

By the Way Together



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



Issue No 23 October/ November 2016

HOW-DO HOW-DENS DO IT! FREE KITCHEN!



GOODBYE OLD HELLO, NEW!

Yes.... although it is still in the process of being fitted, Howdens the kitchen suppliers were so moved and impressed by what we do in our Food For Thought Project that they gave us a fitted kitchen FREE! Once up and running we will open our doors to the High Street and provide free soup for those in need twice a week. It may also be possible to use the kitchen to help others learn about healthy cooking and eating. Watch this space!

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CALL FOR WOOLLY HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES knitted for Mission to Seafarers, Scotland

I would like to take all the knitting through to Linlithgow at the beginning of November.
It will then be available for Christmas and the worst of the winter.
Please hand any items to Fran
or St Aug's Church Office by Sunday 6th November.
Many thanks



Lomond and Dumbarton Branch
Secretary Frankie Hanmer
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QUIZ NIGHT THE STAG'S HEAD DUMBARTON

Thursday Nov. 3rd 8.30p.m.

TALK ABOUT ERITREA
Wed. 16th November
7.30p.m.

New Parish Halls, Helensburgh
(Colquhoun Sq.)
(previously the West Kirk)



Alex Jackson from Amnesty will talk about his life in Eritrea when he lived and worked for the Eritrean Govt. He will talk about friends and colleagues who were arrested + 'disappeared' and about two prisoners in Eritrea, who are currently supported by Amnesty.

A Song and a Scone

The Allsorts Choir returns to St Augustine's for one morning only!!!

Saturday 29th October.

Come along from 10 am - 1 pm for a great morning of coffee, tea, home baking, and music from the choir.
There will also be a tombola.

Entry is £3 per person for your morning coffee, entertainment and a great sing-a-long. Or just listen to the music and natter to your friends.

All profits will go to the
London Corner Nursery School in The Gambia,
which provides free education and a main meal for the poorest children in this area.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES THROUGH ADDICTION

Wednesday 16th November
St Augustine's Church
7pm

An opportunity to join together for a night of prayer and reflection

JOIN US FOR.... A TASTE OF HUNGARY

St Augustine's Church
Saturday 19th November
2 - 4pm





From Kenny...

My recent illnesses, being in hospital, emergency surgery, then the long road back to

recovery, has been quite a horrendous experience in so many ways, and I have learned a lot. A lot about me, as a person, and about the depth of my faith too.

I know it's something that many of you have been familiar with, but perhaps I've never experienced how scary all that stuff can be, and how powerless you actually are in the face of all that goes on in a hospital.

Firstly, I need to say "thank you" to all the hospital staff who looked after me magnificently during my time in the RAH. Even in the scariest moments, they were wonderful. I need also to convey gratitude to all who prayed for me, sent me cards and notes and took the time out to visit during my recovery time. That was greatly appreciated.

I learned a lot about my faith, and how tenuous that can be when I was faced with that situation. I found praying almost impossible to do, and God seemed very far away at times. It's one thing to teach and preach about prayer, and another to practice it in the darkest parts of your life.

I had always proudly said that I was not afraid of death or dying, but after I was rushed into Intensive Care a couple of days after surgery, and I wasn't very sure where I was or who was around me, I became convinced during a 24 hour period that I was about to die, and that was the scariest part of my whole experience. My faith had flown out of the window, and I felt abandoned, alone, and as if I was living in a parallel world from everyone else. I later learned that I was not alone in my thoughts that I was actually not going to make it! My wife, my family, and even the Bishop were incredibly worried about me at that time. So, this wasn't made up. It was real.

When my faith was put to the test, I failed miserably and I'm not particularly proud of that. I wanted to speak to a chaplain of some sort, but I never saw a hospital chaplain for the whole time I was in hospital. The Bishop was a faithful pastor,

but most of the time that he came, I seemed to be almost in another world. (I now know I was simply drugged up!)

My approach to my ministry to those in hospital, and my perceptions of what it actually feels like has changed immensely, and it's a pity that I have come to new conclusions when only three years from retirement!

