

# By the Way Together

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

Issue No 28 May 2017



## **Kenny's Gambian children face the sack!**

***for full story see  
Kenny's letter***

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## *How observant are you? Good Friday images you may have missed....*



On the left of the High Altar in St Augustine's there is an image of the Sacred Heart of Christ, pierced with the spear of a Roman soldier. There is also the stick with the sponge that held the vinegar that was offered to Jesus and three large nails. The heart is surrounded by the crown of thorns and topped with fire that is surmounted by a small cross.

On the right there is the cross, "dressed" in the robe "without a seam, woven in one piece", short sleeved and knee length in Roman style of time of crucifixion (now symbolically worn by priests – alb). The robe is pierced by the 3 nails that held Christ to the cross, at his hands and his feet.



### Eucharistic Thoughts



Be gentle when you touch bread  
Let it not be uncared for, unwanted  
So often bread is taken for granted  
There's so much beauty in bread  
Beauty of rain and toil  
Beauty of sun and soil  
The winds of the air caressed it  
Christ often blessed it  
Be gentle when you touch bread.

Be loving when you drink wine  
So freely received, so joyfully shared  
In the spirit of him who cared  
Ripe as the sun-kissed day  
Fruit of the vine, tended and dressed  
Grapes into wine, gathered and pressed  
The winds of the air caressed it  
Christ often blessed it  
Be loving when you drink wine.

*donated by Helen McBride*

**FRIENDS OF  
ST AUGUSTINE'S**

**AGM**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> Community Hall  
After the service (12.15)  
All welcome!**

### **Bible success in northern Iraq**

A team of Bible translators in Kurdistan, northern Iraq, working against the backdrop of civil unrest and religious persecution, have completed the first ever translation of the whole Bible into the Central Kurdish Sorani language.

For the last eight years, Church Mission Society mission partners have been an integral part of the team, working alongside indigenous Kurds and other foreign nationals drafting text, checking names, terminology and style, and finally checking both the Old and New Testaments so they could be published together for the first time as the complete Bible.

The whole translation of Old and New Testaments took 28 years to complete, and will enable six million native speakers of the Sorani language to hear and read the Bible in their own language for the first time. As well as physical copies, the new translation is available digitally, both through the YouVersion app and a newly designed Kurdish app called Pertukekem ('My Book').

**COMMUNITY  
SOUP**



**Free Lunch!**

Every  
Wednesday (Hall)  
Thursday (Church)  
Starting Weds 11<sup>th</sup>  
May  
**12pm-2pm**  
All welcome!

**NEVER  
DRIVE FASTER  
THAN YOUR  
GUARDIAN ANGEL  
CAN FLY**





## From Kenny...

If you read the article about Sports Day at our school in The Gambia, and notice this month's cover - they are both a dead giveaway for my "theme" for this month. For starters, the school, including another local school, are divided into "Houses". I remember there

being four "Houses" in my own Secondary School.

In The Gambia, our two schools split into "Houses", and one of them is named after me! Last year my team emerged victorious, and I was a happy man, but this year we didn't do so well.

That long explanation leads me to the front cover of the magazine. It is one of the main events of Sports Day, The sack race. I doubt very much if modern schools in Scotland still have the sack race, but in The Gambia, they still hold on to their traditional, colonial sports.

My House will have to be tweaked a little next year to ensure victory. One or two of them may be sacked to achieve the result I want!

I once watched a group of Gambians huddled around a TV, a recent innovation in many homes, to watch the National Sports Day, which included one of our old-time favourites, The Greasy Pole! Very Colonial!

Going to some of the Anglican Churches in The Gambia can be very similar, and if you want old-fashioned Anglicanism, then some of the churches are the place to go. (St Andrew's Lamin is an exception). Some might say that these churches are stuck in a time warp, with fully robed choirs, still singing Anglican Chant, as they plough through Matins with a full Sung Eucharist to follow. They give thanks for the Anglican Faith that the British handed down to them and their churches are usually packed out.

