

By the Way Together

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

Issue No 7 March 2015



LENT

– it's not too late to start your
preparations!



- Collect money for Lent in one of our collection boxes for St Andrew's, Lamin, Gambia to help them build a new sanctuary for their church
- Donate weekly in kind to our foodbanks – 'Food for Thought' at St Augustine's or 'Lomond Foodbank' at St Mungo's
- Follow Christian Aid 'Count Your Blessings' daily programme and donate money to the charity or to St Andrew's, Lamin
- Join our Lent Group – 7pm Wednesday, The Rectory, Queen's St, Alexandria
- All details at the back of both churches or ask the clergy!

Parish directories

Rector

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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
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St Mungo's

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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 10.30am Holy Communion *(please note this is a new time for the period of Lent)*

St Augustine's

St Augustine's, 2a High Street, Dumbarton, G82 1LL - Tel: 01389 734514
staugustinessec@btinternet.com

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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

**‘Auld Lang Syne’ Night
St Auggie’s style**

Enjoyed by all!



**And then Kenny turned
60... and we partied!**





Congratulations, Lydia and David!
The new Mr and Mrs Wiggins!
Married February 7th
Every blessing for a happy life together!

HOSPITALITY

I promised to find this description for those who attended the Lent Group in 2014. As it has taken me so long, I thought it may be good to share with everyone this year. I do not know who wrote it but I used it as a standard when working with single, homeless people. I would suggest it is appropriate for all work with communities and congregations.

“There is a hospitality of the heart which goes beyond that necessary of the home, the readiness to find room and space to give people peace and gentleness and compassion and above all, in this critical age in which we live, to accept them without judging, dismissing, labelling. This is the hospitality to be exercised to those immediately around us”

Pauline Dow



During the last week in January Lomond Foodbank received a huge donation from Balloch Firestation.

Their generosity was very much appreciated and every tin and jar has been given out to those in need in the Vale.

Despite the kindness of the community the demand for food for the hungry is still out stripping what is being given. Do please remember those less fortunate than yourselves when shopping... and give what you can! A collection box is at the back of both churches. Thank you!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

Wednesday	1st April	10.30 am	Eucharist
Thursday	2 nd April	7pm	Passover Supper, Stripping the Church & Watch
Friday	3 rd April	2pm	Last Hour
Saturday	4 th April	8pm	Paschal Vigil (starts in the Hall)
Sunday	5 th April	9am	Holy Communion
Sunday	5 th April	11am	Sung Eucharist

ST MUNGO'S

Monday	30 th March	10.30 am	Eucharist
Tuesday	31 st March	10.30 am	Eucharist
Wednesday	1st April	10.30 am	Eucharist
Thursday	2 nd April	7pm	Eucharist, Stripping the Church & Watch
Friday	3 rd April	2pm	Last Hour
Sunday	5 th April	11am	Sung Eucharist

ECUMENICAL SERVICES

Monday	30 th March	7pm	West Kirk
Tuesday	31 st March	7pm	St Andrew's, Bellsmyre
Wednesday	1st April	7pm	Dalreoch UF
Thursday	2 nd April	7pm	St Aug's, Passover & Stripping the Church
Friday	3 rd April	11am	Walk of Witness & service in Town Centre (12pm)
Friday	3 rd April	7pm	Riverside, Communion

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

Followed by refreshments in the
Governor's Rooms

Contact Tim if you wish to come
01389 761676

"A Blast fae the past:

The Sequel"

March 27th

St Augustine's Church

7.30pm

From Kenny....

We all have habits, even little ones like going to the supermarket, and the same supermarket, on a weekly basis. Women, and men too, find a hairdresser they like, and make a habit of going back again and again to that same person. Our lives are full of habits, some good and some not so good for us. Lent is a time for us to discard some habits which are not so good, and take on board others which are more beneficial for us.