My whole attitude towards what is important and what is not has also changed quite dramatically, and perhaps I will share that with you in more depth as the weeks and months go on.

In the two parishes, things are very different and priorities are different. In St Augustine's there are moans and groans about children behaving badly and that will be addressed. That's one of the drawbacks of attracting and welcoming young families into our congregational life. However, we are part of a family, and families have human beings, flawed each one of us, as part of that family. There will always be fall-outs at family gatherings, because that is part of the nature of families. Our priority is Jesus.

Why do you go to church? For yourself, hopefully, so that you can be fed by Jesus in the Eucharist, and will get some time to commune with God. That is right and good, but if it is the only reason you come to church, then you are being a little selfish. You come to church to be a part of the Christian Family, and because other people need you to be there. They need your support and they need your prayers and presence, and sometimes they need your help, however badly the children, and often adults, behave.

During my illness, I thought long and hard about what is important and that came almost top of my list. Coming to church for Jesus and coming to church for the sake of others! That's essential.

In St Mungo's we have a different problem. The congregation would probably give their right arm to have young families with children running around. Last Sunday there were only 10 communicants. Where were the members? Do we need to re-learn that we have to make a habit of being in church, not just for ourselves but for the sake of others too? Sometimes we all have to re-evaluate and find out for ourselves how important

God is to us.

Kenny

United Reformed Church

Clusters

Most of the churches in the Synod of Scotland come from a Congregational background where the churches owned

the property and were self-governing - making them largely independent in most matters with the exception of things like training and remuneration of Ministers.

Emmanuel

God With Us



This system worked well when the churches were strong, both in numbers and financially, and there were still traces of this independence - even after the Union with the United Reformed Church.

But that situation began to change as churches became not only smaller but fewer.

It became clear that the way forward was not independence but inter-dependence where local churches would share resources with each other to their mutual benefit.

The Synod of Scotland suggested that local churches should form groups with this type of sharing in mind and decided that the groups should be called 'Clusters' [No – *I don't know either!*]

Dumbarton Church would be grouped with our churches in Drumchapel, Clydebank and Helensburgh to form a cluster of four which will probably be called the 'North Clyde Cluster.'

It may be difficult at this stage to determine what resources each church could have and would be willing to share, but the basic idea is sound and deserves to be encouraged.

Perhaps the most obvious example of a scarce resource is that of trained ministry which needs to be shared among churches which cannot sustain a full time ministry. A typical sharing situation could be similar to the Methodist Circuit where a minister serves a number of churches with a supporting team of Local/Lay Preachers and Worship leaders. In some of the more rural areas the distances between churches may be a problem in effective sharing.

It may take some time to form the Clusters and to determine how they will function and this is currently being developed.

Joint Pastorate

A meeting with representatives of Dumbarton and Helensburgh churches was held recently to discuss the possibility of some type of linkage between the two churches.

It was suggested that we should move toward a Joint Pastorate where the Minister would have oversight of both churches. This proposal will require to be approved by both churches.

While this would also require the formal approval of the Synod Pastoral Committee it was agreed to amend the Helensburgh Church Profile to include a section about the Dumbarton Church and allow the procedure for filling the Vacancy to proceed.

John K Clark



A huge thanks to AGM, George Martin & Bernadette Collier, Oran, Billy Forsyth, Salud!, and The Sleeping Giants who helped raise £500 for St Augustine's Food For Thought Charity. Music was as great as ever and everyone went home happy. Many thanks! The pic shows some of those who played presenting Food For Thought's Caroline Marsland with the money!

