

By the Way Together



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



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HOME AND AWAY!

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 20th December:	St Mungo's	2pm	Christmas Carols <i>with the Guides</i>
	St Aug's	4pm	Punch, Pies and Popular Carols
	St Aug's	5.30pm	Carols begin
Thursday, Christmas Eve:	St Mungo's	3pm	Carols in church
	St Mungo's	8pm	Christmas Eucharist
	St Aug's	11pm	Midnight Eucharist
Friday, Christmas Day:	St Aug's	10.30am	Joint Family Eucharist
Sunday, 27th December:	St Aug's	9am	Said Eucharist
	St Mungo's	11am	Sung Eucharist
	St Aug's	11am	Sung Eucharist

THE BIG SING WITH JOHN BELL



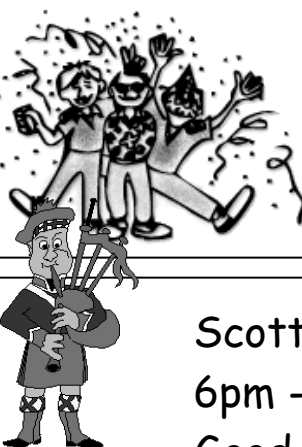
followed by
an act of worship

St Augustine's Church
20th January
7pm

Put into your diary:
Sunday 7th February
Stewardship Sunday
Invitational Lunch
and discussion



Confirmation Service
with Bishop Gregor
January 10th
St Augustine's
11am Sung Eucharist



You are all invited to the
Rectory on New Year's Eve
8pm onwards
See the bells in with style!



Scottish Night! 24th January
6pm -St Augustine's Church.
Good food and entertainment
from AGM and a few friends!

St Mungo's Day falls on Wednesday 13th January, and the Eucharist will be celebrated at the normal time of 9.30am. On Sunday 17th January, we will celebrate our Patronal Feast properly at the 11am Sunday Service. Please put these dates in your new diary!



Listening to the news, or reading social media at the moment can be very depressing, and from the Occupation of Palestine, through to airstrikes in Syria,

unrest in so many places and the ongoing violence in Iraq and Afghanistan, the world can seem to be a mess. Refugees are counted in millions, and displaced persons with nothing are the common diet of what calls itself "news" at the moment.

Oops! And up pops Christmas, and our thoughts are turned on the Babe in the Manger, and the peace, love and joy which God wants for the world we live in. We sing lovely songs of the silence of Bethlehem, and angels singing songs of glory and peace to the world. Nativity plays bring tears of joy to our eyes, and in the middle of it all there is Love, Peace and Joy.

However, the whole story of the Nativity shows that the world that this Babe was born into was also pretty messy! The Roman Army had commanded everyone to leave their home and travel for a census. Can you imagine the difficulties in that? The land was occupied by foreign battalions, and after the birth of Jesus, Herod set up the genocide of children, and the Holy Family themselves became refugees, fleeing to Egypt. The world was in a "mess" then, too!

In the middle of it all we have this gentle baby, "Emmanuel" or "God with us". We need to hold on to this for dear life, for whatever we go through, and whatever the "mess", God is with us, always and forever.

Whatever you happen to be going through, remember that this Christmas. May it be a

happy one, and full of the hope which God gives us in the Christchild.

Kenny



SMILE...

Look to the future, not the past,
To find those things you want to last

Smiling is infectious, you can catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner and someone saw my grin
When he smiled back I realised I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about the smile and realised it's worth
A single smile like mine could travel around the earth.

If you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic and get the world infected.

found by Morag O'Neill





ASSOCIATE PRIEST'S REPORT FOR ST MUNGO'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AGM

2014 – 2015

Just over twelve months ago I was installed as your Associate Priest and so the journey of the last year is one we have made together. As I arrived I felt I hit the ground running somewhat, as Kenny was signed off ill and, fresh out of my curacy, I took on the usual parish duties, accompanied with the expected nerves that come with new places and new people. However, thankfully, you were all very patient with me, Kenny was very supportive from his sick bed, and we got through those initial weeks together relatively smoothly!

One year later I am happy to report that we, as a community, are in completely different space and place... which, as followers of a pilgrim God, is fundamentally a healthy sign. Our God constantly calls us onward out of our comfort zone and outward to new places and new experiences.... and He has certainly remained faithful this year. His call necessitates movement and change... and although change is not always comfortable... we have embraced much of it this year in faith and hope. We are now in a position to reflect positively about where we have been and look forward to where we might be going in the future.

Leamy Garden Project

One of the most exciting projects that started this year has been the Leamy Garden Project initiative. With funding from Carbon Capture Fund, Kevin Mason, as project manager, has worked with the Rector to establish a therapeutic garden in the grounds of St Mungo's for use by the wider community. There are now two groups of regular participants who are beginning to support each other whilst also gaining garden skills, waste management and carbon reduction. Twice weekly cookery classes have been popular and the first group have received certificates of attendance and achievement. Many outside groups have visited including other community garden groups, children from the local schools and the local SNP councillor. From these activities two Men's Blether Groups have started, one being held in St Mungo's. From the church's point of view this project is extremely positive for us. Through it our

reputation in the locale is heightened. We will become known as being a place which is open and working for the community, helping those who need support and being willing to become involved in the lives of local people. The fact that the project also brings in a healthy monthly income for us is an added bonus. It is hoped that the Leamy Foundation will gain further funding so that they can continue for another 3 years – I hope and pray so.

