

By the Way Together

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

Issue No 5 December 2014/January 2015



LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS!

In this issue:

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Winter Wedding Celebrations!
Christmas Greetings
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Letters from the clergy



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Flowers:	Pauline Dow	
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Christmas Services

St Augustine's: Christmas Eve 11pm

(Sung Eucharist of the Nativity)

Christmas Day 10am

(Eucharist with Carols)

St Mungo's: Christmas Eve 8pm

(Sung Eucharist of the Nativity)

Christmas Day 11am

(Eucharist with Carols)

St Augustine's

St Augustine's, 2a High Street, Dumbarton, G82 1LL - Tel: 01389 734514

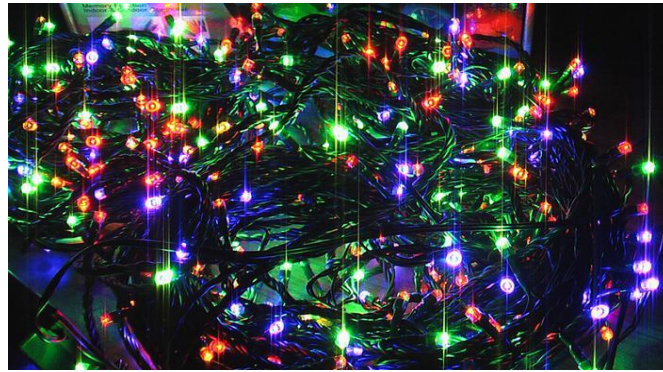
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Mission Action Planning Group:	The Rector	
	Anne Dyer Morag O'Neill (morag.oneill@blueyonder.co.uk) Fran Walker Liam McLarnon	01389 763710
Freewill Offering:	Margaret Hardie	



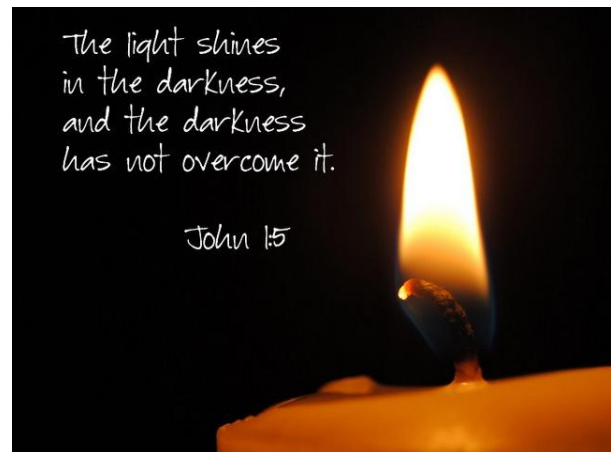
Christmas Message 2014

from the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway



In 1951, I was told many years ago, for my first birthday I was given a set of what were then called Fairy Lights, for the Christmas tree. I grew up with these lovely things and enjoyed them well into my teens – what happened to them, I don't really know. They were larger than modern lights, spherical, in delicate colours and they cast a beautiful soft light through the fragrant greenery of the tree – every Christmas I see them in my mind's eye and wish I still had them. I've never been able to find anything remotely like them. Their memory is important to me, they are iconic, really, of Christmas past for me, iconic of a very special and precious kind of light.

But not just of Christmas past. I wonder if you share with me a sense of an ever-darkening world, of really dark things happening at home and abroad. The darkness of fear – fear for the future, fear of the other, fear of sudden terror and murderous violence, fear of what may still be revealed of abuse at all levels of our society – all of these and many more dark things, gather around us and in us and stalk our world, God's world. So that when at Christmas we hear again the words of St John proclaiming Christ as the light that the darkness can never overcome – *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (1.5)* - we are challenged once more to hold fast to the hope that in the end the light will have it, the light will have it.



But not simply at the end – now as well. The light has some of it now, too. Not all is dark and not all is bad news, not at all. People still seek what is just and true and beautiful, people still reach out across barriers of hatred and fear, people still do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with their God. People of many faiths and people of none. But some of them do all these things for they know the Light that shines in the darkness and they love that Light above all else and all others. And they hope, even know, that the Light will have it in the end and is having it now in their struggles and commitments. And the Light will draw all other lights to Himself. Christmas is, above all, their time, their celebration.

