

By the Way



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

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Welcome To a New Beginning!



February 2014 sees us with a new beginning which will affect us all in one way or another!

We will become a Linked Charge, sharing ministry with St Mungo's Alexandria. Kenny will be Instituted as Rector of the Linked Charge on Monday 17th February in St Mungo's and Revd Alison Jones will be Licensed as the Associate Priest for both parishes in St Augustine's on Friday 21st February.

Both Services begin at 7.30pm, and it would be great if as many of you as possible could attend each service.

I think that for about half-an-hour, Kenny will cease to be Rector of St Augustine's but will emerge as Rector of a Linked Charge! Then Alison is Licensed on the Friday, and we are all set to go! Things will become a bit different, ministry-wise, but we have a great opportunity to work together with St Mungo's and share resources where we can.

On Friday, we will be welcoming folk from Alison's last parish in Dundee, and it's important that they see she is being handed over to a loving, generous and welcoming congregation!

That's in our second nature!

Parish Directory

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Hall Lets: Maggie Wallace (01389 757200)

St James the Least of All

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for visiting me in hospital – although next time, should you once again kindly bring me a bottle of orange juice, would you please empty it at home and re-fill it with gin and tonic. While I know you had dashed from taking a primary school assembly, that still did not excuse you beginning your bedside prayer by telling me to sit up straight, close my eyes and put my hands together.

To fall on ice and break a leg was careless; to do so on the afternoon before a difficult church council meeting has been judged deliberate. After falling in the road and being unable to get up, it was remarkable how many parishioners formed a circle to watch; the magazine editor even had the cheek to take photos for the cover of next month's magazine, although I did draw the line when she suggested I was dragged across the pavement to where the light was better.

As I lay there, immobile, discussion started about who should chair that evening's meeting, whose responsibility it would be to arrange cover for that Sunday's Services – someone even had the gall to wonder if I should be asked to pay for their help, since I was the one who chose to fall over.

I felt obliged to suggest it may be helpful if someone called an ambulance, which someone reluctantly did, while others sympathetically asked me if I never got mobile again, which nursing home I would like to be placed in. I was tempted to suggest whether they should hold a collection to pay for having me put down. Miss X regarded it as her Christian duty to force a cup of sweet tea on me; I am sure her solution to news of an imminent nuclear strike, meteorite collision, or the arrival of bubonic plague, would be to put the kettle on.

As it happened, one of the ambulance men lives in the village and saw it as the perfect opportunity, while they were placing me on a stretcher, to ask how he went about booking a baptism and seemed mildly disappointed that I didn't happen to have my diary to hand.

Now I have nowhere to hide for the next few weeks, people have realised they know where I am and that I can't get away from them. There have therefore been endless visits and after a brief question about how I am,

by which time it is obvious they have no interest in my answer, they launch into questions about the flower rota, who chooses the hymns in my absence and where to get Communion wine.

Should you visit again, would you please bring information about hospitals in another county – possibly even on another continent.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Christian Aid Lent Lunches

These will be on Thursdays March 13 till April 10 from 12 to 1.0 pm at Riverside Church hall. We are responsible for March 27th. Please see Tim if you can help or provide soup.

Dumbarton Castle.

The St Patrick's Day service will be on Saturday March 15th at 12 noon at the castle. See Tim if you would like to come.

Christian Aid Quiz

We didn't win this year, but there's always next year! We will have Alison in our team! Congratulations to the winners!

Remember Christmas?



Smile-Lines

Church speak

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Mass, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JESUITS: An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good basketball teams.

JUSTICE: When your children grow up and have children of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognise besides gyros and baklava.

Explaining romantic attraction

A man said to his wife one day, "I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time."

The wife responded, "Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me; God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!"

A way with words... one liners that say it all

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

The difference between men and women

Because he is a man, when he locks his keys in the car he will fiddle with a wire long after hypothermia has set in.

