



St Augustine's Dumbarton

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the new look

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From Kenny....

September is a big month for St Augustine's, with the arrival of Pat Smith as a curate in the parish. It has been a long time since St Augustine's has had a curate in training, and I hope that we will all feel a part of that, and a responsibility for her too, as she edges towards being a priest in God's Church!



Pat comes, firstly, as a Deacon, a servant, and adds a dimension to our ministry here which is very welcome. She has many gifts which will be a blessing for all of us, and she has much to give.

This, perhaps gives us all a time to reflect on our own ministry, and where we fit into the ministry of St Augustine's. A recent sermon was a timely reminder for us that we always need to recommit ourselves to our outward-looking policy, and that the least, last and lost are people we should be reaching out to, people beyond the congregation, who, perhaps, live on the edges.

I'm still minded, though, of a comment made last year, which challenged me greatly. If I was to paraphrase what it was, it would sound something like this:- *"This ministry to all the outsiders is important, but what of the ministry within? Why are people in our congregations feeling neglected, or unimportant? Ministry to the fringes is right, but those in the 'middle classes' in today's Church are being made to feel that they are left behind, that they are largely unimportant in the great scheme of things."*

I have a certain sympathy with that line of thinking. Very often, in my ministry here, I have assumed that the folk who turn up week by week are fine, and not particularly in any great need of attention, though when things have gone awry, I hope I have always "been there". It has been my assumption that a very strong ministry existed among you all, as a congregation, and that there was no need to endanger the level of care you have for each other by bustling in and claiming that I was **THE** minister in this parish! We all share in ministry here, and it's everyone's responsibility to ensure we care for each other.

Pat's arrival will give the Ministry Team, Tim, Pat and me, more space to care for the congregation and make sure that needs are met more fully.

There is the assumption though, that with another dog-collar on board, we can relax a little. Often the opposite is true! The ethos of this parish **is** to look outwards and care for others. We do this through

our hall ministry, and all these hall users are part of the St Augustine's family. We also do it through our open-doors ministry. Pat will need to be a part of all that too if she's going to be trained properly.

That brings us back to ministry, and how it works, and essentially underlines the fact that we **all** share in the one ministry here in St Aug's. We care for each other, we look out for each other, we notice when someone is absent, we pick up signs that someone may be struggling, and we use the dog-collars to help us in that ministry when it's needed.

Often clergy are totally unaware of problems that they should be addressing, and so good communication is necessary. Nobody should feel marginalised or neglected. Tell Pat or me if someone is needing a wee visit.

Pat will come to share in **our** ministry, the ministry we have for each other, your ministry to us, our ministry to you, and the ministry we share to those in the wider St Augustine's family and beyond. It's quite a task, but as an unpopular Prime Minister once said, we are all in it together!

Kenny

Windows - St Margaret

Some of you may have noticed the Te Deum window, over the high altar, being photographed by Ilene McCartney, in August. She is currently working on a project run by the Scottish Stained Glass Symposium in Edinburgh on behalf of the St. Margaret's Chapel Guild of Edinburgh Castle. The project is gathering information on all the stained-glass windows which feature St. Margaret.

Interestingly St Margaret (Queen of Scotland) is one of only two women represented in the stained glass at St Augustine's (unless the angels are female), the other being St Monica (mother of St Augustine) and they appear in the window that was commissioned by the congregation in the latter part of the 19th C.

I'm not sure how good the likeness is as Margaret was born (in Hungary) in about 1046. King Malcolm III fell deeply in love with her and they were married in 1070. Into their marriage she introduced education, piety and charity and into the country she encouraged the church to be more organised, pilgrims to visit St Andrews and had built both Dunfermline Abbey and St Margaret's Chapel in Edinburgh Castle. Queen Margaret died in 1093, just 4 days after the deaths, in battle, of her husband and eldest son. She was canonized in 1250 and is remembered each year on 16th November.

Rotas: September 2012

Sunday **September 2nd.**

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Ghislaine Kennedy.

Chalice: Tim Rhead & Fran Walker.

Sidespersons: Ross & Gavin Elder.

Sunday **September 9th**

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Margot Rhead & Janette Barnes.

Intercessions. Maggie Wallace.

Chalice: Margaret Hardie.

Sidespersons: Vernon Perrin & Jean Carr

Sunday **September 16th**

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Barbara Barnes & Morag O'Neill.

