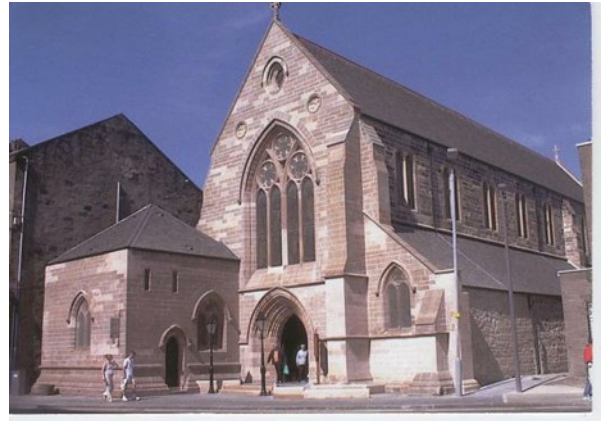


By the Way



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

Issue No 2 November 2012 £1

Memory Lane



This photo has recently come into our hands. It's one of St Augustine's Players taken away in the Year Dot. Can you identify some well kent faces?? Many are still on the go, especially the nurse!

Parish Directory

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Kenny Comments....

November is a month for remembering. We start off with All Saints and All Souls then go on to Remembrance Sunday, and all three of these days are traditional points in our annual calendar which we mark diligently.



My own feelings about Remembrance Sunday are rather jumbled. I was brought up to believe that we remember mainly so that we do not make the same mistakes again, but the sight of body bags being brought back to the UK is all too frequent, and often I feel that we have learned little about the futility of warfare, or the horrendous loss of young and innocent lives that are lost. In fact things seem to be getting worse as technology can now multiply the numbers with less effort.

However, we have another act of remembrance in St Augustine's which was started last year. This takes the form of remembering those who have lost their lives as a result of addiction, and is done in conjunction with Alternatives, the addiction agency in Dumbarton and The Vale.

Last year the church was almost full of relatives and friends of those who had lost their lives, mostly through heroin addiction, but also through alcoholism and other drugs. We were given the opportunity to light a candle and name a loved one.

This year the service will be held on November 15th at 7.30pm, and it is hoped that we can bless a new plaque mounted in the little Prayer Chapel, along with all the others that are already there.

This will give people the opportunity to pop in during the year, whenever the building is open, to say a prayer, light a candle, and remember. We are already known as the church that cares for those suffering from the ravages of addiction, and if anything, we can only hope and pray that stuff like this can perhaps motivate at least one young person to become clean and sober.

For that is the purpose of remembering. That things can change and the circle of death and needless destruction is not inevitable. Oh, that we could remember that as we send our youth off to yet another war!

Kenny

Pat Says.....

One of the things that I have been getting used to as I walk around Dumbarton or travel on the bus coming from Helensburgh is that strangers notice my "dog collar" and respond to it in various ways - thankfully all positive to date. Strangers seem to be willing to begin conversations with me, with more than one person starting by saying "You don't often see ministers on the bus". This may be a sign of the times where overstretched clergy have to take the fastest route: but it highlights the need to take the Christian message beyond the confines of the church building, out into the streets. Amongst other things I have used the opportunity to explain a little about Christian concern for our environment, which is why I take the slow and bumpy bus whenever possible rather than hopping into the car - which saves time and avoids cold wet waits at the bus stop but burns extra environmentally damaging fuel.



I have also been slightly amused, but touched, by someone who carefully explained that he personally had no problems with ordained females! Maybe we were bridging an ecumenical gap here. Even more than these conversations on the bus, I have been amazed by the people passing in the street who pause, look, and say "Say a prayer for me" before walking on. On one occasion this was from two young men slightly the worse for wear from drink or other substances; but I felt it to be a friendly call, which reflected some deeper awareness of their own needs and that a prayer may indeed be of help to them.

Here at St Augustine's we can see very clearly how prayer has led to positive action to help a wide range of suffering people; but just because many activities are underway it does not mean that the prayer can stop. There is a constant need for prayer - not just formal prayer at services and certainly not just prayer by the clergy, but daily personal prayer where we bring to mind the needs of ourselves and others, and seek strength and guidance in discovering how best to respond to the needs we see.

And while you are at it - would you say a prayer for me please.

