

By the Way Together

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

Issue No 8 April 2015



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Rector

Revd Kenny Macaulay
St Mungo's Rectory,
Queen St, Alexandria G83 0AS
Email: frkenny@sky.com
Tel: 01389 513365
Mobile: 07734 187 250

Associate Priest

Revd Liz O'Ryan
23 Paddockdyke, Skelmorlie PA17 5DA
Email: lizoryan@tiscali.co.uk
Tel: 01475 529835
Mobile: 07949 667 135

From Kenny....

Easter Day holds out many happy memories of my childhood. It was a big day and all the family were definitely at church on the day. My siblings and I were allowed to take our new Clark sandals from the box wrapped up in tissue with shiny bright white soles and heels, and they got their first outing at the Easter Communion. Of course, every Easter I remember was sunny, and it never rained!



Easter was special. Holy Week was special too, and I loved Palm Sunday, hated Maundy Thursday for some reason, and was dragged to church for the last 3 hours on Good Friday. Holy Week and Easter are the pinnacle of the Church's year, as we follow Our Lord from the great entry into Jerusalem through to his crucifixion, his death, and passion, then on to Easter Day itself. "Will He rise again, this year? my mother always asked.

At Christmas time, I'm always hearing folk say to me, "Och, this will be your busiest time of year", but it's not really. Sure there are things that need prepared as always, but the only big difference is in attendance at major services. People who never go to church or are seldom seen in church all attend, but it's the church that's busy rather than me! Holy Week and Easter are more demanding for clergy!

Christmas is cute and cuddly. We have a helpless baby lying in a manger. There is the Virgin Mary, and angels and we can cope with that. It's a beautiful story, and good old Santa is thrown in. Yes, people will come to church for the cuddly bits, the bits that don't threaten us or upset us very much.

Then there is Holy Week and Easter. It is a story of Jesus, helpless, dying on a cross, the Virgin Mary is there of course, there are angels on Easter morning. We will even throw in the Easter Bunny too, instead of Santa! However, our churches will not be full of people, and in fact there will be lots of spare seats during Good Friday and Easter too. The darkness of Holy Saturday will be ignored by

the great majority, because it's the Holiday Weekend and there's lots to do!

However, most of our gospels are made up of the Passion stories, and the last week of the life of Jesus is fairly brutal. However, this is why Jesus came, so that we can know that God's love and forgiveness of God's people will never end, and that men and women can sin the greatest sin and God will still love. "Having loved his own, he loved them to the end", as our Liturgy puts it. Evil is conquered, and life and love will forever win in the end. We can sing Alleluia again! The mass of Christians don't come to church to hear about the scary bits. This is not as comfortable as Christmas, and we sing hymns which reflect that. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all". Ooops, there's a commitment to change our lives in there! Let's wait until Easter comes.

I have many friends in more evangelical churches who don't really do Holy Week, and if there is a service in their church, it's packed with Easter hymns. But you can't accept the glory of Easter Day if you haven't experienced the horror of the Passion. In fact you can't understand the pattern of living if you haven't experienced the glory of Good Friday, the horror of Holy Saturday, then Easter morning. We need to come to church that week to hear the story unfold.

For many of us, the reality of Good Friday and Holy Saturday is something that's familiar to us, especially those of us who have experienced deep depression and emptiness, pain and loss. The Easter message is simple. "This, too, shall pass" and Easter morning will come again.

So, please attend church as much as possible through Holy Week and Easter. Go, and answer my mother's question. "Will He rise again this year?"



Kenny



SERVICES IN DUMBARTON & ALEXANDRIA

Monday 30th March

St Mungo's	Eucharist	10.30am
West Kirk		7pm

Tuesday 31st March

St Mungo's	Eucharist	10.30am
St Andrew's, Bellsmyre		7pm

Wednesday 1st April

St Aug's	Eucharist	10.30am
St Mungo's	Eucharist and Stations	10.30am
UF Church, Dalreoch		7pm

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

St Augustine's: Passover and Stripping the church	7pm
St Mungo's	Eucharist and Watch 7pm

Good Friday 3rd April

March of Witness in Dumbarton	11.00am
Service in Dumbarton Town Centre	12.00 noon
Walk of Witness starting at St Mungo's	11am
Riverside (Communion)	7pm

