

# By the Way



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

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## **Girls' Group Get Blankets to The Gambia**



# Parish Directory

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# St James the Least of All

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

*My dear Nephew Darren*

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent light-bulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So at your last visit to our Church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins may be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups.

The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion.

One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touching-

ly mentioned that it wouldn't give the Rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

*Your loving uncle,*

*Eustace*

## Cover Story

The Get Connected Girls' Group had been knitting squares to make into blankets for The Gambia. Fran and Faye took them to Serrekunda Maternity Clinic where they will be the first gift to be received by some of the babies there.

The clinic are always short of basics like this and the staff were delighted by the gift!

Frances White has also been knitting, and this wee person is very grateful too!





## Smile-Lines

### Baby

A small boy wanted a baby brother, so his father suggested he pray every night for one. The boy began to pray earnestly, night after night. When nothing happened, he gave up. After a few months his dad said they were going to see mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. "Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?" his dad asked. The little boy thought for a moment and replied: "It is a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

### Post

The evangelist Billy Graham tells of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him and said: "If you'll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy looked surprised, and finally stammered: "But you don't even know your way to the post office."

### Horse

A minister trained his horse to go when he said: 'Praise the Lord', and to stop when he said; 'Amen'. One day he was out for a gallop when he saw a deep gorge ahead. He kept shouting 'Amen!', and finally the horse stopped. The minister was so relieved that he looked up to heaven and said a heartfelt: "Praise the Lord!"

### Drive

Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly.

### Patch

This is not my bald patch; it's a solar panel for brain power.

### Italian pasta diet that really works

You walka pasta da bakery  
You walka pasta da sweet shop

You walka pasta da ice cream shop  
You walk pasta da table and fridge  
You gonna lose weight!

### Quiet

A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: "If you don't be quiet, the minister is going to lose his place, and he will have to start *all over again*." It worked!

### Tears

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his anxious mother, he replied; "This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"

### Timber

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the timberyard where he worked. He told the priest he had taken enough to build his son's house, a cottage for his daughter, and a garden house for his wife. "This is very serious," said the priest. I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No Father, I haven't," admitted the man. "But if you can get me some plans, I'll get the timber."

### Noise

One night, a minister stumbled into the police stations with a black eye. He explained he had heard a noise in his churchyard and gone to investigate. The next thing he knew, he'd been hit in the eye and knocked out cold. An officer was sent to investigate and he returned some time later, also with a black eye. "Did you get hit by the same person?" his Inspector asked him. "No," he said. "But I stepped on the same rake."

### Cow

What do you get if you cross a cow with a crystal ball?  
A message from the udder side.

## From Kenny

It's a new situation for me, having two parishes! I've never had two parishes before, and even in the East End Team in Glasgow, I was Priest-in-Charge of Shettleston and rarely set foot in Baillieston where the Rector lived and exercised his ministry.



Coming to write a letter for the Parish Magazine for April, I find myself with the recurring dilemma. Do I write two letters or only one to cover both Charges? I suppose I could write something woolly or generalised, but that doesn't exactly speak to the situation of either St Augustine's or St Mungo's, and I like to write about stuff that's ongoing, or on a particular subject which is being discussed by congregational members.

We have a Linked Charge, and not a Joint Charge. They are very different animals! In a Linked Charge there are two separate Vestries, two sets of accounts, two MAPs, two of everything in fact, and the only thing that is really shared is ministry. We have two priests, but we share them, and often that makes ministry a bit more difficult for those who minister! We have two separate websites and two separate magazines, and there's the rub!

In this sort of situation, I find we are trying to do everything twice! Publishing one magazine for the end of the month is often pressure enough!

One of the older members of St Mungo's was saying just the other day that the Linked Charge was the best thing that had happened for St Mungo's for a long time, and it is my hope that both congregations will feel the same way as the months and years roll by. Both congregations have riches and treasures to share. I don't mean financial riches and treasures, but lots of other things like our worship and traditions, our talents and energies, our contacts and lay ministries.

