

# By the Way Together

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

Issue No 27 April 2017



## POTS OF GOLD...

...uncovered  
at Paddy's Night  
celebration and  
fundraising evening  
for Erskine Home.

More details inside!



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## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

### ST AUGUSTINE'S

Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Eucharist
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Passover Supper, Stripping the Church & Watch
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm	Last Hour
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> April	9 pm	Joint Paschal Vigil (starts in the Hall)
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> April	9am	Holy Communion
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Sung Eucharist



### ST MUNGO'S

Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Eucharist
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Eucharist
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Eucharist
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Eucharist
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Walk of Witness starting at St Mungo's
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm	Last Hour
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> April	9 pm	Joint Paschal Vigil (St Aug's Hall)
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Sung Eucharist

### ECUMENICAL SERVICES

Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	West Kirk
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	St Andrew's, Bellsmyre
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Dalreoch UF
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	St Aug's, Passover & Stripping the Church
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	11am & 12pm	Walk of Witness & service in Dumbarton Town Centre
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Riverside, Communion



**COUNTRY  
& ROCK 'N' ROLL  
AND MORE!**

7.30pm

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April

St Augustine's Church

Refreshments

Tickets from the office  
or on the door



**TRIP TO SEE THE  
FALKIRK WHEEL  
AND THE KELPIES**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Time and cost to be arranged

*Watch out for more details*

**SIGNING OF  
ST MUNGO'S  
MAP**

**SUNDAY  
23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**

**11 AM**

**EUCHARIST**





## From Kenny...

By this time in Lent, if a Rector doesn't have everything prepared for Holy Week and Easter, then panic can abound. Will the Palm Crosses arrive on time? Is the Paschal Candle ordered? Got the Holy Week Services sorted? Etc etc etc.

If things aren't in place by now, we are in trouble! We must be well prepared for Holy Week and Easter.

The same sort of preparation should have been going on in your own personal journey through Lent. How prepared are you for Holy Week and Lent? Because the events of Holy Week and Easter are at the heart of our faith, and those who are prepared to walk the walk with Jesus through the whole week will be rewarded greatly.

Doing Holy Week properly is probably old fashioned. I see less and less activity in the Protestant Churches than ever. For some, only Palm Sunday, and Easter Day will be acknowledged, and less and less people want to be bothered too much about Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or the Easter Ceremonies on Holy Saturday.

That is really sad, because if all we do is recognise the crucifixion and come to get an Easter Egg on Sunday, we have missed out on so much. Maybe some of us can't be bothered, extra services, the expectation of boring services with boring sermons, versus the joy of NCIS or the various soaps we watch. Not much of a choice, really.

Those of us who make the effort, however, will experience deep liturgical acts which will challenge us and make sure that Easter IS a special Day, and one that we can rejoice and be glad in.

In olden times, if you didn't make your Holy Communion on Easter Day, either in your own parish or elsewhere, you would come off the Parish Roll and be considered only as an 'adherent'! In modern times, being an adherent rather than being a committed member seems to be all the rage!

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday can be extremely moving and relevant for us and can be the catalyst for positive change for us. I challenge anyone to do Holy Week properly, and not be touched by the whole experience.

There will be services in the Linked Parishes every day through Holy Week, and there should be no reason why you can't be there to experience them personally. There are only 3 miles between the two churches, and none of you will be asked to carry a cross on the journey.

On a few occasions this Lent we have come across the blind man being healed by Jesus, and the first Lent Group session was devoted to the story in Mark 8: 22-26. Go on, take out your bible and have a read.

This is a man who was touched by Jesus and regained partial sight. It wasn't until Jesus touched him a second time that his sight was fully restored. We got around to thinking about this 'second touch'.



We have all been touched by Jesus. That is why we call ourselves Christians and are adherents of one congregation or another. However, so many of us are in need of this 'second touch'.

We need to make time for this to happen to us, whether it be in our personal prayer, a retreat, being alone in your special place or even participating in Holy Week and Easter properly.

The second touch is really important, for it allows Our Lord to touch you in a special way, and you feel God's love, forgiveness, tenderness and compassion in a new and refreshing way.

In fact, this may bring about a third or fourth touch for us, but it solidifies our faith and makes us stronger to be all we can be and should be. God always responds to our openness.

Are you ready for Holy Week and Easter? Are you prepared for this 'second touch'? This huge amount of grace which God has in store for you?

Give Holy Week a try and you will never forget it.

**Kenny**



### **Pastoral letter from William Young**

I have been reading stories by Tom Gordon over the years to our prayer groups. Tom is a member of the Iona Community, hospital chaplain, and a brilliant storyteller with a unique ability to connect the stories of scripture to stories of everyday 21st Century life in Scotland.

He tells a story about a bored little boy named Timothy and his Gramps. Timothy was nine ½ years old, and one day found himself looking out the window on a very rainy day during school break. Soon Gramps joined Timothy in the bored quietness.

After a while Gramps asked, 'What do you see out the window?'

'Same as you, Gramps,' replied Timothy.

'Well, what's that?'

Timothy was puzzled by the questioning, but decided to go along with it because Gramps was always up to something. He always had an angle...

'Well, for starters I can see the trees at the bottom of the garden.'

'Good,' responded Gramps. 'But what else?'

'I see the trees moving about in the wind, just like they've been doing all morning.'

