

# By the Way



The Magazine of St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dumbarton

Issue No 6 May 2013 £1

**Holy Week with a Bishop -*and all went well!***



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**Flowers:** Maggie Wallace

## From Kenny...

I think it is a dreadful indictment on our society that people in our communities get to the stage where they are short of food. It wasn't so long ago that when an appeal was made to feed the hungry, we were talking about some sort of famine in Africa. Now the government, under the guise of the Big Society, are asking us to help feed those in our towns and cities.



We have entered the age of Food Banks! My initial reaction was to refuse to get involved, for two reasons. Firstly, the model being rolled out by the Trussle Trust was based on a voucher scheme which abhorred me. Imagine having to go to a GP, a Social Worker, or the CAB to ask for a voucher, and then having the indignity of having to go to a collection point to hand over a voucher to get a bag of messages, (groceries)? Secondly, I felt more inclined to set up a pressure group to bring about a change in attitude within a political structure which allows this state of affairs to exist in the first place! However, that takes time, and the hungry, especially the children, need to be fed.

In West Dunbartonshire, (Foodshare), the voucher system has been rejected, thank goodness, and with the input of so many different bodies, Food Banks have been introduced to feed the needy. Initially, I didn't feel that we could become involved because we have so many other commitments to the poor and marginalised in the community, and it seemed as if the Baptist Church were going to fulfil the role of being the main collection point in Dumbarton, but that has changed.

It was felt by so many in the community that we were more central, and open for business more often, that St Augustine's should be the place for people to come. Many come for other reasons already!

Ghislaine and Ricky have volunteered to keep the church open for this purpose from 12-3pm weekdays, and the Vestry have given its blessing for that to happen over a six month trial period. How this pans out, I know not, but we certainly need to keep this new ministry in our prayers and support it in every way possible. "I was hungry and you fed me", said Jesus. So let's do it!

*Kenny*

## Pat Says.....

Every week in the Eucharist we commemorate Christ's giving of his body and blood for us and give thanks for his sacrifice; but something I read recently made me think about how we can, and should, give our own bodies and blood for others, although in a more limited way than in Christ's redeeming act.



The article pointed out that blood donation is a wonderful, life saving, gift to others which all Christians should participate in (their own health permitting), and this can be done at virtually no cost to ourselves.

The giving of our bodies is an even simpler act, for it does not take place until after our death, when we can leave our organs to be used for transplant.

Once you have registered - which can be done on-line, by phone on 0300 123 23 23, or by getting a form from your doctor or pharmacy - the only thing you need to do is make sure that your relatives know your wishes to ensure that they are acted upon. This gift is not one that brings salvation to all mankind, but it can mean that life in all its fullness is made possible for several individuals.

Obviously donation of our bodies does not involve any suffering; but having made many blood donations I can assure you that this too is a painless process. In fact it is an easy way to spend an hour and the worst part is having your thumb pricked for the initial test!

Just as our faith calls us to be generous in our financial giving to the church and to other causes, so it should encourage us to be generous with the bodies we have and the blood that runs through our veins.

The statistics show that Christians are already much better than the average population for both blood and organ donations (apparently almost half of all Christians are on the organ-donor register, compared with 31% of the general population), but let's make sure that we do even better in future.

*Pat*



# St James the Least of All

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

*My dear Nephew Darren*

I am afraid we shall have to agree to disagree on yet another topic – although I suspect the list of items we agree to agree on would be considerably shorter. I like to think my appreciation of hymns resembles a connoisseur of fine wines savouring a grand cru claret, yours seems to resemble a Russian female tractor driver who is a Hero of the Nation.

We at St. James the Least are more than happy with “Hymns Ancient & Modern” – the original 1861 edition, naturally - the later editions display a dangerous tendency towards modernism. Sadly, St. Paul was not able to sing “Onward, Christian soldiers,” but I am sure he regretted the fact that it had yet to be written. The hymns our grandparents pretended to sing when they were in church are quite good enough for the ones we pretend to sing when we sit in the same pews.

At least when we come to the last verse, we know that we can then sit down, mission accomplished. The last time I attended your church, just as I saw the last words and therefore the finishing line of one of your choruses coming into sight, we were told it would be splendid to sing the thing another three times. At least it gave me another analogy to use when I next preached on eternity in hell.

And your method of singing would plunge our congregation into an existential crisis. What do they do with their hands when they don't have books to hold and are obliged to look at a screen? To be deprived of being able to hold a book in church is like a smoker who is trying to give up being unable to grasp a cigarette when in the pub.

