

By the Way Together

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

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**If Music be the
Food Of Love –
Play On!!**



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News of Bishop Gregor:

After his mild stroke, Bishop Gregor continues to make excellent progress in hospital and he is much improved. At the time of publication he is preparing to be discharged home. The Dean and Diocesan Office thank you all for the many messages of prayer and support.

Complete rest and physiotherapy will continue and although the prospects for a return to his duties are very good it is unlikely that this will happen within the next three months.

Bishop Gregor is content for the College of Bishops to discuss the appointment of a Commissary offering Episcopal oversight to our Diocese. The Dean, of course, continues to be available to offer advice and assistance in the usual way and will liaise with an appointed Commissary. The Diocesan Synod on Saturday March 4th will go ahead as planned.

Bishop Gregor is looking forward to welcoming visitors to his home but to help these arrangements please contact Christine Hughes at the Diocesan Office.

Again, the Dean would like to give his personal thanks to all for the continued support to the Diocese and Bishop Gregor.

Dumbarton Churches Together

Prayer and Praise

7.30pm

Monday, 13th February

All Welcome!



LENT GROUP

Starting Wednesday 8th March
(for five Wednesdays)

7.30pm

The Rectory
led by the Rector

All Welcome!

"Pizza, Plonk and a Play!"

with the Friends of St Augustine

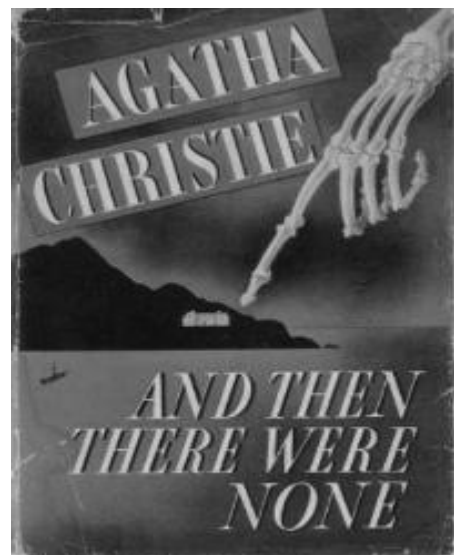
Come and enjoy food, drink and a sociable evening including the delights of seeing the dramatic rendition of the Agatha Christie mystery:

"Then there were none!"

Thursday, 23rd February

6pm

Tickets price TBA





“You never know what goes on behind closed doors.”

This is a sentence very often heard when a marriage splits up, and is often used to correct our assumption that it was obviously ‘his’ fault or

‘the other’s’ fault. Naturally, whoever we are closer to gets vindication, and the other condemnation.

It is said of every break-up that there are three sides to every story – one for each individual, and then the actual truth.

In our home life, and how we behave at home within the family, or as a couple, a different reality exists that is unseen by others. We are often very different at home from the public persona that we show to the world. I am no different from other human beings. After a day of listening intently to others and sharing their needs, desires and problems, the last thing I want to do when I get home is sit and chat about needs, desires and problems.

If I have been talking all day I just want to sit in front of a TV or retreat silently into my study. Poor Linda!

To ‘act out a part’ in our daily lives, wearing masks and pretending we are OK, happy, contented and without a worry in our world can be extremely stressful, and often our partners and families feel the brunt of our frustration when we get home!

Our true selves are shown at home, where masks are not worn but left at the door, and we feel comfortable and secure enough to be our real selves. Sometimes that is not pretty.

It is said that mission begins at home, and how we love and treat our families and partners is paramount and crucial as we live as Christians.

I know many a story of children brought up in the Manse who were subjected to the most outlandish forms of violence and abuse from the Minister who on Sunday stood up, smiled and preached many a bonnie sermon about the love of Jesus.

Our love for God, and our love for each other must begin in the home and be practiced there. If

it is not, then we are frauds, hypocrites, and not worthy of the Jesus we proclaim. Sure, we all get angry, upset, afraid, and we all tend to worry, but that’s normal and part of family living. If we cannot share this in our family life, then we are likely to become very sick indeed. Perhaps there is illness, addiction or a host of other things going on behind closed doors, and we agree as a family to keep it in the confines of our home. However, we may need to share this with someone outside that we trust implicitly, and clergy often have a part to play in that.

