

# By the Way Together

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

Issue No 31 September 2017



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*In this issue:* Read about the Largs Labyrinth trip; Diocesan jaunt to isolated cave; Friends' raucous evening of fun; Holy Gravy Batman!; Clergy thoughts; and the usual japes!

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# COFFEE MORNING

16<sup>th</sup> September

10 – 12pm

St Augustine's Hall

Tombola and other stalls  
In Aid of  
South Asian Flood Disaster



Gift Day



## HARVEST & GIFT DAY

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Bring fresh produce or dry goods  
to St Augustine's or St Mungo's  
(proceeds to Food For Thought)  
and

use the envelope provided to  
donate your gift to the church



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## INDUCTION OF REVD MITCHELL BUNTING (BUNGIE)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
2pm

To the joint Pastorate of Dumbarton United  
Reformed Church and Helensburgh United Reformed  
Church

At Helensburgh United Reformed Church  
35 West Prince Street Helensburgh  
G84 8TF

All welcome

## REGULAR SERVICES

### ST AUGUSTINE'S

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Eucharist

Sundays: 9am Holy Communion (Said)

11am Sung Eucharist

### ST MUNGO'S

Wednesdays: 9.30am Eucharist

Sundays: 11am Sung Eucharist



## Friends Membership

The new year of Friends has started and we are busy planning and organising events. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2017/2018, please give your fee to Linda M or Margaret Hardie. This is an important fund raising initiative and all the money raised by membership fees and events goes to the upkeep of St. Augustine's. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining this year. For £15 you get a reduced entry to almost all events and free entry into the monthly draw. Thanks.

## From Kenny...

Some kindly soul from the Diocese suggested that I should have a go at reading a book last month. It was titled, "The Dark Box – a secret history of Confession", written by John Cornwell. I have to underline, at this point, that it wasn't just me that had been targeted by this suggestion although there is probably so much lurking around my insides that could do with being confessed! The suggestion was for all clergy, and others too who happen to be on that mailing list.



Realising that I hadn't read anything remotely serious during the summer, I dashed to the Kindle store and downloaded it immediately. I rather wish I hadn't!

It was indeed a "dark" book, well researched, and written in an honest and open way. From the very beginning of the Church, there has always been the practice of admitting sins to each other but the way that progressed through history is in one way extremely interesting, yet in another way, enough to send tingles through your spine. Confession, or as it is known today, "The Sacrament of Reconciliation", has been used and abused through hundreds of years in so many ways, and in the light of recent newspaper stories and horrific court cases in very modern times, it has been abused by too many priests, in subtle and not so subtle ways.

I would suppose you think that this is purely a Roman Catholic problem, but it's unfortunately not. A significantly large number of Anglicans, and therefore people and churches in the Scottish Episcopal Church, use this sacrament today, and, of course the practice goes way back beyond Reformation times. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available both in St Augustine's and St Mungo's, although Liz and I are not exactly overwhelmed with queues.

It may be news to you that the Roman Catholic Church has had a massive number of people deserting this practice as regularly as they used to, and for those of us who visit their churches, we may notice that so many of the big confessional boxes of my childhood are rarely seen these days.

History has changed the way we practice this sacrament, and now you are more than likely to sit down with a priest and talk through the obstacles which are keeping you from having the sort of relationship with God, in both traditions. It is a very important practice and we mustn't lose it! It is a worthwhile thing for us to sit down and make a list of things which might be "confessed", even if we have no intention of doing so. This practice is a vital part of every 12 Step Recovery programme, because there is a realisation that every human being needs to take a look at themselves and do a spring clean from time to time.

The Fourth Step is very easy although it will make us feel rather uncomfortable if we do it properly. **"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."** That is an extremely brave thing to do! Searching AND fearless! What is in my past that I have told nobody? What things have I done that shame me still and I will never speak of them? Write them all down in a pad or wee book. Some of us will need a bigger book than others! Then, either share your writings with a priest and be told you are forgiven. Or burn the thing, for it is of the past. Unforgiven sin is at the heart of many mental illnesses. So, try a Step 4. Try it before Christmas, and give yourself a gift!