The ladies do not know whether to clasp their handbags, which then makes it look as if they suspect the rest of the congregation of theft, or to hold some flowers, which looks a little too matrimonial. The men experiment with putting hands in pockets, which they then realise looks scruffy, so they try to hold on to the pew in front, which is inevitably too low, so they have to adopt some form of half crouch, which makes them look as if they have recently had hernia operations.

Your choral tradition – if I can flatter it with such a description – also seems to require half an hour before the Service spent singing for our congregation, that time is more usefully spent discussing Government incompe-

tence, livestock prices and why Miss Threlfall always wears a red felt hat with her tangerine coat.

Should we ever have a joint Service, I can't imagine how we'll all get through the first hymn together.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

## Country Trip

We will meet at Findlaystone near Langbank at 2pm on May 25th. Please check with Rosemary McLeay or Tim Rhead to confirm final arrangements.

## Christian Aid

The door-to-door collection is declining so Christian Aid envelopes will be available in the church following Sunday May 12th . If you have not had an envelope at your house then you could use one of these envelopes or take a few for family or friends and return them to Tim at the church.

## Cursillo

The meetings for May are as follows:-

1/ Monday, May 13 th. at 7.30 p.m. in St. Augustine's

2/ Thursday, May 24 th, at 7.30p.m. in St. James the Less in Bishopbriggs . Hope to see you there.

**Evelyn**

### FIRST APPLIANCE CARE

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## Smile-Lines

### Cat in heaven

A cat died and went to heaven. God met her at the gates and said, "You have been a good cat all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."

The cat thought for a minute and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on." God smiled and instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later, six mice were killed in an accident and they all went to heaven together. God met the mice at the gates with the same offer that he had made to the cat. The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives: from cats, dogs, and even people with brooms! If we could just have some little roller skates, we would not have to run again."

God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat. He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"

The cat replied, "Oh, it is WONDERFUL! The Meals on Wheels you have been sending over are delicious!"

### The Puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realized it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

### Dictionary of Project Terms

Are you working on any project this Spring? Here are some phrases that may come in handy!

~ Project slightly behind original schedule due to unforeseen difficulties -- We got so sick of working on this that we decided to do something else.

~ Major Technological Breakthrough -- Back to the drawing board.

~ Developed after years of intensive research -- It was discovered by accident.

~ Customer satisfaction is believed assured -- We are so far behind schedule that the customer will be happy to get anything at all from us.

~ The design will be finalized in the next reporting period -- We haven't started this job yet, but we've got to say something.

~ Test results were extremely gratifying -- It works, and are we surprised.

~ Extensive effort is being applied on a fresh approach to the problem -- We just hired three new guys; we'll let them kick it around for a while.

~ Preliminary operational tests are inconclusive -- The darn thing blew up when we threw the switch.

~ The entire concept will have to be abandoned -- The only guy who understood the thing quit.

~ Modifications are under way to correct certain minor difficulties -- We threw the whole thing out and are starting from scratch.

### How to stay safe this Spring

1. Avoid riding in cars - they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

2. Do not stay home - 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

3. Avoid walking on streets or pavements - 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

4. Avoid travelling by air, rail, or water - 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, ... above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT,

.... You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

## **Dumbarton London**

### **Corner School - From Helen Touray**

Dear Friends of Dumbarton,

You will all know by now that the renovations at the Dumbarton London Corner School have now been completed, apart from a few minor touch ups. As the administrator on your behalf in The Gambia I was delighted to hear that the generosity of so many people inside and outside the community of Dumbarton supported the desperate plight of the school.

Having recently spent a short time back in the UK, I know times are tough, however so many of you managed to dig deep and find the cash desperately needed to keep the school open.

I only play a small role in keeping things on track at the school and it is always a pleasure to visit the school and see the tremendous efforts of all the staff involved in educating and looking after 90 children.

I hope that I may be able to make another visit to Dumbarton during my next visit to the UK later in the year, in the meantime thank you for making the renovations possible.