Sometimes that takes us out of our comfort zone and we feel uncomfortable for a bit, but that's ok and eventually new habits, better ones, take the place of others.

I have worked with people with addiction problems for many years. Many of them have come through Treatment Programmes, and then return to their home, swearing that they will change the way they have lived and change their circle of 'friends'. They sincerely want to break their old habits, but often, for many reasons, that doesn't work out for them. Gradually, especially without support, they return to their old habits, because the offer of a new life, building up a new set of friends, and even finding a job becomes so unsettling and scary, that they return to their old habits, their comfort zone, and they start using or drinking again. They find themselves back at stage one, wondering what happened, and hating themselves to an even greater degree, because of that feeling of failure.

There has been no change of habits, really, and the truth is that if nothing changes then nothing will change. I know that sounds trite, but someone clever once said that the definition of insanity was constantly doing the same thing and expecting different outcomes.



We are still in the midst of Lent, a season which encourages us to change our habits, the ones that are not so good for us, and take on new ones which will be beneficial to us in our lives and on our spiritual journey.

Even Jesus had habits! How often do we read in the Gospels that Jesus, for example, went to the synagogue, as was his habit on the Sabbath? That sounds like a fairly good habit to me! He had the habit of finding a lonely place where he could pray. Another good habit!

Lent is a challenge to all of us, and it's not too late to begin, or begin again. I read last week that 25% of a large congregation had abandoned their Ash Wednesday promises by the First Sunday in Lent!

However, we **can** begin again, and it's never too late to embark on a wee list of habits you would like to take on, like getting back to church, or spending some more time on prayer, maybe praying in a different way! Talk to Liz or me if you need help with that!

I know full well the difficulties of changing your life or your habits. You would need to pull me out of my comfort zone squealing and kicking, but it's often what we need to do to help ourselves and to grow as human beings.

Your spiritual health is just as important as your physical health and mental health. We need to spend a bit of time nourishing it and taking care of it. Lent is the season which is given to us to spend a bit more time on that part of our lives which are important.

So change some of your habits through Lent, take on more positive ones and reject those things which can pull you down. Don't stick with your comfort zone, for there is no room for growth and development in there!

Kenny



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

Gambia and Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School March 2015

There is always some news from our school and the last month has been no exception.

We have news from Headmaster Sulayman that some of the childrens' chairs are broken and need to be replaced. We sent out all the tables and chairs a few years ago now, they were supplied through Fran from some of the Glasgow schools which were being refurbished and they are doing well to have lasted this well. We have asked Sulayman to liaise with Helen to find a supplier in the Gambia for replacements so that another problem can be solved!

The classrooms have also been supplied with cabinets which have been needed for some time to store the equipment for each class and keep things safe and neatly tidied away.

Kenny and I promised when we were visiting in November that we would arrange for storage room to be built in a convenient corner of the school grounds and we are waiting for Eric the builder to complete this task when he returns from a visit to England. So we are ticking items off our school 'to do' list.

We had a request from Father Jimmy to help with the supply of computers to the nursery school attached to his church in Serrekunda. We were unable to help as much as we would have liked but have donated £200 in the spirit of Christian fellowship and Father Jimmy and his congregation have sent their heartfelt thanks.

Educating Fatou: Back in 2002 a dozen or so of our congregation sponsored individual children in the Gambia to enable them to go to a local nursery. This nursery support eventually morphed into our nursery when Kenny realised that we could touch the lives of more children by running our own nursery with the free education, feeding and health care that we supply today.