They don't understand why their beloved benefactors have "changed the faith", and in many ways that includes the Church's teaching about Marriage and the possibility of same-sex marriages being allowed in some parts of the

Anglican Communion. "Has the Faith you gave us changed?" is a question I'm commonly asked.

I tell them, no, but dogma and faith in The West has developed in a way that is hard to explain in a five minute answer. Dogma may change, but God never does, and God is as loving, inclusive, forgiving God as God is in eternity.

The Gambia is only a Diocese in the Archdiocese of West Africa, and most of the Anglican Bishops from these parts are strongly against the possibility of same sex marriages. I understand that one of them is being sent to Scotland as a Missionary to help us draw back from a point of no return on this very issue.

The Anglican Communion has always been a group of Provinces which has autonomy over its own affairs, whether that be in England, Africa, America, and Scotland where it all began, really. The Communion is a rag-tag group of Churches who call themselves Anglican, but already have many different views on different things, but we all stick together. That may be about to change.

In June, the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church will meet, and there is a possibility that laws may be passed which will allow same gender people to marry in church. This is not a "done deal", and the margins will be small, but it could lead to schism in our own wee Scottish Church.

In the Anglican Communion in the past, we have learned to live with our differences, and just get on with each other as before. I have always thought of it as a unique model for ecumenical breakthrough.

There are differing opinions and stances within the Scottish Episcopal Church, and we have stayed together happily for centuries. I hope that will be true for the future.

We have points to view, but God has points TO view! Loving us all into eternity is the only non-variable.

So next time an African Bishop asks if we have changed the Faith and dogma, I will simply say, no, again. We don't do the Greasy Pole or Sack Race either!

*Kenny*



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

I love the story of the last Kaiser of Germany when he visited Jerusalem at the height of his influence. The symbolism

could not have been lost on Wilhelm II of entering Jerusalem just like Jesus “triumphantly” entered into Jerusalem 1900 years before. He was, after all, the embodiment of “God” on earth for the German people at the time.

In planning the parade, his entourage was so grand that he had to have the Jaffe Gate in the old city of Jerusalem widened so that his over-sized carriage could pass through. The gate hadn’t been touched in centuries. After the parade had ended, someone climbed up and attached a large sign to the gate. The sign read, “A BETTER MAN THAN WILHELM ONCE CAME THROUGH THIS CITY’S GATE, AND HE CAME RIDING ON A DONKEY.”

It’s a great example to me of hubris, unforgiving and unrepentant pride. The humility of Jesus against our own hubris. And Wilhelm of course paid for his hubris, only after the rest of the world had paid very severely.

*“Even great men bow before the Sun; it melts hubris into humility.”* (Dejan Stojanovic)

Hubris is one of those words I don’t really hear used anymore, and we may think that we are “Millennials” now and don’t need the old archaic words, but we’d better get used to old words like that because our world is being driven by people with more hubris than responsibility. More charisma than care for humanity and creation. We are more used to calling people like that narcissistic, but we’d better learn that word, hubris; selfish overindulgent pride.

I’ve seen a meme on social media:

**NEWS FLASH: THE EARTH REVOLVES AROUND THE SUN (This might upset people who think the earth revolves around them!)**

In the stories of Holy Week and Eastertide we are reminded that Jesus only and ever wanted to be the servant, from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday where he washes the feet of disciples who are thinking of power and hubris. Then onward to Easter when he appears to his friends in the breaking of the bread.

It could have all imploded on Maundy Thursday, with all the disciples fussing and feuding about who will be next in line. And yet, Jesus’ servant-hood saved the Church from itself that night, he saved the Church from her hubris. He says to them, as they bicker, “Today I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. You love one another.” Titles and hierarchies and who is in charge is not what is going to keep the disciples together. It is going to be

their ability to make Jesus’ example our life’s ambition.

