

By the Way



Together



The Magazine of St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dumbarton
And
St Mungo's Scottish Episcopal Church, Alexandria
Issue No 3 October 2014



Our Latest BEM - Georgie Duncan

We were so proud to celebrate with Georgie on September 19th in St Patrick's, after her receiving her BEM in Bearsden earlier on the day. Some more pics inside!

With Barbara Barnes receiving her BEM twelve months ago, we are beginning to wonder whoever next? That's three Citizens of the Year, and two BEMs in five years! Five Star!

Inside this Month

Community Fayre

Our New Associate Priest

St Mungo's Guides' Pots of Gold

Doris Reaches 100!

Janette is back!

Rotas, Directories, and much much more!

St Augustine's Parish Directory

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

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

Associate Priest:- Vacant

Treasurer: David Rowatt (dsrowatt@blueyonder.co.uk) Tel :- 01389 513388

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

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

Alternate Lay Representative: Vacant

Fabric Convener: Margaret Hardie, Fran Walker and their Team

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

Trustees: The Rector,
Margaret Wallace (01389 757200),
Barbara Barnes (barbara78barnes@gmail.com) (01389 755984)

Other Vestry Members:

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

Regional Council Representative: Vacant

Child Protection Officer: Barbara Barnes

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

Music Art Drama (MAD): Fran Walker

Mission Action Planning Group:

The Rector
Gavin Elder
Anne Dyer
Morag O'Neill (morag.oneill@blueyonder.co.uk) (01389 763710)
Fran Walker
Liam McLarnon

Freewill Offering: Margaret Hardie

Flowers: Maggie Wallace

Hall Lets: Maggie Wallace (01389 757200) or phone The Office on 734514

St Mungo's Parish Directory

St Mungo's, Main Street, Alexandria G83 0BN 01389 513365 www.stmungosalexandria.org.uk

Clergy: See St Augustine's (We have a joint Ministry Team)

Treasurer : Gaynor Davies (ronyag1@blueyonder.co.uk) tel: 01389 754017

Secretary to the Vestry: Pat Brooks (pjbrooks49@sky.com tel 01389 759397

Lay Representative: Pauline Dow (paulinedow@btinternet.com) tel:01389 751046

Alternate Lay Representative: vacant

Property Convenor: James Murdoch (jimart@jmurdoch.fsnet.co.uk) tel: 01389 753129

Other Vestry Members: Andrew Baxter tel: 01436 672898

Tom Marshall tel: 01389 764697

Rachel Tough (Rachel-alden@blueyonder.co.uk) tel: 01389 757831

Ruth Wallace tel: 01389 759284

Regional Council Representative: Andrew Baxter

Vulnerable Groups Officer: Pauline Dow

Gift Aid: Pauline Dow

Flowers: Pauline Dow

Hall Lets: Secretary ([Pat Brooks](#)) 01389 759397

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We need people to step up to fill the Vacancies and to volunteer for being part of the MAP Group 2014-2015.

Being “too old” is not an excuse. Being tired is, but we have had a few months of ministry now which has taken a great burden from many shoulders.

We need regeneration, and we work with what we have! That means you!

Our New Associate Priest

Reverend Liz O’Ryan will be Instituted as the new Associate Priest to the Linked Charge on Saturday 25th October at 1pm in St Augustine’s. We look forward to having her with us with the many gifts she brings. Liz has sent us a wee photo, and a bit of “blurb” about herself!



Wee Fragments of a Life

Where shall I start? I am a priest, wife to Phil, mum to David (18), Michael (16), and Ruth (14)... family taxi driver, cleaner, cook and general organiser. I grew up in a rural village in Oxfordshire and went to Birmingham University to study theology where I also enjoyed the racial and cultural mix of cosmopolitan life and the local Balti curries! Whilst a Primary School teacher, I met Phil and by marriage became part of a wonderful, large Irish family which now numbers seven fabulous sister-in-laws and twenty-five lively nieces and nephews!

Having settled happily in South Birmingham with our three children, RBS took over NatWest and a move to Scotland soon became inevitable. This was a huge leap into the unknown (particularly for a dedicated southerner!) but it has turned out to be a great move for all of us.

We moved to Skelmorlie (as I always wanted to live on top of a hill)... and I looked after my own kids whilst running the village playgroup of 28 two and three year olds.

Faith wise, I’ve attended church all my life and have always been conscious of God’s presence. I have a particular interest in prayer and spirituality, and enjoy talking to people about their faith as well as listening to their stories. I got the first stirrings of God’s call when I was six, but managed to ignore it until I was 46! I was ordained three years ago, serving my curacy at St John’s, Greenock, and today ministry is both a joy and huge privilege to me.

