

By the Way



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

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BEM for "Dor Barbara"!

Our very own Barbara Barnes JP, one of our Trustees, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for voluntary and charitable services to the community of Dunbartonshire.

Barbara, well known for her intrepid fundraising stunts like a wing walk on her 70th birthday, celebrated the news by serving coffees and running a wee tombola at church. Raising funds is only a small part of Barbara's commitment to others, though, as she is heavily involved in the caring side of the charities she supports, notably Alzheimer's Scotland.

A retired local schoolteacher, Mrs Barnes, as many Dumbarton people call her, is also an Inspector of Care Homes, and is deeply involved in the welfare of older people.

Everyone at St Aug's is absolutely delighted that Barbara's work and her commitment to others has been recognised in this way. It is greatly deserved, and we are rather proud that she is 'one of us'.

When she's not leaping from tall buildings or throwing herself out of planes with a parachute, or serving on many committees and steering groups with MPs and local politicians, Barbara can also be found cleaning toilets in the community hall or visiting folk in the congregation.

Perhaps, soon, she will opt for the quieter life, but we doubt it! Congratulations, Barbara. You are indeed a star!



Parish Directory

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

Rector:- Revd Kenneth Macaulay
54 Helenslee Cres
Dumbarton G82 4HS (frkenny@btinternet.com)
Tel: 01389 602261 Mobile: 07734 187250

Curate:- Revd Pat Smith (patsmithcurate@gmail.com) Tel: 01436 671091

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: Maggie Wallace (maggiewallace@blueyonder.co.uk)

Fabric Convener: Margaret Hardie and her Team

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

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

Other Vestry Members:

Margaret Hardie (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)
Shadrach Shame (0141 562 0811)

Regional Council Representative: Roberta Mailley

Child Protection Officer: Barbara Barnes

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

Music Art Drama (MAD): Fran Walker

Mission Action Planning Group:

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

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie

Flowers: Maggie Wallace

From Kenny,

The next couple of months are going to be busy, but promise, too, to be mainly filled with a couple of joyful occasions!

On August 25th we celebrate St Augustine's Day. This will be special, as it is our 140th Birthday! Our morning services will celebrate the life of our Patronal Saint, and in the evening, there will be a Choral Evensong at 6.30pm.

For those of you who remember Evensong, it will be a little like the past revisited, and for those who have never been, it is an experience that you will enjoy immensely. Sung a cappella, without musical backing, except for the hymns, it will be led by me, together with the Argyll Quartet, who are being bussed in for the occasion. The Bishop is coming to preach, too!

Afterwards, as Janette has mentioned elsewhere, we will have a St Auggie's Party, and we hope to have a big timeline up on the wall, depicting 140 memories from past years in their historical context.

Off, then, we march into September for a very special weekend. (We'll sandwich a Community Fair in, on Sept 7th). Pat is being ordained priest in St Augustine's on September 28th at 2pm. The place will be full of visitors from all over the Diocese, priests and people, as well as some local dignitaries and invited guests from other churches in Dumbarton.

We are honoured that this is taking place here rather than in the Cathedral, and it is, of course, a very special day for Pat, and the congregation as we welcome a new priest. Revd Fred Tomlinson has been asked to preach by the Bishop. Naturally, St Augustine's hospitality will need to kick in, and there will be a buffet in Riverside Halls after the service.

The next day, Sunday 29th, the Feast of St Michael and all Angels, will see Pat celebrating the Eucharist for the first time at 11am. Again, there should be some extra guests, and Revd Sally Gorton is coming to preach, and, again, the Bishop will be present.

We need you to support all of this with your presence, and your help, and I know we will all rise to the occasion on these special days.

Meanwhile, you are invited to make a special gift to the church on its 140th Anniversary. Envelopes will be provided!

Kenny



Pat Says.....

We have just had central heating installed, and part of the careful planning was to have the work done in the summer so that we would not suffer from the lack of heating or hot water when the weather was cold.



Unfortunately the plans did not allow for the test run of the radiators being done in the middle of a heatwave! (*Just wait until August - you'll need it - Ed*). As Burns said "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley". There is that carefully planned holiday which we have looked forward to for months which starts with long delays at the airport and then goes further downhill with lost luggage, the weather being too hot, upset tummies . . . On the other hand the meeting which we have tried to avoid, with someone we think we don't like, can turn out to be a friendly and useful exchange of ideas and lead on to all sorts of helpful developments.

As my first year at St Augustine's comes towards its end and I look forward to my ordination to the priesthood this September I realise how much of the unexpected is to be found in the life of a curate. I certainly didn't expect to be taking the main service on my second Sunday, or conducting a large funeral solo after less than two months, although thankfully the wonderful liturgy of our church carried me through.

Unfortunately my cheery promise to visit everyone in their homes has not been achieved – visiting takes up much more time than I imagined, and while I am less than ten miles down the road from Dumbarton that distance means that I can't just pop round the corner to see someone. Another thing that I have discovered is that actually finding busy St Augustine's people at home can be very difficult!