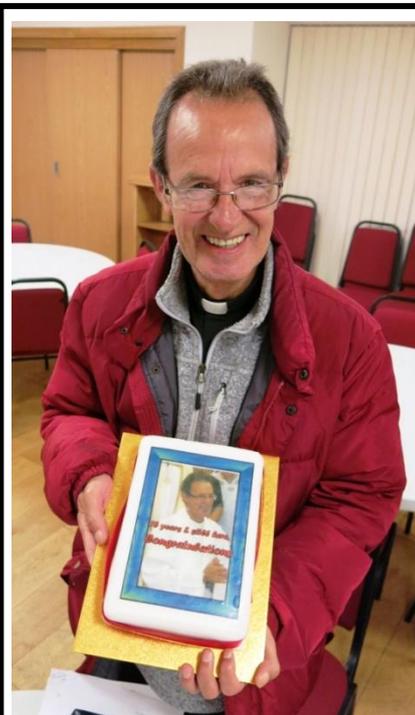


There's no doubt about it – Autumn is here. The trees are turning fast as nature gives us the final encore of the year - spoiling us with a dazzling displays of different shades of red, orange and yellow. The nights are drawing in and

the sun is hanging low in the sky. For the gardeners amongst us there is work to be done as summer growth needs to be cut back, bushes pruned and all is tidied ahead of nature's long winter sleep.

But despite all the beauty of Autumn time, there is also a sense of a flagging of the spirit - in creation and in ourselves – as the year starts to wane and everything begins to slow. The warm active buzz of summer has passed and it is now time to become reflective and allow the pace of life to slacken just a wee bit. It is the way it goes. It is as nature probably intends.

Yet, this year, accompanying all of these natural changes there also seems to be a deep seated uncertainty and anxiety permeating our western world. The events on the global scene are worrying. The tone of the American Presidential Election plumbs to depths which are in no way dignified, intelligent or worthy of any nation.... the news from Syria and Iraq and in so many warring countries becomes more desperate by the day... and the horrific plight of refugees continues to divide nations in how to respond to such a huge ongoing human tragedy.



WELL DONE, RECTOR!

Kenny given a cake to celebrate 15 years of serving the parish and people of St Augustine's.

His cake said:
15 years and still
here!
Congratulations!

Closer to home, the fallout from BREXIT is beginning to bite with the negativity and uncertainty of the future being gleefully fanned by the media. And locally, in our two churches, the reality of the shortage of funds is beginning to dampen spirits - as the congregation of St Mungo's considers whether to downsize the Rectory and realise some equity to keep afloat, and the Ministry team at St Augustine's tackle the dilemma of what the impact may be if much searched for funds for the wages of our Project Worker do not materialise.

It is not an easy time – it is not easy to remain upbeat and optimistic. But conversely this is the time for digging deep and being faithful.... for “sticking in there” and finding small glimmers of positivity.... for finding within our souls a stability... the stability which St Benedict encouraged the monks who were with him to find within themselves. Such stability is found, Benedict says, when we say ‘Yes’ to God despite living in difficult or troubled circumstances. Stability is the hanging onto the belief that even in the downs of life, God is still active in our lives and can teach us things through them. It is about holding onto the knowledge that where we are remains important because it *is* where God wants us to be - even as things around us change in the global scene.... or our personal world. It is about carrying a constancy in our hearts that is found in the core to our being and from which we can draw strength. It is about knowing that the source of this stability is Christ.

All of this reflection doesn't make us or our world magically uplifted. I wish it did. But it doesn't, and Jesus never promised us that it would. But Jesus does say, “Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest” – a sentence which always reminds me of being wee, having tired legs on a long walk and someone big lifting me up to relieve me from the effort of stumbling along.... I guess faith is just like that – that letting go and leaning your whole weight on God – especially when you are tired or scared or not coping. It is resting - resting in God and in what he has done and will still do for us. And then just leaving it all there.

with love, Liz

Saving St Mungo's and a Rectory Decision!

That all sounds pretty drastic, doesn't it? I have been almost 40 years in Parish Ministry, and every parish I've left has been in a stronger position than when I inherited it. I am at my wits end as to how to turn St Mungo's around, and see things growing again.

There seems to be obstacle after obstacle put in the way of growth, whether that be key people leaving, or our community projects going in ways which were unexpected and unhelpful to our outreach plan. However, it's not all doom and gloom. The place is a lot happier and a lot less negative than it was. The ten communicants mentioned in my parish letter is unusual, and new folk have joined, but coming to church seems to be less of a priority for some rather than others. There are glimmers of hope, and I refuse to be the last Rector or Priest-in-Charge of this parish.

