



# St Augustine's Dumbarton

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# the new look

## River City

Friends' in Soapy Bubble!



It has always been suggested that life in St Augustine's is a bit like a soap opera! However, the latest Friends' outing was a wee taste of what it's like to be in a real one!

Fans of River City, the soap filmed in Dumbarton, took a trip to the set up at Gooseholm, and even had their picture taken in the Oyster Cafe with one of the stars! Some of us went for a role and ended up with a roll instead!

The set is incredibly realistic, and our lot were incredibly impressed at what has been built on our own doorstep, and the commitment of the BBC to use Dumbarton as a filming place for many of its television productions.

There is no truth in the rumour that some of our party was pushed hurriedly past the pub on the set. See Janette's account of the visit in WTITY on Page 11 of this magazine.

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## **From Kenny....**

You will all hear much about the Diocesan Mission Action Plan, the new Strategy for Mission, in the coming months.

Already we are tackling the various issues we need to look at more closely both at Vestry level and beyond. Some new initiatives will be launched over the coming months, and some of them are due to be rather imaginative!

As most of you know, I wear a "Diocesan Hat" as well as being your Rector, in other words I am the Convenor of the Church in Society Action Group. Over the past few months our Group has been compiling statistics which are trying to help us to gauge how many parishes in the Diocese have groups which use their premises, and how real the connection is between the premises users and the worshipping community.

Some of the replies have been really encouraging, but others just let the folk in and take the monthly rent to help pay for stipend! It certainly makes me want to re-assess how we do things in St Augustine's and see if we can build stronger links with **our** hall-users.

Certainly Friends', and the constant work of Friends' is a real jewel in our crown, and together with our Friday Lunches and Saturday Coffee, there are other ways of getting people to work more closely together and offer mutual support!

Since we decided to build the Community Hall, it has always been my dream to build a St Augustine's Family which everyone, worshippers and non-worshippers alike can feel part of. Some of us will be regular or occasional worshippers, some of us will also be a part of the many groups and agencies which use the Community Hall, and some will just come for the social programmes we run, but together we are the St Augustine's Family.

It is my task, as it is yours, to bring that family more closely together and build a bond which means there is no "them and us"! I know this is working quite well, at present, but we could do a lot better.

Things like inviting all our groups to our Events, including the Christmas Party have already forged the sort of relationships we need, and last year the Autumn Fayre was a huge success, bringing everyone



together on a glorious day to raise lots of good community feeling and lots of cash for various groups too! We had to make two return trips to the supermarket to feed the hungry battalions!

This is the sort of event that binds us all together, or creates friction and resentment, and we need to be very aware of the need to avoid the latter.

It's a time to make friendships and enhance those we already have. It's a time to speak politely to other members of the St Augustine's family, and show them where the bins are rather than tell them they'd better clean up their mess! As Christians there should be no need to remind you of something like this, but tempers can get frayed, and even lately I have heard some rather harsh words spoken from my office when folk obviously think I can't hear what's being said! Sure, I'm getting deaf in my old age, but.....

No doubt the weather will be horrid this year, oh no it won't, but provision has been made to move into the church if need be, and the Procurator Fiscal has given us his Car Park for the occasion too! A Bouncy Castle seems to be on offer and there will literally be something for everyone! (10am until 4pm)

It's the sort of event that I'm going to be suggesting to other parishes in the Diocese, but I need to make sure it works at home first, and the sort of bonds we need between hall folk and church folk can be formed and grown. It certainly ticks some boxes in the Diocesan Mission Strategy!

The next day we will be celebrating St Augustine's Day, 28th, and it will be our second Parish Breakfast Day. Buck's Fizz, tea, coffee and breakfast after the 9am Service and up until 10.45. We need to bring our "two" congregations together, too, and the Easter Breakfast was a huge success! There may even be some leftovers from the day before! Remember, too, that this is our Gift Day!

*Kenny*

## **A Night in Manhattan -**

**A Musical Showcase.**

**Please support this concert in St. Aug's on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. Tickets from David and Sharon £6. It will be a brilliant night wth lots of talent including our own Ghislaine and Ricky and the Allsorts choir.**

## Parish Walk

The next walk is on Saturday August 13th meeting outside Overtoun House. We will be exploring the footpaths in the estate followed by tea in the house.

On our last walk we saw an osprey catch a fish, no promises this time, perhaps we shall see a blackbird catch a worm ! For more details see Tim or Rosemary.

## Lang Craigs

There will be a consultation meeting about the Lang Craigs here in St Augustine's Church on Wednesday 10th August at 7.30 pm. In April the Woodland Trust, Scotland bought 600 acres of land above Overtoun and Garshake and are now putting together their plans for the area.

