



# St Augustine's Dumbarton

Issue 54 August 2011

£1.00



## the new look

### Fair Do's And Rain Fails to Dampen the Spirits!



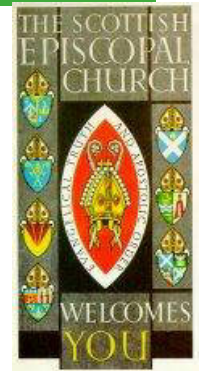
We guess that it was just one of these days! After glorious sunshine on our last Autumn Community Fair, it was too much to ask for a repeat! However, the effort that went into making this event successful was quite incredible. The Rector was just disappointed for everyone, for the effort deserved better weather and a better outcome!

Yet, the church raised over £1100, and other community groups made some money too, another good step was taken towards bonding friendships and links with hall-users and the hot dogs and hamburgers were to die for! We even had a visit

from a big fire engine, although we didn't need to use any of their water, and a strange looking couple from the recently opened Frankie & Benny's!

As part of our Mission action Plan it certainly ticked some of our boxes, and we need to think of more imaginative ways of including our community groups in the life and wonders of St Augustine's. Perhaps the forthcoming Augadoon or the Night under the Cedar Trees will prove to be a big attraction?

More comment from Janette, and photos of the Fair in the middle pages!



From Kenny  
Page 2

Sunday School  
Page 4

St James the Least  
Page 6

Rotas  
Page 7

Photos  
Page 8-9

Smile Lines  
Page 10

Wait Till I Tell You  
Page 11

Harvest  
Page 14

Parish Directory  
Page 16

## From Kenny....

It is every clergyperson's nightmare to have to go on and on about money, but as utility companies go on and on sending us bills, along with various other establishments too, it's something that has to be done sometimes.



The dream certainly was that **income from the new Community Hall** would give us a level of regular income, added to our **investment income**, which together with our **regular giving** and **fundraising** would eventually balance the books for us and halt the dreaded monthly shortfall in income over expenditure. We are not quite there yet, although hall income is increasing slightly!

Of course we can cash in the investments and live for a few more years yet, no doubt, but then we have no investment income at all and St Augustine's would be on a downward spiral again. We must try to save that from happening. The more of our investment we cash in means the less income we have, which leads us to cash in more investment and on and on we can go, until crunch-time comes and we can no longer afford either clergy or repairs!

Keeping a listed building, restored by Historic Scotland, is an extremely expensive task, and some of the repair bills we are anticipating for roof and gutters are frightening. Add that to the spiraling costs of electricity and gas, the £800 per month we are bound to pay to the Diocese and new demands for water rates, and we are indeed in big trouble when we look at monthly and annual accounts.

In the past few years we have always had adequate back-up to cushion our losses, but we really have reached the red line time when we need, somehow to turn things around.

I know that so many of you give as much money as you can to St Aug's, and that's why I so often hesitate to talk about money, but there are others who can surely give a little more than they do at present. A pound coin or two in the plate on Sunday is very welcome, but we really, all of us need to think about realistic giving.

It's £7 now for a packet of cigarettes, and although few of us smoke, a lot of us drive, and pumping £50 of fuel weekly into our cars can be a sobering thought. A bottle of whisky? £15. Football match, cin-

ema or theatre? £15+. A meal for two at lunchtime on Saturday? £30. Train fare to Glasgow? £5. God £?? I'm sure you know what I'm getting at!

How much is God, and the continuance of Mission and ministry worth to you on a weekly basis? How big a priority is this?

I appreciate so many things, including the time and effort that people give, the amount of hidden giving that goes on at coffee and lunches and events, and the fact that we are all feeling the credit squeeze and the effects of a country tightening its belt. However, it costs over £55,000 each year to keep a parish like ours afloat, perhaps more.

Many of our best and most regular givers have gone to join the saints, and the rest of us, including our newer people, need to step up to the mark.

In August I cancelled the Gift Day because it clashed with the Autumn Fair, a time when many of us would be already spending freely. Our Gift Day is now on Sunday October 2nd, Harvest Sunday, and an envelope is attached to this magazine for your contribution. This envelope asks, "How much does St Augustine's mean to you?"

