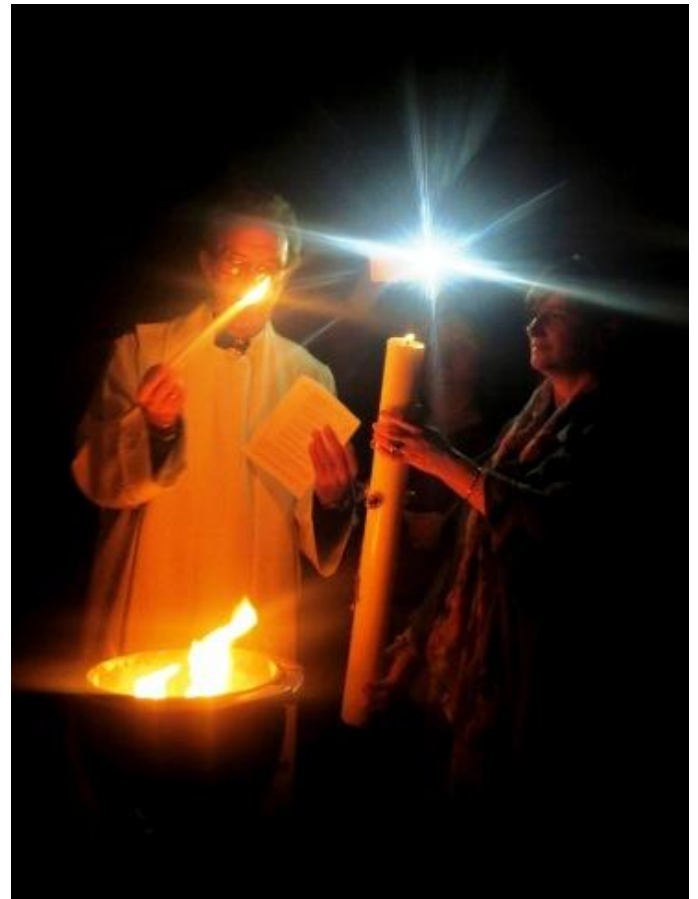


By the Way Together

The Magazine of:
St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dumbarton
and
St Mungo's Scottish Episcopal Church, Alexandria

Issue No 18 April 2016



That was the week that was!

More Easter photos inside!

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Food For Thought Update

It was a great pleasure to welcome MP Martin Docherty (SNP West Dunbartonshire) and Councillor Gail Robertson (SNP) to Food For Thought. Being a fairly local lad Martin knows the area well with its inherent potential and problems, and was very supportive of what we are doing. He clearly understood the difficulties faced by many of those who come to us, caused by sanctions, the Universal Credit and lack of opportunity. He saw first hand our stock of food, listened to the stories of those we have helped and, when leaving, thanked us for helping him to learn more about the issues which are so real to so many of his constituents.



After Easter Food For Thought was also visited by MP Brendan O'Hara, (SNP Helensburgh) who was very interested in the presentation of our work and seeing what we do. He was scandalised by the reality of a few of our high street shops who offer credit to those on benefits and who charge very high interest rates. He promised to try and find Parliament time to highlight and challenge this practice.



This Easter we have been able to give away 250 Easter Eggs to children and adults who otherwise would not have enjoyed the festive chocolate! This fantastic feat was only possible to the generosity of the public who responded to our appeal for donations. Thanks go to businesses such as the Co-Op Funeral Care and RBS in Alexandria who collected eggs for us and contributed so much to our stash!

Thanks once again to all who donate to our work – we continue to feed around 50 adults and children a week and everything donated is very much appreciated!

ADVANCED NOTICE – DOORS OPEN DAY HELP REQUIRED!

After several years absence DOORS OPEN DAY is being held again in West Dunbartonshire. Both St Augustine's and St Mungo's have been invited to participate to help celebrate the Festival of Architecture. This is part of the Scottish Government initiative that has designated 2016 as Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

Those who have been involved in Doors Open Days in previous years will know that it is our opportunity to share our buildings with people who are interested in architecture, interesting buildings and even churches. It also gives us a chance to show off what we have, maybe beautiful vestments, stunning flowers or stained glass, wonderful music, etc etc. Although entry is free, income can be generated from such activities as providing teas and coffees or selling cards.

The main Doors Open Day event will be on SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER. Volunteers will be needed to be in our churches that day – usually there's a rota system. Before that we need to think about any background material that can be made available (eg about St Mungo's Bell) and if anyone has an idea for an accompanying exhibition, that would be wonderful.

