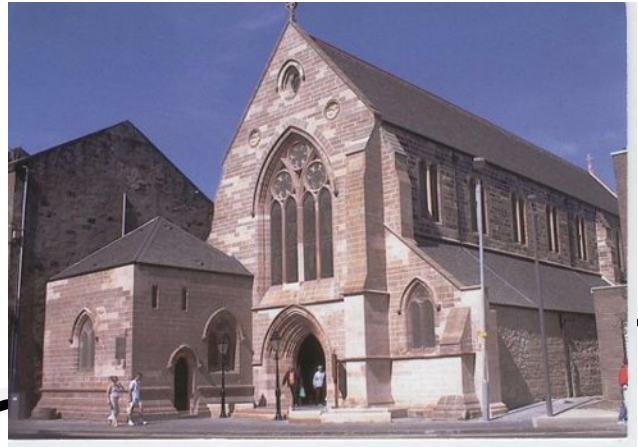


# By the Way



**The Magazine of St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dumbarton**

**Issue No 5   April 2013   £1**

## Getting Connected!



No longer STAGG, (St Augustine's Girls' Group), our Anne Dyer has led a band of young women admirably over the past twelve months. With a wee group of parents enabling and helping to lead, the Group now call themselves "Get Connected", and they are certainly forming a deep connection with St Augustine's and all sorts of other groups and causes.

They are about to embark on a trip to Southwark Cathedral in London to meet up with a similar group, and they will help themselves to a bit of sight-seeing over the Easter Holidays.

Their latest venture, a Fashion Show, certainly helped to fund the trip, and there are more words and photos inside this edition of By the Way!

Anne and her parents have certainly to be commended and it's wonderful to see some of them appearing in church from time to time!

# Parish Directory

St Augustine's, 2a High Street, Dumbarton G82 1LL 01389 734514 (staugustinessec@btinternet.com)

**Rector:-** Revd Kenneth Macaulay  
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**Treasurer:** David Rowatt (dsrowatt@blueyonder.co.uk) Tel :- 01389 732341

**Secretary to the Vestry:** Janette Barnes (Janette.Barnes@btinternet.com) (01389 761398)

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**Trustees:** The Rector,  
Margaret Wallace (01389 757200),  
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Margaret Hardie (mghardie@blueyonder.co.uk) (01389 767983),  
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**Regional Council Representative:** Roberta Mailley

**Child Protection Officer:** Barbara Barnes

**Friends of St Augustine's:** Linda Macaulay (01389 602261) (lindamacaulay@btinternet.com)

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## Mission Action Planning Group:

The Rector and Curate  
Gavin Elder  
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Fran Walker

**Freewill Offering:** Margaret Hardie

**Flowers:** Maggie Wallace

## From Kenny...

Holy Week, from Palm Sunday all the way through until Easter Day will be a little special this year with the presence of our Bishop at each and every service and event. He is spending this most special of weeks in St Augustine's and in the community, and we are very honoured that he has chosen to do so.



His reflections on the events leading up to Our Lord's Passion are not to be missed and they will be heard mainly on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week in St Augustine's and at Riverside on Good Friday evening.

The most important thing, though, will simply be his presence among us as Pastor and Teacher, and it is not often that we are afforded this opportunity in a small parish such as ours.

As he will be present with us, it is only fair that we make an effort to be present, too, at services and ceremonies throughout Holy Week.

Holy Week is certainly worth doing properly, and the Good News is experienced in new and exciting ways for those who commit themselves to Passiontide.

Easter morning, and the joy of Easter can only be deeply and uniquely appreciated if the day itself is preceded by reflection on the Cross of Christ and the darkness of the tomb.

All of life is there and you find that you, yourself, are part of the story!

There will, of course be highlights, not least our now traditional Passover Supper and the Eucharist of the Last Supper, and the Easter Ceremonies which begin in the hall on Holy Saturday at 8pm.

There are new highlights this year, too, as the URC Congregation join us for Easter Day services, and we can all enjoy a Parish breakfast together from 9.30am on Easter Day. Some people from St Mungo's, Alexandria will also be joining us.

I encourage you all to make the most of Holy Week and Easter. This year, ensure that you go away with a special Alleluia in your heart!