Intercessions: Peter Cairns.

Chalice: Janette Barnes.

Sidespersons: Chrissie Ashman & David Ansell.

Sunday **September 23rd**

11am Eucharist

Readers: Vernon Perrin & Jean Carr

Intercessions: Evelyn O'Neill.

Chalice: Maggie Wallace.

Sidesperson: Linda Jenkinson & Margaret Swan

Sunday **September 30th**

11am Eucharist

Readers: Margaret Hardie & Linda Macaulay

Intercessions: Tim Rhead.

Chalice: Vernon Perrin.

Sidespersons: Ronnie Blaney & Roberta Mailley

FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Wk. Ending

Sept. 1st. Moira McGown & Maggie Wallace.

" 8th. Barbara Barnes.

" 15th. Linda Macaulay.

" 22nd Maggie Wallace & Margaret Hardie.

" 29th TBA

Cursillo

The meetings in September are :-

Wednesday 12th in the church at 7.30pm. Kenny will be conducting this service. Open to all.

Wednesday 26th. Diocesan Ultreya in St. Serf's, Shetleston at 7.30p.m.

Vestry

The next Vestry Meeting is on Wednesday 5th September at 7pm.

Art Exhibition

The Old Kilpatrick Art Club are holding an exhibition in St Augustine's on September 7th-8th. Some exhibits will be on sale, and St Augustine's will get a percentage of profits. Please put this in your diary and support it.

Cup Cake Competition

As part of our Community Fair this year, we will be holding a Cup Cake Competition with an Autumn Theme. The entry should be 3 Cup Cakes, and the small entry fee will be £1-50.

Entry forms will be available from Sat, 1st. September from the Church Office and the church. Attached will be the recipe we would like everyone to use, to keep things fair.

The cakes for the competition should be in the church by 10.15 am. on Sat. 22nd.Sept., and there will be two prizes, one for taste and texture and one for decoration.

Let's have a bumper entry....men, women and children!

The Old Kilpatrick Art Club:

The Club are holding an exhibition of their work in St. Aug's on September 7 and 8. The exhibition will be open from 10 am – 4 pm each day, and some of the work on display will be for sale. All are welcome to come and have a look around, and maybe even buy a work of art!

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

My Dear Nephew Darren,

Your church certainly seems to have taken to the idea of green electricity with a vengeance. To have covered the whole of your roof with solar panels was a brave move, and makes quite a sight – especially when the sun catches them, dazzling motorists on the by-pass and causing multiple pile-ups. I pity the local pigeons, who try to land on it and then do a gentle glissade into the gutters.

I know there have been objections to your proposal to erect a wind turbine in your car park – although no one could claim that it spoils the aesthetic appearance of your church. Nothing, my dear Darren, could do that.

May I humbly offer you some further suggestions for reducing your electricity consumption. If you cut your sermons by half, then everyone could go home 20 minutes earlier. Similarly, if you only sang each chorus once instead of your customary 17 times, that should cut your service times in half. And why have lighting so good that everyone can see everyone else? That is the last thing our own congregation ever want to do.

I raised the issue at our last Vestry meeting, but having only recently gone on to electricity, there seemed little enthusiasm for yet more change. Major Hastings still fondly remembers our old acetylene plant in the churchyard, destroyed during one Mattins when the verger was unaware of the gas leak and lit up a cigarette. We still occasionally find pieces of his cassock when mowing the grass.

Mr Prentice, with a slightly malicious gleam, suggested building a treadmill, to be worked by the Young Farmers – which would also keep them out of the pub while Evensong was taking place. I couldn't help feeling that our Ladies Group would have far more determination to keep the thing rotating – probably providing enough energy to light the entire County. I was tempted to suggest we invite the vicar from our adjoining parish, St. Agatha's, to preach every Sunday, as that would fill our church with more than enough hot air.

I finally stopped all further discussion on the subject when a solar panel consultant arrived at the Rectory

and began his sales pitch with the phrase: "I've come to convert you".

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

The Gathering.....

A Michaelmas Liturgy in celebration of God's grace and our growth in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

I want to offer you the warmest encouragement to come along to The Gathering on 29th September when in a day of worship and liturgy we will offer to God the growing life of our Diocese in mission and ministry and seek God's blessing on our continuing growing together in Glasgow and Galloway.

