



St Augustine's Dumbarton

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the new look

First Past the Post!



Every Parish in the Diocese has been asked to go for growth. A great launch was initiated at Pentecost 2011, and we sent almost 30 folk to All Saints Bearsden for that launch.

The Diocesan Mission Action Plan was rolled out on that sunny evening, but we soon realised that we had a bit of a head start, having travelled this journey since the Restoration of 2003, and certainly since the building of the Community Hall in 2009.

Our whole outlook had been about community engagement and growth. This had been backed by two Parish Days in the last two years, which endorsed this sort of ministry and pledged to support it.

We had already come a long way! So it was a fairly easy task to graft our Parish Vision on to the Vine of Diocesan Development.

However, on closer inspection, we obviously needed to improve in some areas

A sub-group from the Vestry did the work, (Ministry Development Group), and we now have a Mission Action Plan for the coming year. It will address our shortcomings and develop our Mission and Ministry.

The goals for the coming months are easily attainable, and more about our Parish Mission Action Plan, (MAP) can be found in this month's magazine.

We signed our agreement/pledge with the Diocese on January 15th. The Mission Action Plan is ours, and we are the first congregation in the Diocese to sign up.

We have been awarded the accolade of 'Trailblazers' Let's live up to that!



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From Kenny....

By now you should all have your own copy of our Parish Mission Action Plan, (MAP), and will be aware of our goals and intended action over the coming year or so. I'm anxious that everyone in the congregation is aware of it, but I don't want us to get to the stage where we become sick of hearing about it. We have to draw a fine line sometimes.

The document we signed did not just appear out of thin air, but was the result of a lot of hard work, looking at where we are as a parish, and how we could develop or do things better. We are so strong in some areas, as a congregation, but other areas need a little more attention.

Of course, this can cause a lot of grumbling from those who are quite happy with the way things are, but every parish needs to move and grow as a living body, although it's tempting to stand still for a while and rest on our laurels!

As I'm fond of saying, "Jesus came to comfort the distressed and distress the comfortable"!

It came as no surprise to me that the MAP Group found that there were areas in the spirituality section that we could pay a little more attention to! Our spirituality and spiritual growth as people often is put on the back burner when there's so much to do and so much to get involved in. Somehow we need to strike a balance, and take heed of the fact that prayer is usually one of the first things that goes out the window when our lives get busy!

So we are going to be paying a bit more attention to this during the next year with extra opportunities to pray together and study together.

We have talked long and hard, and worked long and hard to find ways of bringing new people into St Augustine's and this has been very successful. We have new members, we have folk being baptised and confirmed, we have folk coming for a little while and moving on, and we have folk who have come to worship in a church building for the first time in many a long year.

What do they find, though, when they come to us as a worshipping community? Do they see a group of folk who are trying to reach out to those on the margins? Yes, but do they see a community of prayer who are committed to knowing God and seeking healing and wholeness for themselves? Sometimes, yes they do, but it is that side of things we want to strengthen.

A community of prayer tends also to be a community of love and reconciliation, and that's not all about

lively worship and bonnie singing, although that helps!

I love it when folk in the town call us the church that cares about people and the church which is the most community-minded, but I love it more when they talk about the sense of "otherness" in our building and the place they come to when they are in need of God's touch in their lives.

It's what makes us so different from a Social Club, or even the Social Work Department, this dimension of prayer and spirituality that we have to offer. This "otherness" that is so lacking in our world.

I'm not surprised either at some of the negative reactions to our Parish MAP. We fear people asking us about our prayer lives, because it is a very personal thing, and we don't want to talk about it in case we come across as shallow, wanting or bereft. We can even shy away from new services in case we appear too pious or holy amongst our peers.

However, is God not the reason that we have all these ministries in the first place? Where are we going to get the energy from to fulfil the busy life which St Augustine's demands from so many of us? We all have a great need, most of the time, to go back to God and draw from God the strength and power to get through our lives and work, even although we might deny that and want to rely on our own strengths and resources.

The MAP Group have thrown down a gauntlet. Are we also to be known as a community of deep prayer and spirituality? If not, then what do we have to offer that's different from everyone else?

Are we to be known as a community of love and reconciliation, where folk are cared for, prayed for, and given healing and wholeness?

For some of us, the coming year will pass by without much different happening. There will just be *extra* things happening which we don't go to. However, I'm asking all of you to re-think your part of this worshipping community and see if there's anything around that can help **you** to grow more closely to God or get to know God better? It's going to be a case of opting in a little more to the worshipping/studying body.

If what's on offer doesn't reach the spot, then please tell me. As your priest, I'm responsible for helping you on your spiritual path, as well as the guy who joins in with the fun bits. Sometimes I find that I cannot tell the difference between the two, but that's for another letter!

Kenny

Bishop's Lent Appeal

The beneficiary of this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal is Waverley Care, a charity which has, for 21 years been providing care and support to people who are living with or affected by HIV.

In many ways, the nature of HIV has changed. It is no longer a terminal condition and, with the right treatment and support, people can live relatively normal lives. What hasn't changed, however, is the stigma of HIV. Those who live with HIV live with the added burden of secrecy, with both adults and children being unable to confide in friends or neighbours for fear of being judged or victimised. People live in constant fear of others finding out. The impact of stigma on emotional and spiritual health is profound.