In September I will be ordained priest, and in addition to my current duties I will be able to celebrate the sacraments, which will doubtless provide many other occasions for me to meet with the unexpected; while our new adventure in the linked charge with St Mungo's will throw up many challenges and opportunities for us all, but in particular for the clergy.

Thankfully the one thing that can be relied upon is the love, friendship and support of the people of St Augustine's, which I have experienced over the past year.

Pat

St James the Least of All

The Rectory
St. James the Least

Since I happened to be in your area last week, I tried to call in at your church, and was sorry to find it was locked and bolted, with surveillance cameras watching me.

We tend to be a little more relaxed about matters of security. The key to the medieval lock was lost some time during Queen Victoria's reign and never replaced. How someone managed to misplace a foot long piece of cast iron, weighing about 10 pounds is a mystery. If it had fallen out of someone's pocket, it would certainly have broken their foot. Ever since, no one has bothered with locking the door – which makes me wish our burglars last year had thought of trying it, before wasting so much energy smashing a stained glass window when they visited in the early hours one morning. On the other hand, were the key still in use, I should probably be arrested these days for carrying an offensive weapon.

As with most rural churches, keys which open just about everything in the village are hidden in various parts of the church. The vestry key is under my seat cushion, the organ key under a vase on the altar, the church hall key on top of the hymn book cupboard, and Miss Simpson's spare front door key inside the font. I have never been certain whether the latter is there for safety, or as a general invitation. I am sure someone could usefully produce a book suggesting the many places keys are likely to be found secreted in churches for the use of vergers, flower arrangers, cleaners – and thieves wanting to save themselves time and effort.

I suspect that the burdened look that many urban clergy wear is not because they are weighed down with parish troubles, but because they are obliged to carry with them a superfluity of keys needed to negotiate every door in church, hall, school and vicarage. And why is there always one for which no one has any idea what it opens?

The only occasion I have ever thought it would be useful to be able to lock a church is when you have a party of visitors inside. So often, on hearing the words "let us pray" or the start of an appeal for funds, they bolt for the door.

Your suggestion that every month at clergy meetings, someone should review a book of theology they have been reading, was bound to be greeted with uneasy resistance. It would mean that the majority would have to start opening books, rather than just occasionally dusting them. Possessing books does not necessarily imply that they are ever read.

Your high church colleagues will only read the Racing News, low church members the Railway Review, liberals the Knitting Weekly and those with tendencies towards non-conformism, the Vegetarian Times. Clerical studies may be lined with books, but they are largely for effect – and to

hide damp patches on the wallpaper. Anything with hard covers will have been bought with the best of intentions – but somehow the vicarage lawn or the church hall drains will have taken precedence. And from what I know of your colleague at St. Crispin's, the only books he will buy will be to colour in.

I do try to keep up with my reading, but sleep mercifully intervenes after the first 10 minutes. On those days when I sit by my study window, so passers-by can see me deeply occupied in intellectual activity, it is most useful that my large tome on the letters of Eusebius can easily conceal an Agatha Christie inside it.

I confess that I was once gloriously put down when I tried to get one of our blue stockings interested in a new edition of a Dostoevsky novel. She replied: 'I have never read Dostoevsky in translation.' It only confirmed my suspicions that she had worked as a Russian spy in earlier years.

I was hugely impressed when during the bitter cold of last winter the Earl of Stowe, whose library would comfortably contain one of our cathedrals, told me he was slowly getting through its contents of tens of thousands of volumes. It was only some time later I discovered that he meant he threw the occasional one on the fire when he was running low on wood.

No, my dear Darren, the only literary activities that will spark interest will be crosswords for the majority, or diocesan reports for the truly dedicated – with weighty tomes being used as door stops.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Cursillo

Tues July 30th. Diocesan Ultreya at 7.30 p.m. in St. Ninian's, Troon

In August we have Weekend #62 in Kinnoull so our meetings are as follows:-

Thurs 15th. at 7.30 p.m. we hold "Stations of the Cross" in St A's, followed by coffee and a chat.

Sunday 18th is the Clausura in Perth so travel arrangements for this can get worked out on the 15th.

Thursday, 29th is the Welcome Back in Holy Trinity, Ayr, at 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Hope to see you all there.

Ultreya,

Evelyn.

Smile-Lines

Miscellaneous observations on life...