Everyone is welcome, especially if you are interested in hearing about the plans or want to contribute your ideas.

## Kyiv Accordion Concert

Many thanks to everyone who made The Kyiv Accordion Duo concert such a success on Tuesday August 2nd. The music was beautifully played and touched every emotion.

Together, about 60 people gave donations amounting to £463 as they 'retired', and CDs to the value of £120 were sold. Igor and Oleksiy, on behalf of Hip-pokrat, pass on the thanks of the Chenobyl children.

It seems this may be their last visit to Scotland because of family commitments, but they have always enjoyed their Dumbarton "gig"! We wish them both well!



## Helen Touray Visit

Helen, who somewhat bravely administers our own London Corner School in The Gambia is over in the UK at the moment, escaping the rainy season in The Gambia!

To make herself feel a little less homesick, she's travelling to Dumbarton from 11th-15th August for our own rainy season! It certainly gives those of us in the Executive an opportunity to catch up on latest news and plan with her on the future of the school.

You will see Helen around and about when she's here, and feel free to ask her about the school and what's going on!

There is a meeting of the Executive on Sunday 14th at 7pm in Fran and Faye's home.

## Vestry Meeting

The August Vestry Meeting is at 7.30pm on the 17th in the bigger of the two Meeting Rooms.

## Diocesan Ultreya

Members of Cursillo from all over the Diocese are meeting in St Augustine's on Thursday 25th August at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend this meeting if only to find out a bit more about Cursillo! Three-line whip for parish cursillistas!

## St Augustine's-Tide and Gift Day

We celebrate the Feast of St Augustine, our Patronal Saint, on Sunday 28th August, and mark this, as ever, with the Parish Gift Day. Reading David's Report this month should make us aware that our giving must increase, and this is a chance to make a sizable one-off donation to help us through difficult days.

There should be an envelope attached to this magazine for your donation, and you can Gift Aid this money either by inserting a wee note, or printing your envelope number on the envelope.

The number of people giving regularly through the envelope scheme has gone down of late, simply because of deaths in the congregation. May I ask you all to consider taking envelopes? It helps with our budget, and it also helps you to give on a regular basis, which is, of course, our Christian Duty! How much is God and St Augustine's worth to you?

## A WEE NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Some of you will be aware of our recent mini financial crisis. I was able to say a few words about it recently while delivering Kenny's sermon when he was on holiday.

Basically, we had a "RUN" on our finances due mainly to 3 lots of quota coming out in the space of 3 weeks and our quarterly gas & electricity being due. The quota issue was due a problem at the diocesan office where we had to play catch up on the year & shouldn't recur. It is worth noting however that our monthly quota this year is £880 per month!

The gas & electricity however is a different matter. It is currently running at around £3000 per quarter for both during the winter months. A lot of money indeed! Hopefully we will enjoy some respite during the summer months, although the way this summer has been that is debatable. We have just also paid the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of gas & electricity. The best part of £3000 AGAIN.

We have also just paid out nearly £2500 to have our gutters on the church cleaned, slates checked & any repairs carried out. Having just paid Kenny his wages we are now down to our last few hundred pounds.

The question now is how much do we value our church & do we want to see our church survive?

**NEED I SAY ANY MORE**

*David Rowatt*

## The Rowatt's India Trip February 2011

Firstly please let us apologise for the time it has taken us to give you an update on our recent trip to India!

In February this year Gideon & Sharmilla had invited us out to Gujarat to take part in a 3 day conference for the Kutchi people who are a tribal people who live in the Rann of Kutch a dessert area in Western Gujarat.

The conference focused on the missionaries who are working with the Kutchi people feeding back on how well the work with the tribal people was developing. The last day of the conference focused on giving the tribal people a Kutchi translation of the bible which they had never had before.

Operation Mobilisation and The Bible Society in India had spent a lot of time translating the New Testament into the Kutchi language as the Kutchi people had never had a bible in their own language and always had to read a bible in their second or sometimes third language. Below are some pictures of our trip.

While we were in India we took time to visit the Kutchi Schools that we sponsor and raise money for. It was remarkable to see how some of the money we have raised over the last few years has enriched the lives of so many children. We also visited the village that was devastated in the Earthquake in 2001 and how so many people have had to rebuild their homes and livelihoods in another part of the town. The ruined temples, shops, houses and schools were incredibly sad but we heard so many stories of how God had intervened in situations were just mind blowing.

We are hoping in the next few months to hold another fundraising curry night and hope to have a stall at the church fair, which we hope you will come and support to help us carry on this vital work with the untouchable children in India.

