

By the Way



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

Issue No 12 March 2014 £1

Alison is Licensed!



Parish Directory

St Augustine's, 2a High Street, Dumbarton G82 1LL 01389 734514 (staugustinessec@btinternet.com)

Rector:- Revd Kenneth Macaulay
St Mungo's Rectory, Queen St,
Alexandria G83 0AS (frkenny@sky.com)
Tel: 01389 513365 Mobile: 07734 187250

Associate Priest:- Revd Alison Jones
54 Helenslee Cres, Dumbarton G82 4HS
Tel: 07814 789817

Treasurer: David Rowatt (dsrowatt@blueyonder.co.uk) Tel :- 01389 732341

Secretary to the Vestry: Janette Barnes (Janette.Barnes@btinternet.com) (01389 761398)

Lay Representative: Tim Rhead (trhead@hotmail.com) (01389 761676)

Alternate Lay Representative: Peter Cairns ((01389 602794) (peter.kotcse@hotmail.com)

Fabric Convener: Margaret Hardie, Fran Walker and their Team

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

Trustees: The Rector,
Margaret Wallace (01389 757200),
Barbara Barnes (barbarabarnes78@gmail.com) (01389 755984)

Other Vestry Members:

MargaretHardie (mghardie@blueyonder.co.uk) (01389 767983),
Roberta Mailley (01389 731863),
Anne Dyer, (Anne@alternativeswd.org)
Linda Jenkinson (lindajenkinson@blueyonder.co.uk) (01389 761693),
Gavin Elder, (gavin@alternativeswd.org) (01389 768657)
Margaret Swan, (margaretswan@blueyonder.co.uk) (01389 764742)
Liam McLarnon (liamhome82@sky.com) (07724 809271)

Regional Council Representative: Roberta Mailley

Child Protection Officer: Barbara Barnes

Friends of St Augustine's: Linda Macaulay (01389 513365) (lindaymac@sky.com)

Music Art Drama (MAD): Fran Walker

Mission Action Planning Group:

The Rector
Gavin Elder
Anne Dyer
Peter Cairns (01389 602794) (peter.kotcse@hotmail.com)
Morag O'Neill (morag.oneill@blueyonder.co.uk) (01389 763710)
Fran Walker
Liam McLarnon

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie

Flowers: Maggie Wallace

Hall Lets: Maggie Wallace (01389 757200)

St James the Least of All

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Visits from your parishioners are always welcome. I live in the hope that they may find 'Onward Christian Soldiers' more theologically stimulating than their usual diet of 'Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam' – but I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

Pews are meant to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at 11am, since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring sub-zero temperatures and damp, then sainthood clearly beckons.

Your people may be used to lolling in upholstered chairs in tropical temperatures, but I am sure such comfort places their souls in grave peril.

Our pews were built five hundred years ago when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter and so could accommodate themselves on them perfectly adequately.

The fact that a twenty-first century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near ears at least helps to keep minds focussed – apart for Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout Mattins every Sunday.

I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible – although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church, as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about quite as easily during the hymns.

While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing "let us pray" from the clouds of dust sent up

from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria's Accession.

I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated, with the door firmly shut, then any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit. Medieval carpenters were clearly forward thinking people. Admittedly, box pew doors do tend to stick and few manage to look dignified while they wait for step ladders to be brought before they can climb out – although I do tell them that the extra hour gives plenty of time for silent prayer while the rest of us make our way home for lunch.

If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation's religious zeal would soar.

Your loving uncle,



Smile-Lines

What a mess

Boy to school chaplain: Christianity has been in the world for 2000 years and look at the state of it.

Chaplain: Water has been in the world for longer than that, and look at the state of your neck!

Carry on

The vicar was making an appeal for more help with the Sunday School: "At the moment I'm just carrying on with a couple of single ladies!"

Look at it this way....

A cashew is a peanut with back trouble.

There must be something to acupuncture - after all, you never see any sick hedgehogs.