Pat

Smile Lines

Know what to do

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?" The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

The Congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation were like, and especially the Vestry. So he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

Rooms

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, and Mike has his own room, and Jemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

The Traffic Warden's funeral

As the coffin was being lowered into the ground at a Traffic Warden's funeral a voice from inside screamed: "I'm not dead, I just passed out for a moment! Let me out!!!" The Vicar smiled, and leaned forward, sucking his teeth. He muttered: "Too late, the paperwork's already done"

Miscellaneous musings modern life...

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."

Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Where there's a will, there are relatives.

Committees - they keep minutes and waste hours. Teams know what is to be done, do it, reflect on it, and keep trying to improve it.

You know you're old if you can remember when bacon, eggs and sunshine were good for you.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat are really good friends.

Don't worry

A little boy was told that he should try and be good, and that he could ask God for help with this. So he prayed: "Lord, please make me good, if you can. But if you can't, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

One out of Ten

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbour's wife."

Family tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?" "Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

Champagne

My husband and I were delighted the day we finally bought our own home. After years of renting, it was wonderful to own something. Our minister even gave us a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion. But in the hustle and bustle of getting moved in, his champagne was put in a cupboard and forgotten.

Months later, we held a Baptism party for our third child. Wine flowed until, running short, we suddenly remembered the housewarming gift of champagne. So in front of our guests, I opened the attached card from the minister and read it aloud: "Dave, take good care of it – this one is really yours!"

Medical name

The curate told his doctor that he was worried because he just wasn't able to do all the things around the parish that his vicar expected him to do.

When the examination was complete, he said, "I'm prepared for the worst, doctor. Just tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said the curate. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my vicar."

(With apologies to Pat who is certainly not lazy! - Ed)



Friends in Autumn

The Friends Exec have been busy planning events that will take us up to the end of

March 2013, though at the moment the focus is on the November Big Event.

Most of the membership renewals have been paid and we thank you all for your support and loyalty. We believe that we give you good value for money with the free monthly draw for the £10 M&S voucher, free magazines and discount on most of the Friends events. At the church AGM I gave a quick update on what Friends have done in the past year and it has been pretty impressive.

- Augadoon - who can forget the mist
- The Christmas Party and Carol Service
- The trip to Edinburgh to see the pandas. Pandamonium of course
- The Murder Mystery where we all wore red, white and blue while we mourned the death of Mrs Arbuthnaut at the Jubilee.
- Fish Supper Bingo
- I Dreamed a Dream at the Kings Theatre when the dream came true as Susan Boyle

herself came out to sing for us at the end of the show

- as well as the Glesge Café, the Ghost Walk, several visits to the theatre and sangria at the Spanish-themed AGM.

It is hard to believe that we did all this, as well as the Accordionists from the Ukraine Concert and a very successful Community Fair.

So what is to come:

- The Great American Dream on November 16th, a celebration for Thanksgiving with food, drink and entertainment. Get you name down quickly if you want to come along, or phone 01389 602261 for info.
- The Christmas Party and Carol Service on December 23rd. Games for children and adults and the usual party fare. Followed by the special atmosphere of Carols for Christmas in the church.
- St. Aug's Burns supper on January 20th. Always a little bit out of the ordinary, but plenty of Burns wonderful words.
- DPT theatre night in February, date and play to be announced
- The Midgie Band come to St. Aug's on March 17th to entertain us with their special Scottish music.

We hope to see you at lots of these events as well as at our regular Saturday coffee morning, 10am till noon in the Community Hall.

Linda

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Craft and Chat Group

This is a new group which meets, initially, on Wed 7th November, 7-9 pm in the Community Hall.

If you enjoy sewing, knitting, crochet, jewellery making or any other craft making and would like the chance to meet up and chat to others over a coffee/tea, then why not come along and bring your craft work.

There will be a small charge to cover the costs of the hall booking and coffee etc. **All welcome.**

Cursillo

The next meeting in St. Augustine's is on Monday 12th November at 7.30.p.m. when we will continue with the discussion book.

The November Diocesan Ultreya is at Good Shepherd. Hillington at 7.30.p.m. on Friday, November, 23rd. Please note there are no meetings planned for December. Ultreya,

Evelyn.

Observations of a Novice

No, this is nothing to do with habits or holiness, far from it. It's all to do with Kitchen Politics on a Saturday morning!

A Trade Union for St Aug's kitchen workers is needed. As a newcomer on the rota, I was bemused by the non pc sexist comments "What's a man doing infiltrating into the kitchen?" and the demarcation disputes. Who could go over the line in the lino

to carry out their duties and even who could go into the hall to serve customers?! Proper training schemes need to be in place for the unwary – surely something the Union could negotiate!