What has gone wrong? Fear of change? Bad clergy? Despair? Have folk given up, or is it just illnesses or infirmities, that are keeping folk away?

It is my intention to dip my toe in the water at the AGM and come up with something a little different. Almost like a new beginning in many respects. I want to talk about saving St Mungo's.

There are many reasons why you should be at the AGM on Sunday 20th November at 12.15pm. The state of the current Rectory is one of them. The



Rectory leaks like a sieve, and there are buckets and bowls to catch the rainwater. This is not ideal.

A quote from our builder comes in around £35,000 to repair the roof and guttering, and at the moment we probably have about £16,000 to our name which has to be used for stipend, (we pay a fraction of stipend at present) bills for energy etc etc.

At a recent Vestry Meeting it was suggested and agreed that now was the time to look at the current Rectory situation, and the Dean is in agreement that something drastic has to be done. If we manage to sell the current Rectory, there should be enough to purchase something a bit more modest and manageable, and give us a surplus which could go into our general funds to secure our immediate future.

This would have to be decided at the AGM as a way forward, and I know there has been some opposition to this in the past. However, very few parishes now offer a Rectory of this size, simply because it is inappropriate for modern clergy, and costs so much for upkeep.

That decision, looking for an opportunity to sell in the near future, will be made at the AGM as long as we are quorate.

Of course, saving St Mungo's has to be a bit more than that, and there are different ideas for growing things over the longer term, without interfering with our style of worship.

We need to work together, and with God. I'm sure God has great plans for us!

KLM



THANK YOU, HOWDENS!



You know how sometimes you have a wee dream, a wee idea that just doesn't go away?

Well, a few months ago Ghislaine had a wee dream to have a new kitchen at the back of the church... a new kitchen from which she could feed the poor and needy who are still living on our High Street, just outside our door. Of course as a church we don't have a spare £10,000 (and the rest!) to buy a new kitchen - but did that stop Ghislaine? No, of course not. Unfazed, she began to approach companies, talk to folk, explain her vision, and pray.

Before we knew it, Howdens had offered us a new kitchen, Claire (from Howdens) had visited to measure up and design it, the Kitchen Centre (Dumbarton) had given us new taps and sinks, the Plumb Centre had given us a radiator and Ronnie Perry had begun to paint the walls and promised us tiling skills.... ALL FREE! What an answer to prayer! There was a hiccup as we tried to get someone to put it in for us – but then John Woodcock and John Devine stepped into the breach – with Ledgerwoods the Electricians also turning up at short notice.

THANK YOU to GHISLAINE AND RICKY for dreaming their dreams and their hard work.

THANK YOU ALSO TO ALL who have given of their time and skills to make this dream come true! We will try to utilise this kitchen to the full for the benefit of those in need.

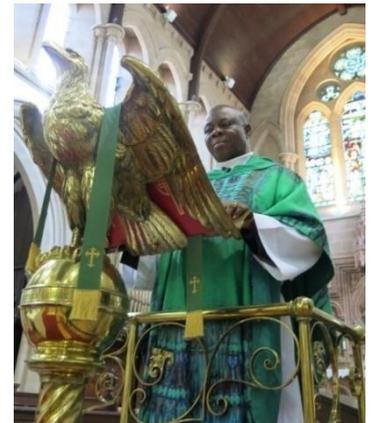
September
10th
Doors Open
Day



3rd Vale of Leven Guides made Soup Bags with fresh ingredients and a recipe inside for making a pot of soup. Many of the bags were given to Food For Thought to give to those in need - who thoroughly appreciated the fresh produce! Thank you, girls!



Whilst Fr Kenny was away we enjoyed visiting clergy and Lay Readers at both churches. Many thanks to all who came and helped out – but it was good to see Kenny back at the helm in time for Harvest.



Both churches collected food for our Foodbank – thanks to all who donated tins and dried food – all will be given to those in need in our communities.