However, abusive relationships are not normal, and I usually advise people in abusive relationships to get out as soon as they can for their own safety and sanity. Jesus would not have us continue in a relationship which caused us physical and emotional pain or destroys our very being.

Christian marriage should reflect the love God has with God’s Church, and if it is not showing this then something must change, and, yes, sometimes it’s ourselves that needs to change! There can be a tendency in family life for everyone to expect the family to revolve around **them** and their needs. We see this more clearly among children, but there exists many an adult baby.

Read 1 Corinthians 13 if you want to know what love is and what should be present in your home.

I have been reflecting on this since Christmas. What was the Holy Family like? It would have been very religious, as Jesus would have been brought up in a strict Jewish tradition, but I bet Joseph swore when he cut his hand or hit his finger with a hammer! They had worries too. Being refugees had been no joke, and they were as open to being hurt as any of us are. Our Lady didn’t sing the Magnificat all day, and her life would have been hard. Yet their family would have been one that loved God in each other.

This is where we must begin in our Christian lives, in the home among our families. Sometimes it has to begin by loving ourselves! If we cannot love one another in that atmosphere of safety, where forgiveness has to be sought and won, then we will never survive living as Christians in the real world.

Kenny



Reflections on a Life-Changing Week:

I have always wanted to go to Africa – ever since I was very young. My home had had a sprinkling of African masks and artefacts which my Dad had brought back from his

visit in 1973 when he had gone, with work, to have a look at all the schools in the country. He had also painted a large picture of a Gambian village with its wooden huts, straw roofs and the hot sun baking the ground dry... and I used to look at it, and wonder about the country and people who lived there. At 18 I had a yen to go and do VSO (Voluntary Services Overseas) in Africa – but life overtook and for many reasons I didn't quite get there. At about 20, in a conversation with a nun who had spent many years in the townships of South Africa, she said "When you go to Africa, which one day God willing you will, just remember that the place gets into your soul... it touches you and gets hold of you... and never lets you go."

So it was with indescribable excitement that I anticipated my visit. And I wasn't disappointed.... the days passed with many an 'Oooh!' or 'Aaaah!' or a 'Look at that!' and a nightly 'Wasn't today just brilliant!' The people were wonderfully welcoming, the country was full of chatter and laughter and the 'Smiling Coast' lived up to its name!

The Gambian way of life is very different from ours... it is hot and the outdoor life rules.... but as the tourist postcard proclaims "No Stress in Gambia!" And from the start the examples of this were many: when we arrived at the airport and found our suitcases didn't fit into the taxi boot – but there was no fuss. There was a problem. Gambians gathered around. Conversations were had. Rope appeared from nowhere. A solution was



found. No worry. No panic. All was solved. Life carried on. It was an attitude to life which I saw and felt often – and oh, how healthy it is! We visited the school, of course – and I instantly fell in love with the children. No-one who knows me would be surprised by that.. but they are special... very special. They were entranced by the bubbles we gave them, enjoyed the bouncy balls and were confused by the daft Furbie toys. "What does this DO?" asked one wee 6 year old. She may well ask. The uselessness of so much Western 'stuff' was summed up so beautifully in one question. I felt I wanted to come home and clear out the inanimate 'stuff' with which we clutter and bury our real lives. Everywhere we went the connectedness of the people, the care for one another, the ten year olds with their wee brother or sister on their hips, the strong family bonds... all spoke of a society who, yes, are poor but who rely on each other and look out for each other. "Didn't you feel sorry for them?" so many people have asked me. No... not at all... in fact I came away feeling sorry for *our* children, *our* society for what we have so sadly lost.

And then, on Sunday, we went to St Andrew's, Lamin. A fabulous experience! The service started at 9am... and finished at 12 noon! Three hours which passed in a flash. We sang, we prayed, we danced, we rejoiced! The authenticity and depth of their faith was tangible, their trust in God was absolute and the Holy Spirit was present in bucket-loads. Talk about 'handing your life over to God each day' – the community is a living

example of how to do that even in a time of political instability, tension and fear. How many of us could be so faithful in the face of possible and very real violence and threat?

I could write pages. They say travel opens your mind – but my week in Gambia also opened my heart and my spirit. Yes, Africa has got hold of me and touched me in ways I did not expect. It was a week of pure gift, and for that I thank God. **Liz x**





Pastoral Letter from the Interim Moderator: William Young

Most of us when we were children in church, had to at some point recite the Ten Commandments—Charlton Heston on Mount Sinai, Cecil B DeMille and all of that... “Thou shalt, thou shalt not”...what we ought to do and ought not to do. And the church taught the 10 Commandments so well that many people even today live in guilt or grief over what they have done or not done.