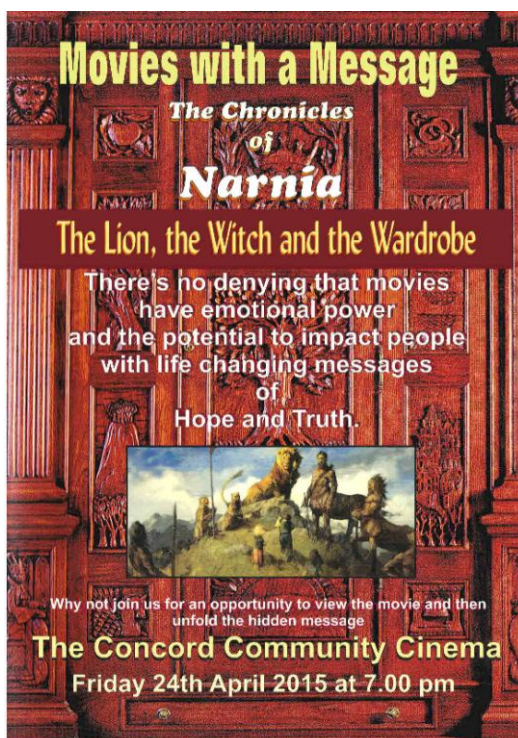
Holy Saturday 4th April

St Augustine's	Easter Vigil	8pm
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Easter Day 5th April

Early Easter Service	Balloch Slipway	7am
St Augustine's	Holy Communion	9am
	Sung Eucharist	11am

St Mungo's	Sung Eucharist	11am
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REGULAR SERVICES ST AUGUSTINE'S, DUMBARTON

SUNDAY: 9am Holy Communion

11am Sung Eucharist

WEDNESDAY: 10.30am Holy Communion

REGULAR SERVICES ST MUNGO'S, ALEXANDRIA

SUNDAY: 11am Sung Eucharist

WEDNESDAY: 9.30am Holy Communion



“What has Easter got to do with bunnies?” a youngster asked me recently, “I understand about the eggs – being new life and all that... but what about all the Easter egg hunts, over

the top Easter bonnets, eating loads of chocolate and rolling eggs down steep hills – what’s that all about?” She may well ask. As major Christian festivals go Easter is not simple. The story is complex... the characters are varied ... the inhumanity described is raw ... and the message of hope, self sacrifice and enduring love almost defies comprehension.

Supermarkets and other retailers would have us believe Easter is about treating ourselves to the most expensive luxury chocolate eggs, cooking and eating the biggest meal whilst opening oodles of cards with fluffy bunnies and chicks on them. “Join the Easter fun!” says Tesco.... “Make Easter special” encourages Morrisons. Yes, that’s all very well, but that doesn’t really answer the question. What IS it all about?

Well... first and foremost I think that Easter is about mystery. It’s about saying we don’t understand it... and we can never fully grasp what happened... and that’s Ok. It’s about acknowledging that our almighty God works with a power and dynamism which we do not expect... which surprises us all... and which through the outpouring of unconditional love demonstrates the heart of the divine.

It’s also about transformation. Not resuscitation. Jesus on Easter Day didn’t just ‘come back to life’, unchanged, to carry on where he left off. No, he was changed... having gone through the gates of death... to a resurrected life, a new life, a different life, having overcome death once and

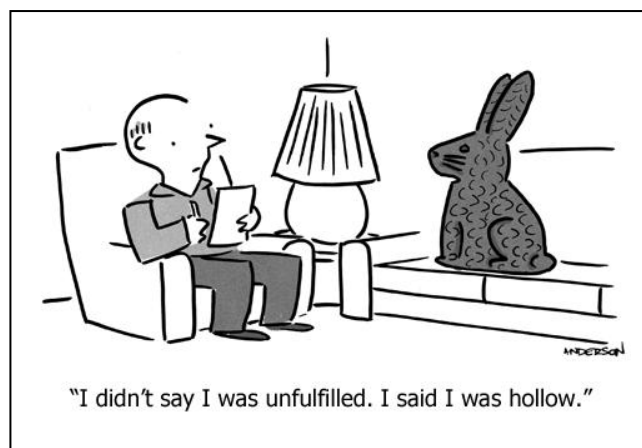


for all. We see similar miraculous transformations in the wonderful ways of nature... the caterpillar changing into a butterfly, an egg turning into a wee chick, a seemingly lifeless bulb changing into a tulip... We see such miraculous transformations in people’s lives - in a meeting of recovering addicts, the words of forgiveness after the pain of hurting, the smiles re-discovered after bereavement, the hard-won reconciliation of estranged families, or the employment of an offender released after serving their time. New life. New hope. Miraculous transformation.

It’s also about love. God’s love for us, his children. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whosoever believes in him shall have eternal life” says the Evangelist. The events of Holy Week, the Passion, the cross and Jesus’ giving of his life are not only the tangible outpourings of God’s love. They also herald the coming of a new kingdom and the lifting up of humanity towards the divine. It is, as St Paul wrote, the raising of the perishable to the imperishable and the physical body into the spiritual. It is the raising up of the weak to a position of strength, a repositioning of the last to be first and the transformation through forgiveness of the sinful to glory. It is a story of love from beginning to end... a story of God’s love which conquers all, transforms all and never ever ends. Wow!