'Good. Moving trees...good.' Gramps went on. 'But what do you see?' Puzzled Timothy kept going...

'Well, I see trees moving in the wind...the branches going one way and then the other...all together...like...as if they were...waving their arms...'

'Good! Good! So what do you see now?'

'Well Gramps, they're kind of like...dancers.'

'Excellent! And if they're dancers there must be...'

'Music! Music only the trees can hear.'

'Well done!' Gramps couldn't stop Timothy now...

'Yes, Gramps, music, tree-music, special music for trees. See, the branches are nearly still, just moving a tad, look, hardly shaking. That's the quiet music, really quiet. That's why they've stopped moving.'

A gust of wind shook the trees violently. 'There, Gramps!' shouted Timothy, excitedly. 'Look at that. The music's gone very loud now! Amazing! Some of the branches are finding it awfully hard to keep up. They must be exhausted!'

*(From TG Welcoming Each Wonder: More contemporary stories for reflection [2010]. Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications)*

The story ends with Timothy moving to the rhythm and humming the beginning of a new tune with Gramps joining in...

Did you feel the metamorphosis from boredom to inspiration? From one way of seeing to a new way of seeing?

Whether we are overwhelmed with boredom or suffering, or feeling despair or hope, we must allow ourselves be guided by God to awaken our senses and bring joyful experiences into sharp relief.

May all our senses be reawakened in these holy weeks so we may fully experience Easter in our hearts.

To look and see,  
And enjoy the seeing,  
And marvel at the beauty.

To look and see,  
And enjoy the imagining,  
And marvel at the mystery.

To look and see,  
And enjoy more than the seeing,  
And marvel at the enfolding pictures.

To look and see,  
And enjoy the imagining,  
And wonder why that couldn't be seen before.

To look and see,  
And enjoy the seeing,  
And marvel at the unfathomable beauty.

*(Tom Gordon, Welcoming Each Wonder, p. 111.)*

### **Joint Vacancy Committee**

The work of the Vacancy Committee must be confidential and even more confidential when they are considering applicants for the Vacancy.

However we are not breaking any confidences when we say that they have met and are discussing the procedures which will be used when applications come before them. This is a necessary part of the procedure [or protocol] and the suggestions made have been brought before each congregation for approval. The next Phase is simply to wait and pray that applications will arrive from interested Ministers for consideration by the Committee.

### **EASTER**

Lord

Life is like

An Easter egg

Empty, hollow, nothingness

Or rich, sweet, enjoyable, shareable.

You are my Easter, Lord,

Help me to live for you

Sharing your love

with others

whose lives

may be

empty

AMEN





As my attention turns once again towards another Holy Week, I approach it with my annual sense of trepidation and anticipation: trepidation because it is such a full on week - not only work-wise – but also spiritually and emotionally especially if I live it honestly and with

integrity; and anticipation because I know that after all the emotion of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday I will experience, in equal amounts, the tremendous joy of Easter Day.

But this year I have been thinking more than usual about that day in between - Holy Saturday – and reflecting on its meaning and significance. Ah... I can hear you say... meaning and significance - isn't it just the day stuck in the middle between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, when we can take a break from it all?

Well, no, actually. Holy Saturday is important. It's just as important as the other two days. It is a day which speaks into our lives just as much as Good Friday and Easter Sunday. You see, Holy Saturday was the time when Jesus lay in the grave... and when his disciples lost their way. Their hope had gone. Their future had gone. There seemed no way out. They could only see darkness ahead. They were facing a reality which they didn't want to face and didn't know how to face. It was sore. It hurt.

Sound familiar at all? Have you been there? Have you felt the weight of Holy Saturday - the day of emptiness... nothingness... the day when hope seems to have gone and the presence of God is very far away? Do you know the reality of not being able to think straight...of living on auto-pilot... of feeling completely helpless in the face of life's circumstances?

I have no doubt that some of you are living there at the moment – and if not ourselves I am sure we all know of people who are living in the reality of Holy Saturday right now: a friend who awaits their test results after gruelling radiation treatment, a neighbour who has lost his wife and doesn't know how to live without her.... those who visit hospital day after day without knowing how long it will continue.... those who wait and wait for news of a missing child. There are so

many ways that we experience Holy Saturday days.

Almost exactly five years ago as a family we knew the devastation of Good Friday as Phil, from being well and healthy, was diagnosed with Burkitts Lymphoma. And unexpected as it was it catapulted us all into 7 months of Holy Saturday time. As we got on with the routine of rounds of chemotherapy, the daily visits to the RAH, the monitoring of machines to which he was attached, there was a feeling of living in the 'in between' times. There was no guarantee he would get better. There was no way of knowing how it would work out. Each day had to be faced and we had no choice but to get on with it. It was Holy Saturday.

Spiritually during this time I found I couldn't pray. I just couldn't do it. Thankfully we were surrounded by prayer – and somewhere in the far distance I had a firm conviction that God was there... but for the first time in my life prayer was impossible. I even told the Bishop this on one of his regular phone calls and he sensitively (and thankfully) didn't tell me to try harder or do better. He just listened and let me be. Because I guess he knew that there is no way out of Holy Saturday. You just have to wait it out.

When you live those days you know you need a miracle. You need a resurrection – but you also know it cannot be manufactured or forced. Easter Sunday/resurrection happens when it happens – and it often turns up when, and in ways, you least expect it.