+Gregor

Coming events...

Tuesday 16th December, 7.30pm, Jamestown Parish Church,

ACTIV Carol Service, Offering for SCIAF

Contact: Rev Liz O’Ryan

Wednesday, 17th December, 7pm, St Augustine’s Church

Healing Service

Contact: Fr Kenny Macaulay

Thursday, 18th December, 4pm, The Rectory

St Mungo’s Vestry

Contact: Rev Liz O’Ryan

Sunday, 21st December, 3pm, St Mungo’s Church

Nine Lessons and Carols

Contact: Fr Kenny Macaulay

Sunday, 21st December, 4pm / 6pm, St Augustine’s Church

Cupcakes, Cava and Carols

Contact: Janette Barnes

Tuesday, 6th January, 7pm, St Mungo’s Church and Rectory

Epiphany Meal

Thursday, 15th January, 7pm

St Augustine’s Vestry

Tuesday, 20th January, 7pm for 7.30pm, All Saints, Bearsden

North West Regional Council

Contact: Tim Rhead

Have a Christmas Chuckle!

A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas. The little girl gasped, and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."



From Kenny.....

The Church's year really begins with darkness, and the dark nights of December during

Advent are really only part of this. The hymns and the readings for Advent can be full of darkness, yet in the darkness which the Prophets lived in, there was hope. Hope that the Messiah would come, hope that light would shine. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, we are told from scripture, and that light was Jesus himself.

The people who walked in darkness..... now that's a great thing to talk about when the stores in our towns are belting out Christmas Carols and songs, where the trees are up in November and tinsel glitters everywhere, and there's lots of Ho Ho Ho!

In the Church itself, we are not in Christmas mode yet, for it is still Advent, a season of expectation, a season of hope in our own darkneses. Canon Scott Robertson writes, "The problem with this darkness is that we can get a bit lost in it. We can assume that all is black, that there is nothing redeemable about this four week period that leads us up to the really good stuff. It is certainly true that, in the past, the church has overplayed the dark side of human nature, to such an extent that words like 'sin' and 'judgement' have become triggers for all sorts of negative emotions".

It's OK to let a bit of the joy of secularism creep into our lives during Advent as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah. We must recognise our sin and our dark bits, accept the forgiveness and healing and move on from that during this special season. I can identify with the people who walked in darkness, as I myself have just come through a period of total

darkness and despair due to clinical depression and a lot of stress. I'm still not quite there yet, and the doctor has signed me back to work on the condition that I take on only "light duties", and work only 50% of the usual week. There is light at the end of my own tunnel, but I haven't quite got there yet!

However, I know that there are many, many folk out there who live in the darkness and hopelessness of depression. There are many in darkness because of personal tragedy either in their own lives or in the life of one of their family. Advent gives us the opportunity to talk about hope, and reach out in love and empathy to those we know who are stuck in a dark place. He who comes with healing on his wings is for everyone, especially for those stuck in the tomb of Holy Saturday. A kind word, a little gift, and a bit of our time may be all that's needed!

Hogmanay

As usual, the Rectory is Open House on Hogmanay from 8pm onwards. Linda will be providing food as usual, and we only ask that you bring your own bottle or poison! Feel free to come and go as you wish! Lifts home are available, free of charge, and absolutely everyone is invited. You can bring a friend too! We will look forward to 2015, a new beginning, and rejoice that God has blessed us and will continue to do so in the coming year!

Kenny

WINTER WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Gillain and Charlie!



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It was a busy November...



On Wednesday 12th November St Augustine's held their Annual Service to remember the kids who have died from addiction. As more and more people came through the door it was clear that the need for such a service is great. During the following reflective hour the names of youngsters were remembered, silence was kept and candles were lit. A new everlasting cross was presented to St Augustine's and white carnations were placed on the altar. It was a very moving service.

In a joint service of worshippers from the Episcopal Church and the URC Church Rev Zam Walker shows the great variety of stoles...