This is where Waverley Care's work can make such a difference. The charity is there to provide support to everyone whose lives are affected by HIV.

They work with adults and children from across every sector of society. HIV doesn't discriminate; anyone can be affected. Through one-to-one and group support, Waverley Care can turn lives around, rebuilding self-confidence and helping people to know that they are valued, loved and cared for.

(50% of our Lenten Boxes will go to this Appeal, and the remainder will go to Mission to Seafarers as is our tradition)

Dumbarton's Shops

I remember when shops had a bit of class
Were spotless and had helpful staff.

I remember Currie's rolls
when families took Sunday strolls
and tradesmen moved their tools by cart.

Cascis café was run like a dream,
their raspberry ice and coffee supreme.
When the Greenock Woolshop sold real wool.
Most people knitted – it was cool.
Birkmyres, Langlands, the old Co-op
managers knew how to run a shop.

Gosh, doctors held surgeries in tenement rooms,
patients pensive faces anticipating doom.
Stead and Simpsons, Easyfit, Clarks footwear.
The City Bakeries Tea-room located upstairs.
the ironmongers with it's brilliant aroma
The Technical College where you gained a diploma.

Jan Adams, Paiges, Mattie Masons.
Mills Pet Shop, one minute from the Central Station.

John Colliers, Burtons for well-cut suits,
Clear plastic galoshes that fitted over ladies boots.
Four different cinemas, jings it was great.
Our only concession was 'don't come home late'.

Coltarts, Galbraiths, a real Post Office.
Crow the Barber at Hodges corner.
Campbells and Baxters looked after your hair.
Milligan and Campbell for dental care.
Now superstores rule but I recall
a time when Dumbarton seemed to have it all.

Cursillo

There will be a meeting in St. Augustine's on Tues 14th Feb at 7.30pm. Kenny will be leading this meeting, which will begin with a Eucharist. We will have a chance to discuss and renew the promises we made at our weekends, and make some plans about our future. It is important that if you have attended a Cursillo Weekend in the past, that you make an effort to be there on the 14th. Please bring your Cursillo crosses and name badges with you.

Diocesan Ultreyas will be as follows:
Feb. 24th, 7.30p.m. at Good Shepherd, Hillington
March 27th at Holy Trintiy , Ayr at 7.30p.m.

The next Cursillo weekend is 17th-20th May at Kin-noul Monastery in Perth. Kenny will be one of the Spiritual Advisors that weeked. If you are interested in attending this, or if you just wish information about what it is all about , please speak to Kenny soon .

Evelyn.

Christian Aid Quiz Night

The annual Christian Aid Interchurch Quiz Night will take place at St Patrick's Church Hall on February 10th, starting at 7.30 pm. Tea and coffee will be available and the bar will be open; in addition Christian Aid will be holding a raffle in aid of funds. If anyone wants to join a team of people from St Augustine's then please contact Tim Rhead. It's high time we won this!

Diocesan Pilgrimage Day to the Cathedral

The Bishop has invited us to a Pilgrimage Day at the Cathedral on Saturday 17th March from 10am until 4pm. It can be part of your Lenten commitment to attend this. There will be more information in the next magazine, but meantime, put this date in your diary!

It is important that we are well represented as a parish!

JUST PEACE AT THE HEART OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

As you can see from the extracts of Inspires On-line's December issue, there was an International Ecumenical Peace Convention in Kingston, Jamaica, in May last year. More than 1000 Christians from all over the world assembled there to round off the "Decade to Overcome Violence 2001-2011". Those who had hoped to find in the final document a clear message of a World Church would have been disappointed. Its message read: "Christian men and women are united as never before in striving to find ways and means to work against violence and to renounce war as a means to find a 'just peace'" But this message remained unheard by most of the public, even the churches. It remains to be seen, if the call to all Christians in the world to work for a just peace will be listened to, and if churches commit themselves to such work.

Jamaica was a good place to hold such a conference, there are palms, beaches and clear waters on one side, and tin huts, garbage, poverty on the other. Paradise and reality lie side by side. The campus, where the conference was held was surrounded by barbed wire, visits to social institutions made visible that economic inequality and destruction of the environment can lead to poverty and spiralling violence. Since these problems are global, local solutions are inadequate. Many delegates knew this: they came from more than 100 countries and the exchange of experiences, the meeting and getting to know each other was the most important aim of the gathering.

There were 4 areas of discussion:

Peace between nations: One delegate from Indonesia told of her frustration of having to travel thousands of miles more via Europe, because she could not get a visa for the USA where she only wanted to change planes. This was for fear of refugees. "Very few people can travel through the world as they wish", she said. "Fences and walls are too high for us".

Peace in the economy. The dire situation in the world economy and social inequality can be seen in Kingston. The majority of the population lives in poverty, tin huts by the harbour, but the further you go up the mountain the richer the houses: "Money builds up there", said a bus driver pointing to the houses with a panorama view over the bay.

Peace with the earth. The environmental task, to understand that people are part of nature, especial-

ly we need to respect indigenous people. To talk about CO emissions or climate change is not enough.

Peace in society. An African delegate talked about growth in criminality, being caused by lack of prospects, of hope for many, and the increase in availability of weapons, while many countries flourish from the sale of these weapons.