For Phil, five years after diagnosis, this year is a significant time because it is when you are declared healthy and 'cured'. Phil has one more visit to the hospital for blood tests and then we can really put this time behind us. Perhaps that is why I am reflecting on the Easter Triduum more than usual.

The Easter story is not just an old story which happened long ago. It is a story and a pattern which is lived and experienced today and every day in a myriad ways by so many ordinary people like you and me. Yes, we recognise the Good Friday events....and we look forward with hope to the Easter Sunday events – but let us not forget the 'in-between' time of Holy Saturday. Jesus has been there before us.

*With love, Liz*



## Why does Food For Thought exist?

For many the thought of the 5<sup>th</sup> richest country in the world having to give out emergency food aid is an anathema. We understand that sentiment and would fully agree that it should not be the case; but for us here in St Augustine's we see the desperate need for our Food for Thought project every single day. It makes us wonder sometimes what would happen to the people who come to us if we didn't exist at all... no, perhaps it's better not to go down that road too far.

The reality is that we receive referrals from 53 agencies, both statutory and voluntary every day: agencies which are often given money to combat food poverty but still refer to us because they cannot cope with demand or have budget restrictions placed on them or they have exhausted all avenues to public funds and have no one else to call. In many cases individuals and families will have to come to F4Th again and again, sometimes for many months, because their needs are not being answered and their problems are not being sorted through official avenues.

The politics of the situation are complex. Amongst friends and family it is good to discuss national government policies – but in Food for Thought, we do not and cannot. We are here only to provide the service and feed those who are referred to us without judgement, political bias or discrimination. And so we give out food and help those in crisis... sometimes 50 or 60 a week. And their stories are varied.

Here are some of those stories... (all names have been changed)

**Anne** has been coming to us since just before Christmas. She and her family lived with her elderly Mother who has just passed away. Anne's siblings are selling the house and Anne will be homeless soon. She had stopped work due to stress and so cannot make ends meet at present. We will feed her and help her organise her money until she is sorted.

The elderly home care team phoned because they noticed **Audrey** had no food in the house when they went to make her lunch. Audrey explained that the cat had been ill and that she

had paid the vet and didn't have money left over for food. We gave food to Audrey and the cat, until pension day.

**Hannah** is an older lady; her husband drinks and quite often she has nothing. Her mental health worker phones us now and again to help with the weekly food.

**John** has been sanctioned by the DWP because he did not apply for enough jobs on the internet to qualify for money. John does not have a computer at home. He does try to go the library to look for work but because of the restrictions on that system he cannot fill in his online diary. DWP staff will not accept a printed version... therefore he gets no money.

**Joe** was referred to us as he had been released from prison and would have to wait for some 6-8 weeks for benefits to be sorted out. Until then he had no money at all.

**Samantha** was referred to us by her mental health worker – she had received a diagnosis of terminal cancer and had to leave work. It took 12 weeks for her benefits to come through.

**Gillian** was referred to us because her partner died. As there was no insurance she had borrowed £1000 from a neighbour to open the plot and start the funeral arrangements. She has been paying this back off her benefits ever since. She has not started paying the balance of the funeral yet. We will support her through this very sad time.

No two stories are the same and for the most part we do not ask. We are happy that the referring agency knows the problem and is satisfied that the individual or family are in real need. We provide 3 days worth of food for every person in the house and will also give pet food if required.

If a single person is referred they receive:  
3 breakfasts – Weetabix, UHT Milk and teabags  
3 lunches – 2 tins soup and 2 tins of beans  
3 dinners – Pasta with sauce and a tin of fish plus a meat product and instant potatoes.  
1 toilet roll and 1 packet of biscuits would also be included.

This is not exactly luxurious you may agree but this basic bag costs us around £8. For a family with kids you can multiply this by the number in

the household, including formula milk and nappies for babies. Extra food is given to families with teenagers. Toiletries are provided for those moving into temporary tenancies and for those leaving hospital or prison.

So “What would Jesus say?” And “What would Jesus do?” For us who work and volunteer within this very small charity that is the question and what we do is the answer.

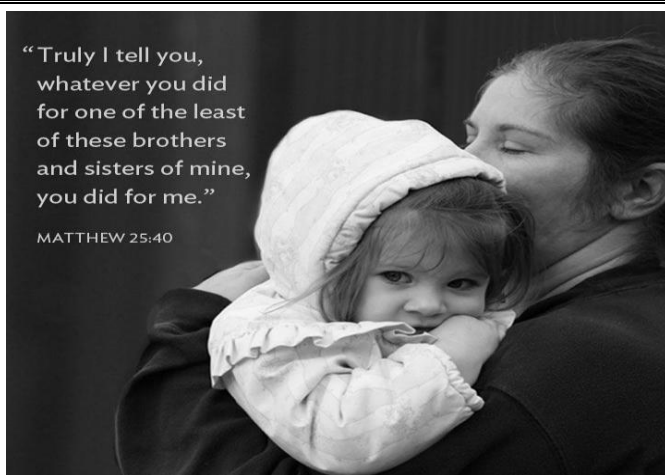
To those who support us with shopping, cash and time we always totally appreciate your goodwill and kindness.

We will continue to fight the good fight.

“Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did  
for one of the least  
of these brothers  
and sisters of mine,  
you did for me.”