Paul’s words to the Philippian Church ever haunt me during this season:

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant and humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2: 5-11)*

There are plenty of examples of exploitation of powerful people, claiming to be saviours from a terrible apocalypse, and not knowing how to use that power once they get it. Or at least wielding it in destructive ways.

“...but *he* emptied himself...”

Are we perhaps too overwhelmed with life that we can’t get lost to find ourselves? Jesus says, draw near to me. Brother, sister let me serve you.

I got lost in Scotland nearly 13 years ago, so I am a witness that when you lose yourself, you find yourself! But more than that, I see servant-hood in the people I serve, and the extent that so many give to inject life into our fellowship, even when suffering enters their homes to stay a while.

Jesus’ servant-hood saved the Church from itself then, and his servant-hood to us can save us now!

**William Young**

.....  
**THE Joint Vacancy Committee** have extended an invitation to a candidate to preach with a view to becoming the minister of the Joint Pastorate. This will take place during the weekend of 27/28 May. On Saturday afternoon the candidate has been invited for an informal chat over tea and coffee at both Dumbarton and Helensburgh.

On Sunday 28th at 11am the candidate will conduct worship at Helensburgh.

This service will be followed by a Church Meeting, with the opportunity to ask questions before a ballot is taken.

For the call to be issued 80% of the members present and voting need to vote in favour.

### **Former Church Buildings**

The application for Panning permission to convert the buildings into 8 flats has been withdrawn and replaced by an application to convert the building into 10 flats.

### **Pulpit Cross**

The Illuminated cross which hung above the pulpit has been stored at St Augustine’s while we tried to find a suitable location. Helensburgh URC has expressed an interest and have in mind a position in their Church. They intend to take it to Helensburgh and try out ‘in situ.’

**John Clark**



I have always enjoyed singing. At the age of five I sang along with my dad as he played the piano; as a youngster I was often seen in ruff and surplice in my local Church choir; on a choir tour with my secondary school I busked on the streets of

Stockholm and for four years I had the privilege of singing as a member of the Chorus of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra when Simon Rattle was Principle Conductor. Singing seems to be in my DNA! I often sing in the car on the way to and from work and can be heard wittering out many a wee tune during the day. And it seems I'm not alone.

However far back you go we humans have sung either by ourselves or together as a group. Whether at a football match, at family sing-a-longs, singing Auld Lang Syne at New Year, over a birthday cake, and of course during a church service... we sing. We sing to celebrate when we're happy. We sing to praise God and to connect us to life. We sing to bond with other people and we sing to help ourselves get through hard times. Many of us sing for a whole myriad of reasons. One quote I read said, "Singing is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking and certainly more fun than working out!" And maybe that's why the country has recently seen a significant rise in the number of community singing groups.

Something happens to us when we sing. Medical research shows that group singing changes us physically, emotionally and socially. Our lungs, heart and circulation benefit. Singing lowers stress, lessens depression and the feelings of isolation, it improves self esteem and confidence, increases positivity and elevates the spirit. Singing together unites us, strengthens us as a corporate body, helps us to share values and build community. Singing is a universal language which "makes for happiness and endows life with an added zest." What a gift it is to sing!

There are over 400 references in the Bible to singing – and 50 actual commands to sing. The book of Psalms is itself a collection of songs and we are told that Jesus sang with his disciples (Mtt 26:30). Human beings throughout time have used

singing to enhance worship and praise - to tell our stories and explain our theology. The Bible even tells us that God Himself sings – exalting over His people "with loud singing" (Zeph 3:17). Oh, how I hope that that is true!

Singing in church is therefore important. It matters – it's not just there as a 'filler' in between bits of the liturgy. The words that we sing stick in the memory more easily than the spoken word, and so singing unconsciously provides the "Take Away" theology which we can draw upon during the week. The place of preaching in church is unquestioned – but singing is right up there alongside preaching as a way to enable us to internalise the living Word. And when we sing we are hearing the testimony and beliefs of those who sing with us and that's a very positive experience.