Lomond Food Bank

It was very soon after I arrived that it became known that two local women Christina Logan and Kirsty Tivers were looking for local premises for their newly set-up Foodbank. Our Hall with its storage space seemed ideal and they now open every Tuesday, feeding 20-30 people per week, and helping the most vulnerable in our community. Over the year our links with this project have strengthened, especially with the Leamy Garden Project and Cookery classes. The girls are hoping to hold a Christmas Eve lunch for those in need and this is hoped to be followed by carols in church. These initiatives are an important part of our mission in Alexandria and is a sign of hope.

Music

It was with sadness that Kenny and I accepted the resignation of Andrew Baxter as our organist. Andrew has been a loyal and committed part of our church's life for many years and we will miss his woolly red socks, sturdy fingerless gloves and talent on the keyboard! We thank him for all hymn accompaniments and musical interludes he gave us. Recently we have been relying on visiting organists, but the new Vestry will have to make decisions for the more long term strategy. It would be wonderful if another permanent organist could be found.

The choir, sadly, for the time being, has ceased to be due to ill health and circumstances – so presently our choir stalls are unused. Thanks go to all who have filled that space and led the congregation so ably. However it is good to see that the congregation are now finding new voice and confidence, drawing courage from each other to sing out and give praise to God.

Parish Website and Facebook Page

In this technological focussed world an up-to-date website and active Facebook Page is an absolute must. We happily launched our new St Mungo's website this year and now have an active

Facebook Page. It is already astonishing how many people it reaches – what we post on Facebook already reaches over 150 people. Thanks to Lynne for taking on the updating of our technological communication.

Links with St Augustine's

One of the wonderful things about a linked charge is the opportunity to do things together, to encourage one another and to be able to share our faith journey with the wider Christian circle. With the Rectory being placed in Alexandria it is good to see it gradually being used by both congregations and to hold joint ventures which are attended by members of both St Augustine's and St Mungo's.

Last January, to honour the three Wise Men, we held a joint Epiphany meal and quiz in the Rectory in which the competition between teams ran high and the resulting banter and chat was fun. The Lent Group, looking at aspects of Benedictine Spirituality, was attended by members of both congregations and included eating together and practical activities such as making a cross of nails. The bus trip to Scone Palace in the summer was another wonderful day out together blessed by plenty of sunshine, coffee and cakes. The Community Fair in Dumbarton had a very successful St Mungo's Tombola stall thanks to Lynne whose patter, everyone agreed, would have fitted in easily at the Barras!

It is hoped that as time passes friendships and closer ties will be built up between the two congregations so that we can share the ups and downs of the Christian journey.

Guides

The Guides, led by Ruth Gallacher, and who meet in our Hall, remain an active presence in our community. The girls now have strong connections with our Garden Project and have grown many vegetables over the year in the pots and beds with which they have made pesto, beetroot chocolate brownies and soup. They too have learned about reducing our carbon footprint and food wastage. The girls attended a successful Harvest celebration which included a very meaningful thanksgiving for food grown. At this time of year we look forward once again to their Christmas Fair and their Carol Service both of which were very successful last year.

Mission Action Plan

Quite recently we celebrated our last year of MAPing with a visit from the Bishop. We gave

thanks, in the context of the Eucharist, for all that had been achieved at St Mungo's during the last twelve months and during the ensuing discussions the Bishop gave his full support for the direction in which the church is moving. It was heartening to note that although the planned goals last year had all been accomplished other positive things have happened which were not planned for – which, I believe, shows the creativity and nudging of the Holy Spirit working in our midst. For that I give particular thanks. During the next year Kenny and I will be facilitating the MAP process and we will be bringing together a small MAP group to help us do that. We thank Gill Reynolds for all her facilitation work with us during the last few years.

Pastoral Care

With two parishes to run and two congregations to care for it was clear that Kenny and I would need help to meet the pastoral demands of our communities. Hence we have formed a Pastoral Care Team made up of mainly people from St Augustine's but with Jean Brown and Linda Macaulay licensed by the Bishop to visit folk attached to St Mungo's. With their help we have now visited many who have become housebound over the past few years and caught up with others who have stopped attending for a whole variety of reasons. Pastoral work is a vital part of a community and more can always be done. We would welcome more volunteers to help us with this vital and ongoing ministry.

Personnel

In every organisation the people who take on the roles and responsibilities change as the years go by. However, for us this year, two people, who have given more than their fair share of time, talent and effort, have felt that it is the right time to step down and take more than a well deserved rest. So, our heartfelt thanks go to Gaynor Davies, our retiring Treasurer and to Pauline Dow our retiring Lay Rep, PVG co-ordinator, Gift Aid organiser and 'general person-who-did-so-many-little-but-essential-jobs'. We will need quite a few new volunteers to fill their shoes and the do the jobs they have done for so long! Thank you, Gaynor and Pauline!