It is good to be gathering at Michaelmas time with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven — our gathering is part of a bigger one!
+ Gregor

This message popped into my inbox last month, but I've known about it for some time now, as I have some input into the day itself.

It's a coming together of every parish in the Diocese to share how we are progressing with our Mission Action plan, and to celebrate, with some joy, what has been already achieved by ourselves and others.

Every congregation in the diocese is encouraged to send at least 3 representatives of all ages to this important celebration of our diocesan life together. We will even be given the opportunity to make some bread together at St Silas, in the west-end of Glasgow. The bread will be brought back to our home parishes to be used at the Eucharist on the Sunday after.

Here is an opportunity to meet lots of new folk, to realise that we are a part of something much bigger, and to steal some of the good ideas that others have.

If you would like to come to the Gathering, it's important that you tell Kenny asap, so that we can be assured of places.

Let's not be afraid to blow our own horn here too. We have much to be proud of and much to share!

From our new Curate

For those of you who have not met me, the promise of a new curate may have raised expectations of a nice young man – in fact I am a 61 year-old grandmother (but hope-fully nice). Here are a few more facts about me.



I originally come from Exeter, leaving for Reading University where I obtained an honours degree in Politics. After this I went into the Civil Service in London, working in areas such as mental health policy and medicines regulation in what was then the Department of Health and Social Security.

It was in London that I met Ian, and we married in 1974. His work brought us to Scotland in 1978 and we have been settled in Helensburgh ever since, producing and bringing up our two children here. Unfortunately Ian has suffered from ME for many years, which limits his own activity, but he has still given me great encouragement and support over the last six years in my journey towards ordination.

Although my grandparents on both sides were active Christians neither of my parents were churchgoers, and I grew up with no interest in religion. It was becoming a parent, and having our daughter baptised, that made me think more about the meaning of life; and when Ian and I started attending St Michael's in Helensburgh we came under the influence of Alex Laing, whom many of you will know, and Barbara Thatcher, who at that time was a Lay Reader but subsequently was one of the first women to be ordained priest in the SEC.

One day Alex turned up on my doorstep asking if I was interested in being confirmed: in fact I needed to be baptised as well as I had simply been dedicated in my grandfather's Baptist church, but that was the beginning of my active Christian life. Like most mothers my first involvement was with Creche and Sunday School; but amongst other things I also served on Vestry, joined an Intercession Group (which I ended up leading), and was St Michael's Child Protection Officer.

It was the combination of a few chance remarks that led me to realise that I was being called to a different form of service in the church, although I thought that others might not recognise this calling. However, after a two year process of "Discernment" (the church takes its time deciding if one is suitable to train for ministry) I started "Formation" three years ago. My academic study was by distance learning

with Aberdeen University, while specific church training came from residential weekends and summer schools with TISEC (the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church) and monthly diocesan evening sessions run by Anne Tomlinson, whom most of you will know.

Now I have been deemed suitably prepared to be let loose on the church - although with much still to learn I am thankfully under the care of Father Kenny, who has agreed to be my Training Priest. It is something I look forward to with an equal measure of excitement and terror; but having had the benefit of meeting and worshipping with many of you at St Augustine's the prospect is less daunting than it otherwise might have been. Over the next few months I hope to be able to visit everyone in the parish and get to know you all properly.

From September 9th you will see me "up front", assisting in services, occasionally preaching and so on. One thing that I will not attempt to do is sing solo – if you knew what my voice is like you would be truly grateful for this declaration. However, I do bring with me my personal choir in Ian (once a Church of England parish church choirboy, and a member of various other choirs in the past). We both very much look forward to joining you in the St Augustine's family.

Pat Smith

The Ordination

Pat will be ordained Deacon in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 8th September at 2pm. This is a ticket only affair, as others will be ordained at the same time, but we have been allocated 25 tickets.

Janette Barnes is organising tickets, so you should make sure you have one before September 8th.

However, for those unable to go, we are putting on a special party to welcome Pat to St Augustine's after the service, and this should begin in the hall about 4.30pm. Around twenty of Pat's friends will be joining us, but it is our welcome for our new curate, and we should all make an effort to be there if we can. You will be back in front of the telly by seven!

We need to ensure there is enough to eat and drink, so any offers of help on this score should be directed through Fran, who has taken this responsibility on board.