However even whilst we recognise the importance of singing and hymns in church they can sometimes be the cause of upset and concern – concern sometimes which gets too much airtime. Hymns and songs that speak to the soul of one person will sometimes not speak to the soul of another. It will often be the case that the tune or words of a particular hymn are not always to our personal taste or liking. The task of choosing hymns for a Sunday can be one of the most privileged jobs in our faith community and at the same time can be one of the most unenviable. Those choosing the hymns have to try not to let personal taste influence their choice too much – but rather they have to concentrate on providing music that augments and complements the message of the readings.

Singing brings us together; it unites us – our voices are as one in directing our worship towards Him who is Three in One, the ultimate unity. As we sing, our hearts are uplifted, set free and raised to soar above our own concerns and preferences. We might not like all the songs we are given to sing – but perhaps when faced with singing songs we don't care for, these are occasions in which Jesus asks us to make a little sacrifice for the good of the whole of the community. Just as we are on holy ground when we sing a song that we love and which resonates and speaks to us – perhaps we could do well to remember that the song that we don't like is holy ground for our neighbour. To sing it with a smile is our wee gift to them and still enables the bonds of our unity to grow and strengthen.

*With love, Liz*





## Food for Thought Update:

### Our main referrer....

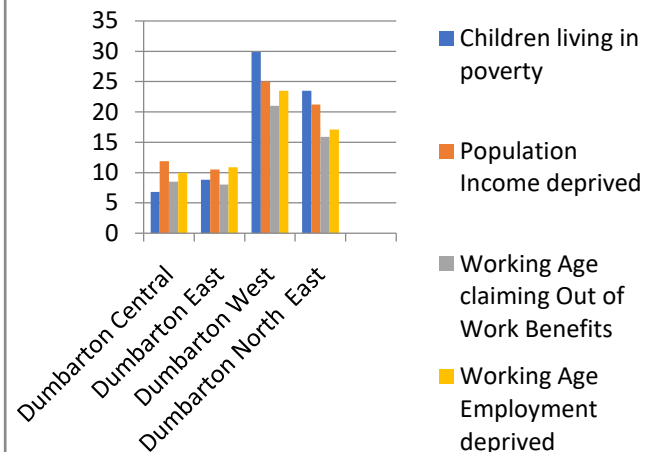
In Food For Thought we often talk about referrers. These are the departments which ring us up and give us names of those who need to come down to the Hall to receive bags of food. Our main referrer is Social Work – a department within the Council who look after the most vulnerable in our community from a wide variety of age profiles and circumstances. The Social Work Department is divided up into Teams which include: the Older Person's Team, the Disability Team, the Mental Health Team, the Younger Person's Team and the Criminal Justice Team. Whilst all of these Teams refer to us, our main referrer is the Children and Families Team.

The Social Work Teams become involved with individuals and families often because they are experiencing a range of multiple complex issues, rather than a single problem. In the past Social Work could buy shopping for individuals and families in hardship using what was called 'A Section 12 Fund'. This has been drastically reduced in the last few years and so the Social Workers, when finding those they visit with bare, empty cupboards, have had to look elsewhere to alleviate the ever increasing food poverty. So, they phone us and ask for food, knowing that then they can use the little resources they are given to buy gas and electricity for families. This is the main reason that we do not give money for fuel bills.

Below is a table which shows the scale of the poverty experienced by children living in Dumbarton. The figures are quite disturbing, particularly in Dumbarton East and West. 30% and 28% of children are living in poverty. So in a classroom of 30 kids – that's 10 who probably do not have enough to eat, have play pieces and whose family struggles on a daily and weekly basis. That statistic is backed with an equally high figure for income deprived and unemployment.



## Dumbarton Socio-Economic Breakdown



## Social Work Teams

**Children & Families Team** look after vulnerable family groups who are in crisis. This can be for a variety of reasons including, although not exhaustively, neglect, parental drug and alcohol misuse, mental health issues and disability. Whilst Social Work tackle the underlying difficulties these people experience we receive multiple calls from this branch of Social Work to feed the families, provide the nappies and toiletries whilst also giving the children the occasional wee treat of a packet of crisps or chocolate!