It’s just as important to remind ourselves of the Beatitudes because Jesus, instead of talking about what to do, he teaches us how to have a right attitude, how to be happy in an unhappy world.

And I think the NHS agrees with Jesus! These days when we are ill, our GP’s and specialists talk to us about “well being”, doing things to keep us comfortable and happy in our condition. Even the NHS realises that medicine alone won’t make us well, but a positive attitude is the best supplement to life.

The apostle Paul was thinking about Jesus’ Beatitudes when he says, ‘I am learning that in whatever state I find myself in, to be content, to enjoy my life in spite of my shortcomings. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.’

To be “blessed” also means having favour. Grace, the favour of God’s hospitality, is given to the least powerful. A sobering reminder to those who wield the power over peoples’ lives and future of survival that favour goes not to the narcissistic and exclusionist, but to the poor in spirit (those who put their lives completely in God’s hands), those who mourn, the meek, poor in heart (not full of themselves), the persecuted.



You are blessed when you are hungry and thirsty for righteousness...NOT angry and anxious to get YOUR way. Merciful people are not those who need to hurt

and shame another in order to attain a good life, but those who realise their life is wrapped up in the lives of the most vulnerable in the world, those who don’t give up on the most displaced in the world are “merciful”. Jesus does not allow the possessive and narcissistic to gain a monopoly on Divine favour.

I think sometimes that we are far less eager to be blessed than God is to bless us. We don’t feel worthy. I know so because I often hear that from “the churched” and “the unchurched”.

Maybe it’s that we have a hard time believing God wants to bless us in the first place. It may be that our picture of God is distorted, that we can only imagine God as a stern, demanding law-giver, and so it seems out of character for God to bless without requirement.

We have changed in traditions, doctrines and how we worship. But one enduring legacy of Christian worship life that we always come back to, includes the blessing, the embrace of God’s acceptance of us, the sacred embrace of the hospitality of God. Especially in the darkest of times, the blessing has endured where theology became obsolete and meaningless.

So live in that joy today. You are blessed because you are God’s children!

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Preaching Plan

5 February	Visit to Helensburgh
12 February	Rev David Laing [Communion]
19 February	Helensburgh Worship group
26 February	Rev John Clark
5 March	Rev Alan Paterson [Communion]
12 March	Rev Jim Binnie
19 March	Visit to Helensburgh
26 March	Rev John Clark
2 April	Rev Jim Binnie [Communion]
9 April	Rev Alan Paterson
16 April	Rev John Clark
23 April	Rev John Clark
30 April	Rev Jim Binnie

Joint Pastorate

A meeting was held at Helensburgh on 20 December attended by representatives of the four Churches which will probably form the North Clyde Cluster; Essenside [Drumchapel] Morrison Memorial [Clydebank] Dumbarton and Helensburgh .

The Synod Moderator Rev David Pickering and the Field Officer for Mission and Development, Rev Jan Adamson, were also in attendance. Jan confirmed that the proposed Joint Pastorate between Dumbarton and Helensburgh had been approved by the Synod Pastoral Committee with scoping of 100% for a period of three years when the situation would be re-assessed.

An abbreviated version of the amended Profile would be submitted to the Moderator's meeting in February and any minister interested in the vacancy could then request a copy of the full version.

The Synod Moderator spoke about the shortage of ministers and pointed out that some 40% of our ministers would be retiring in the next few years. While there were fewer people entering the ministry there was also an associated financial problem in that the Synod could not afford any more ministers - even if they were available. He felt that the formation of Clusters and Ministry Teams would be the way forward.

The Ministry Teams would be comprised of Ordained Ministers, Lay preachers and Worship leaders.

He also suggested that in the future, it might even be necessary to merge some of the Clusters to meet the needs of a changing situation.

Interim Moderator

Synod Pastoral Committee have agreed the Rev Caro Smith who is currently the Moderator for Helensburgh Church, will act as Interim Moderator for the Joint Pastorate in the Vacancy procedure.

Rev William Young will continue as Moderator for Dumbarton in all other matters.