Last Word

St Mungo's remains a small but faithful community of faith. Our smallness holds its charms – we know each other well and forgive each other's quirks and idiosyncrasies. But our

smallness also means that we are all asked to give what we can – whether that be in time, effort, ideas, money or plain positivity. We need each other. And we called to affirm our commitment to our church. The present time and the next few years are pivotal for us. We can reach out to others. We can grow. With prayer and support and a ‘can-do’ attitude we can make St Mungo’s a faith-filled presence in Alexandria. But it won’t happen overnight and it won’t happen without all of us working together. Both Kenny and I are committed to St Mungo’s, and Kenny is experienced in giving churches a viable future.

I thank Kenny, personally, for his continual and unfailing encouragement and support during this last year. His quiet calm and unflappability is invaluable to me, as indeed I hope it is for you. I also thank each one of you for the last year as we have begun to get to know each other. I thank you for all you contribute and also your love of the place.

I look forward to another exciting year, with God very much beside us and in front of us. To him be the glory.

Rev Liz O’Ryan

St Mungo's and a Period of Transition

It’s been over two years since I was appointed Rector of St Mungo’s and much has changed during that time. Some people have, sadly, left during this time, but they are still on the Parish Roll unless they specifically tell me they want removed. Andrew has had to give up as organist, and the choir of three has disbanded for now, at least.

At the AGM two of the people who did so much to keep the parish running on a daily basis, Pauline and Gaynor, demitted their posts and responsibilities which they bore valiantly for many years. Circumstances and ill-health are facts of life, and it is with a great deal of gratitude from all of us, that we wish them a quieter life in the pews.

The gap that Andrew has left is a huge one, as organists with Andrew’s sort of commitment are hard to come by. In the New Year, we really need to look at music and how we are going to get around the problem we have. Again we are so grateful for Andrew’s many years of service.

Some tremendous things have happened too, and the formation of the Gardening Project, integrating with the Guides and the Foodbank are steps towards a more community minded and inclusive form of mission and outreach. Our roof, at last, is about to be sorted!

Change is part of life too, and we all need to pray hard at this time that any difficulties can and will be overcome as we march into the future. May I ask you all to pray for the parish and for the Clergy Team as we face this time of great transition, and ask you to attend and support as many services as you can?

God has blessed us for many years, and God will continue to do so if we are faithful, and full of love for each other as well as the stranger!

Kenny

A Seven Day Adventure to the Third World

The Gambia, my annual treat to a place close to my heart. The plane door opens, and suddenly the smell and the noise of Africa hits you full on. My wee heart swells, and I almost feel that I've come home.



However, it's not a holiday, but a week of hard work and bargaining, and the priority is Dumbarton/London Corner Nursery School. It's a time for assessing what work needs to be done with the property, and whether we can afford it, assessing curriculum materials and what needs to be replaced and renewed, and negotiation with the staff over wage rises, and what they need rather than what they want. That can be the most difficult part of all, as I become aware that we are feeding and supplying needs to nine families who make up the staff, and the cost of living is still rising.



The staff deserve recognition, not least for the tremendous leaps and bounds they have made in instilling a spirit of respect and discipline in the school which enables real learning to happen in class hours. They are a very happy team who work well together under the Headship of Sulayman Saidy. Sulayman is a prolific team-builder, motivator and visionary, and we need to pay top rates to keep him. I've lost count of the number of times he has been head-hunted! He is even publishing his own workbooks for the children, and other schools in the area are buying into what he has produced. In fact all of the teachers deliver an education of excellence.

The big excitement was the attainment of our certification from the Government. Many schools have been closed down because they were not meeting the needs of the children, and they are now issuing certificates to those schools which are approved. I was extremely happy that we got one, and a gold star from the Education Inspectors.

The children sang me songs of welcome, and "thank you" songs to all who support us. They really do appreciate the efforts we put in to providing free education, free medicine and of course our feeding programme. Sometimes it is the only nutritious meal they will get in the day. Class One is always shy, because many have never seen a white man before, but by the end of Class Three, the same children are confident and speak English fluently, as well as having a terrific understanding of numeracy.

Negotiations often last three days, but this is Africa, and nothing gets done quickly, or on time!



The children have had a few outings this year, mostly educational, but we give them a chance to romp on the beach, or visit a kind-hearted couple's "English" compound, where they get a chance of trying out a swimming pool. Plenty of waterwings and floats are provided! A big lunch is always provided. Very few schools do this sort of thing.

This year we are going to attempt to follow up on our “graduates” and keep tabs on how they are developing, although it has to be said that the Heads of local Primary Schools are grateful to have Dumbarton pupils. Our groundwork gives them a tremendous start!



The building needs a lot of work done to it, including putting in new drainage, and sorting cracks, together with a new paint job. No, we can't afford all that, but we are hoping for some extra generosity from our supporters, and maybe some fundraising activities. God always seems to provide, somehow! Please remember us!



This year it was a joy to visit St Andrew's Lamin on Sunday and see the progress made on the

extension of their sanctuary. The St Augustine's Dumbarton Banner still hangs proudly in their church building! We sent them money from our Lenten Appeal. They have been offered Mothers' Union land to build a completely new church, but that will depend on their new Bishop, who was, until recently, the Priest-in-Charge of Lamin. (Very Revd Canon James Odiko is now Bishop-Elect). Decisions will be made soon, but don't be surprised if we are asked to help again! The young choir and the Praise and Adoration are just out of this world! It's a joy to visit, although services can last for three hours!