A gesticulation is any movement made by a foreigner.

The English winter - ends in July. Recommences in August.

Breakdown

Yesterday I broke down on the M1. One of those emergency trucks charged me £200 to pull me off. I think it was the abominable towman!

Labouring

Curate: I can always tell when I am going to give birth to an idea for a sermon. My writer's cramps start coming two minutes apart.

Some people have a keen sense of rumour.

Some people's vocabulary is small, but the turnover is terrific.

'Ecclesiastic' is material used to fasten a clergyman's robes.

The Bible according to children

Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).

~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.

~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on

Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.

~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Adam and Eve's true nationality

A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter," the Russian pointed out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."

GO!

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

How high?

Winging his way to America from Ireland, Father O'Leary asked a stewardess, "How high is this plane, Miss?" The stewardess replied, "About thirty-two thousand feet, Father." The Father's jaw dropped in amazement. "Who'd have believed it? And could ye tell me how wide it is?"

Present

For Father Nicholas's 60th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. Father Nicholas was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

From Kenny

Well, that's us all done and dusted! St Mungo's have a new Rector, at last, (ie me!), and both parishes have a new priest in their midst in the form of Alison! Unfortunately, as St Augustine's Vestry were quick to point out, that wasn't the whole deal, because we were meant to have a Non-Stipendiary Curate working with us to share the load a bit, and help us into the new realms of what it was like having a Linked Charge. Unfortunately, that was not to be!

The workload before Alison came was more than I could bear, at times, and that was even with the help of sundry clergy who looked after St Mungo's on Sunday for me. The symptoms that show most are things like this March Edition of the Magazine being very late, and the fact that stress makes me grumpy!

Of course, you all know about grumpy, and it wasn't until recently that I realised how grumpy I had become! For that I apologise! I hate being referred to as the Revd I.M. Jolly, but I recognise that I was tending towards earning the title!

Recently, between the two parishes, we have had two excellent services, with my Installation at St Mungo's and Alison's Licensing in St Augustine's at the end of February.

However, Alison does not bring with her any magic wands! The workload for both of us is immense, and Alison is part-time. We must beware of expecting too much from a priest on half-stipend, and although Alison is prepared to be flexible when needed, she will not be allowed to become a full-time worker on half wages. I can't stress this enough!

What was envisaged was a team of three priests, and a growing number of Lay People who were prepared to join the Ministry Team. At the moment, we really only have Tim as our Pastoral Assistant, and nobody from St Mungo's in any official capacity.

Peter Cairns has been growing into this role for the past year, and was even helping out with the occasional sermon, but, sadly, it looks like Peter and Henriett will be moving back to Hungary in the summer and we are about to lose two excellent and gifted disciples from our

wee congregation. We may also be losing another gifted and vital family due to a geographical move and that will lay even more on clergy shoulders.

St Mungo's was linked with us for a purpose! After a two year vacancy, numbers had dwindled and the congregation were getting older. The parish needs to be injected with a great load of enthusiasm and hope for the future, and it is envisaged that we can do that with them.

However, we need a strong Lay team in St Augustine's to help things continue to grow and develop here, quite apart from visitation ministries to the sick and housebound. The Mission Action Planning Group are fantastic, and they keep driving us on. There are a whole host of ministries going on, too, from Foodshare to "Get Connected", Friends, soups, coffees, counselling, study groups and much more. Sometimes I think that nearly all of us are committed to the full in one way or another.

However, there is another ministry which we could maybe develop which leans more heavily on the pastoral side, and engages principally with St Augustine's members. It is possibly a ministry that you feel "called" to do, and requires a bit of experience, a bit of spare time during the day, and the ability to be able to listen and be sensitive to people's needs.