Because he is a man, when the car isn't running very well, he will pop the bonnet and stare at the engine as if he knows what he is looking at. If another man shows up, one of them will say to the other, "I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start."

Because he is a man, when he catches a cold, he needs someone to bring him soup and take care of him while he lies in bed and moans. Because she is a woman, she never gets as sick as he does, so for her, colds are not a problem.

Because he is a man, he can be relied upon to purchase basic groceries at the shop, like milk or bread. He cannot be expected to find exotic items like 'cumin' or 'tofu'. For all he knows, these are the same thing.

Because he is a man, when one of the appliances stops working, he will insist on taking it apart, even though he'll have to pay a repair person to put it back together.

Because he is a man, he must hold the television remote control in his hand while he watches TV. If the thing has been misplaced, he may miss a whole show looking for it (though one time he was able to survive by holding a calculator).

Because he is a man, he does not think you are both that lost, and no, he does not think you should stop and ask someone. Why would you listen to a complete stranger? How on earth could he know where you are going?

Angel

First man (proudly): 'My wife's an angel!'

Second man: 'You're lucky, mine's still alive.'

Drive

Is it true that you never really learn to swear until you teach a loved one to drive?

From Kenny

I attach this picture to my monthly offering, because it was given to me one Sunday after Easter, one year, by a 9am communicant, for singing the old fashioned Gloria at the end of a said service. It says "Choral Scholar of the Year", and I treasure it!



But it says so much more. In St Augustine's we have the 1662 Service at 9am, and at 11am things are very different with modern music, and weans, but declining numbers at present.

On the other hand, we have growing congregation at 9am. Why? I'm not sure. Plenty of people prefer the old, quiet service at 9am with no singing and little fellowship, but they are a tightly knit group!.

At St Mungo's there is a very traditional service at 11am as well as 9am. Neither are well attended.

The thing is that folk will come to what they like and not always what we put on!

I remember interviewing an older, wiser, priest, who said to me that if your church has love, and people can feel that when they come in the doors, then you will have a successful, busy parish.

I know that the 9am congregation have a love and care for each other, a small group, which attracts new members! Small congregations have a tendency to attract others, simply because the newcomer can get to know everyone very quickly.

Can we replicate that at 11am? It's much harder to do, because so many folk are busy, and we are a very busy congregation, much to our credit!

We are about to move into a new ministry which includes St Mungo's. Can we begin to learn from each other? What attracts people to come and worship? It's obviously not just a big Praise Band, or a choir with three members. Neither is it the clergy, although it might be a bit about all of them! People attract people!

It needs to be about how much we love and respect each other, watch out for each other, and affirm each others' ministries. It needs to be aware of the stranger and making sure that they are made to feel welcome.

I love the 11am service with all my heart, and the people who come, but there is always room for improvement in our welcome and in our respect for each other.

"If your church has love, and people can feel that when they come in the doors, then you will have a successful, busy parish." These words have stayed with me for they are true!

Unfortunately, we are so busy with so much, that we forget that is our "prime directive"!

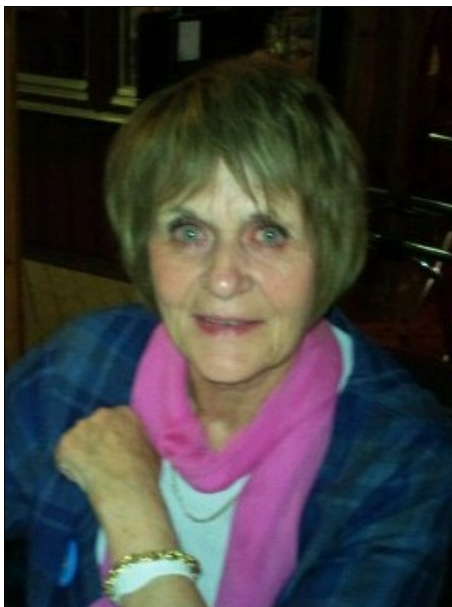
One of my regrets about the inked Charge is that I won't be around every Sunday at 11am, or 9am for that matter, and I will miss both greatly. Together, we make a wonderful congregation, and one that will grow again.