One of these children was a 4 year old called Fatou Mbye who was sponsored by our faithful St. Aug's friend Peter McMartin. Peter travelled to The Gambia and met Fatou and always sent out presents when others were visiting. Fatou was important to Peter and when he died the sponsorship was continued in Peter's name by his son Eddy. Fatou is now in year 11 and in September 2016 she will have finished her standard education. Unfortunately, this education is much more expensive and although Eddy continues to provide funds each month, and Kenny and I have been supplementing this as the schooling costs increased, we now need to find an extra £45 a month to allow her to continue her education. I personally would hate to let her down at the last hurdle, completion of Year 12 will give Fatou a certificate which will let her get a job and have a better future. She is a bright girl and has got consistently good grades during her education. Fatou was poorly for one year and missed her schooling but in the last year she has got better and is not back on track. If she wishes to continue in Further Education after Year 12, then we can think about that near the time. In the meantime, would anyone like to take up a monthly sponsorship of £5 or more a month towards the extra cost of educating Fatou? If so please speak to me or to Kenny.

Linda



WOOLLY HATS DELIVERED!



Having safely delivered many, many woolly hats to The Mission for Seafarers our Vestry secretary received this letter of thanks. Well done to all who contributed to this wee, but important missionary work. Anyone who would like to join our merry band of knitters please see Fran Walker or one of the clergy.

Dear Ms Barnes

On behalf of the Mission for Seafarers Scotland, would you please pass on to your congregation and to anyone who may have contributed in anyway our sincere gratitude for all of the knitted items which were delivered to our chaplain Rev Tim Tunley on Monday last and do please pass on a very special thank you to Fran who made such an effort in taking them over to Linlithgow and for taking the time to do this. The thoughtfulness of you all to our seafarers is so very much appreciated. I was sent a copy of the Nautilus Telegraph this week which has a wonderful article entitled 'The Journey of a Woolly Hat' and which included comments from a seafarer who said that he always gets hats whenever he visits a Mission, or his ship is visited by a chaplain and said that he planned to wear his hat whenever he is on deck or ashore when it is cold. His message to the person who knitted his hat was a 'big thank you, these hats make a big difference' and I know how much your gifts cheer them on during cold and windy days at sea.

I do hope that the winter weather has not caused you any problems. It is beautiful here today but we have had some nasty storms and it has sadly been a busy time for the Mission with multiple incidents at sea dominating the work of our chaplains and volunteers with two serious accidents in the UK in Southampton and the Orkneys, the latter resulting in the loss of two lives. There was also a case of a fire aboard a ferry resulting in the death of two Albanian seafarers. We continue to support seafarers and their families and we thank you for the support which you give us. You make our ministry possible. Please encourage everyone to keep the knitting needles clicking whenever they are able.

You will remain always in our prayers,

Jennifer K Gray





Dear friends,

Having been married to an Irishman for almost 25 years I have learnt that March 17th is not just 'another day'. No... it is one of life's Red Letter Days... it has a significance and importance which brings friends and families together, it is a day of celebration where Irish people like to get together (often in a pub!) and where cards and shamrocks are exchanged and phone calls between separated loved ones are made. And the reason? Of course, March 17th is St Patrick's Day!



St Patrick, I think, must have been quite a colourful character. He grew up in Britain in the fifth century... was captured at the age of 16 by Irish pirates who whisked him off to the Emerald Isle for six years... he escaped, returned home to Britain, became a cleric and then returned to Ireland as a missionary! For the rest of his life he travelled around Ireland 'baptising thousands of people', ordaining priests to lead new Christian communities and converting wealthy women and the sons of kings. Legend has it that he used the shamrock to illustrate the three-in-oneness of the Trinity, and that he banished all the snakes from the country, chasing them all into the sea after they attacked him whilst he was undertaking a 40 day fast. What a man! Quite the adventurer!

The Celts were known for their adventurous spirit and Patrick, although originally thought to be a Romano Briton, became "more Irish than the Irish themselves" and quickly adopted the Celtic outlook and attitude to life. They were known for sailing into unknown seas and taking their chance as to where they would land. They were known for travelling miles and miles to discover new places, new peoples and new experiences. They greeted each day as an adventure full of possibilities, hope and opportunity. And Patrick did the same. In our modern, organised, tightly controlled lives this level of freedom and openness may seem strange and rather scary. But the life of a Celt was based intimately with nature and ultimately with God. The Celts trusted God completely. They lived daily in close proximity with God and were always deeply aware of the presence of God. God, for them, was in everything, with them in everything and accompanied them through everything. In keeping with the spirit of Psalm 139 they trusted that if they ascended into the heavens God would be with them...if they descended into the depths God would be with them. They believed wholeheartedly that nothing, but nothing, could separate them from the love of God.