- ~ Aim low. Reach your goals. Avoid disappointment.
- ~ All generalisations are false.
- ~ All that glitters has a high refractive index.
- ~ All's well that ends
- ~ Always make stupid moves, it confuses your opponent.
- ~ Always stay in with the outs.
- ~ Take time to stop and smell the roses... but beware: sooner or later, you'll inhale a bee.
- ~ Always try to be modest. And be VERY proud of it.
- ~ An atheist is a person who has no invisible means of support.
- ~ An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
- ~ Any married man should forget his mistakes - there's no use in two people remembering the same thing.
- ~ Before you criticise someone, make sure you've walked a mile in their shoes. That way, you're a mile away AND you have their shoes!
- ~ Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.
- ~ The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.
- ~ Marriage is a very good way to promote civilisation - if you get a good partner you will be happy, if you get a bad one you will become a philosopher.
- ~ Middle age – when you begin to exchange your emotions for symptoms.
- ~ The first time I sang in the church choir 200 people changed their church!
- ~ Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

The Talking Centipede

A man decided to get an unusual pet. So he went to the pet shop and after some discussion, finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. The man took the box home, put it carefully on the table, and decided he would start off by

taking his new pet to church with him. So next morning he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered the man, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, and decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me – or not?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box: "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"

The Mummy test

I was out walking with my then four year old daughter. She picked up a sweet wrapper from the ground and was about to sniff it. I told her not to do that, and she demanded why.

"Because it's been lying outside and is dirty and has germs that will upset your tummy," I replied.

She looked at the wrapper and then at me. "Wow! How do you know that?"

"Um," I was thinking quickly, "Um, it's on the Mummy test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mummy." My daughter digested this reply in wondering silence, and we continued walking.

Suddenly she stopped. "I get it! If you fail, then you have to be the Daddy."

Left-handed

Bobby went to the park one Sunday afternoon with his grandmother. It was late summer, but still many flowers were in bloom. Everything was beautiful. His grandmother remarked: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Only a few hours away from church, Bobby said: "Yes, God did it and he did it left-handed." Confused, his grannie asked him why he thought that. "Easy," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School this morning that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

While the vicar's away...

From a church news-sheet: The vicar is away on holiday for two weeks. Massages can be given to the curate.

Dumbarton London Corner

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY HELD ON SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2013.

Once again Dumbarton London Corner Nursery school held its 7th Graduation Speech and Prize Giving Ceremony on Saturday 6th July 2013.

The program started at a quarter to four with opening prayers lead by Mr. Jawara and Mr. Williams.

Next was the singing of the School and National Anthem, followed by a welcome song by the schools' choir group.

The Teacher in Charge, after thanking the Lord God for granting us long live and good health to witness yet another graduation, gave a brief history about the school for the benefit of those who did not know. He went on to say the school was established in 2001 for the most vulnerable families in the community.

The school houses three classrooms with 30 pupils per class. All the teaching, learning materials and a free meal have been provided by Dumbarton Gambia Education Association, in Dumbarton, Scotland.

D.G.E.A. is contributing immensely on staff welfare by training them on Emergency First Aid facilitated by First Aid 4 Gambia, sponsoring two of their teachers to do a 3 years programme at The Gambia College on Early Childhood Care and Development, and also sponsoring the Teacher in Charge on IT at QuantumNet Institute.

The programme was punctuated by recitation of poems, jolly songs, and vowel songs.

The guest speaker was Mr. B. Njie of The Gambia College who spoke on the theme "The school and the Community" which was preceded by a dramatic role play entitled; "The School and the Community - together we can do it."

The ceremony ended with the presentation of prizes to the most punctual student and the neatest student in the various classes alongside the presentation of sports accolades and certificates to the participants and graduates. The vote of thanks was delivered by Yama Saho a graduate.

Finally, the occasion was well attended by the students, parents, invited guests, journalist from

West coast Radio 95.3 FM and a cross section of the community.

In conclusion, on behalf of the pupils, parents and staff of Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School and on my own humble behalf, we collectively thank the D.G.E.A.

Sulayman Saidy (July 2013)

REPORT ON ANNUAL FIELD VISIT

Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School once again took off from the school grounds to visit a place called MyFarm which is situated at Nema-Kunku, an agricultural project founded by a Swedish national resident in The Gambia.

Upon arrival at MyFarm at around 11am, the school children and staff were received by the entire staff of MyFarm. Alagie, a member of staff, gave a brief account of the aims and objectives of MyFarm and what they are doing at MyFarm, which is centred on vegetable production and value addition.

We divided ourselves into small groups headed by a staff member who guided us on a conducted tour of the facility. For the first time most of these children are exposed to such an undertaking to see, feel and taste some of the vegetables and fruits, see crops bearing fruits, some ripe and unripe some on the parent plant, some flowering and also saw nursery plants in Polly pots.

Some of the children also took part in making Moringa from the Miracle tree which has a lot of nutritional values when properly utilized, either dried or freshly cooked and the preparation of mint nurseries which was indeed interesting. As you can see, the zeal in the kids found them scrambling to do one thing or the other.

The fish pond was an interesting area to visit too, where children were able to see live fish swimming in water small and medium. They were also shown bee hives used for the production of honey and candles made out of bee wax.

Children were exposed to a parabolic solar drier and cooker which is powered by the sun.

They also had the opportunity to visit the iPad class, which had a display of pads with different apps such as puzzle fixing, additional games, music and musical instrument apps, where you can compose

your own rhythms/tunes, matching cards and colours, just to name a few.