Your Wee Administrator,

**Helen**

## **RISKS**

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool,  
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental,  
To reach out for another is to risk involvement,  
To expose feelings is to risking your true self,  
To place your ives, your dreams, before a crowd is to risk their loss,  
To love is to risk not being loved in return,  
To live is to risk dying,  
To hope is to risk despair,  
To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.  
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing and is nothing.  
They may avoid the sufering and the sorrow, but they cannot learn, feel change, grow or live.  
Chained by their attitudes they are slaves,  
They have forfeited their freedom.  
**Only a person who risks is free!**

## **Feed my Sheep**

"Feed my sheep", from Good Shepherd Sunday immediately brought to mind something that happened earlier in the week.

As you well know, the weather has been cold and dry for weeks. This has meant that not only the trees are delayed in producing their leaves, but the grass growth has been very slow. The local farmer has been a bit tardy giving the local flock any feedstuff so the sheep have been escaping to assuage their hunger.

They have taken trips to Overton and to Milton Hill in their search for grass. Some stayed several days despite efforts to get them home.

By last week most had returned to their field but one particular ewe was desperate and jumped the wall, again. But instead of grazing peacefully she decided she wanted to flock with that other hungry ewe - her reflection in my patio door!

Several thumps later I went downstairs to see who was breaking in to find one smashed pane of glass and one dazed sheep! Now the farmer has to pay for glass instead of grass. And it only goes to show what can happen when sheep aren't fed and go astray!

**Fran**

## **Repairs**

Repairs to the plaster work in the Sacristy have begun after bad water ingress due to a faulty gutter. We have had a £5,000 donation to cover the cost of this. Deo Gratius!

### **Co-op Taxis**

West Dunbartonshire Taxi Drivers Co-operative

76 Main St, Alexandria

These drivers support St Augustine's and we need to use them

**01389 753376**

# Girls' Group - A London Adventure!

## “Get Connected” get Connected!

Four dedicated leaders and nine girls set off on a Big Adventure on the second week into the Easter school break... this is what happened:

- We stayed in the Greenwich area which, although slightly further out of the city, suited us just fine in terms of safety.
- We travelled on the river boat ( public transport) from the house which actually felt like an excursion every day.
- We meet up with a lovely Girls Group ,4 girls and one leader which was wonderful experience and they set us up on where we should and shouldn't go to keep our group safe.
- We now looking to invite them to visit us in the near future-we definitely “got connected”!
- Took in a private tour of the House of Commons on the day the Cabinet was called back from Easter recess to discuss Margaret Thatcher's funeral (high security alert and the place was buzzing with press )
- Managed to visit Southwark Cathedral, the Tower of London & took a trip on the Big Bus Tour.
- Hooked up at the o2 with a local Dumbarton singer/song writer who moved to the ‘Big Smoke’ eight years ago to follow her dreams. She shared her story and has offered a free gig in the church later in the year! ( Good “connection”!!)
- On our last evening we took in a show in West End- all about friendship and integrity.
- Exhausted by the full programme of events we travelled home on day four ..... with much joy in our hearts.. and looking to get out teeth into an even bigger adventure

We are now in the process of putting together a story board to share all of this with those who supported us, and also would like the chance to tell our **Personal London stories** in the summer magazine!







Some photos of Good Friday and the Passover Supper on Maundy Thursday.





**A Communion Service at Riverside, Faye Suso is honoured to become a British Citizen under the watchful eye of the Queen's Representative, Owen Sayers, and the Spring Festival!**

# Glasgow North West Regional Council

## PISCKY PILGRIMAGE TO LUSS

SUNDAY JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 2.30pm

JOIN FELLOW EPISCOPALIANS AND THE BISHOP ON A SHORT TOUR  
OF THE PILGRIMAGE TRAIL, FOLLOWED BY EUCHARIST AND  
PICNIC.

### All Welcome!

For all members and friends of the ten Episcopal Churches in the North-West Region.

We will meet at the car-park at Luss at 2.30pm. Active members can do a one mile walk via the glen and old quarry to the parish church. Others can make their own way through the village to meet at the church at 2.45 pm.

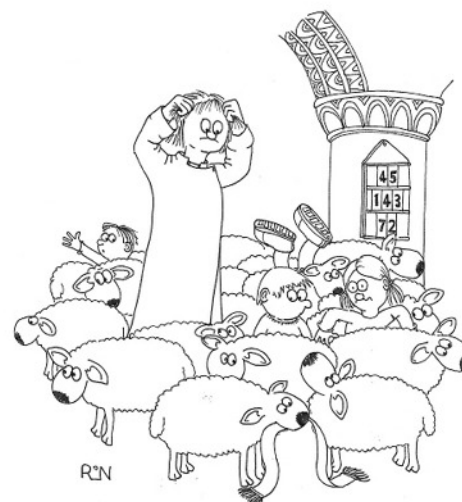
Local minister, Rev Dane Sherrard, will lead us round the pilgrimage trail, which is wheelchair accessible. This will be followed by a short Eucharist in the church, which should finish c. 4.15 pm.