A little bit more love and an awareness of how hard it is to integrate into a new worshipping body, will help us greatly in our task.

Kenny

**Christmas Day at The Rectory
with Baby Sean trying to cope
with it all!**





Wait Till I Tell You

The Gossip Column

Janette recalls the festive season past, the Burns celebrations and the endless rain while looking forward, tentatively, to an early Spring.

‘FAIRY STRESSFULL’ AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

On Sunday 22nd December plans were in place for the Friends’ annual Christmas ‘bash’ – or so we thought! As we awaited the arrival of the party food from Iceland the news broke. Sharon was ill and would not be coming! *Jings, crivvens and help ma Boab!* Our list said we should expect a hall full of unknown weans – *‘whit’ll we dae?*

Most of us retreated behind our fairy wings or ‘fou-tered’ around in the kitchen until Maggie and Fran volunteered for frontline duty. What a relief! Soon games and stories would be organised and Act 1 of our celebrations – the Party – would be in full swing. Admittedly, there were moments of confusion as two year olds tried to play Pass the Parcel and wanted to eat the paper but we got through it!

‘Stations’ was a challenge but there was ‘*nae shovin’*, *nae fightin’* and not a wild child in sight! The noise, of course, was excruciating – and that was just Maggie and Fran! By six o’clock we had worn the weans down and some left without even a sight of Santa! Now that was another challenge!

TBag had spent all day Saturday creating a magnificent sleigh for the man of the season using the wheeled table storage device that lives in the Community Hall. It had been concealed behind a large screen in the Church in preparation for a surprise entrance. It would process down the lane into the High Street accompanied by Gavin, our elf, who would knock on the front door of the Church to amaze the children who would be waiting in candlelight for the carols. But like ‘*the best laid plans o’ mice and men*’ – it was raining! So, the Jingle Bells entrance had to be changed to the side door and a

‘*burl*’ round the Church on the sleigh. But.....our splendid sleigh would have to glide down the disabled ramp with Kevin on board waving. Would the ramp width be sufficient or would Kevin get stuck and thrown unceremoniously into the Church Christmas tree? This was the great unknown as he climbed on board, a bit like Eddie the Eagle in a very smart Santa suit.

The Friends’ Exec members by this time had had enough – their fairy frocks were back in their poly bags in case someone got too close with a lighted candle! Then a misunderstanding developed over the singing – more stress!

The Church was packed – ‘Get Connected’ had got themselves plugged into the action and brought their Mammies along for the occasion. Oh, and Santa’s entrance went off beautifully without the need for the parish first aid box! Then it was ‘Once in Royal David’s City’ and we all relaxed. This was the bit we could do well before going home to make that final assault on the shops – there were two days to go!

‘Get Connected’ had a couple of surprise items for the service. They had created a film of a modern nativity scene using the local Premier Inn as the location of the manger with the Wise Men emerging from the Church Street Chinese Restaurant – very imaginative, girls, and well done. Can’t wait for Easter if your Hollywood phase continues. We could have Jesus entering the High Street on a Westcliff bus! Oh, and they weren’t finished. Gifts for the Tree illustrated giving presents to those who really needed them, like knitted blankets to send to the Gambia.

At last it was a quick burst of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', and time to go home. Aye, trying to squeeze all manner of things 'Christmassy' into a four hour slot is not without stress!

MIDNIGHT EUCHARISTAND MORE RAIN!

A wee man from the UKIP Party seems to know about plagues and such like – so we could do with a change from rain. Maybe some frogs or a few locusts! However, in spite of the rain which had now been joined by a very blustery wind, we had a good attendance and a number of visitors. Kenny had a natural history moment in his sermon and astonished us with his knowledge of the animal kingdom. Who needs David Attenborough? We now know that Santa's sleigh would never be able to travel round the world without the female of the reindeer species doing all the work! *Jist like us humans, deer!* Something to do with the males losing their antlers in the autumn. See that internet – great so it is!