David and Sharon

## **Talented Dumbarton Teen's New York dream comes true - with a little help!** (By Tina Kemp)

SINCE she was little, Lauren Downie has dreamed of living in New York. Now the talented teenager's wish is set to come true after she secured a place at a prestigious performing arts academy in the city. Lauren, 18, has been accepted to study at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Manhattan.

The former Dumbarton Academy pupil will start a two-year integrated musical theatre course at the conservatory, which has produced a range of stars including chart-topping singer Jason Derulo, in October.

Lauren hopes to follow this with a two-year degree course at the college's campus in Los Angeles.

Lauren, of Victoria Street, said: "I have always wanted to live in New York. I still have a card I wrote for my primary seven leavers' concert which says 'when I'm old I'm going to live in New York'. Now that is happening. It's crazy! "It's such a great opportunity for me. Thousands of people from all over the world go there and to think that I am one of them is just amazing."

Lauren first became interested in musical theatre when her dad, Gordon, took her and sister Kate to DPT performances as a child. So she's well-known in St Augustine's circles!

She said: "I joined the DPT in 2000 and did pantomimes and plays. I really enjoyed it and went on to join the Glasgow Academy of Musical Theatre Arts."

Lauren devoted 14 hours a week to GAMTA before successfully auditioning for Knightswood Academy, which specialises in music and dance. She completed her fifth and sixth years at the school, concentrating on musical theatre.

She said: "In past years, people from the school have gone to AMDA and I heard it was really good. One of the people from AMDA came to the school and told us a lot about it. I thought it sounded amazing so I auditioned.

"I love singing, dancing and acting, which is why I wanted to go there. Rather than just one area, the academy focuses on everything so that will help me to keep up all my strengths."

Lauren said parents Gordon and Sheila had been very supportive. She added: "I've never been away from home before and it will be hard for them, but they know it's what I want to do and they are excited for me."

The only hurdle to her New York dream is money – it costs \$36,660 a year for the course and she is busy trying to secure grants and raise cash towards the fees.

"It's a huge amount of money," Lauren said. "AMDA has given me some but if I don't get the money I can't go."

To help Lauren on her way, a fundraising concert is being held in **St Augustine's Church**, Dumbarton, on Saturday, August 13. Music students from Knightswood Academy will be performing together with a selection of other acts.

Among those taking part will be the Allsorts Choir, made up of local church members who were a recent YouTube hit with their version of songs from the hit film Sister Act.

Tickets for the concert are available from Sharon or David or by contacting 01389 849348 or 01389 733372.

It should be a fabulous evening!

### **Richmond Architects**

**Supporting  
The Friends of St. Augustine's**

**Castle Terrace,  
Dumbarton  
Tel: 01389 765578**

### **Macleans the Jewellers**

**106 High Street Dumbarton  
Quality jewellery -  
In the heart of Dumbarton  
Tel: 01389 733331  
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# St James the Least of All...

*Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic Rector, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...*

## The Rectory

### St James-the-Least

*My dear Nephew Darren*

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of “press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary”, until we end with “12 for requests for prayer”. I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing “Thine be the glory” on one finger on an electric organ while I am “on hold” I will have him excommunicated.

At least you have the grace while I am waiting not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second on 8 for baptisms and save on a large phone bill in months to come; in fact, another on 9 for funerals may

well be necessary by the time that number comes up. Entire families could be born, marry and die before they hear that 15 is specially reserved for urgent calls. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine is specially designed not to accept incoming messages and that I only answer the thing personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may be answered at my convenience, or could be ignored if I disapprove of its contents. This has the added benefit that I have not received any invitations to buy photocopiers or to learn that I have been selected to have a new kitchen installed, for many a year.

For the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to tell them that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St. James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all-but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



# Rotas for August 2011

## Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>

### 11am Eucharist.

Readers: Fran Walker & David Rowatt.  
Intercessions: Margaret Hardie.  
Chalice: Barbara Barnes & Janette Barnes.  
Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & Vernon Perrin.

## Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>

### 11am Eucharist.

Readers: Margot Rhead & Vernon Perrin.  
Intercessions: David Rowatt.  
Chalice: Maggie Wallace & Fran Walker.  
Sidespersons: Ronnie Blaney & Linda Jenkinson.

## Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>

### 11am Eucharist.

Readers: Janette Barnes & Morag O'Neill.  
Intercessions: Tim Rhead.  
Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Vernon Perrin.  
Sidespersons: Tim Rhead & David Ansell.

## Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>

### 11am Eucharist

Readers: Maggie Wallace. & Evelyn O'Neill.  
Intercessions: Margot Rhead.  
Chalice: Tim Rhead & Janette Barnes.  
Sidespersons: C Ashman & Roberta Mailley.