Of course, the 9th will then be Pat's first Sunday with us at both services, and it would be nice to have a full church at the 11am to celebrate this new ministry. Perhaps a dog-collar will make her stand out a little, but she's **our** dog-collar!

Girl Power

It all started, I suppose, with another mum and me having a coffee in the living room with a group of young girls squeezed into my daughter's bedroom upstairs, talking about the things girls talk about!

Picking up on part of a conversation about how hard it was to jump from Primary to Secondary School, we suggested that we could help to alleviate some of the fears of feeling like 'a small fish in a big pond'.

There was an opportunity here, and we set about the task of recruiting another two mums and proceeded in gaining support from the Rector, to open up a wee group filling the need for some sort of activity and personal development programme for young people.

12 young girls came forward to an information evening and all decided to stay. STAGG, (St Augustine's Girls' Group), were open for business! January 2012 kicked off the full programme and so the story unfolds. Ideas to work on came fast and furious from learning new crafts, confidence building workshops, drama and role play activities, to fundraising with the purpose of visiting the Pandas in Edinburgh Zoo.

Better a hall rather than a cramped bedroom, our Rector gave us free use of the hall, and the Vestry were quick to add their support.

As weeks passed, the girls took great pride in some of the topic areas they had been working on and, with Vestry approval, slowly moved their art work from the hall to the church. Here their talent could be shown to the full congregation each Sunday. The girls were ever so proud of their achievements and were happy to show their work to a wider audience.

They took a couple of visits to the church building on club nights to look at their work displayed, they also had a good look at the church building in all its splendour and asked questions about the old building. (some of them had never been in a church before) The leaders answered question and allowed the girls time to just soak it all in.

One Sunday morning prior to their first fundraising event, a *cake and craft* sale, group members attended the 11am service with some parents and were invited to take over the sermon slot, to tell the congregation about their group, and advertise their sale. This too was another first for many for the girls and they were pleased with the opportunity to share.

They now started helping out at church events either in the kitchen or serving tables and again they were welcomed these tasks and enjoyed the experience.

Arrangements were made for a private tour of a local historical building -Overton House. The girls were given a chance to look at how this beautiful building,

which had been carefully restored over the last ten years, was now ready to open as a place of support and respite for *young women in need*. The girls and leaders agreed that our new winter programme would incorporate some gifts to the young women in the shape of crotchet blankets for the babies who would become residents and maybe even gathering some toiletries to gift to the house.

A church outreach endeavour was now committed to reaching out to others in need!

We also took a trip to Millport travelling by train, ferry and bus which was a great adventure. Of course we cycled round the island before popping up to the Cathedral for a tour followed by a wee time in the church. The tour was to serve the purpose of a proposed weekend visit later in the year. This would need to be fundraised for and so the girls now have a picture of where they will reside and a wee flavour of the Isle of Cumbrae.

Their last trip incorporated the challenge of a Charity Shop Run in Helensburgh, to seek out an outfit costing no more than £5 per person or £10 per couple which would be used in a fashion show later in the club programme. All managed the task within the timeframe set and surprised the leaders with their negotiation skills at the till. The money spent also helped out the local charity shops.

Now as the group embark on the next session, we have invited the parents to come along and check out the achievements to date, share a coffee served by the group, and look over the collage of pictures gathered since the early stages.

We will then sit back and enjoy a wee fashion show of the clothes gathered, and together we can reflect on these young women and how they have grown in the last year, the boost that they have had just to be given the opportunity to come together, to learn about themselves, learn about others in their own community and the wider world, and the part that they have to play.

The parents can see that all the efforts and commitment from the girls, the leaders, the church and their parents have been well and truly worth it. It's easily done. All we needed was a mum and her daughter to be committed church members, and all the rest just followed on easily. All from a coffee, and a little bit of eavesdropping, oh, and we got to see the pandas!

(Photos on the middle pages of the Magazine)

Anne Dyer

(This article is soon to be published in a Diocesan Newspaper - Ed)

The way I see it: Ordinary blessings

'The captains and the kings depart .. .' They've gone: the Jubilee, Wimbledon, the Olympics. As a lady said to me at church last Sunday, perhaps one day the television will get back to normal. Well, this is 'normal'. It's also, funnily enough, what the Lectionary calls 'Ordinary Time' - that means the bits in between all the great feast days and penitential seasons and so on. At the moment it's the seemingly endless 'Sundays after Trinity'.