What are these traps for novices?

- Home made scones must be baked on Saturday morning if they are not going to be sent back; however after heating them in the microwave for 10 secs most people think that they are fresh!
- Toasted tea bread is by far the most popular choice – buy 2 loaves, don't be mean
- Croissants are too fancy for Saturday punters – don't waste money on them
- Kitchen staff should never go into the hall to serve drink or food without the permission of the waitress!
- Customers should be persuaded that the waitress will carry their mug and plate, otherwise they are doing her out of a job and she may be made redundant – even more need for a Union
- Waitresses can be brilliant at selling raffle tickets
- Laughter muscles need to be trained before arrival – they will certainly be put in use.

Want to be involved? See Linda Macaulay.

Restoration of Christian Worship at Dumbarton Rock

(The following is an extract from Tim Rhead writing to all the Dumbarton Churches)

We understand that a chapel dedicated to St Patrick was in use at Dumbarton Castle for over 1.000 years until the late 16th century. Historic Scotland has given permission for three ecumenical services to be held at the presumed site of the chapel to commemorate St Andrew, St Patrick and St Columba.

A working group comprising clergy and members of the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic Church and Scottish Episcopal Church is organising these services with the support of Dumbarton Churches Together.

The first service will be held on Saturday November 24th at 12 noon and is expected to last approx 30 minutes. Numbers are limited to 60 due to the size of the site so each church in Dumbarton will be offered 4 tickets, but more may become available later.

Please note that there are 90 steps to the site of the chapel. Historic Scotland will not be charging for admission to people attending the service. If the weather is seriously inclement the service will be cancelled and the participants informed if possible.

We hope that there will be considerable interest in these services, which will be a unique opportunity for the churches in Dumbarton to join together to celebrate our Christian heritage at this historic site.

With best wishes,
Tim Rhead

(Note that our own Bishop will be present, having historical roots there, as will the Provost, our MSP, our MP and Lord McFall!)

All on a Thursday Morning.....



Snapshot of a Thursday Morning

Just been to St Aug's to meet a stonemason to see about water ingress above the main door. But I was not the only person around the church, even though there were no meetings in the hall.

Organised by Margaret Hardie, James from Glasgow Steeplejacks was on the church roof, clearing out the gutters and checking the lightning conductors. On the ground his mate controlled all the ropes that would stop him falling and collected all the gunge and plants that had collected over the past year.

Maggie was in the kitchen making soup for tomorrow's fund raising, and very sociable, Friday

lunch. Barbara was in the office doing her monthly task of photocopying invoices for the user groups.

Janet Rae (new granny to Harry, 4 days old) was finishing off her paper work as she comes to the end of her job with Circle. Rita, Janet's replacement, was settling in to the office and gradually getting to know everyone.

And last, but not least, K (who has so much leave left he doesn't know what to do with) popped in for a chat and a cup of tea.

Then this evening there's a prayer study group and a vestry meeting. St Augustine's isn't just for Sundays!

Fran

Gambian School ... a New Term Begins!



Pictured above is the new intake for 2012-13, enjoying lunch for the first time.

The other pic is of the new smokeless cooking facilities we have put in.

The cooks used to use firewood which was very dirty and smoky. Now we have equipped them with ranges which use briquettes made from peanut shells which are smoke free!

Ignore the dates on the camera. Sulayman has still to learn how to set it!



Letter from our Gambian Teacher-in-Charge

On behalf of the children and staff of Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School and on my own humble behalf write to give you an up to date report of the activities of the school from the 24th of September 2012 after a long Summer holiday.

First and foremost the entire staff and pupil reported and on time. The School has registered 30 new children for Nursery One (1) out of which 15 are girls and 15 boys. Forms were issued way back in April to be filled and returned to the school by the parents or guardians of interested children who want to be enrolled in to Nursery One for the 2012/13 academic year.

Vetting of the forms were done to scrutinize those who are legible to be registered based on family background and age. Only those who cannot afford to pay for education should be considered where possible.

Furthermore, all the basic teaching and learning materials are in place, Brand new black and white LaserJet Pro M1132 MFP printer, scanner and photocopier is bought to help expedite the printing and photocopying of teaching aids and Lesson Plan books just to name a few.