Ecumenical Service at the Castle to celebrate St Mahew

St Mahew is believed to be one of the last surviving disciples of St Patrick – a man who was taken to Ireland at a young age and later as a bishop. He founded churches there and a monastery from which monks were sent out to establish small Christian centres. One such place was the site of Kilmahew, a quarter mile north of Cardross, where a restored wee chapel now resides .



Recent Sow and Grow Activity at St Mungo's Church

The sow and grow sessions at St Mungo's Church on Friday afternoons have continued to be regularly well attended. I can say, with absolute confidence, that this is driven largely by the enthusiasm and energy of our participants who support and encourage each other to attend each week.

Recent activity has included;

- The harvest of vegetables, including potatoes, kale, spinach and fennel
- Weeding of the paved walkway around the church, church hall and entrance
- Arranging garden waste in compost bins
- Clearing of the raised beds to the right hand side of the church
- Removal of sunflower heads to harvest the seeds
- Weeding of the wild flower section next to church entrance
- Harvesting apples at the Rectory
- Harvesting strawberries from wild flower area and bed next to church hall



The leamy
foundation

Our Autumn/Winter plan will include;

- Continued clearance of raised beds, harvesting the remaining vegetables
- Topping up raised beds with soil and manure
- Collecting Autumn leaves and put in sacks to create mulch
- Planting of winter vegetables - onions, garlic, spinach, carrots, broad beans, peas, pak choi and Winter Gem lettuce
- Tend the strawberries (cut the runners and re-pot)

We will be seeking permission for the possible installation of bird and bat boxes on the trees in the church grounds (at present, we have about four boxes that were already constructed and, in conjunction with the Reuse and Recycle Wood Carving session, are hoping for a few more).

If you require further information with regard to the Autumn/Winter Plan, please contact me.

alan@theleamyfoundation.com mob : 07765 034707



LONDON CORNER

Friday, 07 October, 2016

The school resumes again on the 26th of September 2016 after two glorious months of summer holidays. As usual all learning and teaching materials are in place including food supplies for the first term. The staff are all enthusiastic and looking good for the academic year.

The school has now introduced a new uniform and a badge which is currently been used – as you can see in the picture. Registration of the new intakes into

Nursery One has also been successfully completed with a roll of 15 boys and 15 girls.

However, due to the high demand of available space, not all those who applied can be enrolled.

On behalf of the children, staff, parents and my own humble behalf can I thank all those who have supported Dumbarton Gambia Education Association DGEA through their generous contributions either directly or indirectly which has a direct impact on the educational development of these innocent children. Without your contribution I am convinced that a good number of these children would not have access to nursery education, which gives them the vital foundation level.

The picture above shows the newly enrolled students into Nursery One.

Sulayman Saïdy, Headmaster, Dumbarton Nursery School

Our Gambian School: With lots of changes in the world economy, and rising prices in The Gambia due to inflation, coupled with a weak pound, our Gambian school has never been in greater danger. To those of you who support it monthly, either by slipping us a £20 note or paying by Standing Order, can we say a big thank-you? However, the amount coming in is nowhere near the amount we need to even complete the existing educational year. Yes, we need people to give us a little more on their Standing Order, or start giving us a little each month if you don't already give, but we also need to do some serious fundraising, simply to fulfil our obligations and put a bite to eat into little mouths! We had hoped to raise £2000 before Christmas, but that is looking exceedingly unlikely. If you can help in any way, then please do, but at least support our Coffee Morning on October 29th from 10am until 1pm, in St Augustine's Hall. Any other offers?



Harvest Giving to Food For Thought – from Old Kilpatrick and Bowling Parish Church, Glenaray and Inverary Parish Church and the Co-op in Dumbarton. A huge thanks to all who thought of others!





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

Janette looks back at the harvest month in St. Aug's and gives in to the central heating to thwart the first signs of winter with the dreaded

changing of the clock and November just around the corner.

THE NIGHTS ARE FAIR DRAWIN' IN!

Yes we're rapidly heading for the 'No' month!

No warmth, no cheerfulness,

No healthful ease.

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees

No fruit, no flowers, no leaves, no

birds, ...November!