However, if we are to get the best out of our Linked Charge, it will mean some cross fertilisation! By this I mean that sometimes we share services and events, and support these

shared moments when we can come together and celebrate or pray with each other. There are certainly plenty of events and worship times in each parish for us all to share.

As we come into spring and summer, I hope that we will be able to use the Rectory garden in Alexandria for barbecues and other things too. It's big enough to hold a Diocesan Sports Day, and once Linda has cleared away some more of the debris, she's loving it, the garden will look very inviting indeed on a sunny day! Crack open the Pimms and we are ready to go!

However, Holy Week is more imminent, only a few days away, and this is going to be an opportunity for us to dip into each other's worship and tradition. There are different things happening in both Charges as Holy Week progresses and Alison and I have decided that we will maintain two sets of services in both churches this year. Why not dip into what the "other" church is offering?

There will be one service when we all come together and that is Holy Saturday evening at 8.30pm. This is perhaps one of the most dramatic of liturgies in the Church's year, when we hold the Service of Light, and renew our baptismal vows. The Paschal Candle is lit, and we go home rejoicing in anticipation of Easter morning.

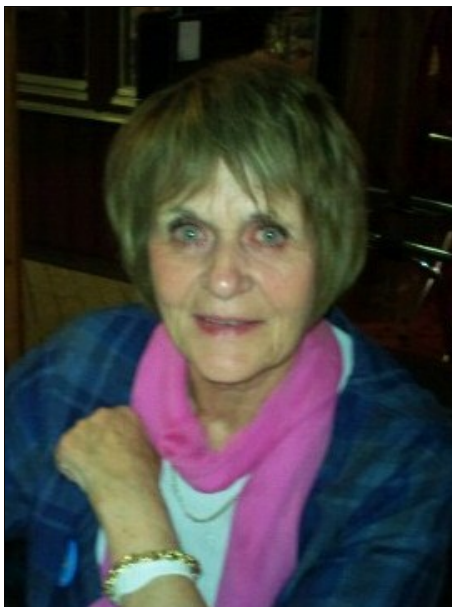
This year we are having a Joint Service, and we will be blessing and lighting both Paschal Candles at this service. We begin in the Community Hall at St Augustine's at 8.30pm with some readings telling the story of redemption, and then proceeding to light the New Fire, and then into the darkened church with the Light of Christ.

On Easter morning, the Paschal Candle will be received into St Mungo's having already been blessed on the previous evening. Alison has provided a wee liturgy for that to take place.

It is our hope that both congregations will be suitably represented at this joint act of worship, and that it will be the first sign that we don't have two of everything!

Meanwhile, may the joy of Easter and the Risen Christ be yours in this wonderful season!

**Kenny**



# Wait Till I Tell You

## The Gossip Column

*Janette comments on life in the first month of spring and looks forward to Easter – ‘now that April’s here.’ – or nearly here!*

### **OCH, WE’VE GOT SIX MONTHS TO DECIDE!**

The politicians have gone madder than the hares this month to celebrate the advent of six months to referendum day. And they can’t quite believe that there are people with more on their minds than making them up! These irresponsible millions are switching off meaningful debates, refusing to believe the warnings of a myriad of influential business people and laughing at scary stories about their fate should Scotland come up with the wrong answer.

You see, life goes on – the punters are still watching their favourite ‘soaps’, organising ‘wee nights’ and drinking tea in community halls from Caithness to Castle Douglas without the subject even being raised – isn’t that right TBag? She’d rather debate who washes the cups than Scotland’s coming constitution!

And as the 18<sup>th</sup> September looms, they stay calm, look forward to the holidays and if it’s a dry night, might consider popping down to cast that elusive vote after tossing a coin! So no point in getting excited - we’ve still got three more ‘By the Ways’ and umpteen more Ghislaine concerts – just try saying ‘no’ to her and see what happens!