However, a taskforce was dispatched to the school from the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to

check on the location, structures and facilities available in Private Schools throughout the length and breadth of the country. A form was filled and some documents attached to it as requested which were submitted to the Director of Planning at the above mentioned Ministry.

Finally, we are trending on fine with limited hiccups, teaching and learning, effective and a nutritious food served to all the children during school days.

Also an agreement form between D.G.E.A and the parents/guardians of children attending Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School is prepared and issued to the parents to read, if they comply with the terms and conditions on the agreement, they should sign and return the form to the school.

We looked forward to a better 2012/13 academic year.

Once again on behalf of the parents, children and staff of Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School, we thank you for your philanthropic gestures and untiring efforts in providing and creating a stimulating and conducive environment to the poor and needy Gambian children.

Attached are some pictures of Nursery One and children of the Nursery in lessons and at play.

Hope to see Fr Kenny in January. Until then goodbye.

Sulayman Saidy (Teacher-in-Charge)

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URC Congregation

It is with sadness that we need to report the fact that the URC Church in Dumbarton have had to close the doors of their building. However, the small congregation lives on.

From the first Sunday in November, they will be worshipping in tandem with us in the Community Hall at 11am. Afterwards, we will share coffee and tea together.

Obviously, it is a heartbreaking time for them, and I know we will extend a warm St Augustine's welcome.

It may take a week or two to settle into a pattern, so please be patient if things are a bit different for the first couple of weeks!

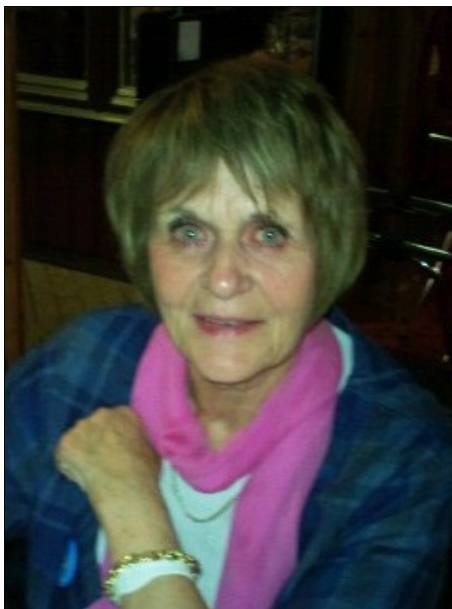
Circle (Scotland)

As you are aware, Janet Rae has been sharing Kenny's office for the past two and a half years or so as she has worked wonders with women preparing for release from prison, and supporting them on their eventual release.

Janet, who has just become a grandmother, is leaving to take up a post with Womens Aid in Ayrshire, where she is now living.

However, all is not lost, and she has been replaced by Rita who now has the dubious pleasure of sharing office space with Kenny!

If you see her around, say "hello" and introduce yourself!



Wait Till I Tell You

The Gossip Column

Janette takes a backward glance at the happenings of a busy October when winter arrived early and gave us the shortest autumn for years.

'OOT IN THE GALOSHINS'.

How things have changed at Hallowe'en! Remember the excitement of getting ready to 'go oot in the galoshins' or to go out guising? That's what we used to call it, though few of us knew how to spell it! We'd never heard of the American equivalent – trick or treat.

Hallowe'en was taken seriously – we had practised our party pieces for weeks and carved out our turnip lanterns. Health and safety freaks should stop reading now! Yes, we used the bread knife, put a lit candle inside and went off with our pals to knock on the doors of strangers. And it was all great fun. There were none of those dodgy jokes the children learn for today's celebrations. Oh no, we gave our hosts real songs, dances and poetry.

My rendition of the stag hunt from Scott's 'Lady of the Lake' was really boring and wordy but ensured that the Hallowe'en treats of apples and nuts were thrust in my direction quickly to get me out the door. And what about that tip for a party game using doughnuts to hang from the garden trees for the children to bite? What's up with the treacle scone? You could always get your face washed afterwards at the 'dookin' for apples'.

And oh, how the shops are cashing in –with big orange pumpkins, ready-made costumes and tubs of treats to disperse to the weans at the door. And mummy has to take the little dears around in the car....it's dark! No wonder everyone's complaining about being skint!

THE BINGO AND THE SUSAN BOYLE BOOK.

