

Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES
No 637 October 2014

Pulpit Diary

Oct 4

4.00pm–6.00pm Messy Church

Oct 5

9.30am First Sunday Service led by Springboard
10.30am Morning Worship with Guild Dedication

Oct 12

10.30am Morning Worship (Special activity for children)
6.30pm Evening Worship (Exploring different ways of worship)

Oct 19

10.30am Morning Worship

Oct 26

10.30am Morning Worship

Nov 2

9.30am First Sunday Service led by Guild
10.30am Morning Worship

Nov 9

10.45am Remembrance Sunday Service

For information about church organisations, please contact the Church Office (Mon–Fri, 9.00am–12.00 noon, 1.30pm–3.30pm):

Mrs Virginia Johnston

tel and fax: 0131 447 9969

e-mail: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office:

Rev Alison Swindells

tel and fax: 0131 447 4032

email: alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

Youth Minister: Rev Bill Stone

tel: 07883 815 598

email: billstoneiii@gmail.com

To make contact with any of the organisations referenced in this *Leaflet*, please use the telephone number given, if there is one. Otherwise please contact the Church Office.

Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

The deadline for this *Leaflet* falls two days before the Scottish Referendum. By the time you read this we, the people of Scotland, will have made the most significant political decision that has faced us for 300 years. And we will have had a week to stand back and reflect on the result. But even now, before the



vote has taken place, one thing is clear. The political landscape will be uncertain as we either seek to find our way as an independent nation or try to renegotiate the relationship of the Scottish parliament with the Westminster Government. Whatever the outcome of the vote the hard work is just beginning and many challenges lie ahead.

One of these challenges will be to harness the energy of the grass roots movement towards greater participation in our democratic processes, an energy that has been evident during the Independence Debate. If this energy can be channelled towards building a more just and caring society then we might go some way towards addressing the anxieties which many have felt and expressed to me about the future. It may be that we will have to endure financial hardship and instability for some time. Yet financial concerns, although they have dominated the arguments of the politicians, have actually been shown to be quite far down the list of priorities of ordinary people entering seriously into the debate.

Another challenge will surely be to resist the expectation of a quick fix. Whether we move forward with union or independence we still have to deal with that ever widening gap between rich and poor. We still have to tackle the problems of an NHS that is creaking at the seams. We still have to deal with inadequate housing. And dealing with these issues will require sacrifice. The question is not how we build a better future for ourselves, but how we build it for future generations.

Past generations have gone to war, sacrificed life and limb to protect the freedom and peace of their own nation and others, and in the hope of building a better world for future generations. If we want to build a better future then we too need to learn to live sacrificially. But the battlefield of true sacrificial

living does not only encompass distant war-zones where troops seek to liberate the oppressed or keep the peace. It comes much closer to home than that as we wrestle with what it means to follow Jesus in giving our all today.

There is a third challenge that I want to mention and that is the one that exists for the Church. In an uncertain and changing political landscape we are still called to proclaim a gospel of faith and hope and love, to work for peace and unity, to pray for healing and wholeness, to offer the world a vision of a future in which God's reign of love prevails. One of the things that excites me about Greenbank's YACHT project is that it speaks very clearly of the importance of sharing this vision with young people today and on into the future.

Whatever the result of the referendum the words of the prophet Jeremiah to the exiles in Babylon seem particularly apposite. He tells them to build houses, plant gardens, have families. They are to pray for and to seek the welfare of the strange land in which they find themselves. In other words "Keep calm and carry on". And they are to do all this believing and trusting. I leave you with these words

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

With warmest wishes,

Alison I Swindells
Minister

Local Church Review – Our Plans for Older People

The Mission and Service Committee has been thinking for some time how we can help older members in the Church and in the Parish.

Already many people enjoy the fellowship of The Friendship Club. The Guild, while open to men and women of all ages, also appeals to older members. Both groups are always keen to see new members. However, we want to see if there is more that we can offer.

Our plan is to organise a meeting for those already involved in providing friendship, fellowship, pastoral support and services to older people in the Parish. A representative from The Friendship Club, The Guild, The Neighbourhood Group and Holiday at Home will be invited to join with the Minister, Ministerial Associate and Session Clerk to discuss how we co-ordinate supporting older people.