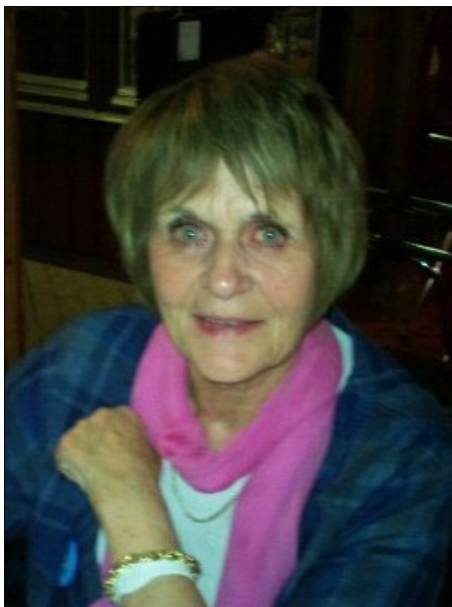
There is a bit of training that would be involved, not difficult, and most of it just common sense, and that can be provided at a time that suits you.

Perhaps this is something that you might feel called to, especially if shifting chairs and tables is something you can no longer do! May I ask you to think and pray about this during Lent, and perhaps ask God if this is what you are being called to?

Both Alison and I would be willing to talk this through with you, and it may mean only visiting one person every fortnight or every month, rather than being a huge commitment on your part?

God has given us a huge ministry, now I expect God to give us the labourers we need!

Kenny



Wait Till I Tell You

The Gossip Column

Janette looks back on an eventful February when our record breaking dreich and dreary weather continued to scunner even those with the most positive of dispositions. Then onwards to the coming of Spring when, happily, March 'came in like a lamb!'

THE SAD S.A.D WINTER WEATHER.

It wasn't just the atrociously boring weather – permanently cloudy skies dispensing every conceivable variety of rain from dreary drizzle to depressing downpours and ghastly gales, it was the daily headlines ensuring that we were kept updated on multiple weather stories from Stornoway to Somerset. It seemed to be that rain was the only thing that was happening in the world and we'd all had enough – nobody uttered 'terrible day' any more. People just drew their anorak hoods more tightly round their dripping chins and spent millions on Poundland umbrellas! And then along came March.....and suddenly it was Spring!

EDWARDIAN SPLENDOUR AT FEBRUARY FRIENDS' NIGHT.

On 23rd February, Lindsay Rodgers came along to transport us back to pre-First World War days with a stunning display of things for which we no longer have a use. Contents of a lady's handbag in these days were completely different from those of 21st century woman. And what an effort was made to keep Madame not only beautiful, but modest. There were umpteen little dauds of lace to cover things too revealing, instruments to protect her gloves from stretching in the rain though for me the most demonic were the curling tongs which heated with a naked flame! And the jewellery was beautiful – so full of character. The little lockets with memories of the war were enchanting and told their own stories. The Christening Robes for wealthy babies were impeccably preserved and much more suitable than the baby kilts that modern Mothers encase their little boys in today.

But my favourite artefact bordered on the macabre – I loved the coffin bottles, in morbidly coloured glass

engraved with warning words should the contents be poisonous. Jings, there must have been a lot of poisoning around in these days. It would have been so easy to dispose of one's man!! There was a bonnet or Edwardian hat contest which was won, of course, by Roberta – Maggie's borrowing the model for her forthcoming May wedding and is now seeking a matching frock! The tea in china cups and little cakes in stands added to the elegance of the evening although some of the 'ladies' got stuck into 2014 sized 'left overs' from the party on the 21st.

A WEE NIGHT AT THE VALE.

Oh yes, we all went off to St. Mungo's on 17th February for Kenny's installation as Rector there. We had a good turnout but then it was a Monday night when there's not much happening in Dumbarton. Deputy Provost John Millar welcomed my little group to the Vale and TBag was 'ferr taken on' with his magnificent chain of office. She pursued him at the buffet on council plans for the High Street – he sorted her out with patience and a great sense of humour. But his official photo on the WDC website shows him as seriously ministerial. This guy really ought to take a 'selfie' –after all, everyone else is doing it!