Practical examples like these were memorable for all delegates. Although the concluding document remained largely unheard in the world, there is hope that by publishing the resource material, which includes the commitments made in Kingston, will 'assist to reach a new ecumenical consensus on justice and peace.

BW

Pandamonium

Come on a coach trip with "Friends" to meet the famous new arrivals at Edinburgh Zoo on February 26th. Have a trip to the zoo complete with guided tour round the new panda enclosure. A coach will leave the church around 10.15 am. A safari bus is provided at the zoo to take those with limited mobility up the hill to the panda enclosure. This visit is limited to 50 places.

Cost is £24 for adults, £21 for concessions (students and over 60s) £18 for children and includes the cost of the coach, entry to the zoo and brunch before leaving the hall.

All St Auggie's members have to attend the 9am service on this day if you are going to Edinburgh!

Diocesan News Service

Please find your copy of the DNS inside your copy of this magazine. If for some reason it's not there, you will find extra copies at the back of the church.

Very often copies of DNS are not taken away and ends up in the bin, but with St Augustine's stories featuring so prominently in this month's edition, we feel that everyone should know what the Diocese is reading about us!

There is always a great temptation to become very parochial and disinterested in what other parishes are doing in the Diocese, or indeed what is available to us in the way of lectures and courses. Perhaps this is something we need to address and put right during the coming months.

Passing the Baton

Getting keys to your house is one thing, managing to set up home and feel part of the community is quite another.

Passing the Baton is a service delivered by volunteers to help formerly homeless people settle into new tenancies, build relationships and get plugged into their local area.

Volunteers act as “buddies” for members, helping them with DIY to make their homes look and feel comfortable and personal. Volunteers offer friendly one-to-one support to help members pursue hobbies and social activities that will get them out and about and involved in their community.

Passing the Baton has a 98% success rate for maintaining tenancies 6 months on from initial resettlement.

Does that sound like a worthwhile thing to be involved in? Perhaps you would like to find out more?

The Bethany Christian Trust which initiated and supports Passing the Baton, have approached St Augustine's via West Dunbartonshire Council and Anne Tomlinson, and asked us if we would be interested in setting up a pilot project in Dumbarton. It's the sort of thing we excel at, so why not?

Volunteers are trained and supported, and a whole team of volunteers are assigned to each homeless person, who are themselves assessed for their suitability to participate.

Want to find out more? Come to a meeting at St Augustine's on Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm. No commitment is expected at this stage, but if we are going to participate in a pilot scheme, it will certainly help if we all know exactly what it's all about!

Vestry Meeting

The Vestry meets on Thursday 23rd February at 7.30pm.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on 22nd February with the usual services on offer at 10.30am and 7.30pm. Please make this Lent count in a year where we are looking for spiritual growth within our numbers.

There will be lots to get involved in during Lent 2012, so let's all get off to a good start by being in church on that day if at all possible.

Healing with Taize

We are holding another of our popular Healing Services, with Taize music on Sunday 26th February at 7pm. This is a quiet and gentle way into Lent 2012, and it's the sort of thing you might like to invite a friend or neighbour to come to.

There's usually lots of candles and a wonderful atmosphere, together with the soothing melodies that come from the Taize Community in France.

Again, it's one of our MAP goals to hold more services like this in the coming year, but we need to commit to coming to more of them as a congregation, and invite others to come along with us.

Lent Groups

There are two opportunities to get involved in Lent Groups this year.

The first is a traditional Lent Study Group which will meet on Wednesday evenings, beginning on 29th February, in St Augustine's. The MAP Group felt that this could be lay-led for a change, and so Peter Cairns is leading this group. It will consist of five meetings, but it will not matter if you have to miss one or two. A final decision on what we are going to study will be made soon, as we are trying to choose between a cornucopia of riches! Watch your weekly pewsheet for details, or speak to Peter or Kenny.

If you have never been to a Lent Group, this might be a good time to give it a try. You won't be asked to speak or utter wise words or do anything outwith your comfort zone. Just go along with an open mind, relax, and enjoy the banter and the tea!

The second one is different. This will involve folk who want to spend half-an-hour every Wednesday in prayer in the side chapel, beginning again on 29th February. A good part of that half hour will be in silence, with opportunities to light a candle for someone or just “be” with God. You can even bring a book if you want and read silently. It's just a chance to “watch and pray” for a bit in the middle of the week.

It will start at 12noon and finish at 12.30pm prompt.

Of course you can come to both!

Friday Soup

We are always on the lookout for folk to help in this important ministry. Perhaps it's something you can commit to, even on a monthly basis? Speak to Kenny about this if you are new to the congregation!

St James the Least of All...

Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic Rector, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

The Rectory

St James-the-Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless.

As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say 'no''. But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back – and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also – you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty,

and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but will return refreshed and eager to make the next book-
ing.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Parish Retreat/Weekend in Millport

It is written into our Parish MAP that we would organise a Parish Retreat Weekend this year. If we are going for growth, that must also include our own spiritual growth and development. In fact, Jesus often got himself away from the crowds and the hustle and bustle, to pray and recharge his batteries.

So it came to pass that we've booked the Cathedral of the Isles in Millport from March 23rd-25th. There is a flyer at the back of the church with the weekend programme outlined in it. We will be led by Revd Anne Tomlinson, who knows our needs and aspirations outside-in, and she will be a gentle but valuable guide. If you haven't already reserved your place, you must do so soon.