Just a thought

Pythagoras Theorem- 24 words

The Lord's Prayer – 66 Words

Archimedes Principle – 67 words

The Ten Commandments -179 words

The US Declaration of Independence – 1,300 words

EU regulations on the sale of cabbages – 26,911 words.

John Clark

Romance, marriage and all that stuff - the way children see it....

How do you decide whom to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids - Derrick, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10

A Festive Food For Thought

This year was our busiest yet, and thanks to St Nicholas Care Fund, who provided the cash to facilitate our mini Christmas projects. We gave out nearly 1000 toys and gifts this year to those who were struggling to make Christmas special. We gave 107 Christmas dinners in a bag to every supported accommodation for the homeless in our area, to ensure that these people felt cared about at Christmas and we were expecting 97 people for dinner on Christmas day, and although not all arrived, they had somewhere to go and people to share with if they chose.

Just some of the organisations who we owe a great big thank you to are: *Cutty Sark Centre, Riverview, St Patricks Church, Old Kilpatrick & Bowling Church, Morrison's (Erskine), The Rock Community Church, Dumbarton Health Visitors, The Employability Hub, Joint Hospital Staff, Riverside Church & Guilds, St Andrews Church, Older Person's Social Work Team, Renton Craigandro Football Club, Dumbarton United Football Club, Dalreoch Day Care, Loch Lomond Golf Course, Palestinian Campaign Group, West Kirk Church and the many more individuals and organisations who did not want to give their name.*

Thanks also to the volunteers who peeled and chopped and sweated buckets making sure that the dinner was prepared and ready for all who attended.



Gambia

What an opportunity for a lassie from Merkins to get! On the 11th January we landed in Banjul airport and begun an African adventure.

We visited the Nursery School on 2 occasions and were able to give the kids a gift bag full of wee toys and sweets, all of which had been donated by my family and facebook friends. We were able to give the administrator a huge £580 and agreed with Sulayman the headmaster that this money would pay for all 90 kids in the school to go on a visit to the ocean (which many have never seen) and have a picnic for the summer outing. This would cost £250. We were also

able to purchase puzzles, games, phonic cards and a USB stick so that the teachers can record educational and fun programmes for the kids to watch. I was overwhelmed by the happiness of the children, many of whom had very little in a material sense but much more than our kids in another. I could not help comparing these children with my own grandchildren who are “bored” if the internet goes off and like staying in their bedroom on xbox or playstation. Many of these very little children had no electricity, running water, or decent sanitary systems, and had no choice for dinner but they were the happiest and most contented youngsters I ever met.



So be warned I have come home determined to do what I can to support the work of the School and will be coming after you again and again to help me to do this! Huge thanks to all who helped me to provide the toys, cash and footballs. It was an amazing experience made better by the generosity of my community, thank you.

Caroline Marsland

I remember Christmas!



Anne Bardsley worked hard and raised £234 for St Mungo's with two raffles over Christmas. Well done, Anne!

After Santa visited we all enjoyed a wonderful Carol Service with candles and lots of singing... and Sharon telling the children a story....!



Donations continued to pour in from our generous community. Bags of goodies (right) were collected and donated by the hard working Nurses at the Joint Hospital.



The Raffle for the Gambia raised much needed funds for our School.... with the Rector's wife winning the donated TV (Thank you, Ronnie!) (Right) Christmas Dinner was prepared!





Such Joy!

Every fortnight the air of St Augustine's Church is full of the wonderful sounds of joyous singing as the Every Voice Community Choir enjoy the music. The group, led by Bryan Marshall, used to meet in the Community Hall, but numbers soon meant that they had to move to the bigger space of the church. The singers are made up of people who suffer from dementia,

their carers, friends and family...and the smiles and infectious enthusiasm is testament to the fact that whilst speaking may be difficult for many members, when singing freedom of expression is once more possible. It is a real privilege for our church to host such a group. Well done to all who help and participate!

Cursillo Welcome Back!

Cursillo (pronounced kur-see-yo) is a movement in the world-wide Church which aims to reawaken in ALL people the calling they received in baptism to be effective and active witnesses for Christ. The method includes asking participants to attend a weekend away when they are given 15 'short talks' on the basics of our Christian faith, experience the abundance of God's grace and be encouraged to explore and find their vocation in their own journey of faith.