## FLOWERS.

### Wk. ending:

August 6<sup>th</sup>. Maggie Wallace & Moira McGown.  
" 13<sup>th</sup>. Rosemary McLeay & Barbara Barnes.  
" 20<sup>th</sup>. Linda Macaulay.  
" 27<sup>th</sup>. Moira McGown & Margaret Hardie.

## ROTAS

We are SERIOUSLY SHORT of Sidespersons at the moment. Those already doing this duty are VERY willing, but a few more are needed desper-

ately! We are currently looking again at the way we greet and welcome people to St Augustine's and there may be new initiatives by the end of the summer.

Meanwhile, if you can help even once every month it would be wonderful. PLEASE.

## Home Communion:

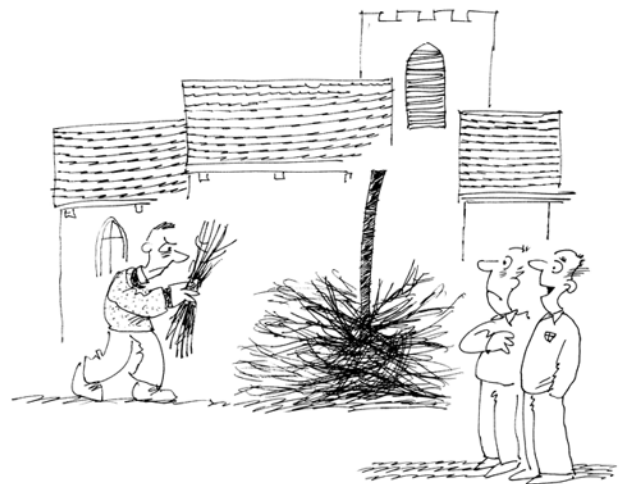
The next house Communion at Shirley Currie's home is Monday August 8th at 2pm. We could do with a few more members attending.

## Friday Soup and Saturday Coffee morning:

These will start again in August and are a large part of our mission and outreach! To serve cheap lunches to the many folk who wander in is our privilege, and for many it is the highlight of their week.

Rosemary has now officially retired from the team after so many years of service, and she goes with a massive "thank you" for all her efforts. New team members are especially welcomed at this time as we are a wee bit short of hands. Speak to Maggie for details.

The Saturday Natter, (10-noon), is still popular, and in special circumstances can raise over £500 for charity, like the current appeal for the Horn of Africa. Both these things are events we should be proud of and lend our support if and when we can.



HELLO - LOOKS LIKE THE ORGANIST AND THE VICAR HAVE FALLEN OUT AGAIN!



Two pics from Grace's Baptism, with proud Rector, parents and grandparents; and who else but a part of the Allsorts Choir which are taking Dumbarton by storm!



Jackie gets a special blessing for her 6th Birthday in July; The Rowatts in India; The Sunday School take over the Sunday "chores"; Marcus gets all chocolatey in grandparent's absence, and Rachel takes up some preaching!

## Smile Lines

### Sounds

Music festival as parent drops off teenagers...

Daughter: Did you ever hear anything so amazing as that band?

Father: Well, I once heard a collision between a milk float and a little van filled with ducks.

### Go on

The critic started to leave in the middle of the second act of the play. 'Don't go now,' he pleaded. 'I promise there's a terrific kick in the next act.' 'Fine', was the retort. 'Give it to the author.'

### Music appreciation

The music critic enthused: "Here is Tchaikovsky at his best. Music so beautiful it has to be heard to be appreciated."

A lot of music is like that.

### Drama

"Did the play have an unhappy ending?"

"Oh no – everyone was glad when it was over!"

*With the pitfalls of daily life in mind...*

### Spelling

Teacher: Donald, how do you spell crocodile?

Donald: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's incorrect.

Donald: Maybe it is, but you asked me how I spell it.

### Say again?

The foreign student fell in love, and wanted to say: 'I am bent on seeing you...' but he wrote: 'the sight of you doubles me up.'

### Birdie

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

### Politicians

Politicians are people who, when they see the light at the end of the tunnel, order more tunnel.

### Hymns for People Over 50

Give Me the Old Timers' Religion  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up  
Just a Slower Walk with Thee  
Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up  
Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

### When young children pray...

"Lead a snot into temptation."

"And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

"Give us this day our jelly bread."

"Our Father, who art in heaven, how didja know my name?"

### Church notices that didn't come out quite right...

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn-sing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the church hall on Friday afternoon.

The Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. All proceeds will be used to cripple children.

### Stop!

A woman drove a mini-van filled with a dozen screaming children through the supermarket car park, looking for a space. Obviously frazzled, she drove through a stop sign. 'Hey, lady, have you forgotten how to stop?' yelled an irate man. She rolled down her window and demanded indignantly: 'What makes you think these are all mine?'

