

By the Way



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

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London is "Wicked"



London was WICKED according to the Get Connected Girls Group...

We sent our Girls' Group off to London after Easter in the care of Anne Dyer and her wonderful mums, and they had a ball!

In the magazine this month there is some reaction and reflection, and it is great to hear their stories!

A big "Thank-you" to the congregation and to the Diocese for making this all happen, and a "thank-you", too, to the girls' themselves for happily sharing what a wonderful experience it was for them!

Hopefully, we can be in a position to invite some friends they made down there to Dumbarton, at some point, and the warm welcome they received can be reciprocated!

**Watch out here
we come...**

Easter 2013

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From Kenny...

An opportunity has arisen for the Scottish Episcopal Church to roll out ministry in a completely different way in Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven, and it's one that we need to examine carefully, and prayerfully, as we look to the future.



As many of you know, St Mungo's, Alexandria, are without a priest at the moment, and in the present set-up is unable to afford full-time or half-time ministry. Geographically we are very close together, and the Bishop would like us to embark on a new model of ministry which would cover that geographical area. Many other parishes are adopting this as an option which works well and is tried and true.

It would involve a Team Ministry, consisting of three clergy, at the moment being me, as Rector, Pat, and another half-time priest who would live in the Rectory at Alexandria. Together, with some lay people, we would set up a pastoral team serving both parishes. Although our two parishes will be linked, they would both be much the same way as they are at present, with two Vestries, and two budgets, and two congregations. It is the ministry model that would change. The Team of three priests, when Pat is ordained in September, would have, with lay help, an oversight of the two parishes and we would share ministry.

This is nothing to be afraid of, and actually something to be excited about. We would be extending our ministry team in a way that would give us more opportunity for ministry, mission and outreach. Another priest would be joining us, and because it is a new initiative, that would be partly financed by the Province. We would need to find one twelfth of a stipend extra, but we can do that if we believe our ministry and outreach will expand and be more encompassing both to ourselves, St Mungo's, and the wider community.

Another priest would be of enormous benefit, and their ministry would be to Dumbarton as well as The Vale. Another face, and another bit of talent would be added to what we already have. However, Sunday by Sunday, nothing is going to change much, except that there will be another clergyperson around. Our worship, ministry and outreach will remain the same, and St Mungo's will also benefit from that. It all makes sense, and is about sharing resources.

This is something we need to endorse as a way forward, and there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the congregation on June 27th at 7.30pm when we will have the chance to discuss this and vote as a congregation with the Bishop and/or Dean in attendance. Please make an effort to be there and have a voice in our future!

Kenny

Pat Says.....

Earlier this week, when perhaps I should have been sitting at my computer writing this column, I have been taking advantage of a few rare sunny days and "playing" in our garden.



Despite the aching back I have really enjoyed myself because, apart from the pleasure of seeing nicely dug and weeded ground and having the prospect of flowers and fresh vegetables, I love gardening for another reason. I find it is a time when I can relax, pray and "be" with God. Like the psalmists I can wonder at, and praise, the beauty of creation; but this activity also helps me to make space for God, free from other distractions. Then the thoughts bubble up about what else I should be giving thanks for and what God might want me to be doing in the world.

As I struggle with the buttercups and dandelions that try to take over in the garden I remember the story of the old man who took over an overgrown allotment. He worked at it for long hours and eventually all was neat and tidy with rows of peas and beans where once brambles and thistles ran riot. He was admiring the results of his efforts when the Rector came by. The clergyman leant on the gate, looked at the allotment and said "Well Sandy, you and the Almighty have made a good job of that, haven't you?" The old man looked up, spat on the ground and said, "You should have seen it when the Almighty had it all to himself". What a reminder that humans have a part to play in God's world, indeed that we need to act as his hands in it. God did not make the world to run itself, he made humans in the world to run and enjoy it.

So, if like me you have a garden, may you enjoy working in it - see the fruits of creation and take the opportunity to "be" with God in quiet prayer. But equally your talents and interest may lie in some other areas such as creating beautiful handiwork, cooking or walking, all of which can give time for reflection and prayer. Remember that relaxing and praying are not mutually exclusive activities, indeed the one enriches the other.

Pat

St James the Least of All

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does not necessarily want to do so.