*Kenny*

### **Gift Day**

**WE are having a Gift Day in both parishes for Harvest, 1<sup>st</sup> October, and a Gift Day envelope is enclosed with your magazine. The finances of both parishes are very tight, and we need you to show your gratitude to God for all God has done for you by making a special one-off gift at this time. Please respond to this as well as you can, and help us claim Gift Aid too, if you pay tax.**

Food for Thought  
A Move Towards  
Independent  
Living



## Holy Gravy, Batman!

Food for Thought is a charity which is based on the ethos of Matthew 25: "Whatever you do to the least of these, my brothers, you do unto me." In this passage Jesus is telling the disciples, and us, that we will ultimately be judged on how much we have loved and helped our neighbour - how much we have fed the poor, visited the sick and imprisoned and invited in the stranger. In a nutshell it's what Jesus calls us to do - and it's what we try to do in Food For Thought every day.

A wee while ago Kenny, Liz & I were discussing Community Soup and teasing out the theological meaning of our Wednesday and Thursday lunches. As we talked the question was asked "Where is God within Community Soup?" Here are some of my thoughts to that question:

I believe that God is present when we share food with those who join us on both days of the week.

I believe God is present when a widower comes for company twice a week. Not only does he get the companionship he so badly wants but he gives company to others.

I believe that God is present when families attend during the school holidays and mum and the kids get to eat a free lunch.

When a regular attendee stands up during lunch to sing a song or recite the poem he read out at his Dad's funeral and everybody claps, even those who heard it last week.

When people hesitantly come in for the first time and then begin to chat to others.

When the very shy start to chat to the stranger sitting opposite.

When volunteers come from out with our own organisation or Church.

When 2 15-year-old boys, who, we think, worship the Gods of Nike, Adidas, Mad Dog 20/20 and x box turn up every Thursday to serve others.

When we share laughter, worries, stories, sadness, but especially laughter.

So, is God present in Community Soup? I think so.  
Holy Gravy indeed!



Caroline



I can't believe it's happening already! Surely we can't have reached autumn yet?

Every day as I drive to work I watch my favourite trees in the fields gradually changing from

the rich varied hues of summer green to the rustic autumnal tints of orange, gold and brown. And this year it's taken me by surprise.

I quite like autumn. I love the colours and I love the way nature prepares itself for a rest. It's as if after all the excitement and outward show of the summer spectacular the plants need to quieten down... to give themselves time and space... to let go of all that has gone before. And they do. The hedgerows let go of their leaves... the flowers let go of their blooms... the trees let go of their fruit... and all of nature pairs itself back to a necessary minimum. And it's good for them. They need to let go. And they do – because they don't have a choice.

Letting go. It's such a mantra of our modern world. "Just let it go," we are advised at every turn and even in the latest Disney film song. But it's not that easy, is it? 'Letting go' may be programmed into every aspect of the natural world ... but it's not so for us. We cling on... we delay the inevitable... we use our ability to 'choose' to hang on... cherishing the safety of what we know, holding on to what has been good in the past - our memories, our achievements. If we're honest we'd rather stay in a kind of static summer rather than take the risk of letting go in order to gain the new growth of the future and discover the excitement of different possibilities. Sigh. Sometimes we can be so short sighted.

The Desert Fathers knew how to let go. They worked hard to be loving, forgiving, compassionate and kind in their daily lives.... but they also made time to discover what they needed to let go of... those things which were

bringing them down or distracting them from getting closer to God. Many years later, Thomas a Kempis would write: "To sum up, my dear friend, unclench your fists and let everything fly out of your hands.... and stay faithful to your Creator."

All the major religions encourage the process of letting go. It is at the core of all human spiritual searching. To surrender our desires, to open ourselves to a higher power, to relinquish our ego, to live in the present.... all of these entail a conscious letting go. And it is good for us. When we hold on the tension in us heightens... freezes our growth and stunts our true nature.

So what could we consider letting go of? Perhaps the fixed-ness of our ideas, our views? Resistance to the changing of our minds and incorporating new ways of looking is so strong.

Perhaps the fantasy that we can control what happens in our lives? Surrendering to the grace of God is risky and involves so much trust. "Let it be unto me according to thy word" says Mary.

Perhaps the worry and hurry of modern day life? How much innate tension would also go if we slowed down and then relaxed our tight grip on the circumstances of our lives.