I know you will respond, as one or two of you already have! However, we all need to review our weekly giving too. If you pay tax, please Gift Aid your giving. Nobody knows anything about your income, and we simply get an extra bit of money, about 30p on every pound, on everything you donate. If you don't take envelopes, then please do, and fill them on Sundays you are not here as well as on the Sundays you come. As Mr Cameron is fond of saying, "We're all in this together"

We belong to a wonderful parish, with a wonderful congregation, a most beautiful set of buildings, a heart for mission and outreach the size of Ben Lomond, and a care and concern for others that would be hard to beat. Who would want to lose it, or not want a future generation to benefit from it?

Perhaps we can all take time to ask Our Lord himself how much we should be giving. Prayer can be the beginning of a wonderful response, because despite the fact that God's Grace is free, as the hymn says, it demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Kenny*

### Cursillo Notice:

**There will be a Diocesan Ultreya in St. Serf's, Shettleson on Monday 26th September as a welcome home for the team members from Cumbræ.**



# Graduates at London Corner School in August



## Advent Quiet Day

Saturday 10 December, 10am-4pm

This is a day of prayer and reflection on an Advent theme. There is a choice of two venues.

It will be led by Bishop Gregor Duncan at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley, and by Bishop Gordon Mursell at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas.

Participants are asked to bring their own lunch; tea/coffee will be provided.

To book your place contact Jennifer FitzGibbon (secretary, Action Group for Spirituality), 01294 823992, e-mail [j2fg@aol.com](mailto:j2fg@aol.com), or write to the Diocesan Centre, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH (mark envelope 'Advent Quiet Day').

## Volunteering in Faith?

DO you volunteer in or outwith a church setting? Are you interested in exploring this issue in relation to the 'Big Society'?

Volunteering in Faith: Obligation or Joy? is a day conference with talks and workshops organised by the Church in Society committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It takes place on Saturday 19 November, St Mary's Centre, Kinnoull, Perth, 9.30am-4pm. Keynote speaker Ann Morisey is a freelance community theologian and lecturer. She directed the Commission that published the report Faithful Cities. Journeying Out.

Register by 15 October by sending name, address and e-mail to the Church Relations Officer, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE with a £5 cheque payable to the Scottish Episcopal Church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

If a number of church goers were asked about the point of Sunday School, they might give a variety of replies. Some might think the idea was to “geez peace” to the congregation during the sermon. Others might regard it as a welcome rest from parenting, especially when children are constantly on the move. Others again might see it as a chance to make church a more entertaining place for the younger generation. Then there are those who see it is an opportunity to teach our children more about our Christian faith.

The last of these is the ideal scenario; to have the chance to teach children more about the beliefs we hold dear. This, however, is not the easiest thing to do, when time is limited and the age range so big. It is possible to have children as young as babies in the Sunday School, alongside those in third or fourth year in Secondary School. Attendance is also understandably unpredictable, when children spend weekends with different members of their families.

We definitely think there is a case for separating the smallest children from those who can take part in Sunday School activities. Perhaps some volunteers could help keep the smallest members of our congregation safe as they trot round, or occupied with the toys at the back of church? To have a separate crèche in the church hall would involve putting volunteers through the necessary disclosure procedure, though this is certainly a possibility.

As it is, if all the possible youngsters turned up on a Sunday, we think we need to split them into two groups more appropriate to their ages; younger and older. The questions and concerns of a four year old can be poles apart from those of a secondary pupil about to do their Standard grades. It would also be easier to choose learning materials to suit them.

In general, we use the Redemptorist series of “Look” sheets, which concentrate on the Gospel for a particular week. These are generally excellent, but tend to suit younger children better. However, you do occasionally wonder if finding one’s way through yet another maze with one’s crayon might pall a wee bit, even for the youngest. Just occasionally, the lesson on the sheets does not fit in with our Gospel. Also, once in a blue moon, the activity is not one we would naturally choose, like colouring in the Pope’s coat of arms! We are giving that a miss!

Wherever possible, we try to introduce some craft work, often a big collage, with bright colours and glue, or a scene involving play dough. Normally

we would try to bring this back into church to show the congregation what we have been doing. The disadvantage with this is the lack of time. Often things become “unstuck” in the rush.

The children have already helped with a church service, gathering up the offering etc. We think this is something we could build on in future, maybe ensuring that any readings are suitably straightforward and not too long. It is a scary thing to do any sort of a reading in church; even for adults.