### **BLOWING THE PENSION POT!**

Overheard on the Westcliff bus: ‘*His heid’s full o’ mince ...jist like ma pension pot!*’ The reader was engrossed in the free Metro newspaper report of the previous day’s budget. No prizes for guessing to whom she was referring! Good old George, our Chancellor, the pensioners’ friend who is now allowing us to empty our pension pots and splurge out on Lamborghini’s and Porsche’s to get us down in

luxury to the new reduced tax Bingo. What a relief, for we were only worrying about the withdrawal of our bus passes!

So do as the man says and get out those pension pots – you might just have enough to put a pound of mince in them!

### **A WEE NIGHT AT THE PICTURES.**

Memories came flooding back on March 14<sup>th</sup> when half of Dumbarton tried to get into the Pictures – or even the Concord Community Cinema. The movie was ‘Sunshine on Leith’ – an inspired choice for a gloomy March evening and the venue was the Concord not a cattle market as favoured by the citizens of Inverurie. Think on the smell! Anyway, at £3 a ticket it was superb value even if all of the screen was not visible to all of the people for all of the time! It was cheaper than staying in to burn electricity!

Though the seats were not tip- upable and too close together with no arm rests the audience didn’t seem to mind one bit. They were too busy greeting old pals and reminiscing about the back row of the Rialto in the 1950s! We were even given survey forms to gauge what needed to be improved for future screenings – ‘*the wumman in front o’ me had a big bawheid!*’ will not get you your money back!

The next offering, after an afternoon of nostalgia and buns (you’d think we were elephants) is ‘Phylomena’ on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April. But it’s already sold out! Jessie Reid is the ticket tout for St. Aug’s so ask her if you don’t believe me. I can’t stop thinking of how it used to be in Dumbarton in the days before the telly, the video, the multiplexing cinemas and the Sky movies.

There were four cinemas in our wee town and we were never out of them. Remember the Picture House, the Rialto, the Regal and the La Scala? Going to the pictures was what we did. Romance, both real and celluloid, flourished in these palaces of escapism and the La Scala even had hot pipes on the balcony to dry your wet socks!

The Picture House at the Bridge end of the High Street was for the 'winchin' couples who queued for the balcony on a Saturday night. Being seen in this queue was tantamount to selecting the engagement ring. The Rialto was the home of the ABC Minors – our Saturday morning childcare service where weans were deposited to allow the Mammies to 'go their messages' in Church Street. Unlike today, where unhappy children are dragged around crowded shopping malls, we were herded into the Rialto for a morning of our favourite films. We even had our very own song which I remember to this day:

*We are the boys and girls well known as  
Minors of the ABC  
And every Saturday we line up  
To see the films we like and shout aloud with glee!  
We like to laugh and have a sing song  
Just a happy crowd are we  
We're all pals together  
We're Minors of the ABC!*

OK, so we did fight occasionally, but most of the time the Minors was a great place to spend a Saturday morning. We listened to every word. We had cowboy films, space adventures and Laurel and Hardy interspersed with popular cartoons. And when the viewing was over we were instructed to pick up all our sweetie papers – and we did!

Then we burst out into College Street (more commonly known as the Vennel) and rode our imaginary horses, flew our invisible space crafts and yelled like Tarzan all the way back to the High Street. Indeed, it was well after lunchtime before we stopped shouting at each other in American accents!

The Regal was small and intimate with a balcony that was just two steps high. It was situated up a pen in Church Street just across from the Burgh Hall. One night there was a fire while 'Old Mother Reilly' was being screened. The manageress stopped the action to the customary boos and stamping of feet. She told us not to panic but no flames were visible so we didn't.

We didn't leave either until the intrepid lady announced that all those with half admission tickets

would get in for nothing at a later date. That moved us and we headed for the exits scanning the floor on the way for as many discarded half tickets as we could find!

So it's welcome back to the pictures – entertainment of any kind is just what Dumbarton needs!