Easter is so much more than the messages peddled by the supermarkets and media, so much more than the cute fluffy image with which the world sells the festival. Easter is the celebration of God’s mystery, power and love and the transformational gift of grace. Happy Easter one and all!

with love,
Liz



Churches celebrate St Patrick's Day on Dumbarton Rock

By Bill Heaney



It was almost as if St Patrick himself had slipped into the congregation to join a celebration in his memory on Dumbarton Rock on Saturday.

A man with an impressive white beard bore a striking resemblance to the person portrayed as Patrick in many of the icons of Ireland's patron saint.

Martin Hannan turned a few heads for a second look at the service organised by Dumbarton Churches Together on a small, grassy ledge on the precipitous Rock high above the River Clyde. This was the site of the now demolished St Patrick's Chapel, which was built behind the Governor's House by the Earls of Lennox.

The fact that this spitting image of the great saint was well wrapped up and wearing a hoodie – it looked just like a monastic cowl - to keep out the cold of the biting March wind, would have attracted a number of questions in another era. Was this the boy who was snatched by pirates from the banks of the Clyde and huckled off to Ireland around 400AD?

Was this the lad who was placed into slavery as a shepherd boy on Slemish Mountain in County Antrim?

Was this the man who used the shamrock to illustrate the mystery of the Blessed Trinity?

Was this the man who drove the snakes out of Ireland, which he converted to Christianity?

Was this the Patrick who was born up the road in Old Kilpatrick when his parents were part of the Roman army which built the Antonine Wall?

Was this the man whose image is displayed on the coat of arms and flag of West Dunbartonshire?

Martin, who lives in Dumbarton, said: "I don't know even if St Patrick had a beard. It's the trend these days for older people to grow a beard and the older you get the longer it becomes."

This week, on St Patrick's Day, children from primary schools across Dumbarton learned all about their local saint.

On Tuesday, in St Patrick's Hall in Strathleven Place, teachers told their pupils that his father, Calpornius, was a Roman decurio, a paymaster for the legions attached to Dumbarton Rock and the Antonine Wall.

And that he was fishing from the banks of the Clyde near Dunglass when he was captured and kidnapped by pirates who spirited him away. Dumbarton Churches Together's Josephine Fazzini, Joan Baird and Veronica Adam prepared a teaching aid which says that Patrick was born in the village of Bannavem Taberniae otherwise Old Kilpatrick.

He was taken into captivity by brigands and sold to Milchu, a chieftain son of Hua, King of North Dalriada.

The saint spent the next six years in captivity in Antrim where he had time to plan his future and eventually to escape.

He studied for the Christian ministry in France and eventually returned to Ireland via France where he realised his ambition to convert the people to Christian ways.

More than 200 pupils plus teachers received a *cead mile failte* in St Patrick's Hall in Strathleven Place on St Patrick's Day to celebrate with music and a quiz featuring characters from the time of

St Patrick. This was part of an anti-sectarian Initiative through Faith in Community Scotland, which campaigns amongst Scotland's boys and girls against bigotry and sectarianism. Eight local churches were represented and elders and clergy including Canon Gerry Conroy, of St Patrick's; the Rev Alex Johnstone, of Riverside and West Kirk; Tim Rhead, of St Augustine's Episcopal Church; the Rev Ishbel Robertson, of Barclay Church; the Rev John Clark, retired minister from the United Reformed Church and members of the Lennox Evangelical Church and the Rock Community Church.

Organiser Tim Rhead thanked Historic Scotland for once again giving Dumbarton Churches Together the use of the Castle for the service and Riverside Parish Church for laying on the hospitality after the service.



Members of the congregation included bearded Martin Hannan, whose resemblance to iconic images of St Patrick is remarkable!



A WOOLLY UPDATE!



This photo shows all the woolly hats, scarves etc being received by Rev Tim Tunley, Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers in Scotland, and his wife.

The Tunley's garage is full of hats, getting sorted for their various destinations. Balaclavas go to the merchant ships, but don't last long as they are inclined to get dirty very quickly. Matching hats and scarves are kept for inclusion in Christmas parcels of 'comforts'. Yet the biggest demand locally is for those working on the cruise ships. 100 hats a go and 30 cruise ships anticipated visiting Scotland in the coming year. It's too easy to forget that behind the glitz and the glamour there is a team of men and women working for low wages in difficult conditions. So Maggie and Janette, when you are on the Med this summer look out for Roberta's woolly hats!

