

UNITED DIOCESE OF GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY SUMMER PROJECT



Bishop Gregor pledged during the episcopal election to promote a strategy of growth for this Diocese, a strategy that would encompass the many different facets of church life needing to change and grow: new ways of being the church, diocesan policy for selection and deployment of lay and ordained ministers, lay leadership, stewardship, spiritual renewal and yes, numerical growth. Upon his election, he tasked us as Dean and Ministry Development Officer to begin work on a process which would lead ultimately to the launch of a **Diocesan Growth Strategy** next spring.

We have begun that task as bidden. We are convinced that such a strategy needs to be built upon the wisdom and experience *of* the Regions, truly owned *by* them and eventually rolled out *through* them. We are also convinced that the first stage involves gaining a picture of the reality of congregational life in each Region. We therefore invite you to respond to the questions overleaf, openly and fully.

How you do that is up to **you**. In some places it might be that the Ministry Team and Vestry get together and work on their answers collectively; in another, the Vestry alone might be the respondent; in another it might simply be the Rector who replies – though this is probably the least helpful way to approach the task. The questions are available here and are also on the Ministry Development Website (<http://md.glasgow.anglican.org/>) should you wish to download them and circulate them to the entire congregation; the method is **yours**. We realise that you are busy and burdened with many tasks so we want to offer you the summer – or at least June and July – to do this, requesting that you return your answers to

The Dean
The Diocesan Centre
5 St Vincent Place
Glasgow G1 2DH
or by e-mail to mdo.gg@btinternet.com

by August 1st

Don't worry about leaving some parts blank; you may not be able to answer all of the questions. Just respond to the ones you can, and please confine your answers to the space provided. Those responses will be read by us alone and no-one else. We will then synthesise them into a picture of life in each Region and bring those summaries back to specially convened meetings in each Region. (We will also draw on the information you offered into the Diocesan Description as part of the recent Electoral process; for that reason, we are not asking questions about numbers and finance as we have details of these areas already.) Out of these meetings, we hope to discern 7 Regional representatives who will then form a Working Party with the two of us to progress the work towards its ultimate launch in spring 2011.

Thank you, in anticipation, for answering these questions. We are at an exciting juncture in the life of our diocese and the participation of everyone in this process of launching a mission strategy is essential.

Ian Barcroft and Anne Tomlinson

The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. Luke 13, 20 Each of the three areas of Kingdom-work identified below – congregational, local and the wider community - needs to be kneaded and worked on if we are to be leavened and so grow ever stronger in our discipleship, mission and ministry. So how are **you** doing?



Congregational

- how are people nurtured and helped to grow in prayer and spirituality?
- list what educational programmes/opportunities (for children, young people, adults) are available to deepen people's discipleship?
- how successfully and in what ways does the worshipping life of the congregation meet the different needs (a) core members (b) fringe members (c) seekers?
- how are members equipped for (a) their lives of service *outwith* the worshipping community (b) their service *within* the congregation (authorised ministries and other lay ministries)?
- what would you like to see happen in *this* area of your congregation's life?
- have you any ideas of how your Region might be strengthened in *this* area of the church's life?

Name of Congregation and Region



Local

- describe in one sentence what you think is the purpose of your congregation
- what mechanisms do you use to proclaim the good news (a) in word (b) in action?
- what links do you have with the community/ies (civic and ecclesial) around you?
- describe any areas of growth in the past five years
- what would you like to see happen in *this* area of your congregation's life?
- have you any ideas of how your Region might be strengthened in *this* area of the church's life?

Name of Congregation and Region



The wider community

- what values underpin the stewardship of your congregation's resources?
- what issue is your congregation corporately passionate about?
- describe what actions you have taken as a congregation in the past five years in response to global issues of need or inequality
- with whom are you in partnership in these ventures?
- what would you like to see happen in *this* area of your congregation's life?
- have you any ideas of how your Region might be strengthened in *this* area of the church's life?

Name of Congregation and Region