We are in receipt of one or two grants, and a very generous donation, but the Vestry has undertaken to subsidise the weekend too. There are one or two reasons for this.

Nobody should be barred from going due to their financial circumstances, and secondly because of the importance of this sort of exercise.

We all need help with this praying business, and we need to do that in the sort of atmosphere that Millport allows. Please don't be afraid of something like this. The Rector will personally give you your money back if you don't get something out of the weekend – even if it's only the good fresh air and the chance of a break from the mundane! We have a minibus booked for transport too! What more could you ask for?

Rotas for February 2012

Sunday February 5th

11am Eucharist

Readers: Margot Rhead & Peter Cairns.
Intercessions: Tim Rhead.
Chalice: David Rowatt & Fran Walker.
Sidespersons: Ronnie Blaney & Jean Carr.

Sunday February 12th

11am Eucharist

Readers: Ghislaine Kennedy & Janette Barnes.
Intercessions: Fran Walker.
Chalice: Maggie Wallace & Margaret Hardie.
Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & Vernon Perrin.

Sunday February 19th

11am Eucharist.

Readers: David Rowatt & Maggie Wallace..
Intercessions: Margaret Hardie.
Chalice: Sharon Rowatt & Janette Barnes.
Sidespersons: Chrissie Ashman & Roberta Mailley.

Sunday February 26th

11am Eucharist

Readers: Sharon Rowatt & Morag O'Neill.
Intercessions: David Rowatt.
Chalice: Vernon Perrin & Tim Rhead..
Sidesperson: David Ansell & Gavin Elder.

FLOWERS.

Wk. ending:

February 5th. Maggie Wallace & Moira McGown.

" 12th. Maggie Wallace & Margaret Hardie.

" 19th. Barbara Barnes & Rosemary McLeay

SUNDAY ROTAS

READERS, INTERCESSORS SIDESPERSONS.

There is always room for more volunteers for Rotas. If you would like to read lessons, lead intercessions or be a sidesperson on a Sunday, please speak to Kenny, Tim or Maggie. There isn't a test or an audition. Just be able to speak clearly, be yourself and smile!

Why you? Why not you? Get involved!

Christian Aid Lunches

These will be held this year on Thursdays, March 1-29th from 12 to 1.30 at Riverside Church Hall. We are responsible for March 22nd so if you can provide soup and/or help on the day please see Tim.

Dumbarton London Corner

The school continues to flourish and our staff have participated in another First Aid Training Day organised by a Scottish Charity, First Aid for The Gambia.

The children, too, took part in a special day when other European visitors brought toothbrushes and toothpaste into the school for lessons on oral health and hygiene!

The bad news all came at once. One of our cooks, who had been with us for 8 years, died very suddenly, and we will miss her greatly. She was such a jovial, and big-hearted presence and her death leaves a great big hole in the heart of the school.

The other shock was a break-in at the school. Our Night Watchman decided to have a wee night off, and thieves took away our DVD player and petty cash, fish money for the children, and other things of any value that they could take.

Our Teacher-in-Charge, Sulayman took this very personally, and of course the police are investigating. We are obviously hiring a new Night Watchman too!