NEW YEAR FLOODS IN!

It was open house at St. Mungo's Rectory at Hogmanay and the usual revellers gathered to celebrate in the Land of the Jeelie Eaters. Yes, Dumbarton folk have called their nearest neighbours that for years. But why? One version is that the name originated in the shipyards of yesteryear. The workers would carry a 'piece' for their lunch in the pocket of their dungarees. The Valemens were poorer than their Dumbarton counterparts and could only afford 'jeelie' on their sandwiches while the Sons of the Rock sat down to spam or cheese. Today, the busy housewives would buy their '*men's pieces*' ready made from M&S!

Anyway, at the Vale Rectory there were no '*jeelie pieces*' – Linda had prepared a sumptuous selection of party food accompanied by champagne. So we welcomed the bells in style and Liam, an Irishman, was our first foot - he used to have dark hair! But at least we'll share the luck of the Irish and we'll certainly need it for all that's happening in 2014. Oh, just for the record, New Year's Day was a washout – floods, closed roads and chaos!

FOR AULD LANG SYNE.

No sooner had we recovered from the Festive Season when it was time to celebrate the Bard and our '*Scottishness*'. Somehow Rabbie got all mixed up with the referendum as politicians tried to put him in the 'Yes' camp while others claimed him for the 'No' campaign. Confused? I don't think Rabbie

would have cared as long as his lassies always gave him a yes!

Friends had their own Scottish Night on the 19th, entertained by Myra and Lennie after a delicious plate of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties with Scotch Trifle from ASDA to follow. It was great to see Jessie Reid back in action after her hip operation. She didn't make it up on to the chairs for 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns' but there's always next year!

WHAT EVERY WOMAN WANTS.

One of the most boring repetitive programmes on morning telly just now has got to be 'Wanted Down Under'. But the alternative is Jeremy Kyle so there's no contest! We are introduced to hardworking British families wanting to escape to a new life in Australia. It's usually the Mammy trying to persuade the Daddy that living in a four bedroom open plan beach bungalow in a sunny climate is a must for all of them even though a greeting Granny back home is on film telling them how much they'll be missed. And they're so critical about the houses down under – even those with ocean views and a patio for sipping wine while firing up the barbecue. But there's one feature of the Australian home that gets the mis-sus in a state of euphoria – the walk in wardrobe! Such excitement! A ten thousand mile journey to find an ideal haven to hang one's frocks. Talk about easily pleased! My wardrobe could best be described as a 'stuff in' wardrobe – even if there's no room, keep stuffin' stuff in!

POSTIES FOR THE PEOPLE ...and their favourite 'dugs'.

Thankfully it will beand stay that way for future generations. Only an alien would have been unaware of the existence of this fought over piece of land adjoining Levensgrove.

January 8th was decision day and the WDC Education Committee was to meet in the Denny Civic Theatre to accept a proposal to build a big school on it. Now, the theatre has seen much drama but none as exciting as what was about to unfold. As a prelude to the meeting a demonstration was being held outside and protesters were arriving from all directions in an effort to save Posties Park.

A local piper rallied the crowds and soon a little band from St. Auggie's joined the fray. They had been in the Community Hall putting finishing touches to their placards. TBag, a veteran of Save the Vale campaigns, carried her message on a mop pole:

*Oor wee school wis a rerr wee school,
built wi' sticks and plaster*

But movin' it tae Posties Park wull be a big disaster!

You tell them, Sandra! For the councillors were now arriving plus other members of the Education Committee one of whom was Barbara. She took her place on stage in a leading role – one which I'm sure she didn't relish.