More personally, I am daft about babies and children, and also love anything furry and four footed! On days off I can be found in the garden or listening to music or singing. I am an avid reader and love stretching my aging brain cell with a Sudoku. Generally sunny natured, I love a good laugh... and am up for giving most new things a wee shot!

Foodshare and Food for Thought

The Editor wonders if we are all aware of the difference between these two things, and how it all actually works?

West Dunbartonshire Foodshare, an independent group, run three foodbanks a week for a couple of hours in West Dunbartonshire. One in Renton, one in Clydebank and one from St Augustine’s on a Friday. They take their donations from anywhere, and Sainsbury’s have been a fantastic help!

What happens, though, during the rest of the week? Agencies, statutory and otherwise simply refer people to St Augustine’s or to St Mungo’s Rectory kitchen in an emergency, and emergencies take place seven days every week including out-of-office times!

And so Food for Thought was born, and a few brave individuals from St Augustine’s give out their personal telephone number, and are prepared to respond 24/7. That is exceptional, but appreciated none-the-less.

There are chancers who do regularly take from Foodshare on the times they are open, but Food for Thought is an entirely different ball game. Here we come across the poorest of the poor, often in tears, always hungry, and usually with bairns to feed. They are mainly ashamed that they have to ask.

We struggle to keep up with demand, and any donation, however small, is gratefully received!

From Kenny



When the Bishop came to St Augustine's last month, it was for the Presentation of our Map Year Two. So much has been done and so much achieved, but we highlighted only four areas, or we may have been there all night!

It was done in the style of a Taize Eucharist with lots of candles, and I was told that I had to introduce the presentations. "But why?", I asked. I never introduced anything last year! It was pointed out to me that since September 2013 much had changed. When we wrote our MAP with all its aspirations twelve months ago, it was with very different expectations of leadership and we were about to go into a linkage with St Mungo's with a Non-Stipendiary Priest, an Associate Priest, a Rector and a strong lay leadership team. As the months went on things changed dramatically.

As you are aware, Revd Pat Smith left us shortly after being ordained priest, and Revd Alison Jones joined us at the end of February, only to resign for personal reasons six months later. Peter and Henriette left for Hungary in the Spring, Tim and Margot are about to go, and the lay leadership at St Mungo's disappeared. To cap it all, our MAP Facilitator, Anne Tomlinson disappeared to pastures new, and our bold, strong ministry team has been wobbly, stressed, and extremely uncertain as the twelve months passed.

Often I've felt very alone and sometimes unsupported. Yet, despite all of this, St Augustine's achieved their goals and did lots more besides including the blossoming of Food for Thought, with St Mungo's.

I was encouraged to introduce MAP Two because it was felt that the Bishop had to be aware that all this

had been accomplished despite a weakened Ministry Leadership Team, and the uncertainties that had developed.

I'm extremely proud that it did develop, although at times my health was affected, not least after the death of my father.

The people in both parishes rolled up their sleeves and got things done, and I'm grateful for that. I drew my strength from God, but from my people too.

Now that Liz is coming in October, we can look forward to a more settled Ministry Team, and it will be one of our priorities to grow a strong Lay Leadership Team too, with new Pastoral Visitors and Group Leaders. This will take time and training, but not too much, for the leadership skills are very obvious over the two parishes and it's often silly to try to teach your granny how to suck eggs!

All parishes go through a wee "lull" from time to time, but I have high hopes that both St Mungo's and St Augustine's will come out of this stronger. Look what both parishes achieved in their respective MAPS!

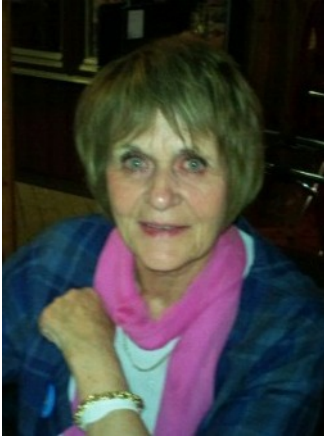
Changes will have to be made as it is obvious that we will now only have two priests. The 9am at St Mungo's will have to be terminated for a while at least, and the 10am on Wednesday will become 9.30am. This has been done after conversations with the people who come, and with the Bishop. I know it will cause a little unhappiness in some quarters, but we can only do what we can do, and two priests when you count in holidays, can only sustain so much. Perhaps a strong Lay Leadership Team can help. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, keep on praying that God will raise up new leaders to assist ministry in both parishes.