My other great love is the Football Team I helped to get going twelve years ago in the village of Brufut. Dumbarton FC helped us in the early days with some old jerseys and shorts, and the team in The Gambia call themselves Dumbarton FC. They have even won a couple of trophies in Dumbarton colours. This year, Haldane United gave me a full set of new kit for them, and they were overjoyed to get it. In fact, Haldane United have been very generous, and I have lots more really good stuff which I will send out as soon as I can afford to ship it! They are proud of their link with Dumbarton, and I am proud of them and all they have achieved with youth through the years, turning little boys into respected men.

Soon it was time for the tearful farewells, and "Fadda Kenny" had to head home for the



beginning of Advent! Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes in any small way to make all this happen? Without you, little pockets of The Gambia would be sadder places.

Kenny

Cordale Works & Works Bell

The Cordale Works was less than a mile from St Mungo's Church, just one of the many textile printworks along the river Leven from Balloch to Renton.

The photo opposite shows its location on the river with hardly a trace to be seen of the Works today. The picture below that is how the Works looked in 1936. All the Works up and down the river had many building crammed into every space available. Works were very protective of their boundary, not allowing anyone in to see their processes. In fact there are very few pictures showing machinery in any of the works with chemical recipes kept secret and only known to one or two employees.

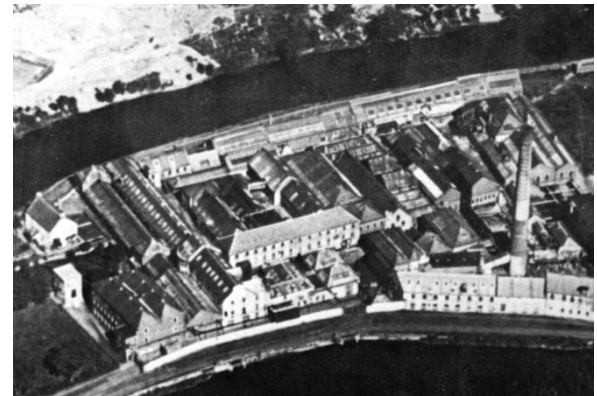
Cordale Works was opened by William Stirling & Sons in 1770. It was a calico printing works and craftsmen hand-cut patterns in wood, which were repeatedly hand-printed on cloth, changing colours as required. As print methods developed, wood blocks were replaced with copper plates which could be placed on cylinders, speeding up the whole printing process. Some 70 odd years later, in 1846 Cordale had a 5-colour machine at the forefront of technology at that time.

In 1878 Alexander Wylie became the proprietor of the works. This is when the history of the present Cordale Bell starts. It was cast in solid bronze in a local foundry and erected in 1888 as the Works Bell. The Bell was sounded to let workers know it was time to get to the gate and sounded at end of work. To distinguish one works bell from another they were tuned to a specific sound or note.

Cordale Works changed hands again and became part of the UTR combine in 1897 and eventually closed in 1949 with orders transferred to Alexandria Works. There is little now to be seen



of the works, except the odd brick from the profusion of buildings that were on the site.



A section of the bell shows the date it was removed from Cordale, struck on the bell. St. Mungo's was given the bell in the early 1950's and it was kept in the church building and rung on occasions, such as Christmas and the New Year. In 2002 the incumbent priest asked the vestry if the bell could be found a new home and it was decided to loan it to the newly built Loch Lomond Shores as a heritage attraction. It was kept there until 2014 when the vestry asked for it back as it was looking the worse for ware. L.L.Shores had the bell refurbished to its original condition by Smith Engineering and the vestry decided to offer the bell to West Dunbartonshire Council's



Education Department for it to be housed in one of the new schools they are to build in the Renton. The bell is now stored and will be relocated to a local School where future generations of children will learn of its heritage in the Vale of Leven.

Jim Biddulph

Nathan James Milby was baptised with great joy on December 6th!



Eryne and Connor donated a hamper for Food for Thought that their family had won in a raffle! They wanted to give it to people who had nothing this Christmas! It is little acts of love like this which gives us all heart as we approach a Christmas of chaos!



The 2015 Advent Group have met faithfully for almost six weeks and have had great fun discussing the book 'Soul Seeking' by John Ortberg. We have discussed the state of our souls, the practice of gratitude, grace, and will finish next week with the practice of growth. The talk has been lively and thought provoking - the company absolutely excellent! Roll on next Advent!!



There was a wonderful evening of praise and joy as the choirs from St Patrick's, West Kirk, Riverside, the Baptist church and All Sorts came together for an Advent Evening on Sunday 6th December. What a happy evening!



Woolly Hat Sunday. Quality control!



Acoustic Night
AGM and friends entertained us brilliantly whilst also raising £260 for church funds. Thanks also to Friends for feeding us with delicious burgers and hot dogs!



African Night: Fabulous music, dancing and food – all African style, and £130 raised for funds!



Plaque and flowers presented at the service to remember those who have died from addiction. The plaque will be displayed in the hall.



St Aug's plays host to five Primary Schools on their annual St Andrew's pilgrimage





*Love and Best Wishes
for Christmas
and New Year
Love
Betty Gordon*



Caroline wishes all who
help and support Food
For Thought a very
peaceful Christmas. God
bless you.



*Happy Christmas and
Best Wishes
for 2016!
from
Val and Billy Nicol*



Faye and Fran wish all their friends at
St Augustine's and St Mungo's Peace
and Joy at Christmas.