**Mental Health Team** will call us to refer clients who are coming out of hospital after treatment for mental health issues but who have to wait sometimes up to 6 weeks for their benefits to be reinstated. We may support some of these people until they regain stability.

**Criminal Justice Social Work Team** will refer clients to us who may have to pay a large amount of their household income to pay fines. If the individuals do not pay the fines then they will go to prison. Often individuals coming out of prison are referred to us until they can receive some income through the benefit system.

**Older Person's Team** will refer to us if the clients are struggling to manage their money. Because older people are often on a fixed income hardship can occur when they are faced with larger bills which they pay and then go without themselves in order to stay out of debt. Examples of this might be paying vet bills, or funeral bills for a spouse.

*Caroline Marsland*



## DUMBARTON NURSERY SCHOOL SPORTS DAY REPORT

Dumbarton Nursery school, Sunrise Nursery and Lower basic school at Bakoteh held our joint Sports day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2017. The children were divided into 4 houses or Kundas namely: Tony Nelson, Kenneth Macaulay, Fran Walker and Dawn Webster Kunda.

Before starting any great feat of exercise and sporting activities breakfast and lunch were prepared for the children and staff, provided by D.G.E.A and Sunrise Education Centre. Transport was provided for Dumbarton Nursery School to take the children and staff to and from Bakoteh.



The Sports Day was great fun! The races included the Sack race, potato race, 100 meters, bean bag race, 4 x 400m for the Lower basic school children and a very competitive Tug of war! Skills students from Sunrise also played a pivotal role as they were the judges and referees for all the events during the day.

Finally, all the results were tabulated and amidst great tension and excitement Fran Walker Kunda emerged as the winner with 390 points and 7 medals! Second was Dawn Webster Kunda with 384 points and 8 medals followed by Tony Nelson Kunda/house with 358 points and 10 medals. Kenneth Macaulay Kunda/house got 320 points and 6 Medals. What a shame that Kenneth Macaulay Kunda couldn't defend their title as the winners of last year! Tony Nelson Kunda/House was awarded the most disciplined Kunda during the day! Well done to them! The day was punctuated with lots of fun and music and the children enjoyed jumping around, clapping and dancing! On behalf of the children, staff and on my own humble self I would like to thank everyone for their contributions towards yet another successful sports day.

*Sulayman Saidy, Headmaster*

## Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017



It's better to die in a refugee camp than to die in a war. To risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy. And to leave everything you know behind. When the alternative is terror, bombs and bullets, almost anything is better. This is the terrible choice facing tens of millions of people worldwide - fleeing conflict and disaster, making dangerous journeys in search of safety. Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support our work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War. Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home. Envelopes can be found at the back of church for your donation. Please give your envelope to Kirsten Wiggins (our rep), to the clergy or the Sunday plate.



## Explorers ahoy!

On Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April a happy busload of trippers set off to see the Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies. And what a day of treats they had!

**The Falkirk Wheel** is a rotating boat lift, connecting the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. It opened in 2002, reconnecting the two canals for the first time since the 1930s as part of the Millennium Link project. The wheel raises boats by 24 metres (79 ft) and is the only rotating boat lift of its kind in the world.

Our intrepid travellers were treated to a shot of the boat so they could see how the wheel worked!



A Kelpie, or water kelpie, is the Scots

name given to a shape-shifting water spirit once believed to inhabit the lochs and pools of Scotland. It has usually been described as appearing as a horse, but is able to adopt human form. So when Andy Scott was asked to design a sculpture for the water-filled area where the Forth and Clyde Canal, and River Carron meet and where horses had been so historically important in the industry of the area, he knew he was on to a winning idea. The sculptures were completed in October 2013 and now stand 30 ft tall being made of steel. In their height and quality Scott also wanted to reflect the strength and enduring quality of the landscape and communities which have been forced to endure change through the ages.