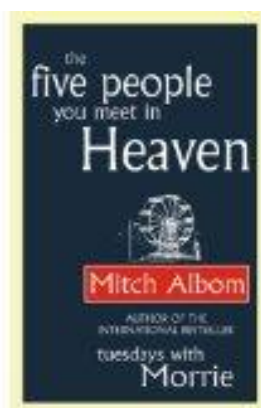
The Community garden created by the Alternatives Group at St Patrick's Church was opened in fine style. It is a beautiful space for inward and outward growth.

Book Club News

The Five People You Meet In Heaven – Mitch Albom

A Review By St Augustine's Book Club

Mitch Albom's 'The Five People You Meet In Heaven' tells the tale of Eddie, the fairground maintenance man. His story begins on his 83rd birthday.....his last day on earth, when he dies trying to save a little girl in a tragic fairground



accident. Eddie awakens in the afterlife where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden but a place where your earthly life is explained to you. To help him put

his lifetime into perspective he is met in heaven by 5 people from his past, some he knows - some he doesn't, but they all hold information that will help Eddie make sense of his life and understand what led him to arrive in heaven on the day he did.

The book covers many different aspects of Eddie's life and how different aspects of his life have impacted on others. We found many things to think about and talk about as a group. What did Eddie learn about his life? How many different connections do we all have on earth that we may not even be aware of? Do we realise that acts on our part that seem to be really trivial are important to others? Every one of us makes a difference to the others we meet and each of us has an impact on this world. And we even learned through our discussion that whisky can be used to clean gold jewellery!

Many people believe that during the course of their life several people come into it and make a difference to them. This book, however, makes you look at life the other way round. Who are the people that you touch without you actually realising? What is the impact that you make on others without your knowledge?

The next book club meeting will be Wednesday 28th January, 7.30 pm in The Haven. The book we're discussing that evening is the classic "To Kill a Mocking Bird" by Harper Lee. As usual, everyone is welcome.

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Dear friends,

One of my all-time favourite Cathedrals is in Coventry ... with its beautiful Baptistry Window (which if you don't know it – do have a look on Google!) and the impressive Graham Sutherland tapestry of Christ, it remains one of the most stunning religious sites in the whole of Britain. The Cathedral now stands as a symbol of reconciliation... the ruins of the old Cathedral acting as a reminder of the devastation and desolation which comes from the horrors of war ... whilst the new Cathedral, adjoining it, speaks of light and resurrection and new life which comes

from forgiveness and reconciliation. As you stand inside the new Cathedral and turn your face outward to the old, you look through a huge glass window which is covered in dancing angels – a wonderful sight which makes you think. Here the angels proclaim, as they did on the night of Jesus' birth, Good News for all people! Here the angels rejoice in God's creativity and in His eternal love for those who cry out and turn to Him. Here the angels say "Do not be afraid!" just as Gabriel said to Mary, and the heavenly hosts said to the shepherds on the hillside. Here the angels sing "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth!"



The angels brought that Good News to the faithful in times gone past... and the angels still bring Good News to us today. I pray that this Christmas that message of the angels once again penetrates our hearts and souls... so that in the new year and throughout 2015 we may have the courage to demand dignity for the vulnerable in our society and justice for the poor... that we may proclaim God's peace and show his kindness and gentleness to all whom we meet... that we, like the angels, may speak words of hope to a world which desperately needs it.

Angels. May we, this Christmas, dance with them as part of their company, and, like those in Coventry, be symbols of hope for the future.

with love,
Liz x

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!!

I wish all my friends a
very Happy Christmas
and best wishes for the
New Year.'

Barbara



To all at St Augustine's: A Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year
Love and best wishes,
Betty Gordon



*Janette says 'Wait till I
tell you to have a Happy
Christmas
and a Happy New Year!'*

Happy Christmas and New Year
to all our friends at St Augustine'

Tam and Linda

Seasons
Greetings

Happy Christmas and New Year
from Yvonne and Kenny



*Roberta wishes
everyone a
wonderful
Christmas and
New Year!*



Cathie McKechnie wishes a very
Happy Christmas to all at
St Augustine's

Christmas and New Year
wishes to everyone
love from Chrissie



Have a great Christmas
and New Year
everyone!
love from Cathy
Hoatson





Jessie wishes
everyone
a very merry
Christmas and
a Happy New
Year!