Still want to knit? Then more hats, balaclavas, fingerless mitts and - for the skilled - socks, size 6 and above would be welcomed.

Fran Walker



Six schools were present : Knoxland, St Patrick's, Aitkenbar, St Peter's, Dalreoch and St Michael's. Clergy present were Canon Conroy, Ian Johnson, and Liz O'Ryan. Volunteers came to help from the different churches, six of whom were from St Augustine's. Veronica Adam organised the event and Joan Baird welcomed the children.

THE PADDYQUIZ

Tuesday, 17th March

On March 17th, 200 pupils from six Dumbarton primary schools came to St Patrick's church hall on St Patrick's day to celebrate the saint who is believed to have been born in this area.



The pupils took part in a quiz game, 'Who am I?' in which twenty members from local churches represented characters from the time of St Patrick. After the quiz the schools then gave presentations in song and verse on the theme of St Patrick, which they had prepared earlier using material produced by the Christian Heritage Dumbarton group. Certificates and badges were given to all the children who took part.



This event was part of a series of activities and services organised by Dumbarton Churches Together and supported by the Scottish Government's anti-sectarianism initiative through Faith in Community Scotland.

Tim Rhead, one of the organisers, said "The St Patrick's celebration was a great success and it was wonderful to see children from the

different schools working together to explore the rich heritage of Dumbarton ".

First Impressions

What will they be like???

Stars Stars Stars



Philippians 2:15

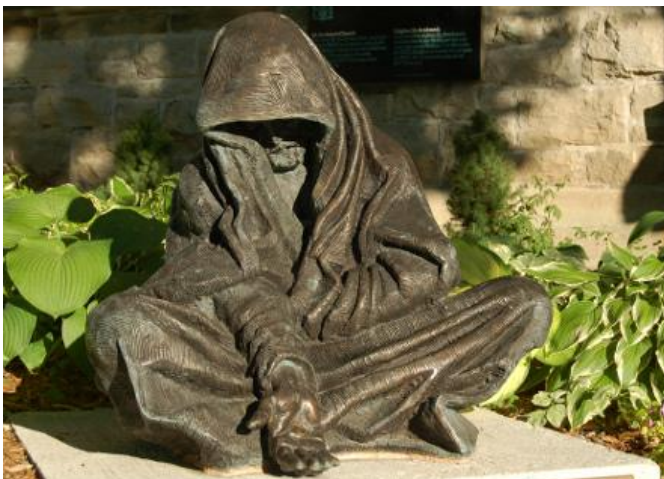
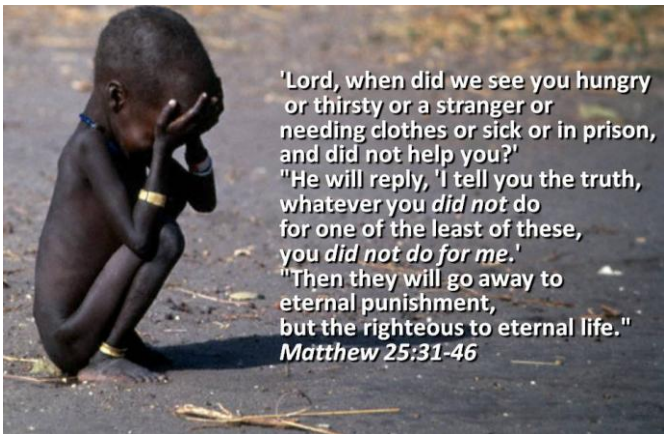
"...in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."

We Wiggins' would like to say a huge thank-you to all at St. Augustine's for the warm and generous welcome you have extended to us. The warmth and generosity of spirit which we have encountered is testimony to a people who **live** their faith and are comfortable in their own skins. Thank you for the many kind words, smiles, offers of inclusion and gentle nudges towards getting involved.

Maybe a modern take on the glass of water offered to the thirsty, forgotten by the giver but remembered by God? Not a whisper of protectionism here, just a sense of trust and hope. Thank you especially for welcoming John into your music group. This has blessed and encouraged him greatly. We have enjoyed getting to know some people better at the Lent study too- from St Mungo's as well as St Aug's and sharing both your faith stories and the warmth of fellowship with you. It has been a truly inspirational time.

*With love,
John, Kirsten, David and Lydia*





GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL – A RETREAT

By Morag O'Neill

The Food For Thought Team recently spent 2 nights on retreat. In Glen Esk – or as we renamed it The Middle of Nowhere. Look it up on a map and you'll understand why.

While we had fun and relaxed, including a trip to Loch Lee and a bracing walk (the wind came close to blowing us into the water), the main focus was to reflect on applying Christian values to the work of a food bank.

