

A brief round-up of Growth Strategy news March 2012

- A second charge has now completed its Mission Action Plan, namely St Aidan's Clarkston. Like St Augustine's Dumbarton, this congregation had been using the MAP process for some time in its annual missional planning, so was able to plunge straight into the discernment of the upcoming year's goals and the forming of specific plans, Stage 3 of the process. Members have already embarked eagerly on their planned actions and will be soon be sharing news of progress with their neighbours in the Glasgow South Region.
- Regional Council Convenors met for a delicious buffet supper at the Bishop's House last month and then spent time together learning more about the Regional Growth Funds and ways of encouraging the sharing of MAPs at Regional Council meetings. Given these extra dimensions to their role, the Convenors agreed that it would be good to meet twice a year for support and sharing. "That in itself is evidence of growth" said one participant, "as we've never met before in all the many years I've been involved!"
- Several of the new Development Teams gave presentations or led workshops at Diocesan Synod, demonstrating the area of expertise for which they are responsible. The remit of each new Team, aligned to the six strands of the diocesan strategic intention for growth, is two-fold: responding and initiating: (i) to respond to requests for help and support from charges whose MAP priority falls in the area covered by this strand. (ii) to identify and/or to prepare suitable study and working materials to be made available to charges both online and in print; to have members trained and ready to help deliver such materials in charges, groups of charges or Regions where needed, or to support clergy and charge members in doing so; to organize annually at least one Diocesan and one Regional event in the areas covered by this strand. In other words, these teams are going to be the major source of training, support and expertise for congregations as they start to 'live their MAPs'.
- At a recent Glasgow South Regional Council meeting, Mrs Jenny Whelan was elected as Growth Strategy Regional Rep in place of Dr Sue Cowling who is moving south. Huge thanks to Sue for having been part of the Team which worked tirelessly to give birth to the strategy and craft the Launch Services at Pentecost, and a warm welcome to Jenny.