I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound, but for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth.." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the verger dash outside to check if yet another mediaeval gargoyle had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

I was also not convinced that the sixteenth century workmen who had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing. Whoever fixed the fence

ing failed and later that night all 43 cows in the field escaped, and ended up in the Colonel's front flower-filled front garden, where they spent a comfortable night slicing his velvet turf with their sharp cleats, and chomping everything in sight.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Christian Aid

The door-to-door collection is declining so Christian Aid envelopes are available in the church now if you would like to make a donation. If you have not had an envelope at your house then you could use one of these envelopes or take a few for family or friends and return them to Tim at the church.

Cursillo

No meeting in June or July. The next meeting is on Thursday, August 15th. at 7.30 p.m. for "Stations". Then we have Diocesan Ultreya. There is no G&G Ultreya in June as the Provincial AGM is in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 1st. The next meeting is at St. Ninian's, Troon, on Tuesday, July 30th. at 7.30pm

Evelyn

Adoration Concert

Adoration, an American vocal ensemble, are performing in St Augustine's on Monday 3rd June at 7.30. These people are touring the UK at the moment with light-hearted music with a Gospel message. Retiring collection!

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Daddy's girl

A young father was taking care of his baby daughter while his wife went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing and he had to take the toddler along. "I'll never take her along with me again!" he told his wife that evening. "I didn't catch a thing!"

"Oh, next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away," his wife said.

The father said gloomily. "No, it wasn't that. She ate all the bait."

Sermon

A young curate who had just been ordained stepped in to take the sermon at very short notice, because the vicar was ill. At the end of the sermon he explained apologetically: "At such short notice I'm afraid I just had to rely on the Holy Spirit. Next week I hope to do better!"

Names for baby

A pregnant woman was in a car accident and fell into a deep coma. Asleep for nearly six months, she woke up and saw that she was no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asked the doctor about her baby and was told: "Madam, you had twins! A boy and a girl. The babies are fine. Your brother, the new curate, even came in and baptised them for you."

The woman thought to herself, "Oh no, not my brother, he's hopeless!" Expecting the worst, she asked the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?"

"Denise," said the doctor.

The new mother thought, "Wow, that's not a bad name! I guess I was wrong about my brother. I like Denise!" Then she asked the doctor, "What's the boy's name?"

The doctor replied, "Denephew."

Nuns and beer

Two nuns were shopping at their local supermarket. As they passed by the beer cooler, one nun said to the other, "Wouldn't a nice beer or two taste wonderful on a hot summer evening?"

The second nun answered, "Indeed it would, sister, but I would not feel comfortable buying beer, since I am certain it would cause a scene at the checkout stand." The

other nun thought for a moment, and then picked up a six-pack and headed for the check-out.

The cashier had a surprised look on his face when the two nuns arrived with a six-pack of beer. "We use beer for washing our hair," the nun said. "Back at the convent, we call it Catholic Shampoo."

Without blinking an eye, the cashier reached under the counter, pulled out a package of pretzel sticks, and placed them in the bag with the beer. He looked the nun straight in the eye and said: "The rollers are on the house."

The Arrival

A man arrived at the pearly gates, waiting to be admitted. St. Peter looked at him, looked at the Book, and said hesitantly that he could not find his name. "How current is your copy?" the man asked.

"I get a download every ten minutes." St. Peter replied. "Why do you ask?"

"I'm embarrassed to admit it, but I was always the stubborn type. It was not until my death was imminent that I cried out to God, so my name probably hasn't arrived to your copy yet."

"I'm glad to hear that," St. Peter said. "While we're waiting for the update to come through, can you tell me about a really good deed that you did in your life?"

The man thought for a moment and said; "Well, there was this time when I was driving down a road and I saw a group of biker gang members harassing this poor girl by the roadside. Infuriated, I got out my car, grabbed a tire iron out of my trunk, and walked up to the leader of the gang. I smashed him over the head with the tire iron, and then yelled to the rest of them, "You're a bunch of SICK, deranged animals! Go home before I really teach you a lesson in PAIN!" Duly impressed, St. Peter asked when this had happened. "About three minutes ago."

Don't fool me

A three year old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Sam, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her and said, "Don't kid me, Mum, I KNOW they're my feet."

Question

Curate taking confirmation class: Now, Simon, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon: No sir, I don't have to, my mum is a good cook.

Dumbarton London Corner School - Fundraising!

For anyone who ever indulges in a bit of online shopping, we've come up with a new way for you to help us raise money for the nursery school – and it won't cost you a penny!! Yes really! To find out more read on, then please sign up and support us.

An Easy Way To Raise Funds

Do you shop online? Did you know that every time you buy something you could be raising money for Dumbarton Gambia Education Association?