The service was conducted with dignity and at a speed suitable for constitution reading. Nevertheless, the Dumbarton contingent managed to sit quietly and refrain from interrupting for longer than their comfort zone would have preferred. And the Church was packed enough to allow a modicum of confusion and comment when heading to the altar through the barrier of an augmented choir. It all added to the atmosphere. We had heard that the après Eucharist buffet was to consist of jeelie pieces but it was only a rumour and the mouth - watering spread gave the St.

Auggie's folk cause to think about their party fare which was scheduled for Friday 21st and St. Mungo's would then be the guests.

PLEASE RELEASE ME!

So, on Friday 21st February it was our turn for a big long service, a Bishop's visit, a rehearsed Music Group and a party to welcome Alison to Dumbarton. But there's always an incident! Surprises are never far from our doors no matter how hard we try to impress our visitors, some from as far away as Dundee, the city of Discovery, probably better known here as the land of the Broons and Oor Wullie!

Oh, dear, what a calamity
Folks frae Dundee got locked in the lavat'ry
Wid they be there till Coffee on Saturday?
Naebody kent they were there!

They'd come tae a party for Alison's partin'
The Bishop wis ready – the prayers they were
startin'
But noo they'll no' see very much o' Dumbarton
Naebody kent they were there!

The door had been locked up by Linda Macaulay
Leavin' it open she thought wid be folly
The visitors thought we were right aff oor trolley
Fur naebody kent they were there!

When Cheryl came late she could see the folk's
panic
Chappin' on windaes- their cries became manic
This mob frae St. Auggie's are really satanic
Fur naebody kens we're in here!

She ran intae Church wi' pleas fur their freedom
The Vestry as usual took ages tae heed them
Oh, who has a key but does not really need one?
They made it wi' seconds tae spare!

Yes, happily our visitors were released in time for the service and the party. Welcome to St. Aug's, Alison – where the unexpected is **always** to be expected! Just ask the Bishop!

THE MAD MARCH HARES FACE STIFF COMPETITION!

Yes, we're in March – the month when the male hares go mad competing with each other and behaving in a thoroughly outrageous manner. This March the creatures are being upstaged by the politicians, the forecasters of doom, the financiers, and the men in suits who insist that their views on the forthcoming referendum are the right ones! Will it never end?

Did this happen in 1707 when the parliaments got together for better or for worse? And we've still another six months in which to make up our minds. It's enough to drive us all mad!

But March sneaked quietly into St. Aug's with the appearance of giant 'Triffidills' on the tables at soup and coffee times, courtesy of 'Get Connected'. Oh they were colourful but they certainly inhibited conversation at our ten 'wumman' tables as we tried to gossip round their huge yellow trumpets. Next week the group will notice that it's St. Patrick's Day and who knows what mayhem will be inflicted – remember last March? The Ides of March' was a dawdle compared to their Irish shenanigans! And remember March this year is all about Lent – challenges, sacrifices and Church! What do you mean '*you canny wait!*'

BACK TO THE '60s AND 70s.

'It's jist a wee concert in aid of St. Aug's called 'A Blast from the Past' enthused Ghislaine about a month ago when she urged folks to help with posters, tickets and refreshments. And how time flies – the event is almost upon us as we search for items of clothing and big hair from the idyllic days of our youth.

Memories returned about how Dumbarton was in these days – no abandoned fortress style town centre – just an accessible square with functioning shops and, wait for it, a restaurant. This was the era when we began to go out for meals and Dumbarton enjoyed a Stakis Steakhouse up at the Theatre end which was ideal for pre-production nosh ups! It was called The Galley and I remember many laughs as we ventured into the world of sophisticated night-life.

One night a few of us assembled for medium rare sirloins and a bottle of red wine. The wine we would choose would be dependent on price and would have to be easy to pronounce with an attractive name.