We welcome your interest. Kind people have donated coloured pencils and other materials. If you would like to become more involved in this valuable aspect of church work, please see Barbara, Kenny, Sandra or Margot. If you feel that might be a bridge too far, the most helpful thing you can do is PRAY. We need as much Prayer as possible; for the interest, enthusiasm and cooperation of the children, and for energy, inspiration and commitment amongst the helpers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sing for Your (Fish) Supper

On Sunday 23rd October we invite you to ‘Sing for your (Fish) Supper’. The now famous, or should that be infamous, All Sorts Choir are singing in St. Augustine’s church where they were born during 2011.

A concert of two halves with very freshly made Fish Suppers in the break.

6 pm in the Community Hall. Cost to be confirmed.

## Augadoon

The Annual Big Event, (Pantodine-style) will not disappoint this year as we present ‘AUGADOON’ – A Scottish Extravaganza for St. Andrew’s Night. See Janette’s column for more details)

Full details will be announced nearer the time.  
7 pm for 7.30 pm start.

Cost £22 (£20 for “Friends” members). Start saving up now!

## Date for your Diary!:

Full details will be announced nearer the time but keep Sunday 18th December free to come and join in the fun of the Christmas Party and some Carol Singing. Community Groups are all invited, although we may be upgrading the elves this year.

## St Michael's Celebrate Harvest for East Africa:

St. Michael & All Angels Church, Helensburgh, are celebrating Harvest Festival on 2nd October 2011. This year we have decided that not only do we want to celebrate having food on our tables, but also to think of and raise funds for those in the Horn of Africa who are enduring the worst famine seen many years.

The whole weekend will see the Church and halls open to the public with free admission. Our Church has recently had its restoration completed with new lighting and with the restored collection of stained glass windows this 'House of God' is back to its former glory. Not many people know that it is the only Grade 1 public building in Helensburgh.

The Church will be decorated with flowers for the Festival, and the traditional handmade loaf (by one of our congregation) will be displayed on the High Altar, prior to the doors opening on Saturday 1st October. On Saturday doors close at 1630.

On Sunday after celebrating the Sung Eucharist at 1030 The halls will also be open to all at 1215 until 1600. Enhanced Evensong will be at 1830.

Music: Up to 12 talented musicians will be playing background music in the Church intermittently over the weekend. Musicians, including our resident Organist Martyn Marshall and Barbara Wenbourn will play instruments such as our organ & grand piano, violins; viola, cello, clarsach and recorder. The professional musicians are donating their services free of charge.

Crafts: A Craft Fayre will be held in the Main Hall and include a Home Baking stall and Raffle.

Teas/Coffees: The 'Angels' Tearoom will be in the Lower Hall.

This event is registered with the DEC East Africa Crisis Appeal Reg. Charity: 1062638. All are welcome to join us and help with the effort.

**Shaun Hoey**

## Under the Cedar Trees!

Meet under the cedar trees for 'A Taste of the Lebanon' followed by 'The Da Piski Code'. An evening of great food and an exciting quest through the ancient world to unlock the treasure of the Phoenicians. There will be a special appearance of the Balloch Belly Dancers.

The Menu? A buffet!

### **Mezza (starter) (all v)**

Falafel  
Hummus  
Tahini Dip  
with various breads and fresh vegetable sticks

### **Main course**

Kofta kebab  
Lamb and green bean casserole  
Chicken pieces, with lemon and garlic or plain  
Coriander potatoes, chick peas and tomatoes (v)

### **Side dishes (all v)**

Rice  
Couscous  
Salads  
Cucumber with minted yogurt  
Olives

### **Puddings**

Fresh fruit  
Semolina cake

The fun starts at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall.  
Cost £8 (£7 for Friend's members).

## Parish Walk

The final Parish Walk of 2011 will take place on October 8th, weather permitting.

We will be walking from Strathblane to Lennoxton.

All walks are fairly level and are around 3-6 miles long. Dogs, weans and friends under control are all welcome.

For further details contact either Tim or Rosemary.

## Harvest Gifts:

Harvest Gifts this year, (October 2nd) will be going to the group of Asylum Seekers at Drumchapel Episcopal Church to help them with their weekly lunches! Gifts in kind are welcome.

# 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*

As with so many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they never work.

So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. Also, sadly, a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

I applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings; though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on what I feel is a proper course, when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane, leading her ancient pony. (For one thing, the pony tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as when the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, it does not specify that it has to be a harmonious noise. I am sure that drums and kazooos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.

It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we could not have completed the wedding. I wonder why the groom saw fit to display the word "help" on the soles of his shoes when he knelt at the altar.

If I may give one final word of advice: a row of trees in a massive, ancient building looks fine; a line of plastic Christmas trees, even with lights, simply does not give the same effect.