That's right - over 3000 well known retailers including Amazon, M&S, Boden, Waitrose, House of Fraser, Vodafone, Virgin Atlantic and many more, will donate a percentage of what you spend to Dumbarton Gambia Education Association when you shop with them, via the fundraising website easyfundraising.org.uk

An Easy Way To Raise Funds

It's like having a nectar card or a Boots Advantage Card but instead of earning points, each purchase generates a donation. So instead of going directly to a retailer's website, go to easyfundraising first and choose the retailer you want to shop with – then everything you spend with that retailer earns a free donation for Dumbarton Gambia Education Association. It's completely free to use and your shopping won't cost you a penny more.

On average, each retailer will donate up to 5% of the cost of your shopping - and those donations soon mount up.

So whatever you need to buy, from your weekly grocery shop or fashion must-have, to your business travel, office supplies or mobile phone, buy it via easyfundraising and raise money for Dumbarton Gambia Education Association at no extra cost to you!

Please register to support us when you shop online -
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When you do this, you are also given an opportunity to download a tool which will let you know if a retailer is signed up to this scheme when you visit their shopping website. So you can browse the web, then if the retailer is part of the scheme then the reminder tool will let you know and direct you to shop via **easyfundraising**

In addition, you can also check out easyfundraising's **Facebook** page. It's the best way to hear about their special offers, competitions and new retailers.

Not only that but it's a great way to spread the **easyfundraising** message to your family and friends and raise even more money for **Dumbarton Gambia Education Association!** The more people who hear about our **easyfundraising** page, the more money we can raise.

Become a fan of easyfundraising on Facebook at www.facebook.com/easyfundraising.org.uk



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London Corner Sports Day

For the second year running, Dumbarton London Corner School joined with Sunrise Centre, which Helen Touray administrates too, for a Sports Day. This year we also had medals for the winners! This is our Principal Teacher, Sulayman Saidy's report...

Once again Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School joined Sunrise Education Centre to grace their 2nd edition of their Annual Sport Day, which was held on Friday, May, 24th 2013 at Sunrise Education Centre.

The events took off late due to some logistics over how to use the site to its greatest advantage, but due to the commitment, determination and dedication shown we were able to cover all programmes excepting one, Musical Statues.

The events took place in a very peaceful environment with some few hiccups here and there which are contained and dealt with as they arose. (Sunrise is half of a building site at the moment as a new Lower Basic School is being built on the grounds - Ed)

Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School came home with 22 Medals out of 30 medals.

Food was prepared and served on time, every child from Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School and Sunrise Education Centre (Nursery) and some kids who took part from the Lower Basic School and staff ate to their satisfaction. We contained them comfortably.

Finally, on behalf of the children and staff of these two institutions and on my own humble behalf we thanked all and sundry for their invaluable support in cash or in kind directly or indirectly towards the success of this year's Sports Day.

Looking forward to next year!

Yours faithfully

Sulayman Saidy

Teacher in Charge



Our Little Helper!

Tuesday mornings are cleaning mornings in the Community Hall, and Roberta and Barbara & Co are often to be found elbow deep in disinfectant on these mornings! However, Margaret Swan's grandson Ruraidh is always on hand to give a hand. He even brings his own Henry Hoover!



cream before Barbara took her to the nearest hospital in Greenock. Fortunately, there was no serious problem and she is recovering well.

Our next Country Trip will be on Saturday June 29th to the island of Inchmahone on the Lake of Menteith. We went there last year and loved it: you can walk round the island in 20 minutes but there is no need to walk at all ; just sit beside the ruins of the abbey. Getting on and off the boat is all the physical effort required. On the way back, we will as usual call at a tea-room.

See Tim or Rosemary for more information.

London is Wicked - Reaction

The Youth Leaders asked the girls group to share some of the highlights from the event. Here is what some of the girls had to say ...

The best bit for me about the whole London event was actually meeting the other Girls Group. We were all a little bit nervous but once we got to meet up we were fine and we did share some similarities. We hope that they can visit us in Dumbarton someday. It was great to experience new things together and meet new people. I really had a great time. I also loved the visit to the M & M WORLD!



DRAMA ON THE COUNTRY TRIP

On a glorious day at the end of May, we went to Findlaystone Country Park and enjoyed the formal gardens with fine views over the Clyde to Brucehill and Westcliff. After tea, we had planned to divide into those who wanted a more strenuous woodland walk and those who remained in the gardens. However, as it turned out, the second party went to the Inverclyde Royal Infirmary instead.