*Kenny*

## Pat Says.....

As Easter approaches we may look into our bibles and be puzzled; the gospels all tell the Easter story in slightly different ways, and the discrepancies can worry some people. However, it simply has to be recognised that they are compiled from a number of reports given by different people, and they all come with perspectives that the individual gospel writers wished to highlight – just as our daily newspapers can differ dramatically in their reporting on any big event.



There is absolute agreement on one thing though - that the tomb was empty, Jesus had gone. But he had not simply vanished into thin air, he was still to be found in the real world; and as I looked again at the accounts recently, one line stuck in my mind - the question put to the women who had gone to the tomb on that first Easter morning "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5).

They were being pointed to find Jesus in a different place and a different form from the one they had expected.

It's a question that we still need to address today, the issue of how and where we expect to find Jesus and where we will actually find him. Are we looking in the right places? Of course we can, and often do find him in times of quiet prayer or when we come to church on Sunday, but we need to be careful to avoid getting sidetracked into looking only for special "holy" places, and to remember that he is always there to be found out in the everyday world.

Jesus is here in Dumbarton with the drug addicts, and the members of our congregation who work with them to rebuild broken lives; he is there at the Glasgow City Mission with the homeless to whom we send food and warm clothing and with the wonderful volunteers who work there; he is there in the L'Arche communities that you can read about elsewhere in this magazine.

Christ is not dead. He is living and working in the pain and ordinariness of daily life – and calling us to join him there. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Pat*

# St James the Least of All

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

*My dear Nephew Darren*

My dear Nephew Darren

You agonised recently over your ecumenical service: who should be invited? Who should preach? What about the order of service? If you had attended our recent combined churches' choir festival, your own dilemmas would have seemed a little less acute.

At the pre-meeting, there was heated discussion about whether those choirs who normally wore robes would be comfortable standing among those who didn't. The more aesthetically sensitive worried whether St. Agatha's pea green cassocks may clash with our red ones. Intending to be helpful, but phrasing it rather badly, someone suggested that the normally robed choirs should wear nothing. Colonel Wainwright was a little too quick to chuckle.

I began to wonder if a prize was to be awarded to the person who raised the greatest number of concerns: Should the choirs stay separate? Would the tenors be next to the altos or the basses? Where would extra seating be placed? Would the heating be on for the rehearsal? Then came what you would call the 'elephant in the room': of all the choirmasters, who would conduct and who play the organ? Tension mounted, and expressions grew grim. But before the committee started to dig trenches in my carpet and position howitzers under the desk, I briefly left the room, turned off all the electricity and claimed we'd had a power cut. This is a useful device for truculent committees; sadly, it can be used only rarely.

Come the day, an uneasy truce lasted while everyone adopted the traditional solution to disagreement within congregations, and did exactly what they wanted. Some were robed, some were not, some choirs congealed in their own huddles, while others joyfully sat next to people from other churches – mainly so they could point out their neighbour's wrong notes. Some sang in the right key, some sang in the wrong key, some sang what sounded like quite different songs altogether.

The service ended with one choir thinking that the organist had played too loudly, while another choir thought that the conductor wasn't up to much. Everyone agreed afterwards that we must do it again, while

firmly stating that if their own choirmaster didn't conduct next year, they wouldn't be there.

Thankfully, one fundamental thing on the day united them: they all said that our church was too cold.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

## Photography (Important!)

In view of the increasing number of events being held in the church and hall, I would like to draw your attention to the strict guidelines which the Scottish Episcopal Church has for photography and video images as laid down by Canon 65 on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

The guidelines are on noticeboards in the church and hall. Please contact me if you have any queries or doubts.

**Barbara Barnes**

(Co-ordinator for Children and Vulnerable Adults)

## Country Trip

The next Country Trip will be on Saturday April 13th to Lochwinnoch, meeting 2pm at the RSPB carpark.

**Tim**

## Cursillo

The April meeting is on Thursday, April 18th in the church at 7.30 p.m. Kenny is arranging a service for us, and there will be an opportunity for Anointing and Laying on of Hands. Everyone is welcome to this.

The next Diocesan Ultreya is in St. Columba's in Largs on 24th April at 7.30 p.m.