Kenny

Community Fayre - St Augustine's 2014





Wait Till I Tell You

The Gossip Column *(a tongue-in-cheek look at life)*

After a relaxing summer, Janette returns for a busy autumn at St. Aug's and to look forward to reliving her youth at a 50's Night in October.

IT'S NICE TO BE MISSED!

Thanks to all my readers who said they missed my page in the August magazine. Aw...w! I was only on holiday – slumming it on a cruise ship while eating my way round the Greek Islands. Nevertheless, I was thinking of you all back home enjoying 'A Taste of the Commonwealth' in July. I had no option – the baton may have been carried in by Sharon but my job had been to write the Royal message for inside it. Her Majesty had been too busy! I'm told it was a great wee night with lots of lovely food.

'ST. PAUL WIZ HERE'

Yes, it was tempting to write on the walls of the dilapidated forum in Old Corinth 'so wiz Janette and Maggie' – but I abstained and made friends with an old stray dog that looked as though it had been following tourists around the ruins since St. Paul was top of the bill.

The atmosphere of this ancient site was overwhelming and one could just imagine the apostle delivering his epistles or even having a sexist rant about women in this acoustically excellent spot.

Not that his 1st century attitude to the female sex was any less dodgy than that of the male members of the Royal and Ancient who only this week joined the 21st century and admitted women to their ranks. Aye, Corinth is well worth a visit, even in the summer heat.

COACH TOURING FOR DUMMIES.

Some folks are much better at it than others. You know the smart ones – the tourists who always end up cool, calm and collected on the front seats of the coach with their belongings neatly arranged on the overhead rack and their mandatory water bottles in the allotted space in front of them.

The stragglers, even though setting out on time, are consigned to separate seats, seats at the back or seats near the toilet sharing with someone who, through no

fault of their own, has the requirement for a larger seat thus overflowing onto two.

This situation is common on coach tours in the busy months and is of no concern to the English speaking guides who get the maximum number on board and shoot off before forgetting their lines but never before telling us that our driver is very experienced on dangerous continental roads. This is done to pave the way for the tip!

But, you too, can get a front seat. The secret is not to gather with the tourists at the location shown on your ticket – oh, no! And forget about that last minute toilet visit before boarding. Just make your own way down to the coach park and be first in line for the bus.

You can always be a pest and hold everyone up later because you need a loo. Once you shove your cardigan on a front seat it's your seat for the entire day! This touring tip is vital for Roberta and Chrissie who are off on their travels next month. Remember girls – it's not the Westcliff bus. And getting a good seat is just as important as befriending a waiter. Enjoy your cruise!

A PATRIOTIC SUMMER OUTING.

This year Friends went to Bannockburn for a rerun of the famous 1314 battle. No, we did nothing physical and no blood was spilt. We were at the National Trust Visitor Centre where we were confronted by a huge plan of the battlefield and invited to 'get tore in'! Our organiser was the knight who knew everything.

He split our St. Auggie's party into two armies – and of course, everyone wanted to follow King Robert the Bruce, played on this occasion by our Flower of Scotland, Anna Porterfield. *Gaun yersel, Anna!*

The opposing side, the English, was led by the lacklustre King Edward 11 or Drew Dyer. Not that there is anything lacklustre about our Drew – he was the only man on a bus load of women, an act of bravery in it-

self! He was put in charge of an army twice the size of King Robert's andwell you all know the ending.

The Golden Girls were recruited into the ranks of the English despite their protestations but even so, in this the 2014 version, the Scots still won the day! Thank goodness! Alex Salmond suffered enough agony last week without the news of a rewrite of Bannockburn!

The whole experience was very impressive with a simulated battle going on all around, arrows flying, horses jumping and the opportunity to dress in some 14th century armour. Not for the faint-hearted! Those of us with enough *'pech'* wandered up to the huge statue that dominated the surrounding area – superb! Aye, patriotism is alive and well at Bannockburn!

ST. AUG'S MICKEY MOUSE FAIR.

Every year at the Community Fair the Friends' Exec agonise over ways to encourage folks to come on in and spend some money. After all the days of Sales of Work and traditional Church Fayres have gone the way of Morning Prayer and knitted toilet roll covers!

A gimmick is necessary to capture the imagination of the public particularly when operating at the dull end of the High Street. What do you mean – 'is there a lively end'?

Remember past Fairs when a Cup Cake Competition and All Pets Allowed appeared on our Noticeboards? As we stretched our imaginations for an event, suddenly Margaret Hardie blurted out – 'a Mickey Mouse Clubhouse!' Whit? She watches a lot of children's telly these days to keep wee John quiet. Then the ideas started to roll in – Princesses, Super Heroes – let's invite them to the Clubhouse to meet Mickey Mouse and the Mammies and Grannies will follow them.