Within the local area there are also support and services such as *The Open Door*. By June 2015 the Mission and Service Committee will gather and make available, to district elders and others, information on support and services available locally for older people. To make the information as comprehensive as possible we would welcome input from others about local services such as lunch clubs or befriending that they have found helpful. Please either leave a note in my pigeon hole or give me a ring.

Gillian Sweetman

Christmas Bookstall

Sunday 16th November

There will be an opportunity for you to stock up on recent titles from the Cornerstone Bookshop, and books recently reviewed in the *Leaflet*, at the Bookstall on Sunday 16th November in the Main Hall. Please come and browse. If there are any books on religious topics that you would like to see please contact us.

Joan and John Ritchie

Elder Retiring from Kirk Session

Charles Grant has intimated his desire to retire from the Kirk Session and this was accepted at the September meeting. Charles was thanked for his contributions to the work of the Session.

Charles was ordained to the eldership at Queen's Cross Church, Aberdeen in 1974 and admitted to the Kirk Session at Greenbank in 1997. He has looked after District 21. During his long service on the Communications Committee Charles made a very significant contribution to the introduction of the Greenbank Logo and signage.

Material for the *Leaflet* for November should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by **Sunday 12th October** or sent by e-mail by **9am on Tuesday 14th October** to greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com

The Guild

The Guild is a church-based organisation for men and women that normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month from October to March. Most of our meetings are held in the evening but two of our winter meetings take place in the afternoon to assist those who prefer not to venture out on dark nights. As well as a varied programme of talks we raise funds for one of the projects promoted by the national Church of Scotland Guild of which we are a part – this season we are supporting the charity "Mary's Meals". Our meetings are open to anyone interested in one of our topics and we are particularly delighted if newcomers then opt to join our Guild fellowship as members.

Our October meetings will be held at 7.30pm in the Braid Room. On **7th October** we shall learn about the work of the *Trussell Trust* in combating poverty and exclusion and on **21st October** the Rev Ian Whyte will talk about our theme "*A world to serve*". Details of our syllabus and other information will be posted regularly on our webpage within the church website and on the Guild part of the notice boards in the Main Hall corridor of the church premises.

Co-ordinators are Kathleen Patrick and Edith Armit, from whom further information can be obtained.

Calling All Knitters

Greenbank Work Party starts again on **Thursday 2nd October** at **2.30pm** in the Hermitage Room, and meets fortnightly thereafter. All our knitted items are donated to charities. New members are always very welcome.

Anne Oxbrow

Christmas Cards

Sunday 2nd November

A small number of charities, including CrossReach (Church of Scotland Social Care Council), will be selling Christmas cards after both services on **Sunday 2nd November**.



The Hermitage at sunrise

The National Youth Assembly 2014

If you had never been to NYA before you would have been surprised to see the grandeur of Gartmore House Hotel, our site for the weekend, but this had been well calculated considering the needs of the group for the event; apart, that is, from the accommodation, which drew an unhappy response when it was made apparent the boys and the staff were to be housed in the hotel, while the girls found themselves across the courtyard in something more akin to a high-status camp where having a bed was luxury. Hardly a welcome start to the weekend. Nevertheless, as is the nature of NYA, this would prove to be a very different event, as each year is planned by a new group, this year including myself, that volunteers to assemble the themes and ideas. The theme for this year was taken from John 14: *"In My Father's House"*.

The weekend featured discussions on the topics of Worship, Money, Intergenerational Ministry and the Middle East. It was with much surprise, and frankly trepidation, that on the Saturday morning we were asked to discuss the worship we had just shared. This is something we had never done before, and revelatory though it seemed, was as if a huge weight had been collectively lifted from many of our shoulders. We've always known that NYA offered interesting and varied worship experiences but we've never had the chance to openly share our thoughts on it as a group. Discussion of praise is something I've rarely seen take place after a service (short of commenting on how well someone spoke or there being a particularly evocative sermon), perhaps because it is often quite personal, but it strikes me as odd that we don't seem to make much time for it – is this not also an important part of fellowship?



The worship across the weekend was mostly if not entirely based on the style of the Iona Community and offered a lot more in the way of quieter, reflective worship interwoven with chanting. For some this was a wonderful change to the type of worship they were used to, particularly for newcomers, but it was in equal measure not as engaging nor fulfilling for many others. This has always been a difficult part of the event to organise as it is a lot easier to have one group of people lead worship across the weekend than to arrange different groups for different days and this often adds to overall costs, something which we had agreed was

an issue in previous years.