We are then invited to the manse garden where we can have our picnic- shelter is available if required. The bishop intends to join us on our first venture of this kind.

It will be helpful if you could let Maggie Wallace know if you intend to go. For more information, please contact Tim Rhead.



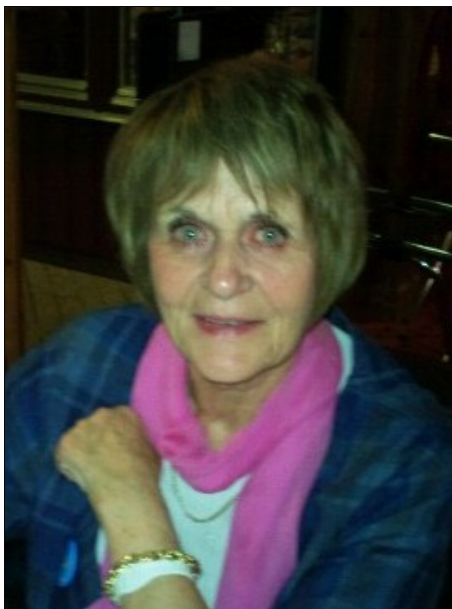
"I've heard the vicar has a problem with  
squatters moving in to the belfry."



Pam's sermon illustrations had a way  
of going pear-shaped

"I'd rather be simple and have me  
pleasures than know everything and  
be miserable." -Minnie Caldwell,  
Coronation Street.





# Wait Till I Tell You

## The Gossip Column

*Janette looks back on a cold but eventful Spring at St. Aug's and looks forward to a programme of events to herald a Summer to remember.*

### 'DON'T CAST A CLOOT...'

'...till May be oot'. There has been no chance this year of any premature shedding of clothing. We've just survived the coldest April for 24 years and summer frocks have not yet replaced the padded anoraks and the Ugg boots. We're desperate to feel warm again, convert our semmits to strappy tops and rush down the High Street exposing 'dauds' of winter flesh to turn pink and painful in the heat of the sun. Then we can moan that we '*canny stick this hoat weather*'. Is there no pleasing us!

### THAT WAS HOLY WEEK THAT WAS!

Holy Week 2013 saw the punters of St. Augustine's give up their secular pursuits and spend more time at the Church. Why? Well, the Bishop was in town – our town – and going to be appearing night and day at a venue nearby. A long Holy Week lay ahead for them as they told their friends that they would be unavailable and planning yet another night at the Church. The telly addicts are still trying to catch up with their favourite soaps.

Kenny was unable to persuade a donkey to join us for Palm Sunday. All the local beasts of burden had been warned and knew that the contracted 'wee stroll along the High Street' would escalate into multiple appearances at a plethora of events. And now that humans have developed this penchant for horsemeat who knows what perils a donkey would encounter at the Thursday night Passover Supper. The lambs may get centre stage but they don't have a very good night!

However, devoid of a donkey, the congregation appeared in healthy numbers whenever +Gregor was on the bill. They even pulled out the stops to suffer

the bum numbing pews of neighbouring Riverside on the evening of Good Friday. For Gregor had got off to a good start. On Holy Monday he confessed at the end of the Eucharist that he had made a mistake in one of the rituals. Shock? Horror? Not a problem! +Gregor should have remembered that this was St. Auggie's and unless he had stood on his head on the altar no one would have noticed. Indeed it made him much more human. Pretentious priestly procedures are not a priority for the punters here. Suffice to say, Holy Week went well, many people in Dumbarton got to know the Bishop a little better and even TBag O'Neill enjoyed a feline discussion with him as each boasted of the endearing habits of their respective 'moggies'.

Immediately after his week in Dumbarton, +Gregor left the country – '*his heid wis ferr nippin*'. We hope he had a pleasant holiday.

### 0.3? LEAVE IT TO ME!

(Or the truth about how we avoided a triple dip recession.) As April progressed, our politicians started to panic about what the figures would tell the country about the state of our economy. The following scene took place in the Chancellor's office.