Happy Christmas everyone! And
have a wonderful New Year!

Love from
Mary Kennedy



Have a great Christmas and a
very happy New
Year!



Love from
Margaret Swan

A happy and blessed Christmas
to all my St Aug's friends
From Maggie Wallace



Christmas Greetings
to you all
from
Margaret Hardie



A joyful Christmas
to you all!
Morag and
Evelyn



Fran and Faye
wish everyone a very happy
Christmas and New Year!



And so the achievements go on!!



**Well done, our Georgie!
You're a star!**

Georgie Duncan was in the limelight at the court today, Friday 5th Dec. Through the efforts of the ladies who run the Beanfeast Cafe, organised by Georgie, over £10,000 has been collected for local children. This year the beneficiaries are Kilpatrick School, which helps and educates children with special needs for the whole of Dunbartonshire, and CHAS, which provides hospice provision for children.

We are very proud of you!

Thanks are due to the Alternatives Group who have given St Augustine's Hall a much needed facelift! Here are some of them (looking far too cheerful!) whilst some chose not to be captured on film at all!

Many thanks to all!
The Hall's looking great now!!



On a cold, wet, windy Saturday the Guides, who meet at St Mungo's Church, held a very successful Christmas Fayre. The Hall was packed with people sharing seasonal cheer and warming cups of tea! The Guides had made things to sell and there was the usual raffle and stalls. The afternoon raised over £700, some of which was donated to the church, and which will go towards their future trips and adventures! The afternoon was followed by a lovely Carol Service in the Church. Well done, girls and Ruth, their leader!



On 1st December five churches in the town, including St Augustine's, played host to 200 Primary School children as part of a Christian Heritage of Dumbarton initiative. In each church the children were told something of its history and their attention was drawn to interesting features that they could see in each building. The morning closed with a short service in St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves... and one said at the end, "Awww. Aren't there any other churches we could go and see?!" You never know what seeds these events plant...

.....

Food for Thought Update

Incredibly, since Fr Kenny spoke with the Lennox and the Reporter individuals and businesses alike have come forward to offer us a multitude of items plus some cash. Once received we should be in a position to not only give food to those who need it but also to give toys, toiletries and chocolate to individuals and families this Christmas and with continues support, throughout 2015.

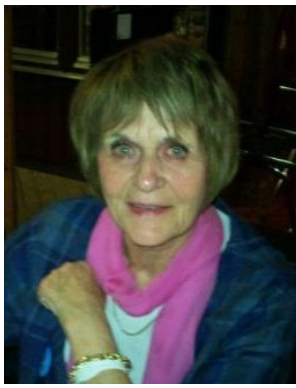
The need for emergency food aid has dramatically increased in the past year and through the generosity of the donations from the local community and St Mungo's, St Aug's has become the place where sometimes desperate people come for food aid. It is due to the kindness of so many that we are able to do this. **Many thanks.**

The Christmas dinner will once again be held in the hall. Names of those who wish to attend are being taken at the moment and at present we already have a small band of volunteers willing to cook, chop, serve and pick people up and take them home. All are welcome to attend.

Presently we are in the wonderful position of being confident that we can provide enough food, gifts and chocolate to those who need it this Christmas.

A huge thanks to all who continue to support Food for Thought. Merry Xmas to you all.

Caroline Marsland
Family Support Worker
Circle Scotland



Wait Till I Tell You.....'

THE GOSSIP COLUMN, a tongue-cheek look at life.

Janette takes a break from the Christmas shopping mania to comment on recent events at St. Aug's and to look forward to new ideas for an exciting new year.

BETTER THAN BLACK FRIDAY.

'*If only we had known*' was the plaintive cry of those who had missed the awesome bargains on Friday 21st November at the Friends' Secret Silent Auction. As the crowds jostled, fought, queued and hassled at the nation's superstores on that infamous Friday, bargain hunters at St. Aug's enjoyed an out of body experience and a tasty supper. Few went home that night without a purchase – apart from Cathy Hoatson who was beaten by the bell and 25p! The potential buyers had arrived at 6pm and were immediately given a nom de plume to allow secret bidding and to avoid subsequent feuds in the parish.