Now like all Stakis establishments, there were real waitresses or at least wee Dumbarton wifies dressed up as waitresses! And so we ordered and in a flash the Brucehill sommelier appeared at our side to open the bottle with a flourish and a suitable instrument. She poured a little plonk into my dining companion's glass and indicated that she should taste the selected brew. *Nae expense spared on training in these posh eating establishments!* But.....and it was a big but.....our selected vino was not as delicious as we had anticipated. '*Ugh....it's not very nice*' was our taster's honest reply to which the

waitress immediately retorted 'You 'se'll know no' tae huv' it again, well!' and went off to collect a generous tip at a neighbouring table. We tried a few more sips of the 'Pis de Chat' before abandoning it for coca cola. Aye, there were many great wee nights in such places, dressed in our velvet jackets, flares, maxi dresses or hot pants, for those with the leg for them!

So on March 28th we are giving you the opportunity to relive your youth at 'A Blast from the Past' with Ghislaine, Ricky and their Friends. Of course you must dress accordingly or you'll feel left out. The joint will be jumping so don't miss out on a ticket – only £5 from Ghislaine or the Church office.

And there's more.....as you are well aware, our 2014 Town Centre lacks the facilities for sophisticated '60s style dining. Well, Friends are having a bash and for a reasonable cost will serve a meal to remember. This means you can dress in your gear, catch an earlier bus and enjoy a chicken in the basket or some other delicacies of the period – all served with a well-known wines. And who remembers the puddings – Rum Baba and Black Forest Gateau. The menus are being planned as you read this and soon full details will appear on the oracle or the Community Hall noticeboard. Yes, you'll be spoiled for choice in St Aug's sixties style – a concert in the Church with refreshments for a fiver or really push the boat out and preface your evening with a meal in the Hall. The meal will be charged separately.

Don't miss it – a wee interlude in your Lenten journey – but all in aid of the Church.

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE.

Before you know it April will be upon us with all the usual celebrations. But following these activities, Friends will be organising 'A Night at the Theatre' on April 30th to see the DPT Production of 'Arsenic and Old Lace'. This 1940's comedy by Joseph Kesselring has a hilarious plot involving two murdering old aunties and a host of other unlikely characters – it is a perfect pre summer pick me up.

As is usual with Friends' Theatre Nights, a buffet tea will be served in the Community Hall with no added arsenic! The full package of ticket plus buffet will be priced at £9 (£8.00 with Friends' discount). So put this event in your diaries and watch the Hall noticeboard for further information.

AND TALKING OF MURDER.....

Plans are in hand for this year's Friends' Murder Mystery on 16th May. This event involves a high class buffet – poached salmon, prawns, cold cuts and crisp new season salads, with an exciting starter to get the corpse revealed and a delicious pudding with which to mull over your solutions. Coffee, mints and a glass of wine are all included in the cost. Again watch out for full details, get your detective hats on and prepare for a fun filled evening.

BACK NEXT MONTH....

By then we should have information about a one way system in the High Street – at the moment we don't know if we're coming or going! But who cares – remember it's all happening at St. Aug's and at the best possible prices.

And all will be revealed in 'By the Way' – don't miss your copy.

Janette

ST. AUGGIE'S NEEDS A CHAMPION - FOR FAIRTRADE.

The local Fairtrade Group is looking for someone to represent St. Augustine's. This is your chance to get involved in this very important work. Names of volunteers, in the first instance, should be given to Janette or Kenny. Thank you.

STOP PRESS!!!

Coming to a venue near you on Friday 16th May.....'THE PRIDE AND THE PAGEANT' a St. Auggie's Murder Mystery. Full details available soon.

Co-op Taxis

West Dunbartonshire Taxi Drivers Co-operative

76 Main St, Alexandria

These drivers support St Augustine's and we need to use them

01389 753376



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As part of our Mission Action Plan for 2014 we decided to look at ways in which we can learn to understand the problems of social deprivation, poverty and issues of homelessness or lack of food suffered by many around the world.