Some value added products were on display at MyFarm such as Honey, Soap, solar dried Mint and Moringa leaves, Body Cream, roasted Cashew nuts, Mango Jam, Tomato Jam the list goes on and on.

Special thanks and appreciation to the staff at MYFARM for their commitment, dedication and determination and their time taking us around the farm and explaining so many bits and pieces to us without hesitation. BRAVO to Kelly, Alagie and Jarra for a job well done.

Finally, our next stop was at the Taranga beach where children had free play and enjoyed the sea breeze, doughnuts, fish cakes, food and refreshment. We went safely and returned home safely.

In conclusion on behalf of the children and staff I would like to thank the D.G.E.A and their sponsors for making the trip successful by providing everything free for the children ranging from free snacks, food and drinks even transportation, not forgetting our able administrator Helen Touray for facilitating the trip.

Yours faithfully, **Sulayman Saidy**



(Ed - It is wonderful to hear so many good stories from our school in The Gambia. Sulayman, as you have gathered, is an excellent teacher, and his commitment to the school and his staff and pupils goes far and above the call of duty! His photography could be improved somewhat, but we are working on that! Meanwhile, we reckon he should have a photo of himself for By the Way!

Letter from Revd Tony Mann

Janet and I are renewing our membership of Friends this year.

Congratulations on your new look magazine – yours put many others that exist to shame – well done 'By the Way' is excellent.

Then, the demise of a separate St. Mungo's . It has been on the cards for some time and to my mind a proposed team ministry will bring together our two levels of the Church without necessarily bringing a High Church and a Low Church together to make a mess of both.

It will be a challenge for Kenny and the ministry team which I know he will cope with.

All our churches are ever changing. Sometimes the changes aren't welcomed, some changes are forced upon us. It is our Lord's desire that we should accept that these changes are the way forward. I wish you well.

Congratulations to the Girls group – they are obviously enjoying themselves and a credit to themselves, their leaders, mentors and parents. There is a message to many Rectors in that success.

It is unlikely that Janet and I will be able to make the journey north in the future, our mobility is poor and though I still drive I limit myself to shorter journeys. Janet has regained the ability to write, so she can communicate with friends and is able to do some knitting. We have a black and white cat who entertains and torments us?!

My sincere love to you all and I wish the meeting about the linkage goes well.

Good luck and God Bless the Friends events.

We shall be 80 next year and have very happy memories of our life in Scotland.

Many takes make my heart smile, many of you were part of the scenery and leading actors in some of them.

So continue sending the magazine, it is a link to keep us together.
God Bless

Tony (and Janet Mann)

Letter from Revd Robin Underhill

Dear Kenny,

Thank you for your email. It was my pleasure to get back to St Aug's and to see everybody again. They always make me feel so welcome.

My plan is to stay here until we change the clocks at the end of October and then I will return to my home in the Dallas area as soon as winter weather arrives and definitely in time for Christmas there. I would hope I can get to Dumbarton again to meet up with you and Linda before I leave.

Love and best wishes to all.

Robin

(It was wonderful to see Robin again. Recently he has suffered much tragedy, but he is an icon for all of us who face difficult times. With Our Lord at our side, we can overcome the world! - Ed)



"Of course, the main reason churchyards make such good wildlife sanctuaries is that the cars only go at walking pace."



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Authorised Agents

Our congratulations this month go to David and Linda Okonkwo, on the birth of their first-born, Sean. Sean has two Nigerian names too, which the Rector will have to learn to pronounce before the Baptism!

As David and Linda attend the 9am service, the Baptism will take place at that service, sometime in October, after Linda completes some more study.

The photo shows Baby Sean making his debut in St Augustine's..... And very well-behaved he was too!

See you at the Study Groups, friend!

Sunday (and Wednesday) View

Last time it was Matthew. This month we move right a bit across the reredos to look at the next of the evangelists, Mark, holding his symbolic scroll. Mark (a.k.a John Mark) was not one of the 12 disciples but accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey and was probably the first of the gospel writers. The other gospels quote all but 31 verses of Mark and his gospel records more miracles than any of the others.

What can we learn from the life of Mark? This is what my New Life Application Bible has to say:

“Mistakes are effective teachers. Their consequences have a way of making lessons painfully clear. But those who learn from their mistakes are likely to develop wisdom. John Mark was a good learner who just needed some time and encouragement.

“Mark was eager to do the right thing, but he had trouble staying with a task. In his gospel, Mark mentions a young man (probably referring to himself) who fled in such fear during Jesus’ arrest that he left his clothes behind. This tendency to run was to reappear later when Paul and Barnabas took him as their assistant on their first missionary journey. At their second stop, Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. It was a decision Paul did not easily accept. In preparing for their second journey two years later, Barnabas again suggested Mark as a travelling companion, but Paul refused. As a result, the team was divided. Barnabas took Mark with him and Paul chose Silas. Barnabas was patient with Mark and the young man repaid his investment. Paul and Mark were later reunited and the older apostle became a close friend of the young disciple.