The treasures, and there was a splendid array, were covered until the bell indicated the start of the auction. It was all terribly civilised – V.I.P.s such as Margaret Thatcher, Lady Gaga, Cinderella and Mary Queen of Scots inscribed their bids and watched the prices rise. Bidding was brisk – favourite item was a Yankee Candle, coveted by TBag O'Neill, who had to double her money to ensure her home would smell nice this Christmas! The very expensive whisky went, the colourful Gambian robe, some beautiful pieces of glassware, a foot massager, a blender, a turkey roaster....and a cuddly toy! The usual unwanted toiletries were in the auction plus a good selection of jewellery. In all, the Secret Silent Auction was a delightful shopping experience. My indulgence was a framed Commonwealth Games etching – a splendid reminder of Glasgow 2014. It looks great in my front room.

As the sale drew to a close the buyers were warned – 5 minutes, 1 minute. Then the bell rang to close bidding forever. The V.I.P.s were unmasked and free to collect their purchases. For those who had felt lucky that night, Barbara had organised a wee Tombola and a table of 'value objects' (or junk) had done a roaring trade. When TBag and young Rachel finished counting the money we were astonished to find the amount of £520 – a great result and all for Church funds.

Special thanks to Sheila Campbell who had suggested the idea at our AGM.

THE NATIVITY PLAY.

Listening to the radio this week I learned of the consternation of some Net Mums about the current range of Nativity Plays that were being performed and how their overall preference was for the traditional with their little girl as Mary or the consolation prize of chief Angel. Characters, such as lobsters and Daleks, did not generally appeal. I know that there is a Nativity Play in rehearsal at St. Aug's – a traditional one which I'm sure will not disappoint. But I remember, long long ago, one such performance in the Church that was directed by the late May McKay and involved a narrator in the pulpit and the rest of us miming and overacting like mad to bring the message to the large congregation.

Wrapped in unwanted blue satin curtains I processed up the centre aisle with Ian Matheson as Joseph leading an imaginary donkey. When we reached the Chancel steps, looking suitably exhausted, Maggie popped out from the choir stall as the concerned Innkeeper's Wife. Meanwhile, her husband with a very mischievous looking grin, bent down and whispered to the Holy Couple '*You 'se ur getting' nae merr drink here – and get that donkey aff ma front steps.*' Then he stepped back and smiled benignly leaving us struggling to gain our composure and reverence during the carol that followed.

CSI ST. AUGGIE'S.

Oh yes, it was! On the last weekend in November we were a Crime Scene Investigation. The crime was discovered by Barbara and Fran who had noticed something peculiar at the bin store. When the swollen door was forced open it revealed that our premises had been infiltrated and our refuse receptacles set alight. Oh yes, this was an arson attack and not a job for a brush and shovel. The stench was unbelievable with the

burning plastic mingling with the contents. The Police were contacted but this was a job for Batman and Robin. Unfortunately, the superheroes were busy so we got Derek and William who made an excellent job of clearing out the smouldering debris. This was much appreciated. They have got some DNA samples so the criminal may yet be brought to justice. Prime suspect would have been our Rector with his numerous fag ends – but he was innocently sunning himself in the Gambia at the time! We were given our own personal crime scene number. Dumbarton District Council did not disappoint. When the quest for new bins began on the Monday morning, the first answer was *'Four bins? You'll have to pay for them!'* Oh, no we won't! We have a crime scene number. Is the manager in? The manager would do nothing without a form so this was immediately completed and we were advised two or three days for delivery. Ten days later we were still polluting the planet with poly bags! But good things come to those who wait. And this was Advent after all. The bins are now in situ but only Tarzan can open the bin store door! Is there a joiner in the house?

'A SMA' REQUEST ?' THAT'LL BE RIGHT!

This oft quoted phrase of the Bard could hardly be used to describe the request this week from the Rev'd John Chalmers, former Church of Scotland Moderator. His Christmas gift list would include 100,000 members for the Kirk. Jings – that's a big ask! Could he not just settle for socks and a Christmas jumper like other men?