The Rowatts arrived, some of the ladies from our Saturday Coffee and Tim who were all lucky enough to get seats in the theatre. Oh yes, it was a full house and getting noisy. Rose Harvey had to ask for silence or we'd never have had a decision. Then – a Eureka moment for the Labour Party. Councillor McBride made everyone's dreams come true by announcing that Posties Park would remain a park and another site would be sought for the school. This was quickly seconded by Councillor Murray of the SNP.

The campaigners were ecstatic and emerged from the theatre walking on air and smiling at the sight of a large rainbow over the town that had replaced the dark clouds. This had truly been a demonstration of People Power. Now we've got nothing left to moan about and the celebratory party for the supporters is in St. Aug's on 1st February. Oh yes, the councillors have been invited as well!

IS THE QUEEN SKINT?

Oh dear, our Monarch's finances appear to be in a shocking state. But isn't it always the same after Christmas? Hope she doesn't go to that Wonga.com.

It has been suggested that she 'takes in lodgers' – she's certainly got room for them. Barbara won't see her stuck though – so a wee coffee morning and tombola will be arranged. After all, we don't want her turning up at St. Aug's for an orange bag!

FEBRUARY – A MONTH FOR LOOKING AHEAD.

Well, we shall be celebrating the start of our shared ministry and the Revd Alison– our new part time Associate Minister, along with Angela, will be moving into the Dumbarton Rectory. Of course we'll be having a party on the 21st as well as one on the 17th when Kenny is installed as Rector of St. Mungo's.

Before that, February 11 is the start of international flirting week – the opportunity for the shy to do some chatting up in time for St. Valentine's Day on the 14th. I may be too busy apologising after replying to the Toast to the Lassies on the 7th.

Aye, love is in the air and the cards have been in the shops since Hogmanay.

On the 23rd Friends are organising an evening of jewellery from Edwardian to the present day and serving an elegant tea – cake stands and china cups. More Downton than Dumbarton! So that's your February diaries filled up!

BACK NEXT MONTH.....

With more community gossip and to reveal plans for Friends' Events in 2014. Watch this space.

Janette

Co-op Taxis

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Sunday Rotas

Sunday February 2nd

11am Eucharist

Readers Ghislaine Kennedy & Peter Cairns
Intercessions Tim Rhead
Chalice Margaret Hardie & Fran Walker
Sidespersons Gavin Elder & Maggie Wallace

Sunday February 9th

11am Eucharist

Readers Sharon Rowatt & Morag O'Neill
Intercessions Maggie Wallace
Chalice Peter Cairns & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons Tim Rhead & Ronnie Blaney

Sunday February 16th

11am Eucharist

Readers Janette Barnes & Liam McLarnon
Intercessions Linda Macaulay
Chalice Maggie & Tim Rhead
Sidespersons R. Mailley & Chrissie Ashman

Sunday February 23rd

11am Eucharist

Readers Tim Rhead & Evelyn O'Neill
Intercessions Margaret Hardie
Chalice David Rowatt & Peter Cairns
Sidespersons Liam McLarnon & Margaret Swan

FLOWER ROTA

Wk ending 1st Feb Irene Telford & M Hardie

" 8th " Linda Macaulay

" 15th " Barbara Barnes

" 22nd " Maggie W & Moira McGown

There are many opportunities to get involved in reading, intercessing, flower arranging, and all sorts of other things that are ongoing. Sometimes, regular folk need a break, or don't want to do things so often. We are human beings, and we like to be asked, but often a wee word in Kenny's ear is all that's needed! Take a more active part if you can. Lots of things need done and it's often the precious few who do it!

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House Communions:

We are not often psychic, and sometimes need help with those who would wish to receive Holy Communion at home or when they are taken into hospital.

Now that Alison is arriving, and Peter Cairns has a License to do this with Tim Rhead, we can manage at least monthly Communions.

Some folk we know about, often others slip through the net.

Help us, by letting us know if you would appreciate this ministry. It doesn't mean you are dying, but simply can't get to church!

