

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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ABRACADABRA!!!



NOW YOU SEE IT.....



NOW YOU DON'T....!!

Read more on page 10

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**YOU'LL BE
MISSED!**

**GOODBYE
AND
THANKS,
TIM &
MARGOT**



Dear friends,
Margot and I wish to thank you all for the wonderful send off which you gave us on our last Sunday: the card, the cake, the champagne and also the gift of money - which we are using for a break in Carnoustie next week to help us recover from the upheaval of moving after 40 years in the same house. Thank you also for the good wishes and friendship over many years. St Augustine's is a wonderful church which is due to the people as well as the clergy and we hope and pray that the church will flourish in the future and attract more people. We will keep in touch and return from time to time. With love and best wishes,
Tim and Margot



From Kenny.....

I took a funeral yesterday for a family who are very much together and who support each other



enormously, but that is not always the case. I have officiated at many funerals where there has been bad feeling, and division. A red rose thrown on a coffin lid in the ground tries to say sorry, but it's too late.

Divided families seem to be a sign of our times, for many different reasons. There is difference of opinion and families are torn apart. There is no forgiveness or reconciliation, and the family falls into different factions that never speak again.

It is the same in the world within nations. There are great divisions within and between nations, and differences of opinion, and there is no great attempt at reconciliation, forgiveness or understanding between factions. Communication between different groups is non-existent, and the roads quite literally run with blood as a result.

And in the middle of all this is the Christ who calls for peace and reconciliation, within families, within nations and within the Church itself. There is too much division, and as Jesus says, in Mark's Gospel, (3:24-26), "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

It seems almost as we read our newspapers, listen to the news or pick up our iPads, that the whole world is in turmoil. Christian and Muslim leaders the world over will plead for peace, however, we see that bloodshed reigns; refugees flee from disaster and death, and die in the attempt to get away, simply because a house divided against itself cannot stand.

At times like this, people of reason look to the Church for guidance, for words of reconciliation, for a prophetic voice, and Pope Francis is certainly up for that, as are some other quality Church Leaders.

However, when the world looks to the Church, what does it see? It sees a body of people who are themselves divided. Divided into denominations, and divided within denominations, and sometimes within congregations or linked parishes.

In a world of division there is a great need for the Church to be visibly showing an alternative.

What they find is a Church arguing about whether women can become bishops and who goes to bed with whom. The Church itself is divided, and no wonder numbers are falling and the Churches are losing credibility. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

So in the Church itself, there needs to be understanding, communication, reconciliation, and forgiveness. It is little wonder that we are in decline. Christians maybe need to get their act together and start preaching and living a Gospel of peace, love, and reconciliation.

The Christ stands among us and still proclaims, **weeping** as he proclaims, "a house divided against itself cannot stand!"

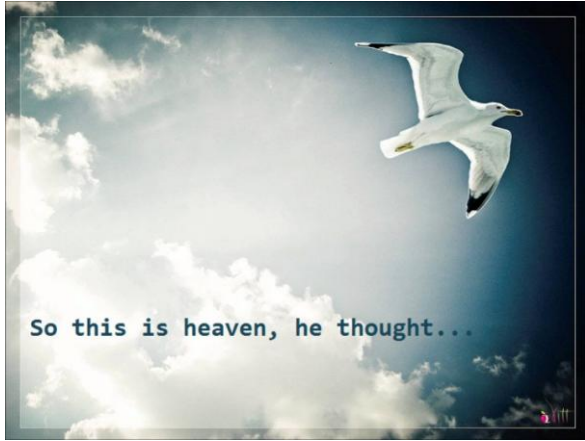
Sure, at parish level, the same nonsense goes on and numbers can dwindle as a result. The kitchen has been invaded by crumbs which are not our own, or something is said in anger, and the parish is divided, mutterings and whispers spring up in all corners..... and Jesus weeps.

Have they not heard me tell them to love one another, as I love them? But that's another parish surely? It is not ours.

We are part of a family who encourage, reconcile, forgive, and refuse to whisper in corners.

So we have no real need to listen to the words of Jesus, a house divided against itself cannot stand, or even the words about love and reconciliation. We ken them fine already.