At the moment I am the liaison person for both churches – please contact me if you wish to get involved. Thanks.
Fran Walker (email: fran_walker@hotmail.com)

Doors Open Days
get into buildings!



Bishop Gregor's Easter Message 2016

On Easter Day, always and above all else, quite simply and gloriously, we are celebrating what God has done.

And what God has done is to have raised Jesus from the dead: as Peter proclaims in Acts, *God raised him on the third day*. And in St Mark's Gospel it's the same with the young man at the tomb speaking to the terrified women: *He has been raised*. Mark takes only 8 verses to tell us this as opposed to more than 10 times that number to tell us of Jesus' death and burial.

Many people saw Jesus being put to death, and so there was much to say, but nobody saw God raise Him from the dead, nobody could or can describe precisely what God did, or exactly how God did it. None of the Gospels, nor any other writing in the New Testament, even tries. Attempts to do that, in art, drama and film, unless they are very subtle indeed, mostly fail and are, anyhow, pretty much beside the point. Because the point is that, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. An event in history yes, but an event pointing way beyond all history and having its origin not in human history but in the life of God and in the wonderful purposes of God for human history.

One of the things that I love about St Mark's announcement of the resurrection in particular is the ending of it: *So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid*. No faith there, no response of joy, no belief in what God had done: presumably that all came later. Oddly enough, this is very important, this focus on the announcement of Jesus' resurrection and not on the faith of its witnesses. And for this reason: faith doesn't lead to talk of Jesus being raised from the dead, but rather Jesus being raised from the dead makes faith possible.

What kind of faith does the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead make possible? Above all, a baptismal faith: renouncing evil, turning away from wrong-doing, becoming good news and sources of blessing in the world, seeking what is just and peaceful and caring for God's creation, playing our own part in the worship, prayer, faith and action of all God's people. It is the baptismal form of faith that is always most powerfully celebrated at Easter either at Baptism itself or in the renewal of Baptismal promises.

And there is a particular Easter dimension of this faith. Because the raising of Jesus from the dead makes faith that the last word about things is not ours, but God's, possible; makes faith that human capacities to do ill, to be destructive, are not the be all and end all, possible; makes faith that doing justice, loving mercy and waking humbly with God among his people is what is required of us now and is the way to share Christ's resurrection in all its fullness, possible.

The people who got rid of Jesus believed quite reasonably that they had seen him off once and for all. But they were hopelessly wrong. As Peter said, *they put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but* – the biggest “but” of all time really – *God raised him from the dead*. Theirs was not the last word, God's was, and is and always will be, a word of imperishable life to make faith in an imperishable life possible.

Amen.





LUCKY PRIZE DRAW

I would like to thank everyone who donated 16 prizes and also to our very generous friend who donated the £200 First Prize. We raised £600 and I also had a Tombola on Saturday using some smaller prizes which were donated and raised a further £46. Thanks to everyone who took the time to sell so many tickets.

Thanks,
Barbara

SMILE LINES

Lost in translation

Are you travelling this Easter? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

Snoring

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. 'It has to STOP,' he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: 'Does it really bother you that much?'

'Well, it's not just me,' explained the minister. 'She is bothering the whole congregation.'

New meanings

Dogma - a puppy's mother

Polygon - a lost parrot

FROM THE GAMBIA

Fr. Kenny greetings.

Thanks a million for sharing your church magazine with us. Truly speaking it is quite spiritually enriching and interesting. I found your reflection very thought provoking and sincere. May God's name be glorified in our lives. I will share your thoughts with your friends at Saint Andrews in Lamin.

We are praying for your people and hope that all will be well with the souls there. As we are almost three quarters through the season of Lent, let us rededicate ourselves to God who has called us back to himself and take advantage of the opportunity of His grace to be that person He wants us to be.

The Church of Saint Andrew's Lamin greets you all. Please send our love to the two parishes and reassure them of our constant love and prayers. We thank you for our partnership that we share and have long cherished over the years.

God Bless.

Canon Jacob +

GENTLE THOUGHTS

The love in your heart
wasn't put there to stay
Love isn't love until you give it away

Love is like a butterfly
It goes where it please
and pleases where it goes

We can do no great things
Only small things with great love

Mother Teresa

So far today, Lord, I've done alright
I haven't gossiped, lost my temper,
Or been greedy or nasty or over indulgent
I'm really glad of that
but in a few minutes, Lord,
I'm going to get out of bed and from then
on I'm going to need a lot more help.