Perhaps our possessions? The stuff and things which surround us can actually suffocate us as we accumulate more and more but feel less and less satisfied.

Letting go is hard but necessary. Not only for our mental but also for our spiritual health. "God is not found in the soul by any kind of addition" writes Meister Eckhart, "But rather by a process of subtraction."

Perhaps this autumn we can take some time to look at what we are holding on to tightly...and gradually unfurl our fists to let it go. And in so doing know the deepening and enriching of our lives in God.

*With love, Liz*



**After a bit of a break, St Augustine's Cursillo group met together in August when Linda took the lead.**



**Make a friend,  
Be a friend,  
Bring a friend to Christ.**

"Cursillo is one way of being a disciple. It is

based on a simple discipline of prayer, study and action and its purpose is to support the church in its mission of growing disciples.

"An ancient Christian practice is to meet with friends in small groups for mutual support, encouragement and growth. The Cursillo approach, using prayer, study and action, is built on this and is practised across the world-wide Anglican Communion."

At St Augustine's the group usually meets monthly and we take it in turns to do the Action talk and lead discussion. We also sing together and there are short prayers.

The next two dates in our diary are: **Tuesday 5th September (Healing Service) and Monday 2nd October, 7.30pm (Fran's turn).**

Anyone can come along to these meetings which we call Group Reunions. If you are interested just turn up or speak with Maggie, Linda, Fran, Morag or any other of the people in the photo.

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### **Time to speak out on behalf of persecuted Christian women**

The Church worldwide must break the cycle of shame that forces persecuted Christian women to keep silent, according to a recent international conference.

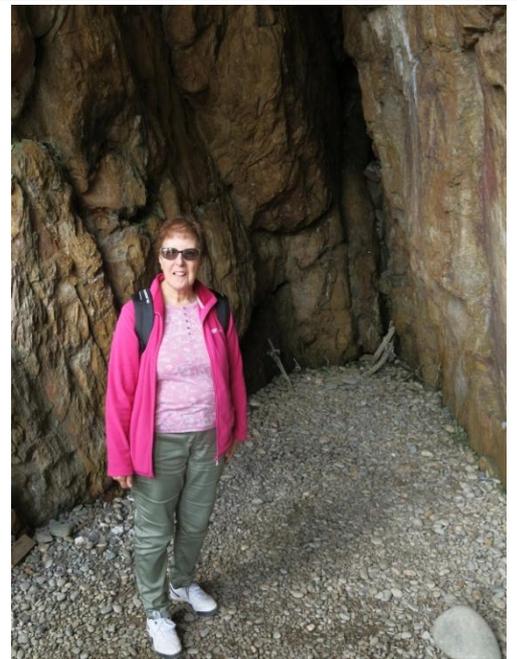
'These women are being targeted for two reasons – because they are Christians and because they are women,' said Kate Ward, an organiser of 'Christian Women Under Pressure for their Faith' conference, held in Leuven, Belgium. For example, in Nigeria, Christian girls are being abducted and impregnated by Boko Haram. In Egypt and Pakistan, Christian women are being kidnapped, raped, forced into marriage and forced to convert to Islam. In many countries, 'women's bodies are being used as weapons of war against their own communities. For along with sexual attack comes shame, and shame forces women into silence,' said Kate Ward, of Release International.

The Leuven Consultation, made up of academics and activists from 23 nations, met to address the growing problem of persecution facing Christian women. 215 million Christians experience extreme persecution in more than 50 countries worldwide. More than half of these are women, and Christian women suffer disproportionately, as they are doubly vulnerable to discrimination and violence. Yet, all too often, their voices are not heard.

Ms Sapna said Christian women in Pakistan were the most vulnerable members of their society. Under Sharia law the legal evidence of women is worth only half that of a man, and in certain cases, the evidence of a Christian is worth half that of a Muslim. Paul Robinson, the CEO of Release International, said; 'Let's make sure there are protected places, safe places for the women-only voice, so that we can hear them and give them the value they deserve. Let's break the cycle of shame. And only then can these women be fully healed and restored in Christ.'