'Ordinary' is such a lovely word, I think. It's root is that reassuring word 'order', and it encompasses ideas like orderliness, well-ordered, in order. It's opposite is strange, unusual, distinctive: extraordinary.

One of the odd things about human behaviour is that most of us most of the time don't want to look strange, unusual or even distinctive. Just look at the way we dress, following fashion, deliberately trying to look like those around us. Think of the teenage uniform, male or female. Their whole ambition is to look exactly like their peers. Or think of guests at a wedding, especially the males, all looking exactly alike in bow ties and suits or kilts. Mind you, at times - perhaps at a party - we shall go to the other extreme and try to be as different and distinctive as possible - outrageous colours, pink hair, funny glasses.

Where the Gospels are concerned, our tendency is to remember the extraordinary bits - water turned into wine, storms stilled, lame people dancing and blind people seeing. Yet they are only extraordinary because their context is so utterly ordinary - women preparing meals, men sowing crops, feet being washed and food being eaten. The whole setting is so ordinary that the amazing acts of power that Jesus did stand out like beacons. But they happened - and this is important - in the ordinary world, to ordinary people, in the ordinary circumstances of life.

In 'Ordinary Time', when nothing special is happening, we have space and time to reflect on some of the wonderfully 'ordinary' events that have taken place in our lives - touches, I reckon, of the love and grace of God. I'm thinking of ordinary acts of kindness, generous words, quietly spoken prayers, memories too precious ever to fade away. I'm thinking of the 'ordinary' love of one human being for another, the 'ordinary' hand on the shoulder in time of need, the 'ordinary' serenity of a life well lived.

Or, perhaps, they're all extraordinary, really.

Community Fair - Saturday 22nd Sept:

This is your chance to help to raise funds for the church. It is a time to get into your loft or garage, and perhaps have a clearout!

Stalls will include knitting/crochet/crafts produce - jam/chutney/fruit from your garden good as new clothes, and good quality bric-a-brac. So get making, clear out your wardrobe, sort out those cupboards.

We are looking for fit bodies with muscles to help with shifting chairs and tables to set up the Fair on Friday evening 21st. and clear up on Saturday afternoon on 22nd Sept.

If you can help please let Fran know. There will also be a Car Boot Sale in the PF's car park too! Tell everyone you meet about this so that we can fill all the spaces. Get a friend to come along to flog your own stuff, or as importantly, just bring along a friend.

And it's Goodbye from Us!

This will be the last edition of "New Look". It was created in 2003 to herald the end of the Restoration of the building, and has been in need of a re-vamp for a little while now. However, not unlike the Lennox Herald, you may not see too much of a difference!

It's replacement, "By the Way", will appear in October, and should contain many of the favourite bits of New Look. It may, however, come up with a few surprises, and, hopefully, more of our photographs.

We are looking for more regular contributors for By the Way, so here is your chance to book a regular slot or column of your own.

We are changing our desk-top packaging system, so now seemed to be a good time to give the parish magazine a totally new look! We hope you will enjoy it as much as you have enjoyed this version!

Friends' Membership

If you have not already done so, can you pay your annual subscription to Friends as soon as possible. We need more Business Members too, so perhaps you could sound out some shop-keepers to take a wee advert in our magazine?

Friends' money is more important than its ever been as we struggle to pay stipend and our monthly bills.

This month..... Our Girls' Group!





Smile-Lines for September

Poisoning

A man went to see the local minister and confided: "Something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it. My wife is trying to poison me." The minister, very surprised by this, urged the man not to be so silly. But the man insisted: "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's poisoning me. What should I do?"

Finally, the minister offered: "Tell you what, let me talk to her. I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know." A week later the minister rang the man. "Well, I contacted your wife. In fact, I spoke to her on the phone for three hours. You want my advice?" The man anxiously waited. "Take the poison!"

The bifocals

A preacher went into the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing a pair of new bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He explained to the congregation that the new glasses were causing problems. "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses," he said. "You see when I look down I can see fine, but when I look at you, it makes me feel sick."

Good reasons for joining the Music Group this autumn

The church is usually crowded at baptisms and you want to make sure you always have a seat.

You've just been selected for jury duty and you want to get used to sitting with a large group of people.

The collection plate is never passed to the Music Group. For years you have wanted to know who sits in the back of the church but were afraid to turn around and look.

You've been known to nod off during the service and don't want the Rector to catch you.