WEDDING OF THE YEAR.

The following report will not appear in either the 'Hello' or 'OK' magazine though John Hardie, father of the bride, is trying hard to get a deal to help pay the drinks bill at the Lodge on the Loch! But it was all worth it! A really splendid wedding day for Gillian and Charlie with St Auggie's looking its very best as the guests battled with the relentless rain in their wedding finery, fake tans and collapsing coiffures. My arrival on the High Street had to be feet first from the back of TBag's 2 door Corsa, new shoes in the flowing gutter and umbrella back in the house! But this did not matter. The awesome sight that greeted the guests was of an aisle lined on both sides with bright red poinsettias interspersed by a plethora of Advent purple and candles everywhere. This artistic lighting effect meant that some of us had difficulty reading the service sheets. One couldn't take out one's specs on such an auspicious occasion!

Of course we had talked about nothing but the wedding for the past year as we diligently planned our outfits. Indeed, we know of one friend who had been back three times at Marks and Spencer exchanging frocks and other such accessories. Margaret, as Mother of the Bride, kept out of the kitchen that day. Carole Middleton had nothing on Margaret's designer maxi dress with matching jacket and exclusive wedding hat. We won't see its likes again – at least not in St. Auggie's! John was in his kilt looking as if he was just longing for a haggis to address!

But Sharon was the Matron of Honour and Wedding Planner so she anxiously watched as the scene unrolled. To the sound of the pipes playing 'Highland Cathedral' the main players processed up the aisle in more purple with wee Jackie's perfect footwork leading the way. Rachel smiled radiantly – she knew the whole plot - while wee brother John, much to his chagrin, had eventually been persuaded to attend. Big cousin, Adam, was an usher and demonstrated admirably how to look 'cool in a kilt'.

But this was Gillian's day. The large congregation gasped as she arrived at the door in her fairy tale wedding dress and an understated tiara adorning her stunning blonde hair. Naturally all went well with the service –with a large cast of St. Auggie's regulars the singing and responding was loud and clear. Then Kenny threw in a few jokes and everyone enjoyed a wee laugh before exiting to 'Flower of Scotland' and more pouring rain. Margaret had not managed to fit in the monthly Friends' Draw during the register signing so we enjoyed some stunning music from Levette on the keyboard.

To our dismay, the reception bus was parked far away in Castle Street behind the Riverside wedding bus. Jings, crivvens and help ma boob! We splashed our way along the road and soon we arrived at the Lodge on the Loch to even heavier rain! The plan for a photograph of everyone by the Lochside because this was where Charlie had proposed was abandoned. Now is that no' romantic (the proposal, of course)? The meal, the speeches and the toasts went smoothly with all the traditions being observed. The evening festivities were enthusiastically embraced and no one had to be persuaded to get up and join in the dancing. It was in full swing for the entire evening! There was an interlude for a fireworks display – but due to some water logging this was not easy. Still, we ooh-ed and aah-ed at the spectacle. As the evening drew to a close everyone headed for the dance floor for the climax – a dramatic version of Loch

Lomond with everyone joining in the singing and Charlie and Gillian dancing in the centre with moves that would not have been out of place in a 'Strictly' dance off! A fitting end to a really memorable wedding!

But where the evening really ended was back in the High Street in even heavier rain with TBag having lost her car keys and a 25 minute wait for a taxi! David was also looking for something but both lost items were found next morning at the Eucharist. Roberta had been tempted to raffle what had once belonged to David!

No one would have been disappointed on this wonderful wedding day and we wish Charlie and Gillian a very happy future together.

CAVA, CAROLS AND CUP CAKES.

Despite the notice in the Community Advertiser, the date for the event is Sunday 21st December at 4.30pm – a wee celebration followed by carols at 6pm. See you all there – hope Santa makes it!

ALL HAGGIS BASHERS ALLOWED.