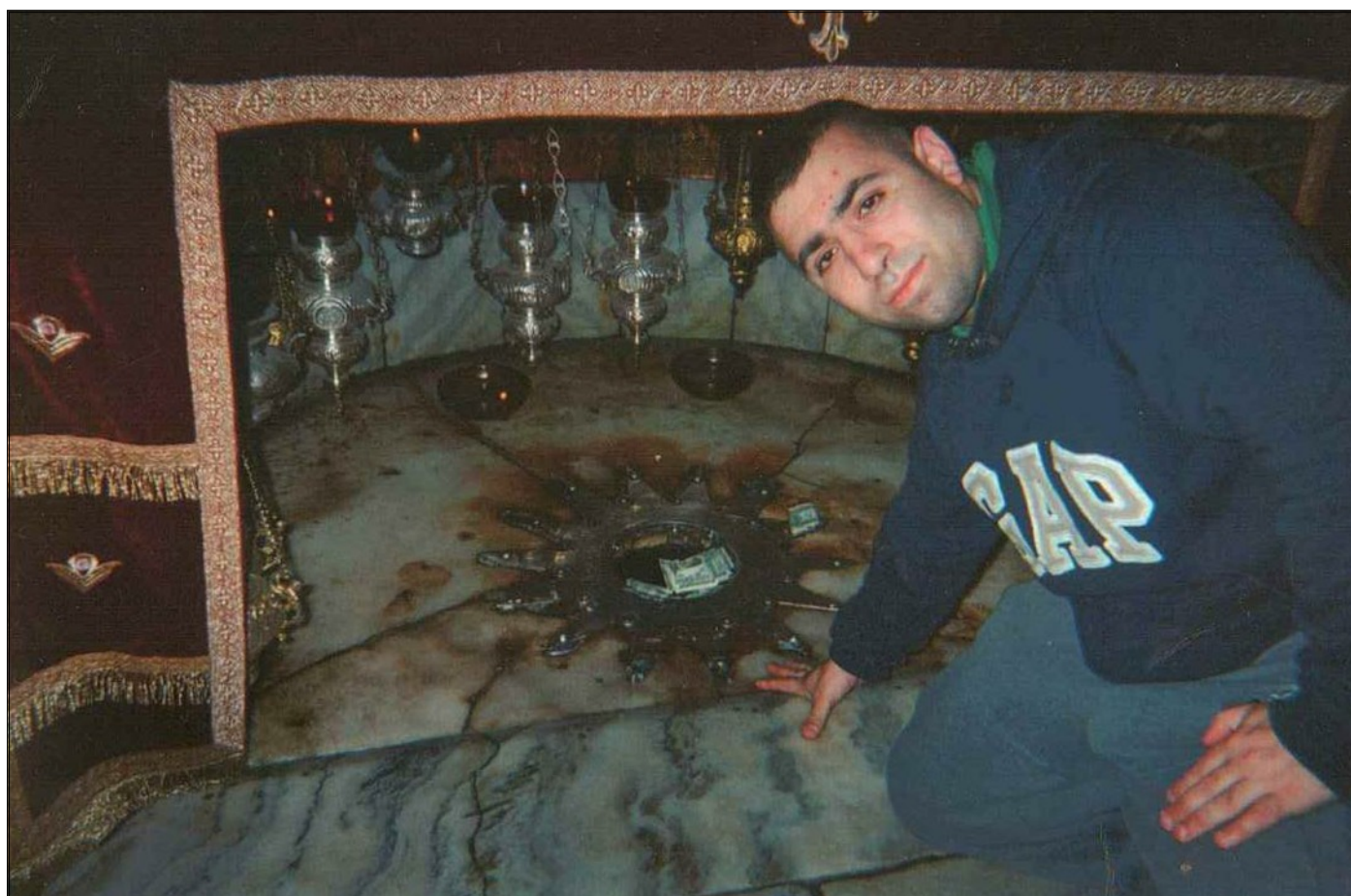
Richmond Architects

**Supporting
The Friends of St. Augustine's**

**Castle Terrace,
Dumbarton
Tel: 01389 765578**



Our picture Gallery this month shows some waitresses at the Glesca Cafe Night, someone at the wrong end of the First Aid training in The Gambia, Simon on his visit to Bethlehem inspecting the Place of The Nativity, Santa and his Little Helper with Neve at the Christmas Party, and a pic from the Christmas Lunch in the Hall on Christmas Day. Oh! And Gavin in his kilt at the Rectory New Year Party!





Smile Lines

Forgiveness

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.

What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Honda... because the apostles were all in one Accord. Volkswagen Beetle: 2 Cor. 4:8 "We are pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement."

Pastoral Search Report. Looking for a new minister?

We do not have a happy report to give. We've not been able to find a suitable candidate for this church, though we have one promising prospect still. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the church members, and we've followed up each one with interviews or calling at least three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

Adam: Good man but problems with his wife. Also one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy walking nude in the woods.

Noah: Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

Abraham: Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.

Joseph: A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream-interpreting, and has a prison record.

Moses: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

David: The most promising leader of all until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbour's wife.

Solomon: Great preacher but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression-collapses under pressure.

Elisha: Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.

Hosea: A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

Deborah: Female.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of foreign river. Isaiah: On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.

Jonah: Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

Amos: Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in better in a poor congregation.

John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Peter: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper—even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, but a loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

Timothy: Too young.

Jesus: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

Kiss kiss

An honest seven-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

The boss

My boss was complaining in a staff meeting the other day that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss". He then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

Husbands

Two men were in a pub, talking about how highly their wives thought of them. The first man said, "My wife, she thinks so much of me that she won't let me do any work around the house. It's incredible." The second man said, "That's nothing. My wife thinks I'm God. Every night at the table, she places a burnt offering before me."

‘Wait Till I Tell You.....’

*Janette looks back at the festive season at St. Aug's
and forward to January with a M.A.P. for the future.*

REMEMBER DECEMBER?

Well for us at St. Aug's the mist had barely settled from 'Augadoon' when it was time to start arranging events for the festive season. There was the Christmas Party / Carol Singing and a new outfit for Ricky to be procured. Yes, Santa Claus was not coming to town in the same scruffy old suit from last year. This had been an action from a Friends' Exec in September. So, enquiries were made to a haute couture Santa outfitter in Helensburgh, the right size was obtained and the effect did not disappoint. Ricky looked like an upmarket Santa straight out of Hollywood when he appeared with his intrepid elf, Gavin who, next year, will get headgear more stylish than a traffic cone!

The games ran seamlessly into the Carol Singing and the myriad of candles up in the chancel indicated that the Allsorts Choir were ready to lead the singing. The choir sang beautifully albeit their faces were indistinguishable due to our attempts at an artistic lighting effect. We really do need mobile spotlights! Happily all the candle grease was removed in time for the Midnight Eucharist which was very well attended considering the number of 'regulars' who were 'on the sick' - some even spending Christmas in the dreaded Paisley!