**Evelyn**

## Co-op Taxis

West Dunbartonshire Taxi Drivers Co-operative

76 Main St, Alexandria

**01389 753376**

## Smile-Lines

### The Boss

The bishop was complaining in a staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect from the diocesan committees and staff. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss", and then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

### Special day for atheists

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "Christians have their special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter; and Jews celebrate their holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur; Muslims have their holidays. In fact, every religion has its holidays. But we atheists," he said, "have no recognized holidays. It's an unfair discrimination."

"Nonsense," his friend replied, "People have observed a special day in your honour for years." "I don't know what you're talking about," the atheist said, "When is this special day?" "April first."

### Have you ever wondered....

- ~ Are clones people two?
- ~ Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?
- ~ Why is it that night falls, but day breaks?
- ~ Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple?
- ~ Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's a cargo?

### Spelling

Mitchell, who was just starting school, practiced spelling with magnetic letters on the refrigerator. "Cat," "dog," "dad," and "mum" had been proudly displayed for all to see. One morning Mitchell bounded into the room holding three magnetic letters: G-O-D. "Look what I spelled, Mum!" Mitch exclaimed, a proud smile on his face.

"That's wonderful!" said his mother. "Now go put them on the fridge so Dad can see when he gets

home tonight." That Sunday School is certainly having an impact, she thought, happily.

Just then, a little voice called from the kitchen. "Mum? How do you spell 'zilla?'"

**"The thing about quotes on the internet is you cannot confirm their validity." - Abraham Lincoln**

**You know you've probably had too much coffee when . . .**

- \* You can type sixty words a minute with your feet.
- \* Instant coffee takes too long.
- \* You chew on other people's fingernails.
- \* You answer the door, before people knock.
- \* You sleep with your eyes open.
- \* You go to sleep, just so you can wake up and smell the coffee.
- \* You help your dog chase its tail.
- \* You're so wired you pick up FM radio.
- \* You have a picture of your coffee mug, on your coffee mug.

### Praying for the lottery

A blonde found herself in serious trouble. Her business had gone bust and she was going to lose her home. She got so desperate that she decided to ask God for help. And so she prayed: "Dear God please help me win the lottery. I really, really need your help."

Lottery night arrived, and somebody else won. So the blonde went back to prayer: Dear God, I am in such trouble! Please, please help me. Now they are even going to take the car."

Lottery night again came round again, and somebody else won. So the blonde prayed a third time: "Dear God, why won't you help me? My children are going hungry now. Don't you care?" And suddenly, her answer came. There was a blinding flash of light as the heavens open. The blonde heard a mighty voice say to her: "Sweet-heart, work with Me on this... buy a ticket!"

### Look at it this way

Every evening I turn my troubles over to God. Why not? He's going to be up all night anyway.



# Dumbarton London Corner School

The great news from The Gambia is that essential repairs are now completed and the building is, once more, safe and habitable. The building is no longer falling into a sewer, and for that we are very grateful!

Other necessary works have also been completed and the classrooms now have sufficient light due to bigger windows, and the surfaces within and around the classrooms have been tiled. Because of movement in the building, nasty cracks had appeared everywhere, but that is all sorted to a very high standard. Finally, more than just a lick of paint has the place looking absolutely brand new and the Teacher-in-Charge is very effusive in his gratitude!



Sulayman writes: *"On behalf of the kids, parents and staff I seize this opportunity to felicitate you, (Father), and D.G.E.A, for your untiring efforts in making sure that funds are available to change the face of the school to the required standard in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education.*

*My special thanks go to the Administrator (Helen) and the Contractor Mr. Ndow for a job well done and to anybody who contributed towards this project directly or indirectly in cash or in kind.*

*The watchman also needs to be commended for making sure nothing went missing or was stolen during the course of the renovation.*

*We say a big thank you to you all."*

Our Building Appeal has now raised a staggering £15,000+, half of which has already been spent. We can now enter Phase II which will resurface the playground, upgrade the toilets for the children,

together with providing some much-needed play equipment and educational material.

We want to keep what may be left over in a "Building Fund", so that if emergencies arise in the future there will be money in place to begin work promptly. Maintenance, especially after the Rainy Season, can be quite hefty on its own, so it's wonderful to have this to fall back on.

The children celebrated Commonwealth Day. On March 12th, Sulayman wrote:

*"Yesterday was Commonwealth Day , a day which is celebrated in all British former colonies throughout the world over. Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School celebrated it in a form of march past ,singing and drumming within the community. A good number of the children dressed up in their cultural attires."*



The Executive of DGEA can't express how humbled we have been by the magnificent response to our Appeal, and the amount of interest and goodwill that has come our way, not least from individuals and congregations throughout the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.