MATTHEW 25:40

*Caroline Marsland*



## Exploring the strange journeys that words take

Ever wondered why we pass news on ‘through the grapevine’, or why it is a shock to ‘let the cat out of the bag’? The origin of hundreds of everyday words and phrases can be found in a vast and fascinating guide called ‘The Etymologicon’. Here you can discover many of ‘the strange back alleys and extraordinary and ridiculous journeys that words take,’ to quote the compiler, Mark Forsyth.

Hence, ‘through the grapevine’ began as the ‘grapevine telegraph’, a phrase used in the US Civil War, which described the unofficial, word-of-mouth network used by Confederate soldiers while drinking wine, or by slaves while picking grapes from vines.

‘Let the cat out of the bag’ dates back to medieval markets in Britain, where piglets were sold in bags (a pig in a poke). But a common con was to switch the valuable piglet for a worthless cat or dog: hence buyers were either ‘sold a pup’ or, when they discovered the ruse, ‘let the cat out of the bag’.

To give someone the ‘cold shoulder’ came from the sort of mutton leftovers given to unwelcome house-guests. A ‘hoax’ grew from hocus-pocus, a Protestant taunt of the rite of consecration used in the Roman Mass: Hoc est corpus meum (This is my body).

‘Winging it’ comes from actors learning their lines in the wings; ‘in a nutshell’ comes from Pliny, the Roman writer who claimed there was a copy of The Iliad so small it could fit in a nutshell. ‘Average’ comes from an old French term avarie, meaning ‘damage done to a ship’. Vessels were often co-owned, and when repairs were done, the owners were expected to pay an equal share, or the average.

## DAVID WINTER CONSIDERS APRIL FOOLS DAY: A FEAST OF FOOLS

As kids we always looked forward to April 1st, when carefully concocted tricks would be played on our school-friends, parents, and even teachers. ‘April Fool!’ we would shout triumphantly, as they obligingly fell for our little ruses.

‘I’ve just seen a mouse run under the cooker’ was one of my best, reducing my mother at breakfast time to frantic appeals for help. My older brother rejected her pleas. ‘Mum, it’s April the first. He’s having you on’. All the same he was asked to pull out the cooker to prove the point, much to his annoyance.

It seems to me that it’s not quite as widely observed as it once was – perhaps Trick or Treat at Hallowe’en has overtaken it. But All Fools Day, to give it its proper name, still sees a few really good stunts pulled by broadcasters and journalists. In fact, the Spring Equinox (March 25 to April 1) has been seen as a time for tricks and pranks right back to Roman times, when the season was known as ‘Hilaria’.

Perhaps its origin lies in the idea that at this time of year sudden changes occur, as though Nature is playing tricks on us - mad March hares, and so on. Or just that after months of leaden skies and cold winds people simply want something to laugh at, even at their own expense. There was a Feast of Asses, which was given a religious flavour by preachers pretending to be prophets whose wise warnings were ignored. France gave it its present form, in the 16th century, when the new Gregorian Calendar changed the date of New Year to January 1st, to general confusion. It came to Britain in the 18th century, and has caused much merriment ever since. Hilarious, in fact.



## LENT STUDY

This year Kenny gently led the group through the technique of Ignatian meditation.

In this method each person is brought into the presence of God by being time to relax and concentrate on their breathing. Then there is the opportunity to enter into an event in the Jesus' life by the leader telling the story with

plenty space. In their imagination the group were encouraged to partake of the story, placing themselves there and hearing the sounds and seeing what Jesus had to say to them. This method is very powerful and a good way to become closer to God.

Reflecting on one of the weeks in which the story was of Bartimaeus who was healed when Jesus spat upon his eyes, Fran writes:

*Seeing people spit disgusts me (regretfully it appears to be a feature of football broadcasts!). And it disgusted the Lent Study Group too (all those germs!) thinking about Jesus spitting in the eyes of blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10, 46 - 52) as we were asked to imagine being there and seeing the miracle happening. But for Bartimaeus it wouldn't have been an insult or offensive – Jesus wasn't the only one spitting. Around his time using saliva was considered a valid treatment for blindness and his almost contemporaries such as the Roman Emperor Vespasian (AD 6 – 79) and Pliny the Elder (AD 23 – 79) were known to be doing the same thing.*

*Today's science reveals that saliva has properties that are anti-bacterial or promote healing (see Wikipedia, 'Saliva' or 'Wound Licking' if you're really interested) and even under the NHS you can get some of your salivary glands transplanted to become tear ducts in cases of extreme dry eye.*

*So probably Bartimaeus was thankful to receive a dollop of spittle in his eyes. His faith healed him. As for me, I'm just glad Jesus had a better aim than I had in childhood spitting competitions!*

## SMILE LINES

### Still lost in translation

*When it's English, but not as we know it...*

(Seen in a Korean hotel in Seoul): Measles not included in room charge.

(Qatar hotel welcome notes): Please do not use the lift when it is not working.

(French hotel in Paris): Please leave your values at the front desk.

(Indonesian hotel menu in Bali): Toes with butter and jam.

(Street sign in Japan): Waiting will be prosecuted

(Private school in Nairobi, Kenya): No trespassing without permission

(Road sign in Malaysia): Caution: Water on road during rain

(Restaurant in Acapulco, Mexico): The manager has personally passed all the water served here

(German Cloakroom): Please hang yourself here

## Ask children about angels...(and this is what you get!)

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. - Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. - Reagan, age 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. - Sara, age 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. - Jared, age 8



## SHILLELAGHS AND SHENANIGANS

During an evening that was more Irish than Daniel O'Donnell, delicious Irish Stew was eaten, a limerick writing competition was held and 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' was sung with gusto!