Without a doubt there was a sense that things had been stripped back to allow more time for the main discussions – predominantly carried out as a whole group in the main hall given the move away from the small group discussions/debates which were formerly the mainstay of the event – but, I feel, this was at the cost either of getting into too much depth or not being able to give due consideration to the issues.

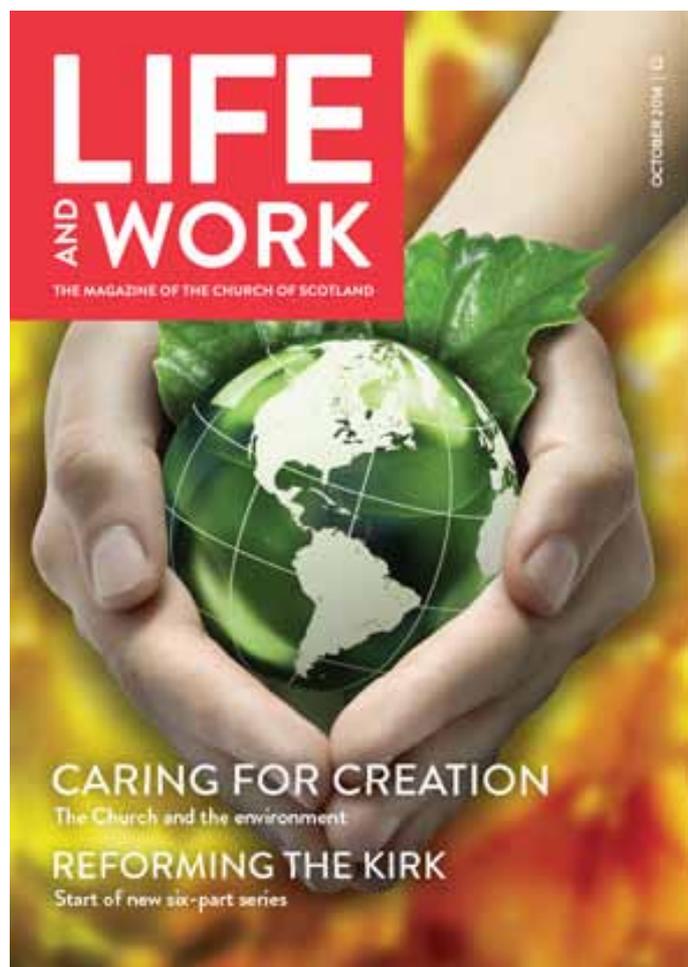
I am, however, glad to say that the spirit of the event was still present and eminently so in the workshops. One such workshop was on *"In My Mother's House: Church, Gender & Peace"*. There followed a wonderful, transformative discussion about our perceptions of men and women, how the words we used to describe their stereotypes could actually be used in a positive context to describe God, and in some way gave us a better understanding of where others came from within the widely varied viewpoints amongst ourselves. In particular the discussion of feminism and whether it can be truly reconciled with the bible is always a challenging one, determining what we really mean by equality, and is a place where you can really learn something about yourself and your faith.

On top of a sombre yet humbling speech by the Moderator of the General Assembly, a highly entertaining moderator's challenge (crazy putting since he's big on his golf), saying goodbye to those at their final NYA, and the election of our NYA Youth Representatives on the final day, the whole weekend felt like a testament to the strength of NYA's character. I had reservations before attending, even still feeling hard done by because of the removal of the debates from a previous year, but there is a continued resilience and hope that emerged from the weekend in a way I could not have anticipated. As we were taught at my first NYA: *bambelela* (never give up).

Alastair Ross



October Issue of *Life and Work*



Fresh Start provides a range of services that support people who have been homeless and have recently been re-housed. Most of the services are delivered by volunteers and only exist due to the contribution of volunteers, the churches and the wider community.

The Starter Packs help people who have been homeless get established in their new home. Items in good condition are used to make up the packs, and the next starter pack collections from Greenbank are on **19th October** and **23rd November** after the morning service. Please bring good quality items on these dates if possible.

Dishes and Crockery

Dinner plates, side plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs, glass tumblers, tea-towels.