## ST NINIAN'S CAVE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE SEPTEMBER 2017

Ninian was a Celt is remembered for being the first man to preach the gospel to the Scots. Although born in southern Scotland (c360AD) Ninian had travelled to Rome to study and then spent some time in Gaul with St Martin of Tours. When he returned he built a wee white stone house (in a time when everyone else lived in wooden huts) called Candidam Casam and began sharing the Christian Gospel with the Picts who lived in Whithorn and Galloway. It seems he was a very good preacher and communicator because he helped shape and form

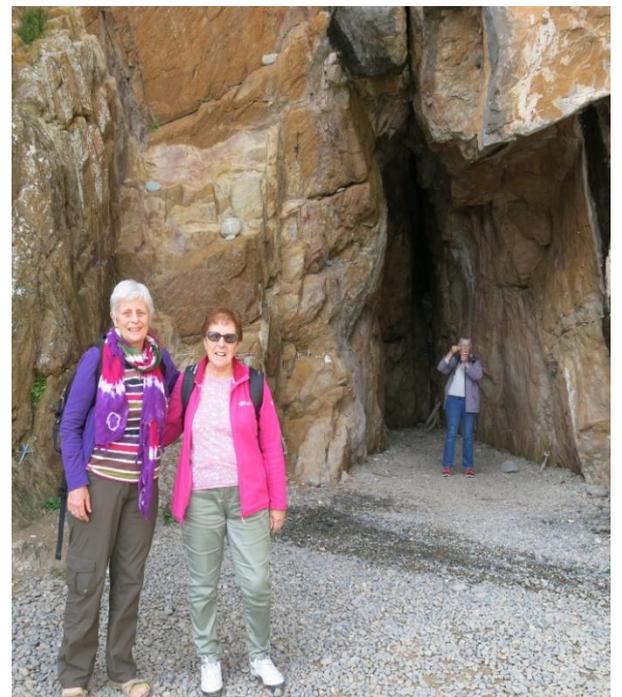
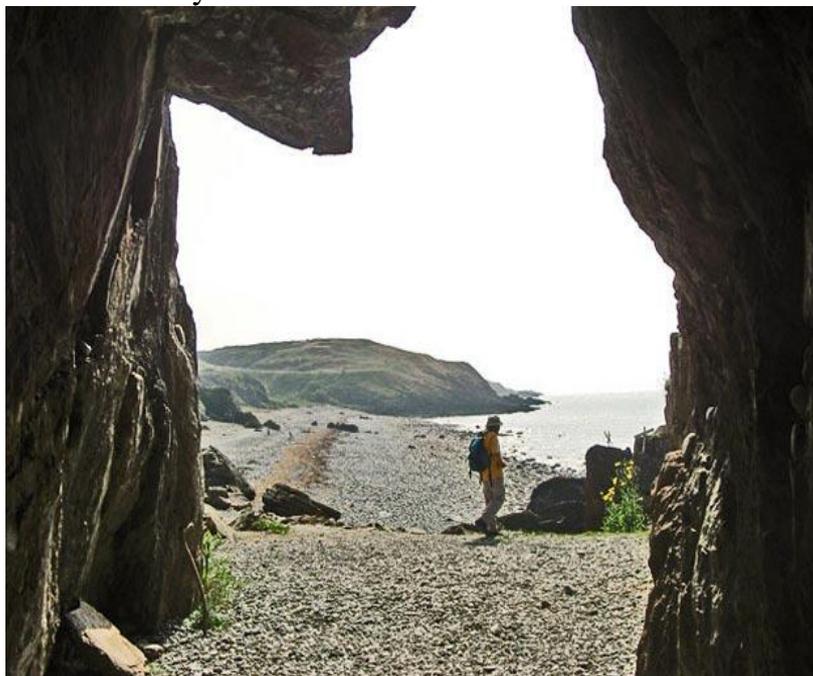


the character of Celtic Christianity. He built a church at Whithorn, was bishop, and today many churches bear his name.

St Ninian's cave is on a deserted pebble beach with the most wonderful outlook of peace and tranquillity. Ninian used it as his place of solitude and retreat – and as you sit in the mouth of the cave, sheltered from the wind, there is a

timeless quality to the space. You can see why Ninian used it!

From the Middle Ages onwards the cave became a place of pilgrimage and many Christian symbols including carved headstones and crosses from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries have been found beneath the collapsed roof. These are now displayed in the Priory Museum at Whithorn. In addition you can still see many crosses carved into the rock.