Around £400 was raised for Friends.

Have a chuckle with some of the offered limericks:



### WINNER: Stephen Haining

Two fancy young women from Dublin  
Who kept on greetin' and bubblin',  
They lost their nice men  
Again and again,

And now they are in need of some cuddlin'!

### MOST TOPICAL: Fr Kenny

The wise congregation of Augs,  
Had terrible trouble with bogs,  
They have to flush twice  
So the toilet is nice,  
And be told that they can't pass logs

#### Frankie:

The wise congregation of Augs,  
Were stuck in some Irish bogs,  
They prayed to their Lord  
"We're cold and we're bored,  
And we're ruining our good Sunday  
togs."



#### Linda Macaulay:

Two fancy young women from Dublin,  
Were walking along the street a-mumblin',  
A boy came along  
And sang them a song  
And their pose and composure went  
crumblin'.

#### Ghislaine:

The wise congregation of Augs,  
Fell intae a pond full of frogs,  
They all came out croakin'  
An' Kenny was Boakin'  
So St Augs and the frogs shared the logs.



#### Ghislaine:

There was an old man from Dumbarton,  
An' him and his wife were partin',  
But one night in the fog,  
he fell in a bog,  
So the partin' fair turned into laughin'!



## THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN HERITAGE, DUMBARTON

The initial idea came from local historian, Billy Scobie who had recently written a historical novel, *Upon This Rock*, which was based on events at Dumbarton Castle in the sixteenth century. Billy had the idea of holding ecumenical services at the site of St Patrick's Chapel, which had been used for Christian worship for over 1,000 years until the Reformation.

A meeting was held with Canon Conroy, Billy and Tim Rhead, when it was decided to hold a service on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 to celebrate St Andrew. Some sixty people came from local churches and invited guests included Archbishop Tartaglia, Episcopal Bishop Duncan, Rev Ian Miller to represent the Church of Scotland, The Provost of West Dunbartonshire Council and Lord McFall. Historic Scotland gave free admission but set a limit of 70 for safety reasons. The service to restore Christian worship at this historic site was inspiring and there was considerable publicity in the local and religious press.

Services were then held to celebrate St Patrick in March and St Columba in June 2013. The organising group had the vision of involving local schools so the following year plans were made to supplement the ecumenical services with an activity for local primary schools. Two retired teachers, Veronica Adam and Jo Fazzini, local historian Joan Baird and the ADO to the Keeper of the Castle, George Campbell, joined the group, which now called itself Christian Heritage Dumbarton. At the same time, Faith in Community Scotland offered to support the project as part of the Scottish Government's anti-sectarian initiative. With this assistance, Education Packs were produced connecting St Andrew, St Patrick and St Columba with local themes. A meeting was held with senior teachers from the seven local primary schools to launch the packs which were greeted with enthusiasm.



The first event took place to celebrate St Columba in June 2014 when over 200 pupils from the seven schools explored the castle with guides provided by local churches, finishing with a short service on the Rock. The Keeper and the M.P. also came, and an actor who impersonated St Columba. The feedback from the schools was very positive so further activities were planned. In December to celebrate St Andrew, pupils visited five town centre churches, and in March a quiz on the theme of St Patrick was held at St Patrick's Church Hall.

These activities have been repeated for the past three years and the aim is that every pupil in Dumbarton is able to have a special and enjoyable experience which gives them pride in their town and an appreciation of the relevance of the Christian Faith to their community. They also see the different schools and churches working together and meet some of the older members of society. The Education Packs continue to be used in the schools and are available on-line. Kilpatrick School now takes part in some events.

Funding from the Scottish Government ceased in 2015 and money is needed for buses from the more distant schools (most come on foot), insurance for volunteers, and other items such as badges, candles, ponchos etc. Dumbarton Churches Together gave £200 last year and £750 has been given by a law firm. Recently, Dumbarton Common Good Fund has awarded £1,050, which should enable the work to continue for at least two years. The activities depend on the support of schools, parents and volunteers from the churches. The organising group now consists of Canon Conroy, Rev Ian Johnson, Veronica Adam, Joan Baird, George Campbell, Fran Walker and Tim Rhead. Ecumenical services are taking place at the castle yearly. Those who come are enthusiastic but numbers are fairly low and it would be good if more could have the experience of worshipping together at this special place. If you are interested in attending any of the services look out for notices in the Autumn – probably October.