Pots and Pans etc.

Pots with lids, milk pans, frying pans, plastic boxes, cooking utensils, can openers, potato peelers, wooden spoons.

Cleaning Things

Washing-up basins, washing-up liquid, toilet cleaner, toilet rolls, hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dust pans and brushes, pedal bin liners, rubbish bags, all purpose cleaner, laundry tablets.

Caring for Creation

Thomas Baldwin examines the relationship between faith and stewardship of nature.

Reforming the Kirk

In the first of a six-part series, the Rev Dr Doug Gay outlines the challenges that lie ahead for the Church of Scotland.

Blessing 'the Animals Who Grace Our Lives'

Jackie Macadam looks at the growing numbers of 'blessing of the animals' services.

The Radical Behind the 'Ragged Schools'

Jackie Macadam learns about the man who helped educate the poorest in Victorian Scotland.

An Act of Liberation

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers Jesus' message in healing the bleeding woman.

All Are Welcome

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson urges congregations to become more accepting and inclusive.

A Narcissistic Culture?

Ron Ferguson reflects on the issues created by the cult of 'celebrity' and technology.

'Many Generations of Christians'

John R Hume visits a Perthshire church with links to early Christianity.

Plus news, letters, reviews and crosswords, all for just £2.

Online: Visit www.lifeandwork.org, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Bed Linen and Towels

Single flat sheets, double flat sheets, single duvet covers, double duvet covers, pillow cases, blankets, duvets, bed covers, towels, face cloths, bath mats, curtains, rugs.

Small household electrical items - not TVs

To find out more about Fresh Start, pick up a leaflet on a Fresh Start Sunday, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk or telephone 476 7741.

Alison Ambler

World Mission

The Greenbank World Mission Group's remit from the Kirk Session is "to keep under review in the congregation the issues of World Mission". One of the ways we do this is through articles written by members of the group.

One World Stall

Greenbank is a Fair Trade Church so we promote Fair Trade by using Fair Trade products in the church and selling goods from the One World shop through the One World Stall. The next stall will be on **5th October**.

John Ritchie

Where Memories Go

Why Dementia Changes Everything

by Sally Magnusson

Two Roads, ISBN 978-1-444-75178-9, price £16.99 (hardback)

In "Where Memories Go", Sally Magnusson shares with us her personal story of her mother's dementia. From early on, I was drawn into her narrative, questioning and analysis. For this is not just a story. Nor is it a "dementia handbook". Sally Magnusson weaves together the story of her mother's dementia, her own feelings on that journey and much more. She shares with us brief insights into dementia research. She thinks about how we can stay connected with the person and looks at the question of "self". Importantly, she raises questions about "best practice" in caring for dementia sufferers at home, in residential settings and in hospital.

This book is, of course, very well written and beautifully crafted. It's touching to read; full of searching, frustration, pain, laughter, singing, memories, thanksgiving and love; lots of love.

In deciding to share her personal experience, Sally Magnusson acknowledges that her story is also that of so many people across the country and hopes that her book will do something to advance the understanding of dementia.

Janet Ferguson

Annual Subscription for *Life & Work* and Donations for the *Leaflet*

It is that time of year when you are invited to subscribe to 12 editions of the Church of Scotland's popular *Life & Work* magazine for the 2015 calendar year. The annual subscription is £22, payable by 15th November 2014, as we have to submit the Church's bulk order by 20th November 2014. We will order *Life & Work* only for those who have made the payment by that date. The *Leaflet*, with its up-to-date news about Greenbank Church, is provided to all members free of charge for nine editions during 2015. In order to defray the printing and production costs, a suggested donation of £10 or more per household, also payable preferably by 15th November 2014, would be welcome.

A single payment of £32 can be made to cover both the *Leaflet* and *Life & Work*.

Payments, stating whether you are subscribing to *Life & Work* and/or contributing to the *Leaflet* and giving details of your name and address, should be put in an envelope addressed to The Treasurer and delivered through the Sunday offering bags or to the Church Office by post or hand. Cheques should be made payable to "Greenbank Church".

I thought that it would be useful if I mentioned a couple of things. The donations for the *Leaflet* last year were significantly lower than the cost of publishing it, so all donations are very welcome. Also, by bulk ordering *Life & Work* we receive a significant discount to the cover price of £26.40.