# FAREWELL TO SUMMER!

A popular evening of much hilarity and fun!





## THE WALK OF LIFE

On August 27th, Saint Augustine's day, and after a very enjoyable service including Samuel Carson Brook's baptism a small group of us went to St Columba's in Largs. We were joined there by other groups from various churches within the region. We were made very welcome by the team there.

After lunch Liz introduced us to Rev. Gordon Fyfe who gave a short explanation of a Labyrinth (NOT a maze). Though not Christian in origin it was adopted as a means of meditation and prayer to assist us on our journey.

We were all given a sheet with some pointers about how

to get the best out of our journey on the labyrinth: A "typical" labyrinth experience involves preparing yourself at the threshold, following the single path to the centre (releasing), spending time in the centre, as long as you wish (receiving), following the same pathway from the centre out, crossing the threshold (returning), and then responding to the experience. We were also given some ideas about how to approach the walk:

Intentional - where you address a specific intention, issue or concern as you walk.

Intercessory - offering prayer for people or needs.

Meditative - meditation on a specific word or passage or prayer.

Conversation - have a conversation with God.

Many have found reciting Scripture on the labyrinth focuses their attention on biblical teaching and their relationship with God.

We were then invited to walk for ourselves. Not knowing what to expect we were shown a small flat plot of well kept grass with stone inlays creating a circular spiral path, entering and exiting at the same point. It has been said it is the opposite of a maze, in that you don't lose yourself but find yourself. I saw it as a pathway to contemplate, to meditate, to pray on your walk of life.



I observed, as I have no physical sense of direction and would still be there, plus my legs were unwilling to comply! To my shame, an elderly gentleman with a walking stick slowly took his time and completed the Largs Labyrinth. I hid behind my coffee! People of different ages, backgrounds, abilities all walked, passing the slower ones, coming back past contemplative travellers, in opposite direction, different speeds and

thoughts yet on one path. It was a walk of life and, "surprisingly moving" to quote John Wiggins. Dot found it, "focussed my mind". At the end of the labyrinth there are no mementoes, no medals, just you on your own spiritual journey.

The short prayer service in the church finished the day beautifully.

Thank you Liz for a very meditative day, and recommending Nardini's!!

*John Russell*







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

*Janette takes a backward glance at a changeable month of August before looking forward to September- the beginning of autumn and the return of the politicians – oh, no!*

### **THE STRANGER ON THE SHORE.**

There were three men at the 'Say Goodbye to Summer' event organised by Friends on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. There was Alec, our favourite Saturday boy, the indispensable Ricky with his mics, and a handsome hunk under a knotted hankie reclining on our makeshift beach. He had been picked up in Blackpool by Linda Jenkinson and escorted all the way to Crosslet Road to be 'sorted' by Roberta for the 'do'. Pinned to the stranger's red bathing trunks was his name and all those who attended were invited to guess this name after listening to a clue or two. Suggestions for the handsome stranger's name varied from Donald Trump, George Clooney and Kenny, but most of our girls got the right answer – it was Cliff! They must all have seen 'Summer Holiday!' Poor Cliff was 'wumman handled' all night'. It was not surprising that he cowered back in his deckchair to watch the 'cairry oan'. One respectable ex-school teacher was heard to say 'we could all get photographed cuddling him!' Calm down, ladies, these photographs are for the Church Magazine not the Sun! But Roberta, as predicted, soon got fed up with her new toy boy saying she'd have needed an inhaler to keep him blown up or he wouldn't have been fit for anything! However, we could have done with him at the 11am Eucharist that morning to improve our numbers!