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble for going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmont was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life. The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

**Richmond Architects**

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



# Rotas for October 2011

## Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Ghislaine Kennedy & Tim Rhead.

Intercessions: David Rowatt.

Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Fran Walker.

Sidespersons: Vernon Perrin & David Ansell.

## Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Fran Walker & Maggie Wallace.

Intercessions: Vernon Perrin.

Chalice: Barbara Barnes & David Rowatt.

Sidespersons: Roberta Mailley & Margaret Swan.

## Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Margot Rhead & Vernon Perrin.

Intercessions: Tim Rhead.

Chalice: : Maggie Wallace & Janette Barnes.

Sidespersons: Chrissie Ashman & Ronnie Blaney.

## Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>

11am Eucharist

Readers: David Rowatt & Linda Macaulay.

Intercessions: Margaret Hardie.

Chalice: Sharon Rowatt & Tim Rhead.

Sidespersons: Gavin Elder & Maggie Wallace.

## Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>

11am Euchariste.

Readers: Janette Barnes & Sharon Rowatt.

Intercessions: Margot Rhead.

Chalice: Vernon Perrin & Maggie Wallace

Sidespersons: Linda Jenkinson & Roberta Mailley.

## Flowers:

Wk. ending:

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Maggie Wallace & Margaret Hardie.

" 10<sup>th</sup>. Rosemary McLeay & Barbara Barnes.

" 17<sup>th</sup>. Maggie Wallace & Moira McGown.

" 24<sup>th</sup>. Linda Macaulay.

# ROTAS

We are SERIOUSLY SHORT of Sidespersons at the moment. Those already doing this duty are VERY willing, but a few more helpers would be wonderful. PLEASE.

## Sunday Rotas, Readers and Intercessors.

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!

## Vestry Meeting

This is on Wednesday 28th Sept at 7.30pm

## Wedding:

Heather Harper is to be married on Sat October 1st at 3pm

## Congregational AGM

This will take place in the Community Hall on Sunday 23rd October at 12 noon. It is important that as many of us as possible attend this meeting. We all need to be aware of the current state of the congregation and our plans for the future.

## Macleans the Jewellers

106 High Street Dumbarton  
Quality jewellery -

In the heart of Dumbarton  
Tel: 01389 733331

Please Support this Business!

# Community Fair 2011







# Smile Lines

## The Cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "Not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

## Glass

The two window panes were arguing as to which one was made of the better glass. One said to the other, "Well, you may think you are a better glass, but I know what you are trying to prove. Believe me, I can see right through you."

## Shampoo

I don't know why I didn't realise this sooner. It's the shampoo we use in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning, "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY." No wonder I have been gaining weight. I am getting rid of the shampoo and am going to use dishwashing liquid instead. Its label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE." Problem solved.

## New International Bible for Cats

On the first day of creation, God created the cat.

On the second day, God created humanity to serve the cat.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that humanity could labour for the good of the cat.

On the fifth day, God created expensive furniture so that the cat would have objects whereon to sharpen its claws.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the human broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but he had to empty the litterbox.

## Others

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

## Broad

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

## The glass

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

## There are three religious truths:

- a. Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- b. Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith.
- c. Baptists and Methodists do not recognize each other in the off-license.

## Dreams

Realise your dream! Unless it's the one where you're at work in your underwear during a fire drill.

## Accident

As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray." From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

## Stories

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."



# **‘Wait Till I Tell You.....’**

*Janette comments on life at St. Aug's and beyond in the final months of an unpredictable summer and looks forward to 'the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'.*

## **IT WAS MORE THAN A 'FAIR' EFFORT!**

The Community Fair, eventually held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August, seemed to have taken the entire summer to organise. We had talked about little else. Gavin, our *Fete -Meister*, was relentless in his pursuit of activities for the youngsters while Connie tirelessly sought support from every business in the area and May Thompson took up her position in the kitchen a week early!

Alarms were set to ensure a dawn start on the morning of the Fair. Decisions had to be made - will the Bouncy Castle be erected in the Hall and the Tearoom and Dancers relocated in the Church? Will the Stalls be indoor or outdoor? Will the three tins of tablet I had made on the Friday night from an internet recipe ever come out of their tins? And there was all that Home Baking to be collected from various parts of the town. The weather at 8am was indecisive so we proceeded with Plan A - an outdoor Fair. It was August after all!