### Golf

There was a clergyman who was an avid golfer. One Sunday was a picture-perfect day for golf, and the minister could not resist the temptation. He rang his assistant and told him he was too ill to attend church. Then he packed up the car, and drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognize him. Happily, he began to play the course. But angel up above was watching the minister and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, 'Look at the minister. He should be punished for what he's doing.'

God nodded in agreement. The minister teed up on the first hole. He swung, and the ball sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup three hundred and fifty yards away. A perfect hole-in-one. The minister was amazed and overjoyed. The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said: 'Begging your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him.' And God smiled. 'Think about it; who can he tell?'

# ‘Wait Till I Tell You.....’

*Janette looks back on high summer and the holidays and looks forward to August - with the concerts and the community fair.*

## **AUGUST - THE MONTH OF THE FIRST ROMAN EMPEROR.**

Augustus Caesar named this month in his own honour because it was his favourite but in Scotland it's the month that the weans go back to school and we hear the first utterances of the dreaded phrase 'aye, the nights are ferr drawin' in'. Hearing it for the first time this year on 29<sup>th</sup> July sent a shiver right down my spine.

Then for the English it's holiday time and for the upper classes it's the start of the stag and buck stalking with the grouse being the next target on the glorious twelfth. Now, if only there was an open season for a similar onslaught on these flies which seem to be everywhere just now. With the shops bereft of any humane and suitable deterrent they continue to zoom around unchallenged. Are there more this year? Do we have to wait till the first frost kills them off? Answers, please ..... on the back of a roll of flypaper!

## **DON'T RAIN ON MY PARADE.**

It seems a long time ago now but remember the inglorious month of June? When we thought the sun had disappeared forever? The Dumbarton Churches Together Concert with American soprano, Jessica Weidman was held on one of the wettest days of the summer. And it coincided with a military parade through Dumbarton High Street to welcome the troops back from Afghanistan. Jessica, with her Sat-Nav tuned in to arrive at St. Auggie's in the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>, encountered total confusion with the closed roads and detours and had to make an emergency landing at Morrison's Car Park. She bravely ran through the pouring rain to reach the Church.

We had opened the doors at 10am to greet our visitors and also to set up a good vantage point in the Church porch to cheer on the troops. We quickly broke the news to her that the pipe band was playing not in her honour but she joined us anyway to enjoy the stirring spectacle.

Roberta spent all day in the Church - varying her outfit as necessary. She was in charge of the Friends' Tea Party which precluded the concert - Cold Meat, Salad and Chips with a wee refreshment was unbeatable value at £4.00. Then it was off to the concert to be followed by an après-concert supper. What an excellent way to spend a wet June day in Dumbarton!

## **BIG TURNOUT AT BISHOP'S NEW STRATEGY LAUNCH.**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, two mini buses and a selection of cars made their way up to All Saints' Church, Bearsden, to hear the Bishop's growth strategy for the Diocese being unveiled. St. Augs was well represented with members in practically every row. Ghislaine even wore her maxi dress for the occasion - she'd heard that Bearsden was very upmarket and that there would be a great tea!

We all settled down to see pictures on the big screen of our various parishes at worship and at play then - horror of horrors - the computer threw a wobbly! The organisers worked feverishly, the Bishop sympathised as he accepted the perils of technology, a few prayed and then - St. Augs to the rescue! Sharon should have brought along her Wonderwumman outfit. Not even taking time for the three customary twirls she tackled the offending machine and with a few strokes on the keyboard we had lift off! The pictures became visible for all to admire. The embarrassing moment was over. There were more than a few comments of 'see, you need a wumman tae get these things soarted oot' (or the Bearsden equivalent).

Then the Bishop, perhaps deliberately in his anxiety to get the action moving again, speeded up part of the service not realising who was about to be cut. Oh no you don't! Maggie had been following the plot and had lines to deliver so up she got and said her piece bringing us right back to the script. He should have learned by this time that Maggie cannot be silenced easily!

Of course, the service overran and some of us had to leave before the magnificent spread that included wine and strawberries and cream. Aye, they've been moaning about it all summer. Ghislaine was lucky - she even managed to get a carry out! Oh, and the strategy? We'll be talking more about that in the months to come. You have been warned!

## **ROUND THE MED - WI' A WUMMAN DRIVER!**

Soon it was July and it was time to cruise the Med on the Cunard ship Queen Victoria after a first class rail journey from Glasgow Central Station. No, we didn't win the lottery, we just managed to get a good deal and economised by opting for an obstructed view stateroom that looked out over a lifeboat! It was a comforting view really since we were reassured that this sturdy little vessel would be waiting

for us should the four metre high waves on the Bay of Biscay adversely affect the ship.