Burns' Night in 2015 is on Sunday 25th January. What better way to celebrate than the Friends' January event 'For Auld Lang Syne' starting at 6pm? Enjoy a delicious hot meal of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties accompanied by the usual Scottish treats while listening to some locally produced entertainment. No formalities – just fun! Wear tartan and book your bed in the RAH. We usually get up on the chairs for 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns'! The all-inclusive cost will be £6.00. Watch for notices in the Community Hall.

So onwards to 2015 – keep on smiling
,complaining or arguing – whatever you do best!

Janette

SMILE LINES!

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

On why Carol Services are so dangerous

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So: you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as "the Curate who offended Mrs Smith."

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's

Fellowship and so self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on "Here endeth", "This is the Word of the Lord", and "Thanks be to God", are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Rotas for St Mungo's

Chalice: Tom Marshall
Sidesperson: Tom & Ian

December and January

Sunday December 14th

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday December 21st

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday December 28th

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday January 4th

11am Eucharist

Reader Pat Brooks
Intercessions Pat Brooks
Chalice Tom Marshall
Sidesperson Alicia Steele

Sunday January 11th

11am Eucharist

Reader: Pauline Dow
Intercessions: Pauline Dow

Sunday January 18th

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday January 25th

11am Eucharist

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

Sunday February 1st

Reader: Pauline Dow
Intercessions: Pauline Dow

CLEANING ROTA

7 th Dec/11 th Jan	Finella
14 th Dec/18 th Jan	Iona/Mary
21 st Dec/25 th Jan	Margaret
28 th Dec/1 st Feb	Jean
4 th Jan/8 th Feb	Eveline

Flowers

25 th Dec	Pauline Dow
4/11 th Jan	Finella Spens
18 th /25 th Jan	Pauline Dow
1 st /8 th Feb	Finella Spens

HOW TO TELL WHO
HAS DECORATED A
CHRISTMAS TREE



TALL
PERSON



SMALL
PERSON



PERSON OF
MEDIUM
HEIGHT



IDIOT

Rotas for *St Augustine's* December and January

Sunday December 14th

Readers: Liam McLarnon & Linda Macaulay
Intercessions: Margot Rhead
Chalice: Janette Barnes & Tim Rhead
Sidespersons: Ronnie Blaney & Linda Jenkinson
Flowers: Linda Macaulay

Sunday December 21st

Readers: Janette Barnes & Fran Walker
Intercessions: Sharon Rowatt
Chalice: Fran Walker & Margaret Hardie
Sidespersons: Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley
Flowers: Maggie Wallace & Moira McGown

Sunday December 24th

Readers: Tim Rhead & Barbara Barnes
Intercessions: Margaret Hardie
Chalice: David Rowatt & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & Kevin Mason
Flowers: Maggie Wallace

Sunday December 28th

Readers: Maggie Wallace & Ghislaine Kennedy
Intercessions: Linda Macaulay
Chalice: Fran Walker & Tim Rhead
Sidespersons: David Ansell & Liam McLarnon
Flowers: Linda Macaulay

Sunday January 4th

Readers: David Rowatt & Margaret Hardie
Intercessions: Fran Walker
Chalice: Sharon Rowatt & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons: Tim Rhead & Ronnie Blaney
Flowers: Margaret H

Sunday January 11th

Readers: Linda Macaulay & Fran Walker
Intercessions: Evelyn O'Neill
Chalice: David Rowatt & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons: Linda Jenkinson & Chrissie Ashman
Flowers: Barbara Barnes

Sunday January 18th

Readers: Liam McLarnon & Margot Rhead
Intercessions: Sharon Rowatt
Chalice: Tim Rhead & Fran Walker
Sidespersons: Roberta Mailley & Margaret Swan
Flowers: Maggie Wallace

Sunday January 25th

Readers: Fran Walker & Janette Barnes
Intercessions: Maggie Wallace
Chalice: Margaret H & Barbara Barnes
Sidespersons: Kevin Mason & David Ansell
Flowers: Moira McGown

Sunday February 1st

Readers: Maggie W & David Ansell
Intercessions: Tim Rhead
Chalice: David Rowatt & Janette Barnes
Sidespersons: Liam McLarnon & Linda Jenkinson
Flowers: Linda Macaulay

THE VIEW FROM THE PULPIT