*Much wringing of hands. To be played with pathos.*

**George:** Oh, we're heading for the dreaded triple dip – woe is me and all my austerity!

**PM:** No, George, that's simply not an option. I won't be able to face the press, the party and the council elections. Balls will call it 'a right balls up' and you and I, George, will not just be history – we'll be mince!

**George:** What's ...eh...mince, Prime Minister?



**PM:** Speaking of mince, George, can't you cook the books ..or something?

**George:** Don't even think that, Prime Minister. We're old Etonians, remember. But we're not far off – just a smidgeon! Maybe that nice Mrs Merkel could check our figures?

**PM:** No, George, absolutely not! She'll leave us penniless – we'll be like the Greeks without the sunshine!

*Enter Gladys - a fully disclosed Downing Street cleaner.*

**George:** Leave us alone please, Gladys, we're trying to save the economy.

**Gladys:** Is that all? We were a bit short down at our Church last month so I phoned a 'wee wumman' up in Dumbarton – great pal of mine. She helped me to organise a wee coffee morning with a big tombola and a couple of concerts with raffles. Now it's all sorted!

**George:** Please, Gladys, I'm trying to think! *(tears appear)*

**PM:** Don't cry, George, you may be caught on camera. This 'wee wumman' in Dumbarton? Is she one of us?

**Gladys:** Well, she's not exactly a member of the party but she's great at raising money.

**PM:** Get her immediately! Where is Dumbarton?  
*Exit omnes.*

And it all ended happily ever after at 0.3.

## **BRAINS, BANGERS, BINGO AND BOWLERS!**

This was the April Friends' event that was billed as a wee 'cairry-oan' in the hall with a sausage supper, value sherry and a bout of Bingo a la Sharon. But the brains had to be tested first and when two teams of lady bowlers arrived things got very competitive. These ladies liked to win and quickly formed two teams – the Rink and the Triple Jacks.

The first task for the teams was to identify from a list of clues a selection of 20 different sweets. There was a tie here between the Triple Jacks and

Macaulay's Marauders, captained by Linda. Both teams gained a total of 17 points – well done! Next we went all patriotic with 'How Scottish Are You' where the participants had to translate popular Scottish words in preparation for what might happen should there be a 'Yes' vote next year. The 3 Magi and Gabriel ( 3 Maggies plus Chrissie) were confident of success in this contest. But they hadn't met The Rink yet who pushed them to another tie. Things were certainly hotting up! One more test for the grey matter involved working out, from a series of descriptions, the location of certain Scottish places. The 3 Magi and Gabriel were hot on the trail until our Curate's team known as the Bangers ( Pat, Christine Jackson, David Ansell and Annie Stitt) started to overtake them. The quest ended amicably in another draw.

This social evening was actually taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> April and only Jessie Reid's team knew that it was the anniversary of Culloden. Well done to Jessie's Golden Girls. Macaulay's Marauders did not identify this famous battle despite Kenny's frequent remarks that 'the Piskies were on the wrong side at Culloden'. TBag's team 'the Bingo Girls' were glad when Sharon started calling the numbers!

Aye, it was a good wee night with a healthy profit and great to have new faces to join in the nonsense!

## **BIG 'DISSY' FOR MR PANDA.**

April was the month that Tian Tian, the Edinburgh lady panda, would experience spring fever and fall in love bringing big financial gains to the Zoo on the birth of a summer baby. But would she be in the mood for love during her 36 hour fertility window? The world's camcorders were switched off - but unfortunately so was Tian Tian. It was obvious that she just didn't fancy him. Perhaps she wanted to wait and see if anything better would come along. Women like a choice, after all. They don't want to jump at the first 'bunnet' that comes along. 'Hard luck, hen, single pandas canny be too fussy, especially in Edinburgh.' So, it's the big needle for Tian Tian. Let's hope it works!

## **FRIENDS END THEIR YEAR IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.**

On 12<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm Friends will review another successful year before unveiling their plans for the new season. Then it will be off to the Garden of Eden to be faced with a selection of sweet temptations. Who will eat the forbidden fruit and please the serpent? All gossip will be hugely exaggerated and

reported in next month's 'By the Way'! Fig Leaf photographs will be strictly censored by Barbara.

### **BOTOX – THE EASY ALTERNATIVE.**

Now that the press has highlighted all the horror stories about untrained bimbos administering Botox injections and even tales of desperate females injecting themselves, it is heartening to know that there's a simpler, cheaper alternative. The bad news is that you've missed it! May 1<sup>st</sup> was the day for getting up early and heading out to the grass to bathe in the magical dew and guarantee beauty for the year ahead. And it was just the right morning for such ablutions! Now you'll have to wait till next May!