Our lady captain (and I thought Lady Captains only existed in St. Auggie's Murder Mysteries) spoke to us regularly on the public address system informing us that '*she was handling it well*'. I'm still not sure who was handling what well. Was she (the Captain) successfully keeping the ship upright in the storm or was the Queen Victoria making light work of the choppy seas? We were told to hold onto the handrails while moving around the decks and one couldn't possibly succumb to seasickness when the menu for dinner included Lobster Thermidor and Baked Alaska - delicious!

Regular cruisers are funny people, really. They queue for ages at the Captain's Cocktail Party to be photographed in their evening attire with members of the ship's hierarchy. And what for? To impress their friends back home?

And ships leaving from Southampton attract mountains of luggage since there are no airline officials to weigh heavily on the cases. Indeed, Maggie, with the help of Ricky, negotiated Glasgow Central Station with no less than three suitcases. In the history of Cunard the Duchess of Windsor is reputed to have regularly arrived at the ship with eighteen suitcases- so, Maggie, you're not even in the game! As well as posing and eating we went to see the sights.

We visited Monserrat, near Barcelona, to see the monks and the famous black virgin but the queue was horrendous so we had to admire everything from afar and enjoy an ice cream. Next day we trotted around the very familiar streets of Cannes and in Italy we toured the Italian Riviera and sampled a typical meal of the region with wine. The meal was interesting but the wine was delicious! At Gibraltar we went off on a small boat to search for dolphins. The sea was very rough so we had to grasp the rails with both hands and were unable to take photographs. Oh, we saw many pods - that's what you call a whole lot of dolphins- so you'll have to take our word for it.

All too soon it was back at the luxury train where we shared experiences with the other Glasgow cruisers. At the Central Station Maggie with her suite of luggage was escorted off the train by the train driver in the absence of sufficient trolleys! The poor man wanted to lock up his train and get home for his tea! Happily, Linda was waiting at Waterloo Street to transport us back to reality.

### **FRIENDS GO TO RIVER CITY.**

On Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July two parties from Friends went off on a visit to Dumbarton's answer to Hollywood better known as the Gooseholm or even River

City. Photographs were taken mainly of the Golden Girls pulling pints at the Tall Ship, making appointments with the Hairdresser and discussing their ailments at the Doctor's Consulting Room which is a big improvement on Dumbarton Health Centre. At the Oyster Café we were joined by one of the programme's most likeable actors who sang a duet with Ghislaine before she invited him to Church the following Sunday.

We nosed around the homes of the various characters - Mae and Chrissie really enjoyed seeing what other folk had in their houses! Christine Jackson found photographs of her great grandson who is one of the stars of River City. Then we all got the chance to be actors in a real River City script. Suffice to say there was no reticence on the part of St. Auggie's crowd. They eagerly got into their roles much to the delight of Simone, our tour guide. Christine was Eileen, Simon was Raymond, Margaret Hardie was Liz etc. etc. - no one was left out and would like the casting director to note that they are all locally available for future episodes!

The River City site is large and after walking round for the entire morning legs were getting tired and feet sore. Soon it was off to the Golf Course (the real one) for soup, sandwiches and something to revive us.

### **THE HACKING GAME**

While on holiday the only news we were receiving from the UK was news of the hacking crisis. Nothing else seemed to be happening at home and it was becoming rather tedious until Mrs Murdoch sorted out the pie thrower in a manner reminiscent of a Bellsmyre bus fracas!

When I returned to my bundle of unopened e-mails I wondered if any had been hacked. Have some unscrupulous news seekers been taking notes on the plot of this year's DPT panto? Well, that'll certainly confuse them! And I haven't been able to hack TBag's phone to get any gossip I've missed while on holiday - no doubt I'll hear it all over endless cups of tea.

Hacking today is getting a very bad press and rightly so but hacking in the olden days was very much worse since it usually referred to removing someone's head for treason.. The famous last words attributed to the Duke of Monmouth as he awaited his execution in 1685 were '*do not hack me as you did my Lord Russell.*' Lord Russell had met a similar fate on the block two years earlier. Well, the executioner of the day was the bungling Jack Ketch who couldn't get the job done with the first two blows of the axe. He asked if anyone in the crowd could do better and offered forty guineas reward. No takers

so Jack was told to get on with it. After two more hacks he resorted to butchering the poor Duke with a knife. So do you still think hacking's bad today? Oh, the infamous Jack Ketch was immortalised as the hangman in the Punch and Judy shows we all watched on the sands as children in the days before package holidays and cruising! And as for the Duke's family- after all the trouble to detach the head, they stuck it back on again for a memorial photograph.