And so it came to pass – the publicity was arranged and a large Mickey Mouse mascot was ordered, plus a matching Minnie! Oh the excitement! Inside our Disney duo was Sandra (TBag) O'Neill and Rachel Hardie – not that anyone, including the Rector, recognised Rachel. And oh, how they practised their moves! It's a pity they required toilet breaks – reports of traumatised weans seeing a large mouse head on the floor were unfortunate!

As expected, the children loved them and most came forward immediately to cuddle and dance with them. One tear -jerking moment came when 3- year old Sarah Lowry arrived. Her Mum had contacted the Church to ask if Sarah could meet Mickey and Minnie on her own since she was undergoing chemotherapy for leukaemia which meant avoiding infection. Of course, it was ar-

ranged. Sarah arrived early in her beautiful Princess dress and enjoyed herself enormously. She enchanted the early Fair goers and brought tears to the tea room.

Oh yes, that day there were Princesses and Super Heroes everywhere. Even Betty Gordon's new baby grandson sported a Superman Babygro although he slept through the Grand Parade. The winners were judged by Kenny – Farrah as best Princess and Conrad as best Super Hero. By this time Mickey and Minnie were exhausted but they still had an audience with the Allsorts Choir who were performing in the Church.

And the stalls in the Church were busy while the Tea Room was going like a Fair!

By the end of the day over £600 had been raised for Church Funds and the Community Groups increased their funds as well. On their own tables. But as Kenny said on the following Sunday, it wasn't all about money – We can't buy that sort of publicity and goodwill, and St. Augustine's had enjoyed a presence on the High Street and given pleasure to many at little or no cost! P.S. Mickey and Minnie did a pre-Fair walkabout on the Friday – cars stopped and weans were hugged while a group of revellers from the Clipper tried to photo bomb the Disney Duo but one could only say they were drunk in charge of a camera!

AND NOW THE VOW....

For those with *'heids that button up the back'*, and *'those who've just come up the Clyde on a bike'*....a St. Andrew's Day white paper and a Burns Night new draft Scotland Act. What's happening on April Fools' Day, Gordon?

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DPT.?

DPT opens its 70th season with 'The Cripple of Inishmaan' by Martin McDonagh– in the Denny Civic from 1st to 4th October. Set in Ireland in the Aran Islands in 1934, the play tells the story of what happens when a famous Hollywood director arrives to make a film. The effect on the population is huge and there are moments of sadness and moments of laughter. Janette and Sharon are stage managing.

And all this while preparations are underway for this year's Panto – 'Babes in the Wood' opening on Saturday 6th December. Tickets will be available soon – be nice to those with dual DPT/St. Aug's nationalities to reserve in advance!

WELL DONE, GEORGIE!

A group from St. Aug's enjoyed an après-award winning party on Friday 19th September in St. Patrick's Hall when Georgie wore her B.E.M and danced the

night away with all her friends. A boy band provided the entertainment and she was piped in to the celebration. We were all very proud when Georgie and our previous winner, Barbara, posed for the cameras with their medals.

BACK TO THE '50s.

This great decade will be celebrated by Wee Friends or Get Connected on Saturday 18th October. There's a notice in the Hall and Anne Dyer has tickets. So all you need to do now is expand the waistline of that circular skirt and you can show off your genuine Burgh Hall jiving! Oh, yes Elvis will be in the building! Don't wait too long before ordering your ticket.

BACK NEXT MONTH.....

With details of our Sale of the Century at Friends' Silent Character Auction. What else is there to do in November? Put 21th in your diaries. Oh, and there will be some revelations about Gillian and Charlie's Advent Wedding plans and details of our adult Christmas Party in December. Can't wait? Don't miss next month's By the Way Together.

Janette

From Tim

The next **Country Trip** will be on Saturday October 11th meeting 2 pm at Kilbarchan in Renfresshire for a look around this fascinating village followed by a visit to a tea-room.

Please put your name on the list in the hall if you wish to come or can provide a lift. More details from Tim or Rosemary. (See Parish Directory)

The annual **Christian Aid Inter-church quiz** will be on Friday November 14th 7.30 at St Patrick's Hall. Please see Tim or Morag if you want to take part in this. It's the highlight of Dumbarton's ecumenical year, and St Augustine's have been known to bring home the trophy!