We found Rosemary sitting on a seat with blood pouring down her leg. She had caught her leg on the car door, but had not noticed the bleeding for over half an hour. Soon a ranger appeared with bandages and a wheel-chair. Rosemary had time for an ice-

My best bit was the On off Bus Tour.. we all loved this and sang all the way round the city. (thankfully the other tourist did not mind) I learned how to stay safe and trust others to look after you. (Zoe R)

The best bit for me was visiting the O2 and travelling home by boat each day I also I learned I could go away from home. Next time I would like to go away a little bit longer. **(Grace)**



I would like the group to come here and we could do a programme for them. We could fundraise and help them to visit. I loved the trip and thought their group were very friendly and kind to look after us. Their name was Mayhem **(Carly)**



I learned that we could mix easy with the other group and they were really happy to meet us. I also learned how to stay safe as a big group. We did this event to learn about each other and to do things which will be useful for us in later life. We had loads for fun and the accommodation was good too !!! I think we could do a bigger project next time. **(Brogan)**

Definitely worth it and the fundraising helped us get there. I learned to be aware of the surroundings and look out for each other. We had FUN ... I would love to go back again **(Sophie)**

I felt okay being away and we all had a great time. I loved visiting the O2 and we got to visit the One Direction Shop (our favourite band) We met a girl who lived in Dumbarton and moved to London eight years ago, she is a singer songwriter and we got to hear about her life in London. We are now planning to move to London when we are older lol. The whole event was great we sung songs on the train and kinda took over our carriage on the way down. We sang at every opportunity because we were so excited and loved being out in the city. I never felt frightened at anytime and would love to take part in this type of thing again.



And as we went home each evening on the River Bus, there was this wonderful sight! Thanks to everyone who made our few days very special!



Sunday (and Wednesday) View

Each Sunday and Wednesday (and some other days in between) most of those attending St Aug's will be facing the High Altar and glancing at the Reredos, that fabulous lump of sandstone behind it. But how often do we look at the carvings? Christ enthroned is pretty obvious, but all the others, who are they?

This is the guy on the extreme left who can be identified by what he is carrying - a money bag and a leather book or ledger. It's Matthew, ex tax collector and gospel writer.

This is what my fancy Bible* says about him:

"More than any other disciple, Matthew had a clear idea of how much it would cost to follow Jesus, yet he did not hesitate for a moment. When he left his tax-collecting booth, he guaranteed himself unemployment. For several of the other disciples, there was always fishing to return to, but for Matthew, there was no turning back.

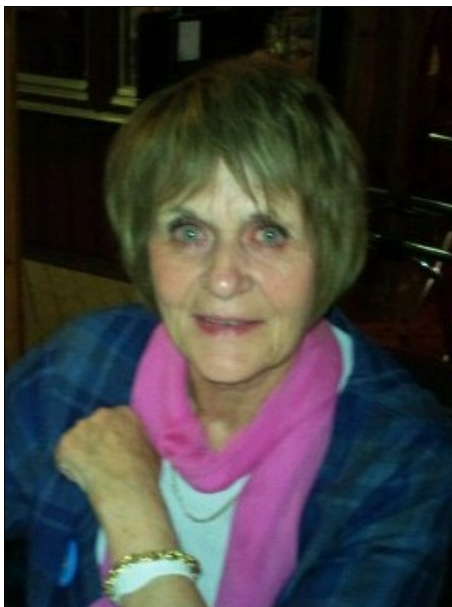
"Two changes happened to Matthew when he decided to follow Jesus. First, Jesus gave him a new life. He not only belonged to a new group; he was an accepted person. For a despised tax collector that change must have been wonderful! Secondly, Jesus gave Matthew a new purpose for his skills. When he followed Jesus, the only tool from his past job that he carried with him was his pen. From the beginning God had made him a record-keeper. Jesus' call eventually allowed him to put his skills to their finest work. Matthew was a keen observer, and he undoubtedly recorded what he saw going on around him. The Gospel that bears him name came as a result.

"Matthew's experience points out that each of us, from the beginning, is one of God's works in progress. Much of what God has for us he gives long before we are able to consciously respond to him. He trusts us with skills and abilities ahead of schedule. He has made us each capable of being his servant. When we trust him with what he has given us, we begin a life of real adventure. Matthew couldn't have known that God would use the very skills he had sharpened as a tax collector to record the greatest story ever lived. And God has no less meaningful a purpose for each one of us. Have you recognised Jesus saying to you, "Follow me"? What has been your response?"