Of course no day out would be complete without a high tea which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Well done and thank you to the Friends of St Augustine's who arranged this wonderful day.



## Dancing the night away!

£640 was made for Church funds during a fun evening when we all learned how to line-dance and enjoyed ourselves singing along with all the old songs!

Well done and thank you –  
Dancers, Rock Salt and All Sorts Choir!



Some of our youngsters enjoying all the toys, books and attention of the Sunday School provision!

Ta – daa!



St Mungo's Rocko Currie, and St Augs Joules Hardie regularly fraternizing St Augustine's Saturday coffee morning. No hoovering up necessary, and not a crumb in sight!



## The signing of St Mungo's Mission Action Plan (MAP) with a lovely lunch afterwards!

It is good to commit to paper the vision of the church and share together what we intend to



achieve during the next year. Plans include more social events and strengthening our connection with the local community. As always we will leave room for the Spirit to move and ideas to come forth!



**Welcome to our family:  
Grace McCluskey and Harris Lawrie!**





## ***Wait Till I Tell You.....'***

*Janette looks back and wonders where April went now that 'the May month flaps its glad green leaves like wings'.*

### **EASTER - AT LAST!**

Lent seemed to last a little longer this year with everyone longing for Easter especially after the tiny taste of summer we were treated to at the end of March. But, this is Scotland and we should have known that it wouldn't last! In Dumbarton it's not really warm enough for sitting out until the snow cap has vanished from Ben Lomond.

Maybe it was the mood of the nation but many of us broke into our chocolate Easter Eggs before the big day. We were just looking for a '*wee something to cheer ourselves up*' and chocolate was the only answer to all the gloomy news that the telly was bringing us. TBag O'Neill had been indulging in her little chocolate treats since January so she was no example! Will power is a difficult thing. I lasted till Mothering Sunday then a boring night of TV repeats and no ice cream van had me tearing into the elaborate packaging – and finishing the contents!

This got me thinking of my very first chocolate Easter egg from Woolworths – a simple chocolate shell wrapped in foil with no contents. The eggs appeared quite a few years after the war when sweet rationing had ended and they seemed awesome to children brought up on the hard boiled, home painted variety. We were almost terrified to roll them down Binnie's Brae (now Mansewood housing estate) for fear of '*a bigger wean running away with them*'. And how we enjoyed a little piece each day and made the egg last all week. We were not used to chocolate overload and rarely consumed a whole bar of Cadbury's at one sitting. Changed days! Now there are Easter eggs costing hundreds of pounds, decorated with jewels and flavoured with booze. It's all the fault of the Easter bunny and some manufacturers do not even use the word Easter on the packaging for fear of causing offense. We were told at Sunday school that the egg symbolised the rolling away of the stone and the new life of the resurrection. Rabbits were never part of the story.

At St. Aug's on Easter Sunday Kenny dispensed Easter eggs in his usual projectile manner to all who turned up, much to the amazement of the

visitors who were attending for the Baptism. I'm not sure whether or not our nine o'clock congregation were also leaping about catching eggs – but I smile at the thought of it!

The most popular event in our prelude to Easter is the Passover Supper held on Maundy Thursday and attended by folk from other Churches throughout the town. St. Augustine's looked particularly beautiful this year with tables set for the meal for around 70 - thanks to Fran and her volunteers. A new tradition was started when a burnt sacrifice from St. Mungo's Rectory was offered – it was so well cremated that Linda had to make an emergency dash to a local butcher for additional supplies of lamb! The Friends' catering team was depleted due to a rush of early summer holidays but they managed to cope with a little help from their friends in the congregation.

Thanks to those who helped to serve and helped the regulars '*to keep the heid!*'.

To the Good Friday '*skivvies*' who arrived the morning after to a blocked sink and broken dishwasher – yours is the Kingdom of Heaven! Thank you. Oh, and the Church was restored to normal long before lunchtime – no mean feat!