### **THE ALLSORTS CHOIR COMES HOME.**

A date not to be missed at St. Aug's is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30pm. Be in the Church to welcome the Allsorts Choir home with a special summer programme of inspirational singing. The emphasis will be on summer (never mind the weather) and strawberries splashed with peach schnapps and served with cream will be on offer. Light sparkling wine will enhance the midsummer mood and everyone attending will be asked to come wearing something floral – even the men! It is the longest day and it's going to be a blooming good night! Tickets will be available to be paid for at the door. Cost £6.00 (£5.00 with Friends' Discount). All welcome.

### **A WEE BUS TRIP TO THE FESTIVAL**

August 10<sup>th</sup> will be a very exciting day in Edinburgh with the crowds gathering for the start of the culture fest and St. Auggie's people looking for a venue to partake of their fish suppers. But plans are still at an early stage and something will turn up. The coach has been booked and also tickets to visit Mary King's Close in the Royal Mile where an actor will transport especially if you can't get into last yer the visitors back to 17<sup>th</sup> century Edinburgh via a network of passage ways under the present buildings. The famous historic tour will be dark, spooky and awesome. Ghostly experiences are not uncommon so there may be requests to stay quiet and listen. People of a talkative disposition will be silenced. More details will be available soon about this latest Friends' Outing – watch the noticeboard in the Community Hall.

### **WHY HAVE THE MICE MOVED TO HOLYROOD?**

It's true. The 'wee sleekit cow'rin' tim'rous beasties' have taken up residence in the home of the

Scottish Parliament. Reasons for them being there include:

- a) They heard there was a 'big cheese' in the building.
- b) They wanted to be part of a Mickey Mouse parliament.
- c) They want to exist .... better together!

So let's hope all the best laid schemes of both species fare better than the one described in Rabbie's poem.

### **NOW THAT'S THE HOLIDAYS ARE PAID.**

It doesn't make them come more quickly but the sense of anticipation heightens. What to wear now becomes important especially if you can't get into last year's! So, if your holiday wardrobe needs a revamp don't miss Chez Barbara et Roberta – flung-out fashions for leaving the High Street – on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 10am with coffee.

See you there!

*Janette.*

#### **GALT TRANSPORT**

**Bankend Road,  
Dumbarton**

**Tel: 01389 730460**

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Email: [traffic@galttransport.co.uk](mailto:traffic@galttransport.co.uk)

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## Tina's Traumas

For a nation that has conquered space, the Americans make a rubbish cup of tea. They spend decades utilising the finest brains and technology to put a man on the moon. But they can't seem to make the giant leap to a decent cuppa.



From Starbucks to five star hotels, from lukewarm Liptons to dishwater Darjeeling, the concept of placing a teabag into boiling water seems not to be part of the psyche. Add to that some 'half and half' milk (I identified one half as milk, I've yet to come to a conclusion on the other) and you're left severely tea-d-off.

Yes, I've just returned from the city that never sleeps. The Big Apple. The place where you go to make a brand new start of it. Well, start spreading the news – if there's anywhere they CAN'T make it, it's there. No surprise then that an Englishwoman who has settled in the city has opened a store called Tea and Sympathy. You certainly need the latter if you go anywhere near the former.

But I can forgive New York its affront on the cuppa front. Yes, I am prepared to pardon all its polystyrene clangers for one reason – that in the five days I spent there, I got lost only once. You see, while it's severely lacking in tea making expertise, New York has – in my humble opinion – cracked it in terms of street planning. Numbers instead of names! A simple grid system instead of windy wee streets. What a brilliantly clever idea, especially when like me your holiday memories consist mainly of how much you missed because you spent half the time arguing over which way to go. Had there been a decent tea shop within walking distance from my hotel, I'd have found it. I didn't, of course. But I found so much else with the minimum of fuss. Oh, I made a brand new start of it in old New York.

Every one of us is good at some things– and not so good at others. And I don't think – especially in our churches – that we're particularly good at identifying and using our gifts to their best advantage. The first disciples couldn't do everything – but together they created a fairly reasonable CV that even Jesus was persuaded might work, given a bit of time and effort.