The Hogmanay Party at the Rectory was similarly depleted this year. The 'Golden Girls' were reduced to two, but we celebrated anyway since there was news that they were all on the mend. Fran brought a spelling game, Kenny a quiz and Linda provided a beautiful supper. The party was to conclude with the release of large paper lanterns which it said on the packet would float into the night skies over Dumbar-ton - a magical sight for local first footers! As we all assembled on the doorstep in the pouring rain, Kenny read the instructions and struck a match. The lantern inflated like a hot air balloon as we waited expectantly for its ascension. But it didn't. It got wet, deflated and landed like a sodden chip poke in the front garden. It ended its life in the bin. Ah well, these things are said to kill cows - but only if they are stupid enough to eat them! The next launch is scheduled for a dry cold night with a moderate wind.

‘BLOWING IN THE WIND’

Aye, it's been a windy winter and after last year's Arctic conditions we had got ourselves so well prepared with stocks of salt, snow shovels and spikes for our shoes. But that didn't help when the Sky dish

was dangling from the roof, the tiles were flying around and trees were being uprooted by the dozen. Fences and guttering crashed down, bridges closed and trains were cancelled - these were the joys of our winter months of December and January. At least we weren't buying up cat litter in an erroneous attempt to defrost the path!

THE GLESGA' GLUTTON CAFÉ

This event should have carried a government health warning! You'd never have found your 5-a-day in this salubrious establishment where the punters happily scoffed rolls on sausage with tattie scones and brown sauce, pokes of chips, clottie dumpling, millionaires' shortbread and home made tablet.

There was a selection of plonk, Irn Bru and cups of tea. So the cholesterol was running as wild as the lovely Glesga Glutton waitresses - Clarty Clout (Margaret Swan), Beyonce Binbag (Janette), Cat Slitter (Sandra), Giza Tipman (Roberta), Ava Sook (Fran) and our Clottie Dumpling programmer Vicky Leeks (Chrissie).

Roberta topped the poll - no one could compete with the double Z cups that she wasn't serving tea in! Barbara and Sheila advised her of the procedure for having such implants removed on the NHS! Later, TBag punctured her giant bosom with a fork!

With the intake of all this brain food, you'd have thought that playing a game called 'Loast' would have been a dawdle. But some got well and truly 'loast'! Peter, our new server, is a man who doesn't hang about. He got round the route to the finishing line before Jessie and Betty had finished with clue 1. But it wasn't a race and the 'Classy Lassies' (Barbara and her Pals) opted for prudence and narrowly won the day. OK, it was a wee bit challenging but everyone made a good attempt and Jamie Lee's iPad was superfluous.

Then we all relaxed with a wee toatie ceilidh - Ghislaine and Ricky were in good form and the inclusion of Gina in the entertainment was a great idea. Her 'Dumbarton's Drums' was indeed memorable and she also made tablet to die for! The evening ended with 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns' though fewer than usual made it onto high ground for the chorus. Finally 'Flower of Scotland' sent everyone homewards to drink again!

(continued over)

WHA' D'YE THINK YE ARE?

*There are three types of people in the world
The Scots, those who would like to be Scots
And those with no ambition at all!*

Were these words running through Fran's mind when she set off to trace her ancestors recently? She was proud to announce at the Glesca Glutton Café that she had not only found a Scot - but a Scot who had had dealings with Rabbie Burns! How exciting is that?

It's like Kenny claiming to be descended from the 17th century Lord Macaulay of 'The History of England' fame (*Ed - how do you know he wasn't?*), or Maggie announcing that a long departed forebear had been related to Braveheart! But Fran had the evidence - a poem penned by the bard to her great, great, great, great, great Grandfather. Sadly, the poet's address was to the gentleman's brains and was far from complimentary!

WIMMEN, CHILDREN AND VALEMEN FIRST!

How often we hear that daft expression! And what does it mean? Reports of the cruise ship Costa Concordia being wrecked on the Med and the subsequent scramble for lifeboats brought it to my mind. And also my cruise experiences when we always opt for a restricted sea view that includes sight of a lifeboat - it's a much more comforting vista! But the whole disaster also brought to mind another West of Scotland expression - '*if he fell in the Clyde he would come oot wi' a salmon*' - referring to unbelievable good fortune. This was surely surpassed by Captain Calamity's reported utterance '*when the ship keeled over I fell into a lifeboat!*' Aye, that'll be right!

TAM TOPS THE POLL

When a percentage of Scots recently voted for their favourite Burns poem, what came top? You'd have expected 'Auld Lang Syne' or 'A Man's a Man for a That'. But no. The winning number was 'Tam o' Shanter' - the tale of a womanising boozier who subjected his poor horse to a frantic chase through the countryside with some over-sexed witches! Great poem though!

GAUN YERSEL, ALEX.

Now that our esteemed First Minister has delivered the Hugo Young lecture to the English to get them excited about how separation from Scotland will be good for them, it's all back in the headlines (or possibly in the firing lines!) now that he's announcing '*whit's in it fur us*' in the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle. Whit a drama drawers! Will we still get £1

coins for our ASDA trolleys? Will English be spoken on the Westcliff bus? And a much more important issue - will Simon Cowell allow us to compete in 'Britain's Got Talent?'

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS.

It's coming up to that time of year when men make a floral purchase for their better halves. Mr Average Scotsman, inspired by the romantic adventures of Burns, usually will retain this amorous disposition till St. Valentine's Day when the price of the flowers will cure him.

Of course, the big favourite of Burns was the red, red rose but it is interesting to note that the preferred token of romance today is the orchid. Oh yes, in spite of benefit cuts, higher unemployment and crippling debts, orchids are topping the poll. Why?