This Friends' event was right on cue since 'summer', such as it was, actually left us on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> just before the sun was waved into the bin on Sunday. At Friends we will celebrate anything especially if Fish Suppers are involved. They were delicious, served with traditional plain, unhealthy, white bread. There was nostalgia everywhere when sticks of rock and 'Kiss me Quick' hats were awarded as Bingo prizes for a quick session with technophobe, Maggie, controlling the machine. There were balls everywhere and it soon became evident that our machine was not very well. In fact it had been to the Vale and back! Never mind, Ghislaine was on hand getting everyone to sing along with some

fifties style, summertime numbers at our version of an End of the Pier Concert. There were poems by Roberta, Sandra and Janette, some members of Age Concern formed a backing group for Ghislaine, and Barbara, who had been agonising over a sore knee in the morning, was leading the slosh with her pals on the beach! Everyone cooled down when the ice drinks were passed round. This once-upon-a-time treat of Scottish summer holidays is rarely served these days – such memories! Then there were the fairground competitions to get everyone up on their feet again. Most popular was the Hoopla with Prosecco and Rose Wine on the blocks to be won. We feared for the Hall windows as rings went hurtling towards them – thankfully, they are still intact. Meanwhile, over in the other corner, lucky ducks and boats were being fished for by some who could barely see the pool of water! It was close, but no one fell in and everyone went home a winner even though it was only a Milky Way. But the evening was far from over. The brain teasers were handed out with a postcard caption contest to stretch the imaginations. Best captions were suggested by 'The Three Amigos' – consisting of Barbara, Isobel Scott and Anne Marie Daly and a really political statement on Brexit by Alec and Sheila who put apt words into the mouths of two naked bathers rushing towards the sea. Don't mock! This may be the only sane statement on Brexit you'll get this year! A photograph showing a crowded Helensburgh beach in the forties was recognised by only one person – how times have changed! The Friends' Executive really appreciated the efforts of Ghislaine and Ricky to keep the music going and to Maggie for the Bingo calling. It had been a great wee night!

### **THOSE STATUES THAT OFFEND.**

During August we were again alerted to the statues that were causing offence over in Charlottesville in the USA. Stone effigies of famous Confederates were being attacked for racial intolerance - over 150 years from the end of the Civil War. But then, even in normally 'douce' Edinburgh there was a problem with one of their most important statues in Charlotte Square - that of Henry Dundas, Lord Melville who tried to put the kybosh on anti-slavery reforms in the UK. The plaque on Henry's plinth was simply covered by a protester with one that told the world of his dodgy doings. It was, of course, removed promptly by the council. In Glasgow there was also a statue issue when Lobey Doser of Woodlands Road

suffered from an attack of vandalism last year. Their council did not think the famous Bud Neill character was the victim of political protest, merely the local jocks using his faithful steed, El Fideldo, as a rocking horse! *Rank Bajins so they wur!* A council spokesman said *'All will be mitigated and we ur no' gonnae get intae a stushie ower the G.I Bride statue at Partick Station either – she can definitely look efterhursel!'*

### **TRUMP IS LOOKING AT PROTOTYPES.**

He's certainly got his problems these days and it is said that he is currently looking at prototypes for his planned wall to save the country from Mexican invaders – and just when we thought he could not be serious about actually building the thing. From looking at the weather over there recently, one would say it would be much more prudent for him to consider investing his billions in a prototype for a 21<sup>st</sup> century ark!

### **THE UNDESIRABLE PASSENGER.**

There's been lots of bad publicity about offensive characters that manage to get aboard planes – particularly the ones that have spent their check-in hours in the airport bars. But the discovery on an EasyJet plane, flying from Glasgow to Paris, of a live scorpion put the whole business of airline pests into perspective. The plane had to make an unplanned stay in Paris to be fumigated! The creature was removed under protest – from the stag party goers from Clydebank that had befriended it prior to takeoff!

### **JEZEBEL – IT WAS YOU!**

Sermon of the month was Kenny's story on 13<sup>th</sup> August of that famous hussy, Jezebel, who brought scandal to the scriptures and provided a hit song for Frankie Laine in the 1950s. *'If ever the devil was born – without a pair of horns, it was you, Jezebel – it was you!'* The congregation have never been so attentive and the full story can be read in the First Book of Kings with her comeuppance described in the Second. This woman would have been quite at home in Channel 4's 'Naked Attraction' or ITV's 'Love Island'. Now, if the Bible Study Group is looking for suggestions .....

### **CUTE AS A KITTEN!**

The new arrivals are now at the homes of Maggie and TBag O'Neill. Maggie's little bundle is called Korky (I always knew she read comics) and Sandra's is Solo. Korky is still trying to differentiate between the litter tray and the kitchen

sink while Solo continues to piddle happily on the kitchen floor! Sadly, neither Maggie nor Sandra qualified for the new Scottish Government baby box scheme that started in August! They'd have made great cat beds!