From Morag

A few weeks ago, the Revd Ian Johnson of Riverside Parish Church and The West Kirk approached Kenny with the idea that the churches in Dumbarton could set up a rota to go round some of the residential care homes and put on a church service for those who find it difficult to get to church. Several churches in the area have signed up for this, as have 3 or 4 of the local homes, so all that was required was a set of volunteers for the first service to be taken by St Augustine's.

Ever up for a challenge, Fran and I offered to go along to Willox Park – and off we set on Sunday 21st September. We arrived to find a roomful of elderly residents eagerly awaiting a service. The self-appointed boss, Betty Burch, gave us the go ahead to start on time when she decided nobody else was going to come along.

The service itself was fairly short and informal. We sang 3 hymns, all old favourites like "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven", "Jesus Loves Me", and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". Fran found a short reading from one of the Gospels and wrote a couple of prayers, including one giving thanks for family, friends and carers; and of course we all said The Lord's Prayer. Then at the end we offered to do a request session if anyone had any particular hymns they would like to sing. Guess what we sang?..... "Praise My Soul", "Jesus Loves Me", and "What a Friend". In fact, given the chance, some of the residents would probably have kept us there singing "Jesus Loves Me" all afternoon.

Once the service was over, we both had a chance to chat to some of the residents for a few minutes. There was lots of positive feedback: one lady of 94 told us how good it was that now she found it too difficult to get to the church on a Sunday morning the church had decided to come to her at home in the afternoon. We were also told about memories of singing some of the hymns as small children and the joy of getting a chance to worship once again.

So overall a positive experience, for myself, for Fran, and for the residents of Willox Park. While it sounds fairly daunting, organising the service isn't too arduous and it extends our work as church reaching out into the community in a new (to us) way. Our church has another 4 slots on the rota in the next 12 months. If anyone is interested in taking part or organising a service then please speak to Kenny or a member of the MAP group.

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Thank You!

**Deep Autumn:
few leaves left on
branches,
freed to fill with stars.**
(Haiku, James Luguri)

My dear friends

As I write, I am halfway
through 3 weeks of saying
goodbye: to 11 o'clockers
and 9 o'clockers,

midweekers and some very dear home communicants.

I have been so touched by your generosity and good wishes – not just now as I leave but throughout my (all too short) time here. Janette's kind words last Sunday 'You'll always be part of the story here' echo reassuringly in my heart, as well as my own sincerely felt reply 'St Augustine's and St Mungo's will always be part of my own story too'.

Both churches have sown seeds of joy, planted memories of faithfulness and enthusiasm in abundance, shared so much with me; even as you have borne, with care and concern, my own 'deep autumn' when I ran out of steam, and found I needed to take a break from active ministry for a while.

Amidst the sadness of parting, there is such a sense of blessing too. The privilege it has been to be with you, all the worship and conversations, the good times and harder times. In sharing ministry with Kenny, and being part of both churches, especially as the new link gets underway. And while, for myself (and Angela), I look forward to being 'freed to fill with stars', to a time for renewal and peace, I pray that all of you will continue to find new beginnings and openings, fresh growth and flourishing; springtime and summer in faith.

With love and every blessing

Alison

Taste of the Commonwealth

One evening towards the end of July, Friends gave a twist to the Glasgow 2014 celebrations by bringing genuine Commonwealth food to St Augustine's suitably flag festooned hall.

The chefs not only prepared fantastic food, they dressed the part too. Africa was represented by Linda and David O (accompanied by wee Sean) who all wore stunning Nigerian clothes whilst serving their own country's food and by

Margaret Swan, assisted by Roberta (both suitable attired), whose chicken and mango recipe had been emailed from Zambia. To the east the tastes of Asia were brought along by Sharon and David's Indian warm and hot curries with Margaret H and Rachel not only providing Singapore chow mein but also beautifully presented Singapore Sling cocktails.

From Europe Linda Mac's Cypriot dishes were wow, the moussaka being particularly noteworthy. And then Fran brought the tone down a bit by wearing a rasta hat whilst serving Jamaican patties and sorrel drink. Peach Melba puds were from Australia, Cathy Hoatson's hat being cunningly decorated with party poppers rather than corks! The feast culminated with a choice of Indian tea or Kenyan coffee and Ghanaian chocolate.

This international culinary experience was followed by a fun quiz. There were flags to identify, islands to label and facts to recall, culminating in guessing the purpose and country of origin of a number of mystery objects (points awarded for originality). The winning team of Linda Mac, David A, Frankie, Jed and Jackie each won a world travel experience – a wee globe from Poundland – and the losing team got prizes too, but I can't remember what! Anyway, everyone left well fed and having had a good laugh.