# Get Connected

St Augustine's Dumbarton 'Get Connected' Girls' Group hosted a recent fashion show in the church as a fundraising event to help them visit another Girls' Group, attached to Southwark Cathedral in London.

Recently while studying how young people live in different parts of the world, they got in touch with a Girls' Group based in London and decided to embark in a fundraising mission to visit.

The fashion show has helped to cover funding needed to stay for three days in London over the Easter school holiday and all of the girls are delighted with the support received. Over sixty people attended the event and took part in a wonderful extravaganza of the girls' own version of fashion from countries around the world. None of the items were new, most recycled, and some of them were borrowed from family, friends and people in the community.

Daren B from CVS came along to support the event and helped the show feel more real by staging a photo shoot for all involved. He said that 'this was a great way to highlight recycling and the show was certainly enjoyed by all participants'

The themes in the show included:

**Fashion from around the world** commencing with inviting the audience to sit back and enjoy the Girls' Group version of fashion from USA, London, France, Greece, India and Africa. The models also included some community members who support charities in India and Africa and they provided some of the more colourful outfits as well as a short talk on what life is like for young people living in poverty in these countries.

The group really wanted to incorporate the **recycling theme** and prove that you can make **old stuff beautiful again** and even pass them on to someone in need.

A reference to **International Women's Day 8th of March**, a day when women all around the world celebrate who they are and campaign to make the world a better place was run throughout the event. An invitation resulted in a local female performance poet Gracey Flair interspersing throughout the show, reciting short poems on life which were well received by the audience.

And finally in the **spirit of friendship** the leaders lit candles to remember international friendship. The girls proved that by coming together to celebrate, have some fun and help reach their fundraising target everyone gained. Paper butterflies were thrown into the air by all as a symbol of hope for the future of our world and its life.

Everyone was then invited to the hall for a scone tea, (*typical church "do" then - Ed*) and a chance to reflect on the event. The volunteer leaders were delighted with the performance and congratulated the girls on their hard work and effort.

**Anne Dyer**











# Holy Week and Easter 2013

**Palm Sunday** 9am: Holy Communion with the distribution of palms

11am: Sung Eucharist, Blessing and distribution of palms, Procession and Sung Eucharist, with the Reading of the Passion of Christ.

**Holy Monday:** 7pm: Holy Eucharist with Address

**Holy Tuesday:** 7pm: Holy Eucharist and Address

**Holy Wednesday:** 10.30am Holy Eucharist and Short Homily

7pm: Ecumenical Holy Week Service at Dalreoch United Free Church. (Bishop preaching)

**Maundy Thursday:** 7pm: Passover Supper, Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar, and Watch until Midnight.

**Good Friday:** 11am Procession of Crosses, ending with Ecumenical Witness at **12 Noon** at Lloyds Chemist

2pm: The Last Hour (St Augustine's)

7pm: Church of Scotland Holy Communion at Riverside with Bishop preaching.

**Holy Saturday:**

8pm: Easter Ceremonies, New Fire, Lighting of the Paschal Candle and Renewal of Baptismal vows, beginning in the Community Hall.

**Easter Day:** 9am Holy Communion

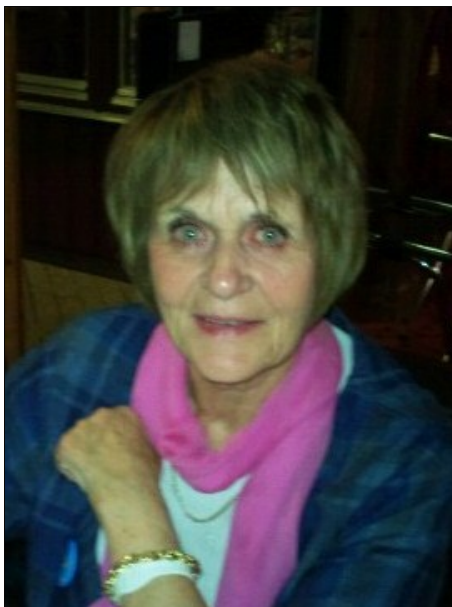
9.30am Parish Breakfast

11am Sung Eucharist with URC Congregation.