With this in mind, we've developed the Food For Thought Challenges. You are invited to take part in any or all of these challenges during Lent.

Count Your Blessings Challenge

The charity, Action for Children, have come up with a series of challenges to take you right through Lent. All of these are simple and tend to involve setting aside a small donation to be given to charity at the end of Lent. For example "Day 1 – Traditionally pancakes were made on Shrove Tuesday to use up foods that would be eaten during Lent. Donate 5p for every pancake you and your family made or ate yesterday."

Eat For £1 a Day for 5 Days Challenge

Living on less than £1 per day for food and drink is not easy but it is possible. Across the globe 1.4 billion people do it every day for everything – food, drink, health care, education,

travel. This idea challenges you to try and eat for £1 per day for 5 days – so £5 per person in the house. Then you donate the difference between this and the normal amount you would spend on food for 5 days to charity. The pack that we've downloaded includes suggestions for how to spend the money and sets of recipe ideas.

Pay for Food You Throw Away Challenge

How many of us buy a load of food and then end up throwing it away because we haven't used it within the sell by date? Or buy a takeaway and only eat about half of it because it was far too much to begin with? This challenge is simply about looking at the monetary value of the food you end up throwing in the bin and donating that money to charity. So, for instance, if you bought the M+S Dine in for Two for a Tenner meal option but only ate half and chucked the rest away you'd set aside a donation of £5.

For those who decide to take up one of the challenges, please bring in the money you've collected at some point during Holy Week and give it to a member of the MAP group. We'll count the money and discuss with the Vestry which charity or charities the money should go to.

So go on, we're challenging you. Will you take up The Food For Thought Challenge?

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Please Support this Business!

Tina's Trials!

A wee walk along the beach to blow away the cobwebs seemed like a good idea at the time. We reckoned, if we timed it right, we might just manage an hour or so between the showers (cunningly disguised as torrential deluges).



Sneaking out of the caravan, we stayed below the radar of the clouds in angry consultation on the hills to the east. Amazingly we made it to the end of the road without minor concussion from a raindrop (it has happened before, trust me). The loch was like glass, offering us a perfect reflection of the snow-dusted hills. A couple of boats sat unusually still on the water, the rest crammed colourfully into the safety of the marina a few hundred metres down the road.

The beach, normally busy with dog walkers and Saturday morning hikers, was unnaturally quiet. We made our way across the little bridge which crosses the river – and entered an alien land. The familiar landscape which has surrounded our second home over the years had been transformed into something resembling The Hobbit meets Star Wars meets Mad Max. Long trails of sinister looking seaweed hung menacingly from the branches of trees – yes, trees – and crept ominously over the golf course, giving the impression of an extra-terrestrial bacterial invasion.

The moment we took our first steps onto the beach we realised that, while the rain had miraculously stayed off, nature had still cocked her snout at us in the most spectacular way. The traditional sand and pebbles were undoubtedly still there – but they were hidden under about a foot of the most spectacular debris thrown up by the recent storms. We could have equipped our house with what we passed by. Instead we ploughed, with sinking hearts and feet, our way to the safety of the tarmac on the other side, two ruined pairs of trainers the only victims. As we returned – by the road – half an hour later, workmen had already begun to remove the evidence of alien intervention with a large fork lift truck, covering it over with fresh earth.

If only it were as easy to get rid of the muck thrown up by the storms of life; the debris that comes when we least want or expect it; that appears when everything seems calm and peaceful. We can cover it up, for sure, but it still lurks there, festering, and undermining everything else, preventing us from seeing clearly.

But remember, we don't need to hide it. For the Christ who was born in a dirty stable, wandered dusty roads and died a foul death in a tree, comes walking across it, sinking down into it beside us, and hauling us out to enjoy a fresh view.