You get a sense of the depth of this belief in the words of the prayer of St Patrick, a part of which says:

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.



To Patrick, God was no indifferent, impersonal being. God was as close as the air that surrounded him. He knew that Christ encircled him every minute of every day, giving him strength, keeping him safe, guiding his every move. He knew that his very being depended upon God. What a basis for living that is! At the beginning of this Lent perhaps we should take a moment to reflect on Patrick and who God is for us, what our relationship with God is and on how much we rely on and trust in God in every situation that we face and experience.

And when it comes to March 17th, Happy St Patrick's Day!

With love, Liz

Painting the Church

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, And buying the paint and yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine...

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke...

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a "C" to a "B" average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.'

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair...and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

And his Dad replied:

'Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?'

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My dear Nephew Darren

I cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes, and as your sermons alone often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular – although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practising Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St. James the Least was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Mattins is over.

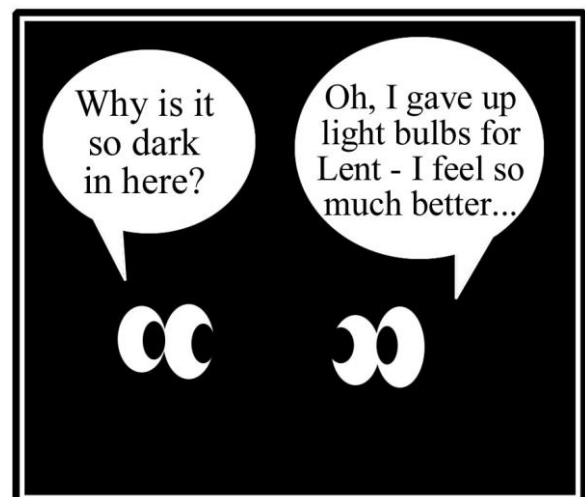
I did once encourage people to walk to church across the fields, but when the present Earl of Stowe started to get his staff to lay waterproof sheeting along the paths so he could avoid getting mud on his shoes, I decided the idea was best dropped.

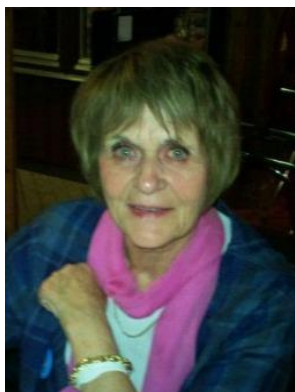
For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it. And it would have made a charming garden feature; I could even picture it with garden gnomes on its roof.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before – I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, bringing the entire town to a halt until your three hour Sunday morning Service is over.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace





'Wait Till I Tell You.....'

Janette looks forward to a host of golden daffodils heralding the coming of Spring while casting a backward glance at the last of the Winter festivities at St. Aug's.

THE LAST WORD 'FOR AULD LANG SYNE'.

It was lovely to hear so many good reports about this popular Friends' event held on 25th January – the congenial company, the delicious meal and the brilliant entertainment. So thanks very much to all who contributed in any way particularly our terrific audience. We raised £466 for Friends and ultimately the Church funds. The Church is proving to be an excellent location for café-style events after Fran carefully considers the table layouts and decoration. But it doesn't just happen – oh no! The worship setting has to be dismantled and the hall tables collapsed and rolled along our hazardous slippery decking into just the right position. Reverse the process the following morning and throw in the kitchen clean-up for all the fun of being on the exec! This intrepid group of ladies certainly put the multi into multi- tasking. They seem to have an extra pair of hands to prepare and serve all manner of delicious meals and at the Scots Night Alistair gave them an extra 98 legs to perform the dance to 'The Wee Kirkcudbright Centipede'. And Roberta, Margaret and Chrissie were dressed as Bay City Roller lookalikes until Chrissie's tartan trousers parted at the seams and she had to be restored to normal! *'That's whit happens, lassies when you'se buy your haute couture frae a stall on Blackpool pier!'* And who will forget Sharon and TBag's daud of culture when they recited 'A Dug, a Dug!' - TBag having taken yet another opportunity to appear in her tartan mini skirt. She'll never get over the Bishop's remark about her 'good legs'! *'Listen hen, he's a Bishop – surrounded by long black cassocks.....he's no'* Simon Cowell!' Locating our event in the Church meant that we could have a real 'live' piper without deafening our audience. Brian escorted the 'great chieftain' in with great style to have it murdered with verse and a kitchen knife. So R.I.P. haggis everywhere, the only creatures to attend more Burns Suppers than John Hardie, you can now return to your heather clad hillsides.

The traditional highlight of our Scots Nights is 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns' and a goodly number, including the clergy, managed to climb on to their chairs for the chorus. Those with sticks or zimmers tried in vain to elevate themselves by holding on to the pillars. Then it was 'Flower of Scotland' with everyone on their feet. But it all ended with *'We'll meet again some ither nicht...for auld lang syne'*. And we did!

AND FOR OUR NEXT PARTY....

One week later we were at it again! Kenny's 60th birthday had to be celebrated and Linda kept it a secret for as long as she could. He must have suspected something was happening when people started arriving from all over the world so she thought she had better prepare him – it was not to be a party in the true sense of the word, just a wee 'do'. A sort of Kennyvision Song Contest at which folk could bring guitars and perform. Aye, that'll be right! The performers, under the guidance of Ghislaine and Ricky, would have all of five minutes to rehearse! And, of course, he could bring his guitar and his jeely piece!

On his entrance, the Birthday Boy was directed to a decorated rocking chair to receive the good wishes and gifts from his family, friends and parishioners from St. Aug's and St. Mungo's. Then came a plethora of age related accoutrements necessary for men of a certain vintage! Jings – men certainly go downhill fast! Then, before he could read the instructions on his gift wrapped suppositories, two angels vacated the ranks of Cherubim and Seraphim and came down from the Te Deum window to join the party. Liz and Linda in halos and furry wings sang 'The Ballad of Kenny Macaulay'. One of the highlights of the evening was when Hailey, Kenny's granddaughter and Partick Thistle mascot, joined with her four year old cousin Alanna, to charm the audience with 'Let it Go' from the hit Disney film 'Frozen'. The lyrics may have been inappropriate for our Rector – *'the cold never bothered me anyway'* but he really enjoyed their singing. The hall had been tastefully decorated, the cake was adorned with a flattering photo and the buffet was

delicious. Kenny will no doubt be delighted that our Prime Minister will be honouring the universal bus pass if he gets elected. So welcome to the world of wrinklies and we can't wait to see you on the Westcliff bus.

SEWERAGE SETTLED AT LAST!

At the February vestry meeting the minutes of the previous one had recorded 'there was a problem with the toilet backing up when it was in use for lengthy periods.' This was agreed to be very serious. Are there those amongst us who come to the Church and spend superfluous time in our toilet? That evening our esteemed vestry members spent more time discussing the sewage than the M.A.P. So the next day a call was put in to Scottish Water – about the toilet, not the M.A.P! Our plea for action was recorded by a very efficient lady who sympathised about our perceived blockage and assured us that she would waste no time in getting to the bottom of things! What a relief! And later that afternoon I received the all clear – a phone call to say that all was now well with our system and we need have no further fear of flushing. Great service, Scottish Water, we can now look forward to uninterrupted toilet usage in the future! Our Treasurer, David, was planning to include an old Brethren hymn containing the line *'I've tried the broken cisterns, Lord, but ah, the waters failed'* in Sunday's Eucharist but was dissuaded. And in the news that very evening there was coverage of Prince Charles in hard hat inspecting a sewer in London! *Aye, we know how you feel, your highness!*

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There was consternation in the press during February about a police horse that gloried in the name of Brian. Such a common name would never do for the force! So discussions took place on the possibility of changing it while houses were being burgled throughout the land! Police horses had to be given dignified names like Odin, Thor and Hercules – never Brian. But happily, common sense prevailed and Brian remained as Brian. It seems to me that the Church could encounter a similar problem in the future with the names of their Bishops, particularly now that the C of E is allowing women to join the ranks. How many years will it take for the consecration of a Bishop Kylie or a Bishop Beyonce? We'd never take the apostolic succession seriously again!

QUIZ NIGHTS FOR DUMMIES.

Such a publication would be welcomed by the folk from St. Aug's who attended the recent event in the Community Hall in aid of the West Kirk's John and Jean Foundation that supports charities in India. The team that was second bottom contained Barbara, Tim and David Ansell. But the real dummies of the evening was a team called 'Auggie's Dollies' – Tbag, Maggie and yours truly with numbers made up by some friends from St. Patrick's who even got the wrong answer to a question about Popes! We'd no chance! This was a bigger embarrassment than the cash for access revelations but we appreciated the chocolate we received for our booby prizes. There was lots of good fun and the event was all about enjoying a curry and raising some money so we were delighted when Barbara informed us next day that the result was over £200. The Quizmaster for the evening was Derek Barnes who managed to keep everyone in order – but only just!

A NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

By the time you read this we'll have enjoyed 'A Play, a Pie and a Pancake' – the Friends' February event which takes in a visit to the Civic Theatre for DPT's 'The Ladykillers'. And the Pancakes are not the leftovers from Shrove Tuesday – they will be freshly made by Margaret and Roberta and served with a variety of fillings. The March and April Friends' events are still on the drawing board but a Murder Mystery is planned for 8th May. You all know the old adage - 'Marry in May and rue the day' – well, that's your starter for ten! To get further clues you must attend and you may be lucky enough to solve the crime. Just look out your wedding hats!

A BLAST FROM THE PAST – THE SEQUEL!!!

Just when you thought it was safe to come out of hibernation along come Ghislaine and Ricky with an even bigger than usual bash to celebrate the music of the '50s, the 60s and the '70s. The event will be held in the Church and all money raised will be for St. Augustine's Church funds. A light buffet will be served to sustain you in case Ghislaine gets carried away. We have been promised some new performers but the Acts of the Allsorts will still be with us. Now all you have to do is select your favourite decade and dress accordingly. Remember, if the frock still fits – wear it! Ghislaine will be moving amongst

you all very soon – and you won't be safe, even in the Vale!

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH.

This warning was issued to Julius Caesar– and of course he ignored it and the rest is history. The ides of March are on the 15th which this year falls on a Sunday. Now in 2015 you've just survived two Friday the 13ths so your luck must be starting to run out. On Sunday 15th there will be no safer place than St. Aug's for the Eucharist! I know there is slippery decking but

Fran's laminated notices will remind you not to run. See you there!

Soon we'll be looking forward to April, Easter, Spring, daffodils and the arrival of the pink Labour party bus at the ADSA car park! Oh, yes – the election is coming fast and furious! There's sure to be gossip. Read all about it in the April edition of By the Way Together!

Janette

HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY

15th MARCH 2015

To all the beautiful Mums out there... this explains it all!

It all began to make sense, the blank stares, the lack of response, the way one of the kids will walk into the room while I am on the phone and ask to be taken to a friend's. Inside I am thinking, 'Can't you see I'm on the phone?'