This was intended to be a wee extra Friends' Night to get us in the mood for the main event which was looming frighteningly close and devoid of any serious organisation. So we raided Roberta's famous dressing up box for wigs, masks and false faces and a great laugh was had by all. The hall was decorated Hallowe'en style but without the atmosphere of a scary darkened hall since we needed all the lights on to read the bingo numbers and eat our delicious fish suppers from Andy's. Sharon was the Bingo caller – a job she performed with grace and panache now that she's an experienced performer at DPT. The bingo champion was Nan Nimmo – a wizard with all these numbers. And to think she sat beside me at Hartfield Primary and she couldn't do her sums either!

Highlight of the evening was the raffle for the top prize of the Susan Boyle book which the BGT star had autographed at our visit to the King's earlier in the month. And it came with a programme autographed by Elaine C Smith 'Best wishes to St. Aug's'. How cool is that? And the winner was.....(big pause)...Suzanne – over there at the Mailley table!

She was delighted and so was Roberta who plans to read it when convalescing after her bad toe treatment! Aye, it was just a wee Bingo night but all the little extras made it a great success and brought £145 profit into our accounts.

TALKING? WHO ME?

Maggie was missing on AGM Sunday. A long planned visit to her Godson Ian and his partner near Bristol

took precedence over the minutes and moans of Church business. And she was excited at meeting 'Vicky', his partner for the very first time. Happily all went well. One of Vicky's first remarks to Maggie was 'I hope you don't mind – but I talk a lot'. Aye, it must have been a really noisy weekend!

NAGGING WOMEN

Why is it that men discuss, oppose, raise objections and argue their points without their performances being described as 'nagging'? During that famous week at Holyrood when our esteemed First Minister was trying to get himself out of a hole over the EU, NATO and other possible obstacles to devolution, the two female leaders of the opposition parties 'gi'ed him laldy'. It was distressing to watch. Wee Alec looked like Cinderella being lambasted by his famous step- sisters! Even his body language lacked its usual bounce and dominance. Aye, he was certainly getting a fair old 'nagging' and to think that after it was over he still had to go home to the wife!

THE PHANTOM PHONERS

My tale of the month was that of the man who sued one of those irritating companies that call robotically several times a day to try to get you to claim for PPI. You're in the shower or serving up a meal when the phone goes. You rush to answer and there's no one at the other end. Well, this man told the firm that he would charge them £10 a minute for his time if they annoyed him again. And they did. And he did. It cost the nuisances £195 plus the court charges. Well done – but it hasn't put them off. They're still at it albeit a little more apologetically. This morning I had a call prefixed by 'Hello, thank you for taking the time to answer the phone – my names Dean and I'm...Stop! I'm now starting to feel sorry for hanging up.

FRANKENSTORM – WHAT A BUILD UP!

Well, Sandy was certainly given a big build up and arrived on cue to upstage the two presidential hopefuls, Mitt and Barack who had rehearsed for the job with all those tiring weeks of campaigning and TV debates. They were relegated to supporting acts.

Was Sandy a male or a female storm – it's a unisex name after all? But for three days no one wanted to talk about the economy or foreign policy – only the

availability of sandbags! And now that Sandy's made his exit what will happen on November 6th? Well, that's anyone's guess!

Friends are showing their solidarity with the US of A at their main event this month which will be a Thanksgiving Dinner in the Church on the 16th. The politics will be all over by then – will there be new curtains going up at the White House?

THE SECRET SHAPERS

Big news on the fashion front this autumn has been the availability of underwear that can reduce your dress size. Great! Will that mean less queuing at the Monday night Slimming World sessions in St. Aug's? Can we still eat chocolate and not look fat? We'll still **be** fat- it will just be arranged more attractively.

But, wait a minute.... where does it all go? Will the constriction make it dig into our flesh, cause us to suffer tightness in the chest or even suffocation as we collapse on the pavement, eyes bulging like a gargoyle! But women will try anything to get a figure to die for and there are all those Christmas nights out to prepare for. So the shaper undies will sell if only to afford the wearers the sheer joy of buying a smaller dress size. Oh, and if the party's been a disaster there's always the pleasure of getting them off after an uncomfortable night on the town.

THE FIGHT THAT NEVER WAS (or how the Piskies lost the Castle)

Tim's notice in Sunday's pew sheets about the special ecumenical service in Dumbarton Castle to celebrate the excavation of a chapel that existed 1000 years ago reminded me of our more recent past - 1996 - when a group from St. Aug's augmented by a crowd from DPT (there was a cast of thousands) re-enacted some events from the killing times when all the denominations were at war.