Tina

Restoration of Worship at Dumbarton Castle:

The next ecumenical service at Dumbarton Castle will celebrate St Patrick on Sat. March 15th at 12 noon. Numbers are limited to 5 per church although more will be available for those who want them. Please let Tim know if you would like to attend or/and be a steward. Please note that there are 70 steps to the service site. Refreshments should be available in the castle after the service.

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.

Lent Groups

St Augustine's Lent Groups continue on Thursday evenings at 7pm, and the material we have this year is excellent. You can dip in or out of sessions as every week is stand alone!

St Mungo's Lent Group is on Tuesdays at 7pm and includes a small meal at The Rectory. There may be one or two places available. Please check with Linda before coming to this as there are only a small amount of places available.

If you have a wee box or tin for Lent, please save up your money for the Bishop's Lent Appeal, Yorkhill Childrens' Trust, and hand it in on Easter Day.

The MAP Group have given you suggestions for Lent, and they are to be found on the table at the back of the church. (See also the article elsewhere in this magazine!)

Lent is not just about giving something up, but also a time for taking things on board. Before you decide what you are doing, you can ask yourself a question, "Is my doing this going to help me feel closer to God, or help me know God better?" If the answer is "No", then choose something else, but this year, make Lent count for you!

It all makes for a happier Easter!

Sunday Rotas

Sunday March 2nd

11am Eucharist

Readers Barbara Barnes & Maggie Wallace

Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill

Chalice Margaret Hardie & Sharon Rowatt

Sidespersons Linda Jenkinson & David Ansell

Sunday March 9th

11am Eucharist

Readers Ghislaine Kennedy & Gavin Elder

Intercessions David Rowatt

Chalice Maggie Wallace & Janette Barnes

Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley

Sunday March 16th

11am Eucharist

Readers Linda Macaulay & Margaret Hardie

Intercessions Fran Walker

Chalice Peter Cairns & Tim Rhead

Sidespersons Maggie Wallace & Gavin Elder

Sunday March 23rd

11am Eucharist

Readers Janette Barnes & Peter Cairns

Intercessions Margot Rhead

Chalice David Rowatt & Fran Walker

Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Tim Rhead

Sunday March 30th

11am Eucharist

Readers Fran Walker & Margot Rhead

Intercessions Sharon Rowatt

Chalice Margaret Hardie & Maggie Wallace

Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Liam McLarnon

FLOWER ROTA

There are no flowers in church during Lent

There are many opportunities to get involved in reading, intercessing, flower arranging, and all soerts 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!

Gowns & Crowns

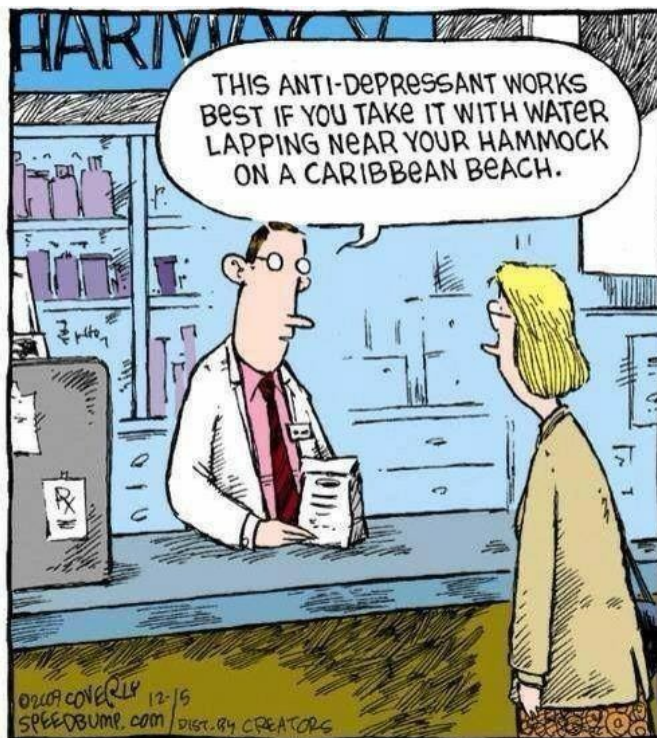
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The Gambia - Extra Extra!