Dumbarton Gambia Association AGM

was held in St Augustine's Community Hall on 26th August. The chair, Fr Kenny, reported about his pleasure at seeing that Dumbarton London Corner Nursery School is running so well at present, with excellent staff, the injection of new play equipment and very satisfied school inspectors. Recently remedial work had been carried out to keep out the rain. However Kenny warned that the Association cannot be complacent about funding. This was reiterated by Linda Macaulay in her treasurer's report. Regular giving has diminished slightly and with rising costs there has to be more reliance on fundraising activities to make up the shortfall. Special thanks was given to particular fund raisers including St Mungo's.

All the committee and office bearers were re-elected unopposed: Chair: Fr Kenny, vice-chair: Tina Kemp, treasurer: Linda Macaulay, secretary: Fran Walker, fund-raising co-ordinator: Morag O'Neill, other committee members: Barbara Barnes, Mhairi Halliday, Moira McGown, Faye Suso.

You too can help give 90 little Gambian children, from very poor families, the chance to access education and change their life potential. You can hold a fund raising event and/or become a regular donor or become involved in the work of the Association. Need more information, then contact any of the people listed above.

Fran Walker

Bannockburn 2014



More Pics



What a busy time we have been having over the past few weeks! A Baptism of the twins, (I don't know how Graham and Heather cope), then we were celebrating Doris Turnbull's 100th Birthday with Roberta in Church Court. The flowers from St Aug's were greatly appreciated!

Then, of course, the arrival of Baby Ryan on the scene, who jumped immediately into his Superman babygrow and almost won the prize for the best Superhero at the Community Fayre. If he'd stayed awake, he may well have won! Baptism on October 26th at 11am!

The St Mungo's Guides Growing Project



Yes, they made some bonnie soup pots, which were flower pots, all decorated, that had the ingredients for a pot of soup, a stock cube and a recipe! They were so appreciated by our hungry clientele!

Now, hopefully, it's on to bigger and better things if we can get the cash we need, (I'm still begging), but meantime, the Guides are ready to go for another season. Well done Ruth and the girls!

Small stuff first, but during October and November we hope to get started on the small area of land down the side of the church that is not being used, and get some serious weeding done too! Watch that space!

Last year we began a Gardening Project in St Mungo's called "Better Views, and The Guides were used as a pilot project. We bought some barrels from money I'd managed to beg, together with some earth and seeds, and the Guides and Brownies took to the notion with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm.

Yes, we wanted to grow some flowers, but we wanted to grow vegetables, too, so that we could contribute to the St Mungo's/St Augustine's Foodshare programme. We harvested last week, and what a harvest!

Ruth Gallagher from the Guides writes, "The Guides have really enjoyed planting the potatoes and herbs.

They particularly enjoyed their potato treasure hunt where each Patrol battled to find the most potatoes. The record in one barrel was 47 potatoes.

They also enjoyed making up the soup pots and were amazed by how far the potatoes and their own donations went. A huge part of our guiding promise is to help other people' and being of service to our community and we are looking forward to seeing where this project will take us."



From St James the Least of All

(St James is a mythical parish somewhere in the UK. Fr Eustice is an Anglo-Catholic older priest, who monthly writes to his nephew Darren, who is Curate at a happy-clappy church in the Diocese. Please don't take these letters too seriously!)

The Rectory St. James the Least

I am surprised you are considering buying a new set of hymn books for your church; I had assumed everything you sang would be projected on to one of those screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar – although wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics. In my – fortunately limited – experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but from another edition, which will contain either one verse too many or one too few. Should the hymn run to two pages, then the turnover always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started, so that the congregation is faced with the snap decision of either trying to sing two lines at double time, or just to join in late, making a nonsense of the words.

When we decided to change hymn books some years ago, the reverberations made the consequences of that little event in Sarajevo seem insignificant. The proposal was to move from “Hymns Ancient and More Ancient” to the more recent version: “Hymns Ancient and Slightly Less Ancient”.

Colonel Wainwright said he would be happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies those they sang at their weddings and no one would consider anything that dropped thines or wouldsts. The basses in the choir wanted hymns they knew the tenors found difficult and those who couldn't read music wanted more hymns sung in unison. When a rumour started that the books may contain hymns written in the last 50 years, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village.

Eventually we reached a perfect compromise: doing something which made no change whatsoever. Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. She put a note on the front of every copy that if the page for the hymn they wanted was missing, they should share with the person sitting next to them – an experience which will be almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace.

Yet another decision has thereby been deferred for a Church Council to make some time next century.

Harmony reigns once again.