## **SHARON AND THE SELFIE.**

Sharon, during a recent incarceration in the R.A.H., was trying to amuse herself before visiting time. So she got out her camera phone and took a selfie – well, the good and the great are at it every day! But it was a special selfie – a no makeup selfie in aid of cancer awareness. Then she issued a challenge to some of her lucky friends, nominating them to do the same while she made a sizeable donation to the cause. The selfies were to be posted on Facebook for all the world to see. Scary? I'll bet!

But one couldn't resist such a challenge although Ben Lomond in high heels would have been preferable! So it was out with the camera phone on Saturday morning, a quick click then a rush for the Estee Lauder! Sharon was duly informed 'job done' when the selfie graced the pages of the social networking site.

Lots of money has been raised for Cancer Research courtesy of Selfie nominees and nominators from all over the world so it's a small price to pay for sacrificing one's vanity!

Sharon's own selfie looked great and reassured her pals that she would soon be back on the podium controlling the Music Group.

## **BOSSY? WHO ME?**

There have been complaints in the press recently from prominent women who don't like the adjective 'bossy' being used to describe the female sex. Men are never 'bossy' – they are assertive, decisive and natural leaders. We are just 'bossy'! Perhaps they also prefer it when we're described as 'dizzy' – Barbie style bimbos, and usually blonde. So is 'bossiness' a desirable quality in a woman? Down at St. Aug's there are many who are referred to as 'bossy'.

In fact we've quite a list! To that I say thank goodness! Without the 'bossiness' of women the Tea Rota would grind to a halt, maintenance would become a thing of the past, events would never happen and the kitchen would be accessible only through a pile of

dirty dishtowels! So be proud to be bossy – speak out, do it anyway and keep the action going!

## **FLYING FROM GLASGOW? YOU’VE GOT TO BE JOKING!**

July, the great holiday month of the Scots is not too far away. And after our gloomy winter folks just want to fly south to the sun. I hear Norway’s stunning but you need a rain mate there. So, our one desire is to fly to the hotspots. Why is it so difficult and why must we negotiate complicated routes and additional costs. Perhaps this is an opportunity for the referendum rousers to spread some promises, fear, uncertainty and doubt. It could work for both camps.

The ‘Yes’ Men: *‘After the Referendum, flying from Glasgow will not be a problem. Purple planes embossed with the Thistle Logo will fly from every town in Scotland. Airports will be provided using the profits from our massive oil fund.’*

The ‘No’ Camp: *‘Planes from Scotland will not be allowed to land at Majorca or Tenerife –yon Senor Barosso frae the E.U.- he say ‘Naw’!’*

Far-fetched? Well it’s no worse than some of the stuff that’s going around just now.

## **SPORT RELIEF FROM THE SOFA.**

Were you exhausted at the weekend watching all the challenges to raise money for this very worthwhile cause? Every time you switched on the telly there was a celebrity or two climbing a peak, running a race or jumping into freezing cold water. And the Commonwealth Games haven’t even started yet.

To put you in the mood, Friends are organising a special July event but it won’t involve lycra or even running round the Common. Watch this space!

## **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE.**

Friends are off to the Theatre on 30th April to see the DPT production of this famous black farce by Joseph Kesselring. It tells the story of the two dear old ladies who live in a big house in Brooklyn, NY and poison their lodgers – strictly for their own good! Great story, lots of laughs and even a daud of romance.

Many ridiculous characters appear in this play including a really zany police department. Since there is a big cast tickets will be in short supply. Join the St. Auggie’s group for a buffet tea first at 5.30pm before continuing round to the Denny Civic for the production. The total cost – tea plus theatre ticket – is £9.00 (£8 with Friends’ discount).

A notice will shortly be appearing on the Community Hall noticeboard – make sure your name is on it!

## **THE FRIENDS’ MURDER MYSTERY.**

This will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May in the Community Hall. A superior buffet will be served with sparkling wine and good company. But there is a murderer in the house and it’s your job to unveil him (or her). The plot is specially written for St. Aug’s, it is called **‘The Pride and the Pageant’** and the actors will be the usual suspects. More information next month along with prices for this popular event. Watch out for the body and the announcement on the noticeboard.