Well, the orchid has seductive powers and Scotsmen need all the help they can get! Now, girls, this is really exciting - the orchid takes its name from male body parts! And, you can buy them in M&S - the orchids, of course, you numpty!

'FAIR FA' YOUR HONEST SONSIE FACE'

(Sorry if you missed this excitement -Ed)

This year you can forget sticking that knife into the great chieftain and settle for an ASDA Haggis Pie. And you simply must download that Burns App to your mobile phone or even pop round to a Burns Karaoke Night and sing along to his immortal memory. Perhaps an updated Burns in Elvis style sunglasses would be your idea of an ideal romance - well, you'll find one at the Burns Museum.

And if you're all on your own on the 25th then a well known Glasgow bar is laying on Burns speed dating with red roses for the winners. Rabbie will be turning in his mausoleum!

AND FOR OUR NEXT OFFERING....

'Panda-monium' comes to Friends on 26th February when a group of fifty in Panda tartan scarves and carrying bamboo from the Co-op will descend upon Edinburgh Zoo. The coach leaves at 10.30am after a buffet breakfast preceded by an appearance at the 9am Eucharist.

Don't know who'll be more surprised - the Pandas or the 9am regulars! Make sure your name is on the list in the hall. Fully inclusive cost £24.00, Concessions £21.00 and Accompanied Weans (note the adjective, Gillian!) £18.00.

(continued over)

MILLPORT AND 'WHAT'S IN A NAME?'

Well, numbers were low when we called it a Parish Retreat so on 22nd January Kenny renamed it the Parish Weekend with a Party and sold it for half price. As a last resort perhaps it needs a Friends' style notice.

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Pick up a programme pronto!**

Janette

Friends' Events

Plans are afoot for a busy Spring and Summer schedule, and if you have internet access, a full list

of forthcoming events can be found there, together with some photos of past "adventures".

Elsewhere in the Magazine you will read of February's Pandamonium, but March 30th will bring, at last, the long-awaited Ghost Walk! From dusk until dark, Janette will take you to the scariest places in Dumbarton.. (fill in your own comment - Ed). Numbers will have to be restricted but watch out for details.

On April 17th, we are having a Night at the Theatre. Come and join one of the legendary theatre evenings run by "Friends". Get your tea in the church then go over to the Denny Civic Theatre to see the DPT's production of the comedy "It Runs in the Family".

On May 17th we have a Spanish Affair! This will include the affairs of the "Friends" AGM, Sangria and Tapas, Spanish guitar music and Spanish dancing. Janette doing the flamenco with Gavin Elder is something which cannot be missed!

June 9th sees another Murder Mystery! Yes, there's been another murder at St Augustine's. It's worse than Taggart up here! Come to this glitz and glam occasion and see if you can figure out "who-dunit" while enjoying a great meal and good company.

Numbers will be limited to 60, to ensure space for the detective team. We hope to invite the Bishop who may actually know something by that time!

Get these dates in your diary now!

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Parish Mission Action Plan (In Brief)

What is it? Basically just the plans and priorities of the Vestry and Congregation over the next 12 months or so.

Will it make a difference to me? If you want it to! On the whole there will be nothing different about the day to day running of the parish, except that there may be more worship and study opportunities

Will our numbers go up as a result? Hopefully, yes, as more people will be given the opportunity to worship with us at different times during the week and feel attracted to our Sunday worshipping community.

Will it cost money? There may be things which the Vestry will choose to subsidise, like the Parish Retreat, but no, except that we may print a bit more. That cost should be offset by collections at services.

Are we abandoning Community Ministry? Not at all, in fact we aim to strengthen it! It's about looking inwards a bit more often, though!

So what are these "Goals" everyone is talking about?

1. Basically to progress with our Community Ministry and expand it, realising our need to become Marys as well as Marthas!
2. Organise more prayer/healing/ community minded services. Providing more non-Eucharistic Services midweek and on Sunday Evenings, and inviting hall users and others to join us more often.
3. Look to share our resources with a congregation which needs them, in our Regional Council. (Drumchapel being an initial response if needed)
4. Setting up more Study Groups, or House Groups, not necessarily clergy led.
5. Helping everyone in St Augustine's to "own" our MAP and become enthusiastic and committed to it.

Gee! That doesn't sound like much! It's not! Goals need to be easily attainable, but it will mean a bit more work for some individuals, and for the Ministry Team.

It will also need you to be committed to coming to extra things from time to time!

Study Groups? House Groups? Aye! We're looking for people to host a wee evening for 6-8 folk from time to time, maybe with a wee buffet, where there can be a bit of chat and a bit of learning.

What's this Ministry Team? Well in September we hope to have a Curate in place, Pat Smith, but we already have Tim Rhead who is an excellent Pastoral Assistant, and Henriett and Peter Cairns. Henriett is a priest from the Lutheran Church in Hungary and Peter has a degree in theology. Eventually, as the year progresses a Ministry Team will take form and grow a little! However, we are all involved in ministry in one way or another!

It says something about a Prayer Diary. What's that about? By Easter time everyone will have a wee book in their possession separated into 31 days. On each day of the month it will ask you to pray for some people on the Parish Roll and also a group that uses our hall, with perhaps one or two other things. It will be there to help us to pray for each other.