“Mark was a valuable companion to three early Christian leaders – Barnabas, Paul and Peter. The material in Mark’s gospel seems to have come mostly from Peter. Mark’s role as a serving assistant allowed him to be an observer. He heard Peter’s accounts of the years with Jesus over and over again and he was one of the first to put Jesus’ life in writing.

“Barnabas played a key role in Mark’s life. He stood beside the young man despite his failure, giving him patient encouragement. Mark challenges us to learn from our mistakes and appreciate the patience of others.”

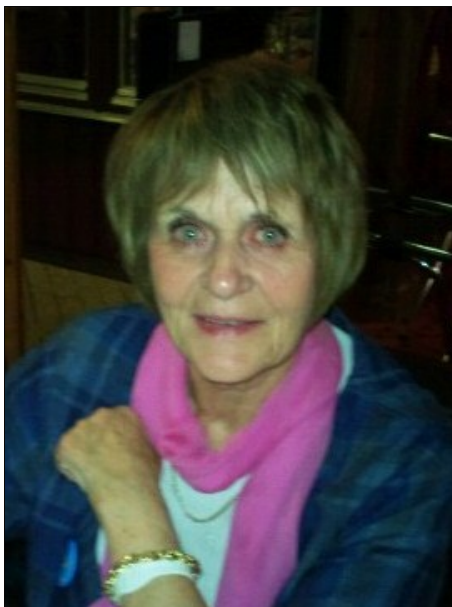
Question: Who has encouraged us and who do we encourage?



Igor and Oleks Say Thanks!...

for the £240 donated to support children and mothers affected by Chernobyl nuclear disaster.





Wait Till I Tell You

The Gossip Column

Janette recalls our summer of high temperatures, sporting success and an exciting new challenge for St. Augustine's in the coming years.

THE NIGHT THE ALLSORTS CAME HOME

Friday, June 21st had been a long awaited date in the Friends' calendar. It had been planned as an evening of celebration and relaxation - the culmination of the past year's busy social events. So with the bubbly chilling and every strawberry in ASDA bought up, cut up and dressed up (in peach schnapps) to await a 'daud' of cream, it was all systems go.

Easy catering? Well.....no! Not when half the exec members were indisposed or performing and the non-singers (all two of them) were in charge of this summertime supper. Even Linda was in Greece sending her good wishes, along with Kenny's, for a successful evening. The Golden Girls managed to get through the crowds at the interval and Fran arrived in a rush to alleviate a fraught staffing situation at feeding time.

The biggest problem was the opening of the bottles. The corks seemed permanently secured and the strength of King Kong was required to remove them for that elusive pop. But King Kong did not have a ticket so Ray was dragged away from his camera equipment to try to assist with a little muscle. Happily, we did manage to get the situation resolved by the interval but not without considering the use of a variety of DIY tools!

Over a hundred people were in the Church that night - all enjoying the excellent programme being presented by the Allsorts. And they had an almost full attendance on stage so the atmosphere was first class. Ghislaine was in great form controlling

the action as only she can, while Ricky, as usual, was indispensable backstage in spite of people 'touching things'.

TBag O'Neill, secretary to the Choir, told the audience how grateful they were for the use of St. Augustine's for rehearsal premises and presented the Church with a cheque for £100.

The choir was also celebrating the imminent 60th birthday of Ghislaine so a cake and a plethora of congratulations appeared on cue.

Aye, it was 'a great wee night' with plenty of laughs, audience participation and the over-riding feeling that summer had at last arrived. After all, the choir was off for a break, the Friends' Exec were on holiday till August and many of the audience members were going home to start packing their cases. A profit of £450 was realised plus the cheque from the Allsorts - a great boost for St. Auggie's Church funds. Clearing up was postponed till the next morning when the usual suspects put everything back in order.

MEAT IN THE BIN STORE - PHEW!

Who left the deposit of raw meat in our bin store during the heat wave? Will we ever find out? The whole area had to be cordoned off till it was removed. Well done to those who did so and eventually obliterated the stench which we could almost smell down on the Med.!

SUMMER SNEAKS UP ON US!

During our coldest Spring on record, I don't recall anyone forecasting what superb summer weather

we would experience in July – or even endure, in the case of some of our local residents who moan their heads off all year about the wind and the rain and then want it back after two days of sweating in the High Street!

I recall one trachled wee wifie dragging her shopping trolley onto the Westcliff bus. She was dressed in trousers, fleece and jumper and she hailed her fellow passengers with ‘*see this hoat weather – it’s killing me!*’ And there were those of us who had struggled through horrendous airport queuing to collapse on a foreign sunbed when we could have got redder and hotter in Helensburgh! No, we can’t beat the weather so why moan?

LINKS ALONG THE LEVEN.