Soon the tables were in place, thanks to a predestined plan by Fran, and the stall holders ready and eager to do business. However, our High Street was not crowded, to say the least, the clouds were not moving and neither was my tablet which was firmly stuck to the tins. It had tasted delicious in the pot the previous night as the dog and I fought to scrape out the remains. Of course, everyone told me what I should have done but the computer was obviously working on virtual tablet which only has to look good! Kenny waited with his opening speech to welcome the crowds but we assured him that it wasn't a morning for Dumbarton folk to rush down the High Street and we had till 4pm to make our money.

At five minutes to ten a respectable number had congregated and right on cue our River City Star arrived carried in by his Auntie and Granny. Our star was 11 month old Cole McMurray who plays Eillean's baby in the popular soap. Cole is the great grandson of Christine Jackson and the great grand nephew of Margaret Swan so he has strong connections with St. Aug's. He was resplendent in his kilt for the occasion and was completely underwhelmed by the whole affair, pulling the ribbon with confidence and style. *Nae greetin' or wantin' his Mammy!* Lucy, from our Sunday School, presented him with a giant lollipop which he grabbed graciously. The crowds cheered, Cole looked happy - you can see he's used to fame!

The stall holders then got down to business but we were still a bit short of weans for the children's amusements. There was a Goalie to Beat, Hoopla to try, a Bouncy Castle to test and some arty -farty stuff in a gazebo with Anne Dyer. But, gradually the word got round and a few more came to join in the fun.

Things were starting to look up and when we did we shouldn't have. Plop, plop, plop! Raindrops were falling on our heads and on Maggie's Home Baking Stall where she had prudently found a cover to protect the still unsold goodies. And it didn't go off! Oh, no! The barbecues that had been sizzling away in preparation for lunch had to be hastily transported up the side lane over perilously, slippery bird poo to the cover of the Church porch. Then the stalls started to appear inside and, before they could be attractively reassembled, the Church looked like a refugee centre for Hurricane Irene!

Meanwhile back in the Hall, and that was the best place to be, the kitchen ladies were posing for the Dumbarton Reporter - aye plenty of smiles from Roberta, May, Georgie, Chrissie and Betty. Ghislaine and Ricky were entertaining and there was a wonderful display of dancing from the Lomond School. Soon the pancakes ran out and everyone had to wait until the burgers were ready - a superb effort against all odds from our Chefs on the Steps.

Then the Fire Engine arrived, not in response to the smoke bellowing from the Church, but to let the children climb aboard and dream of becoming a fireman instead of an X Factor winner. The Bouncy Castle had developed its own moat and had to be evacuated.

And all this time our Anne sat in her gazebo carrying on with the artistry while Brogan and Jamie Lee did some equally artistic face painting. Happily, the rain wasn't stopping anyone enjoying themselves so it eventually gave up allowing us to creep out again. There was even some sunshine in the afternoon and tables were re-erected outside.

There were Cream Teas to enjoy thanks to Mrs Porterfield's scrumptious scones and Connie had started to count the money. Signs were that both St. Aug's and our Hall Users had made a profit. The final total looks like being in excess of £1100. It had been a fair effort right enough and as we all trailed home exhausted we agreed it had been worthwhile.

*( Continued over.....)*



## **'LET NOT AMBITION MOCK THEIR USEFUL TOIL'**

When the wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mrs Bercow, raised the eyebrows of the nation by appearing in Celebrity Big Brother she didn't expect to be the first to be evicted. Now there's a *wumman* with ambition! Determined to get into the public eye she once posed for photographs in nothing but a bed sheet and attracted nearly as many comments as the Rev'd Danny Cheyne's recent correspondence in the Lennox Herald.

Oh, Mrs Bercow's motive was admirable - she wanted to raise £100,000 for charity and that's what they pay you to go into the Big Brother House. Wonder if they'd be interested in a victim from St. Augs? Just think - £100,000 is 100 Community Fairs and approximately 3500 Saturday Coffee Mornings!

But back to Mrs Bercow. For her next trick, and you've really got to applaud her ambition, she wants to appear in 'I'm a Celebrity' or 'Loose Women'. That's in addition to her journalistic objectives with her own column in the Daily Star on Sunday and her big dream to be a Labour MP. Her man's not very pleased -he has to make his own tea! *Gaun yersel, Sally!*

## **DUMBARTON - BEST IN THE WEST?**

Yes - I can't wait till December to see if Dumbarton wins the famous Carbuncle - Plook on the Plinth Award for being the most dismal place in the country. Even the recently restored St. Augustine's with its front garden lovingly tended all summer by Margaret Murnin failed to keep the ancient capital of Strathclyde out of the short leet that includes delightful tourist traps such as Cambuslang and Port Glasgow. And where else would one find those famous plastic shop fronts that make shopping in a recession so much easier. But, at least we've not got a Tram Project!