## **THE SUMMER OUTING.**

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Friends are off on their annual bus trip – this year to the newly refurbished Transport Museum in Glasgow. Arrangements are currently in hand for the High Tea menu and venue plus costs. Again, all will be revealed in later editions of ‘By the Way’.

## **NOW FOR EASTER..**

Lots to do in and around St. Aug’s this Easter so come along and be part of the action. The Golden Girls are defecting to Blackpool and Fran will be celebrating in the Gambia after leaving the sacred computerised Passover Seating Plan in the custody of Margaret Hardie. It’s more complicated than the Da Vinci Code! Hopefully we’ll manage to get everyone in on Maundy Thursday and enough lamb legs cooked to feed them.

## **IN THE MERRY, MERRY MONTH OF MAY.**

Oh no, it won’t be long because time flies at St. Aug’s and this is surely the busiest time of our year. But I’ll be waiting to tell you all the gossip, all the laughs and what’s going to happen next. Don’t miss ‘By the Way’ – and risk being a social outcast!

*Janette*



# Holy Week 2014

## St Augustine's Dumbarton

**Holy Monday:** 7pm Ecumenical Service in St Aug's (Preacher is Revd Brian Rogers)

**Holy Tuesday:** 7pm Ecumenical Service held by URC in the Community Hall (Preacher is Kenny)

**Holy Wednesday:** 10.30am Eucharist with Short Address.

7pm Ecumenical Service in Dalreoch Church. (Preacher is Rev Ian Johnson)

**Maundy Thursday:** 7pm Passover Meal, Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar and Watch until Midnight.

**Good Friday:** 11am Ecumenical procession with three crosses arriving in Town Centre at Noon.

2pm The Last Hour

7pm Service of Communion in Riverside Church

**Holy Saturday:** 8.30pm Easter Ceremonies, Lighting of the Paschal Candles and renewal of Baptismal Vows beginning in the Community Hall.



## St Mungo's Alexandria

**Holy Monday:** 7pm Eucharist followed by Stations of the Cross (Part 1)

**Holy Tuesday:** 2pm Eucharist followed by Stations of the Cross (Part 2)

**Holy Wednesday:** 10am Eucharist followed by Stations of the Cross (Part 3)

**Maundy Thursday:** 7.30pm Solemn Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar, and Watch of The Passion. (Until 10pm)

**Good Friday:** 2pm The Last Hour

**Holy Saturday:** 8.30pm Joint Service at St Augustine's

## Tina's Trials!

I'm almost embarrassed to confess I've been off on a jaunt again. Maybe this column should be renamed 'Tina's Travels'. In fact, I'd go further and suggest an even more alliterative title – 'Tina's Turkey Travels'.



No, I was not on holiday with a large, squawking bird with a phobia of the festive season (at least, I'd never call her that to her face). I was IN Turkey on a familiarisation tour for people considering organising a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul.

I've never been Paul's biggest fan, I must confess (all that stuff about hats and staying quiet) but having walked a little in his footsteps, he's gone up in my estimation.

Turkey is massive. We had a bus to get us from A to B. Paul would have trekked over some of the toughest and bleakest terrain. We enjoyed a pleasant sail in a large cruiser on the Bosphorus. Paul would have endured dangerous waters in small boats. Just the week before we arrived in Turkey, more than 50 refugees from Syria drowned off the coast of Izmir. We gazed at spectacular ruins and heard the stories of what had happened in those very places. Paul lived those stores of pagan worship, sacrifice and brutality, and paid a price for defying them.

My Turkey travels taught me many things, including how to appreciate apple tea and dried figs (and how to squeeze as much of them as possible into a suitcase). Mostly it made real the incredible sacrifice of those first Church fathers – and mothers – who put their lives on the line for the sake of the Gospel. Many in our world literally still do. I take my hat off – or maybe even put it on – to you.

May we give thanks, especially in this Easter season, that we can worship freely and openly the God who made the ultimate, incredible sacrifice for us through his Son Jesus Christ. A blessed Easter to you all.