Now that the linking of the River Leven parishes of St. Augustine’s and St. Mungo’s is imminent, a whole new opportunity arises for ‘social events on water’ is presenting itself. The Friends’ Executive is always looking for new ideas. Suggestions could include a wee boat trip in fancy dress, a fishing competition or a plastic duck race followed by tea and bingo in the Community Hall. Walking on water would be a bit of a risk but the cycle track could provide a health day out with refreshments and muscle massages at St. Mungo’s. Yes, we’ll be getting the best of both worlds while keeping our own vestries to complain to and enjoying a ‘pick and mix’ Team Ministry. Happily, we won’t be calling the new linked parish St. Mungustine’s or even St. Augo’s! That’s just too naff!

IN THE BEGINNING.....

We know that we won’t find any members who were around in 1873 when St. Auggie’s took its place on Dumbarton’s busy High Street but we’re hoping to talk to ‘some wumman who knew a wumman who was actually there’. In that way we can get as many as 140 memories of our Church’s past. All stories, photos, memorabilia will be welcome for a grand visual display in the Church on 25th August, St. Augustine’s Day.

Let’s tell the story of what the Church has achieved in the community over its lifetime. We might just unearth some good ideas for the future. Kenny is already trying to re-establish the practice of hat-

wearing amongst the women. In the next few weeks we will be pestering you for your memories.

Please give some thought to the past and share it with Kenny, Fran or Janette. The Bishop will be down for a special Choral Evensong, (*shades of the past? -Ed*) and thanksgiving followed by a party – we can cope well with the latter!

ANDY MURRAY FROM THE ADRIATIC.

The Wimbledon Final was on 7th July and Andy Murray was playing Novak Djokovic of Serbia. We were at large in the Adriatic that day – a Dubrovnik tour had been arranged but it was returning in time for the match. And although the general feeling on board ship amongst the international company of holiday makers and waiters, several of whom were actually Serbian, was that Andy, as usual, would be second, a faithful band of Scottish fans assembled in a dark room in front of a selection of big screens to show their support.

After all, our Football Team had just demolished Croatia so anything was possible. Strawberries and cream were laid on for atmosphere but as Andy started the match by winning the first set, annoyance was expressed by the anguished Scots at anyone who arose from their seats and blocked out even one second of the action.

When it became a possibility that Andy might triumph the audience was increased by the arrival of other interested sports fans. The Cruise Ship Entertainment Director from the USA recognised an opportunity, possibly to sell more drink, and announced between the exciting games of the final set, that this tennis was awesome and that he would be organising a Roast Beef Dinner in the Ocean Café after the match. Suddenly, like a chorus of banshees in unison a group of Scottish ladies chanted ‘*Haggis.....Haggis.....*’ and thoroughly confused him.

As we all know the match ended magnificently with mascara running all over the faces of the Scottish fans. But not the men – they were putting on their ‘see you Jimmy hats’, singing ‘Flower of Scotland’ and waving a saltire that just happened to have been part of someone’s luggage. Waving the saltire is allowed on the high seas even if frowned upon in the Royal Box. The cheering echoed throughout the

'See us Scots, great at tennis so we ur'.

DON'T SAY A WORD.

We were all thrilled to hear of Barbara's BEM award in June but amazed that recipients are told in advance of their impending honour and sworn to secrecy for weeks. Barbara managed to comply with this, only telling her two sons. In the wonderful world of St. Aug's can you imagine the blethering classes who meet in our hall on a regular basis with their daily greetings of *'How are you doin'?' 'What's the goss?' 'Wait till I tell you!'* I could name a few that wouldn't be able to keep quiet. So, congratulations, Barbara we're all very proud of you.

AT LAST – NEWS OF THE BABY!

One had to feel sorry for the media people on the day of the royal birth, 22nd July. Most of their day was spent keeping the world up to date with very little news to impart. All that day their vigil lasted. We were shown endless pictures of a deserted hospital door – does no one ever get admitted to this hospital? And then there was the front of Buckingham Palace where the tourists were waiting to photograph an easel.

But the least interesting was our visits to the typically English village of Bucklebury in Berkshire – the home of Team Middleton. We were told that there were many pubs in this village but all the residents must have been inside them since there were very few on the streets. It was explained that they spent a lot of time arranging coffee mornings and playing bridge. Well, Dumbarton folk spend a lot of time arranging coffee mornings and playing bingo so perhaps we should twin. Oh, and the few they managed to interview said they were thrilled about the baby that was in no hurry to arrive and pleased that it would put their village on the map.

Imagine the scene if Prince William had married a lassie from Brucehill! The cameras descending on our High Street showing the world our delightful selection of shops, zooming in to our dilapidated Town Centre and finally finding human life just outside Poundland. The interview would have been enlightening – a lot of moans about the bedroom tax, the state of the shops and the hot weather before the baby was even mentioned. On the subject of the wean it would be hoped that Granny would

bring it to Dumbarton for a wee visit. That would be nice. And there were nappy changing facilities round at St. Auggie's Hall – nae bother!