Kenny



Jonathan Livingston Seagull

by Richard Bach

The June meeting of the book club looked at 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull', the story of a seagull who wanted to learn to fly better, faster and smarter than any other seagull that had ever lived. He refused to be constrained by the stereotypes that seagulls only learn to fly enough to be able to reach food and constantly wanted to improve his abilities. Jonathan gets taken away to another realm where

he learns more and more about flight and about passing on his knowledge to others, till he goes back to his original place of birth to teach some other seagulls about flight.

On the surface this book can be taken as simply a gentle read about a bird who learns about flight and freedom. However, when you sit down and think about it, there are so many other messages and points to be considered within the story. The book club spent ages talking about Jonathan trying to better himself, his willingness to help others to learn, the fact that he was cast out from the flock for being different, and how some of the points raised through it can be applied to humans and their willingness to learn and help others.

This was a good read, which has something for everyone.

The book club meets again after the summer, on **Tuesday 1st September at 7.30 pm**. We're going to read "Oh Dear Silvia" by Dawn French. Anyone who wants to come along is welcome to join us and put forward suggestions for future reading.

Way ahead

People aren't really so smart. The turtle had a streamlined body for travel, a hard top, retractable landing gear and a mobile home for thousands of years before we did.

From a church news-sheet:

The vicar is away on holiday for two weeks. Massages can be given to the curate.

From a school essay

'...and when the marauders landed on the coast, the villagers would run to the top of the hill and set fire to the deacon...'

Alistair Brown

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COMMUNITY AUTUMN FAIR!

29th AUGUST

10am – 2pm

St Augustine's Hall and Church



OOOOOOH – ARGGGGH!
PIRATES OF
ST AUGUST-EANS RULE!

*Followed by a
“Musical Blast” Evening
7pm
St Augustine's Church*



**FRIDAY
SOUPS !!!!**

STARTS AGAIN:

**FRIDAY
7th AUGUST
12PM**

*Best soup in
town!*

‘BY THE WAY TOGETHER’ MAGAZINE

Would you like to receive your
monthly magazine by email?

It would save a few trees
and be cheaper for us!

If the answer is yes, call into the
office and let us know.

HAVE A SCONE AT SCONE! AUGUST 15TH

Friends of St Augustine's invite you
to join them in a fabulous day out
at Scone Palace, Perthshire!

Tour the palace,
explore over 100 acres of grounds
and get lost in the maze!

**PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST IN
THE HALL FOR A GREAT SUMMER
OUTING
Cost £29**



Yorkhill Children's Hospital and Meningitis Research Foundation

Please support these charities by coming along to

Gartocharn Millenium Hall

**Friday 7th August
10am to 12.30pm**

I am having a 'Lucky Dip' stall to celebrate the 30th
birthday of my grandson Neil, who spent his first
few weeks of life in the care of Yorkhill, having
been diagnosed with meningitis at 13 days old.

For those who have not been to one of the regular
coffee and craft mornings, there are lots of stalls,
tea, coffee and delicious baking as well as good
company, familiar faces and great chat.

Hope to see you there
Pauline



As a family we have just returned from a fabulous week's holiday based around Stratford-Upon-Avon. We stayed in a lodge and we had seven enjoyable activity-packed days together (no rest and

relaxation for my teenagers!). We had lunch with different branches of the family, walked round the sights in Oxford, visited Sudely castle (where Queen Catherine Parr is buried), got nibbled by a curious zebra at West Midland Safari Park, and punted in the River Cherwell (miraculously without falling in). It really was a great week!

But, for me, the time spent in this particular corner of England has a much greater meaning. The area is where I grew up and spent my first eighteen years – and I wanted to share this part of my life with the children (before - in the fullness of time - they leave home for good). During this walk down memory lane we visited All Saints church in Sutton Courtenay where I was a choir girl, where I was confirmed and where I sat through many a sermon (often about St Paul I seem to recall!)... We visited All Saints church in Birmingham where Phil and I got married... We then went to see St James the Less church in Solihull where all three of the children were baptised and where the parish priest first gave voice to my fragile sense of a call to the priesthood... and then we visited St Mary Mags in Oxford where I was influenced by the example and leadership of Richard Holloway – in the days before he was made Bishop of Edinburgh. It was truly a week of remembering; a week of many smiles and thanksgiving as I relived and revisited those places and people that have helped make up my journey of faith - so far.