I was interested to hear that from this academic year, your vicar has asked you to take his place as a school governor. A whole new world of exciting meetings is about to open up to you. Naturally, you will have been told that the governors only meet three times a year. You will probably not have been told that you will also be expected to be on at least two sub-committees, where you will be immediately asked to become secretary, as a way of getting to know the job. Add on training days, parents' evenings, sports days, school socials, end of term services, charity events and accompanying classes on days out and you will begin to realise that your vicar's suggestion was not as innocent as you may have thought.

Remember, too, that all meetings require you sit on chairs designed for 5 year-olds. You will then spend countless hours going through a 40 item agenda, trying to look dignified with your knees somewhere round your ears while drawing up school plans as if they were the Normandy landing. Be prepared to receive paperwork measured by the hundredweight; entire rainforests have been obliterated by your education authority sending what they seem to think is vital information; it does, however, make good cat litter.

Most meetings will be so full of acronyms that for the first few years you will have the feeling that conversation is taking place in a language that may bear a passing resemblance to English, but isn't. There is little point in trying to learn what they all mean because before too long, they will all be replaced by another set anyway, which will be equally incomprehensible.

Your computer abilities will be expected to be far beyond what anyone over the age of 30 could ever be expected to achieve; if you sink without trace, ask a seven year-old, who will soon put you right.

You will also be encouraged to attend training days; I strongly suggest you select all-day events, as at least you will get a lunch out of it. You needn't bother to arrive on time, since the first hour will be spent with everyone introducing themselves and you can leave early, as the final hour will go on filling in evaluation forms.

Just keep reminding yourself that your term of office is a mere five years; you may even get remission for good behaviour.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Rotas for St Mungo's

Sunday Sunday October 5th

11am Eucharist

Reader Pat Brooks
Intercessions Pat Brooks
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian

Sunday October 12th (Harvest)

11am Eucharist

Reader Guide
Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday October 19th

11am Eucharist

Reader Jim Murdoch
Intercessions Jim Murdoch
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidespersons Tom & Ian

Sunday October 26th

11am Eucharist

Reader Pauline Dow
Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Tom & Ian

Sunday November 2nd

11am Eucharist

Reader Jean Brown
Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

CLEANING ROTA

5th Oct & 9th Nov Iona/Mary
12th Oct & 16th Nov Margaret
19th Oct & 23rd Nov Jean
26th Oct & 30th Nov Eveline
2nd Nov & 7th Dec Finella

Sunday November 9th

11am Eucharist

Reader Pat Brooks
Intercessions Pat Brooks
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidespersons Tom & Ian

Sunday 16th November

11am Eucharist

Reader Jim Murdoch
Intercessions Jim Murdoch
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday 23rd November

11am Eucharist

Reader Jean Brown
Intercessions Jean Brown
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidespersons Tom & Ian

Sunday November 30th (Advent)

11am Eucharist

Reader Pauline Dow
Intercessions Pauline Dow
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

FLOWER ROTA

5th Oct, Jim
12th & 19th Oct Finella
26th Oct & 2nd Nov Pauline
9th & 16th Nov Jim
23rd Nov Finella

Service Times

Please Note

From October there will be no 9am Service in St Mungo's, although there will be a 9am in St Augustine's

Wednesday Services will begin at 9.30am on Wednesdays in St Mungo's from October 1st.

Smile Lines

Editor: October brings St Luke's day, and as St Luke is the patron saint of physicians and surgeons, we thought you might enjoy these comments, allegedly taken from actual medical records, dictated by doctors.

From medical records....

On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.

The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983.

The patient was released to the outpatient department without dressing.

She is numb from the toes down.

Working

First friend: "Whom are you working for nowadays?"

Second friend: "Same people. The wife and four kids."

Now hear this?

My wife says I never listen, or something like that...

Heredity

Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools.

Relativity

Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related

What would Jesus do?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for "What would Jesus do?" and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.

The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think he'd pay £17.95 for that hat."

Don't mention it

As part of his talk at a banquet, our minister told some jokes and a few funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at a meeting the next day, he asked reporters covering the event not to include them in their articles.

Reading the paper the following morning, he noticed that one well-meaning cub reporter had ended his story

on the banquet with the observation "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

Long wait

Service in the restaurant was abysmally slow. My husband was getting really irritated, so I tried to distract him with small talk. "You know," I said, "our friend Christine should be having her baby anytime now." "Really?" my husband snapped. "She wasn't even pregnant when we walked in here."