Warm wishes to all
my St Augustine's
friends for a blessed
Christmas and a good
New Year.
Love and hugs,
Catriona xxx

*To my family in Christ in St
Mungo's, Happy Christmas! Jean B*



Thank you to
Dumbarton
United Football
Club who
brought a huge
donation of
food to our hall
at their
committee
meeting on
Sunday
evening.

Thanks also to
Anne-Marie for giving us a donation from sales of
her beautiful jewellery....

To the people who drove over from Erskine with
what seems like a truck-load of toys

And to the many people who come in regularly
with small donations throughout the year and help
to keep us going.

You are all appreciated so much for all you're
doing!



Thanks go to Andrew Baxter who oversaw and
made possible the installation of etchings on
the glass windows and door of the Lady Chapel
in St Mungo's. The drawings all relate to the
life of our patron saint - the fish, the bird, the
bell and the tree. There is also a drawing of St
Mungo's Cathedral in Glasgow. Our thanks
also go to Jim Murdoch for giving us the
drawings on which the etchings are based!

Bishop's Christmas Message 2015

At times it is hard to think that the world we live in is anything other than very dark. All around us are threats to life – climate change, terrorism, civil wars, genocidal campaigns, corruption, failed and failing states, appalling abuse, not least of women and children – the list is endless, the litany of disaster and horror very, very long. Fear is rampant in our society, fear for the future, fear for our security, fear of the other, not least of refugees and migrants. It would not be too difficult to conclude that the darkness has indeed overcome any light there is or is well set to do so. The world seems very far away from heaven and from God's light and love.

And then Christmas comes again to remind us that it is not so and that we lay our lives and our living on the trust that it is not so. Listen to the words of our Eucharistic liturgy, first for Advent and then for Christmas: *In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you.* If we are sincere in our worship and in our participation in the Liturgy we cannot really believe that the world is *very far away from heaven and from God's light and love.* Why? Because the God of light and love chooses to dwell in it, to love it into glorious life from within, beginning with this infant whose birth we celebrate with great joy each and every year of our lives and going on with all his people right up to us and beyond us for as long as time endures.

It is, of course, easy to mock this belief as naïve – as great a writer as Thomas Hardy, in a poem called *Christmas 1924* could say:

*'Peace upon earth!' was said. We sing it,
And pay a million priests to bring it.
After two thousand years of mass
We've got as far as poison-gas.*

And we've got rather beyond poison gas in 2015, nearly a hundred years on. But is this really the vision we want to lay our lives and our living upon, a vision of despair and utter bleakness? We're not going to deny that there is truth in it, of course not, but we are going to affirm that the liturgy has the words of a greater truth, the light and love by which to live, the light to find God at work in the world and the love to join God there in the midst, in the flesh, helping God to love us and the world into glorious life for now and all eternity.

May I wish you all a wonderful celebration of the infant light of the world, a light the darkness can never extinguish, a light to live by however dark things seem, or as another part of our liturgy, Evening Prayer, has it: *the only unfading light, glorious in all eternity.*



+Gregor

SOULS OF OUR SHOES EXHIBITION



During the last week in November St Augustine's hosted an exhibition of about 100 shoes all taken from individuals who had been victims of domestic abuse. Next to every pair of shoes were words of comment from the owner of the shoes. The effect as you walked round was profound and very moving. Even in these short statements you could hear the pain and the suffering that had been experienced and borne over the months and even years... but sometimes the comments spoke of hope.... hope for a different way, a different way of living, free of fear and abuse.

According To Scotland Yard's figures there is a rape, beating or stabbing inflicted in a home every six seconds. A woman is killed every three days in a domestic attack and that on average a woman will wait until the 35th beating before calling the police. Changing this reality and the attitudes which lead to this abuse is a challenge to us all. Dumbarton District Women's Aid provides support and safe refuge for such women. If needed call: 01389 751036





'Wait Till I Tell You....'



Janette takes a break from the festive madness to remember events in November before moving on to what is about to happen..... in the bleak midwinter!

NOVEMBER FRIENDS' EVENTS KEEP THE BANK BALANCE UP.

How do we turn an Acoustic Night on 21st November into a Friends' event? That was the question faced by the Friends' exec. when planning their winter programme. Well, several ideas were brain stormed before deciding on a 6pm start, serving food, seating at tables with the ubiquitous red check table covers and some candles for ambience. Saturday night events are difficult in November with the dreich and gloomy weather making 'Strictly' seem a much more attractive option. But, around £264 later, we were glad we had made the effort to come out and Alistair and his carefully chosen fellow performers ensured that we had a great night's entertainment. The music was for all tastes with 'The Wee Kirkcudbright Centipede' appearing for the more culturally aware. The burgers were a sell-out and the worshippers at the 9am Eucharist must also have enjoyed the delicious smell of onions!

The very next Saturday, still in the dreaded 'no' month, we were out socializing again. The Community Hall provided a more intimate atmosphere for 'Out of Africa' where many very colourful costumes could be seen in St. Mary's Way. At the buffet there was not a burger or a pensioner's fish tea in sight – only a variety of chicken and rice dishes. We had a smaller number at his event but those who came from 'Out of their Houses' enthused about their African experience. The drummer could be heard by those who normally rely on hearing aids and even those as far away as the Castle, but no one complained about 'therr heids bein' nippin'. Shadrach's son, Godfrey – all grown up and with a girlfriend – gave us some rapping and poetry. And there were several who purchased Christmas presents from Fran's bumper bazaar and avoided the Poundland crowds in the High Street. Over £100 was raised and we all got home early enough to catch 'Strictly' on call back!