## **NO WONDER THE SHOPS ARE STRUGGLING.**

It's been a miserable summer for the retail world with the worst trading conditions for forty years. Folks are not buying very much and the prime cause is given as the miserable summer weather we've just had. Who wants to buy summer outfits to cover up with a cardigan or raincoat. Barbecues and garden furniture were also difficult to sell - it just wasn't worth planning an outdoor event. And in England they've had the riots with only the looters showing any real interest in the merchandise.

But in Glasgow they have to take account of another factor - Brad Pitt was in town. Who was going to spend their time looking around the sales rails when

the lovely Brad was loose around George Square?. He might want to ask the way to the station or the whereabouts of the nearest chippy!

Why did he choose Glasgow? Well, he wanted rotten weather - not an endless supply of zombies as has been quoted! And Glasgow as a location was so successful that even more Hollywood stars are queuing up to use it. Its streets are going to be acting as San Francisco streets next - Douglas Street, just outside my old office, has been chosen for its steepness and Tom Hanks and Halle Berry are our latest star visitors.

## **FANCY A GOOD RUMOUR?**

Women spend five hours every day enjoying gossip, scandal and rumours. Who says? Oh, one of these useless surveys that appear regularly in the newspapers. Five hours? Even TBag O'Neill and her cronies are amazed at this statistic and they know all about it considering the amount of time they sit in St. Aug's running up heating bills while ferreting out news over endless cups of tea. Kenny even had to devote a sermon to the subject of gossip. So, if you like a good rumour head along to DPT's next production simply called 'Rumours'. It's described as a wickedly funny comedy, it's written by Neil Simon and runs from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October in the Denny Civic Theatre.

## **SEPTEMBER - ST. AUG'S TOP BIRTHDAY MONTH.**

And this year I'll be joining the same club as Jane Fonda and Joan Collins but minus the toy boys and the Botox. I'll simply do what I've always done - keep on lying and dyeing! Margaret Swan is trying to keep quiet about her big birthday but it's coming soon - she was in my class in Hartfield Primary!

But what about Hollywood legend, Doris Day? The indefatigable 87 year old actress has released her first album for 17 years this September. She's not ready for the Allsorts Choir yet!

## **'AS THICK AS MINCE' - NO WAY!**

This often used derogatory phrase is set to become obsolete very soon with the price of the most staple of Scottish diets rapidly going through the roof - 25% increase in the past month! Will we see mince and tattie meals join the luxury foods like lobster and caviar? Or will we simply water it down and add more tatties!

## **OVERHEARD AT A DPT REHEARSAL.**

Kirk Member: *'I'll be late on Tuesday -Kirk Meeting!*

SM (Piskie): *'No problem. We're having a wee Lebanese 'do' at St. Aug's this month - Mediterranean food, wine and the Balloch Belly Dancers.*

Kirk Member: *'Oh, we're having a cup of tea and the Dalvair Singers!'*

Don't miss 'A Taste of the Lebanon' on 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.

### **SING FOR YOUR (FISH ) SUPPER - 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER.**

Watch for details of Friends' October Event - the Allsorts Choir bring you their Autumn repertoire accompanied by a Fish Supper ( it's easier to acquire than a pianist!). Hear this amazing choir before they embark on their World Tour that commences at St. Michael's the very next day.

### **FORGET 'BRIGADOON' - THIS IS 'AUGADOON'.**

And it's coming to you on 25<sup>th</sup> November in time for the St. Andrew's Night Celebrations. 'Augadoon' will be as Scottish as Irn Bru and a special 3-course Tartan Dinner with Wine will be served.

The entertainment will include anything in a kilt with bagpipes, dancing, singing and the haunting tale of the village of 'Augadoon' where the locals are put to sleep in the Highland Mist for a hundred years. Acting will be of the usual standard by the usual participants so prepare for an evening of laughter and fun.

Oh, and dress up in something Scottish - it all adds to the atmosphere. 'Augadoon' is Friends' Big Event this year and will take place in the Church.

Watch out for further information on the notice board and in next month's New Look. Don't miss 'Augadoon' ....only at St. Aug's!