*Tina*

## Country Trip

We are hoping to have these monthly, a short stroll followed by a visit to a tea-room. The first will be on Saturday April 5th. We meet at 2pm at Garelochhead car park, left beyond the church.

Please indicate to one of the clergy, or Tim Rhead or Rosemary McLeay, if you are coming or are bringing a car. There are always folk who need a lift and cars are very welcome!

## Christian Aid

Lent Lunches continue to be held on Thursdays April 3rd and 10th, 12-1.30pm, at Riverside Church of Scotland Hall, Dumbarton.

There will be a Fashion Show on Thursday May 15th at Antartex 6.30 for 7pm. Tickets from Tim Rhead at St Augustine's, or see one of the clergy - £5 includes a glass of wine and 20% discount from the EWM New Line.

## Holy Communion at Easter

It is your duty to receive Holy Communion in the Easter Octave, but if you can't come to church, it is important to note that the Sacrament can be brought to you at home by one of the Pastoral Team. Please do not be afraid to ask! You may be already on our radar if you are a regular home communicant, but sometimes folk slip through the net as we assume you are away for Easter.

For those of you who are going away for Easter, please try to get to a church on Easter Day.



*Mary wished she'd never mentioned  
Fresh Expressions of Church*

# Sunday Rotas

**Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>**

11am Eucharist

Readers Liam McLarnon & Maggie Wallace

Intercessions Peter Cairns

Chalice Tim Rhead & Peter Cairns

Sidespersons Linda Jenkinson & Gavin Elder

for Easter flowers. Please make a note of names on slips provided if you wish the flowers to be in a special memory.

**Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>**

11am Eucharist Palm Sunday

Readers Linda Macaulay & Margaret Hardie

Chalice Janette Barnes & David Rowatt

Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley

**Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>**

11am Eucharist Easter Day

Readers Janette Barnes & Tim Rhead

Intercessions Linda Macaulay

Chalice Barbara Barnes & Maggie Wallace

Sidespersons Liam McLarnon & David Ansell

**Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

11am Eucharist

Readers Ghislaine Kennedy & Sharon Rowatt

Intercessions Maggie Wallace

Chalice Margaret Hardie & Janette Barnes

Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Tim Rhead

## FLOWER ROTA

**Wk ending 19<sup>th</sup>. April**

Moiria McGown, Irene Telford & M Wallace

**Wk ending 26<sup>th</sup>**

Margaret Hardie & Linda Macaulay

## DONATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS

There will be a box at the back of the Church, 2 weeks before Easter for donations



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."

## Bishop's Lent Appeal for Yorkhill Childrens' Trust:

Monies raised by you for this should be handed in on Easter Day, thanks.

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# STILLNESS SPEAKS

## **Be still, and know that I am God; Psalm 46:10**

If you are interested in joining us for a Weekend Retreat feel free to speak to one of the clergy, Anne Dyer or Morag O'Neill from the MAP Team

**This will take place at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh from 6- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014, and is for women only, and will be led by Revd Henriett Lengyel-Cairns. At the moment the cost is around £150, but we are hoping to get grants and perhaps some Vestry help to lower to cost for participants who would be excluded due to the heavy outlay. If you would like to go, then just say, and we will find a way!**



# DUMBARTON LONDON CORNER NURSERY SCHOOL GRADUATION REPORT

Once again on behalf of the staff, children of Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School, I seize this opportunity to inform you about Mr. Beola S. Williams's Graduation Ceremony after successfully completing a Three Early Childhood Development Course under the auspices of The Gambia College.

Mr. Williams, a Nursery Three class facilitator at Dumbarton London Corner School, was fully sponsored by Dumbarton Gambia Education Association (D.G.E.A) to do his (ECD) Course. He was one of the outstanding students of his class.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March He was one amongst over seven hundred graduates who were certificated by The Gambia College that earned him the status of a Trained Facilitator/Teacher.