Thomas Hood, who penned this oft quoted little observation, must surely have been a S.A.D. sufferer – you know those folk who cringe at the mention of winter and retreat under their simulated daylight lamps till around April.

Then there are those who relish the thought of winter and throw themselves into Christmas preparations before they've binned their Hallowe'en false faces. It's really all the fault of the retail world. They try to instil in us this sense of panic in case they get sold out. No chance – at least not until the invidious 'Black Friday' when grabbing a bargain is almost mandatory.

But the Christmas food ordering catalogues are now available at M&S so a decision on that Norfolk Bronze must be taken and there are certainly no birds going 'cheep' in this luxury brochure. The John Lewis Christmas advert will shortly be appearing on the telly – the one with the message to make us feel good about maxing the credit card - aw... www! And it'll be 'naw..www' when the bills arrive in January. The start of winter also brings the social event of the year to the surviving oldies when invites are sent for the flu jag at the Masonic – an occasion not to be missed! For the really health conscious, there is the opportunity to take part in the great bowel screening test with its uniquely constructed receptacles, exceptionally coherent instructions (do they really need to define bowel movement as poo?) and discreet envelopes for posting. Just don't leave yours on the bus!

So with all those pre- winter preparations who's still got time to sit moping under a S.A.D. lamp?

SEND IN THE CLOWNS.

No, this has nothing to do with the dreaded Brexit negotiations - it's a plea to restore the reputation of that erstwhile 'happy chappie' of the 'big top' – the real circus clown! With red nose, baggy trousers and giant shoes he used to raise many a laugh. But the killer clowns, originating in America, are currently all the rage particularly with Hallowe'en coming up. So far there have been sightings in the North of England though none have yet ventured into Brucehill! But it's only a matter of time before these copycat versions come knocking on your door to scare the life out of your cat! What next? Scary fairies or avenging angels to join the variety of verse speaking vampires who offer you a trick or a treat?

Oh for the days when 'oot in the galoshans' was just borrowing your Mammy's old frock, making your 'tumshie' lantern and blackening your face using a cork covered in soot from 'up the lum'!

HALLOWE'EN HAPPENINGS WITH FRIENDS.

The October Friends' event will be a coven – a gathering of witches, preferably thirteen in number, for those of you who've led a sheltered life! So if you don't want to look out of place down at the Community Hall on Sunday 30th October at 7pm and get into your witch gear. Even a black poly bag and pokey hat will suffice and we won't stop at thirteen since we know that St. Aug's is full of witches and there may be a few at St. Mungo's as well! There will be Witch's Brew Cocktails to accompany a scary Hallowe'en Supper. Awards will be presented to the Funniest, the Trendiest, the Ugliest and the Most Terrifying. The entertainment will be based on horror, torture, blood, murder and other frightening nonsense. St. Aug's folk may find it all a little bit tame since they will have experienced their Annual Congregational Meeting earlier in the day! So, come to the coven for a devilishly good time! And prepare for a scare - great value at £5.50 (£5 with Friends' discount).

BOATY IS GIVEN HIS PLACE.

One of the great stories of last year concerned the polar exploration ship that was scheduled to be built at Birkenhead. The authorities made the big mistake of inviting the public to 'Name that Ship'. Well, with the help of the social media they accumulated 24,000 votes for Boaty McBoatface – a far greater number than for any of the more dignified entries. The whole matter was ignored

until this week when the ship's name was finally agreed to be RSS Sir David Attenborough and the great naturalist laid the keel. But.....to keep everyone happy, it was agreed to name one of the small robotic submersibles Boaty McBoatface so there was a kind of victory for the awkward squad, like me, who scuppered their competition! *Gaun yersel, Boaty!*

HE THINKS HE'S ED ASTAIRE!