And if the interviewer hung around till lunchtime there was the possibility of talking to a few of the punters who were desperately seeking Ghislaine and a bright orange bag. Now there's a story to put your town on the map.

It was not until the evening that we were informed of the actual arrival of the new Prince and the notice was posted on the Royal easel. By then boring Bucklebury had hung out a few flags and erected a notice. Next day we were again viewing the hospital door – terrible family, no one visited till late afternoon – and then they emerged with the unnamed baby to say a few words and depart for home and the first of many sleepless nights! That'll be right! So congratulations to the new Royal Family and to the media who kept on talking and made the whole presentation as exciting as an early episode of Big Brother!

EDINBURGH – THE EASY WAY.

August 10th will be a busy day in Edinburgh with the Festival in full swing but you can be there and back in Friends' luxury coach leaving from the Community Hall around 9.15am. You can join in an organised guided tour of Mary King's Close under the Royal Mile, learn a lot about Edinburgh's past and perhaps meet a ghost or two if everyone manages to keep quiet. Then you have the option of popping over to St. Giles Cathedral, going shopping or seeking some culture. Included in the £28 cost is a meal at a Toby Carvery in the West End of Edinburgh. See the hall noticeboard for all the details – and put your name up before it's too late.

DON'T FORGET THE COMMUNITY FAIR.

It's never too early to start thinking about this year's Autumn Community Fair to be held on 7th September. All the usual stalls will be in operation – Arts and Crafts, White Elephant, Nearly New, Garden Produce, Home Baking etc. etc. There are a few novel ideas floating around and the hall users have been asked to participate and raise some money for their own funds.

Tina's Traumas

The occasion was a family member's 60th birthday. His big surprise – organised by his two sons – was a wee family day out to Millport. Count me in, says I (never having been to Millport before). They say friends are God's way of apologising to us for our families. Now I know why.



There was a bit of a hoolie blowing off the Clyde when we left Largs but all seemed calm on our arrival at Millport. Well, it was calm until we were introduced to the mode of transport on which we were to travel round the island. It's called a conference bike. It seats seven people, one of whom has access to a steering wheel with which to guide his fellow pedallers. Now, you might think - as did we - that seven people riding a bike would be seven times easier and get us round the 10 mile circular route quicker. Let me disabuse you of that notion right now.

On reflection, if any of us had paused to think what size and weight a bike capable of carrying seven adults needs to be, we may have been a little more prepared. (Like, six months in the gym with a personal trainer.) We may indeed have not bothered going at all. This thing weighs a ton - and with heavy but small wheels, you can pedal your heart out and get about as far as a three-legged tortoise in the London Marathon.

We ranged in age from 20s up to 60 - but both youth and not so young agreed - after about half a mile - that we had made a BIG mistake. Undaunted we carried on and, two hours later, with an additional 40 minute break for a picnic during which we had to hold down the wind-buffed nibbles with one hand while swatting seagulls with the other, we rolled wearily to the door of the cycle hire shop.

There were times when we all felt like giving up, when the pain and the strain got just too much. But then someone would say '*come on, we can do it*' and there would be a noticeable speeding up of the pedals as we rallied together. And on those occasions when some of us had to ease off on the footwork, there were others prepared to carry the load. It wasn't just the shared suffering which got us through, it was the laughter and the sense of being in it together. Oh, and the prospect of walking the rest of the way on aching legs while pushing an awkward contraption more suited to an episode of Pimp My Ride.

Church is a bit like that too. We need to work and pull together, whatever our strengths, to get to where we are going. There will be times when some folk need to ease off and recharge their batteries while others take the strain. There will be times when we need to grit our teeth and remember that, despite the pain, we're all headed in the same direction. And, despite the aching bits, the ride can be a lot of fun when we are part of God's circle of fellowship.

Tina Kemp

WTITY (cont)

Please put the date in your diaries and come along for Morning Coffee, Lunch or Afternoon Tea – or even all three. There's not much else to do in Dumbarton.

'AUGUST FOR THE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAVOURITE ISLANDS'

Yes for the Scots since the weans go back to school, the nights start drawing in and that super summer holiday becomes a memory. But there's lots going on down at St. Aug's so get involved and you could be appearing in next month's 'By the Way'. That will be the September edition! How time flies!

Must start my Christmas shopping!

Back next month.

Janette.