**Life Application Bible: New International Version*



"I've heard the vicar has a problem with squatters moving in to the belfry."



Wait Till I Tell You

The Gossip Column

Janette shares her recollections of a miserable colder than average May, a very positive Friends' AGM and that exciting feeling of the holidays almost being here.

SUMMER APPEARS – ONE DAY AT A TIME!

During May we were treated to a few fleeting glimpses of summer. Unfortunately by the time folks had dug their loungers out of crowded garden sheds, de-rusted the barbecue and located a summer outfit that actually fitted, the icy winds were again blowing off Ben Lomond necessitating the return of the bullet proof tights! Trinity Sunday was Baltic at St. Aug's although Sandra McMartin, resplendent in white sleeveless top and suntan, continued to fan herself with her Pew Sheet! However, June will soon be 'busting out all over' as they sing in 'Carousel' so let's hope that means florally and has nothing to do with last year's holiday wardrobe!

FRIENDS GATHER AT THE FOUNTAIN.

No, it wasn't the fountain of youth – we're still searching for that! It was Margaret Hardie's fountain filled to the brim with £10 worth of delicious hot chocolate sauce to ooze over our skewers of marshmallows, grapes and strawberries. It was the Friends' AGM held this year on 12th May in our very own Garden of Eden to see how well we would resist temptation. We all know Eve struggled with the forbidden fruit but what would she have been like with a chocolate fountain? From the Membership Co-ordinator's Report onwards we watched in anticipation as it gurgled into action. The last word in upstaging! The serpent would never have offered it to Eve – the beast would have scoffed the lot and changed the Genesis story for ever and ever, amen!

Oh, there was also caramel cake, cream cake and cocktails. Woo Hoo and Cosmopolitan went down a treat with only the truly righteous opting for the carrots and the other healthy options.

Aye, at Friends' events we live dangerously and face all manner of temptation with relish!

But the 2013 AGM was in itself uplifting – objectives achieved, events enjoyed and a very positive report from Kenny, our Chairman. We recalled a very memorable visit to 'I Dreamed a Dream' where Susan Boyle actually appeared and signed a book for St. Augustine's. We laughed over how we had looked at the Great American Dream to celebrate Thanksgiving Day and were astonished at our top fund raiser for the year - 'Grand Ole St. Auggie's' – a country and western night starring Ghislaine, Ricky and their Friends.

Then details of our events for 2013/4 were unveiled and Cathy Hoatson replaced Annette Potts on the Executive Committee. Welcome, Cathy - and thanks, Annette for your contribution. We know you'll still be around to help at forthcoming events. Apart from this change it's still the same old faces making up the rest of the team. When they eventually find the Fountain of Youth they'll share it at a Wee Bingo Night with Fish Suppers! Next season will see the return of the Pantodine – exclusive to St. Aug's - and a truly topical Murder Mystery. Join now for maximum discounts, a monthly Prize Draw and a free magazine to keep you up to date with all things daft at St. Augustine's.

NAME CALLING FOR THE UPPER CLASSES.

We're all prone to a little name calling when someone annoys us, goes in front at the ASDA queue, or does something spectacularly stupid. The most common insults hurled at offenders in the West of Scotland are 'eedyit' 'numpty' and 'heidbanger'. So it was enlightening this month to learn a new exclamation

tion for use when not pleased with fellow humans – one that is learned at Oxford and an insulting phrase to put us up there with the ruling classes. Try calling someone who pushes in front of you at the Westcliff bus stop ‘a mad swivel eyed loon’ and see what happens! You may end up telling your story from a bed at the RAH! Of course the top Tories are in denial that such an insult was actually used by one of their number – particularly to their own supporters! If true, I wonder how they’d describe the opposition or even the peasants!

Happily, it’s now sorted. David Cameron has sent all who think they were called ‘loons’ an encouraging e-mail telling them how proud he is of them and the work they do for the party. Pass me a bucket!

OUR INCLUSIVE SOCIETY? NOT AT IKEA!

May was a month of good news on the inclusive front. At the Kirk’s General Assembly it was decided to allow gays to be ordained as Ministers - OK there was a get out clause for the traditionalists - but what progress! And at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show garden gnomes were at last accepted. The cheery little creatures were previously thought to be too ‘tacky’ for the Royal Horticultural Society.