Robert Young, Treasurer

Friendship Club

At our first meeting of the session on *Wednesday 1st October at 2.30pm* (Lower Hall) we welcome back Wendy Sodergren, this time with her pictures of Shetland. Perhaps you have seen her work in *Life and Work*. If so, you will know of her skill.

Our second meeting on *15th October* should bring back memories of childhood as Alan Murray's subject is 'Rupert Bear'!

Kathleen's musical afternoon on *22nd October* is entitled 'Pot Pourri' so the selection will be a surprise.

Lord Mackay of Drumadoon is unable to give his talk on *29th October*, or on any Wednesday for the foreseeable future. As he is, however, able to be with us on the Friday of that week, *the Friendship Club as a "one-off" will meet on Friday 31st October, usual place, usual time. Please note the change of date.*

Banner Group

We would be happy to welcome anyone who enjoys 'stitching' when we next meet on *Monday 13th October at 2.30pm in the Hermitage Room*. Work is progressing on our Harvest and Autumn Banners, although at the moment such work is mostly done at home and our meetings are for discussion and decision making over our cups of tea!

For further information please contact me.

Val Smart

Reading Group

The Reading Group meets on Mondays in the Pentland Room from 8pm to 9.30pm, the next meeting being on *10th November*. After a lively discussion of the chosen book, we have tea and a further chat. Everyone will be very welcome.

The following books have been selected for 2014-2015:

- 2014 Nov 10th** *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis
Also suggestions for readings during Advent
- 2015 Jan 19th** *This Boy* by Alan Johnson
- Feb 23rd** *Two Worlds: An Edinburgh-Jewish Childhood*
by David Daiches
- Apr 20th** To be decided

For further information please contact

Doris Laing or Vivien Hutchison

Country Dance Club

The Country Dance Club meets on Wednesday evenings in the Centenary Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The dances are taught by a qualified teacher but a basic knowledge of Country Dance steps is advisable. There is time for a cup of tea and a chat. New members are always welcome.

For further information please contact

Doris Laing or Linda MacDonald

QII

Our QII Youth Group is off to a good start, We were excited to welcome fourteen people to our first meeting and are looking forward to what promises to be a very busy year! Our leadership team is also glad to welcome Lyndsay Kennedy on board, and is already benefiting from her contributions.

Our programme includes a mix of faith-based discussions, games nights, service opportunities and field trips. Already, we have enjoyed a rather competitive free-trade activity, silly games involving pool-noodles, and an evening out in Braidburn Valley Park re-painting an electrical substation and staining several wooden benches.

In September we also supported the Ceilidh and Doors Open Day for YACHT. These programmes, and the larger fundraising campaign of which they are a part, speak to the commitment our church has to young people. As beneficiaries of this commitment we are grateful for all of the work, energy, and enthusiasm that is invested in youth at Greenbank and especially for the financial contributions made to support this work for the future.



Omitted from the Online version of the Leaflet

Welcome Teams

October

- 5 **John Rutherford**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones
- 12 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Greig Scott
- 19 **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 26 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay

November

- 2 **Roger Bland**, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo, Keith Winton

Coffee Rota

October

- 5 Ian Thom (D56)
- 12 The Country Dance Club
- 19 Rosemary McCulloch (D49 & D50)
- 26 The Neighbourhood Group

November

- 2 WAGs



Crèche Rota

October

- 5 Sharon Hamilton
- 12 Alison Ross
- 19 Jenny Wright
- 26 Lucy Teal

November

- 2 Rosemary Collier



Flower Rota

| | <i>Provided by</i> | <i>Delivered by</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| October | | |
| 5 | Flower Committee | Alison Ambler |
| 12 | Hazel Macaulay | Rachel Cadell |
| 19 | Winton Family | Moira Little |
| 26 | Florrie & Kathryn Sangster | Ishbel Emery |
| November | | |
| 2 | Louise Coghill | Janet Inglis |



A QUESTION OF UNDERSTANDING

Cartoons make us laugh: they also make us think. One of American cartoonist Gary Larson's most popular drawings depicts a young boy *pushing* a door clearly marked "*pull*" in front of the Midvale School for the Gifted. How common is that misunderstanding! We read a simple instruction and turn it on its head. We see a "wet paint" sign and just have to reach out a hand to make sure. We have been told how to reach a particular destination but have missed a crucial junction. Day by day, many of us fail to understand fully what we read or see or hear. And many would agree with Anne of Green Gables, who says, "Most of the trouble in life comes from misunderstanding."