How many mothers remember this beautiful ceiling as they gave birth to Dumbarton's children in the Big House? The Country Trip Group had a fine afternoon tea there recently!





# Wait Till I Tell You

## The Gossip Column

*Janette comments on life at St. Auggie's and beyond as Easter approaches and, hopefully, the end of the winter weather.*

### GHISLAINE'S RECORD BREAKING CONCERT

Ghislaine and Ricky had been promising to bring 'Grand Ole St. Auggie's' to the High Street for years. Then on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February it happened....and what a night! Tickets had been going like hot chips and we were assured that all 200+ tickets had been sold - at least once! Consequently, every chair in the vicinity had been squeezed into the Church and every pie in ADSA procured for the purvey. Ghislaine quickly got down to the basics in her preparations and was overheard in the hall lobby harassing Maggie about the inefficiencies of our toilet roll ordering procedures. In her own colourful language she urged that the supply equated with the number of seats being used and the issue of the tissue was resolved!

By 7pm the crowds were piling in, the Allsorts choir was tuning up and TBag O'Neill was trying to check tickets at the front door while Maggie struggled to keep order at the back. Meanwhile, in the kitchen, a mountain of rolls awaited preparation by the only two non-singing members of St. Aug's, ably assisted by young Rachel. The singing kitchen workers would join them after their performance. This is known as multi-tasking!

Kenny got the evening off to a good start in his welcome and handed over to Ghislaine who controlled the acts remarkably well. Indeed, there was a programme and there was a plan. At the allotted time an interval would be announced and each audience member would make their way out to the community hall, pick up a sausage roll, a pie, a hot dog or a burger from our snacks selection and return to the Church with a glass of wine to enjoy. But as our Na-

tional Bard rightly commented '*the best laid schemes o' mice and Ghislaine gang aft agley*'.

There were those who reached the buffet with all the speed of Usain Bolt and piled their plates with a copious selection - no horsemeat concerns in our audience! Meanwhile the queue was getting bigger and bigger and thoughts of 'loaves and fishes' were not far from many minds. But miraculously everyone got something to eat and the second half of the concert got underway. The performers were out there giving their best and the audience was enjoying every minute. The climax was 'Jailhouse Rock' and they certainly did! Over £1000 was raised for St. Augustine's that night and Ghislaine and Ricky stayed on till the early hours to make sure that everything was cleared up for the following morning. So well done to everyone involved even although the kitchen staff could not resist singing the football fans' favourite 'Who ate all the pies?'.

### DON'T MENTION RELIGION OR POLITICS!

This was the advice generally given when one was invited to a social gathering of strangers whom one hoped to impress. It was easy in the West of Scotland with the question 'What school did you go to?' having to be avoided at all costs! And unless you were a real culture vulture you stuck to the weather or snippets of innocuous news from the Daily Mail.

But think about the headlines of those past few weeks. Our current affairs reading was dominated by a controversial cardinal and a perfidious politician who lied and blamed his wife just to avoid having to take a bus! And now to make matters worse the new Archbishop of Canterbury has just 'got tore in' to the Work and Pensions Secretary, who is reputed to be a devout Roman Catholic, over his wel-



fare reforms. Now there's a topic that could 'start a row in an empty hoose!' as we say in Dumbarton.

So just keep on dangling your wine glass and stick to the weather!

### **'SPRING – WHEN A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY**

.....

Lightly turns to thoughts of love'. So it's not surprising that in these days of failing businesses, closing shops and payday loans, the organisations that are booming are all kinds of dating agencies. Yes, that's where to put your money for a healthy return. Their slogan could be 'Don't be stupid – invest in Cupid!' And the birds and bees are in full flight just now in spite of the reluctance of winter to let go. Even the Pandas have been showing signs of mating over at Edinburgh Zoo and you know how cold it is there. These adorable creatures only show their romantic side about once a year so the nation waits with bated breath and webcam to check all progress. Such voyeurs! The zoo officials are desperate for breeding to commence and if they get a result this Spring then a summer new born panda could be sharing the headlines with another important July baby!