### **OH NO! THEY'RE BACK!**

On the first week of September the politicians returned. Nicola, full of energy from her break, was opening a new super bridge with Her Majesty and not mentioning independence once. This is due to the nation's gratitude to our neighbours over the border for helping set the Scottish Team on the road to the World Cup. *Lovely people, the English!* Kezia, on the other hand, came back 'done in' and promptly settled for a seat in the back benches leaving her supporters the choice of two ex-public schoolboys – one of whom is a millionaire! Will that left wing Jeremy Corbyn bounce work up here or would they be better with a more Rab C Nesbitt style character? Ruth can't put down her hard hat and is suggesting new towns for the punters - but these could be built in the middle of nowhere with roundabouts and no buses! *Gaun yersel, Ruth!* So many questions – makes you wonder why they want the jobs! Meanwhile, down at Westminster, big Theresa is trying to find out what was actually being discussed at the Brexit talks. Rules over powerful vacuum cleaners and arguments over a divorce settlement are not really vote winners. Will her *'jaicket soon be oan a shoogly peg?'* Watch this space!

### **'HIGH SOCIETY' AND HIGH TEA IN THE HIGHLANDS.**

The famous Cole Porter musical at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre will be the Friends' autumn outing on 11<sup>th</sup> October. The coach will leave the Community Hall at 10am and return in the evening between 8.30pm and 9pm. We have tickets for the sell-out show and a booking for High Tea at the Salutation Hotel in Perth on the way home. The Pitlochry Theatre is set in its own gardens surrounded by hills. There is a restaurant, gift shop and bar. At lunchtime members can either eat their own sandwiches or purchase a light lunch and a drink. The cost of the fully inclusive trip – coach, theatre ticket plus High Tea is £48.00. The event is currently fully booked but a waiting list is being operated. Call Janette on 761398 if interested.

Famous hits from 'High Society' include 'True Love', 'You're Sensational!' and 'Did You Evah'. This will be an event to remember!

## AND NEXT MONTH....

It will be October and we'll all be planning those Christmas Party Nights. But at Friends we'll be organising a murder! Yes, a murder! For further information read the October edition of 'By the

Way Together' – you won't get through the winter without it!

*Janette*

## SMILE LINES

### Church service

A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the minister asked the man where he had gone. 'I went to get a haircut,' was the reply.

'But,' said the minister, 'why didn't you do that before the service?'

'Because,' the gentleman said, 'I didn't need one then.'

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### Signs that say it all

On a maternity room door:  
Push. Push. Push.

At an optometrist's office:

If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

Seen on a bin lorry:

Satisfaction guaranteed, or double your rubbish back!

On a church door:

This is the gate of heaven. Enter ye all by this door.

(This door is kept locked because of the draught. Please use side door.)

Sign warning of quicksand:

Quicksand. Any person passing this point will be drowned.

By order of the District Council.

In an office:

After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

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### Oldest computer

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Not surprisingly, it was an Apple. But it had an extremely limited memory: just one byte, and everything crashed.

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### What's in a denomination...

Some delegates to an ecumenical church conference in Scotland set off between sessions to explore the beautiful surrounding countryside. Presently they came to a stream spanned by a rickety bridge, and started to cross, ignoring the warning to keep off. A local inhabitant ran after them in protest. 'Don't worry,' they called. 'We won't do any harm, we are the Anglicans from the Conference.'

'I'm no caring about that,' was the reply. 'If ye dinna get off the bridge quick, ye'll all be Baptists.'

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### Begin with...?

From a church newsheet: The church council meeting on Tuesday will be gin with prayer.

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### Whence cometh my help?

One of our church ladies welcomed an American tourist who had wandered in to admire our medieval church. They got chatting about how older people cope with life in both England and America, and our church lady mentioned she was so grateful to have a daily help. The American paused, and then ventured: 'That sounds nice. Is that something religious?'

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### Sleep and taxes

A new Christian wrote to HMRC: 'Since I've become a Christian I can't sleep, and so I am enclosing £100 for tax on some extra income I forgot to declare. P.S. If I still can't sleep, I may remember some other stuff.'

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### Full name, please

A man was registering at the doctor's surgery near his new home. Asked for his complete name, he replied: 'Peter John O'Dear Sullivan.'

The receptionist repeated it slowly. 'Your third name is very unusual – some family connection, I suppose?'

'Oh no,' sighed the man. 'Nothing like that. I was given the third name when the vicar dropped me in the font.'

## ROTAS FOR ST MUNGO'S

### Sunday September 10th

Reader/Intercessions Clergy  
Sidesperson Ian Marshall  
Music Carol Meacham

### Sunday September 17th

Reader Carol Meacham  
Sidesperson Ian Marshall  
Music Andrew Baxter

### Sunday September 24th

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

### Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> HARVEST

Reader/Intercessions Lewis Kennedy  
Sidesperson Ian Marshall  
Music Andrew Baxter

### Sunday October 8th

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

## CLEANING

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept/1<sup>st</sup> Oct Finella (+ flowers)  
10<sup>th</sup> Sept/7<sup>th</sup> Oct Iona and Mary  
17 Sept/14<sup>th</sup> Oct Margaret (+Carol flowers)  
24<sup>th</sup> Sept/21<sup>st</sup> Oct Lynn T

## ROTAS FOR ST AUGUSTINE'S

### Sunday September 10th

Readers Evelyn O'Neill & Linda Macaulay  
Intercessions Sharon Rowatt  
Chalice David Rowatt & Maggie Wallace  
Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Linda Jenkinson

### Sunday September 17th

Readers Morag O'Neill & Kirsten Wiggins  
Intercessions David Rowatt  
Chalice Margaret Hardie & Sharon Rowatt  
Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley

### Sunday September 24th

Readers Janette Barnes & Dot Russell  
Intercessions Margaret Hardie  
Chalice Barbara Barnes & Fran Walker  
Sidespersons David Ansell & Maggie Wallace

### Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> HARVEST

Readers Fran Walker & David Rowatt  
Intercessions Dot Russell  
Chalice Janette Barnes & Kirstin Wiggins  
Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley

## Flowers

Sept 10th Maggie Wallace  
Sept 17th Margaret Hardie  
Sept 24th Linda Macaulay  
Oct 1st Barbara Barnes

## Thoughts from Kirsten:

I read this in an article for radio 4 Thought for the Day by Geraint Fielder on War and Peace :”When you become a child of God, he says in one of the Beatitudes, you will begin to share something of God’s concern to be a reconciler. “Blessed are the peacemakers”. None of us can change the world, **but each one of us can change the world of just one other person, even now, by being a peacemaker.” Who will I bring peace to today?**



Recently I made a mistake sharing the chalice: the person involved clearly noticed but gracefully didn't make a fuss nor comment at all: what a blessing to belong to a family of believers which has learned to overlook offences and shortcomings in the other. Proverbs 17:9 says “He who covers over an offense promotes love.” Thank you!

Mother Teresa said “To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it.” What does this mean? For me, it means taking time to be with God and to “fill up” on the positive wisdom of scripture as often as I can, to make the choice to be present at our Sunday meetings to participate in the grace banquet prepared for us and to come under the word, to listen carefully to the priests and to take time to ponder what they have taught. We never know when the darkness will descend on our lives.

Thank you both for giving oil for our lamps.



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Caroline Marsland; Rev Liz O'Ryan

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie



JUST OCCASIONALLY, REV'D MORGAN WONDERED IF HE HAD GONE TOO FAR IN HIS QUEST FOR PUBLICITY



Love  
is in  
the  
air!

*Congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs McWhinnie, more commonly known to us as Lynne and Chris. A wonderful day in which the sun shone and even the dogs joined in the celebration!*

*Congratulations to a well seasoned married couple who celebrated, not only two significant birthdays, but also 20 years of wedded bliss with a fabulous party of music and food at the Dumbuck Hotel.*



*And so the faith is passed down the generations as Fr Kenny baptised on St Augustine's Patronal Festival wee Sam, great grandson of our own Mary Kennedy.*



*(Left) Your monthly dose of cuteness! This is Solo, Sandra's new, and already well loved, kitten.*

*(Right) The ornate reredos of an Episcopal church in Manhattan whose running costs are 12 million dollars*

*a year! Keep looking - St Augustine is in there somewhere!*