At the beginning of January 3 people from St Augustine's and 2 from St Mungo's attended a weekend in Carronvale House, Larbert. These statements are a wee insight into what they felt about their time away:

"It was wonderful. It was like being completely bathed in God's love."

"I felt so accepted – more accepted than I have ever felt before."

"It was the best weekend I have EVER gone on in all my years of church attendance."

"The weekend made me realise what God was calling me to."

"The weekend affirmed for me that I was on the right path with the right people about me."

"I simply loved it."

If you feel that you would like to know more about Cursillo or would consider attending a future weekend, please speak to Kenny or Liz.





DUMBARTON NURSERY SCHOOL END OF TERM REPORT

School reopened on the 26th of September 2016 after two of the usual annual summer holidays. The staff reported on time looking healthy and in high gear!

The new intakes for Nursery One was completed and out of over sixty applicants 30 of the neediest young children were absorbed

into the school and began their education.

The school's feeding supplies were received a week before the opening of the school and the vital learning and teaching materials were also received on time.

On the 12 of December 2016 Angela again sponsored a field visit to her house in Brufut and breakfast, lunch and juice was prepared. It was a fun full day!

However, Amie Williams who was attached to the school tendered her resignation letter informing the administration that she would resign by the end of December as she intended to pursue a course with the school of Tourism and Hospitality.

The school end of term party was held on the 16th of December 2016 which was sponsored by the Dumbarton Gambia Education Association. Food, snacks and refreshments served which was punctuated by music and dancing.

Finally, on behalf of the pupil's, staff and parents of Dumbarton nursery school and on my own humble behalf would like to thank the Board of Trustees, Individual sponsors and groups for their continuous support.

Wishing you a very happy 2017,

*Sulayman Saidy
Headmaster
Dumbarton Nursery School*



Throughout January, as the political situation in the Gambia became more uncertain and potentially volatile many parents of the school decided, for safety reasons, to either keep their children at home or send them away to relatives upriver. For a while numbers at the school were significantly down. It was with great joy that we all learned, not only on the safe arrival back in the country of the new President, Adama Barrow, but that the attendance at school was back up to 85% and business as normal was resumed!



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

Janette comments on our ever lengthening Festive Season, remembers a great Burns celebration and looks forward to a less politically problematic 2017.

KEEP ON SHOPPING.....

Don't you think Christmas 2016 went on for just a soupcon too long? As soon as the Hallowe'en witches had flown into the darkness, the wonderful world of retail encouraged us to engage on a shopping mania just in case we should miss out on some of the essentials of a perfect festive celebration. Do Christmas loo rolls and an Elf Babygro for the wean really make us merrier? Also, we were warned of a possible postal strike and a dearth of Brussels sprouts – who cares? The former would be a plausible excuse for cutting down on sending greetings to folks unseen since our A.Y.P.A (the Youth Club) days. As for the latter – dutifully consumed in their thousands on their big day and thrown to the recycling in their millions on the 26th. One could always have opened a tin of peas! Oh yes, we bought more stuff this year – even a different wine for successive courses. No! Buckfast is not a glossy magazine recommendation for a pudding wine! The religious side of Christmas held up well with at least three opportunities to sing carols in St. Aug's before the 25th. At the official social event and carol service on the 18th we got out our candles after consuming the usual festive buffet with bubbly, an obligatory party game, welcoming Santa, and drawing the Gambia raffle. The general opinion is that numbers were somewhat disappointing. At the risk of being called Mrs Scrooge, perhaps the whole Christmas season is going on too long and we're all *mistletoed-out* far too early!

DONALD AND THERESA – WHAT DID THEY REALLY SAY?

The world waited while Donald and Theresa had their first meeting on 27th January. She looked radiant in a bright red ensemble with matching nail polish – perfectly displayed in the infamous hand holding incident. He complemented her colour scheme with an immaculate red tie. Jings, crivvens and help ma Boab! Whit a stushie! La La Land – here they come!

Donald Come away in, Theresa – sure is great to see you! Put the kettle on, Melania.

Theresa How do you do, Mr President. Congratulations on your victory!

Donald You may not have heard, but I'm gonna make America great again!

Theresa What would you like to talk about first?

Donald Well....and this'll really please you - I'm gonna let the haggis back into the USA. It's been banned here since 1971. '*Fair fa' your honest sonsie face*'

Theresa checks her make-up.

