like to see on this new site that isn't already there, please use the 'Website Feedback' option on the 'Contact Us' page.

www.lifeandwork.org is a new online presence, offering readers and followers an enhanced and up-to-date experience of the Church of Scotland's popular magazine. In addition, regular updates on Life and Work's new pages will appear on www.facebook.com/LifeandWork and twitter.com/cofslifeandwork. Recent additions include, in 'Things we like', a list of typos found in church bulletins (not a 'resource', admittedly, but VERY funny!):

<http://pastors.com/44-funny-church-bulletin-bloopers-to-make-you-smile/>

And there are always fresh articles appearing at www.lifeandwork.org/news/news

Please visit both sites, bookmark and share with anyone who might be interested.

DIFFERENT VOICES is an online magazine for people interested in the music and worship of the Church, featuring articles on music projects, reviews, worship ideas and events. This popular magazine is released three times per year for FREE download. **The Summer 2013 edition is now live online.** This features some reflections on the very successful Different Voices National Music Event; a review of the latest Mpfree album 'Battle'; thoughts on Music and Evangelism in a digital age; guidance from New Scottish Hymns on how to launch a successful tour as a Christian artist; thoughts from Christian Copyright Licensing International; links to some unforgettable YouTube clips; and much more! Visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/summer-edition-2013

ELDERSHIP CONSULTATION In April, the Mission & Discipleship Council facilitated discussions between Elders throughout the country (over 166 congregations from 30 Presbyteries were represented), to gain their input as it develops a discussion paper for Kirk Sessions on the future shape and patterns of Eldership. These facilitated discussions were effectively the first phase in a consultative process to which the Council has committed itself; a second phase will begin in the Autumn, when the discussion paper will be sent to all Kirk Sessions, so that they each have an opportunity to input to the development of a proposal document for the

NEW!



2014 General Assembly. A letter will go out to all Kirk Sessions soon and the Council looks forward to receiving their input. For background information, visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/eldership-consultation

FUTURE FOCUS: THE WAY AHEAD is part of the wider Future Focus initiative, designed to help congregations to look afresh at their community, to examine their congregational life and to discern what it is that God wants them to be and to do in the next phase of their life and witness. A new handbook is now available, designed to be used without an external facilitator, as full instructions are included to enable a congregational member (or team) to lead the process. This can be downloaded free of charge – along with an FAQ leaflet – from www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/future-focus-way-ahead

NEW!

A survey was recently carried out, asking congregations what tangible developments had occurred in the years since doing Future Focus. Comments included:

- *More folk are involved in welcoming, participating in worship and outreach. Confidence has been gained to attempt some events rather than seeking/relying on outside help. Communication in/around the wider area has improved.*
- *It gave us a clearer vision of areas we could build on and areas which needed development; reassured us that we were already involved in a lot more parish activities than we thought!; set out a planned approach to future development; made us more realistic re possible targets, in terms of time, costs, etc; helped identify new members of our church family who were willing to assist with various activities/work within the parish, eg Parish Pastoral Visitors.*
- *Hall refurbishment, alternative worship, Cafe Church, formation of Men's and Ladies' Groups, and a Visiting Team.*
- *I can sum up the Future Focus programme to date by these words: "In the past we ran our church; now we are slowly starting to be a church." The process continues still, as this process should never end!!!*

PRAY IT FORWARD This popular resource features an attractive collection of high quality credit-card sized 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, ie 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, eg why not pop one in with each greetings card you send throughout the year? Each box of 80 cards features an assortment of 8 different designs. £5 per box, plus postage. To order, visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/shop or email mandd@cofscotland.org.uk

READER'S REACTIONS Lay and ordained worship leaders review books that have profoundly shaped their approach to leading gathered worship. These are not necessarily new publications, but will be books that have been tried and tested by the contributors in their regular patterns of leading worship. They will explore questions like 'What attracted you to the book?'; 'What was most useful since reading it?'; 'What did you disagree with?'; 'Why would you recommend it?' The aim is to gather a collection of articles that will of itself be a stimulating place for reflecting on worship, as well as point towards the books themselves as resources that will lead to the enriching of worship for the whole of the Church. Visit <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/worship/readers-reactions>