IF WE IGNORE THEM WILL THEY GO AWAY?

Who knows? But those winter storms blowing in from the Atlantic now appear to be given a welcome by the meteorologists with each one being humanized with its own special name. First we had Abigail who flattened my garden bench and then Barney who displaced a few roof tiles. Clodagh was stopped in her tracks in Ireland to be followed by Desmond who managed to close the Cardross Road on the first night of the Panto to say nothing of wreaking havoc in Cumbria and the Borders. And like some longed for first child, their names are on a list – just waiting for their arrival – we're expecting Eva soon! Whoopee! She could have great fun with the Christmas lighting displays if she gets here before Twelfth Night! As long as she doesn't blow down my Sky dish.....now that's serious!

BEHOLD THERE CAME WISE MEN FROM THE EAST.....

Now that's easy for St. Matthew to say – he did not have the problem of the Forth Bridge closure and the resultant traffic chaos in the East! A spokesman for Transport Scotland has issued a statement saying he is aware that the three wise men are following a star of wonder - even a star of light - but there is no way they can take their camels in the priority lane or even tether them in the park and ride. So will Epiphany be a little late this year? Perhaps the seasonal trio will simply resort to online shopping and have their gold, frankincense and myrrh delivered from Amazon like everyone else!

MARGARET H AND THE GREAT TICKET QUEST.

It was Tuesday 1st December, a day that had long been an item in the diaries of the Friends' exec. What earth-shattering event was scheduled for this wet and windy Dumbarton morning? Well, on this day the lines would be opened to allow punters from all over the globe to book Edinburgh Festival Tattoo tickets and our Friends' members were longing for a wee night out to the famous venue. So, in the back room, our triumvirate embarked on their task – I had the Church phone and Linda had the laptop while Margaret H organised the credit card. Linda quickly discovered that she was 2167th in the queue to get onto the sacred website where she would be allowed ten minutes to input the St. Aug's requirements. The phone redial button along with

my finger was almost worn away. We were encouraged at regular intervals by the Hall cleaning volunteers, Barbara, Roberta and Linda Jenkinson, who anxiously monitored our progress. Then Margaret H, getting just that little bit frustrated, picked up her mobile phone. Eureka! She heard ring tone followed by the voice of a 'nice wee wumman' who asked for our requirements and 50 tickets were granted. Terrified of being cut off due to the poor mobile signal in the Hall, we completed the transaction on the decking! Prior to this, Linda had made contact with the website where all sorts of difficulties awaited – well, you know what computers are like! We could now delete all! Then, flushed with success, we booked our favourite coach company. This had been a good day. A poster and list for names will be available on 24th January at our famous Scottish Evening and the outing can be paid up. Oh, we've booked excellent seats for the 12th August and you've got months to save up. Next week we'll order the Fish Suppers.....!

CAROLS SINGING REVISITED.

*The first no well the punter did say
Was a call to the doctor – the usual delay
Awaiting the Doc – he wis late tae arrive
And the Chemist wis queued up till well after five!*

*No well, No well, No well is hell
Send me to Paisley or even the Vale!*

*They booked him up for an op. and a scan
But they've cancelled it twice so he jist cannae
plan
We've a great wee NHS – and to keep it we'll fight
If only they'd get all their waiting lists right!*

No well, No Well etc.

*Then let us all with one accord
Say we want to be cured in a bed in a ward
But the answer is the same and it's got to be
wrong
That the fundin's no' there and we're living too
long!*

No well, No well etc.

WATCH THAT BODY LANGUAGE!

After a stunning shot that brought the Davis Cup to the UK, Andy collapsed in an emotional heap before jumping up, hair all over the place, to

celebrate his victory – or was it simply relief! At the parliamentary debate over air strikes on Syria, when Hillary finished his barnstorming speech, Jeremy appeared stunned and almost reluctant to share his space on the front bench with him. Yes, body language during dramatic moments reveals so much – and the picture is worth a thousand words!

CREATIVITY AT THE NATIVITY

Sandra (TBag) O'Neill is a busy wumman these days, planning the Sunday School Nativity offering for the Carol Service on the 20th. A large sheet keeps prying eyes from the children's efforts and she claims she's running out of rehearsal time! What are we getting? Handel's Messiah? But, it'll be alright on the night! I remember a Nativity Play in the Church in the early '60s. Morag Hepburn was up in the pulpit 'gie'n it laldy' in verse while I mimed Mary's traumatic journey to Bethlehem on the arm of Ian Matheson who was Joseph. We were met at the chancel steps by Maggie as the Innkeeper's Wife who, along with her husband, was gesticulating wildly that their premises were fully booked. But the whole moment ended in stifled hilarity when the Innkeeper whispered mischievously in my ear 'You 'se ur getting' nae merr drink here and get that donkey aff ma front steps!' Fortunately we had our backs to the audience so reverence was restored with a carol!

