

## **DNS NEWS JUNE Pentecost launch for our growth strategy**

**After months of planning, the Diocesan Growth Strategy will be launched this Pentecost. Dean Ian Barcroft writes. . .**

BISHOP Gregor will be visiting each Region in June as we celebrate in worship and prayer our Pentecost launch of the Diocesan Growth Strategy.

The obvious image I have in my mind is a piece of ground, the soil being prepared ready for the sowing.

How do you picture that ground? Rather like that described in the parable of Jesus, it may not be perfect but it is the best we have and, just as importantly, the people we have in our local church communities are not perfect either, but we can grow in life and faith, combining our efforts with good grace: seeking the blessing of God in good faith too.

As we begin this season of 'Growing in God's Grace' in the diocese, my prayer is that we commit ourselves to do two things which will initiate growth.

Firstly, we must not be afraid to scatter the seed on that ground. Commit yourself to the task of 'making things grow in the local church and local community' but remember to prepare the ground, as best you can.

Secondly, affirm and encourage one another. Don't be quick to criticize but watch, wait, tend and nurture the seed and the ground. By God's grace, and in due season, growth will be celebrated.

*Spirit of our Loving God, in your mercy and compassion inspire, encourage and empower us to live and work together as a diocese, to allow your mission for us to take flesh through Jesus Christ, our Living and Eternal Lord. Amen*

### **Where will growth be found?**

The diocese is committing itself to growing the fruits of six themes:

- Prayer and spirituality
- Learning and discipleship
- Missional leadership
- Numerical growth, welcome and integration
- Children and young people
- Imaginative outreach into local communities.

Each charge in the diocese is asked to become involved in Mission Action Planning from autumn 2011, creating the ground for growth around one or two of these themes.

## Regional launch services and representatives

Galloway: Monday 6 June, 7pm, St Ninian's Castle Douglas

Rep: Roger Cutler, [therectory@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:therectory@dsl.pipex.com)

Glasgow South and Renfrewshire: Tuesday 7 June, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity & St Barnabas Paisley

Glasgow South rep: Sue Cowling, [sue.cowling@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.cowling@btinternet.com);

Renfrewshire rep: Liz O'Ryan, [lizoryan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizoryan@tiscali.co.uk)

Glasgow North West: Monday 13 June, 7.30pm, All Saints Bearsden

Rep: John Lewis, [johnandsusanlewis@btinternet.com](mailto:johnandsusanlewis@btinternet.com)

Ayrshire: Tuesday 21 June, 7.30pm, St Ninian's Troon

Rep: Betty Matheson, [matheson418@btinternet.com](mailto:matheson418@btinternet.com)

Glasgow North East: Wednesday 22 June, 7pm, St James Bishopbriggs

Rep: Andrew Morgan, [atm.possil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:atm.possil@hotmail.co.uk)

Lanarkshire: Thursday 23 June, 7.30pm, St Mary the Virgin Hamilton

Rep: Jamie Hill, [jamie\\_hill@madasafish.com](mailto:jamie_hill@madasafish.com)