### **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO 'GET CONNECTED?'**

One of the acts at 'Grand Ole St. Auggie's' involved 'Get Connected' – to use the trendy new name for the Girls' Group. Upset by the queues for interval snacks, they nipped out to the chippie and retired to the toilet at the back of the Church to eat from their vinegar dripping pokes in peace.

Unfortunately.....

**Oh, dear what a calamity  
Get Connected got stuck in the lavatory  
Could have been there till teatime on Saturday  
Nobody knew they were there.**

**They finished their chips and they thought they'd go balmy  
They prayed that some punter 'wis needin' the lavvy'  
They shouted in vain for the help of a Mammy  
But nobody knew they were there!**

*N.B. It wis a wee boy that 'dunnit' and ran away!*

### **MAGGIE'S GAMBIA DINNER.**

Maggie invited everyone to dinner on 9<sup>th</sup> March at the cost of a donation to our Gambian school. There were too many for her house so the community hall was chosen as a perfect venue. And it was. Our hall does up nicely and Maggie had candles, dim light-

ing and napkins adorned with pink roses. Not a plastic fork or paper cup in sight! Poppy, Kenny's grandpuppy, was there enjoying much attention until she was banished to the office. And Hailey, his granddaughter, also made an appearance. She was not banished to the office and spent the evening in her push chair sucking on a freshly baked bread roll.

Everyone else sat at the tables and enjoyed a three course meal with coffee and even a choice of menu. Polite conversation was the order of the evening with topics ranging from Partick Thistle to one's favourite vino. Aye, it was a 'nice wee company, nae trouble', Maggie got a good donation, (over £200) for the Gambian school, and some of the attendees got a 'cairry-oot'.

### **IN STITCHES– AT THE CONCLAVE**

What an exciting week it's been for all those tourists in Rome watching for white smoke to appear from the Vatican lum. And thanks to the near hysteria of the media, the world looked on each day with ever increasing interest. Even the dramatic 'ongauns' within the Sistine Chapel were described in detail on the internet.

The main players were, of course, the Cardinals all together in their conclave – locked up with a key! No, the key was not for an outside toilet, Rome may be full of antiquities but sanitary facilities do exist! Nor was the key for any Cardinal who wanted to nip out for a quick fag – as happens in St. Auggie's community hall! The voting is so secret that Cardinals often disguise their handwriting when recording their choices. And, in the most surprising ritual of all, the votes get stitched together – now that surely means that a wee wifie must sit under those Michelangelo frescos with a needle and thread!

Finally, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, the white smoke was greeted with great celebrations and on the curtained balcony the new Pope Francis was introduced to the crowds in St. Peter's Square and the rest of the world. This meant that the Cardinals could all return to their home parishes in time for Easter and the ceremony of the chocolate eggs – or does that only happen at St. Aug's!

### **FRIENDS ARE ORGANISED TILL CHRISTMAS!**

Believe it or not, members of the intrepid Friends' Executive were discussing Christmas on the first Monday of February. So if you're spared you can

join in another St. Auggie's Christmas 'do' on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013.

Before that you can enjoy a programme of exciting events that range from a Midgie Band Concert on 22<sup>nd</sup> March to a Pantodine on 26th October. You will be invited to visit the Garden of Eden in May and subjected to many temptations as you vote for exec members for the coming season. This is one event at which Chrissie and Roberta will not be in fancy dress due to the shortage of fig leaves in Poundland.

A special outing has been arranged for August 10<sup>th</sup> when a coach will take us to Edinburgh for a look at the historic and haunted Mary King's Close and all that lies beneath the Royal Mile. This unforgettable tour will make up only part of our day and there will be time for High Tea and Shopping! On April 16<sup>th</sup> you can be entertained in the Community Hall with an evening entitled 'Brains, Bangers and Bingo'.

This will be a pre-referendum bun fight with what could be the last local heat of Britain's Best where a series of brain teasers will be directed to the audience. Supper will be a roll and sausage better together with a good blether and something to drink. To end the evening we shall breakaway for a wee bout of Bingo for the bewildered. Watch for further information about this fun night to suit all tastes.

#### **AND NEXT MONTH....**

Hopefully we'll say goodbye to the Beast from the East that's playing havoc with our heating bills. Easter 2013 will be just a memory, and promises to be a good one. The clocks will be changed on 30<sup>th</sup> March and the July holiday bills will start to appear. Let's look forward to a long and happy Spring.