I think it is so important to be aware of our own unique story of faith. It is important to look back and pinpoint where we have specifically seen God at work in our lives... to recognise and acknowledge the events, people and places that have made significant contributions to that journey. As I went through my discernment for priesthood I was asked, again and again, to look back over my life and place on a time-line the events and people through which God had prodded, pushed and guided me. I was amazed

that every time I did this exercise I found more and more significant moments at which I could wonder at the grace and guidance of God. If you have never tried such an exercise I can heartily recommend it – I guarantee it'll give you some surprises! And whilst we remember as individuals – we also have the capacity to remember as a community. At every Jewish Passover celebration families retell the story of the Exodus and of their ancestors' escape from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. Every Sunday our Christian worship centres round the active remembering of the sharing of the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples. Remembering is such a vital part of our faith.

Our God is a God who is faithful. Our God is a God who does not forget. This theme occurs time and time again throughout the Old Testament – and brings to my mind the words of a favourite hymn I used to sing at the Catholic Primary School where I trained – a hymn which quotes from the prophet Isaiah:

*I will never forget you my people,
I have carved you on the palm of My hand,
I will never forget you,
I will not leave you orphaned,
I will never forget my own...*

Remembering is such an important part of our family and our personal lives – as the years go past we remember birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, National and Historical anniversaries etc.... and we enjoy the celebrations and the feelings of love that those acts of remembering fosters in us. How much more should we also do this consciously in our life of faith... so that we can rightfully direct that feeling of love and thanksgiving to our faithful and loving God.

*With love,
Liz*





UP THE BIG ROCK!

I bet there were huge sighs of relief when teachers and helpers for the Dumbarton Churches Together day realised that for once it wasn't going to rain and even better.... it was going to be sunny for the morning of June 9th. Early in the morning 220 children descended like a swarm on Dumbarton castle and set off in groups to explore its history. Accompanied by adults, the children swarmed up the steps leaving behind the flagging (and more unfit!) adults. A fabulous morning ensued. The children ooh-ed over the gunpowder barrels.... ahhhh-ed over the wonderful views... and tried their hardest to knock chips off the example of volcanic rock left for that precise purpose. The morning finished with speeches from the Provost of Dumbarton, and a prayerful sing and time of prayer. Beats doing Maths and English in the classroom any day!!!

Bill Heaney

SMILE LINES

The student was writing to the head of the mission in England who had founded his local school in the African bush. He wanted to end with a blessing, 'May heaven preserve you.' Not being quite confident of his English, he looked up the word 'preserve'. When the letter reached the head of the mission, it ended with the words: "And may Heaven pickle you."

oo00oo

Three ministers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one minister.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry," he blurted out, "but the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole."

oo00oo

What is the best and most infallible way to reduce your waistline? Just move your head slowly from right to left when asked to have a second helping.

oo00oo

During a recent gathering of local faith leaders, the church caught fire.

The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed.

The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?"

The Anglicans formed a procession and marched out.

The Quakers silently praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.

The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damage.

The Jews posted symbols on the door hoping the fire would pass over.

The Congregationalists shouted, "Every man for himself!"

The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"

The Charismatics praised God for another falling of the Holy Spirit.

The Christian Scientists concluded that, actually, there was no fire.

The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

oo00oo

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.



WELL DONE, CHILDREN!

At the end of yet another school year, Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School organized a successful graduation and prize giving ceremony, held on Saturday, 6th June 2015.



As is the tradition in The Gambia, this gathering opened with prayer, with Mr. Kemo Jawara leading the Muslim prayers and Pastor Bundor of the Antioch Network Incorporated Church of The Gambia leading the Christians prayers. The prayers were preceded by the national anthem, the school song "Awake, awake, children of Dumbarton Nursery School, awake!" and a welcome song sung by the outgoing class.

As the Headmaster of the school I gave a brief history of the school and the activities it provides for the children, such as three free years of nursery education, the provision of a balanced nutritious diet and recreational facilities and teaching and learning materials- all at no cost to the parents. I also spoke about the need for parents to work hand in glove with the staff for the welfare of all the children emphasising the need for the children to be punctual, regular and neatly dressed during school days.



The graduation ceremony was punctuated by rhymes, poems and phonics letter sounds, actions and songs led by the pupils themselves. The graduating class, which is Nursery Three did a wonderful presentation on "my first alphabet", naming 10 parts of the body, naming 10 fruits, counting in 2's, 5's and 10's to 100, a rhyme, poem and a theme song called "Duties of Children" - all amidst clapping and laughing.

Furthermore, Omar and Maimuna Jallow presented an oral composition entitled "Myself", Haddy Mboge and Omar Jallow named 10 domestic and wild animals, and Salif Khan, Binta Fanneh and Fatoumatta A. Senghore recited the multiplication

tables 1, 2, and 3.

Three prizes were awarded to these deserving students:

For being the most punctual child: Binta Touray,

For being the most neatest and cleanest student: Awa Samura

For being the most disciplined student: Yassin Cham.

In conclusion, certificates were awarded to all the graduating class who successfully completed three years of nursery education. Surprise gifts/presents were given to staff members for their dedication and commitment towards the care and development of the pupils in the school.

The closing song entitled "Thank you for coming to our graduation" was done by the choir group. Finally, on behalf of the staff and children I thanked the parents who give of their time to help the cooks in the preparation of snacks and food, to Helen Touray for her motivation, the staff for their determination and to Dumbarton Gambia Education Association (D.G.E.A) for sponsoring the whole programme.

I thanked all those who supported the school in one way or the other, directly or indirectly, in cash or in kind for their generosity and kind words that keep inspiring us at all times.



*Sulaymain Saidy, Headmaster,
Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School*



NEW JOB.... BUT A WELL-KENT FACE!

It all began almost 14 years ago when, as the new Rector of St Augustine's, Fr Kenny and others began to respond in practical ways to those who came through the doors of our church and hall desperately looking for help. Today, (14 years later and sadly due to austerity measures), our 'Food For Thought' initiative and food bank has grown enormously.

We now have a mini-Asda look-alike upstairs in church, and have built up vital connections throughout the larger community which ensures that we reach the neediest people in Dumbarton and the Vale. Between January and July we fed over 400 folk, single people and families, and have given clothes and furniture to many, many others. However, we don't just give, we provide support too! It's not all about giving free Christmas Dinners and masses of Easter Eggs!

During the last two years, Circle worker, and Community Ed trained, Caroline Marsland has given more and more of her time to the project, with the blessing of her employers. It was therefore devastating to learn in April that Circle had been forced to withdraw funding and Caroline would have to leave St Augustine's. It was a worrying time. The 'Food For Thought' project had gained such momentum. How were things going to grow or even continue without the commitment, time and skills of someone like Caroline? Through her "ministry", people were being drawn to our church!

It was during the Bishop's Visitation that the idea of applying for money to find a worker for 'Food For Thought' began to take shape. During the visit the Bishop was shown what we were doing and, being impressed by its intrinsic missional heartbeat, he encouraged us to apply for funding through the MAP process. So.... forms were duly filled in, the support of the Vestry was gained, the backing of the Regional Council was given and.... an application for £15,000 was presented to the Development Team Convenors. In some ways we didn't really expect to receive the full amount.... but we prayed and we hoped.... and when the Bishop phoned to say that our application had been successful.... there were literally jumps and squeals of great joy and rejoicing! AND we had been given the WHOLE of the £15,000! Wonderful, wonderful news!! This means a significant pay-cut for Caroline, but she is wholly committed to what we are doing and has captured the vision of this missional project.

So.... Caroline is not leaving. She is now self-employed until next March, working for St Augustine's to develop the Food For Thought initiative, and you will often find her in the office helping us and encouraging us. Her remit is to grow the potential mission field of St Augustine's by:

- *Managing the daily running of Food For Thought*
- *Applying for grants for ongoing funding of the project, and for the future funding for the post*
- *Continuing to co-ordinate and train an effective team of volunteers*
- *Building upon and expanding relationships and networks already formed with other organisations and charities*
- *Setting up a proper database of people we are helping, what their needs are, and how we have responded.*
- *Setting up and facilitating a group work programme to include basic life skills eg healthy eating, cooking, parenting and budgeting*
- *Consolidating and continuing the initiative to the next stage of its development including education, mentoring and advocacy of service users*
- *Developing the social media profile of St Augustine's Food For Thought programme*

So congratulations, Caroline! And welcome aboard (again!)! We are so pleased you are still with us... and that through your hard work the needs of many desperate people will be answered. We pray that they will know the love of God in action.... and maybe... just maybe.... some of them will come to know the joy of being part of our faith community. Alleluia!



.....**AND IT'S OPEN!**



*(See what the local artist has made of wood. A design in the garden which says "GROW".
Reading from the top it stands for "With Our Risen God")*



Saturday 4th July dawned amidst the usual Scottish summer driving rain. Not the perfect day to open a Garden Project!

Thankfully the weather deterred no-one and by 12pm the hall of St Mungo's had attracted around 50 people who had come along to support the official opening of the project. The place looked wonderful, with hanging baskets, personalised planters, sunflowers and a table groaning with sandwiches and home baking. Local dignitaries, our MSP, councillors, workers from the Bellsmyre Garden and all manner of friends were welcomed by Fr Kenny and Kevin Mason, the Project Leader. Happily there was a break in the weather which allowed the Right Rev Gregor Duncan, the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, to bless the garden beds, cut the ribbon and declare the project officially open.

So it's now down to work... and to enjoy what has been set up. The project is open to *anyone* who would like to learn more about growing food and there are weekly sessions in St Mungo's hall and gardens on Tuesday and Thursday from 11am to 2pm. Wee introductions and some tips are passed on in the hall before you begin. Do come along and benefit from a few hours closer to nature. Not only can you benefit – but so can St Mungo's itself – not only from the raised profile in the community, (we are doing something practical), which the project brings, but also from the regular income (£550 per month) which the Leamy Foundation pays for the use of the grounds. Here's to a long and happy relationship!

The Leamy Foundation:

Website: <http://www.theleamyfoundation.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Leamy-Foundation/1639846336251200?pnref=lhc>

From The Rectory

ST JAMES THE LEAST

My dear Nephew Darren

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin growing competition. Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence.

On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters rights to that place and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation.

I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence. That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick

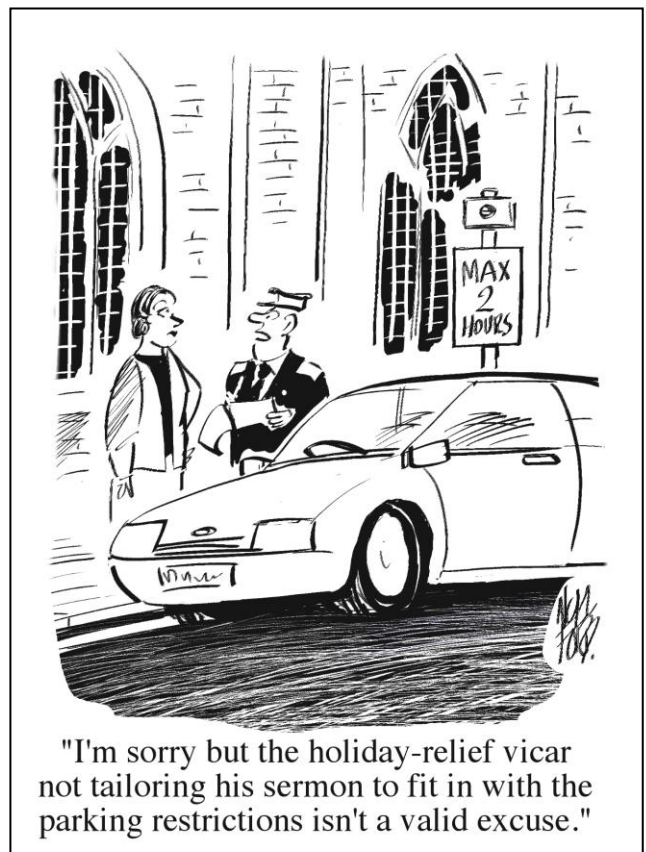
and accompanied by a golden Labrador does, however, raise doubts.

To award the Earl any prize at all does seem a little unfair, when the only time he ever gets mud on his boots is when he falls off his horse while hunting. I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate. But to give any credit to his gardening staff would be seen as bad form, so we all keep quiet.

It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but would also have to face a twelve month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Letters would be strangely mis-delivered and the butcher's boy would suddenly deliver lamb when pork had been ordered. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace





Wait Till I Tell You.....'

Janette reflects on a typical Scottish summer and some holiday happenings as well as looking forward to future events at St. Augustine's.

DOES A ST. SWITHIN FORECAST APPLY IN SCOTLAND?

*St. Swithin's Day if thou be fair
For forty days 't will rain nae mair!
St. Swithin's Day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain!*

And St. Swithin's Day is on 15th July which this year was one of Dumbarton's warm sunny days. Great! We recited the age old rhyme in our strappy tops on the Westcliff bus and looked forward to the start of summer 2015! Oh dear, what happened?

Well, maybe the famous Episcopal forecast just doesn't work up here in the land of the haggis eaters.

Remember that on 15th July there was a '*big stushie*' down at Westminster when our esteemed Prime Minister planned a vote that would make life a little more miserable for the English foxes. *English votes for English laws for English foxes* was his mantra until his plan was thwarted by the SNP contingent who threatened to join with Labour and '*pit the ba' oan the slates.*' Happily, the foxes got a break which is more than can be said for all those about to be affected by the Tory Welfare Reform Bill.

But back to dear old St. Swithin - who was Bishop of Winchester in the 9th century. It's obvious that he just doesn't know! The most likely explanation is that he can only forecast English weather for English punters so in London they've been sweltering all summer while we've had rain, floods, winds and central heating in July!

BARGAINS FLY OFF THE RAILS AT ST. AUGGIE'S SUMMER SALE.

On 7th June we held the last Friends' event of the season – the opportunity to purchase some last minute additions to that holiday wardrobe and enjoy a cocktail or two before being taken back to our childhood with quizzes by Lindsay Rodgers. It was a great wee night where, in the privacy of the

Haven, unwanted flesh was squeezed into unwanted treasures. '*Ach, I'll have lost a few more pounds before the holidays!*' That'll be right! But we all went home happy having raised a profit of £80 for the Church.

PISCY CLUB MONEY AIDS GREEK CRISIS.

At the June Pisky Club Draw – such a shame that it's the July one we all want to win – Kenny and Linda were really lucky and scooped both prizes to augment their holiday spending money before leaving for debt ridden Greece. This financial boost to the Greek economy was most welcome - let's hope Mrs Merkel and her cronies will also contribute!

DOES YOUR TOWN HAVE A COSTA COFFEE?

A branch of this famous meeting place of the upwardly mobile is about to make an appearance in Dumbarton's downwardly spiralling High Street amongst the charity shops, the money changers, the betting establishments, and the pubs. It is said that a Costa raises the tone of a town so save up for a special visit. And who knows? Liberty of London could be next. Alternatively, you could just '*slum it*' at St. Auggie's Saturday Coffee Mornings for a fraction of the Costa!

HAS FLYING LOST ITS PANACHE?

Remember the days when a plane journey made you feel like a film star? Even the package holidays of the '60s treated passengers to that special experience – drinks by smiling hostesses and those mysterious little boxes holding hot meals, tiny little salts and peppers and a scrumptious chocolate.

Flash forward to the 21st century when you realise how fit you have to be to fly! You are requested to be at check-in desk two to three hours prior to departure to take part in the various forms of torture necessary just to get you off the ground. And with flying from Glasgow not always an option, your holiday prologue will include an overnight stay in an over-priced hotel or a crowded train journey dragging suitcases. And there are queues for everything to pass the waiting hours till you're awarded your boarding pass and told to head for airport security.

There are even bigger queues here so there's lots of time to read the rules and inspect the behaviour of your fellow passengers! Liquids all to be displayed in clear poly bags for inspection by officers who regard your cosmetic requirements as

objects that can blow up a plane! Oh, and those of a certain age who have to travel with medical supplies are immediate suspects. Then belts, anoraks and certain jewellery items have to be placed on the moving assembly line while you struggle to remove trainers from swollen feet! Will we ever see them again? But it's a great relief when you're through and can retrieve your bundle of possessions with your precious passport anchored between your teeth. Talk about feeling discombobulated!

So far, so good! Now for the departure lounge – of course there are not enough seats and everyone wants to board first. And when you eventually reach the aeroplane and find your number there is no room in the overhead bins for your stuff. This is because smarter passengers are travelling with the maximum amount of hand luggage and their inevitable laptops! They are planning a quick exit! The stewardess eventually comes round with the trolley offering 'big pieces' and if you're lucky, a drink. But as you speed effortlessly through the air your mind travels forward to the horror of the arrivals hall and the stress of watching the luggage conveyer for the advent of your suitcase. Will it make an appearance? Has it gone off to another destination? Prayers are required during this anxious wait.