DUMBARTON LONDON CORNER NURSERY SCHOOL QUARTERLY REPORT

3RD MARCH 2014

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Board of Directors Dumbarton Gambia Education Association.

I seized this opportunity to give you a brief account on the activities of Dumbarton London Corner Nursery. The school has been trending on fine. Since September 2013 the school has recruited over thirty pupils for Nursery One and accommodates some few transfers from sister Nursery Schools within the catchment area.

Furthermore, during the Christmas holidays the play ground was renovated to prevent water logging during the rainy season and levelled for the safety of the children during play.

During the Chairman's last visit he held discussions with the staff as to how to improve and elevate standards, and accelerate performances in the school. The Chairman disbursed some funds for the purchase of recreational facilities for the school to be used by the children ranging from Swings, See-Saws, footballs, tennis balls, basket balls, volley balls, drums and castanets, football jerseys/vests, and puzzles just to name a few, in addition to the preparation of an even better nutritious meal cooked and served through from Monday to Friday all funded by Dumbarton Gambia Education Association (D.G.E.A.) at no cost to the parents.

On the 26th of February a Parent Teacher's meeting was organized to keep them abreast of the latest developments taking place in the school as seeing is believing.

Other issues were also put on the table for discussion such as; absents and Late coming to school, cleanliness of body and uniform, parents to visit

school to discuss the progress of their children, work done on the play ground and the provision of play materials for kids which were displayed for them to see.

They thanked and appreciate the efforts of the sponsors for the projects and programmes in the school and therefore renewed their promise to work hand in glove with the D.G.E.A and the school in other to realize the aims and aspirations of the Association.

In conclusion, I once again seized this opportunity on behalf of the children, staff and the parents to thank Dumbarton Gambia Education Association (D.G.E.A.) for creating a conducive and stimulating environment, which is aged, and developmentally appropriate to meet the needs of these less privileged children in the community of London Corner and its immediate surroundings.

Attached are pictures of parents during the parent's teachers meeting.

Yours faithfully

Sulayman Saidy

(Headmaster)



Fran Walker has just returned from The Gambia, and will give us another update soon, but we gave Sulayman a large grant for play equipment which came from another parish for this purpose. I suggested he use it in chunks over the next year, but it looks like he's used it all up at once! K

Gambian Extra! The Play Materials!



Gambian Extra - The Play Materials!



“Other Stuff”



At the Jewellery Evening, there was really no competition as far as Victorian Hats were concerned, and Roberta and Janette won the prizes! If you want to get ahead.....

Meanwhile, a young couple sent me their wedding photo to show how marvellous and romantic a December wedding can be in St Augustine's!

God's Revelation – Our Core Beliefs!

- I have been made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1)
- I have sinned but have been redeemed (Gen 3 and 2Cor 5:17)
- I am precious in God's sight (Isaiah 43:4)
- I have been made little less than a god and crowned with glory and beauty. (Psalm 8:6)
- I am reborn of water and the Holy Spirit (John 3:6)
- My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 6:19)
- I am God's work of art (Ephesians 2:10)
- I am part of the Body of Christ (1Cor 12:27)



FRIENDS OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S

**On Friday 28th March at 5.30pm
in the Community Hall**

'THE SIXTIES REVISITED'

*BASKET MEALS WITH BLACK FOREST
GATEAU & RUM BABAS TO FOLLOW*

– JUST AS YOU REMEMBER!

SERVED WITH A GLASS OF WINE

/

Cost £6.00 (£5.00 with Friends' Discount)

**Continue the experience with a ticket for
'A Blast from the Past' in the Church at 7.30pm
– cost £5.00 from Ghislaine.**

All welcome.

The Sixties Revisited Meal (£6, £5 for Friends)

***Please put your name on the list and look out your flares,
hot pants and big hair.***