Theresa Well, that's taken me by surprise. I was under the impression that your policy was for travel bans and protecting your borders?

Donald This is a special favour to further our special relationship. I'll allow it in. I know it's made of a sheep's heart, liver and lungs mixed with oatmeal and encased in a sheep's intestines. But it could be worse!

Theresa Oh thank you, Donald. This will be so helpful in my Brexit discussions.

Donald It's ma pleasure, Theresa. But I sure would like your advice on something that's really important to me.

Theresa Certainly – I'll help in any way I can.

Donald Well...over in your country I hear you've got two big walls – so well constructed that they've lasted for centuries. I wanna know the names of your builders – for I'm gonna do a business deal with them to keep out those darn Mexican illegals.

Theresa Do you mean Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall? Why, they're consigned to history now. They were built to keep out the savage hordes....

Donald Yep, keep the bad dudes out! I say America first....who were they?

Theresa Eh.....mainly the Scots! Is there anything else I can help you with?

Donald Just one more favour, Theresa. Did you see my inaugural day celebrations on the telly with all the inaugural balls? You must remember me shufflin' over to grab Melania for the first dance – the tune was 'I Did It My Way.' You do? Great! Well I've been asked by your BBC to appear on 'Strictly Come Dancing.' Could you maybe arrange for me to do as well as that politician guy, Ed Balls? You know.....see to the voting?

Theresa Eh...let me make you a better offer, Donald. How about an invitation to a truly royal full blown state visit?

Donald Wow! Like these Chinese guys got?

Theresa Yep...I mean ...yes, that would be easier to arrange!

Donald Whatever you say, Theresa. Melania – get a move on in that kitchen!
Exit omnes.

WHERE HAS ALL THE TOWER GONE?

To the majority of sons and daughters of the Rock, the Dumbarton skyline and riverbank have always been dominated by the red distillery building opened in 1938 by Hiram Walker's. And then there was the nostalgia brought on by the really distinctive smell emanating from it. Well, the smell went when production on the site stopped in 2002. But, memories were kept alive with the red brick tower hanging like a signpost over the town. This month we have witnessed its dismantling - little by little - to make way for new housing. In our amateur drama group (DPT) we were always warned when applying the make-up '*don't slap on too much or you'll match the distillery walls!*'

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MINCE!

St. Aug's on Sunday 22nd January was no place for seekers after solitude. As soon as the 11am Eucharist was over it was all go! Members of Friends took over the kitchen to prepare tatties, chop up neeps, evaluate soups, titivate trifles and coax the haggis from its tins. Fran, with the assistance of James, was rearranging the Church and setting places for 90+!!! Yes, numbers for our Scottish Night were up and there was just a hint of

panic. Throughout all this the Allsorts sang tunefully in the Hall.

Then Margaret Hardie opened the door of the fridge and exclaimed in horror '*Two packs of mince are missing!*' A search was organised, suspects questioned and clues examined – all to no avail. It was decided to forgo the fingerprinting when Margaret hurried off to Morrison's for further supplies.

But this was the only fly in the ointment at a great event that was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. The entertainment by AGM (Alistair, Gina and Michael) was excellent right to the climax when 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns', 'Flower of Scotland' and 'Auld Lang Syne' brought on a really enthusiastic response with all those who could, climbing on to the chairs for the chorus. Kenny, who had recently escaped from the Gambia, sang about liberty, Sharon and Sandra gave recitations, Ghislaine sang and brought along Ray, resplendent in Bonnie Prince Charlie regalia, to pipe in the haggis. A pot of mince, under police escort, was also addressed. This got the proceeding off to a great start.

Nonagenarian, Anna Porterfield, delivered an original poem and wee Hamish experienced his first taste of Scottishness.

Thanks must go to all who worked so hard – over £500 was raised for Church funds. Maggie, Barbara, Irene and Gina volunteered to augment the catering committee for the night to ensure that the meal was served to perfection. But the mystery of the missing mince remains unsolved.....!

PIZZA, PLONK AND A PLAY.

This little evening of culture will be held on Thurs 23rd February meeting in the hall at 6pm. After a delicious supper of pizza (an alternative will be offered) served with wine, we shall attend a night at the theatre in the Denny Civic. The play is an Agatha Christie – 'And Then There Were None' performed by DPT. Ten strangers with a past are lured to a lonely island and one by one meet their deaths. Will you solve the mystery and guess 'who dunnit'? Names of those attending should be entered on the list in the hall.