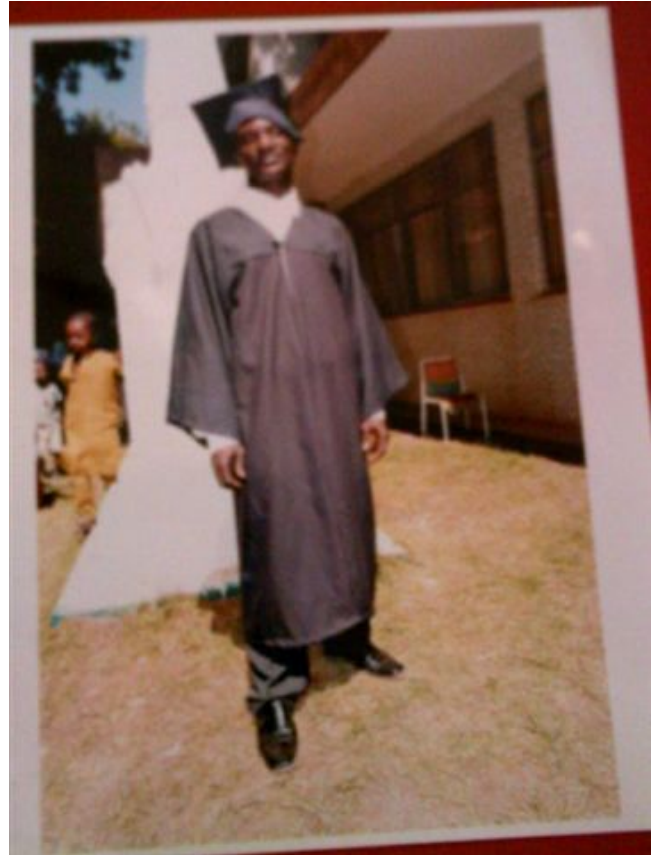
In conclusion and on behalf of the pupils and staff of Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School we thank all those who support Dumbarton Gambia Education Association in one way or the other.

**Sulayman Saidy (Headmaster)**

One of the things we do in the school in Serrekunda, which we don't talk about enough, is pay for the proper training for our teachers, asking simply for a formal contract that they will stay with us for a certain time after graduation. Sometimes that works out, and sometimes it doesn't, and we don't, or can't, stand in the way of teachers who want to better themselves, or indeed go into employment with better wages as a result of their qualification.

It means that our own children get a terrific education while these teachers are in training, with lots of fresh ideas, and also that we equip the Gambian Education system with qualified people rather than the way it is so often done in other private nurseries.

Mr William's is undoubtedly our best teacher, and we congratulate him on his graduation! Well done!



# Get Connected!

The girls from our Get Connected Group have been incredibly busy over the past month or so, creating a comfy space in the wee room in the Community Hall.

We felt that this wee room could be flexible enough to accommodate some comfortable seating with little coffee tables, giving it the ambience for decent counselling sessions or just a “chill-out” zone, but with the capacity to hold small meetings which it already does.

This led to what was called “upcycling” of pretty tatty basket chairs. They were painted and cushions were renewed. More paint ended up on their clothes, but, hey, that’s part of the fun!

A lovely sofa was sourced which fits in with the décor, and little tables which were headed for a skip were totally renewed, varnished, and transfers put on to make them look really attractive.

We now have a superb facility which the clergy and Circle Scotland can use for informal counselling sessions, and which can be used for ad hoc coffee sessions and for the girls themselves on Tuesday evenings.

Not only that, but the Girls Group will take on the challenge of Fair Trade this year. They took an interest in a local churches campaign on Fair Trade bananas, and this fired up their imagination to take on other aspects of Fair Trade.

We may well end up kicking and screaming as they lead us into being a Fair Trade Parish. Watch this space!





# Celebrating St Patrick

On March 15th the small ecumenical band found themselves again in the ruined chapel in Dumbarton Castle to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick with a little service with hymns and readings. This is what Tim Rhead had to say at the beginning of the service:

“Welcome to our service to commemorate St Patrick, who we believe came from Old Kilpatrick and was therefore well acquainted with this Rock, which was an important place in those days.