But now the ban has been lifted to allow celebrities such as Elton John, Helen Mirren, Joanna Lumley and company to paint special gnomes and have them auctioned on e-bay – all for a good cause. Well now, that’s got rid of one little display of snobbery but what about that cruel Ikea advert urging us to say ‘no to gnomes’ while showing horrible pictures of them being smashed to pieces with pressure washers! Not much inclusiveness there!

THE KITTEN’S NOT FOR SITTIN’

During May, TBag O’Neill was transported off to Paisley for one of her regular breaks. This meant her little kitten, Beauty, along with its pink satin bed, its special food, its cuddly toys, its litter tray plus stuff to replenish it all had to be relocated at my house. The ‘wee sowell’ was too young for a cattery and was as yet, not allowed out in the big bad world. Indeed! The dear little monster likes to do all its feline damage indoors!

Being a ‘dog’ person, cats are an enigma to me. Now I believe the well-known cliché – *‘dogs have masters but cats have staff’*. Not for them the welcoming dash to the door whenever they hear your return. And when you call, it takes ages for the tin-

klung of the bell on the flea collar to reassure you that they haven’t drowned in the toilet bowl in your absence!

And no windows could be left open to allow the odour of the litter tray to dissipate – the tray just lay in the middle of the floor so that Beauty would be able to find it with ease. Why? She managed to find everything else in the house! Needless to say the little pink satin bed was returned unused – a human bed was preferred for her short rests after many ascents on the curtains, the demolition of the clothes horse and her desire to consume various plants in the conservatory! Were they poisonous? Obviously not, but it had been a case of wait and see! Beauty also insisted on eating at the table and mealtimes were a constant battle of wills.

So give me a dog any day – a dog knows its place and can be walked into exhaustion to allow for peace and quiet. Oh, Beauty is a very cuddly cat, clingy, affectionate and good at keeping the mice away. But now she’s gone home and I’m not really complaining – the mice would make less mess!

IBIZA – THIS YEAR’S PREMIER CHOICE!

So the P.M’s off on his holidays – and to Ibiza of all places! Let’s hope he doesn’t get caught up in a Hen Night, go to the beach in these cropped baggy trousers with sleeveless T-Shirts or hang his Union Flag beach towel over his balcony railings to dry! The last thing Britain needs in Europe at the moment is a ‘showing up!’ The Eurovision was embarrassing enough!

HAPPY FEET FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

We’ve all seen average Scotsman in holiday outfits that end in socks and sandals. But that’s not a good look. A man’s socks should never ever be seen in public. I’m aware that the second most painful area in a man’s body for sunburn is the top of the feet – but factor 50 sun cream is a much better option. Happily, there are now signs that things are getting better and trendy men are going for hair removal sessions to avoid being seen with ‘hobbit feet’ in their flip-flops! Hobbit means hairy for those who are wondering. Laser treatment is the most popular choice but there are other ways of making the feet baldy! Ask any woman for whom hair any place, apart from the head, is not to be tolerated on the beaches of Europe. (It doesn’t go down too well at Havoc Shore either unless wellies are being worn!). And, you can wax, sugar or cream the nasty stuff

away. Is it painful? What's that got to do with anything!

'PETS ALOUD' AT THE AUTUMN COMMUNITY FAIR.

Don't forget to put 7th September in your diaries for St. Aug's Community Autumn Fair. Last year we had Cup Cake making as our speciality. This year it will be 'Pets Aloud' in the Car Park – a competition to find Dumbarton's coolest pets. Our categories have still to be decided but suggestions include 'The Cat Most Like its Owner', 'The Cuddliest Collie', 'the Brightest Budgie', 'The Trickiest Terrier' etc. etc. Kennel Club registration is not necessary – we are looking for creatures with personality. Entry Forms will be available from the Church Office from Mid-August.

There will also be Home Baking, Nearly New, Confectionary, Arts and Crafts and all the usual stalls which will be located inside the Church. Café facilities serving Morning Coffee, Lunch and Afternoon Tea will be available in the Community Hall. Our Hall users will also be invited to set up a stall for their own fund raising efforts. Full details will be available in the August Magazine but please keep the date free and plan your contribution.

THE ALLSORTS CHOIR COMES HOME

Another reminder for this special midsummer concert to be held on Friday 21st June at 7.30pm in the Church. Ghislaine's Choir will entertain and a delicious summer treat of strawberries splashed with peach schnapps and served with cream is included in the entry charge. There will also be ice cold sparkling wine to refresh. What are you waiting for? Ghislaine doesn't want to drink it all herself! Tickets are available now from the Church Office but money should be paid at the door -£6.00 (£5.00 with Friends' discount). Oh, and wear a flower to celebrate summer – it'll be a blooming good night!