*Janette*

## **Facebook Group**

St Augustine's now has a new Facebook Group that you are invited to join to catch up on ongoing news, events, and comments. You can view the Group and join by visiting <http://www.facebook.com/groups/223745957683842/> where you will receive a warm welcome.

If you have problems finding us then get in touch with Kenny. Remember that you need to have a Facebook page of your own to join this. Help is at hand if you want or need it.

For others, not into technology, the magazine still gives you all the information you need without the comments!

**Barbara.** Our brave Barbara completed her zip slide so it is time to pay your sponsor money if you haven't already done so. Well done Barbara! Funds raised will go to the Stroke Association.

## *Gowns & Crowns*

**Dressmaking & Alteration Service**

**Perfect for Mother-of-the-Bride and Mother-of-the-Groom Outfits.**

**Personal service and satisfaction is our guarantee!**

**137 Glasgow Road, Dumbarton**

**07793 051682**

**01389 768915**

**[www.gownsandcrowns.co.uk](http://www.gownsandcrowns.co.uk)**

***Why settle for less?***

## **FIRST APPLIANCE CARE**

Service and Repair to all makes of Washing machines, Tumble Dryers, Dishwashers, Refrigeration, Cookers, Vacuums (Dyson specialists)

New appliances supplied & installed  
Quick call out – fully trained engineers

Call Alan Mailley 07710 327999



Authorised Agents



Steven's Baptism, and the Sunday School show off their work on the Workers in the vineyard!

## Harvest reminds us of the means of God's grace

AT this autumn time of year we love to celebrate the harvest festival. The churches are beautifully decorated, the produce nicely arranged on the steps and window sills and the fragrant smell of fruit and vegetables fills the air.

In our age of supermarkets and fast food retailers, far removed from the tilled land and animal husbandry, our harvest feasts help us to acknowledge not only our human need and enjoyment for food, but also the spiritual quality and gift of food itself.

Our physical bodily nourishment and our appreciation of food are deepened by an awareness of the goodness of creation which gives us a sense of well-being. The qualities of careful preparation and sharing of food challenge the destructive elements of greed and waste; valuing food as the product of others' labour and livelihood questions attitudes of exploitation and over-production. In the meeting of our daily needs a sense of gratitude and dependency on God guards against attitudes of our own self-sufficiency and an independence that relies on our

own resources – as if they could satisfy our deepest needs and longings.

Wendell Berry, an American farmer who has campaigned against the over-industrialisation of food production says:

“To live we must daily break the body and shed the blood of creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skilfully and reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, destructively it is a desecration. In such a desecration we condemn ourselves to spiritual moral loneliness and others to want.” (The Gift of Good Land. Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint 2009).

Harvest time reminds us that the food that sustains us all is the bounty of our abundant and fruitful earth. The blessings of food which relieve our hunger and satisfy our basic human needs enable us to live well because they are also the means and vehicle of God's grace which fill us with gratitude and joy.

*By Maureen Russell, member, Diocesan Action Group for Spirituality; Third-Order Franciscan; Pastoral Assistant at St Mary's Bridge of Weir and St Fillan's Kilmacolm.*



## Bridge of Weir Post Office

It started as a Christian initiative to do something about a Community Centre and the loss of Bridge of Weir's Post Office. Originally this was an informal meeting of members of Freeland and St. Machar's Rarfurly Churches but St Mary's, Bridge of Weir is also now playing an important role in making the idea a reality.

Local councillors pressed Renfrewshire Council to delay the proposed sale of the library building and give the local community a chance to put together a viable business plan for its future. If successful this plan will be to run the old library as a Post Office and Community Centre which will be known as 'The Bridge'. Current Post Office policy is to relocate smaller Post Offices, to be known as Post Office Essentials, into established retail outlets. Their response to the suggestion that a Post Office could be included in the plans was very positive. Although still subject to some fine-tuning, the idea is that an area will be set aside for a Post Office Essential which will be run by staff trained by the Post Office but recruited by The Bridge.

Letters appealing for funds have gone out to every house in Bridge of Weir and the response has been wonderful. We had to meet our target of £15,000 and so far over £20,000 has been raised. Once local residents got behind the idea, the money rolled in, including two very generous donations, so we have been able to submit the relevant papers and vital financing to Renfrewshire Council in time for discussion at this month's meeting. We only had 2 weeks to convince everyone that it was within our grasp to open up a new Post Office. The plans for a Post Office Essential are well under way and once we get the keys to the old library we will be able to convert one area to Post Office specifications for a Post Office Essential counter and then renovate the remainder of the building to reflect the many suggestions which have been made as to how it can be used as a Community Centre. The plans for this are at present a matter for heated discussion.