Country Walk

The next Country Trip will be on Saturday August 5th to the island of Inchmahone on the Lake of Menteith. We meet at the pier at 2 pm, visit the ruined abbey on the island- there is an optional 20 minute walk round the island, then call at a tea-room on the way home. Please put your name on the notice in the hall if you can come or tell Tim or Rosemary

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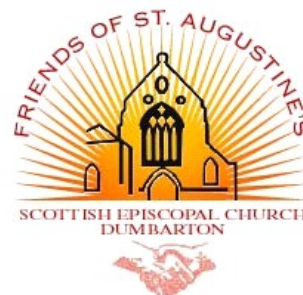
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Sunday Rotas

ROTAS FOR AUGUST 2013



Sunday August 4th.
11am Eucharist

Readers Janette Barnes & Margaret Hardie

Intercessions Margot Rhead

Chalice Fran Walker

Sidespersons Linda Jenkinson & Ronnie Blaney Dear Friends,

Sunday August 11th
11am Eucharist

Readers Barbara Barnes & Maggie Wallace

Intercessions Fran Walker

Chalice Sharon Rowatt

Sidespersons Margaret Swan & Tim Rhead

Sunday August 18th
11am Eucharist

Readers Tim Rhead & Ghislaine Kennedy

Intercessions Evelyn O'Neill

Chalice Maggie Wallace

Sidespersons R Mailley & Chrissie Ashman

Sunday August 25th St Augustine's Day

11am Eucharist

Readers Margot Rhead & David Rowatt

Intercessions Peter Cairns

Chalice Tim Rhead

Sidespersons David Ansell & Gavin Elder

Choral Evensong: 6.30pm

Readers: Anne Dyer and Liam McLearnon

FLOWER ROTA

Wk ending 3rd August Moira McGown & Barbara Barnes

" " 10th " Linda Macaulay & Mgt Hardie

" " 17th " Maggie Wallace

" " 24th " Moira, Maggie, Mgt. H.

" " 31st " Barbara & Linda M

In the last magazine we included a reminder letter for the renewal of the Friends annual subscription. Many of you have not renewed yet and this may be an oversight or you may have decided to leave us this year.

We are planning some great events again with the Coach Trip to Edinburgh on August 10th being the first of many that we will be offering during the year. The big event this year in November will be the return of our Pantodine, and this year I hear that it involves a young lady and 7 little friends! St. Aug's version of course.

Once again the subscriptions remain at £15 for individual membership, £25 for family membership and £50 for business membership.

Please forward your subscription to me at the church address or hand it to any members of the Exec who will pass it on.

If you have already paid your membership subscription this year please ignore this reminder and enjoy your membership which, as always, includes the free magazine, discounts on most events and entry into the monthly draw for a £10 M & S voucher.

Thank you for your continued support. This is an important source of funds to keep St. Aug's going and we hope to see you at the next Friends event.

Margaret Hardie

Membership Secretary

Columba celebration held on Dumbarton Rock

By BILL HEANEY
With pics by Bill Heaney

A congregation of people from ten Dumbarton churches gathered in glorious sunshine on Dumbarton Rock on Saturday for a multi-faith service to celebrate the 1450th anniversary of the arrival of St Columba in Scotland.

They met on the site of St Patrick's chapel near the Governor's House, where they sang hymns and listened to readings from the Rev Brian Mulraine, of Dumbarton Baptist Church, and Canon Gerry Conroy from St Patrick's RC Church in Strathleven Place.

They were welcomed by Tim Rhead from St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church and given a short account of St Columba's life and times by historian Billy Scobie from Bonhill Parish Church in Vale of Leven.

It was the third multi-faith service to be held on the Rock in the past year, although the other two were held in March and November in the kind of cold, grim weather Scotland has become used to over the past 12 months.

Columba was born in Donegal in the year 521AD where he was a prince of the Irish royal house of O'Neill, a descendant of the legendary Niall of the Nine Hostages, and he became known as Colum Cille – the Dove of the Church.

He was educated by priests and became a deacon in 563 when at the age of 42 he sailed from Antrim to Iona in a small boat accompanied by twelve companions.

There Columba founded a monastic community of enormous influence, travelling far and wide establishing churches and monasteries in the Hebrides, along the West coast and back in Ireland.

He was a missionary, and an ambassador and a statesman, as well as a poet, and in 574, after the death of King Conall of Dalriada, his successor, Aedan, came to Iona to be consecrated by Columba.

"This is said to have been the first Christian anointing of any European monarch in history," said Mr Scobie.

Columba probably visited Dumbarton Rock since it was the capital of Strathclyde and the king was Rhydderch, who was a friend and supporter of St Mungo, the effective founder and patron saint of Glasgow, who, in turn, was a friend of Columba.

This followed a famous meeting between Columba and Mungo on the banks of the Molindinar Burn in Glasgow.

Mr Scobie said: "Given the Rock's political and spiritual significance, added to its importance as a centre of communication by land and sea, it is very likely that Columba would have visited Rhydderch here at Dumbarton. The saint may have walked on this very spot."

Columba died on Iona on the 9th of June in 597, and his feast day was celebrated on Sunday. (June 10).

Mr Scobie said: "It is reasonable to suggest that the Christian evangelisation of Columba and his monks made possible the eventual union of the Picts and Scots, a development which may be said to have been the birth of the Scottish nation.

"Columba has been very specially loved and revered by Scots of all Christian denominations throughout our history, and we do well to gather together here to remember him on this, the 1450th anniversary of his arrival on Iona."