So you are asking me to say more prayers? Aye! An extra 5 minutes out of your day to pray for some folk who belong to the St Augustine's family!

Do we need more bits of paper? Yes, if it helps us to communicate the Gospel, helps us to pray for each other better, helps to tell others what St Augustine's is about and betters our mission and ministry as a result!

What's this Bethany thing about? See "Passing the Baton" elsewhere in this magazine.

I think we should have different priorities! That's fine, but you need to discuss that with Kenny. Your voice will be heard and fed into the Ministry Development Group. Better that than whispering in corners or simmering quietly in your pew!

What happens next? Well, Revd Anne Tomlinson, our facilitator, will come to see us every quarter to see how we are doing and give us a wee boost! Then, this time next year we will get a chance to assess, with the Diocese, how well we have done and how many goals have been achieved. New goals might then be set for 2013!

Can I Help? Definitely! By supporting new initiatives for starters. You might even want to be a part of the Ministry Development Group! By coming to church more often and bringing new people to special services! As somebody once said, "We are all in this together!" Read your MAP. Copies are still available at the back of the church.

SAINTS IN FEBRUARY

St Brigit of Kildare 1 February

There are variations of the name of Brigit, especially St Bride. The nickname of the Saint is Mary of the Gael, dates of her life given as 451-525. She is one of Ireland's patron saints along with St Patrick and St Columba.

She was an early Christian nun, abbess and founder of several monasteries. St Brigit's Day, or Imboic in Gaelic, marks one of the quarter days in the pagan year, which marked the beginning of spring, of lambing and lactation in cattle.

St Brigit is one of the few saints which stand between pagan mythology, Druidism and Christian spirituality, she is sometimes confused with the Celtic goddess Brigid, venerated by the Brigantes in Northern England, a goddess of harvest and births. St Brigit is the most famous female leader of the early Celtic church and also the patron saint of Learning.

She was born in Fauquart near Dundalh, County Louth. There is much debate about her life. Possibly her parents were Dubhthach, a pagan chieftain, also known as a Druid and wizard, and Brocca, a Christian Pict and slave, baptised by St Patrick. St Brigit is venerated for her generosity to the poor, she also founded a school of art and metalwork, the scriptorium there produced the Book of Kildare, an illuminated manuscript widely praised, but lost in the Reformation. Brigit died leaving a cathedral city and school famous all over Europe.

Hundreds of placenames in her honour are found in Scotland and Ireland, including Kilbride and Bridewell. St Brigit was also the Patron of the Scottish House of Douglas, Earls of Angus.

She was adopted as an icon by 20th century feminists who admire her achievement in a patriarchal society, having the status of a bishop, held by the abbesses of Kildare until the 12th century. Most of St Brigit's miracles are related to healings and domestic tasks.

Some mythology says she was carried up to heaven by angels to serve Our Lady!

14 February St Valentine

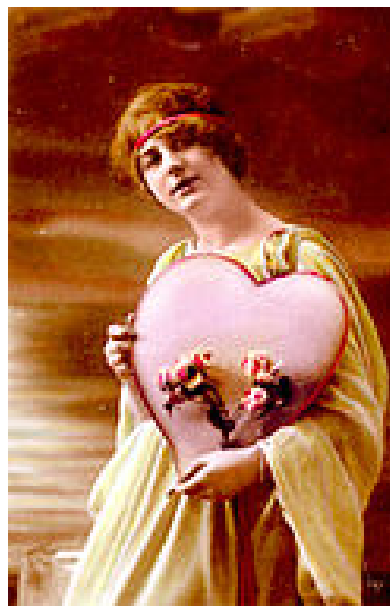
Latin Valentinus, this is the name of several martyred saints of ancient Rome, the name is derived from Valens, worthy, strong. Nothing is known of the life of the saint whose feast day is the 14 February, except his name and that he was buried at the Via Flaminia North of Rome.

The Feast Day was only established in 496 by Pope Gelasius I, he appears to have been either a priest in Rome, or a bishop in Interamna (modern Terni, Italy)-or a martyr in the Roman province of Africa. A first picture of the Saint appeared in the Nuremberg Chronicle (1493). The text there states that Valentine was a Roman priest, martyred during the reign of Claudius II, also known as Claudius Gothicus, dates vary: 260. 270, 273.

He was to have been arrested and imprisoned because he married Christian couples and assisted Christians in general, while they were persecuted in Rome. He was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate.

St Valentine's Day has various traditions, documented by Chaucer in "Parliament of the Fowles",

but sentimental modern customs are unknown, and probably only started in the 18th century.



Some Relics were exhumed in 1836 and identified as St Valentine's, the casket was taken to Dublin.

'Alleged relics' also lie in France, in Vienna, in Malta and also in the Blessed John Duns Scotus Church in the Gorbals in Glasgow.

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Child Protection Officer: Barbara Barnes

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

Another Rectory Grandchild



It is with great pleasure that Kenny introduces you to Hailey Myra Caroline Macaulay who was born on 16th January and weighed in at a bouncing 8lbs 9oz.

Graham and Angela are hoping to bring her to St Augustine's soon so that we can all say "hello" to her!

As you can imagine, "Pappa" is proud as punch!

Another Partick Thistle Nil supporter is born, if we can get the opportunity to steal her for a Saturday or two before she reaches the age of reason!