There are many reasons why we may misunderstand. Sometimes we are distracted: our minds are on other things and we do not take in what is being said or what we are reading. Sometimes we are biased or prejudiced: our misunderstanding is wilful and deliberate. Sometimes it is because what is being communicated is difficult or challenging for us to take on board. Sometimes it is because we think we already understand and have no need to review what we are thinking, feeling or doing. Very often, as Lucy Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables*, put it, "It's dreadful what little things lead people to misunderstand each other."

In his own lifetime Jesus was frequently misunderstood. The religious authorities who quarrelled with him never understood what he was saying. Although Jesus spoke to them simply and clearly, tried to reason with them and invited them to faith, truth and love, they refused to believe him. On several occasions he asked those around him about their understanding of him, of his words, and of his actions. Their misunderstanding is understandable: they felt threatened by all that Jesus stood for. They refused to believe in him or accept his truth or face the change they needed to make. In the end, they rejected not only everything Jesus said and did, but Jesus himself. They formed part of the fatal coalition which came together to plot his death. It is disconcerting but true that it was precisely those who were loudest in their religious profession who, on encountering Jesus, were loudest in censure and protest. Instead of welcoming him as the living embodiment of all they hoped for, they misunderstood him totally.

Jesus grew frustrated with his close followers because of their inability to understand what he was talking about. On one occasion he tried to warn them about their enemies, the religious and secular powers-that-were, represented by the Pharisees and King Herod. *Watch out—beware of the contaminating yeast of the Pharisees and the followers of Herod.* Beware of Herod, for although he may listen to you now and then, you can end up losing your head. And beware as much the theologians who get in the way between human beings and God. Whether it is religious leaders or political ones, their yeast has a way of spoiling the whole lump. What is the yeast? What is the problem

with the Pharisees and Herodians as pictured in the Gospel of Mark? Their power, greed and stubbornness are at variance with the values of the kingdom of God. Their "yeast" is anything that rather than enhancing the kingdom corrupts, dilutes or waters down the good news of God's reign.

Do the disciples hear Jesus' words? No, they are only half listening. They are preoccupied by something else. They are on a small boat crossing the lake and they have discovered there is only one loaf of bread on board. They are confused. They think Jesus is upset about the lack of bread. Their minds – perhaps they are wondering who was to blame – are on the lack of food. This is the third time the disciples have taken ship with Jesus; this is the third time there has been a shortage of food; for the third time they are anxious about this.

The disciples had no idea what Jesus was talking about. He was calling them to a new kind of life, but all that concerned them was where the next meal was coming from. Perhaps with a smile, he reminded them that twice he had satisfied the hunger of a large crowd with food enough and to spare. It was as if he said, "Why worry? Don't you remember what happened before? Hasn't experience taught you anything?" To say that the disciples are slow learners is putting it mildly. They are travelling over the lake with the Bread of Life on board, bread for the hearts of both Jews and non-Jews alike, but still they cannot see it. *Do you not yet understand?* Jesus must have been exasperated.

Jesus must be exasperated with us as well. As of old on the lake, still he asks us, *Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember?* The questions Jesus asks prick our consciences and expose our own lack of understanding about his teaching and example. If we are honest, we admit that we do not yet understand, that we do not always like the sound of what he is saying, that we resent God's intrusion into our settled ways, that we have grown comfortable with the way things are.

The Christian Gospel calls us to be people of understanding. Being a Christian in today's world means seeking to understand Jesus, accepting his words, and putting them into practice with the same love, courage and wisdom that he demonstrated. This is not an easy process: it will take us out of our comfort zones. For we shall have to admit that we have failed to see and to hear, that despite our would-be commitment to Jesus we still do not understand him or his Gospel. Rather than deluding ourselves that we know all the answers, we must be open to the questions which Jesus puts to us. Jesus does not give us ready-made solutions to all of life's problems. Instead he gently invites us to discover the truth about God, the world and ourselves through his kindly but persistent and probing questions, questions we shall consider in the coming months.