The theme was Matthew 25 - "When did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger, or in need and help you?"

The core message of this passage is what Food For Thought is about, and the time away gave us a chance to reflect on that. We made crosses out of nails, considered what it means to take up your cross, and discussed how that can be applied to our contact with people accessing Food For Thought.

We also talked about how we go about being Christ's hands, feet, eyes and ears to the community in Dumbarton.

This discussion culminated in us writing a prayer which can be used by all involved in Food For Thought and those in the congregation who want to support us in prayer:

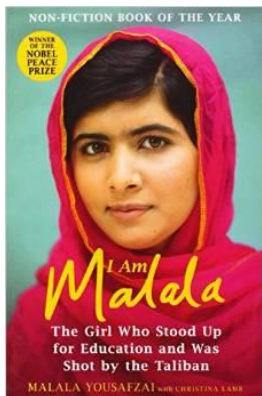
**Lord God, hold and heal all who come through
our doors this day.**

**May they feel welcomed and valued, and
through our actions receive your hope and a
knowledge of your love.**

**Help us to remember that we are the eyes,
ears and hands of your Son, and that as Jesus
himself fed others so may we love and care
for all those in need.**

**We give thanks, O Lord, for the generosity of
the community who enable us to carry out
this work in your name.**

AMEN



**I Am Malala (The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban).
By Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb.**

The latest read by the Book Club was “I Am Malala”, the story of the Pakistani teenager who was shot by the Taliban after standing

up for education for girls.

The book covers Malala’s life and upbringing in a typical Pakistani family in Swat Valley. Her father was a teacher and always keen for all his children (Malala and her 2 brothers) to be properly educated and opened a number of schools in the area. However, when the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, life in the area changed radically. The Taliban were keen to enforce purdah of women ie total seclusion, wearing of the veil or the burkha, not venturing outdoors without a man to escort them. This included no education for girls – considered to be unnecessary – and

both Malala and her father spoke out against this regime, pointing out that nothing in the Qu’ran states that women should not receive an education. Ultimately, this led to 3 gunmen entering the school bus and shooting Malala and 2 of her friends at point-blank range.

The book club had a mixed reaction to this book. Everyone felt it was a very interesting story and well worth reading to learn about life in Pakistan and the issues surrounding female education. However, while some people felt the book was very well written and Malala came over as a very likeable and admirable character, others felt that she came over as a bit arrogant and full of her own self-importance. Going by our different reactions, it’s definitely one of those books you have to read and then judge for yourself.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30 pm in The Haven. The book under scrutiny is “If I Knew You were going to be this Beautiful I Never Would have Let You Go” by Judy Chicurel.

Morag O’Neill

Gambian Good News!

By Linda Macaulay

If you read the last magazine you will remember that I was looking for further sponsors for a girl called Fatou.

Fatou has been sponsored by folk from Dumbarton since she was a small girl and now that she has reached a more expensive time in school, I needed extra sponsorship to ensure she could complete her education.

Good News! Two folk generously came forward to help and there is now enough support for Fatou until she finishes this year and her final year. This means that she can leave school with enough qualifications to allow her to find work or even to go on to further education if she feels that this is what she wants to do.

Other news. Helen, our wonderful administrator in The Gambia has written to say that the school uniforms need to be changed as the material used is not very strong and the parents are not happy that they are worn out very quickly. So there are plans afoot to get them made by a better manufacturer and so our children will look smart and well dressed when the new term starts after Easter. The uniforms are paid for by the parents although they are sourced through the school. This is the only part of the childrens' education which is a cost to the parents and families. They are happy with this arrangement and it means that the uniforms are looked after as well as possible.

LEARNING TOGETHER – ABOUT OUR FAITH AND ABOUT EACH OTHER!



This year's Lent course has been an exciting and enriching time for all involved. Setting aside time to come together and enjoy fellowship over a meal (which was very tasty each week) before challenging ourselves helped us to open up, share stories and make new ties with each other. Taking a chance to step back and examine our faith gives us perspective on how we can move forward and grow in our assurance as well as helping us to better understand and work together to bring God's kingdom into actualisation.

Week one we examined the idea of balance within our lives. How we balance our lives has a direct impact on those around us: are we making time to effectively communicate the love of Christ to them in a compassionate and just way? Looking at where we are comfortable and why, we can start to form a picture of our identity as Christians.

Week two held the theme of taking up our cross which had a bit of craft to help us understand the sting of the cross we so often disregard. Each of us using nails, wire and pliers made a small crucifix to remind us of what it means to take up our cross. It was also a good bonding exercise as not all of us were proficient with pliers.