THE STAR O'RABBIE BURNS

On Sunday, 24th January at 6pm, the eve of the Bard's birthday, Friends are organising a Scottish evening of good food and entertainment by AGM (Alistair, Gina and Michael) plus a few weel kent faces from the congregation. It will begin with a meal of soup, steak pie and trifle served with associated drinks and end in the usual patriotic manner – on high ground for 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns' and 'Flower of Scotland'. The fully inclusive cost is £8 (£7 with Friends' discount) and a list will be posted soon in the Community Hall. So, for an excellent night out in the bleak midwinter - make sure your name is on it.

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE!

Yeah, yeah, yeah! All tastes are catered for at St. Aug's and Anne Dyer is leading the Friends' exec in a big fund raiser on Friday 26th February. The Church will be converted into the best cavern outside Liverpool and everyone will be encouraged to come along dressed as a fugitive from Britain's greatest pop era. You must have

something in the wardrobe, Roberta! At this moment in time plans are at an early stage but watch out for posters and please, please, pleasebuy a ticket!

A WEE POEM TO END WITH.

*The winter's came, the snow hus fell
Wee Josie's nose is froze as well
Wee Josie's nose is froze an' skintit
Winter's diabolic intit!*

BACK FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Sounds as though we're all hibernating – but there's lots to look forward to in the New Year – and it's a Leap Year so go get him, girls! Keep up to date with 'By the Way Together' and remember that Friends make things happen!

Janette

CHRISTMAS SMILE LINES!

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said, very seriously, "No, T-shirts don't rattle."

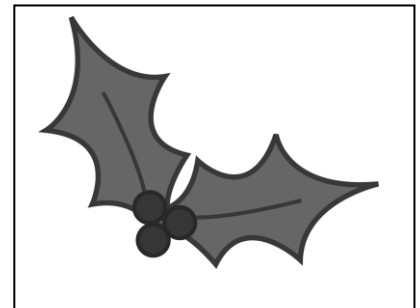
.....
I remember when Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer, and pulled up in front of the toy factory. 'Have you passed?' I asked.
Father Christmas pointed to the front of the sleigh. 'See for yourself!' he called proudly. 'No-el plates!'

.....
Dear Father Christmas, this Christmas could you please send me a yellow door. Yours, Sherlock Holmes
Watson: So why do you want a yellow door Holmes?
Holmes: Lemon-entry, my dear Watson.

.....
A football supporter's favourite Christmas song?
'Yule never walk alone'.

.....
Steve: What's your father getting for Christmas?
Dave: Overweight...

.....
Joe: Did you get many Christmas presents?
Jack: I sure did. A lot more than my four brothers.
Joe: Why was that?
Jack: On Christmas morning I got up two hours before them.



Carols misheard by children:

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
We three kings of porridge and tar
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me

.....
There was once a great Czar in Russia named Rudolph the Red. He stood looking out the windows of his palace one day while his wife, the Czarina Katerina, sat nearby knitting. He turned to her and said, "Look my dear, it has begun to rain!" Without even looking up from her knitting she replied, "It's too cold to rain. It must be sleeting." The Czar shook his head and said, "I am the Czar of all the Russias, and Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"

.....
A Higgs Boson particle barged into the Vatican at Midnight on Christmas Eve. The Pope was in the middle of his sermon, and annoyed. He looked up from his notes and said: 'You can't burst in here like that.' Higgs Boson retorted: "Oh yes I can, you know you can't have mass without me!"

Farewell from Uncle Eustace

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

And so, at the beginning of the New Year, you finally go to your own first parish and I am to move to a home for retired clergy. Let me give you some final words of advice.

Curates, you will have noticed, are forgiven everything. I hope you have appreciated this period of grace, because come 1st January, all that will change. You will then become responsible for everything that goes wrong in your church. You must be able to mend leaking taps, arrange flowers, mow the churchyard and run jumble sales. You will be expected to know the moment someone falls ill – preferably the day before. In addition, they will expect you to preach profound sermons - in seven minutes flat, and to lead a life of prayerful solitude while being the life and soul of the parish. From the day your predecessor left, he will have turned into a saint. You will be their new disappointment. Be assured that whatever you do, you will always disappoint someone.

Be prepared for phonecalls at 3am telling you that someone has left a light on in church, and shouldn't you go turn it off. You will be asked about car parking arrangements for the October Harvest Service by mid-January, while hymns for the 9 Lessons and Carols will be required by early summer. I suggest you buy in extra pullovers, overcoats and scarves for life in your vicarage. A good number of mousetraps may well come in useful too.

Welcome to your new life of an incumbent.

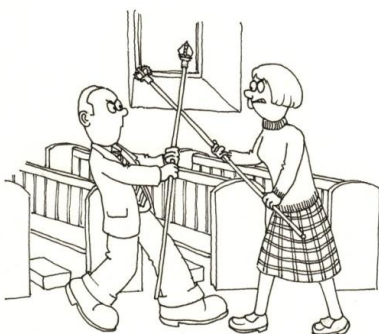
I, on the other hand, greatly relish the thought of no longer having the care of parishioners. Instead, I shall become one myself – and am already planning my revenge. In fact, this afternoon, inspired by a large glass of sherry, I have begun a list of things I can complain about. The church is too cold, I don't know any of the hymns, the vicar can't preach, he never visits, and things are not as good as they used to be. True, I haven't actually chosen my new church yet, but no matter, I will complain when I get there.