THE KELPIES IN THE GLOAMING.

This is an advance notice of an outing that Friends are planning for the spring so watch this space and keep on reading 'By the Way Together'.

Back next month.

Janette



The leamy foundation

Following a short break for Christmas and New Year and, after preparing the raised beds by topping up with fresh soil and manure, the User Group met up at St Mungo's Hall last week to discuss the growing plan for Spring.

Listed below is the current User Led growing plan for Spring 2017;

- Bulbs for rectory orchard, for under trees
- Marigolds, nasturtiums, gladioli, hollyhocks, annual dahlias, wild flower mix
- Potatoes - Golden Wonder, Ayrshire
- Mixed leaf salad, rocket, spinach, pak choi
- Peas-Kelvedon Wonder, mange tout, rhubarb, carrots, broccoli, perpetual spinach, leeks, onion sets, shallots, spring onions, garlic
- Herbs: parsley, rosemary, basil, lemon balm, lemon grass
- Possibly asparagus
- Comfrey- from Bellsmyre, for green manure
- Chicken manure, dung
- Plant labels
- Greenhouse- peppers, chillies, cucumbers, lemongrass



Growing at St Mungo's

In December, last year, our participants 'Sow and Grow' group evolved into the 'User Led' group which, for the participants, means that they are now managing their

SMILE LINES

Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After awhile, they rose to leave and told her; "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But, really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

God's army

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"

Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come on his own?"

Definition of old

Grandchildren don't make a man feel old; it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother.

Err....

A thought for all church Vestries and Regional Councils "To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a committee."

Grannie?

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and informed his mother that his Sunday school teacher was Jesus' grandmother. Astonished, the mother demanded: 'What on earth makes you think that?' "Easy, said the little boy. 'She never stops talking about Jesus."

Muesli My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.

ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Sunday 5th Feb

Reader/Intercessions	Jean Brown
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Phil O'Ryan

Sunday 12th Feb

Reader/Intercessions	Pat Brooks
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

Sunday 19th Feb

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Carol Meacham

Sunday 26th Feb

Reader/Intercessions	Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

Sunday 5th March

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Lynne Harvey

CLEANING

5th Feb/5th March Margaret
 12th Feb/12th March Jean (plus flowers)
 19th Feb/19th March Finella (plus flowers)
 26th Feb/ 26th March Iona and Mary

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT

ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sunday Feb 5th

Readers	Fran Walker & Kirsten Wiggins
Intercessions	Maggie Wallace
Chalice	Margaret Hardie & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons	Roberta M & Chrissie Ashman
Flowers	Linda Macaulay

Sunday Feb 12th

Readers	Morag O'Neill & David Ansell
Intercessions	Margaret Hardie
Chalice	David Rowatt & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons	Margaret Swan & Maggie Wallace
Flowers	Barbara Barnes

Sunday Feb 19th

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

Sunday Feb 26th.

Readers	Barbara Barnes & David Rowatt
Intercessions	Linda Macaulay
Chalice	Fran Walker & Kirsten Wiggins
Sidespersons	Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley
Flowers	Margaret Hardie

Sunday March 5th

Readers	Linda Macaulay & Sharon Rowatt
Intercessions	David Rowatt
Chalice	Margaret Hardie & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons	Margaret Swan & Maggie Wallace

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT

THE LENT GROUP

THEY MEET IN LENT TO STUDY THE LENT COURSE, READ THE LENT BOOK ETC

THE
ACADEMIC:
READ
THEOLOGY
AT
UNIVERSITY



THE
BLUFFER:
READ THE
ANSWERS
IN THE
BACK OF
THE BOOK



THE
HUMORIST:
HAS NOT
GRASPED
THE
SERIOUSNESS
OF THE
OCCASION



THE
TANGENTIAL:
TAKES THE
CONVERSATION
IN
UNEXPECTED
DIRECTIONS



THE
SHARER
OF
UNINTERESTING
ANECDOTES



THE
SHARER
OF
TRAGIC
PERSONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES



THE
UNDER-
PREPARED
LEADER:
REGRETS
NOT
LOOKING
AT THE
MATERIAL
BEFORE-
HAND



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Gavin Elder; Caroline Marsland; Rev Liz O'Ryan

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie

It's Rabbie Burns' time of year again!