Week three was most challenging for some of us as it was about "Obedient Listening". In a busy world where society constantly wants to keep moving it is important to remember the practice of listening with stability and together committing to be people who hear and listen to each other as well as waiting upon God and listening to Him.

Week four we looked at ourselves and conversion. The process is sometimes sudden and sometimes slow; it is one that has huge impact on how we see ourselves, reflecting on who we were, who we are now, and where might we go as we continue to learn from Christ. Do we want or need to change things to grow further? We started to take a glimpse at what that might look like.

This time has been most precious to me because coming together in community we experience the shared love we all have for Jesus as well as better understand who we are in Christ as we are treated with care and respect by our brothers and sisters. At this time of Lent we have all given up things, but we have also gained a lot because of this journey taken together.

Lydia Wiggins





Wait Till I Tell You.....

Now that Spring is officially in the air, Janette looks back on the last days of March and eagerly anticipates some future events at St. Augustine's.

MARCH CAME IN LIKE A LION.

Do you remember how March arrived in Dumbarton? It was cold, wet and windy enough to dislodge the roof tiles. So we can expect and deserve, as the old adage says, that it will go out like a lamb. And the first signs of this glorious season are already with us. The sun has been shining for two consecutive days and a 'strappy' top has been seen in the High Street. Out in the countryside the mad March hares now seem sensible, having been upstaged by the politicians who are determined to shock us out of our apathy to the forthcoming election. Jings! And it's not until 7th May!

COULD YOU GO A PIE?

At our recent Friends' event 'A Play, a Pie and a Pint' I was amazed at the number of folk who quoted this daft pie poem to me while serving.

'Says he tae me could ye go a pie?

Say I tae him, no' thinkin' o' the cheeky wey he said it

'Does yer Granny go tae the jigging?'

I wis that affrontit I walked oot the pie

Wi' the shoap in ma haun!

Try checking that on your computer! Well, that's all for the culture spot, folks!

A BLAST FROM THE PAST - THE SEQUEL!!!

This eagerly awaited celebration of the music of the 50s, 60s and 70s will have blasted into St. Aug's on Friday 27th March just as this magazine is being printed. Ghislaine has been selling tickets – great value at £5.00 - and Friends have organised 'Ye Olde Friends' Sweetie Shoppe'. All funds raised will be for the Church. What will folks be wearing on the evening? A fifties style circular skirt, bohemian fringes from the '60s or a 'daud' of glam rock from the '70s? Watch out for all the evidence in the May edition of 'By the Way Together' There are bound to be photographs and more than a little gossip!

A TALE OF TWO KITCHENS.

The political parties are really digging deep these days to have a go at their opponents. Anything capable of being a vote spoiler is dragged out and ridiculed in the press. We've had dodgy expenses claims, false allegations, name calling, unholy alliances, cleavage revealing frocks and trolling on the social media. But the stupidest jibe of all was hurled at poor old Ed Milliband who apparently has a home with two kitchens. No wonder he is in trouble in the polls with all those pots and pans to contend with. Can you imagine scouring two ovens, keeping four pairs of marigolds so he and Justine can cope with two sink loads of dirty dishes? And after a hard day's work on the opposition benches, coming home to a further important decision – where has the wife put the pie for my tea! But Ed's kitchen joke is getting nearly as tiresome as the constant harping on by all MPs about 'hard working families'. They can't all be 'hard working' or we'd never have had a recession in the first place. It's all so patronising! Roll on the 8th May!

DO YOU DO APRIL FOOL OR HUNTEGOWK?

April 1st will soon be with us so watch out for those unlikely stories in the press that are designed to catch the gullible and unaware. I read everything carefully and watch out for that tell-tale anagram that reveals all. April Fool jokes used to mean leaving a message for the unsuspecting to call a Mr C Lyon at a telephone number that turned out to be the local zoo. Another favourite was to ring the Tao Hair Clinic and book an appointment for Mr Y. Bayer (remember Yogi?). But my Granny never called it April Fool. She used the Scottish equivalent and ridiculed the victim with the call of 'Huntegowk!' I suspect that's now gone the way of the guisers with tumshie lanterns who have been replaced by the pumpkin bearing trick or treaters!

KING OF THE CAR PARK.