### **THE P.M. WHO WENT UP A HILL AND CAME DOWN A MOUNTAIN.**

Could she not have gone off for a wee spa weekend or a Benidorm bash like everybody else! Oh no! Big Theresa ditched her kitten heels for a hike in Snowdonia and had too much time to think. Now that's dangerous! She came back down to 10 Downing Street and declared that Mount Brexit must be climbed with the aid of a snap General Election. Just what we needed to brighten up June. During May we shall all indulge in peak electioneering and she will be offering strong and stable leadership in the national interest. '*I canny wait!*'

Listen, Theresa - it's supposed to be '*the merry month of May*'. And Thomas Gray, an 18<sup>th</sup> century poet wrote in his 'Ode on the Spring' '*we frolic while 'tis May*'. Frolic? It's not a word often heard on the Westcliff bus. It's a happy, joyous, even flirtatious word that has no place in party political patter! Maybe she could have borrowed some lines from John Milton '*Hail, bounteous May that dost inspire mirth and youth and warm desire.*'

Pity it was the month he was writing about!

### **AND THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE LOCKED UP TILL IT'S ALL OVER.**

First there is our gregarious Foreign Secretary Boris, who started the name calling by referring to



the Leader of the Opposition as a ‘*mutton-headed mugwump*.’ No, Boris, that doesn’t mean he’s useless – one can make a good pot of broth with a sheep’s head! Then Tom Watson, Labour’s Deputy Leader, managed to find a few words to retaliate against Boris and called him a ‘*caggie handed cheese-headed fopdoodle with a talent for slummocking around*’. Unfortunately his well-researched insult was upstaged by the Shadow Home Secretary’s interview gaff when she told us she was buying £300,000 worth of policemen! Diane Abbott must be a cert for the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s job in the event of a Labour victory.

### **SAVING THE VALE – AGAIN!!**

On 29<sup>th</sup> April it was everybody up to the Vale Hospital for another protest about cuts to our area’s health services. Such activities are becoming an annual event – on St. George’s Day last year we were all marching from the Christie Park with slogans and banners. This year it was a 24 hour vigil and thousands of signatures were being collected on a large white bed sheet. It is unclear whether or not this bed sheet was procured from the hospital laundry but the idea was very effective. Next year, if another protest is deemed to be necessary, there is a suggestion to make creative use of the hospital bedpans!

The vigil was a great photo-opportunity for our local political elite who all jubilantly signed the sheet along with the usual St. Augustine’s awkward squad – it was good to see Barbara back in the fight. Save the Vale!

### **THE FRACTIOUS DINNER.**

This was the intriguing title given to the meal at 10 Downing Street for the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Junkshop – a Brexit bigwig from the land of Radio Luxembourg. At least that’s how a German newspaper saw it. Oh, we had pictures on the telly of Jean-Claude kissing big Theresa before being lured inside. So what actually happened? Was it something she said? Is she not much of a cook? Was he rushing out for the Gaviscon? Perhaps we shall never know the truth. But when Brexit is consigned to history, all may be revealed. In Scotland’s history there have been at least two unfortunate meals, one in Edinburgh Castle and one in Stirling Castle that have been referred to as Black Dinners. They were both in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when King James the 2<sup>nd</sup> was involved in a series of power struggles – just like today! At Stirling Castle you can see the actual window out of

which, after the coffee was served, the body of the chief of the Clan Douglas was thrown. The King’s dagger could be seen in his back! Well, compared to this Black Dinner the Fractious Dinner was about as risky as a Friends’ event!