QUICK GUIDES are free resources that do exactly what they say! These downloadable files contain information on a wide range of topics in the areas of mission, discipleship and worship. They are in three main formats: a short, concise introduction to a topic; a step-by-step 'how to' guide; and 'top tips and suggestions'. They are not the final word on a subject, but can provide information and ideas for local churches, and point the reader in the direction of more in-depth information. To download any or all of these guides, visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/quick-guides

SCRIPTAID – help is at hand! You probably know about the Scottish Storytelling Centre's workshops and courses. But do you know about the stories, sketches and drama scripts produced by the Centre for congregational use in worship (without copyright charges)? The

average cost of an item is £5, including a 50p/£1 postage charge. For a link to the full range, visit http://scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/network/scottish_storytelling_church_faith.asp#resource for descriptions of over 100 items. These include stories for use in education and worship, as well as sketches and dramas. Also available is the **Art of the Parish** learning resource to support worship leaders, which can be used by individuals or groups. You can order and pay for items by phoning reception on 0131 556 9579. If the phone is busy, e-mail your enquiry to reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com. You can, of course, also inspect items at the Centre. If you need advice on a script or story, want to develop something or have a script to contribute to Scriptaid, contact Donald@scottishstorytellingcentre.com. One satisfied customer said, "We are one of the many churches without a minister at present. I am sure more churches could share and benefit from your scripts."

NEW!

ST ANDREW PRESS Summer Sale now on Visit the website for bargains galore In bible study, worship, biography and much more. All sale prices are whilst stocks last. Browse and enjoy these great prices at www.standprewpress.com

STARTERS FOR SUNDAY offers a range of suggested material that 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. There is currently material available as far in advance as **September**. Visit www.resourcingmission.org.uk/worship/starters-for-sunday



**COMING
SOON!**

STATISTICS FOR MISSION A group – comprising members of staff from Mission & Discipleship and Ministries councils, plus co-opted individuals with specific gifts and knowledge – has been working hard and enthusiastically behind the scenes for a number of years now, in preparation for data being received from the National Records of Scotland following the 2011 Census. In due course, every congregation in Scotland will be able to download from the Church of Scotland website a PDF containing data specific to their parish, which will be useful for *Planning for Mission, Characterising Parishes, Church Tourism* and *Applying for Funding*. Training will be available to help congregations make the most of this information. Look out for further details in future editions of e-news!

Trusts/Funding

GO FOR IT is about funding change in church and community, aiming to encourage creative ways of working that develop the life and mission of the local church and are transformative for both communities and congregations. The focus is very much on 'the local' and any application must be able to demonstrate clearly its association with at least one Church of Scotland congregation. Successful applicants must meet at least two of the following five criteria:

(1) meeting identified needs in their community; (2) nurturing Christian faith within and beyond the church; (3) tackling poverty and/or social injustice; (4) developing new ecclesial/Christian communities; and (5) creating work which is genuinely innovative and shares good practice with others. There are six grant 'programmes, each with its own maximum award: Research (£1,500); Pilot (£5,000); Step (£5,000); Main & Continuation (£45,000 over a three year period); Training (£1,500; and Help (£2,000). The closing dates for submitting a Main Grants application are **28 September** and **1 March**, and there are no deadlines for the other small grants. Full information and application forms are available by calling the Go For It Team on 0131 225 5722, or by emailing goforit@cofscotland.org.uk. The web pages are now live! Visit <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/goforit>

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP SPECIAL TRUSTS The Council has limited funds available which have been set apart for individuals, local congregations and other groups to access if it can be demonstrated that the money will be used in certain ways, for example: an individual learning a new skill/undertaking a course of study that will add value to their ministry in the local church/community; a local church engaging in innovative work that develops learning congregations or enhances worship; a project to develop an area of the life and witness of local congregations. Grants normally do not exceed £500 and applications are considered throughout the year. For Guidance Notes and an Application Form, contact Eva Elder elder@cofscotland.org.uk (NB: Grants will only be awarded for home mission in Scotland and the rest of the UK. If the funding request is for work abroad, then contact should be made with the World Mission Council worldmission@cofscotland.org.uk)

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