Obviously not; no-one can see if I am on the phone, or cooking, or sweeping the floor or even standing on my head in the corner because no one can see me at all. I'm invisible. The Invisible Mum. Some days I am only a pair of hands, nothing more! Can you fix this? Can you tie this? Can you open this?

Some days I'm not pair of hands; I'm not even a human being. I'm a clock to ask 'What time is it?' I'm a satellite guide to answer, 'What number is the Disney Channel?' I'm a car to order, 'Collect me at 5.30, please.' I was certain that these were the hands that once held books and the eyes that studied history and the mind that graduated from university – but now, they had disappeared into the peanut butter, never to be seen again. She's going, she's going, she's gone!?

One night a group of us were having dinner celebrating the return of a friend from a trip when Janice turned to me with a beautifully wrapped package and said 'I brought you this'. It was a book on the great cathedrals of Europe. I wasn't exactly sure why she had given it to me until I read her inscription: 'To Charlotte, with admiration for the greatness of what you are building whom no one sees.'

A story in the book told of a rich man came to visit the cathedral while it was being built, and he saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, 'Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam, that will be covered by the roof. No one will ever see it.' And the workman replied, 'Because God sees.'

I closed the book, feeling the missing piece fall into place. It was almost as if I heard God whisper to me, 'I see you, Charlotte. I see the sacrifices you make every day, even when no one around you does. No act of kindness you've ever done is too small for me to notice and smile over. You are building a great cathedral, but you can't see right now what it will become.'

I keep the right perspective when I see myself as a great builder. As one of the people who show up at a job that they will never see finished, to work on something that their name will never be on. When I really think about it, I don't want my son to tell a friend he's bringing home from college at Christmas, 'My Mum gets up at 4 in the morning and bakes homemade cakes, and then she hand-bastes a turkey for 3 hours and presses all the linens for the table.' That would mean I'd built a shrine or a monument to myself. I just want him to come home. And then, if there is anything more to say to his friend, to add, 'You're going to love it here.'

As mothers, we are building great cathedrals. We cannot be seen if we are doing it right. And one day, it is very possible that the world will marvel, not only at what we have built, but at the beauty that has been added to the world by the sacrifices of invisible women.

ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Sunday March 1st

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday March 8th

11am Eucharist

Reader Pat Brooks
Intercessions Pat Brooks
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom and Ian

Sunday March 15th

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday March 22nd

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday March 29th

11am Eucharist

Reader Pauline Dow
Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday April 5th EASTER DAY

11am Eucharist

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

CLEANING ROTA

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

ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sunday March 1st

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday March 8th

11am Eucharist

Readers Margaret Hardie & Liam McLarnon
Intercessions Linda Macaulay
Chalice Sharon Rowatt & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley

Sunday March 15th

11am Eucharist Mothering Sunday

Readers Barbara Barnes & Margaret Hardie
Intercessions Maggie Wallace
Chalice Margaret Hardie & Tim Rhead
Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Margaret Swan

Sunday March 22nd

11am Eucharist

Readers Evelyn O'Neill & David Ansell
Intercessions Margaret Hardie
Chalice Barbara Barnes & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Tim Rhead & David Ansell

Sunday March 29th

11am Eucharist Palm Sunday

Readers David Rowatt & Morag O'Neill
Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice Fran Walker & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons Maggie Wallace & Kevin Mason

Sunday April 5th

11am Eucharist Easter Sunday

Readers Linda Macaulay & Tim Rhead
Intercessions Fran Walker
Chalice Margaret Hardie & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Linda Jenkinson & Roberta Mailley
Flowers Maggie W, Linda Macaulay, Barbara Barnes

FLOWERS

Donations for Easter Flowers will be gratefully received.

Please put donations into the box which will be at the back of the church from Sunday 22nd March or give your donations to Maggie Wallace or Barbara Barnes.