He was interviewed on the telly this week and introduced as a 'showbiz superstar!' Now that's exaggeration! *He needs tae be tellt!*

Dear Ed

I know how disappointed you must have felt when you lost your seat at the last election, but please don't think your feet are now your fortune just because you haven't yet been voted off Strictly Come Dancing. I know it's a mid-life crisis but you are at the bottom of the table with the least number of points and even an ex-Labour shadow chancellor must be able to add up these numbers. But you should know that the truth is out there – punters on their sofas, wine in hand, are voting for someone who can give them a good laugh on a Saturday night! The other competitors are boringly good and seldom put a foot wrong. If you need some extra tuition contact TBag O'Neil down at St. Aug's but if you're using the Hall it must go in the diary and stuff must be put away when you are finished – OK? For now keep on dancing and *'keep the heid'*!

Yours

A Well-wisher.

WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER....

Now it's not so easy to imagine a harvest when the altar is piled with the contents of a fleet of ASDA trollies and that famous harvest hymn is omitted. Oh, Kenny tried his best with a sermon on agriculture. In the olden days the Church was tastefully decorated with the fruits and flowers of the countryside and was a real, colourful autumn festival. It was also an event in the calendar of the A.Y.P.A. (or youth club) because members were all sent out on foot to deliver the stuff around the parish. As you would expect, some of the more delicious fruit never made it past Church Street! I'm sure the folks who get the packets, tins and toiletries appreciate today's harvest gifts but the Church has gone from harvest celebratory mode to an act of necessary social work to alleviate hunger in today's divided society. Perhaps it's time to

rename this Church activity – 'Prepare and Share' Sunday when we collect provisions to help the poor through the winter. Or 'Care and Share Sunday' and extend it into the community including the supermarkets...storage could be acquired so we wouldn't be falling over poly bags in the Community Hall! Just a thought!

P.S Kenny, so carried away with his return from sick leave, preached a really long sermon and later apologised for keeping us all late! *'Jings, crivvens and help ma Boab!'* Will this lead to apologies from the Music Group for dodgy notes, the Friday kitchen staff for cold soup and the sides persons for thrusting the collection plate under the noses of the congregation.

THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM.

What's happened to it? All we hear are reports of sexual innuendos, vote rigging, drug taking, tax avoidance, cover ups, lying and accusing. OK, so there are a few problems but the most annoying feature of the whole debacle is the sight of Donald, sartorially elegant in his suit, crowned with a stupid white baseball cap! Yeuch! Call the fashion police – lock him up! A bunnet, borrowed from his Highland ancestors, would have been more acceptable.

BRING ON THE FLAMINGOS!

Whit a stushie over the plans to build a Leisure Resort at Balloch by the company that runs Flamingo Land. Hotels, restaurants, amusements, glamping pods (they'll go down well in the Renton) and a' that and a' that! No one is actually confirming that any flamingos will come to the Vale but if they do – it won't be a problem! We, in West Dunbartonshire, are used to handling wildlife. After all, we provided jobs in the whisky industry for a whole gaggle of geese and not one bird flew away! And remember that once upon a time, Cameron House hosted a bevy of big furry bears. Oh, two managed to escape one night but returned unharmed after sussing out the locals hanging around the Fountain!

So, bring on the flamingos – they'll flourish on the discarded *jeelie pieces!*

IT'S NO' IN TITLES NOR IN RANK....

So wrote Rabbie Burns. But Sir Philip Green, the millionaire who sold BHS for a pound, doesn't like being called 'Sir Shifty'. Never mind, sunshine, when you're stripped of your knighthood it'll be no problem. You'll simply be known as 'Shifty!'

DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH'S GREAT FESTIVE ISSUE.

There will be stuff about Anne Dyer's Taste of Hungary on November 19th and the opportunity to send your friends a Christmas greeting without a

stamp if you make a donation to the Church. Now that's a bargain!

Back next month.

Janette

☺ **SMILE LINES** ☺

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

Someone must be very good at Scrabble!