Final agreement has not yet been reached with the Council, but as the response from Council repre-

sentatives has been very encouraging, members of the planning committee are forging ahead. The amount of work undertaken so far has been enormous, as has collating the relevant applications for both Renfrewshire Council and the Post Office and in time for tight deadlines. In due course, The Bridge can apply for the grants which are available to community projects once they are up and running and these will be whizzing to every possible supportive organisation. The £20,000 is an excellent start and much more will be needed but the overall priority is to get the Post Office open and functioning in time for Christmas!

*(This is real Church in Society stuff- Ed)*

## Pride in Our Town Week - 8th-16th October

At the time of going to press it is still unclear what our response to this week is actually going to be. There will be a few extra things going on in the High Street on the 8th and the 15th October, and there seemed to be the will to open the church, "The Jewel of the High St", on at least one of these Saturdays. The organisers of the town's "Save Dumbarton High Street", wanted someone to organise a Craft Fayre, and we thought that we could manage this, in the church, serving coffee and tea, preferably on the 8th. On the 15th we have already got a wee event already organised in the hall.

Despite a level of negativity, or just plain apathy, (maybe we are just getting tired again), it is still possible that this can happen in some form or another.

Keep a lookout for a possible Craft Fayre in St Augustine's on October 8th. I am determined that we will at least keep the church opened on this date.

It's vital that we play our part in showing that the High Street is not dead yet, and although our hall is the best for events like these, it is in St Mary's Way and not the High Street! Let's make an effort and play our part.

## Co-op Taxis

West Dunbartonshire Taxi Drivers Co-operative  
76 Main St, Alexandria  
24 hour service

**01389 753376**

## GALT TRANSPORT

Bankend Road,  
Dumbarton

**Tel: 01389 730460**

[www.galttransport.co.uk](http://www.galttransport.co.uk)

Email: [traffic@galttransport.co.uk](mailto:traffic@galttransport.co.uk)

Please support our 'supporters' with  
your custom

# St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church

High Street, Dumbarton G82 1LL

01389 734514

[www.staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk](http://www.staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk)

Email: [staugustinessec@btinternet.com](mailto:staugustinessec@btinternet.com)

**Rector:-** Revd Kenneth Macaulay

54 Helenslee Cres

Dumbarton G82 4HS (frkenny@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01389 602261 Mobile: 07734 187250

**Treasurer:** David Rowatt ([dsrowatt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dsrowatt@blueyonder.co.uk))

Tel :- 01389 732341

**Secretary to the Vestry:** Janette Barnes (01389 761398)

**Lay Representative:** Tim Rhead ([trhead@hotmail.com](mailto:trhead@hotmail.com)) (01389 761676)

**Alternate Lay Representative:** Maggie Wallace ([maggiwallace@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:maggiwallace@blueyonder.co.uk))

**Fabric Convener:** Margaret Hardie and her Team

**Project Development:** Fran Walker ([fran\\_walker@hotmail.com](mailto:fran_walker@hotmail.com)) Tel:- 01389 761403

**Trustees:** The Rector, Margaret Wallace (01389 757200), Barbara Barnes

**Other Vestry Members:** Barbara Barnes ([barbarabarnes78@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbarabarnes78@yahoo.co.uk)) (01389 755984), Margaret Hardie ([mghardie@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mghardie@blueyonder.co.uk)) (01389 767983), Janette Barnes (01389 761398), ([Janette.Barnes@btinternet.com](mailto:Janette.Barnes@btinternet.com)), , Roberta Mailley (01389 731863), Anne Dyer, Linda Jenkinson (01389 761693), Gavin Elder, Margaret Swan, Rosemary McLeay, Shadrach Shame.

**Regional Council Representative:** Roberta Mailley (01389 731863)

**Child Protection Officer:** Barbara Barnes

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



**Kane Associates**  
Independent Financial Advisers

**For All Your Financial Planning Requirements**

**Inheritance Planning, Tax Planning, Financial Protection,  
Equity Release, Investment & Retirement Planning**

Please Contact

Charlie Brown (Cert PFS, CII)

For Kane Associates

Office: 01416360055

Mobile: 07854107570

E-mail: [charlie.brown@kane-associates.co.uk](mailto:charlie.brown@kane-associates.co.uk)