Well, that's what the unfortunate King Richard III was until fairly recently and now he's giving the world a history lesson at Leicester Cathedral. He certainly was a fascinating man. He was brought to my attention at primary school when I learned 'Richard of York gave battle in vain'. This was not an attempt to educate me on the Battle of Bosworth defeat, but as a mnemonic for remembering the colours of the rainbow. Today's children would simply google it! Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet. Then Richard became the 'bogie man' in the macabre tale of the little Princes in the Tower before both his character and appearance

were completely assassinated by Shakespeare. But the title role is a great part and the play has always been one of my favourites. So, your Majesty, let's hope you finally rest in peace now that so many people are saying nice things about you. They always do that at funerals. And they're buying up all your souvenir key rings and dishtowels! The stupidest remark heard at the entire pageant was that this was an Anglican Cathedral and Richard had been a Catholic! In the 15th century Protestants hadn't been invented –nor the word that's currently being used in football to insult them!

SEWAGE REVISITED.....AGAIN!

Oh dear, what a calamity

Two Church members are aye in the lavatory! That's what it seems like for Margaret Hardie and I who last month had been celebrating sewage success with the Church toilets. But our joy was short lived when the blockage returned. We knew it was time for Dynarod at £156 a visit or even Spiderman! And so it came to pass, and we hope it has passed, that the pipe has been purged of all obstructions. We are keeping our fingers crossed (and our legs if the problem persists) and flushing as often as time will allow. Our mantra is 'carry on flushing'. If the blockage returns the only solution left will be the Prayer List!

'TAKE A DAUNER DOON THE STEAMIE'

This well-loved Tony Roper play will be on the bill for DPT's 70th Birthday celebrations, 'Act to the Future' which will be in the Denny Civic Theatre on 29th, 30th April and 1st May. Appearing in the chorus will be – from St. Aug's - Maggie, TBag and yours truly. We have been working so hard at learning our lines we canny get wur ain washin' done. But I am at an advantage since I have actually done a washing at a genuine Glasgow Steamie. This was while working at the BT Training College in Glasgow in the '60s. A problem had arisen when a hierarchical visit clashed with the state of the curtains. They were 'mingin'! My colleague, a stalwart of the Partick Steamie volunteered us to save the day. We loaded about fifteen pairs into an estate car, borrowed the cleaners' overalls and organised a collection for the wringers. Not for us the trundling along with old prams or lugging battered suitcases. The steamie was really busy that day but soon we got the task underway despite the absence of non-bio laundry capsules! Satisfaction? Yes, until we noticed that running along the grooves on the stone floor, rivulets of filthy black water and it was coming from our washing! Suffice to say, we

were the talk of the Steamie' to quote the Glasgow expression. Our fellow washerwimmen were probably saying 'whit kin' a hoose dae they come frae?' Then it was on to join the queue for the dryers – big pull out machines that did their job wonderfully well. I was warned not to indulge in any queue jumping, and after a quick look round, I didn't!

So bring on the rolled down lisle stockings and the floral 'peenies'!

'R.S.V.P TO MURDER'

Yes, that's the title of the Friends' Murder Mystery scheduled for Friday 8th May. Further information will be available soon but the theme will be 'wedding' so now is the time to dig out that outfit that has been languishing in your wardrobe. Hats are a must – the dafter the better! The 3-course buffet will be posh and delicious – your brain will need the fresh salmon to identify the murderer from our 'dodgy' clues! Of course Bishop Gregor has been invited. We hope he will have recovered from his recent accident and be able to join us but 'I don't know!'

ALSO AT FRIENDS.

The AGM will take place on Sunday 31st May after the Eucharist – please try to attend and bring suggestions.

Then on 7th June there will be a double bill featuring 'Off the Rails' and 'Remember When?' – the latter with Lindsay Rodgers. More about this in the May magazine.

And Wee Friends are at the early planning stages of a July event which will be worth cancelling that summer cruise for. You can read about that in the June magazine. Yes, it's all happening at St. Aug's and remember that Vale folk are welcome as well! Oh, and a wee bus outing is on the cards for 15th August. Watch this space!

IT'S THAT FAIR AGAIN!

As soon as the vestry agrees the date for our Autumn Fair, Friends will be planning to put the nonsense into it. Mickey and Minnie can't come this year but we have a planand you shall be involved!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR HOLIDAY YET?

Yes, it's time to juggle the accounts and risk that overdraft. But it's a wee while yet – with two magazines till the Dumbarton Fair! Let's fill the time with exciting news, gossip and events at St. Aug's and St. Mungo's. Oh, and have a happy Easter! Back next month.

Janette

When Jesus Came to Birmingham



When Jesus came to
Golgotha, they
hanged Him on a
tree,
They drove great
nails through hands
and feet, and made a
Calvary;
They crowned Him
with a crown of
thorns, red were His
wounds and deep,
For those were crude
and cruel days, and
human flesh was
cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply
passed Him by.
They would not hurt a hair of Him, they only let
Him die;
For men had grown more tender, and they would
not give Him pain,
They only just passed down the street, and left
Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, 'Forgive them, for they know not
what they do, '
And still it rained the winter rain that drenched
Him through and through;
The crowds went home and left the streets without
a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall, and cried for
Calvary.

