

By the Way Together

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

Issue No 2 February 2015



HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY, KENNY!



Yes, hard though it is to believe, our Rector is 60 today!

Born on 1st February 1955 in Glasgow,

second child to parents Jack and Myra

deaconed in 1978 and priested in 1979

Priest-in-charge, St Matthew's Possilpark 1980 – 87

Rector, St Luke the Evangelist Glenrothes 1987-89

Chaplain, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow 1989-92

Priest-in-charge, St Serf, Shettleston 1992-94

St Oswald, Kings Park 1996-2001

St Augustine's, Dumbarton 2001- and St Mungo's 2014-

Parish directories

Rector

Revd Kenneth Macaulay
St Mungo's Rectory, Queen St, Alexandria G83 0AS
Email: frkenny@sky.com
Tel: 01389 513365 Mobile: 07734 187250

Associate Priest

Revd Liz O'Ryan
23 Paddockdyke, Skelmorlie, N. Ayrshire, PA17 5DA
Email: lizoryan@tiscali.co.uk
Tel: 01475 529835 Mobile: 07949 667135

St Mungo's

St Mungo's, Main Street, Alexandria G83 0BN Tel: 01389 513365
www.stmungosalexandria.org.uk

Treasurer : Gaynor Davies (ronyag1@blueyonder.co.uk) 01389 754017

Vestry Secretary: Pat Brooks (pjbrooks49@sky.com) 01389 759397

Lay Representative: Pauline Dow (paulinedow@btinternet.com) 01389 751046

Alternate Lay Representative: vacancy

People's Warden: Jean Brown 01389 830294

Other Vestry Members: Janet Wood 01389 602916
Andrew Baxter 01436 672898
Jim Biddulph (j.biddulph@blueyonder.co.uk) 01389 758086
Rachel Tough (Rachel-alden@blueyonder.co.uk) 01389 757831
Margaret Curry 01389 754916

Regional Council Representative: Andrew Baxter

Vulnerable Groups Officer: Pauline Dow

Gift Aid: Pauline Dow

Flowers: Pauline Dow

Hall Lets: Pat Brooks 01389 759397

REGULAR SERVICES: St Mungo's

SUNDAY 11am Sung Eucharist

WEDNESDAY 9.30am Holy Communion

St Augustine's

St Augustine's, 2a High Street, Dumbarton, G82 1LL - Tel: 01389 734514

staugustinessec@btinternet.com

Treasurer:	David Rowatt (dsrowatt@sky.com) (01389 513388)	
Vestry Secretary:	Janette Barnes (Janette.Barnes@btinternet.com) (01389 761398)	
Lay Representative:	Liam McLarnon (liamhome82@sky.com)	07724 809271
Alt. Lay Representative:	Margaret Hardie (mghardie@blueyonder.co.uk)	01389 767983
Fabric Convener:	Margaret Hardie, Fran Walker and their Team	
Project Development:	Fran Walker (fran_walker@hotmail.com)	01389 761403
Trustees:	The Rector, Margaret Wallace Barbara Barnes (barbara78barnes@gmail.com)	01389 755984
Other Vestry Members:	Margaret Hardie (mghardie@blueyonder.co.uk) Roberta Mailley Anne Dyer (Anne@alternativeswd.org) Linda Jenkinson (lindajenkinson@blueyonder.co.uk) Gavin Elder (gavin@alternativeswd.org) Margaret Swan, (margaretswan@blueyonder.co.uk) Liam McLarnon (liamhome82@sky.com)	01389 767983 01389 731863 01389 761693 01389 768657 01389 764742 07724 809271
Regional Council Rep:	Morag O'Neill (morag.oneill@blueyonder.co.uk)	01389 763710
Child Protection Officer:	Barbara Barnes (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 (morag.oneill@blueyonder.co.uk) Fran Walker Liam McLarnon Gavin Elder	01389 763710
Freewill Offering:	Margaret Hardie	

REGULAR SERVICES: St Augustine's

SUNDAY: 9am Said Holy Communion
11am Sung Eucharist

WEDNESDAY: 10.30am Holy Communion

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Christmas Celebrations



Healing Services at both churches



From Kenny..

Not many people know that my GP has recently declared me fit for work, but with the addendum of taking only "Light Duties", at present. That has proved to be a problem for me. What exactly are "Light Duties"?



Liz has been very protective and has taken on board much more than we pay her for. This has allowed me to take proper days off, and has lightened my load considerably. As the days pass, I feel stronger and more able to do my share of things. However, I'm constantly being told by my doctor to be kind to myself and stay away from stressful situations. That's difficult in ministry, because who knows what will cause stress and tension, and what won't? So, one day at a time I feel stronger and more able to cope with two parishes. I can have a seriously stressful workload when I feel that I need to meet the expectations of everyone. Now I operate in a way that I realise that it is humanly impossible to fulfil everyone's expectations!

It has given me more time to reflect on what I'm doing and not doing, and prioritise. What are "Light Duties"?

For people in both congregations, light duties seem to be the norm anyway. The Parish Rolls of both congregations have recently been updated, and I was startled to find that in both congregations people do come to church, but not regularly. In both congregations our communicant numbers are much the same as they have been for a number of years, but people do not come to church on Sundays or on Wednesdays as they used to do. That is a worrying trend.

Some of us have decided that as far as receiving Holy Communion is concerned, we will just take on light duties from time to time, and that includes our attendance at The Eucharist.

When I was signed back on with light duties, the first thing I wanted to do was to be at the altar at every opportunity, to be nurtured, fed, and blessed by the Bread of Life. I might be on light duties, but this was the core of my faith and was the one thing that strengthened me and enabled me to cope with the stresses of modern living.

By coming to church regularly, you are receiving

the gift of grace which God wants you to have. God doesn't do light duties but gives you his all. In our Sunday readings of late, there have been numerous stories of Jesus calling the first disciples, and their response to that call. Being a disciple of Jesus didn't entail light duties, but was a full on commitment which was actually quite dangerous at times. Luckily for us in Scotland, coming to church regularly is not a dangerous thing to do. However, it seems to have dropped in our list of priorities.

I attend a self-help group where my attendance is very important. Some weeks I will feel that I don't need to go, but I go anyway, because I would be missed, and because there might be someone who needs me to be there for them. When I'm absent, I miss the strength and solidarity of that group and am only denying myself of what's on offer.

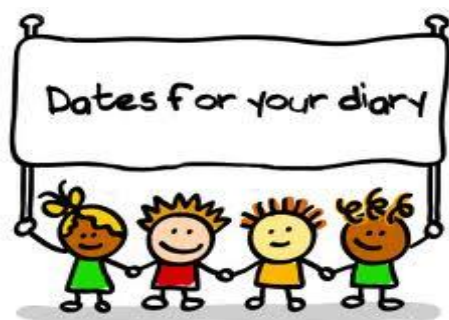
Coming to church regularly is very similar. You may feel that nobody will miss you, but they do! You may feel that it's not that important to you, but it is important if somebody needs to draw strength from you or feel loved and affirmed by you. The important thing to remember is that it is your duty to God and his people that you are there on a Sunday or Wednesday. God needs you to be there, for God's sake and for the sake of others too.

Being a Christian is not a light duty. Our Lord wants your soul, your life, your all, at all times. Sure, you need time to reflect and relax, as I have found recently, and even Jesus found the time to get away from it all, but being a disciple involves total commitment and not the half-heartedness that light duties can become.

Being a Christian is a full-time 24/7 affair, and we draw the strength to be that by regular attendance at the Eucharist, and not just a 'come if you feel like it', or when you can be bothered. The early disciples learned that lesson about full-on commitment fairly quickly!

Lent is fast approaching, and it may be a time to re-assess your commitment and take some action. Make sure you are in church on a weekly basis, and give yourself an opportunity to change the things in your life that need to be changed. I have discovered that light duties are not much use to anyone, and that we need to be Christians with our whole heart and soul.

See you on Sunday, or on a Wednesday!



“ON THE EIGHTH DAY”

Sunday 8th March

A REFLECTIVE SERVICE

ON THE THEME OF CREATION

7.30PM

St Augustine's

FEBRUARY

Saturday 14 th	Family Ceilidh 7.30 – 11.30pm St Patrick's Church Hall, Quiz, Supper £7
Wednesday 18 th	Ash Wednesday services: times to be confirmed
Thursday 19 th	St Mungo's Vestry 4pm Rectory
Wednesday 25 th	Joint Lent Group (1) 7pm Rectory Supper and discussion

MARCH

Wednesday 4 th	Joint Lent Group (2) 7pm Rectory Supper and discussion
Sunday 8 th	“On the 8 th Day: A reflective service on Creation” 7.30pm St Aug's
Wednesday 11 th	Joint Lent Group (3) 7pm Rectory Supper and discussion
Saturday 14 th	Christian Heritage Dumbarton, Ecumenical Service, Dumbarton Castle, 12pm
Wednesday 18 th	Joint Lent Group (4) 7pm Rectory Supper and discussion
Friday 27 th	“A Blast fae the past; The Sequel” 7.30pm St Aug's

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHES

Thursdays

February 26th - March 26th

12pm – 1.30pm

Riverside Church Hall

Home made soup, bread, cheese, tea/coffee

£3

Christian Heritage Dumbarton

Ecumenical Service

Dumbarton Castle

On the site of the former St Patrick's Chapel

Saturday March 14th

12 noon

Followed by refreshments in the

Governor's Rooms

Contact Tim if you wish to come

01389 761676

Dumbarton Churches Together

Family Ceilidh with Voicebox

Saturday February 14th

7.30 - 11.30

St Patrick's Church Hall

Bar, Quiz, Supper.

Tickets £7 from Tim

Investing in peace

An opportunity to participate in a meeting
with an Israeli and a Palestinian

Dumbarton Baptist church

February 24th 7.30.

This is being promoted by Christian Aid, the
Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal
Church.

For more info see Morag or Tim

Food for Thought Update!

Late November and all of December were extremely busy here in St Augustine's Food for Thought . Donations were given to us from individuals and companies both national and local. This left us in the wonderful position of being able to give food to over 50 local families in need as well as toys, gifts and chocolate to 44+ families directly. We also supported Social Work Children & Families Team and our local Women's Aid. The generosity shown by the community meant a happier Christmas for many local children. Santa was alive and well in St Aug's!

For Christmas Day a Circle client volunteered with me to set up the lunch offered every year to those who otherwise would have been alone, or hungry at Christmas. The atmosphere was amazing and all who attended either as a volunteer or as a guest reported that they had enjoyed the experience so much that they will be back next year. Oh joy!

None of this could have been achieved without the kindness and generosity shown to our community by you guys and for myself. It has been a privilege to be involved. Listening to the reasons people want to donate and help, and listening to the gratitude shown by those who receive, has given me a new faith in humanity.

There is much still to be done though and with that in mind we are looking forward to Easter. It is during such holiday times, when the kids are off school and parents will have to provide more food as the kids are not being given a meal at school, that we know the demand for provision of food will increase. The same rise in demand will happen during the summer holidays, when the kids are off for 7 weeks.

The response and generosity shown at Christmas was exceptional, so thank you but please spare a thought for the rest of the year. Sadly the need for Food for Thought shows no sign of going away. Any donations large or small will continue to be gratefully received.





**We have to thank individuals and businesses alike for their fantastic contributions
which have enabled lots of our local kids
to have a very happy Christmas.**

All at Food for Thought appreciate your commitment and kindness.

Thanks also to the many people who donated anonymously.

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Donations received for Food for Thought 2014

Individuals & Organisations

Tracey Munroe	Bobby Stewart	Margaret Hoy
Robert McLaughlin	Annmarie Bamford	Mandy (Allsorts Choir)
Lorna Farquarson	Brendan Kelly	Ralph Rainey
May McQueen	Mr & Mrs Bailey	Caroline Conn
Keiran & Sean Davinport	Isobel Henderson	Marion Plunkett
John McVey	Leah Rice	Maggie King
Margaret Sakulina	Lynn Kane	Mr Wm Young
Ian Smallwood	Anna Porterfield	Helen McLaughlin
Linda McKeever	Doreen Cochrane	Mrs Monaghan
Karen Short	Trina Cochrane	Ena Curley
St Patrick's Baby & Toddlers Group		URC Church
Home from Home	Polaroid Lenswear	RBS
TSB	Dalreoch Day Care	Dumbarton United
Garshake Nursery	Aitkenbar Primary	St Peters Primary
Clydesdale Bank	Dominoes Pizza	Circle Scotland
Employability Hub	Evelyn O'Neill	Yayas Relaxation Group
WDC Housing Support Services		Langcraigs Care Home
Co op Funeral Home	St Michaels	St Vincent de Paul
Sheltered Housing, Manse Gardens Haldane		Alistair (Acoustic Night)
Dunbritton Housing Association		Girl Guides(Alexandria)
St Peter's Nursery	The Clipper	
Sainsbury's	St Patrick's Church	Aggreko

*Caroline Marsland
Family Support Worker
Circle Scotland*



Dumbarton Gambia Education Association Scottish
Charity no: SC 036449 supporting
Dumbarton/London Corner Community Nursery School Serrekunda

Gambia and Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School 2015

Hi to all our Sponsors and supporters,

Kenny and I brought our annual visit to The Gambia forward this year to the end of November 2014 due to family commitments which will use up Kenny's holiday allocation in 2015.

We had a wonderful 10 days and the school was looking good and the staff and children were happy and healthy. Once again we were impressed by the way Sulayman, our Headmaster runs the school. When we arrived the children were well behaved and welcomed us with gusto but were polite and well behaved as they were last year. In the past it has been a pleasant but chaotic experience with 90 children trying to shake hands and talk to us all at once.

Over lots of visits we spent time in each class and were impressed with the fact that the children in the top two classes have a good grasp of English and were able to give us a report of what they are achieving in English and we were very happy with their educational standards.

We continue to get praise from the Government school inspectors which makes us very sure that through your generosity and continued support we continue to give these poor children the chance of a better future.



The Gambia itself is not doing very well at the moment. The threat of Ebola in West Africa is putting off the tourists who are vital to the local economy. During our visit the hotels and tourist areas were noticeably under-occupied. Although our flight was only short of about 40 passengers, that was only because some of the airlines such as Thomas Cook and Monarch are combining passengers onto one flight to make them cost effective. It seems a shame as the country is Ebola-free and has been praised by the measures that have been, and are being taken to ensure that no one travelling is suffering any symptoms, and by closing all the borders except the airport in Banjul. However, it is understandable that people will be worried and decide that even a very low risk isn't worth taking in the face of such a devastating

disease. We hope that next year things will be back to normal and the tourist industry will be thriving.

Because of the risk that the economy will continue to suffer, and because the exchange rate which we use to transfer funds is so good for us (71 Dalasis to the £ against 47 dalasi last year) we decided to give our staff a much better payrise for this coming 12 months. So they have been awarded 20% which still costs the charity less than last year and as our funds for the year have already been transferred to the Gambian School bank account we are comfortable that we won't be caught out by a sudden change in the exchange rate. The staff understand that this will not become the standard rise and that next year we will award rises in accordance with the state of the economics of the country.

At our meeting with the staff, they expressed their appreciation and asked us to pass this on to all of you, our sponsors and supporters. They do not take this for granted as Kenny explained that even in Scotland

there is much poverty and how from our church in Dumbarton we currently feed many folk who would otherwise be unable to feed their families. We like to dispel the oft held belief that there is nothing but wealth in our country but we do not labour the fact as it is different from the hard poverty and conditions in which the Gambian children live in London Corner.

So, the school is thriving, the children and staff are happy, and it is a pleasure to be able to report this news to you and reiterate how grateful we are on behalf of the children for your thoughts, prayers and financial support which is an investment in their future.

Linda

HOPES AND DREAMS AT ST MUNGO'S

Lomond Food Bank has just opened its doors at St Mungo's under the capable guidance and leadership of Christina and Kirsty.

The Foodbank opens every **TUESDAY 10 -12pm** and gives out food to those in need and those referred to them by the agencies. The girls have



given out new jackets to those who need protection against the Scottish winter, and are beginning to give out more and more bags of basic food each week.

Christina and Kirsty have worked hard making contact with local agencies and charities so that, by becoming more well known, they can ensure they are reaching the most vulnerable in our locale. They have received a generous monetary donation from UNISON which already makes their future more secure.

We welcome Kirsty and Christina to St Mungo's and hope that their venture is successful. As a church we will do all we can to support them as they try to provide for those in need in our community of Alexandria.

Lomond Foodbank would welcome any donations of tins of food, dry food and hygiene products. If you wish to give in kind please leave your donation at the back of the church; if you wish to give money then please pass it to the clergy who will ensure the Foodbank will receive all that is offered. Of course if you are passing the door on Tuesday do pop in and see the girls, the kettle is always on and the biscuits on offer!!



THERAPEUTIC GARDEN

Work is still continuing in the grounds of St Mungo's to establish a therapeutic garden. The wooden frames have been filled with good soil so that planting hopefully can commence in the spring. It is hoped that the garden will provide a valuable resource for those who perhaps have confidence or mental health issues and who would benefit from being involved with growing things and being more connected with the natural rhythm of the seasons.



Dear all,

I have a particular friend on Facebook whose posts I always look forward to receiving and enjoy reading. And why? Because the messages are always so positive and so affirming. Things like:

“I have been given endless talents which I can begin to utilise today”

“I am blessed”

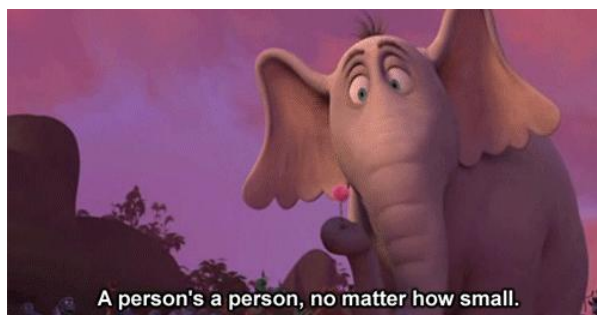
“My life is just beginning”

“Happy Left Handers Day; Celebrate being a Lefty!”

Reading my friend’s posts fair puts a smile on my face and makes me feel instantly happier. What better way to start or finish the day than reading something positive! These days we seem to be bombarded by so much negativity that it’s refreshing and heartening to receive a different perspective of the world, one which affirms the innate kindness of people. During Christmas all of us who worked with the Food For Thought programme were both encouraged and energised by the outpouring of goodness from people and companies who contributed money or food or presents. Some of those who were giving had little themselves but nearly every donation was accompanied by the phrase “Well, we just wanted to do something for someone else.” People are good indeed. And it showed this Christmas. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if that positivity could be shown throughout the rest of the year.... every month... every day... even during these dark, wet, miserable days of February in which we now find ourselves?

But I am not just thinking about the giving of things or food – good though that is. There are other ways to affirm another, or to do something for another... and that is to **speak** words of encouragement, love and support.

The other day I was with a group of clergy and during the discussion I happened to be given a compliment which was completely unexpected. What a difference to my day it made! What a difference it made to me.



It should be so easy to say these things. It should be almost like second nature. People are so often good, kind and helpful – why is it that we forget to say ‘well done’ or ‘that was really good’ or ‘you’ve really made my day’. It doesn’t take much effort... it doesn’t take much time... it only takes a little thought.

Jesus whilst he was on earth provided a wonderful example for us in how to affirm people. He often healed people whilst commending their faith; he affirmed the woman who poured ointment over his feet; he affirmed Mary whilst she sat at his feet listening to him; he even continued to affirm Peter although Peter often let down by him. Jesus looked at people and saw the good in them. We, who follow him, should do no less. Like him, we should look for the best in people, and, like him we ought to give voice to what we see.

The word ‘affirmation’ means ‘to make steady, to make strong.’ And that’s what we do when we affirm – we make the other person stronger and steadier. What a wonderful way to build up each other, strengthen our community and make our churches happier places than by noticing each other’s gifts, talents and goodness and by commenting upon them? What a wonderful way to brighten up the dingy February grey than lighting up *someone else’s* day by giving them a compliment.

Perhaps we ought to make February ‘Give a compliment month’... and each day an ‘affirming’ day? I think we will be surprised how, when we make someone else happy, it makes us happy too.

Well done for reading to the end of this letter! *With love, Liz*





Wait Till I Tell You.....'

*Janette looks back on the
Festive Season at St.
Aug's and waves a
relieved goodbye to 2014
with its ice bucket
challenges, bare face*

*selfies, yes / no debates and black Friday. Now
it's forward to 2015 and what lies in store.*

THE NATIVITY MEETS THE X FACTOR!

If only St. Luke had written *'There were some Spidermen in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields taking care of their webs'* then John Hardie- Brown might well have agreed to take part in our Nativity play. Even the prospect of wielding a large pointed shepherd's crook did not tempt him to don the dish towel. At the other extreme was Jack, who did not care how he looked as long as he had access to a microphone to perform a really cool modern carol to the assembled congregation. Yes, against all odds, the Sunday School leaders, Barbara and Sandra, ensured St. Aug's would have its very own Nativity play.

Rachel wrote the script and performed from the pulpit while watching that the others were getting things right. Oh, there was no problem with the girls – Grace was an enchanting Mary and Jackie knew just how an angel should behave. In all, it was a lovely performance – short and original thus adhering to the DPT mantra –always leave them wanting more! Now we'll need to wait till next Christmas but Rachel is already working on the script!

WAS THAT THE BELLS I HEARD?

While the world awaited the arrival of 2015 I was on the sofa in my big multi-coloured onesie sleeping the sleep of the innocent. Well, maybe that's a slight exaggeration! Suffering from a bout of festive exhaustion I knew I couldn't last the pace and even the thought of a celebratory glass of champagne at the Rectory couldn't force my eyes to stay open. But TBag fared much worse. In the closing days of 2014 she collapsed in ASDA while trying to spend her Piskie Draw winnings. So as not to cause a blockage at the checkout she was hastily dispatched to Paisley by ambulance. Later that night she was released since beds were only being awarded to those who could not be

resurrected from their trollies! She's fine now and we're both watching all the festive TV on catch up! TBag is planning to rejoin the social whirl on Burns Night.

WHAT LIES BENEATH.

The title of this scary movie reminded me of our discussion at last week's Vestry meeting. It concerned the old vestry toilet at the back of the Church when, a few years ago, it was observed that the plumbing only worked satisfactorily if its use was curtailed to the chosen few. It was simply unable to cope with multiple spells of usage i.e. when the Church was busy there was no relief. So, does one nip to the Clipper? It's only across the road. We have what Fran describes as a tidal toilet because it also gets upset when the Leven is high. When flushed the water comes back up the pipes and the rest amounts to - too much information!

Jings, crivvens and help ma Boab!

Oh we've had input from Dynarod who advised us to clear it up with the Council. A blockage under the High Street is suspected. The only action taken so far has been the painting of purple stripes in the middle of the road. These have since been washed off and nothing has moved. So, watch this space and..... go before you leave the house!

DID YOU SURVIVE MISERABLE MONDAY?

That was held on Monday 20th January on what is also referred to as Blue Monday. It's apparently the most depressing day of the year. Why? Well, the Christmas parties are over, the weather is usually freezing, the New Year resolutions have been broken, it's a long time till pay day and absolutely ages till the summer holidays. Then add for 2015 the prospect of a General Election, the falling oil prices, the demise of Rangers and the vow row. It's a slash your wrists scenario! The good news is that it's over for 2015 and next month we can look forward to Valentines, pancakes and.....eh..... Lent!

HERE COMES THE SUN!

*'There in thy scanty mantle clad
Thy snawie bosom sunward spread'*

These erotic lines are from a poem by Robert Burns and have nothing whatsoever to do with the policy or lack of policy of the Sun newspaper editor who stunned male readers last week by putting clothes on its page 3 model. Well, it was a really cold day, after all!

There has been no comment on the subject from the Sun but plenty from everyone else. So the

world is left waiting and wondering. On the very next day page 3 was restored to normal. Will we now find the shelves of our favourite newsagents full of secretly thumbed through copies of the Sun? It has been suggested that page 3 is now old-fashioned. Just think -the entire subject could be raised during the forthcoming TV Party Leaders' debates – if they ever get off the ground! And for those who want to read the rest of the Bard's poem on scanty mantles and snawie bosoms –read 'To a Mountain Daisy!

THOUGHTS ON 'A BIG BIRTHDAY'.

With Rod Stewart still rocking on his 70th this January and Kenny still preaching on his 60th in February, my thoughts strayed to the importance and significance of that birthday which takes one onwards to the next decade and is indeed a memorable milestone

At 40: *'Jings, I'll be getting more sensible now!
And my hair colour will no longer
be an option –it'll be a cost of living!'*

At 50: *'Of course, I'll not be admitting to it for a
few years yet! I'll just keep on lying
and dyeing!'*

At 60: *'Well, I suppose retirement – and it's
early retirement- is a new opportunity as
long as it doesn't present with a new hip, a
new knee or a hearing aid!'*

At 70: *'Three score years and ten – now that's
scary! You know what the Bible says!
And Parkinson's wittering on about his
funeral plans with the free pen and
Ronnie Corbett's eating Wiltshire Farm
Foods – aw geeza brek – I'm trying to watch
Neighbours!'*

Aye, big birthdays are certainly thought provoking!

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE MISTY ISLE.

Scene 1: A croft in Skye circa 12th January 2015.

Donald: Ochone, ochone, heedrum hodrum – ma heid's ferr nippin'!

Kirsty: Ach, it's yourself, Donald, that wis some Hogmanay we had! I switched on the wireless this morning and Skye is on the news. They were talkin' about a big muckle creature that

wis found on the shore. It wis 4 metres lang and had a big snout.

Donald: I tellt your mither tae stey in the hoose and I wid empty her bucket when I sobered up!

Kirsty: Naw, Donald, it's deid. It wis 170 million years auld and picked up in Skye back in 1959. It wis taken to Edinburgh where the scientists Christened it Dearcmhara Shawcrossi.

Donald: Ach...you're haverin', wumman!

Kirsty: The poor beastie 's been taken tae Glasgow noo. It was wan o' thae dinosaurs.

Donald: Jings, they'll dine oan anythin' in Glasgow as lang as it's deep fried wi' a Mars bar and chips!

'FOR AULD LANG SYNE'

On Sunday 25th January Friends celebrated their Scottishness with a Burns Supper and entertainment from AGM and others. The Haggis was delicious and enjoyed by all apart from Liz who declined with thanks. It had something to do with her Englishness and nothing at all to do with the comment in the House of Lords that haggis is revolting. Well, we all know what Rabbie thought of the Lords! The entertainment was inspiring, enjoyable and great fun. And the Friends' exec had wanted everyone to take part in it and asked for volunteers.

Young Rachel immediately agreed to play a verse of 'Auld Lang Syne' on her violin. On informing her Mum, Gillian, I was surprised to hear her exclaim sarcastically -

'Rachel? Oh you'll really enjoy that!' Her Granny was no more encouraging, informing us that she was OK in a crowd when you couldn't hear the scraping! Now if Mrs Benedetti had said that of her wean.....!

Stop Press: Rachel and her violin got the last laugh – she came first in the Burns Competition! Gaun yersel, Rachel!

FRIENDS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

The next event will be 'A Play, a Pie and a Pancake' and will take place on 27th February. The play will be DPT's production of 'The Ladykillers', a black comedy by Graham Linehan. Supper will consist of a delicious hot pie served with gravy and beans. Local pies are currently being auditioned by members of the exec who are

confident that they will come up with the perfect pie to suit St Aug's gourmet clientele. The pie will be followed by a freshly made pancake with a choice of filling – lemon juice, jam, cream or maple syrup. Scrumptious! Watch for full details on the Community Hall noticeboard. The inclusive cost is £9 (£8 with Friends' discount). And there's advance warning of a May Murder Mystery with an elite buffet served with bubbly – book that taxi now!

BACK NEXT MONTH....

...when March will have come in either like a lion or a lamb. And remember...

'Tis dogs delight to bark and bite

And little birds to sing.

And if you sit on a red hot brick

It's the sign of an early Spring!

Janette



FIRST APPLIANCE CARE

Services and Repair to all makers of Washing machines, Tumble Dryers, Dishwashers, Refrigeration, Cookers, Vacuums (Dyson specialists)

New appliances supplied and installed
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Smile Lines:

February 14TH is St Valentine's day... so, how do you define love?

A group of 4 to 8 year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

~ "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

~ "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

~ "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

~ "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

~ "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

~ "Love is when mum makes coffee for my dad and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

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The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were he to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I moved on to ask him about the Sunday Services he attended and was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of

withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

THOUGHTS FOR LENT

It is not great talents that God blesses, so much as great likeness to Jesus. - Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Great eagles fly alone; great lions hunt alone; great souls walk alone – alone with God. - Leonard Ravenhill

No man ever said, at the end of his days, 'I have read my Bible too much, I have thought of God too much, I have prayed too much, I have been too careful with my soul.' - J C Ryle

A guilty conscience is a hell on earth, and points to one beyond. - Anon

It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to. - Anon

Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God. - Anon

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.' - Jesus Christ

The heart of man is like a creeping plant, which withers unless it has something around which it can entwine. - Charles James Apperley

God is as present as the air. - Michael Hollings

We are, because God is. - Emmanuel Swedenborg

There is a net of love by which you can catch souls. - Mother Teresa

ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Sunday Feb 1st: 11am Eucharist

Reader Pauline Dow
Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian

Sunday Feb 8th: 11am Eucharist

Reader Jean Brown
Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday Feb 15th: 11am Eucharist

Reader Pat Brooks
Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidespersons Tom & Ian

Sunday Feb 22nd: 11am Eucharist

Reader Pauline Dow
Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian

Sunday March 1st: 11am Eucharist

Reader Jean Brown
Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

CLEANING ROTA

15th Feb/22nd March Finella
22nd Feb/29th March Iona/Mary
1st March/5th April Margaret
8th March/12th April Jean
15th March/19th April Eveline

FLOWERS

15th February Pauline
(no flowers during Lent)

ASH WEDNESDAY



CLERICAL
ATTENDEE

CLERICAL
ERROR

ROTAS FOR ST AUG'S

Sunday February 1st: 11am Eucharist

Readers: Maggie W & David Ansell
Intercessions: Tim Rhead
Chalice: David R & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons: Liam M & Linda Jenkinson
Flowers: Linda Macaulay

Sunday February 8th: 11am Eucharist

Readers Ghislaine K & Morag O'Neill
Intercessions Margaret Hardie
Chalice Sharon R & Fran Walker
Sidespersons Chrissie & Roberta Mailley
Flowers Fran Walker

Sunday February 15th: 11am Eucharist

Readers Barbara B & Sharon Rowatt
Intercessions Fran Walker
Chalice Tim R & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Ronnie & Margaret Swan
Flowers Barbara Barnes

Sunday February 22nd: 11am Eucharist

Readers Evelyn O'Neill & Tim Rhead
Intercessions David Rowatt
Chalice Margaret H & Barbara B
Sidespersons Kevin Mason & David Ansell
Note; No flowers during Lent

Sunday March 1: 11am Eucharist

Readers Janette B & Maggie Wallace
Intercessions Margot Rhead
Chalice Fran Walker & David Rowatt
Sidespersons Linda & Liam McLarnon

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