### IT TAKES ALL SORTS....

It was originally started off by Ghislaine, and called the Christian Allsorts Choir since its members were from a variety of Churches in the town but now it's simply known as the Allsorts Choir. And if it wasn't for the gentlemen in their ranks we could possibly re launch this singing sensation as the Dolly Mixtures.

Now that sounds much more trendy and youthful. On the other hand, the Allsorts has a more all round appeal and the popular sweets can be described with almost human characteristics. Think about it. When you open the bag the first ones to appear are the big yellow or pink nutty ones - solid, loud and taking up a lot of space. Compare these to the strong, single flavoured, bossy, all black, no nonsense type that takes you right to the heart of the flavour. And there's the small dark brown and black variety hiding in a corner until chosen. You

have to watch out for the wee pink and blue coloured beaded ones - so sweet they tempt you into selecting them. Don't forget the tubular black one that's all white in the middle - what does that tell you? You can't ignore the striped orange garish one that likes to be noticed - and the big black and white square variety that doesn't know whether it's coming or going! Yes, allsorts are fascinating and can be seen at our next concert on the 13<sup>th</sup> August - bring along a bag to share and check them out!

### WINTER DRAWS ON.....

One of the first signs, apart from the shortening days, is the scriptwriting team for the DPT panto awakening and starting to look for a plot for the Christmas production. Then it's downhill all the way with meetings, problems and who gets to be who. The title favoured at present is Pirates of the River Leven - so watch this space for the most up to date information.

But here at St Augs it's still summer - we've got our Community Fair on the last Saturday in August and we're hoping for lots of sunshine, outdoor stalls and even a bouncy castle. Please help in any way you can and make sure you are in the photographs in next month's New Look. See you there.

*Janette*

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## CHURCHES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The unity of the Church of Scotland is being threatened by acceptance of gay clergy; a visiting American bishop was asked not to carry the emblem of her office, the crosier, in an Anglican cathedral; the Patriarch of the Orthodox Church in Moscow boycotted the supreme representative of the German Protestant Church, because she was a woman.

The Russian Orthodox Church condemns liberalism and individualism in western churches. In this the Patriarch agrees with Pope Benedict XVI, who also repeatedly has spoken out against relativism and individualism within churches. They see the ordination of women as priests and the acceptance of gay clergy as examples. Changes in ancient traditions are seen as signs of an individualistic trend contradicting God's world order.

In June 2008 the Orthodox Church issued a paper of principle, which dealt with the rights of the individual and the community. It stated that individual rights must not contradict Christian principles, because the moral law given by God must be valued higher than human rights. Human rights must never be understood as absolute, they must not endanger the life of the family, nor the love for the fatherland.

The rights of the community take preference to the interests of the individual. Therefore the church also disagrees with civil partnerships, which destroy the family as the basis of the community, and with conscientious objectors who weaken the national community.

The Confederation of Protestant Churches in Europe felt obliged to contradict this paper. It could not agree with the statement that there was a contradiction between human rights and a moral life, and saw it as misguided to justify this with a theological argument.

On the contrary, it was necessary to see human rights as a secular principle, inalienable and inviolable, and no threat to a moral life, but fundamental to a peaceful life in the community. They are rights that protect the individual from abuse, especially by the state. The Swiss theologian Frank Mathwig thought that the orthodox paper stated the opposite idea - that the state or the nation was the object of protection by human rights - and that it judged rights only by their usefulness to the nation.

The Catholic Institute for Ecumenical Studies in Fribourg then criticised the Protestant stance in a paper with the title: 'Ambivalence of Human Rights'. It felt that the Protestant Christians lacked sensitivity

in questions of the common good, and the reason for this was Protestant teaching of individual justification through faith. It was possible to pervert human rights, since they were not clear-cut. It was necessary to judge if they were ethically right or wrong. Ethically right is when the interests of the individual coincide with his spiritual wellbeing. Discrimination of women or gay people in the Church would not constitute an abuse of human rights because it was based on the God-given order of nature, that is, the differentiation of the sexes.

For the Orthodox and the Catholic Church the Protestant Churches are places of a liberalism which distorts basic values. The Pope, calling on all Churches to unite in the endeavour to work against relativism and the distortion of values, must have had the Protestant churches in mind with this call.

Protestants, and liberals within the Catholic Church, see themselves in opposition to an influential group of churches which seems to mistrust the individual, and who in this – despite all theological differences – agree with Islam.

And Another Thing.....

Since it is summer and there are holiday and similar activities to report on, I have been asked to tell you about a recent event which we have witnessed: The Making of the Mayor. The mayor that is of Eye, a market town in North Suffolk, England. The mayor who was 'made' at that occasion on 5 June 2011 was our son Felix.