Contributed by David Ansell

RANDOM RAMBLINGS....

Why life now begins at 60!

The baby boomers are postponing old age. Many of them are instead embracing new life events, and carrying on with middle age until their 68th year.

A recent study has found that older people are simply refusing to slow down, and instead are making ambitious plans for their 60s, including changing careers and moving home. The study re-examined the premise of Walter B Pitkin, the psychologist who coined the phrase 'life begins at 40' in 1932, and who said that the machine age had freed many workers from back-breaking labour. Since then, life expectancy has extended by 20 years.

So – no surprise that baby boomers approaching retirement have far more ambitious plans for their future than any previous generation. 60 year-olds these days have a similar outlook and lifespan as 40 year-olds did in the 1930s.

The report, commissioned by Cigna Insurance Services, found that people over 50 are expecting at least five more significant life events, and more than half of 65 year olds are enjoying life more since passing 50. "This is a generation that views maturity as empowering, and retirement as liberation."

Why does the other queue move faster?

You know the scenario - you are stuck in one checkout queue, which is crawling along, and meanwhile you are watching the other queue, which seems to be flying by.

According to David Andrews, an American researcher who has written extensively on the subject, it seems that the answer is that we experience time differently when waiting, as opposed to when we are engaged in a process. That means that if you have finally chosen the fastest queue at a checkout, you are too busy unloading your trolley to notice your blessing.

Dawn chorus

If you sleep with your bedroom window open, you will know all about the dawn chorus around now! The birds are busy establishing their territorial rights, and the 'early birds' have probably already selected a nest site and started building.

The blackbird builds a solid cup of twigs, plant stems and leaves, lined with a thick skin of mud covered with finer grasses and leaves. The long tailed tit forms a soft hollow ball of mosses, hair and wool, with a tiny hole as entrance. The wrens do it differently, with the male wren sometimes building several nests before his finicky mate will accept one. He gets his revenge, though, because he sometimes installs a second wife in one of the rejected sites!



Deliver us from emails?

Twitter's co-founder has called for an app that liberates us from incessant updates and delivers our emails in a single batch each day. Studies have found that a constant bombardment of work emails contributes heavily to stress and anxiety.

Now Evan Williams, one of the people behind Twitter, has co-founded Medium, a publishing platform. In a post on the latter, he envisaged an app that would remove the pressure to be constantly available and to reply immediately by delivering messages only once a day.

The British Psychology Society and the Future Work Centre surveyed 2,000 working people and found that 62 per cent left their email on all day. Their study indicated that checking email early in the morning and late at night was linked to higher levels of stress. It recommended that users turn off their notifications for part of the day. Source: The Times



Palm Sunday;

Passover
Supper

Good Friday

Ecumenical
Walk of
Witness in
Alexandria



Ecumenical Open Air Service in Dumbarton

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil with the Baptism of Harry Gerard Warden



EASTER SUNDAY
at both churches





'Wait Till I Tell You...'

Janette comments on those hectic pre-Easter days of March while looking forward to the longer, brighter days of 'well apparelled April'.

GOODBYE TO THE QUARRELSOME MONTH OF MARCH

Named after the Roman god of war, March 2016 certainly lived up to it. We had battles between the sexes on the tennis courts where 'love all' was not the order of play. It all started after an official at the Indian Wells tournament remarked that the ladies were riding on the coat-tails of Djokovic and Nadal, the stars of male tennis. Then we had Djokovic v Williams on the subject of pay and who sells more tickets. But the world number one gent did have the grace to apologise and did not throw a tantrum, argue with an umpire over the sex of a ball, or beat the life out of his racquet! Oh Andy....keep the heid!

And then there were the wars of the sofas – the TV chat room sofas! Apparently the male presenter always gets to sit on the left – or 'camera left' – regardless of his experience since this is the position of authority. 'Mince!' At last some of the ladies are challenging this. 'Gaunyersels, lassies – you'se tell them! To think that all this aggro was taking place during the month that hosts International Women's Day! The recent Egyptian plane hijack in Larnaca brought out the worst in male chauvinism when the Cypriot president informed the world that the drama had nothing to do with terrorism. He blamed the incident on fairer sex problems, smiling wryly and claiming that 'always there is a woman'. 'Listen, Mr President, this wis a plane hijack no' a wee Renton style domestic!'