*Tim Rhead*



## *Wait Till I Tell You.....'*

*Janette, looking back on a very politically angry March that brought both snow and warm summer weather to Dumbarton, anticipates a happy Easter now that Spring has actually sprung.*

### **SHAMROCKS AND SHILLELAGHS.**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March St. Auggie's celebrated St. Patrick's Night with a Friends' event in the Community Hall. Yes, all the usual suspects were there claiming some connection to the Emerald Isle even if 1690 was all they could remember from the graffiti on derelict Glasgow close walls! Any excuse for a party – so bring on the Irish stew! Let's all be hibernophiles for the night. Fran thought she had an Irish branch in her family tree, Linda was sure her Welsh accent could easily be mistaken for a touch of the Blarney, Roberta designed the colleen costumes, Chrissie and Margaret H didn't need Delia Smith for the Irish stew, Cathy Hoatson knew Mrs Brown, Sandra developed an accent that took her from mid Renton to mid Killarney in midsentence, Maggie has an Irish middle name and I can recall playing an *Irishwumman* in two significant drama productions on stage in St. Aug's leaky old hall. Flashback to circa 1960 with the A.Y.P.A (Youth Club) competing in the Diocesan Youth Festival. I got the opportunity to play Molly Mallone and to dramatically die of a fever after having wheeled my wheelbarrow all the way down from Bellsmyre!

My other Irish role was with St. Augustine's Players in Synge's tragic 'Riders to the Sea' which progressed to the St. Andrew's Halls for an S.C.D.A festival. See St. Aug's! See culture! *Nae bother!*

It was Margaret Hardie who remarked on this Irish obsession with misery, sadness and death and urged Ghislaine to find some happy Irish songs before we all lost the will to live. That was after Sharon's community singing medley was making us all maudlin on just one glass of wine! But I don't know any unsmiling Irish people, so 'what's it all about, Paddy?'

The meal itself was delicious even if the fake menu featured 'St. Patrick's Potato Parfait'. The Saint had never seen a potato. The mainstay of all Irish dinners only reached Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup>

century long after the Saint had departed with the snakes. But what's in a name?

The Irish stew was appreciated – to be sure, to be sure - as was the green jelly dessert served with orange and 'skooshy' cream. But the meal was constantly being interrupted by our great Limerick writing competition. Four initial lines were provided on the table mats and the diners had to complete the rhyme while eating. That stopped any awkward political arguments over the meal and the results were evaluated by Fran and Sandra with a winner chosen – Stephen Haining. His winning verse is published only in this magazine. Of course, we had to stand up for the Irish Bingo. In this variation of the popular game the winner is the last one standing. Then it was on with the singing provided by Ghislaine and Ricky and some verse from Fran, Linda, Janette and Sandra who had to be restrained from the Irish dancing for fear of damage to the property!

In all, Shamrocks and Shillelaghs was a very enjoyable event and raised almost £400 for Church funds. Was it authentic? Ask Phil O'Ryan or Caroline Delaney – the only real Irish folk in the company!

### **THE GOD OF WAR REIGNS IN A MARCH OF CONFLICT.**

March 2017 has indeed been a triumph for Mars – the Roman god of war, after whom it was named. Thankfully, April, T.S. Eliot's 'cruellest month', is now on the calendar. It can only be a piece of cake when compared with March. Think back, if you can bear to. Oh, the budget brightened us up momentarily on the 8<sup>th</sup>, fairly innocuous with a chuckling chancellor. Then '*the ba' wis on the slates*' when an unfortunate error brought the whole thing to a '*screeching U-turn*' with a collective '*big riddy*' for the government and varying degrees of screeching from members of the opposition. Worse was to come. Before the ides of March had taken their toll, Nicola had announced to the waiting world that she was going for another independence referendum. No surprise there! This announcement, to be followed by a Holyrood debate, '*unleashed the dogs of war*' and Westminster '*wis ferr beelin*'. Meanwhile, back at the Labour party, remember them? Jeremy Corbyn's troops were disagreeing with their brothers in the Unions. Then, at Stormont, Northern Ireland's parliament, the DUP and Sinn Fein threw their toys out of their prams and refused to share its governance. The quarrelling seemed to go on and on. The political showdowns on the telly were becoming more dramatic than

‘Neighbours’ as they unveiled plots, exchanged insults, got into arguments and dished out blame. Where will it all end? How do these politicians manage to sleep at night?

### **EARLY FASHION TRENDS ON THE WESTCLIFF BUS.**

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March a few days of freak summer weather brought the new season’s high fashion to the Westcliff bus. As the temperature soared, weans were brought out in frocks and shorts for a whole day of sunshine in car parks all the way from ASDA to the Clydebank shopping centre. The more trendy passengers unveiled their new gear, hastily purchased from Primark, and it was obvious that the favourite this season is the ‘*wan bare shouder tap*’ worn with whatever the model’s legs will allow. Fleeshy shoulders are exposed after a winter of concealment and this necessitates the adornment of a tattoo to take away from the shock of white, freckly skin that has not yet been spray tanned. So, ladies – this appears to be the look for summer. ‘*A bare shouder is the new cleavage*’.

### **‘ALL ROUND TO NUMBER 10’.**

Forget about the new Irish comedy. Enjoy a scene at the home of our PM during one stress filled week in March.

**Time: Brexit week. Philip May (big Theresa’s man) is pacing the floor, looking anxiously in the fridge and sighing vociferously.**

**Sound effect : A door opening.**

**Philip** Is that you, dear?

**Enter Big Theresa.**

**Big Theresa** Home at last! What a week! My kitten heels are killing me.

**Philip** (waving brown unopened envelope) My salary, dear. I’ll put it in the usual place. What’s for tea?

**Big Theresa** Thank you, dear. Eh.....let’s have a carry-out. I’ve a menu in my briefcase.

**Philip** But...we’ve had carry-outs all week. Can’t you cook a proper meal?

**Big Theresa** Don’t be ridiculous, Philip. Now is not the time. Not with the triggering of Section 50 and Nicola nagging on about another referendum. Oh, I’d like to put her on the naughty step!