FRIENDS GO ON A FESTIVAL FLING

Don't miss our special coach to Edinburgh on 10th August. There will be lots of excitement in the Capital that day with the Festival in full swing and visitors from all over the world. But Friends are going on the trail of 'Spirits, Spirituality and Shopping'.

Mary King's Close under the Royal Mile is our first port of call where a costumed actor will escort us

into the past for a tour of one of the most haunted areas in Edinburgh. If you're quiet you may encounter a spirit or almost certainly feel the presence of one. From there you can pop into St. Giles Cathedral to experience some spirituality or do some shopping in the Royal Mile but these suggestions are optional. You may want to simply soak up some culture or just have a cup of tea.

Later in the afternoon our coach will take us out to the Edinburgh West Toby Carvery for a delicious meal. This eating establishment is in Corstorphine and run by a man from Helensburgh so you can't get posher than that! The cost of the trip – which includes the Mary King's Close Tour, the Coach and the Meal is £28.00. It can be paid in instalments to Janette, Linda, Margaret Hardie or Connie. Don't miss the bus – every culture vulture will be *'hingin' about Edinburgh'* on the 10th.

ACCORDIONS AND ADORATION

In addition to the Choir concert, two further concerts are scheduled to take place in the Church this summer. The first is on 3rd June and is being organised by Adoration – a contemporary Christian music group from the U.S.A. It starts at 7.30pm and a retiring collection will be requested. All are welcome.

The Kyiv Accordion Duo, Oleks and Igor, will be returning to St. Augustine's on 19th July to entertain us with their own special style of music. The concert starts at 7.30pm and will be in aid of the victims of Chernobyl.

Please support this excellent cause. There will be a retiring collection.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON – AT LAST!

It was R.L Stevenson who wrote *'to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive'*. Tell that to the Golden Girls who couldn't get a seat on the Oban train at the Holiday Weekend! But generally it's all about anticipation and looking forward to an unforgettable journey to the sun. So to all those who are travelling – have a lovely holiday. To those who are staying at home – let's hope the sun shines.

Back in August.

Janette

Tina's Traumas

Here I am sunning myself by the pool at my Spanish villa. And here you are saying, "Is that wummin on holiday again?"



Yes, just a few weeks after dodging yellow cabs and breezing along Broadway, I'm dodging inflatables in the pool and enjoying the warm Andalucian breeze, although by the time you read this I'll have well and truly landed back on the runway of normal life, and the taxi of doom will have dumped me, and my dirty washing, back in Dumbarton. All good things must come to an end.

It's not all been sun and siesta. A few days ago I hit a dead end. Literally. Having blissfully toddled through a picturesque village in our Fiat 500 (AKA The Bubble), we found ourselves wedged in a street of Lilliput proportions.

In the time it took to contemplate our next move (not long considering there wasn't anywhere to go) half the village had emerged to observe and/or offer advice. Then, out of nowhere - well, more accurately, from behind The Bubble - rode a knight on white steed (AKA motorbike). He gestured for the keys, then reversed The Bubble 400m or so to a turning point and set us on our way.

Another end awaits me on my return. After nine years ministering in Helensburgh, I'm heading to pastures new in Clydebank.

I'm a little scared and a lot of sad. But I have faith that someone with better road sense knows where I'm headed.

All good things must come to an end. But there are no dead ends and no turning back when we trust the keys to that someone (AKA God) and let him guide us on our way.

Tina Kemp

Foodshare - West Dunbartonshire

The fact is that we now have a Food Bank operating from St Augustine's and it is busy too! Generally, it is open from Mon-Friday from about 1pm - 3pm in church, and is staffed by Ricky, Ghislaine, Caroline from Circle, and one or two others who come to help.

The food is supplied from supermarkets, and from the public themselves, who realise that there is genuine need for this sort of provision in our town and beyond.

We have a wee fund which provides milk and bread, but everything else is in food parcels which contain non-perishable items. The "milk fund" is always looking for wee donations, and they should be given to Ghislaine.

One afternoon, recently, we had 30 customers, but generally it is the one or two who will pop in and ask us for help. Some of them are frail and elderly, others mums or dads at the end of their tether, trying to make ends meet and failing.