Moving on now to the wars of the Tories, who after taking sides over Brexit, were treated to a dodgy budget from their former golden boy, George. It was a budget that even Jeremy Corbyn didn't need that new dark suit to attack. Indeed, the only bright spot on budget day was the scarlet frock chosen by Theresa May that upstaged the beleaguered Chancellor and totally focussed the eyes of the viewers, albeit not on his figures!

Not that life is any more congenial at Holyrood where the Party Leaders couldn't wait to be out of the blocks and get the row on the road for success at the May elections. It's still only March and they've already appeared on two leaders' debates with Nicola demanding apologies from everyone and urging poor Willie Rennie to seek forgiveness for the past. Jings- they'll be shouting for compensation for Culloden next! Aye, the following six weeks are going to be a taxing time for all of us -with dire warnings of succumbing to the scare factor – but how long can we endure the bore factor?

A HECTIC EARLY EASTER AT ST. AUG'S

No sooner had we disposed of our flares and wigs from the sixties night when it was time to plan the Easter activities at St. Aug's. On the agenda was a larger than average Passover Supper to be organised by Friends while chief caterers, Roberta and Chrissie, were freezing in not so sunny Spain! But the show must go on and it did with the only casualty being a glass jug of meaty gravy that hit the red tiles at the back door of the Church. This meant a shortage and people having to go gluten free when they preferred the full bhuna.

A fair number of lambs had had to be slaughtered for our feast since legs were appearing, fully cooked and smothered in herbs, from ovens all over town. We were catering for 80 that night and didn't want to run out. Fran, as usual, had the organisation well in hand, and apart from some microphone problems at the start, all went well and even TBag with her two new hearing aids could follow the proceedings with ease. Nevertheless it was a relief to move into the familiar realm of the Eucharist and to the stripping of the Church for Good Friday. Only the dishes were left to welcome the usual volunteers who would turn up in the morning to face the mess.

THE EASTER PRIZE DRAW

Raffle tickets had been flooding the area for weeks with the most eagerly sought after prize being the £200. And this year, to the delight of the clergy and vestry, the money had been donated in full by an anonymous donor. This was a wonderful surprise and meant that all money raised from ticket sales would be for the work of the Church. The draw took place on Easter Sunday and the £200 top prize went to Cardross in cash to put a smile on the face of Irene Hardie's granddaughter. Well done to Barbara for all her hard work - £600 was a great result!

WHO NEEDS CHICK LIT? WE'VE GOT CHICK KNIT!

To while away the dark gloomy nights of winter, Margaret Murnin and Cathy Hoatson like to knit. This year they went on a real knitting spree and produced hundreds of woolly chickens to clothe our chocolate eggs. They came in all styles, in all sexes and could even be designed to order. Their hard work brought in over £400 for St. Aug's and our Gambian school. Great stuff, girls.....but how do you knit a chicken's beak?

THE GREAT EU SING-A- LONG.

With the dreaded June referendum looming, it's clear that we won't all be singing from the same hymn sheet. Perhaps this little selection will find favour with your politics. All together now:

Tune: Tulips from Amsterdam

*When it's Spring again I'll bring again
Tulips from Amsterdam.
But then we'll go – we're voting 'no'
Goodbye to Danish ham!*

And now one for the 'Yes' voters:

Tune: Under the Bridges of Paris.

*We're gonny vote tae stay
Make David Cam'ron's day
Under the bridges of Paris there'll be
Wealth and prosperity!*

And there's more:

Tune: Y Viva Espana

*This year we'll vote tae stey wi' Spain
You'se leave if youse wa-ant tae!
We don't dae Brexit and we're prayin'
Farage will be no more!*

And finally:

Tune: The White Cliffs of Dover.

*There'll be blue birds over the white cliffs of
Dover
With borders fenced o'er ten feet high
We will pit nae crosses – for Brussels bosses
We'll spend oor holidays in Skye!*

AT LAST – NEW SHOPS IN THE HIGH STREET!

We constantly moan about the dearth of retail choice in Dumbarton's High Street but we're not exactly excited about our two new additions. We

can buy 2lbs of Jackie Baillie or a large packet of Gail Robertson – what a choice!

FRIENDS PLAN A NIGHT AT THE THEATRE.

The Friends' exec. members are currently planning a night at the theatre for the end of April to see 'Little Women' by Louisa M Alcott. Playing the 'little women' will be Louise Wilson as Meg and Kate Downie (Maureen McDougall's granddaughter) as the tomboy of the family, Jo. Eilidh Watt, who recently took part in the Young Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) working with Food for Thought to help win them a £3000 prize, will be well cast as the gentle, caring Beth while Amy will be played by Academy schoolgirl, Cara MacKenzie. Tricia Connelly, former Bellsmyre wumman, will take the role of Marmee – a sterling example of good parenting and traditional pre Trump American values. This is a story you will remember fondly from schooldays and one with a real feel good factor.