Noise

The wheel of my grocery cart was making a horrible scraping sound as I rolled it through the supermarket. Nevertheless, when I finished my shopping and saw a cartless woman, I offered it up, explaining, "It makes an awful noise, but it works." "That's okay," she said cheerfully, taking it. "I have a husband at home like that."

Apples

MOTHER: "Bobby, last night I put two apples in this cupboard and now there is only one. How do you explain that?"

BOBBY: "I expect it was so dark I couldn't see the other one."

Salt

The Sunday School teacher was describing how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom, she turned into a pillar of salt. Young James nodded with understanding. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

The importance of going to Sunday School

Martin arrived at Sunday school late. Miss Walter, his teacher, knew that Martin was usually very punctual so she asked him if anything was wrong. Martin replied no, that he had been going fishing, but his dad told him that he needed to go to church.

Miss Walter was very impressed and asked the lad if his dad had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing? Martin nodded solemnly. "Yes he did. Dad said he didn't have enough bait for both of us."

Hereafter

A vicar was talking to one of his parishioners. He said: "When you get to my age, you spend a lot more time thinking about the hereafter."

"What do you say that?" enquired the parishioner.

The vicar replied: "Well, I often find myself going into a room and thinking: whatever did I come in here after?"

Georgie Duncan's Day!

My apologies! That should read Georgina Duncan BEM! It will take a little while to get it right!

What a wonderful day it was for Georgie, and the many many folk who love and appreciate her so much! September 19th saw her presented with her BEM, then join with so many friends in St Patrick's Hall afterwards! She danced the night away, and we are all so proud of her.

I think the official blurb was that she was being rewarded for the incredible amount of money she has raised for CHAS, and that she has done, but there are so many other bits of Georgie's life, often unseen, that also deserve recognition, and I will not embarrass her by pointing it all out.

In St Augustine's, she is of course our Sacristan, keeping me right, organising linen, breads, wine and vestments. Always setting up for Sunday at 9am, where she is the chief welcomer, and often reader. She serves at the altar beautifully, and keeps Bishops and visiting priests on the straight and narrow!

For all your work, seen and unseen, we salute you, Georgie, and are so happy that you are one of us!



Of course, at this time last year, Barbara Barnes was rewarded in the same way, so we needed a pic of the Dynamic Duo together. We have a wonderful team at



St Augustine's who are rewarded for their Christian Action outwith the usual churchy stuff!



Congratulations!

St Augustine's Rotas

Sunday October 5th

Readers: Tim Rhead & Barbara Barnes
Intercessions: David Rowatt
Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons: C Ashman & Roberta Mailley
Flowers: Margaret Hardie

Sunday October 12th

Readers: David Rowatt & Margaret Hardie
Intercessions: Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice: Janette Barnes & Tim Rhead
Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & Kevin Mason
Flowers: Linda Macaulay

Sunday September October 19th

Readers: Margot Rhead & Ghislaine Kennedy
Intercessions: Linda Macaulay
Chalice: Fran Walker & Sharon Rowatt
Sidespersons: David Ansell & Liam McLarnon
Flowers: Barbara Barnes

Sunday October 26th

Readers: Evelyn O'Neill & Morag O'Neill
Intercessions: Fran Walker
Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons: Ronnie Blaney & L Jenkinson
Flowers: Moira McGown

Sunday November 2nd

Readers: Liam McLarnon & Sharon Rowatt
Intercessions: Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice: Janette Barnes & David Rowatt
Sidespersons: Chrissie Ashman & R Mailley
Flowers: Fran Walker

Sunday November 9th

Readers: Linda Macaulay & Janette Barnes
Intercessions: Margot Rhead
Chalice: Tim Rhead & Fran Walker
Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & Kevin Mason
Flowers: Linda Macaulay

Sunday November 16th

Readers: Fran Walker & Tim Rhead
Intercessions: Sharon Rowatt
Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons: David Ansell & Liam McLarnon
Flowers: Margaret Hardie

Sunday November 23rd

Readers: Barbara Barnes & Ghislaine Kennedy
Intercessions: David Rowatt
Chalice: Tim Rhead & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons: R Blaney & Linda Jenkinson
Flowers: Barbara Barnes

Sunday November 30th

Readers: Evelyn O'Neill & Margaret Hardie
Intercessions: Fran Walker
Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Tim Rhead
Sidespersons: C Ashman & Roberta Mailley
Flowers: Fran Walker

If you cannot do a Sunday for any reason, please ask someone to replace you or do a swap!

MAP Presentation

St Augustine's presented MAP Two with much aplomb, but a photo appeared which was crying out for a caption!



I think the winner was Ray who came up with, "Are you serious that the SEC will move to England?"

More Community Fair Pics