The fact is that the benefits system, whilst going through many changes, is creating crisis situations, and we are trying to fill that gap where we can. Please support this new work, even if it is just in prayer!

Holidays:

Kenny will be on holiday for a good part of June, and Revd Robin Underhill will be taking Sunday Services, including Sea Sunday, 23rd June. All pastoral emergencies should go to Pat at the first instance. The EGM is on June 27th! Kenny will be back for that!

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Sunday Rotas

Sunday June 2nd
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Janette Barnes & Linda Macaulay
 Intercessions Peter Cairns
 Chalice Sharon Rowatt
 Sidespersons Linda Jenkinson & Ronnie Blaney

Sunday June 9th
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Morag O'Neill & Margaret Hardie
 Intercessions Margot Rhead
 Chalice Fran Walker
 Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & R Mailley

Sunday June 16th
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Fran Walker & Ghislaine Kennedy
 Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill
 Chalice Maggie Wallace
 Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Tim Rhead

Sunday June 23rd
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Margot Rhead & Sharon Rowatt
 Intercessions Maggie Wallace
 Chalice Tim Rhead
 Sidespersons David Ansell & Gavin Elder

Sunday June 30th
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Tim Rhead & Janette Barnes
 Intercessions David Rowatt
 Chalice Barbara Barnes
 Sidespersons Chrissie Ashman & M Wallace

Sunday July 7th
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Barbara Barnes & David Rowatt
 Intercessions Sharon Rowatt
 Chalice Peter Cairns
 Sidespersons Ronnie Blaney & Linda Jenkinson

Sunday July 14th
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Linda Macaulay & Gavin Elder
 Intercessions Tim Rhead
 Chalice David Rowatt
 Sidespersons C Ashman & Roberta Mailley

Sunday July 21st
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Maggie Wallace & Evelyn O'Neill
 Intercessions Linda Macaulay
 Chalice Margaret Hardie
 Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Maggie Wallace

Sunday July 28th
 11am Eucharist
 Readers Morag O'Neill & Peter Cairns
 Intercessions Margaret Hardie
 Chalice Janette Barnes
 Sidespersons David Ansell & Tim Rhead

FLOWER ROTA

Wk ending	1 st June	Barbara Barnes
" "	8 th	M Wallace & M McGown
" "	15 th	M Wallace & M Hardie
" "	22 nd	M McGown & Irene Hardie
" "	29 th	Barbara Barnes
" "	6 th July	Linda Macaulay
" "	13 th	M McGown & B Barnes
" "	20 th	L Macaulay & M Hardie
" "	27 th	Maggie Wallace

During the holiday period, especially July, if you have difficulty arranging a "swap" of duties, please contact Maggie, or Tim for 7th and 14th July

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Wicked! - The West End Show!

A NEW MUSICAL **WICKED** THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

One of the biggest parts to the Get Connected London experience was a trip to the West End to take in a show. The Leaders chose Wicked because the theme is based around friendship, choices, value and consequences.

Wicked tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two girls who first meet as sorcery students: the blonde and very popular Glinda and a

misunderstood green girl, Elphaba.

Glinda's unflinching desire for popularity sees her seduced by power while **Elphaba's** determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences for her future.

One of the big messages covered was that we are all different and we should celebrate differences. Elphaba, (green faced witch), showed us throughout the show what it feels like not to fit in with the crowd, to not be accepted by the world and how she suffered due to exclusion.

However she was full of integrity and stood for what she believed in never failing to understand right from wrong and a loyalty to her true self. We discovered that differences make us who we are and in order to form good friendships and to get along with others it is important to respect the differences between people.

We were then lead to look closely at 'doing the right thing' and that everyone has moral principles but sometimes it is difficult to stand up for what you believe is right. You may be influenced by others or you might want others to like you and choose to do something for your own personal gain.



The group were sucked into the production from the first scene and the whole encounter was truly magical. By the interval the group chatter was enlightening and eavesdropping just how each girl looked at different messages and tried to explain it to each other was just wonderful.

A comment which had all the Leaders in hysterics was this...

One girl asked another group member 'are you enjoying the show' she answered 'yeah I love it but am not sure what all this mad singing is about' to which girl number one said 'it's a musical ya daft' 'Oh right is that what it is' they both end up laughing

We (leaders) should not laugh really but the old saying 'You can take the Girl out of Dumbarton but we can never take Dumbarton out of the Girl' sprung to mind as we chuckled quietly, tucking into our ice cream.

To say we had a great night would be an understatement 'cos **IT WAS WICKED!**