Of course, I will not be in church on Sunday mornings if it is raining, or on Sunday evenings if something good is on the television. Most of all, I look forward to sitting as far back in church as is possible, and starting a campaign to stop 'passing the peace'.

My new life as a parishioner will be richly rewarding. 50 years after ordination, I can hardly wait.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



In a tradition dating back to 1977, the churchwardens re-enacted "Star Wars"



...you will, of course, need a pair of these if you want the full 'Lord's Prayer experience'...

ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Chalice Bearer for every Sunday is Tom M

Sunday Dec 13th

Reader/Intercessions Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday Dec 20th

Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Thursday Christmas Eve 8pm

Reader/Intercessions TBA
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday 27th Dec

Reader/Intercessions Pat Brooks
Sidesperson Tom and Ian Marshall

Sunday 3rd Jan Epiphany

Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday 10th Jan

Reader/Intercessions Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday 17th Jan

Reader/Intercessions Pat Brooks
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday 24th Jan

Reader/Intercessions Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson

Sunday 31st Jan

Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday 7th Feb

Reader/Intercessions Pat Brooks
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

CLEANING

13th Dec/ 17th Jan: Jean
20th Dec/ 24th Jan: Eveline
27th Dec / 31st Jan: Finella
3rd Jan / 7th Feb: Iona and Mary
10th Jan: Margaret

ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sunday December 13th

Readers Sharon & David Rowatt
Intercessions Linda Macaulay
Chalice Fran Walker & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons David Ansell & Maggie Wallace

Sunday December 20th

Readers Ghislaine K & Kirstin Wiggins
Intercessions Fran Walker
Chalice Janette Barnes & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Linda Jenkinson & Lyndsey S

Thursday December 24th 11pm

Eucharist of the Nativity

Readers Linda Macaulay & Janette Barnes
Chalice Margaret Hardie & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Roberta M & Chrissie Ashman
Flowers Maggie Wallace & Moira McGown

Sunday December 27th

Readers Barbara Barnes & Morag O'Neill
Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice David Rowatt & Fran Walker
Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Linda Jenkinson

Sunday Jan 3rd

Readers Evelyn O'Neill & Margaret Hardie
Intercessions Maggie Wallace
Chalice Janette Barnes & Sharon Rowatt
Sidespersons David Ansell & Lyndsey Spencer
Flowers Linda Macaulay

Sunday Jan 10th

Readers Janette Barnes & Fran Walker
Intercessions Margaret Hardie
Chalice Barbara Barnes & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Linda Jenkinson
Flowers Margaret Hardie

Sunday Jan 17th

Readers Maggie Wallace & David Ansell
Intercessions David Rowatt
Chalice Margaret Hardie & Fran Walker
Sidespersons Roberta Mailley & Chrissie Ashman
Flowers Barbara Barnes

Sunday Jan 24th

Readers Ghislaine K & Evelyn O'Neill
Intercessions Fran Walker
Chalice Janette Barnes & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Linda Jenkinson & David Ansell
Flowers Fran Walker

Sunday Jan 31st

Readers Morag O'Neill & Linda Macaulay
Intercessions David Rowatt
Chalice Sharon Rowatt & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons Maggie W & Lyndsey Spencer
Flowers Maggie Wallace

Sunday Feb 7th

Readers Barbara Barnes & Kirstin Wiggins
Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice Fran Walker & Margaret Hardie
Sidespersons Roberta M & Chrissie Ashman
Flowers Linda Macaulay

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Margaret Curry 01389 754916

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Gift Aid: Lynne Harvey

Flowers:

Hall Lets: Pat Brooks
01389 759397

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barbara78barnes@gmail.com 01389 755984

Friends of St Augustine's: Linda Macaulay
lindaymac@sky.com 01389 513365

Music Art Drama (MAD): Fran Walker

Mission Action Planning Group:
The Rector; Anne Dyer; Morag O'Neill; Fran Walker
Liam McLarnon; Gavin Elder; Caroline Marsland

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie



Pat and John Brooks
would like to wish family
and friends
a very Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy
New Year xxx

Merry
Christmas and
a Peaceful and
Happy New
Year
to everyone!
Love from Evelyn and Morag



Merry Christmas
to all in St Aug's
from
Yvonne and
Kenny
McAlpine
and the mutts! xx

To All at St
Augustine's
Janette says
"Wait till I
Tell You all
to have a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year."



Merry Christmas
and
Best Wishes
for the New Year!

Tam and Linda
Jenkinson



Best Wishes for a blessed Christmas
Love
Maggie Wallace



David and Sharon
wish everyone
a very merry
Christmas
and a
happy New
Year! xx

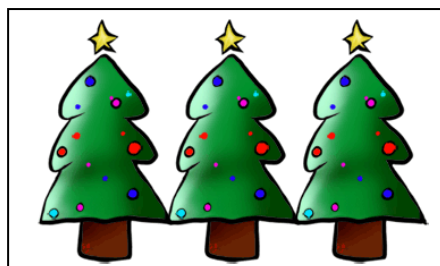


Golden Girls
Wishing everyone
in St Augustine's
a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

Cathy
Hoatson
Wishing everyone
a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



Very best wishes for Christmas and
New Year
to all my
friends



Love
Barbara x