Before going to the Denny Civic, Friends will enjoy a delicious Fish Tea in the Community Hall at 5.45pm. The fully inclusive price for this event will be £10 and everyone is welcome. Please put your name on the Hall notice board if interested.

AND COMING NEXT MONTH.....

The merry, merry month of May and a bonus on the 1st day for all those who get up early enough to wash their faces in the morning dew. This will give you more than Estee Lauder can and it's all free so try it. There's plenty of grass at St. Mungo's but St. Auggie's folk will struggle! And don't forget to read 'By the Way Together' to keep you young, active and up to date with all that's happening in both Parishes.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Sunday 3rd April

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Reader/Intercessions | Lewis Kennedy |
| Sidesperson | Ian Marshall |
| Music | |

Sunday 10th April

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Reader/Intercessions | Pat Brooks |
| Sidesperson | Ian Marshall |
| Music | Carol Meacham |

Sunday 17th April

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Reader/Intercessions | Jean Brown |
| Sidesperson | Ian Marshall |
| Music | Lynne Harvey |

Sunday 24th April

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Reader/Intercessions | Pat Brooks |
| Sidesperson | Ian Marshall |
| Music | Lynne Harvey |

Sunday 1st May

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Reader/Intercessions | Jean Brown |
| Sidesperson | Ian Marshall |
| Music | Phil O'Ryan |

CLEANING

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 3 rd April | Finella |
| 10 th April | Margaret |
| 17 th April | Iona and Mary |
| 24 th April | Eveline |
| 1 st May | Finella |

Alistair Brown

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ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sunday April 3rd

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Readers | Barbara Barnes & Fran Walker |
| Intercessions | Linda Macaulay |
| Chalice | Janette Barnes & Maggie W |
| Sidespersons | Margaret Swan & Linda J |
| Flowers | Linda Macaulay |
| Sunday School | Sandra & Barbara Barnes |

Sunday April 10th

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Readers | Ghislaine & Evelyn O'Neill |
| Intercessions | Maggie Wallace |
| Chalice | Sharon Rowatt & Fran Walker |
| Sidespersons | Lyndsey Spencer & Maggie W |
| Flowers | Barbara Barnes |
| Sunday School | Sandra & Linda J |

Sunday April 17th

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Readers | Maggie Wallace & Kirsten W |
| Intercessions | Evelyn O'Neill |
| Chalice | Barbara Barnes & David R |
| Sidespersons | David Ansell & Linda J |
| Flowers | Fran Walker |
| Sunday School | Sandra & Kirsten Wiggins |

Sunday April 24th

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Readers | Sharon Rowatt & Linda Mac |
| Intercessions | Fran Walker |
| Chalice | Maggie Wallace & Janette |
| Sidespersons | Chrissie Ashman & Roberta M |
| Flowers | Maggie Wallace & Moira McG |
| Sunday School | Sandra & Margaret Swan |

Sunday May 1st

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Readers | Morag O'Neill & Margaret H |
| Intercessions | Sharon Rowatt |
| Chalice | Barbara Barnes & Fran Walker |
| Sidespersons | Lyndsey Spencer & Margaret S |
| Flowers | Linda Macaulay |



"I THINK JESUS HAD A HORSE. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT?"

The quieter
you become,
the more
you can hear.

- Rumi Rumi

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Music Art Drama (MAD): Fran Walker
Mission Action Planning Group:
The Rector; Anne Dyer; Morag O'Neill; Fran Walker
Gavin Elder; Caroline Marsland
Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie



March 17th

St Patrick's celebration with
the Primary Schools in
Dumbarton.

'Guess the character'... and
presentations by each school
with Neve Prentice singing
solo!



Egg-cellent knitting!

Well done to Margaret M and Cathy
who knitted over 200 Easter chicks
to suit all tastes (including Partick
Thistle supporters) and raised over
£400! Of this, £100 has been
donated to our Gambian Nursery
School, whilst the remainder has
been donated to St Augustine's
Church. Thank you!



Congratulations to David and Linda
Okonkwo on the safe arrival of wee
Isabella, born 17th February, about five
weeks early!
Sean will be a wonderful big brother!