This is now the second year of holding services in the castle on the presumed site of the chapel dedicated to St Patrick, which stood here for over 1,000 years until the Reformation in the sixteenth century.

Now we are worshipping together and it is good to see members of several churches from Dumbarton here today.

Last year we had a service for St Columba in June, but this year we are planning to have an event, including a service, for primary schools.

All seven local primary schools have agreed to take part, and we are being helped by Faith in Community as part of the Scottish Government's Tackling Sectarianism Together initiative. This event will be mid-week and we will need volunteers from the churches.

We are calling the initiative Christian Heritage Dumbarton and we hope to show young people the history of Dumbarton in an imaginative way, which has relevance for their lives today.

The service will be led by Canon Conroy from St Patrick's Church, Rev Kenny Macaulay from St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church and Rev Ian Johnson, the new minister at Riverside Parish Church, who arrived just two weeks ago.

I would like to thank Historic Scotland who have given permission for this service and allowed free access to the castle, and to the Keeper, Brigadier Donald Hardie, who is here today and has allowed us to use his rooms in the castle for refreshments, which have been provided by members of St Patrick's Church.”

And the pics....



Tim Rhead and Canon Conroy have been the driving force behind these little services which commemorate saints of Scotland, and although some of the initial enthusiasm for them has waned a bit, it is wonderful to see the history of this incredible place being introduced to some of our Primary Schools. It is heartening that schools of all sorts will come together here for a short prayer time together, and become more acquainted with what binds us together as well as the history of the Rock which so many of us take for granted.

If anyone would like to help with the school services in June, please have a word with Tim Rhead. It would be excellent if we could provide a picnic or something like that for the children and get them talking and mixing with children from other schools 'across the divide'!

Keep this initiative in your prayers as we approach June and final planning is put in place.

## Sunday and (back to) Wednesday View

Generally passion flowers die within a day of flowering, yet in St Augustine's there are passion flowers that have been in flower for over 100 years. "Where?" you may ask.

You may have noticed that around the chancel area the pillars have carvings of leaves around them, each a different plant. That carved with the Passion Flower (passiflora) is most often seen by Kenny and Alison as they enter the sacristy from the High Altar area.



The Passion Flower, indigenous to the tropical Americas, is a climbing vine that uses tendrils to climb and make its way up other plants, through the rainforest canopy towards sunlight. The beauty is in the flower, the shape of which is found in no other and which is the basis for its multiple symbolism.

It is said that a scholar, Jacomo Bosciom, was living in Rome in 1609 and working on a treatise about the crucifixion when a Mexican Augustinian friar, Emmanuel de Villagas showed him a drawing of a Passion Flower. Despite doubting its existence Boscion agreed to include drawings of the flower in his book showing how it symbolises the last days of Jesus and the Crucifixion:

- the ten petals and sepals represent the 10 faithful apostles (less St Peter the denier and Judas Iscariot the betrayer)
- the flower's radial filaments, often more than a hundred (the corona), represent the crown of thorns
- the chalice shaped ovary with its receptacle represents a hammer or the Holy Grail
- the 3 stigmas represent the 3 nails and the 5 anthers below them the 5 wounds (4 by nails, one by lance)
- the blue and white colours of many species' flowers represent Heaven and Purity
- the pointed tips of the leaves were taken to represent the Holy Lance, the centurion's spear
- the tendrils represent the whips used to scourge Christ
- the round fruit brings to mind the world Christ came to save
- the fragrance represents the spices prepared by the holy women.

From Aztec times the Passion flowerplant has been known for its medical properties as a sedative and anti depressant. Its leaves and roots were made into a tea to treat insomnia, hysteria and epilepsy, sadly not attributes available in our sandstone carvings!

To see the Passion Flowers in St Augustine's you need to take a stroll towards the High Altar and look to your left. When you are there remember, like many before us, the sufferings of Christ were for us all.