Back next month.

**Janette**

### **Midge Band Concert**

As the advert says, this takes place on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, but we have an awful lot of spare tickets at the time of writing! We DO need your support, We DO need you to sell tickets for us! Help!!!!

## **Friends of St Augustine Present The Midge Band with Irish & Scottish favourites**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
7.30pm**

**Tickets £6  
(including a glass of wine or soft  
drink and snacks)  
available from Church Office  
Tel: 01389 734514**

#### **GALT TRANSPORT**

**Bankend Road,  
Dumbarton**

**Tel: 01389 730460**

**[www.galttransport.co.uk](http://www.galttransport.co.uk)**

**Email: [traffic@galttransport.co.uk](mailto:traffic@galttransport.co.uk)**

**Please support our 'supporters' with  
your custom**

### **Business Memberships**

Friends of St Augustine's are always looking for new people to take out Business Memberships which give free advertising in our Magazine. The cost is only £50 per annum, and it can give owners and staff a good wee night out or two as the year progresses!

### **Macleans the Jewellers**

**106 High Street Dumbarton**

**Quality jewellery -**

**In the heart of Dumbarton**

**Tel: 01389 733331**

**Please Support this Business!**

## Tina's Traumas

How do you measure Easter?

Well, for my niece and nephew, the significance of the occasion is determined by the number of chocolate eggs they receive.

What is believed to be the biggest chocolate Easter egg in the world was unveiled in Argentina this time last year. It towered over 27 feet high, was 16 feet wide and weighed four tons. Thousands of people gathered to watch the huge egg being constructed over a wooden mould by some of the country's top pastry chefs. The egg lasted long enough to secure a place in the Guinness Book of Records - before it melted. And did you know the largest Easter egg hunt - which got into the record books six years ago - consisted of 501,000 eggs that were searched for by 9,753 children in Florida?

As for the largest Easter bunny. Well, that's Darius, a Continental Giant rabbit, who weighs three-and-a-half stone and measures 4ft 4inches high. Darius - who was born on Easter Sunday - beat his own record last year when he grew another inch.

How do you measure Easter? Well, for me it's with what has to be the world's smallest sermon. "*He is not here. He has risen!*" were the words of Mary when she raced back from an empty tomb to deliver her bombshell news to a bunch of terrified disciples hiding from the authorities for fear that they might be next for the chop. Mary's words certainly didn't merit a place in the record books. In fact her revolutionary announcement was met only with scepticism. Maybe it's because she was a woman. The female of the species weren't rated as having any clout in first century Palestine (some things never change, we might suggest!) Maybe there's more to it than that.

The story is told of a wee boy whose two TV heroes were to feature in a one-off episode of a show. Every day for weeks he asked his parents: "*Is it today?*" Finally the day came and the family gathered round the television. The two superheroes appeared - and the wee boy walked out of the room. His dad followed to ask what was wrong and the child replied: "*It's just too good.*" Mary's pronouncement was met with scepticism because the news was simply too good to be true.

How do we measure Easter? In the simplest - yet grandest - of gestures by a God who defeated death so that we might live forever.

**Tina Kemp**



## L'Arche

Every year we divide our Lenten giving between the Bishop's Lent Appeal and our regular charity, The Mission to Seafarers, and donations can be given to ..... Pat and Ian were delighted to hear that Bishop Gregor had this year chosen L'Arche for his special cause, because their son Alan has spent over five years working with them in England and Canada. Here Pat tells a little about L'Arche.

When Alan told us that he had decided to work as a live-in assistant with L'Arche, a Christian charity that cares for those with profound mental disabilities, we had somewhat mixed feelings. We were proud that he had decided to express his Christian commitment by taking up this work, but wondered what it would be like for him, especially as he was assigned to a house where four of the five Core Members (as disabled residents are called) also had severe physical disabilities. Our first visit to him in The Coracle, one of five houses in Liverpool, removed our worries. This really was a home, with Core Members and assistants living together in community in a relaxed friendly atmosphere; and, consistent with the caring environment, there were none of the smells I would associate with institutional living (bleach at best, or cooking and body smells at worst).