Presbyterian – Best in prayer
Astronomer – Moon starrer
The eyes – They see
George Bush – He bugs Gore
The Morse Code – Here come dots
Dormitory – Dirty room
Slot machines – Cash lost in me
Animosity – Is no amity
Election results – Lies; Let's recount
Snooze alarms – Alas! No more Z's
A decimal point – I'm a dot in place
The earthquakes – That queer shake
Eleven plus two – Twelve plus one

Untimely answered prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

Clocks

It is told of the great preacher C H Spurgeon that after preaching at length one Sunday he said: "I don't mind people looking at their watches, but I do dislike to see them holding them to their ears, to see if they are still going."

Thine

A Yorkshireman wanted an inscription on his wife's grave to read: 'She was Thine'. The engraver mistakenly put 'She was Thin'. The man wrote to explain that they had left off the 'e'. The next attempt read: 'E', She was Thin.'

Up and down

A small boy, seeing a funeral procession going UP the street, asked his mother what it was. She told him "It's someone who has died. They are on their way to heaven.' A little later the boy saw a similar procession coming DOWN the street. He said "Hard luck on that one, Mum!"

Notice on a church in Cheshire:

'This is the House of God, This is the gate of Heaven.'

(This door is locked in winter months.)

St Matthew

Underneath a street sign 'St Matthew's Close', someone had pointed out: 'Well, I can't see him.'

Wanted

A lady was advertising for a travelling companion, and ended with these words: 'Christian wanted, cheerful if possible.'

Light

A small boy was fascinated by the Sanctuary lamp during a rather long sermon. Finally he whispered: 'Mum, when the light changes to green, can we go?'

As for those signs found outside churches:

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY.
Trespassers will be baptised!!

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

Sunday 23rd October

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Lynne Harvey

Sunday 30th October

Reader/Intercessions	Pat Brooks
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Phil O'Ryan

Sunday 6th November

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

Sunday 13th November Remembrance

Reader/Intercessions	Lewis Kennedy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Carol Meacham

Sunday 20th November

Reader/Intercessions	Clergy
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Lynne Harvey

Sunday 27th November

Reader/Intercessions	Pat Brooks
Sidesperson	Ian Marshall
Music	Carol Meacham

CLEANING

23rd October Margaret

30th October Jean (plus flowers)

6th November Eveline

13th November Finella (plus flowers)

20th November Iona and Mary

27th November Margaret



ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

Sunday Oct 23rd

Readers	Fran Walker & Morag O'Neill
Intercessions	Linda Macaulay
Chalice	Sharon Rowatt & Fran Walker
Sidespersons	Lyndsey S & Margaret Swan
Flowers	Maggie Wallace

Sunday Oct 30th

Readers	Janette Barnes & David Rowatt
Intercessions	Margaret Hardie
Chalice	Maggie Wallace & Kirsten Wiggins
Sidespersons	Linda Jenkinson & David Ansell
Flowers	Margaret Hardie

Sunday Nov 6th

Readers	Sharon Rowatt & Barbara Barnes
Intercessions	Fran Walker
Chalice	David Rowatt & Margaret Hardie
Sidespersons	Roberta Mailley & Chrissie Ashman
Flowers	Barbara Barnes

Sunday Nov 13th

Readers	Kirstin Wiggins & David Ansell
Intercessions	Maggie Wallace
Chalice	Barbara Barnes & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons	Maggie Wallace & Cathy Hoatson
Flowers	Maggie Wallace

Sunday Nov 20th

Readers	Linda Macaulay & Ghislaine K
Intercessions	Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice	Sharon Rowatt & Fran Walker
Sidespersons	Linda Jenkinson & David Ansell
Flowers	Linda Macaulay

Sunday Nov 27th

Readers	Janette Barnes & Evelyn O'Neill
Intercessions	Linda Macaulay
Chalice	Maggie W & Kirsten Wiggins
Sidespersons	Margaret S & Lyndsey Spencer

NO FLOWERS DURING ADVENT



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The Rector; Anne Dyer; Morag O'Neill; Fran Walker
Gavin Elder; Caroline Marsland; Rev Liz O'Ryan

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie



We joined in !!
Lorraine and her Team raised over £400 for Macmillan Nurses!



On 11th October Macmillan had raised £7,091,223.17 thanks to folk like you who join in, have a great time, eat cake and raise money to help others! Thank you!