### **A ‘WHEELIE’ GOOD DAY OUT AT FALKIRK!**

Oh, we know the Friends’ outing is frequently referred to as ‘*the auld wifies’ bus trip*’ but do we care? We, the bus pass, free viewing, triple locked pensioners of 2017 are laughing all the way to the multiple cruise booking agents. But this year our party included two underage passengers and Linda had booked us all in as concessions! It was tempting to slip them on to the boat regardless but we remembered Kenny’s morning sermon about how our behaviour reflected our faith. So, we waited for a really busy interlude at the ticket desk and confessed with a story that could have bored for Britain. When we also asked if we could bring our attractive young driver, the appropriate tickets were thrust into my hands at no extra cost! *Her heid wis ferr nippin*’. The plan was for a day out on the Falkirk Wheel followed by High Tea and a visit to the Helix Park to see the Kelpies in the gloaming.

The day started well with a buffet lunch in the Hall while being entertained by a naked pipe band that was rehearsing in the Masonic Car Park. Well, they were not really naked – just bereft of their pipe band regalia. Soon we were introduced to Morgan, our charming bus driver, who explained that he was ours till 10pm. Some of the *auld wifies* needed to be tied down! The canal boat trip was an experience – some appreciated the theorem of Archimedes while others complained about the weans that were yelling loudly behind them. The High Tea was delicious and the staff at the Graeme Hotel excellent. We discovered that Falkirk was not the world’s warmest place and the icy blast from the East put even Roberta off sussing out the charity shops! But we were waiting for the sun to go down so we held our raffle at the Helix Park, home of the Kelpies. Some of the hardier wandered down to get up close and personal with the legendary beasts – others remained in the warmth of the bus. The sunset was supposed to be at 8.53pm but at 9pm there was still enough light to prevent a spectacular view. Indeed, the best view was from the motorway on the road home when the lights were starting to glow. But we had to go – *auld wifies* have to be home by 10pm!

In all, it had been a great day out. Good company, excellent food and unbelievable value.

### **ONWARDS TO JUNE.**

By the time you get the double issue of 'By the Way Together' you'll have '*cast your clouts*', selected your voting preferences and be preparing for the holidays. How time flies!

Back next month.

*Janette*

## **SMILE LINES**

### **Night-time prayers**

The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.

### **The wicked**

A little boy had been very naughty and as a punishment his mother told him he would go without his favourite vegetable. He sat down for a meal, his mother served, carrots, corn, - - and?

"It's no use waiting," said his mother, "I told you, no peas for the wicked."

### **Which way to Heaven?**

The Rev Dr Billy Graham told of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter before the service, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Billy Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there... You don't even know your way to the post office."

### **Lesson in Lying**

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

### **Preaching**

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again.

After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

### **Late for church**

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for church. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

### **The boasting boys**

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

### **Miscellaneous observations from modern life**

I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach, and am now the proud owner of Aisle 4.

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built's?

Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint he has to touch it?

If your supermarket is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

## ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Reader/Intercessions	Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Phil O'Ryan

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May

Reader/Intercessions	Pat Brooks
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Andrew Baxter

## CLEANING

7 May/4 June	Lynn T
14 May/11 June	Finella (+ flowers)
21 May/18 June	Iona and Mary
28 May/25 June	Margaret (+Carol flowers)



## ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

### Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Readers	Ghislaine K & David A
Intercessions	David Rowatt
Chalice	Maggie W & Margaret H
Sidespersons	Roberta M & Chrissie A

### Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>

Readers	Morag O'Neill & Linda M
Intercessions	Maggie Wallace
Chalice	Janette B & Kirsten W
Sidespersons	Cathy H & Linda Jenkinson

### Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>

Readers	Janette B & Maggie W
Intercessions	Linda Macaulay
Chalice	Fran W & Sharon Rowatt
Sidespersons	Margaret Swan & David A

### Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>

Readers	Margaret H & Kirstin W
Intercessions	Fran Walker
Chalice	Margaret H & David Rowatt
Sidespersons	Maggie W & Caroline M

### Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>

Readers	Fran Walker & Sharon R
Intercessions	Margaret Hardie
Chalice	Maggie W & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons	Roberta M & Chrissie A

## Flowers

May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Fran Walker
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Maggie Wallace
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Linda Macaulay
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Hardie
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fran Walker





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# The three days of Easter – Celebrated in both churches