As ministry numbers continue to decline (in the Kirk at least) now is the time for people in the pews to be encouraged to recognise what they can – and can't – do as 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples working to make church relevant and radical and transforming. It might be pointing someone in the right direction. It might even be simply making a decent cuppa. We're all a part of it. It's up to you.

**Tina Kemp**

## Foodshare - West Dunbartonshire

After the very successful launch at Sainsbury's in March we're now looking for volunteers to help out at ASDA on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 4.00pm. We won't be bag-packing on the day – instead we'll be promoting Foodshare and asking for donations.

We'll need people to help at the front entrance, promoting Foodshare and getting our message across.

We want all shoppers to have a copy of our shopping list which contains the key components of our food parcel. We will also have the Trustees available to answer any of the technical questions about setting up Foodshare.

See Ghislaine if you can help in any way!

## 'The Church can survive and thrive despite secularisation'

The Scottish Episcopal Church is developing patterns of church life which provide a way in for people who have lost their traditional church membership and want to explore faith in a new way, according to the Primus, the Most Revd David Chillingworth.

Writing in the Sunday Times in response to an article about falling patterns of membership and church attendance, he said:

“Essentially we are recognising that we need to move from a model based on membership to one which is based on discipleship.

“Across the Scottish Episcopal Church, our bishops see themselves as ‘leaders of mission’ rather than as managers of an institution.

“We are creating a narrative of growth and possibility for a changing church – rather than being obsessed and troubled by a narrative of institutional decline.”

Bishop David referred to the recent arrival in office of both Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby.

“Both seem poised to offer their churches robust and creative leadership,” he said.

“Both seem to understand that today's society is unimpressed by churches – but that people are searching for spirituality.

“It's about people and not institutions. It's not about membership – it's about living a transformative faith.”

The full text of the article is on the Provincial website, which you can access through St Aug's Site!



# Sunday Rotas

**Sunday May 12th**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers Barbara Barnes & Jean Carr

Intercessions David Rowatt

Chalice Margaret Hardie

Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Maggie Wallace

**Sunday May 19th**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers Evelyn O'Neill & Peter Cairns

Intercessions Linda Macaulay

Chalice Maggie Wallace

Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley

**Sunday May 26th**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers Tim Rhead & Sharon Rowatt

Intercessions Margaret Hardie

Chalice Janette Barnes

Sidespersons David Ansell & Margaret Swan

## FLOWER ROTA

Wk ending 4<sup>th</sup> May Barbara Barnes

" " 11<sup>th</sup> " Irene Telford & M Hardie

" " 18<sup>th</sup> " Maggie Wallace & Moira McGown

" " 25<sup>th</sup> " Linda Macaulay

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## Liberated hens mark Easter in Possilpark

EASTER at St Matthew's, Possilpark, saw the arrival of six hens, rescued from battery farms via the Dumfries rescue centre, *writes Revd Dr David Wostenholm.*

They were installed on Maundy Thursday in the Concrete Garden and produced Easter eggs for the weekend to add some reality to the egg hunt!

The pizza oven was constructed by volunteers from the Princes Trust and was hot from our Garden Open Day on Holy Saturday - so the Easter Candle (painted by a local artist using the icon from the Year Of Faith) was lit from the inferno providing pizzas earlier in the day.

Very Possil, but also very symbolic!

## Ministry Celebration Service

The 2013 Ministry Celebration Service is planned for Saturday 1 June at St Mary's Cathedral, Great Western Road, Glasgow.

A light lunch will be provided at noon, with the service commencing at 1.30pm. This service is for all who are in Authorised and Licensed Lay Ministry in the Diocese and their supporters. Diocesan policy is to have all Authorised Ministry positions re-authorised by the Bishop on a three-year rolling programme, this year Eucharistic Assistants are due for re-authorisation.

Charges will be sent a request nearer the date asking for information regarding numbers planning to attend. Do come and join with us as we celebrate and affirm those serving in Authorised Ministry and those licensed as Lay Readers within the Diocese.

If you are a Chalice Bearer, you should be in attendance, but your License needs to be renewed this year whether you are attending or not. Pat is organising this for this year, so you need to be in touch with her.

## *British Citizen!*



**It was a great honour to go to the Municipal Buildings and witness Faye's ceremony in which he received his British citizenship. Married now, of course, to Fran Walker, I first met Faye in 2002 in The Gambia working out of a Community Education Centre in Serrekunda, and having the rather dangerous title of PA to the Head of the Government's Opposition! He has come a long way! Congratulations Mr MacSuso!**