G A Studdert Kennedy
'Woodbine Willie'

SMILE LINES

At the pearly gates, St. Peter greeted a minister and a member of parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." The vicar began to protest that this was unfair. "Listen," St. Peter said, "ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."

.....
A pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.
"But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"
"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

.....
An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"
The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

From old papers:

.....
In Christianity a man can only have one wife. This is called Monotony.

The message came to Abraham that he should bear a son, and Sarah who was listening behind the door, laughed.

If David had one fault it was a slight tendency to adultery.

Write what you know about the Last Supper. I was away for that. I had the measles.

On why you should never encourage your congregation

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course "Taking Responsibility for your Church" among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who was eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with

frenzied hand-shakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church – we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks – if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

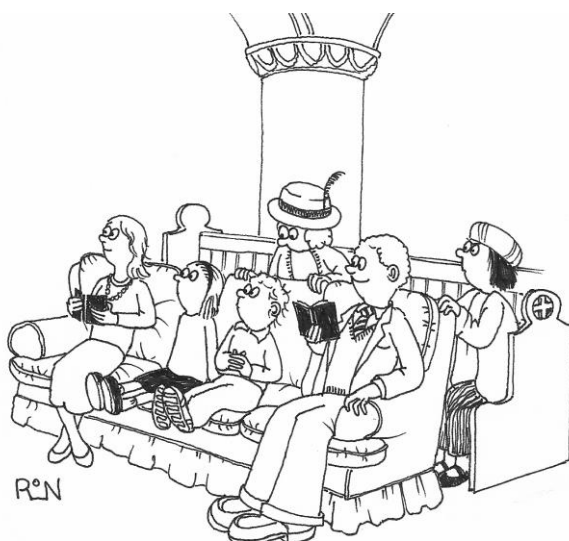
But it was the group which decided to "beautify" the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Sunday April 5th EASTER DAY

11am Eucharist

Reader/Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom and Ian M

Sunday April 12th

11am Eucharist

Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian M

Sunday April 19th

11am Eucharist

Reader/Intercessions Pat Brooks
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian M

Sunday April 26th

11am Eucharist

Reader/Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday May 3rd

11am Eucharist

Reader/Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian M

CLEANING

5th April/10th May Margaret
12th April/17th May Jean
19th April/24th May Eveline
26th April/31st May Finella
3rd May/7th June Iona & Mary

FLOWERS

5th/12th April Pauline
19th/26th April Finella
3rd/10th May Pauline
17th/24th May Finella
31st May/7th June Pauline

ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sunday April 5th EASTER DAY

11am Eucharist

Readers Linda Macaulay & Tim R
Intercessions Fran Walker
Chalice Margaret H & Maggie W
Sidespersons Linda J & Roberta Mailley

Sunday April 12th

11am Eucharist

Readers Margot Rhead & Fran Walker
Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice Sharon Rowatt & Tim Rhead
Sidespersons Chrissie A & Margaret Swan
Flowers Margaret H & Maggie Wallace

Sunday April 19th

11am Eucharist

Readers Janette Barnes & Maggie Wallace
Intercessions Sharon Rowatt
Chalice Barbara Barnes & David Rowatt
Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Liam McLarnon
Flowers Barbara Barnes & Fran Walker

Sunday April 26th

11am Eucharist

Readers Liam McL & Kirstin Wiggins
Intercessions Tim Rhead
Chalice Fran Walker & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons David Ansell & Linda Jenkinson
Flowers Linda Macaulay

Sunday May 3rd

11am Eucharist

Readers Barbara Barnes & Lydia Wiggins
Intercessions Linda Macaulay
Chalice Margaret H & Maggie Wallace
Sidespersons Tim Rhead & Roberta Mailley
Flowers Maggie Wallace

Alistair Brown
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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 Rep: Andrew Baxter

Vulnerable Grps Officer: Pauline Dow

Gift Aid: Pauline Dow

Flowers: Pauline Dow

Hall Lets: Pat Brooks
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St Augustine's

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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 the 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 01389 767983
Roberta Mailley 01389 731863
Anne Dyer Anne@alternativeswd.org
Linda Jenkinson
lindajenkinson@blueyonder.co.uk 01389 761693
Gavin Elder
gavin@alternativeswd.org 01389 768657
Margaret Swan
margaretswan@blueyonder.co.uk 01389 764742
Liam McLarnon
liamhome82@sky.com 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
lindamac@sky.com 01389 513365

Music Art Drama (MAD): Fran Walker

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

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie