



St Augustine's Dumbarton

Issue 61 August 2012

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the new look

Jumping for Joy A Special Gambia Edition



Our link with the school in The Gambia, Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School, has now just passed its 10th anniversary. During that time there have been many changes and different buildings, almost 300 children educated, fed and looked after medically, a turnover of staff and principal teachers, more visits than I care to remember, but an enormous amount of success and satisfaction. As summer

term 2012 ends, New Look has decided to share some photos and some feedback on the current situation within the school.

We hope you will enjoy the feedback and the photos. To those who contribute towards this, can we say "thank you", and to those who would like to help us keep going to contact Linda Macaulay who will be more than willing to explain how to help!

From Kenny
Page 2

Rotas
Page 3

St James the Least
Page 4

A New Curate
Page 5

Photos
Pages 8-9

Smile Lines
Page 10

Wait Till I Tell You
Page 11

A Timely Reminder
Page 14

Parish Directory
Page 16

From Kenny....

It's with an enormous amount of pleasure that we share some of the photos and news from The Gambia this month. It is a commitment that many of us in the parish have undertaken in response to the whole question of world poverty and what we can do about it.



By concentrating on a little project, in a little part of West Africa, we can see that we can do something that makes a difference. It may not seem much, but it's about seeing with our own eyes that what we give really does make a difference.

Not everyone in St Augustine's contributes, and I know that many of you contribute in many other ways to Third World poverty and world appeals to hunger. That's as it should be, for we all have to make choices about how we respond to massive need. We need, too, to underline that Dumbarton London Corner is not something which the parish contributes to, but many individuals do, and with many many other folk joining in from all walks of life and far beyond Dumbarton, we manage to raise the £12,000 per year that it takes to keep things going, and indeed to strive for excellence.

Things have just got better and better as the years have progressed, and we are proud of what we now offer the children and families in this little part of Serrekunda. There are always wants and needs, but I think we have managed to hone ourselves into the sort of charity which responds to needs rather than wants!

We are not a wasteful charity. Almost every penny given goes to The Gambia directly, and although there is a small charge for administration from GETS, (Gambia Education and Teaching Support), we get excellent value for money with less than 10% of income used for admin.

Our education package fits in precisely with what The Gambia Education Authorities and the United Nations require, and the Jolly Phonics curriculum which we roll out is used by primary schools in Scotland today.

It's a link I think we should be proud of, and although we are struggling financially, perhaps, as individuals and as a parish, these little people can help us put everything into perspective. I hope we can continue and indeed increase our support!

In my Annual Report this year I recorded that it has been a good year for the school, with a settled, happy staff, and a group of pupils who are a credit to their teachers.

Sulayman Saidy runs a very good ship, and I am delighted to have him as Teacher-in-Charge.

Of course, at this time of year, the school is closing down for holidays, and it's a good point to check all the boxes. Over the last year, the school was involved in all the national celebrations, including Commonwealth Day and Independence Day, partook of an excellent school trip to Banjul, the capital, had a new Sports Day with opposition from the Sunrise children from Bakoteh, and have now finished off the year with the usual graduations. Another 30 children are due to enrol in September!

In November, I travelled over with Linda, and it was a time to raise wages, redefine goals, and produce a bit of parity with the curriculum being rolled out at the Sunrise Centre. The sharing of resources like the photocopier was established as good practice. This meant that we needed to invest some cash in teaching materials, but now Sulayman gets what he needs rather than what he wants!

We did suffer a break-in at the school over the last year, and some important equipment was stolen, but through the generosity of our contributors, we have managed to replace everything. We have also introduced smoke free burners into the kitchen, where briquettes made from peanut shells are now used to cook the food for the successful feeding programme.

The other bad news was the death of one of our dearly beloved cooks. She has been with us since the beginning, so news of her death was extremely upsetting. We released a small cash amount to help her family on a short-term basis at least.

Two of the staff members are in teacher training at present to develop their current skills and that is, of course, something we encourage and pay for. Mr Williams graduates soon, and is indeed top of his class at Gambia College.

Helen Touray, from GETS, is in constant touch with us, and, as ever, problems are dealt with before they even occur! We couldn't function without her and are very grateful for all the work she does. We are now paying a little each month to offset the cost of running her car in very bumpy conditions, but it is a sum which barely covers the petrol, far less the wear and tear of her vehicle.

I would like to thank all who contribute regularly to the fund itself. Every penny of your cash is appreciated. Thanks, too, to an excellent Executive, and Fran and Faye's visits prove invaluable in giving us the positive feedback we need. Thanks, too, to Linda, who does a remarkable job in keeping the accounts straight.

We look forward to a new and successful year ahead, with renewed confidence and enthusiasm!

Kenny

Rotas: August 2012

Sunday August 5th

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Evelyn O'Neill & David Rowatt.

Intercessions: Fran Walker.

Chalice: Sharon Rowatt & Janette Barnes.

Sidespersons: Ross & Gavin Elder.

Sunday August 12th

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Vernon Perrin & Gavin Elder.

Intercessions: Linda Macaulay.

Chalice: Tim Rhead & Fran Walker.

Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & Jean Carr..

Sunday August 19th

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Peter Cairns & Tim Rhead.

Intercessions: David Rowatt.

Chalice: : Margaret Hardie & Maggie Wallace.

Sidespersons: Linda Jenkinson & David Ansell.

Sunday August 26th

11am Eucharist

Readers: Fran Walker & Linda Macaulay.

Intercessions: Margaret Hardie.

Chalice: Barbara Barnes & Vernon Perrin.

Sidesperson: Ronnie Blaney & Tim Rhead.

Flowers in Church

You will remember that I wrote a little article concerning the shortage of funding for church flowers. I am absolutely delighted to report that over the last few weeks we have had several VERY generous donations for the provision of flowers.

One offer to provide and do some flowers was from a member of Friends. This should keep us going for quite some time.

If anyone still wishes to bring in, or provide flowers to "do", please contact Moira McGown or myself, and we'll arrange to have them "done" for you. Many, many thanks once again. Maggie W.

Cursillo

There will be a meeting in St. Augustine's in August. Please watch pew sheets for details.

On Saturday, 18th August there is a Servant Community Meeting in the General Synod office, 21, Grosvenor Square, Edinburgh at 10 a.m._ bring and share lunch.

The August Diocesan Ultreya will be at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 24th in St. James the Less in Bishopbriggs.

Vestry

The next Vestry Meeting is on Wednesday 5th September at 7pm.

Art Exhibition

The Old Kilpatrick Art Club are holding an exhibition in St Augustine's on September 7th-8th. Some exhibits will be on sale, and St Augustine's will get a percentage of profits. Please put this in your diary and support it.

The Surgeon's Knife!

Kenny is due to go into hospital on August 7th for some surgery, and maybe unable to do much for a wee while after that, due to lack of mobility really.

However, he'll still be around the Rectory, obviously, and hopes to be back in action by the end of August anyway. It's nothing too serious, but will be at least a month, we are told, before he'll be fully back in action.

Friends

The next Friends event is the Olympaugs on August 12th details are still closely under wraps, but it should be a fun afternoon. Then in October we are going to see the Susan Boyle musical 'I Dreamed a Dream' at the Kings Theatre Glasgow. This list is now full but we are taking names for possible cancellations.

Date for your Diary

"The Gathering" is a Diocesan Day to be held in St Silas on September 29th. We will be celebrating progress made in our Mission Action Planning. St Augustine's needs a good number to attend what will be a very special day. Watch out for more information!

St James the Least of All...

Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic Rector, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

The Rectory

My Dear Nephew Darren,

The offer to bring in your team of visiting evangelists in order to call on every home on our new housing estate was most generous. I know it would have committed us to accommodating your party of 25 visitors and that there would have to be a residential training weekend for our own members of the team. I accept that we would have to produce a visiting pack listing all our church organisations, giving contact names and numbers and a short resume of what each group did, along with their "mission statements". You also suggested we should include a supplement outlining our stewardship scheme and telling the householders that there would be a further visit from those running that programme.

You seem convinced that there should be an opening Service to which all the newcomers would be invited and apparently even think that we might fly in some world-renowned speaker for the occasion. All of this would have required a finance committee to set budgets and organise fund raising. What you seem to have missed is that our new estate I referred to contains four houses. They would not have felt visited, but invaded.

We had thought of something a little more low-key: an invitation to sherry after Mattins, where we could find out which of them play golf and who may like to join the Bridge Club. Our idea of evangelism is a little broader than yours, it appears. Time will come when we can find out who will be prepared to go on the brass cleaning, flower arranging and grass cutting rotas, which are the traditionally recognised signs of committed Christians.

Inevitably, this means that some of our people will not be joining your own team to see how it is done, as you visit the residents of the new tower block in your parish. Most of our congregation abandoned attempting stairs some years ago and their polite enquiries about which Hunt residents belong to and where they stable their horses may lead to a rather stilted conversation.

You may be all prepared to welcome your new residents with enthusiasm, excitement and frenetic ac-

tivity; our policy of polite indifference and brief conversations about the weather should soon help ours to settle in in no time.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Country Trip 2

The second Country Trip took place on Saturday June 2nd. We went to the woodland garden at Ardkinglas on Loch Fyne.

Five of us gathered first in the Stagecoach Inn at Cairndhu while Margaret and Janette were delayed by traffic jams on the A82 and joined us later.

Tim was the only one to glimpse a red squirrel but we all enjoyed a wander through the woods on a fine day. The highlight was the tallest tree in Scotland and other magnificent specimens in the pinetum. There was also a fine display of rhododendrons in flower.

We then headed for the Treetops tea-room next to the famous Oyster Bar, but unfortunately it shut at 4.30 so we headed for home instead, having noted that more research on opening or closing times is required !

Wanted: MUSCLES for Autumn Fair

We are looking for fit bodies with muscles to help with shifting chairs and tables to set up the Fair on Friday evening 21st September and clear up on Saturday afternoon 22nd September.

If you can help on either or both days please let Fran know and put the dates in your diary.

Christian Aid Week.

The total raised this year was £3930.53, which was an increase from £3242 in 2011.

The committee is very grateful to all who helped.

Please support the work of Christian Aid when you can. Further details of how you can do that can be had from Tim, whose number is printed on the back of the magazine.

New Curate

On Saturday, September 8th at 2pm, Pat Smith is due to be ordained Deacon at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, and has been appointed as a Non-Stipendiary Curate at St Augustine's.

Pat will spend at least three years with us, a training period, during which time she will hopefully be ordained as a priest. She may well decide to stay long after that, and I certainly hope she chooses to do so!

In next month's magazine, Pat will introduce herself, but she will bring a wealth of life-experience with her to St Augustine's, a lot of enthusiasm, and a theological depth which I will personally welcome. There has been much study, numerous essays and assignments, and a rigorous continuing evaluation to get to the point of ordination. Now the real, practical part of her training for ministry begins in earnest.

In many ways, all of us will be part of that training, and it's up to us to support her, encourage her, and welcome her ministry in St Aug's.

Pat's first Sunday with us will be on September 9th, but I'm sure that as many of us as possible will want to be at her ordination on the 8th, showing our support and solidarity, and to pray with her on what is an incredible milestone in her life.

We are organising a bus to Glasgow on that day, leaving St Augustine's at 12.30pm, and returning about 4.30 when we hope to have a wee parish reception for Pat and her husband Ian (and their friends). It will be our opportunity to welcome them properly, and help them feel part of our family in Dumbarton.

There is a list in the Community Hall for the bus, if you are joining us. The party is on for everyone, whether you can come to the ordination or not.

What can we expect from a new curate? Remembering that Pat will be non-stipendiary, the first while will be spent simply acclimatising herself and getting to know everyone. As time goes on, she'll be preaching from time to time, taking the odd service, and generally just learning how to do things she's never done before!

An agreement has still to be formulated, but the Bishop and her overseers will ensure that she doesn't overstretch herself, and gets adequate training in the areas where that's needed. It's an exciting time for us all!



Independence Day Report from The Gambia

Nursery Schools within the Kanifing Municipality celebrated the 47th Independence Anniversary on the 20th March 2012, Saturday, at the Independence Stadium.

Over a hundred and thirty nursery schools took part of which Dumbarton Nursery School was one.

It was indeed a colourful ceremony, children from various nursery schools were assigned different portfolios, acting as the President, Vice President, Ministers, Directors and Chief of Defence Staff.

The March Past was graced by The Gambia Armed Forces Marching Band.

The Minister for Basic and Secondary Education Honourable Fatou Lamin Faye was physically in attendance with some state dignitaries and some foreign ambassadors and a cross section of the community.

Finally, on behalf of the pupils, parents and staff of Dumbarton Nursery School we collectively thanked Dumbarton Gambia Education Association for facilitating the trip to the Independence Stadium in Bakau and by providing transport, water, food and refreshment for the 30 participating children, after a long absence at this event.

Though the March Past started late due to some logistic problems and arranging of schools in their respective positions, it lasted for almost three hours.

All the pupils were happily singing as we drove home at the end of the March Past. We went safely and returned home safely.

Sulayman Saidy (Teacher-in-Charge)



Report from The Teacher-in-Charge - Dumbarton London Corner School.

The Graduation this Year

Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School yet again held its Annual Speech and Prize Giving Ceremony on Saturday 14th July 2012.

The Guest Speaker to the occasion was Pastor Fayia Bundor who spoke at length on the Theme "INVESTING IN CHILDREN".

It was a colourful ceremony which will go a long way in the minds of the graduates who are well equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to guide them through their next level of education.

The ceremony this year took a different format compared to last year. Classes 1 and 2 were giving the opportunity to come on stage and perform before the audience thus exposing them to public performance and were indeed able to crack down the stage. (sic)

The Graduates dramatized a role play entitled "HARD WORK PAYS" which really captivated the attention of the audience.

Thirty pupils graduated who had three years of uninterrupted nursery education in a stimulating and conducive environment. Our curriculum takes into account their age, and what is developmentally appropriate to meet the needs of these innocent poor children. I wonder, without the support from D.G.E.A what their fate would be?

Out of the 30 graduates 12 are boys and 18 girls respectively. The celebration was punctuated by music, presentation of award prizes and certificates.

The prizes were for the most decent, the most punctual, and the most disciplined. Other prizes included 1ST, 2ND and 3rd positions of the various classes, these were determined through the normal conduct of assessment tests.

The event was well attended by a cross-section of the community of London Corner and its immediate environment, and included school children, parents, Helen, and TARANGA FM 97.5 Radio.

D.G.E.A sponsored the entire activity by providing all that was needed to make the celebration a success ranging from food and refreshments, prizes and certificates.

In conclusion, on behalf of the children, staff, community of London Corner and on my own humble behalf, I once again seize this opportunity to felicitate D.G.E.A, Helen, and everybody who took part either directly or indirectly in making the event successful.

Sulayman Saidy



Report on visit to Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School, June 2012

Barely a month ago the staff at London Corner Nursery School were surprised to see me walk in. I was in The Gambia (obviously) and paying an unexpected visit, the first of three.

It was such a pleasure to see that all was well: the children were studying in their classrooms, the Teacher-in-Charge greeted me from his office and the cooks were well on the way in their preparation of lunch.

When I had a look around the school it was good to see children who were well engaged with the teaching that was taking place, very few absentees (even though it was the rainy season, by tradition a time for absence) and pupils' work on the classroom walls.

The signing-in book showed that the teachers were arriving well before the official 9am start time and, I believe, using the time before school to practise with their class for the forthcoming Graduation Ceremony. Although I did not stay for lunch I could see that the portions of food were appropriate for the age of the children and a glance at the meal plan showed that through the week there was variety in the proteins and vegetables that they ate.

The next visit was much more fun – a whole day with almost 90 children and all the staff for the school trip to Banjul. When I arrived the lunch was being gathered – big bins of doughnuts, chicken yassa, individual meat pies, rice, trays of drinks etc – and eventually the bus arrived and with much excitement the children climbed aboard.

And it was off, singing all the way, to the July 22nd Arch, a monument that the children and staff had all passed on their way to Banjul but which few had visited.

First excitement – climbing the long spiral stair case (made a few of the staff puff), second excitement – looking over the edge of the parapet, thirdly “land swimming” on the smooth, tiled floor and lastly, great excitement, going down in the lift (one of only 2 in The Gambia). There was also a Presentation by some staff at The Arch, but that was a bit too difficult for nursery children.

Next stop the play park – swings and slides and climbing frames and rope climbing walls and ditches with water to fall in! Great fun for all the children.

A short walk to the National Museum of the Gambia followed, where an inspired curator, speaking in both English and Wolof, limited what she showed the children to the musical instrument section. Brief and effective.

Back to the play park for more play and then lunch, served up in rather a posh lounge in the pavilion by the July 22nd Square, a large grassy ex cricket pitch, rather damp after the rains, which proved to be a wonderful place to run around (without shoes and socks) and view the State House. Soon it was time to reunite little feet with little socks and shoes, board the bus and with less singing, return back to London Corner, safe and tired.

My third visit to the school was far less tiring, another unplanned visit this time to deliver some very easy reading books, colouring pencils etc and a rug for the head teacher's room and to congratulate Sulayman on the organisation of the trip.

It was registration week and several parents phoned or called in during the little time I was there.

This year children's ages are being checked quite closely, so that the age range of class one corresponds with the requirement in 3 years time to progress to Lower Basic School.

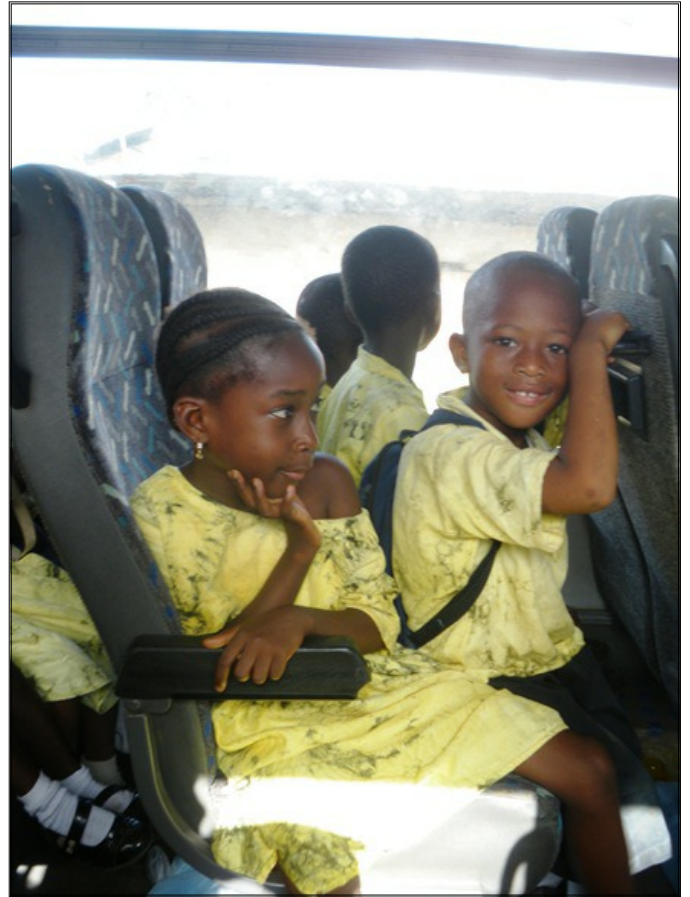
But the most interesting part of the visit was a chat with Binta, one of the cooks, who has been in the school since its birth. I had found a list of the 12 children that we had first sponsored and who are now aged between 15 and 17. Binta was able to tell me that 3 have moved out of the area, 4 are still in school, of 4 she has no information and sadly one has died.

Regrettably I was not be able to attend the graduation ceremony the following week, nor was I to see the installation of the new kitchen, with its eco-friendly, peanut shell fuelled cooking stoves. It was reassuring that the school is in good hands, administration is working well and most importantly the children are still enthusiastic about learning.

Fran (July 2012)

(Ed - Our thanks to Fran, and indeed Sulayman, for providing us with so much material, and an incredible amount of photographs for this month. The number of photos alone could have filled two magazines!

However, our middle pages perhaps capture some of the atmosphere of the events you have read about this month. More photos available on request!)



The coach arrives, it's all on board, and then off to Banjul for the school outing..... we've learned to queue!!



Thanks to a special sponsor who paid entirely for this trip. It was educational, but mostly fun, too. It was a special treat and we are all grateful!



Smile-Lines for August

What I meant to say...

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send him flowers for the occasion. When the flowers arrived at the new business site, the owner read the card in horror: "Rest In Peace."

The owner rang the florist to report the obvious mistake, and added how angry he was. The florist replied calmly: 'Sir, am really sorry for this mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today and they have flowers with a note saying "Congratulations on your new location" '

Children's Kitchen Terms

BOIL: The point a parent reaches upon hearing "Yuck" before a food is even tasted.

CASSEROLE: Combination of favourite foods that go uneaten because they are mixed together.

DESSERT: The reason for eating a meal.

EVAPORATE: Magic trick performed by children when it comes time to clear the table.

FRUIT: Something that is never to be confused with dessert.

REFRIGERATOR: A very expensive and inefficient room air conditioner when not being used as an art gallery.

TABLE LEG: Percussion instrument.

Good camping advice

Going camping this month? Take along a tuba or a drum and carefully place it beside your tent. It will keep the spaces on either side of your tent well and truly vacant.

For sale

Notice in local newspaper: Wedding dress for sale. Worn once by mistake. Ring Stephanie

Stress

I don't suffer from stress. I'm a carrier.

Baby

A three year old walked over to a pregnant woman on the beach. "Why is your stomach so big?" he wondered out loud.

"I'm having a baby," the woman replied, amused. The little boy, with a puzzled look, ventured: "Is it a good baby?"

The woman smiled. "Oh, yes. It's a real good baby." With even more surprise the toddler asked: "Then why did you eat him?"

Painting lesson

There was a painter called Jock, who used to cheat by thinning paint to make it go further. For some time he got away with this. Then came the day that the local church needed painting. Jock put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set up his scaffolding, bought the paint – and thinned it down.

A week later, as Jock was nearly finished painting the church, there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened, the rain poured down, and the thinned paint ran everywhere down the walls into the churchyard. Jock was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke... "Repaint! Repaint! and thin no more!"

Middle

The middle class consists of people who are not poor enough to accept charity and not rich enough to donate anything.

Break out

With the exception of world unrest, nothing breaks out in more places than an old garden hose.

What it takes

In some countries any man with a good voice, a large vocabulary and a microphone seems certain to develop into a political party.

Going, going....

A good test of blood pressure is to watch someone being liberal with the money he owes you.

Row

Many an argument is sound – merely sound.

Good and bad

An honest confession is good for the soul - but probably bad for the reputation.

Hobby

It seems that those who have hobbies rarely go crazy. But what about those of us who have to live with those of them who have hobbies?

‘Wait Till I Tell You.....’

Janette looks back on a summer of discontent with the terrible weather and looks forward to a mellow and fruitful autumn with a fair to remember.

FORGET ST. SWITHIN....

The famous saint who is said to control the weather is certainly out of favour this July. His special day is July 15th when we all look out of the window and recite:

St. Swithin's Day if thou be fair
For forty days 't will rain nae mair.
St. Swithin's Day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain.

Now after the record rainfalls of June, the misery of the traditional Dumbarton holidays in July, the cancelled fairs, festivals, Highland Games and all manner of outdoor pursuits we can no longer bear to look to the skies. Come oan, St Swithin - gie us a brek!

Folks have been leaving the country in droves - Spain, Greece, the Canaries - any place however bankrupt, with a soupcon of sunshine.

St. Aug's was fast becoming bereft of worshippers - even Ghislaine took to the RAH and came out with a brand new knee! 'Will I be able to conduct the Allsorts Choir wi' ma new knee?' she asked the surgeon who answered 'well it's certainly a novel way of getting them to sing!' He then declined her invitation to join.

However, from mid-July onwards the travellers returned, more grumpy than ever because they could not show off their suntanned bodies in the never ceasing rain.

TEN GOOD THINGS ABOUT A ROTTEN SUMMER.

1. The roads are quieter.
2. You save money on sun cream.
3. Your nose doesn't peel.
4. You eat less ice cream.
5. You don't lose a single pair of sunglasses.
6. You begin to appreciate daytime telly - even Jeremy Kyle!
7. You can't cut the grass.
8. It also rains on the folks that annoy you.
9. No noisy barbecueing neighbours.
10. Most of us look better in a raincoat than in a bikini!

DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT THE CURATE.....

Now that St. Aug's is getting a curate can we expect a rash of curate jokes?

Pat must know a few herself but this is my favourite:

A shy young male curate was sent to visit an elderly spinster of the parish who was slightly hard of hearing. He was working hard to improve his communications skills. Summer was almost at an end and 'the nights were fair drawing in' as we say in this corner of world. Struggling for conversation, our hero uttered observantly 'Winter draws on, eh?' The reply was curt 'As a matter of fact I have but I don't see what business it is of yours!'

FIFTY SHADES OF PRAY.

Now if only St. Aug's newest publication, the Prayer Diary, could be as popular as Erika Leonard's record breaking novel, 'Fifty Shades of Grey'. It might just tempt the apathetic to leave it handy by their bedsides for reference. Aye, it's amazing what sells these days! Dumbarton Library has ordered extra copies and there is a waiting list of 41. Indeed this erotic novel has made holiday reading the new holiday shopping for women. Kindles have been red hot on the beaches this year! The book caused a jealous boyfriend to throw a bottle of sauce over his engrossed girlfriend, it almost set a kitchen on fire when a wee wifie couldn't put it down and I know at least one church trustee who has downloaded the entire trilogy.

Too bad the recent diocesan intercessors' workshop leaders didn't advertise as Fifty Shades of Pray - the queues would have been out in the High Street!

REALITY TV - COMING SOON IN BIG DAUDS!

Now summer telly viewing has been taken up with Jubilee events followed by the biggest show on earth - the London Olympics. But it'll be all over on 12th August so all sorts of goodies are being lined up to bring us back to reality.

In fact this week we expect to meet a brand new Jesus courtesy of the Lord - Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, who has scoured the country to find his rock superstar. At least he hasn't been referring to the bunch of contenders as 'the Jesuses' as his compere, Amanda Holden, so annoyingly does! (Cont)

Oh and it's no secret that Strictly Come Dancing is having trouble attracting big names (or willing eed-jits) to keep their coming offering high in the ratings. And it's only a rumour that TBag O'Neill has been approached and turned the offer down in favour of the Allsorts Choir.

'The Voice' - BBC's singing competition with the swinging chairs is going for a revamp having lost the biggest audience numbers in reality TV history. But they've spent so much of our license money funding this show they're committed to a second series. My advice? Forget it and sell the chairs at St. Aug's Autumn Car Boot Sale!

OUR OLYMPAUGS WON'T BE RAINED OFF.

The Friends' Exec held a meeting recently to question the wisdom of staging a full blown Olympic extravaganza at Levensgrove on the 12th August. It would almost certainly be raining so we decided to locate ourselves as close as possible to the hall (or even inside it) to go faster, higher, stronger - or something like that!

The Games of the XXX Olympi- aug will commence at 1pm with the arrival of the torch and the lighting of the barbecue. Lunch and refreshments will follow and at 2pm we will attempt a series of events for the seriously non-sporting and even for 'them wi' a bad leg tae!

Everyone will be a winner and laughs are guaranteed. The closing and medal ceremonies will be at 3.30pm and gold medals will be distributed to the deserving. You'll still be home in time for the London closing at 7.10pm. So, if you've been inspired by Team GB come along on the 12th August at 1pm - you can attend the Eucharist in your track suit, trainers or even your lycra. Cost will be £5.00 or £4.00 for Friends with discount.

LET'S BREAK A RECORD AT THE AUTUMN FAIR.

September 22nd is a big fund raising day for St. Aug's so please, please put it in your diaries and don't leave the country! Ideas to make this a success are currently being explored but I can leak the possibility of a cup cake baking competition. Mmmm...And it is hoped that we might also have a tattoo parlour to emulate the 70th birthday shocker of Lord Steel's wife. How cool is that!

PRAISE MY SOLE!

The latest craze for ladies who crave designer shoes is to purchase a cheap pair and paint the soles red a la Christian Louboutin. Indeed, Home-base is running out of sample red paint pots as la-

dies rush to impress. And St. Aug's is the ideal place to show off your designer fakes when you kneel on Sundays at the communion rail. Everyone will notice the red painted soles and be green with envy. And if the music group happen to be singing 'Praise My Soul' it will be even more pointed.

'CALENDAR GIRLS' COMING TO THE CIVIC.

At least three members of St. Aug's are planning to audition for this popular play that will be DPT's first production of the new season and run from 3rd to 6th October. This promises to be a sell out so watch this page for further information and find out how our girls measured up!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GLAMOUR OF FLYING?

It used to be so glamorous, exciting and luxurious. Flying through the skies being waited upon by caring, attentive hostesses. It was only sceptics like me who didn't like it and spent the entire journey watching for the cabin crew to show even a minute hint of panic. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote 'to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive'. Wrong! Unless he's referring to hoping for no delays, shorter security queues and no confusion!

Our homeward journey from Barcelona on 8th July was not ideal - indeed cattle are transported to their destinations more humanely. It started at 6am in the morning when we were instructed to be at the pick up point for transporting to the airport. Of course it was too early for breakfast as we dragged our cases onwards in search of our rendezvous. We couldn't find it so retraced our steps back to the hotel and the night porter who assured us that transport would arrive - at least we thought that was what he was saying! Our worries were unfounded when a Spanish bus driver appeared on the horizon waving a clipboard. We were on our way!

He stopped the coach at a bus park as far removed from the main terminal as he could get, unloaded our cases and gesticulated to show us where to go. What a drag! Particularly when we got there and discovered that we were at the wrong terminal! The terminal we wanted was an airport bus ride away!

Eventually, the bus stop was located and we arrived at the correct terminal - starving! We struggled to the check in to be advised that we were too late to get seats together! I said as long as I wasn't allocated seat number 13 I would sit anywhere! Next came the security queues - then the passport queues - before the luxury of a McDonalds Coffee in a plastic cup prior to boarding. (Cont over)

At the departure gate we were treated to a further bus ride before joining the BA plane which was parked at the remotest part of the airfield - these Spaniards are punishing us for snatching Gibraltar! We slid into our seats but more torture was to come. The passenger count was incorrect and we lost our take off slot! A delay of one hour was promised. Add to this a yelling wean who was in top voice for much of the journey.

At last we were airborne and waiting eagerly to be fed. We knew it was a choice of bacon rolls or burgers served with a cup of Starbuck's but that's modern flying for you.. Then the announcement came regretting to inform us that there was no hot food left. Only those at the front were to have breakfast! You couldn't make it up! By the time the steward got to us - breakfast was a Mars Bar! What a relief to bump through the thick blanket of cloud to Glasgow Airport vowing next year to try Ayr and forget about sunshine!

BACK NEXT MONTH WITH....

More news about our Autumn Fair and some info on this year's Friends' Big Event in November.

Janette

St Augustine's Girls' Group (STAGG)

The girls group have organised a summer programme as follow- to keep the interest going !!!!! Each Wed in AUGUST

1st – walk to Overton House for a tour and then a picnic

8th- Millport cycle round the island and a wee visit to the Cathedral

15th- Helensburgh Charity shop hunt - £5. per head and they all need to find a outfit including hat for a fashion show when the club returns in late August!!!

Country Trip

The next one will be on Saturday August 4th meeting 2pm at the Linn Gardens on the shore road at Cove, followed by tea at Kilcreggan.

There is an admission charge for the gardens so you can sit by the sea instead if you prefer. See TIm if you would like to come.

These are proving to be very popular afternoons, and a lovely way to spend Saturday afternoons!

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A Timely Reminder

I would like to offer thanks on behalf of the Vestry to all of you who continuously give to the work and upkeep of St Augustine's, and to those of you who use the Envelope Scheme, monthly Standing Orders or indeed any form of regular giving. Your contributions are indeed invaluable to the running of our Church.

In these difficult times, however, when **all** of us are balancing our household budgets, our Treasurer and Vestry struggle with the day to day running of our church.

I am sure you would all agree that we would like to keep the standard we enjoy at the moment, and therefore as a Vestry we would urge you to consider your giving and maybe increase it a little if at all possible. It was reported at the Vestry that Kenny's pay cheque had bounced last month because of cash-flow problems, but that simply highlights how close to the edge our finances have become.

The cost of heating, lighting, water, quota, pension and everything else seems almost to have doubled in the past three or four years, but our giving is still much at the same level. Important repairs are needed soon, and we can't really see a way of financing these.

Weekly Offering Envelopes are always available from myself, as are Gift Aid Forms if you are a taxpayer. Envelopes are a good way to plan regular giving, simply because you can fill them even on the Sundays when you cannot be in church. If you pay tax, Gift Aid is our way of reclaiming tax from The Treasury. Nobody knows anything about your income or the amount of tax you pay. A simple signature is all that's required, and the Chancellor simply sends us a lump sum every six months.

Please give this some thought and if you would like to use an envelope, sign up for Gift Aid or set up a Standing Order please speak to Kenny or myself.

You have my assurance that your giving is **completely** confidential.

Once again thank you very much for your contributions over the past year.

Your new envelopes for the coming year are available for collection at the back of the Church from Sunday 28th July.

Margaret Hardie

I Dreamed a Dream - The Susan Boyle Story

There is a list of 50 lucky people who have tickets for this production starring Elaine C Smith on 1st October in the Kings Theatre, Glasgow.

Our coach is booked and the tickets are here so please could those of you who have still to pay or finish paying do so by 31st August. The cost is £32.00 and that includes ticket, coach and pre theatre refreshment.

There are people on the Waiting List for this event and they are anxious to know whether or not they are going to be lucky! If you can't remember what you've paid or even if your names on the list please call me on 761398. Thank you.

Janette

Dumbarton Churches Together

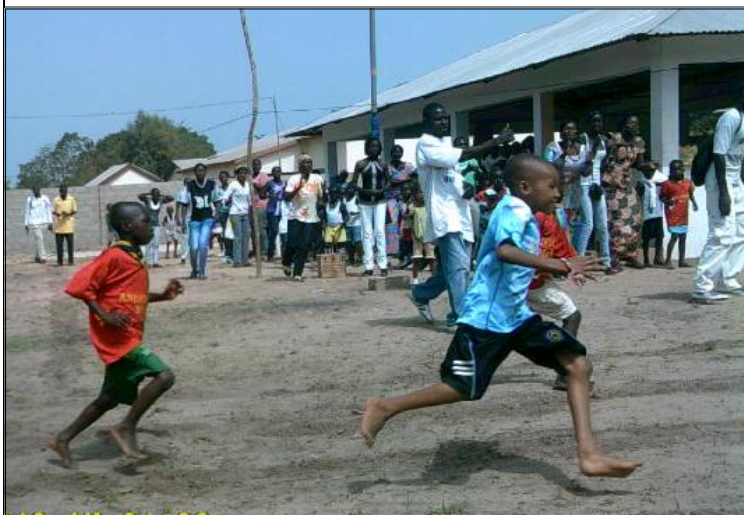
The next Prayer and Praise Evening will be hosted by the Baptist Church on Monday 8th October 2012 (time to follow).

As previously informed, the January 2013 Unity Service will take place in St. Michael's Church (date and time to follow).



"You should have a motto for your sermons, dear – Better, Clearer, Shorter."

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Alternate Lay Representative: Maggie Wallace (maggiwallace@blueyonder.co.uk)

Fabric Convener: Margaret Hardie and her Team

Project Development: Fran Walker (fran_walker@hotmail.com) Tel:- 01389 761403

Trustees: The Rector, Margaret Wallace (01389 757200), Barbara Barnes

Other Vestry Members: Barbara Barnes (barbarabarnes78@yahoo.co.uk) (01389 755984), Margaret Hardie (mghardie@blueyonder.co.uk) (01389 767983), Janette Barnes (01389 761398), (Janette.Barnes@btinternet.com), , Roberta Mailley (01389 731863), Anne Dyer, Linda Jenkinson (01389 761693), Gavin Elder, Margaret Swan, Shadrach Shame.

Regional Council Representative: Roberta Mailley (01389 731863)

Child Protection Officer: Barbara Barnes

Friends of St Augustine's: Linda Macaulay (01389 602261) (lindamacaulay@btinternet.com)

White Hats!

Margaret and Frances White are responsible for knitting lots of little white hats for our beautiful Gambian babies! Although it is warm in The Gambia at the moment, the dry season which starts in about November, will bring chilly evenings and relatively cold nights. Just the time to snuggle up under a warm blanket. Thank you Margaret and Frances!