Eye today has a population of about 3000. It has a long history and was once the smallest Borough in England with a charter from 1205 by King John. This history is present in the many listed buildings – three grade 1 are the Castle, the Church and the Guildhall (now in private hands), seven grade 2\* (including the Mid-Victorian town hall of 1856) and 152 grade 2, mainly beautiful timber framed. The Castle, built between 1066 and 1072, was of motte & bailey design. It has long been demolished, but a mock keep from 1844 – now ruined - still stands, yet the street pattern of Castle Street and Church Street follows the outline of the outer bailey. The Church of St Peter and St Paul was from the same period, but the present building is 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is thought to be one of the finest churches in Suffolk. The town derives its name from the old English word for island, possibly because it was once surrounded entirely by water and marshland formed by the River Dove, a tributary to the Waveney, which forms the boundary with Norfolk.

After government reorganisation of 1974, the town retained its Town Council, a Mayor and the insignia of the borough (a mace and the mayor's chain).

There are 15 town councillors, led by the Mayor and Deputy. Only the Town Clerk is a paid official, apart from the caretaker for the Town Hall. The Mayor holds a small fund to support local charities and similar activities. He is elected for one year, Felix was deputy Mayor last year, he has designed the new web site of the town and was very active in events to spotlight the damage caused by cuts in government spending, especially to youth-, library- and elderly services. Some of these events were real community activities, like the "Eye Don't Believe It", on 12 March this year, which comprised of the unveiling of the 'super-loo' – a canvas construction loaned by the scouts to draw attention to the closure of the public conveniences in town – and the 'welcoming of the bus' by a fanfare to the decorated bus shelter - bus services, now threatened, are a life-line to the town which has no station. Donations at these events went to Comic Relief.

Now the great event of the Making of the Mayor was also a community event, this time much more formal, since it included a Service of Dedication in the Church, attended by the Dean of the Cathedral and dignitaries from near and far, including the Lord High Sheriff of Suffolk in a splendid black velvet outfit with knickerbockers, and many mayors of neighbouring towns in their robes and chains, the Mayor of St Edmundsbury even was preceded by a sword.

The service started with a procession from the town hall to the church, the order was carefully chosen: A brass band in front, then the High Sheriff and the mayors of larger towns, with smaller ones in alphabetical order. Felix himself wore a scarlet robe and the chain (apparently the hat did not fit him!). He was accompanied by his wife (the mayoress) and his two small sons. The extended family (like us) could walk behind the organisations with flags (St John's Ambulance Brigade, Scouts, Guides) or just wait in their reserved pew. After the service the parade reformed to march the other 'leg' of the outer bailey back to the town hall, where the new Mayor gave a speech and invited everybody to join the feast in and around the pub: a barbecue run by the scouts, inside a buffet with wine and tapas for the dignitaries (and families).

It was a lovely day – a bit windy though – but a real Festival Day, worth coming down from Glasgow! You can see it all on You Tube!

*Brigitte Williams*

## Amazing donation to Mercy Ships

'AMAZING' was the response from Mercy Ships at the sum raised for the charity's work by the Bishop's

Lent Appeal in Glasgow and Galloway this year. And now our giving has been match-funded.

Writing to Bishop Gregor, Susie Hope, Mercy Ships fundraising manager for Scotland, said: "I am delighted to confirm that the donation has been accepted for our Easter Matched Giving Appeal taking the total to £28,580! I also understand from Jean that she is sending a cheque for a further £498 – absolutely amazing!

"As you know, Mercy Ships is an international Christian charity that provides free medical and development services to the people of West Africa through our hospital ship, the Africa Mercy. The Africa Mercy is now docked in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The World Health Organisation ranks Sierra Leone in the bottom three countries in the world on the Human Development Index. More than 75% of the population lives on less than £1.20 a day and there are only two doctors for every 100,000 people."

She went on: "Right now on board the Africa Mercy, the six operating theatres are full of patients. Our crew of over 450 extraordinary volunteers, including doctors, nurses, dentists, engineers and cooks will support the Sierra Leone health care system this year by providing more than 5,000 surgeries, 10,000 eye treatments and 20,000 dental procedures – free of charge - to patients in a country where there is devastating poverty and the need for health care is acutely desperate. Off ship, our volunteer teams are helping local communities develop sustainable water, agriculture and education programmes.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with everybody at the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway – a project like this, meeting wonderful people who, despite tough challenging times are overwhelmingly generous to a cause I feel so passionately about, really does make me remember why I became a fundraiser!"

Since Susie's letter arrived, a further £1,343 has been forwarded to add to the total.

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