One more hurdle till journey's end – finding the holiday rep. and following her through the crowds to the coach, again struggling with too much luggage. And she goes at great speed. At last, all aboard and the only annoyance is the foreign rep. introducing himself and his driver in broken English before insisting that his exhausted travellers repeat back greetings in his native tongue. '*Och, geeza a brek, Alphonso*'. This is followed by form filling and descriptions of olive trees and sunflowers. Finally you arrive and if it's a cruise ship you're booked on, you can't relax until you've had your identity photo taken and the compulsory lifeboat drill has been attended. And now for the drinks package..... !

IS THIS SCOTLAND'S FAVOUITE PUDDING?

One stormy Saturday in July Maggie, TBag and I excused to Oban – just because it was great value with our pensioners' passes! And the weather turned out not too bad with only one anorak and fleece necessary to stave off hypothermia! There were lots of people around – happy people, holiday people and friendly dogs. After much consideration and local recommendations, we decided where we would enjoy our obligatory fish

tea – with peas and bread and butter! We are so adventurous! When the menu arrived, to my delight I saw that it included the famous Scottish dessert – the Deep Fried Mars Bar! Now was my chance to sample this delicacy that was in the news only last week because a Fish Bar in Stonehaven had a banner on their wall advertising that they were indeed the birthplace of the Deep Fried Mars Bar. The Aberdeen Council chiefs were asking for the offending banner to be removed. '*People come from all over the world to be photographed beside that banner*', declared the owner. '*Well, move on to the Forth Bridge, please!*'

I deliberated over trying one while Maggie implored me sharply not to be ridiculous! So I asked the friendly waitress what it was like. Her answer was '*very very chewy*' so I decided it was too big a hazard to fillings and teeth. Now I'll never know if it's worth the 1200 calories!

A SCONE, SCONE AND A STONE.

Friends' Summer Outing this year is to Scone Palace on 15th August and already a larger luxury coach has had to be requested. Biggest attraction has to be the site of the crowning of the ancient Kings of Scotland, where a replica of the stone of destiny is on view to recreate the magic and mystery of this wonderful stone. Was it indeed Jacob's pillow? Was it gifted to a prehistoric Celtic King who married the daughter of an Egyptian Pharaoh? Was it brought to Britain by Joseph of Arimathea along with the Holy Grail? Was it in the final death scene of St Columba in Iona in 597AD? So many legends but one thing is certain – Drew Dyer will sit on it, while Kenny tries on any old crowns that are lying about! The real stone is of course in Edinburgh Castle....or is it? We can discuss it on the bus which leaves the Community Hall at 10.30am. After a stop for optional coffee it's on to the Palace and a guided tour before exploring the grounds. You can try out the Maze, visit the Pinetum, enjoy the gardens, admire the Clydesdale horses and so much more before returning to the coach for High Tea in Perth.

PIRATES OF ST. AUGUST – EANS!

This is the theme for this year's Community Fair which will be held on 29th August. So get into the mood and come as a Pirate – striped t-shirt, bandana, cutlass, parrot, eye patch – easy! Tell the bus driver you're off to St. Aug's and he won't be at all surprised! All the usual stalls will be in the Church – home baking, white elephant, nearly

new, arts and crafts, glitter tattoos, face painting and a nail bar. There will be a tombola, other novelties and prizes to be won. For the hungry there's 'Blackbeard's Bistro' serving Morning Coffee, Seafarer's Lunches and Afternoon Teas. Burgers are also a possibility – so watch this space! To round up the Fair there will be a Musical Blast in the evening at 7pm. Walking the Plank is optional. Apologies have been received from Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Pontius Pirate who's still trying to get over Easter! Look out for the Jolly Roger and please support the Pirates in their efforts to raise funds for St. Augustine's, St Mungo's, we hope, and our Community Groups.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT MONTH....

...and the beginning of autumn! Will Roberta still be encased in her new fashion bootware? She's buying one for the other foot so she has a matching pair! There will be details of Friends' new programme. 'Aye, the nights are ferra drawing in' and the DPT pantomime has begun. So, what happened to summer?