Many of the assistants are youngsters on gap years from other countries, but there is also a mix of longer term and British assistants. Their routines centre around meeting the needs of the Core Members, rather than being rigidly imposed on all for the convenience of the organisation, while all is held together within a pattern of prayers - grace at mealtimes, evening worship time and community gatherings. Church attendance is also encouraged, and it is the denomination of the Core Member, not the assistant, which determines where they go. Job satisfaction comes from small things: finding that a Core Member loves a weekly outing to the cinema; giving someone the pleasure and independence of walking by following them round, ready to catch when fragile legs give way; making an effort to find out the food someone likes, and lovingly preparing it for them. Indeed good food is a major element in L'Arche life, as it may be one of the few pleasures that someone can really enjoy, and any opportunity for a celebratory meal is taken.

Life for an assistant can be tough as well as rewarding. Staying up all night to watch over an epileptic who may have fits a couple of times a night requiring him to be washed and given clean pyjamas and sheets, or coping with the frustrated raging of a large fifty year old can all take their toll. But, thanks to L'Arche, individuals are loved and given the best possible chance to lead a full life rather than their care being left to ageing parents or to siblings, who struggle to cope alone.

While professional standards have to be observed, L'Arche assistants are friends of the Core Members, not simply carers. Twice Alan brought a Core Member to Helensburgh to holiday in our family home, while more recently two Core Members from his Edmonton house were guests at his wedding celebrations in Vancouver (over 500 miles away). Because of his marriage and current circumstances Alan no longer works for L'Arche but his connection continues as he is now a volunteer helper, going once a week to the Vancouver community to cook and share fellowship with its members.

*If you are interested in hearing more about L'Arche Pat or Ian*



# Sunday Rotas

## Rotas for March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 2013

**Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**11am Eucharist Easter Day**

Readers Janette Barnes & Margaret Hardie

Intercessions Fran Walker

Chalice Clergy

Sidespersons Tim Rhead & Roberta Mailley

**Sunday April 7th**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers Ghislaine Kennedy & Maggie Wallace

Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill

Chalice Tim Rhead

Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Chrissie Ashman

**Sunday April 14th**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers Morag O'Neill & Linda Macaulay

Intercessions Peter Cairns

Chalice Fran Walker

Sidespersons Gavin Elder & Ross/Maggie Wallace

**Sunday April 21st**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers Fran Walker & Barbara Barnes

Intercessions Maggie Wallace

Chalice Janette Barnes

Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Roberta Mailley

**Sunday April 28th**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers Evelyn O'Neill & Sharon Rowatt

Intercessions Tim Rhead

Chalice David Rowatt

Sidespersons Margaret Swan & David Ansell

### FLOWERS

Any donations for flowers, particularly for Easter, will be gratefully received. Many thanks for the generous donation already given for Easter.

## *Gowns & Crowns*

**Dressmaking & Alteration Service**

**Perfect for Mother-of-the-Bride and  
Mother-of-the-Groom Outfits.**

**Personal service and satisfaction  
is our guarantee!**

**137 Glasgow Road, Dumbarton**

## GREAT CHURCH SIGNS

(sent by an American friend)

ADAM BLAMED EVE  
EVE BLAMED THE SNAKE  
AND THE SNAKE DIDN'T  
HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON

Claude Presbyterian Church  
THERE ARE SOME  
QUESTIONS THAT  
CAN'T BE ANSWERED  
BY GOOGLE

Stonebridge Church of God  
HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS.  
TEXT WHILE DRIVING  
IF YOU WANT TO MEET HIM

Ray of Hope Community Church  
THOU SHALT NOT STEAL  
THE COPPER FROM THIS UNIT  
PLEASE CALL 274 4100

Christian Fellowship Church  
CHURCH PARKING  
TRESPASSERS  
WILL BE BAPTISED

# Home from Home

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Scottish Charity No: SC 035257

Company Registration No: SC 264176



## **URGENTLY NEEDED**

**FRIDGES      FREEZERS**

**FRIDGE FREEZERS**

**WASHING MACHINES**

We currently have 7 low-income households on  
our waiting list for the above.

If you have any that are spare or being replaced we would be  
very grateful and will collect promptly.

We need them to be in good, clean condition, inside and out,  
in working order with plug attached.

**IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE**

**PHONE (01389) 733733 (leave a message if necessary)**

**Or EMAIL [enquiries@homefromhome.plus.com](mailto:enquiries@homefromhome.plus.com)**

***THANK YOU***