The play began in St. Aug's with the church, acting as St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, the location of the famous stool throwing episode attributed to famous covenanter, Jenny Geddes. There is a fond memory here of Peter McMartin as the Dean, dodging Jenny's flying stool. And, of course, as every schoolgirl knows, that started off the bitter fighting over religion throughout the land. We, the Piskies or Royalists, held Dumbarton Castle for the King. In

1639 the Provost, John Semphill, (a Covenanter or Presby) invited the royalist Governor, Sir William Stewart, to dinner. He answered with 'you know that you and I are in conflict – in the King's name I decline'. Big mistake! Then the Provost replied 'In the name of Christ's Crown and Covenant I insist. The keys of the Castle, if you please'.

So nobody got their dinner and the Castle, in the hands of the Covenanters, was prevented from being used as a landing place for the King's reinforcements, expected from Ireland. Now, let's hope that on the 24th November ecumenism will prevail and the only problem that will arise will be the sprachle up the 90 steps to get to the site of St. Patrick's Chapel! And if anyone asks you to dinner – accept! *(Please note the Scottish Episcopalian link with the Castle. It wasn't, at the time, a Roman Catholic fortress, as some are being led to believe at the moment. -Ed)*

THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM

This year Friends' main event, the Great American Dream, will be held in the Church on Friday 16th November, 6.30pm for 7pm. It will take the form of a 3-course Thanksgiving Dinner with wine – the menu is printed below, and posted in the Community Hall.

On arrival, guests will be served with an aperitif – cocktails boozy or otherwise. Then the Disney Parade will enter and the best dressed will be chosen.

If you don't fancy being Mickey Mouse it 'disney' matter. Hollywood style will be a suitable alternative. Dinner will be a leisurely affair unless you're in the kitchen where it will be mayhem! There will be Broadway Hits from Tartan Harmony, a local singing group and some movie style dancing from girls who can. This will take you back to the old musical extravaganzas that sent you hurrying home from the Rialto singing in the rain. And you will be joining in.

A Sing-a-Long with the Stars has been organised by TBag O'Neill who won't have a mug in her hand for at least ten minutes.

So come along and listen to..... a great night's entertainment and a meal that offers choice, tradition and taste. There is a list in the Hall for names. Excellent value at an inclusive cost of £20 (£18 with Friends' discount.)

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE....

You can hear all about Christmas at St. Aug's, the DPT Panto and how to save on those expensive Royal Mail stamps. Don't miss it!

Janette

MENU

**Aperitifs: Prohibition Punch or
Carolina Cocktail.**

Starters

Idaho Sweet corn Chowder

Special Flaming Arrow Soup

Florida Orange Juice.

Served with warm crusty bread.

Main Course

Turkey a la Presidente

Kentucky Sweet Potato Bake

Served with Kansas Sweet corn Pancakes, Wild Hogs in Blankets, Obama Tomato, Shirley Temple Peas and Roast Jersey Shore Potatoes.

Dessert

**Mississippi Mud Pie
Mom's Apple Pie.**

Choice of Red or White
Californian Wine.

Tea or Coffee with
Mitt's Favourite Mints.

Enjoy our Thanksgiving Dinner!

Tina's Traumas

I've just emerged from a lengthy meeting on the machinations of ministries and congregations in Dumbarton Presbytery. We call it 'planning' though sometimes it would be better referred to as 'pinning', as in 'the tail on the donkey'. In other words, you know where you want to get to but all too often you get a bum steer.



Working out ways to distribute limited resources fairly while maintaining the integrity of the Gospel message to go and make disciples of everyone is a tricky business, whatever your denomination or view of the mission of Christ's church. We can do only what we believe is right – and have faith that someone who KNOWS what's right has the grace to bail us out if it all goes belly - or tail - up.

I recently spent a few days in London where I saw the National Theatre production of War Horse based on the children's story by Michael Morpugo. I also visited the Cabinet War Rooms in Whitehall, an elaborate underground warren, virtually untouched since World War Two when it was the hub of operations in the fight against Nazi Germany. Both symbolise the reality of war – the necessary, rational, calculated strategy amidst the unnecessary, irrational, incalculable waste of lives. War Horse is an incredibly simple yet overwhelmingly powerful and moving account of the fortunes of a boy and his horse in the 1914-1918 conflict which we once boldly and naively declared as the war to end all wars. One line from a refrain in the play has lingered with me – *'always remembered for what we have done'* sings a lone farmer amidst the carnage and compassion of the battlefield. Its ambiguity is a challenge to us all, especially at this time of year when we pay tribute to the dead and injured of all conflicts

Which brings me back to Kirk planning meetings – places, I assure you, not always of peace and agreement but of an awareness that what we do now to shape and steer the Church will be remembered for generations to come. That's something not confined to the inner chambers of our church leaders but is the responsibility of us all.