**Philip** Nicola’s got a fine pair of legs... Oh, I saw them in the Daily Mail! So have you, darling. The photo certainly did you justice.

**Big Theresa** It’s not her legs that concern me—she’s got my head fair nipping! Darling, stop looking at that sexist rubbish and call the Chinese....

**Philip** Embassy?

**Big Theresa** No....takeaway!

**Philip** Yes, Nicola is certainly a nippy sweetie! I wouldn’t like to go home to her with a broken pay! Is that the menu? I’ll try to get the Dragon Inn.

**Big Theresa** You’ll have a hope. She’ll be running all over the country by now campaigning for independence!

**Philip** Ha! Ha! Ha! You’re so funny, darling! The restaurant is called the Dragon Inn. Hand me over the menu, dear. I’m starving.

**Big Theresa** Of course, here it is .....why this is the document to trigger Section 50! I’ve sent the takeaway menu to Donald Tusk!

**Sound effect: Another screeching U Turn!**

### **THE MONARCH TO REMAIN IN SCOTLAND.**

One snippet of good news for March was that the Monarch of the Glen will now pass into permanent residence in Scotland. No, not oor Alex! It’s the Landseer painting that has been secured for the nation thanks to the generosity of Diageo, big donations from the Scottish government, the National Lottery and members of the public. Our Culture Secretary, Fiona Hyslop, took time off expounding the virtues of independence to enthuse about our new national treasure. She must have been relieved – our shortbread tins need this iconic image!

### **A LAUGH AT LAST FOR APRIL FOOLS’ DAY!**

And how much we need one! April brings Easter – the happiest season in the Church year. And Friends are still planning an outing on the 30<sup>th</sup> so watch out for full details. It’s going to be to the Falkirk Wheel, a wee trip to the shops, High Tea and the Kelpies in the gloaming.



Then, the very next morning will be the 1<sup>st</sup> May so it's out to the grass before the dog to bathe your face in the magical dew for another year of beauty. Go for it!

Back next month.....

*Janette*

### **Shhhh! Church Chatter**

Something for everyone to think of..... recently, more than a few folk have complained to me about chatter in church, before and during services. Someone in front of you or maybe someone behind is trying to say their prayers and trying to connect again to God after a trying week. Please give them a bit of time to do this silently.

There is lots of time after the service to sit and catch up with everyone. Wednesdays are no exemptions to that. Wednesdays are days when the church should be still and silent. The health of your friend's hamster can wait until after the service.

During services, especially after Holy Communion is certainly not a time to read your texts or comment on how well the Liturgy has gone or groan to your neighbour about today's music. That can wait. Remember the folk around you and cater for their needs! Shhhh!

*Kenny*

#### **Message from the Dean concerning the Bishop:**

Bishop Gregor is recuperating well at home and wishes me to thank everyone for their continued support and prayers.

Bishop John, of the Diocese of Edinburgh, is our Commissary Bishop until Palm Sunday April 9th. After an excellent meeting with his consultant, Bishop Gregor, in liaison with his GP, will, in due course, inform the Diocese about his intention for a phased return to work after a planned Easter holiday. This is good news and I am sure everyone will support him in his endeavour to return to effective ministry.

#### **Diocesan Synod 4 March 2017 Edited highlights**

The Dean, the Very Revd Ian Barcroft presided at the Synod Eucharist and read the Bishop's Charge on behalf of Bishop Gregor.

The changes to Canon 22 and Canon 63 were passed without any dissent. (To see the details on these Canons and changes please see the Diocesan website.)

Synod then explored the proposed changes to Canon 31, Of the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony. It was proposed to remove from the Canon any doctrinal statement regarding marriage, and also to add a

conscience clause making clear that no cleric is to be obliged to conduct any marriage against his or her conscience. If this was passed at Diocesan Synod the proposed change would go back to General Synod in June for a second time. If it is passed there it will make way for the possibility of marriage in church for people of the same gender.

The processes and background were explained by Revd Paul Romano. Synod then discussed the matter and both sides of the debate were well represented and respected. Eventually a vote was taken to determine whether Synod approved the proposed alterations to the Canon, in both houses.

The result was: Clergy: for 26, against 14 (65%)  
Laity: for 33, against 19 (63%) Overall: for 59, against 33 (64%)

The Canon Missioner, Revd Canon Audrey Stewart, gave an account of her work since coming to the Diocese last summer. Mission Action Planning (MAP) had produced an emphasis on "Growth" with Numerical Growth being a regular goal. Audrey urged us to understand that Mission is NOT Numerical Growth and concentrating on this goal can become disheartening.

The Revd Cedric Blakey provided some detail on the Holy Land Pilgrimage planned for 2018.

The Dean closed Synod with the Blessing.

## ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Reader/Intercessions	Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day

Reader/Intercessions	Phil O'Ryan
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Reader/Intercessions	Pat Brooks
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Carol Meacham

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

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

Reader/Intercessions	Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

## CLEANING

2 April/30 April	Margaret (+Carol flowers)
9 April/7 May	Lynn T
16 April/14 May	Finella (+ flowers)
23rd April/21 May	Iona and Mary

## ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

### Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Readers	Fran Walker & Kirsten W
Intercessions	Margaret Hardie
Chalice	Maggie W & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons	Margaret S & David Ansell

### Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday

Readers	Morag O'Neill & Ghislaine K
Intercessions	Maggie Wallace
Chalice	Fran Walker & Kirsten W
Sidespersons	Maggie W & Caroline M

### Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> Easter Day + Baptism

Readers	Janette Barnes & Maggie W
Intercessions	Linda Macaulay
Chalice	Maggie W & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons	Chrissie & Roberta Mailley

### Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Readers	Margaret H & Kirstin W
Intercessions	Fran Walker
Chalice	Margaret H & David Rowatt
Sidespersons	Linda J & Cathy Hoatson

### Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>

Readers	David Rowatt & Janette B
Intercessions	Sharon Rowatt
Chalice	Sharon R & Fran Walker
Sidespersons	David A & Maggie Wallace

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

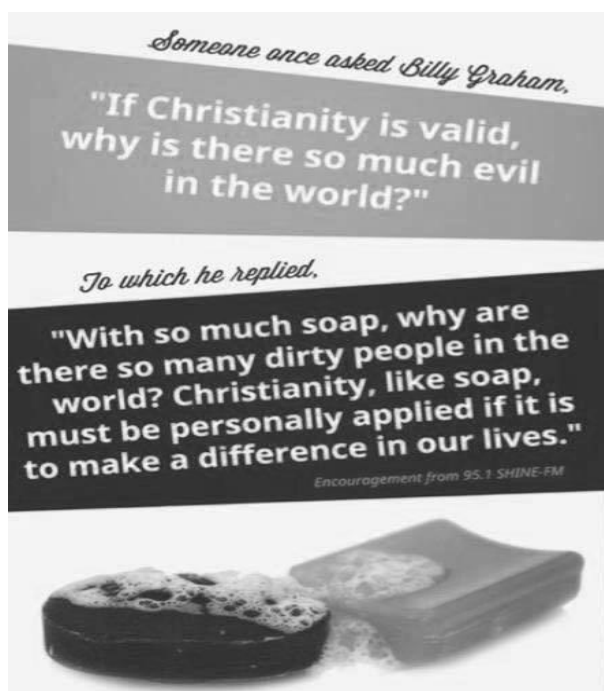
Readers	Ghislaine K & David Ansell
Intercessions	David Rowatt
Chalice	Maggie W & Margaret H
Sidespersons	Roberta M & Chrissie A

## Flowers

April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Moira McGown & Maggie W
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Linda Macaulay
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Hardie
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Fran Walker

**Life is good:**

**Small things make me smile;  
Good people make me laugh;  
and an amazing God keeps me blessed.**



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Gavin Elder; Caroline Marsland; Rev Liz O'Ryan

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie



## Sing a Sing For Erskine!

On Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March residents of our local Erskine Care Home in Bishopton were bussed into St Augustine's to be treated to a fabulous evening of food and music! The event was the brainchild of Ghislaine Kennedy who always has a heart for the other and who uses the talents of her ecumenical choir to specifically raise money for charities. The evening was a wonderful success...and Ghislaine's persistence in selling tickets and advertising paid off as she will be able to give the Erskine Home a cheque for £1500!

**ERSKINE**  
Proud to care

This is an appropriate time to be helping Erskine as their company of four homes have just celebrated their centenary year. Placed in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Erskine – with an extra special home for those suffering from dementia – the homes provide a safe haven for veterans and their spouses. The devastation of the First World War highlighted the fact that there were insufficient hospital facilities to care for those who were wounded in battle.... and since 1916 Erskine have cared for over 85,000 veterans.... soldiers such as Tommy McSorley, Royal Scots...

Tommy grew up in Glasgow and like many young men of his generation joined the Armed Forces at a young age. He was conscripted on Boxing Day 1947, which was his 18th birthday. He set off to Inverness for basic training with the Royal Scots. His first posting was a six month tour of post-war Italy. Initially his tour of Italy was a terrific experience and he enjoyed his posting, although there was still a level of resentment from the local Italians. But that changed rapidly. In October 1948 he was driving an army jeep within the barracks when he drove over a rogue landmine. Blown up instantly, he was left unconscious for five days. When he awoke, he was in a hospital bed with his father by his side. His father had come to bury his son. "That's us lost him" he had said. But despite his injuries; two broken arms, a fractured pelvis, a fractured skull, his stomach crushed and a blood clot in his groin, Tommy survived. 19 days after the accident he had his leg amputated. His injuries meant it couldn't be saved. He was still only 18 years old.

He spent many months in various hospitals and his recovery lasted years. He was introduced to Erskine many years ago. He says, "I came to visit the old Erskine Hospital four times to have bits taken off my leg. I lost my wife Jeanie a few years ago, so now I need care. Erskine is a lifeline for me and has helped me cope with my injuries over many years. The care staff give me so much support and the care is outstanding. Without wonderful supporters like you, who donate to Erskine, we wouldn't receive the care that means so much." Thank you.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

to **Costa Coffee** for their gift of 300 cups  
and to **B 'n' M** for their donation of  
lemonade, tea, coffee and table cloths.  
Your generosity is much appreciated.

Thanks also **Rock Salt** and **Danny Niven** for  
singing; and especially to all in the **All Sorts  
Choir** who not only sang but organised and  
provided the wonderful buffet for the 22  
Erskine residents and their carers.

You're simply the best!