We will be glad to minister in this way! Although it may not always be a priest, Jesus, Himself will come to your home in the form of consecrated bread and wine.

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See Nativity Plays... see problems!

However, Sean was oor Baby of the Year!

The Get Connected Girls' Group put on an excellent video of Mary being ejected from the Premier Inn, and the Christmas Story was told in so many ways.

Well done everyone, and next year we may get Neve to say "Yes!"

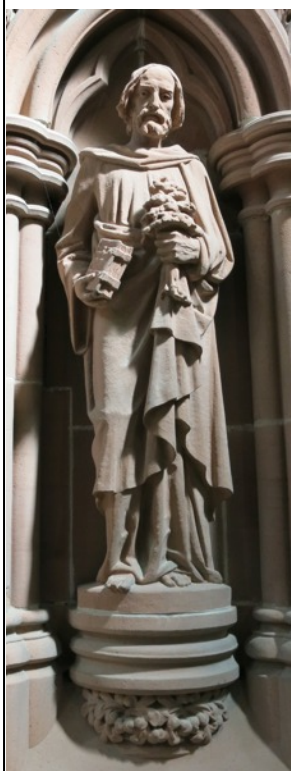
She's working on it!



Sunday and Thursday view

This month it's back to the Evangelists and to Saint Luke (a.k.a. Lucas), the guy just to the right of Christ the King. He is holding a clasped book and clutching a bunch of medicinal herbs to signify his role as a physician.

It is thought that his medical training could have been in Tarsus where he may have first met Saul/Paul. Subsequently Luke met up with Paul again in Troas and became a loyal disciple of the apostle. Together they travelled to Europe, Luke staying with Paul (and looking after him) right to the end of his life. After Paul's death little is known about Luke's life.



Luke wrote to Theophilus "I decided, after investigating everything carefully from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you...so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught" in the introduction to his Gospel. Originally this gospel was combined with the book of Acts which was also written by Saint Luke. He put great emphasis on dates and details to present an accurate account of the life of Christ and subsequent events.

Throughout his Gospel Luke highlights Jesus' relationships with people, His compassion and care.

Luke also has regard for the dignity of women and shows concern for the poor and for social justice.

Coming from Antioch, capital of Syria, it is probable that Luke was a gentile. It is not surprising that he wanted the door of God's kingdom to be open to all, seeing hope in God's mercy for everyone - Luke shows Jesus not as the Jewish Messiah but as the world's saviour and Lord.

Saint Luke wrote from the perspective of a gentile, a physician and as the first historian of the early church. He accomplished all this whilst staying out of the spotlight. How much can we achieve without others noticing?

Lent Group:

This will take place on every Thursday from Ash Wednesday in St Augustine's Hall from 7.30pm.

There will be an alternative Group meeting at St mungo's looking at the joint study on Food, with Christian Aid. Look out for details.

Ash Wednesday

This is on the 5th March and there will be services in both churches on this day. Look out for details!



Drumchapel sets into their new home with the URC



**St Augustine's in
Remembrance Style!**

A Gambian Experience

It would be easy to fill up this space with photos of Gambian children who are extremely happy that Dumbarton folk, and others take an interest in their education and improvement. Actually, the school is doing well, getting gold stars, and is possibly the best in Serrekunda!

This is only possible with your support, and generous help.. We visited a school in January which had an excellent curriculum, fantastic teachers, and a level of discipline which we have found in few, if any , Gambian schools.

We have created a Centre of Excellence, which by your do donations, we have been able to create.

Of course, they always want more, and the cost of living in The Gambia has risen to 20%. We need more help to just keeping going!

Maybe you can help by taking by a Standing Order, or maybe increasing your donation a little?

A big update can be obtained by Linda, who has done a document which includes video! Ask her for a copy on

lindaymac@sky.com



All we can ask is that you continue to support us and bring education to this little part of The Gambia.