What we've done isn't always what we want to be remembered for. May we take comfort from the words of Jesus; the Jesus who assured a man hanging beside him on a cross because of a life of bad decisions when he asked: *"Remember me"* that even our worst action or inaction is not the end of the story; the Jesus who, rather than remembering, is in the habit of forgiving and forgetting.

Tina Kemp

St James the Least of All

The Rectory, St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

It is a great shame that your church doesn't have chandeliers – although in your low-ceilinged converted cinema, any chandelier more than a few feet tall would also be embedded in your floor carpeting. But I find that there is nothing like watching the standard bearers on Remembrance Sunday parading up the aisle with their flags and getting them caught up in our brass candelabra.

One year, the procession ground to a halt while a bearer fought to retrieve his flag, and was obliged to leave it flying in the centre of the church while he presented me with an empty pole. I always feel obliged to tell parishioners the previous week, that since all the candelabra will inevitably be sent spinning, not to stare at them, or they may leave the church hypnotised. On the other hand, Miss Simpson generally leaves the church looking like that.

Major Hastings always arrives bejewelled with so many medals that every time he kneels for prayer, it sounds as if he is taking the collection. Their weight increases his stoop by at least ten degrees, to the point where some feel we should support him with a personal flying buttress.

Since the trumpeter playing the Last Post can be of varying quality, your idea of broadcasting it from London into your church is inspired. However, your worries about whether your radio will be good enough need not trouble you. If you tell your congregation that they are about to hear the broadcast silence and you then simply not switch the thing on, no one will be able to tell the slightest difference whether the silence is being broadcast or not. In fact, they will even congratulate you on hitting 11am at exactly the right moment.

I always use subterfuge; I have the church clock disconnected and then when we reach the time for silence, irrespective of the true time, I get a churchwarden to toll the bell eleven times. This way, I have apparently come to the exact moment without a hitch for the last 30 years.

You will also find that preaching about warfare and of man's inhumanity to man will give you greater insights into the working of your church council. The only difference is that on committees – sadly – the use of machine guns is rather frowned on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Sunday Rotas

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER

**Sunday November 4th
11am Eucharist.**

Readers: David Rowatt & Tim Rhead
Intercessions: Margaret Hardie
Chalice: Fran Walker & Barbara Barnes.
Sidespersons: R Mailley & Margaret Swan

**Sunday November 11th
10.50am Act of Remembrance & Eucharist**

Readers: Margot Rhead & Peter Cairns
Intercessions: Linda Macaulay
Chalice: Maggie Wallace & Vernon Perrin.
Sidespersons: Ronnie Blaney & Tim Rhead

**Sunday November. 18th
11am Eucharist**

Readers: Ghislaine Kennedy & Linda Macaulay.
Intercessions: . Vernon Perrin
Chalice: Tim Rhead & Peter Cairns.
Sidespersons: C Ashman & Linda Jenkinson

**Sunday November 25th
11am Eucharist**

Readers: Evelyn O'Neill & Maggie Wallace.
Intercessions: Tim Rhead.
Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Janette Barnes
Sidesperson: Gavin Elder & David Ansell.

FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

Wk. ending Nov 3rd Linda Macaulay

“ “ “ **10th Barbara Barnes**

“ “ “ **17th M Wallace & M McGown**

“ “ **24th M Wallace & M Hardie**

A big "Thank You" to all who take their part on our rotas. If you would like to read, or take on any other task to help share the load, then please speak to Kenny or Pat.

We welcome a new chalice bearer this month in Peter Cairns, who has been licensed by the Bishop as a Eucharistic Minister, and as someone permitted to preach on occasion.

October Crossword Solution



There was no feedback on the Crossword last month, so we don't know if it was popular or not! This month we are trying something else! All feedback welcome!

Wordsearch

(How many words can you find here?)





Hubble Bubble, and our three wicked witches brew up trouble at the Hallowe'en Bingo! Sharon and Janette are pictured in their outfits for DPT's highly successful production of Calendar Girls, and The Midges are back in action in October in St Aug's!