Janette

Prayers for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on the 24th of each month

General Synod 2015 approved the Global Partnerships Committee motion that members of the Scottish Episcopal Church be encouraged join the Scottish ecumenical initiative, promoted by Christian Aid, in praying for Israel/Palestine on the 24th day of every month. This initiative was supported by a motion which called for the recognition and support of the Pope's recent recognition of the State of Palestine and his call for reconciliation.

As well as praying as an individual and with others in your own church community you can join with others on the following dates and time:

24 August 7-9pm: Abbotshall Church of Scotland, Kirkcaldy

24 September 7-9pm: St Kentigern's Church of Scotland, Kilmarnock

24 October 10.30am-12.30pm: Selkirk United Reformed Church, Selkirk

24 November 7-9pm: Knox United Free Church of Scotland

It's a matter of shame that in a society so rich many are unable to feed themselves and their families

In responding to the Budget last week, The Rt Rev Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway said: "At a time when many churches in my diocese, in very poor areas, not so poor areas and fairly well-off areas, are offering significant support through food banks and other agencies to people in desperate need, I find it hard, without being party political, to see how the recent budget is going to reduce the need for this kind of intervention. Indeed, it may very well make the need even more pressing. It must surely be a matter not only of the deepest regret, but also of shame, that in a society so rich so many should be unable to feed themselves and their families without this kind of help.

I am sure that politicians of all parties, including the present UK Government, must sense that this is a blot on our society and that they will wish to adopt measures to expunge it."

– See more at:

<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/its-a-matter-of-shame-that-in-a-society-so-rich-many-are-unable-to-feed-themselves-and-their-families/#sthash.FvwvvKjh.dpuf>

J E S U S
LOVES YOU



Wendy checked the message on her mobile

ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Sunday July 26th

Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom and Ian Marshall

Sunday Aug 2nd

11am Eucharist
Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday Aug 9th

11am Eucharist
Reader/Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday Aug 16th

11am Eucharist
Reader/Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday Aug 23rd

11am Eucharist
Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday August 30th

11am Eucharist
Reader/Intercessions Pat Brooks
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

Sunday September 6th

11am Eucharist
Reader/Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian Marshall

CLEANING

16th Aug Iona and Mary
23rd Aug Margaret
30th Aug Jean
6th Sept Eveline
13th Sept Finella

FLOWERS

9th/16th Aug Pauline
23rd/30th Aug Finella
6th/13th Sept Pauline

ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sunday July 26th

Readers Barbara Barnes & David Rowatt
Intercessions Linda Macaulay
Chalice Barbara Barnes & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Ronnie Blaney
Flowers Barbara Barnes

Sunday August 2nd

Readers Maggie Wallace & David Ansell
Intercessions Sharon Rowatt
Chalice Margaret Hardie & David Rowatt
Sidespersons Linda J & Liam McLarnon
Flowers Margaret Hardie

Sunday August 9th

Readers Morag O'Neill & Margaret Hardie
Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice Sharon Rowatt & Fran Walker
Sidespersons Chrissie A & Margaret Swan
Flowers Margaret Hardie

Sunday August 16th

Readers Fran Walker & Linda Macaulay
Intercessions Maggie Wallace
Chalice Barbara Barnes & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Liam McLarnon
Flowers Fran Walker

Sunday August 23rd

Readers Kirstin Wiggins & Janette Barnes
Intercessions Linda Macaulay
Chalice Margaret Hardie & David Rowatt
Sidespersons Maggie Wallace & David Ansell
Flowers Linda Macaulay

Sunday August 30th

Readers Barbara Barnes & Sharon Rowatt
Intercessions Margaret Hardie
Chalice Fran Walker & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Margaret S & Chrissie Ashman
Flowers Maggie Wallace

Sunday September 6th

Readers Maggie W & Ghislaine Kennedy
Intercessions Fran Walker
Chalice Sharon Rowatt & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons Lyndsey Spencer & Linda J
Flowers Barbara Barnes

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Alternate Lay Representative: vacancy

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Vulnerable Groups Officer: Pauline Dow

Gift Aid: Pauline Dow

Flowers: Pauline Dow

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Mission Action Planning Group:
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Liam McLarnon; Gavin Elder;

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie

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