There's always bottles of clear liquid being passed around and you suspect it's "something else".

Marriage

Our marriage is all about trust and understanding. She doesn't trust me and I don't understand her.

Blackmail

One Sunday the minister announced to his congregation, "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons..... a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes; a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes; and a £20 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Chicken

How did the frozen chicken cross the road?
In a shopping bag.

Daughter-in-law

A young man rang his mother to announce, with great excitement, that he'd at last fallen in love and was contemplating marriage. He went on: "Just for fun, I'm going to bring over my girlfriend and two of her friends. I would like you to try and guess which one I'm going to marry."

The mother agreed. So the next day her son arrived at his mother's house with three beautiful young women. They sat on the sofa and chatted for a while with the family.

When his mother went out to the kitchen to put the kettle on for tea, her son followed her. "Okay, mum," he said. "Guess which one I would like to marry."

She replied at once: "The one in the green dress." Her son was astonished and asked how on earth she had guessed. The mother shrugged. "That's easy. I don't like her."

Repairs

Why does the Queen use her dogs to repair her boilers? Because. they are corgi registered!!

Correct diagnosis

A man who went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirled and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."

Heaven

Father Murphy walked into a pub in Donegal, and said to the first man he met, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

The man said that of course he did. "Good," said the priest. "Go and stand by that wall over there." Then Father Murphy asked a second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?" Again, the man agreed. "Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to a third man and asked the same question. The man paused and said, "Well, not really...."

Astonished, the priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

"Oh!" said the man. "When I die, yes! I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

Grammatical sense

If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

Others

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

‘Wait Till I Tell You.....’

Janette looks back at life in St. Aug's and beyond during August and looks forward to September and an Autumn Fair to remember.

HOW MANY ST. AUG'S MEMBERS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

Any number in excess of 8. One to write about the experience, several to stand, stare and gossip, one to put up a list for the après-repair buffet, one to e-mail Kenny, one to pray that the replacement bulb will work, one to organise a coffee morning in aid of a new ladder andone to assist Fran in the purchase of two emergency generators!

A ROYAL POST CARD FROM SIN CITY.

Dear Granny,

Hope you are enjoying your break up at Balmoral and that Grandpa has recovered. Thank goodness he was on hand to tell those 'naughty nurses' at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to 'behave themselves'. It amazes one what they get up to these days in the NHS! Since you are up in your 'Hielan Hame' you may not yet have seen the Sun. No Granny, I don't mean the weather.....I mean the newspaper that's making much ado about my little problems in Las Vegas.

It's nothing really, just a little clothing catastrophe! Let me explain. First of all, most of my luggage went missing on the flight, I left my valet in San Francisco, I lost my shirt at a gambling casino and the maid sent my trousers to the hotel laundry! To make matters worse, I got sunburned and had to cover myself in calamine lotion which takes some time to dry. The result? I was unable to dress as befits a Royal – in fact I was unable to dress at all! But I stayed calm and carried on – with the best looking girls in Las Vegas! And they were so polite – they removed their own clothes so that I would not feel awkward. I've got some super holiday snaps. Wish you were here.....well, maybe not!

Your affectionate Grandson

Harry

RETURN OF SOUPER FRIDAYS

Don't forget to come along at high noon on Fridays for a delicious soup lunch and to sample the latest delicacy – the mini toastie. Oh and Maggie wishes to assure all customers that there are no Wiki-Leeks in any of St. Auggie's soups!

IS THERE LIFE ON MARS?

Two bright green Martians are enjoying a barbecue by the light of their two moons when Curiosity trundles into view.

Martian 1: Whit's that heap o' junk?

Martian 2: It fell fae oot the sky – I wish Planet Earth wid recycle its ain rubbish! It says 'Property of NASA' 'Keep Upright'. It's measurin' the ruts in oor roads.

Martian1: Whit fur? They've got plenty o' their ain! I'll try tae communicate.....Hullaw rerr, Jimmy....Sprechen Sie Martian? It's no' answerin'. Naebody in. It canny be human.

Martian 2: Listen, I've tellt you before – there's nae life oan Earth. They're a' deid!

Martian 1: D'ye think it could huv been a' thae deep fried Mars Bars we sent them!

IT'S ONLY WORDS!

During the constant Olympic TV coverage we learned two new phrases from the BBC. The noun 'Medal' was converted into a verb i.e. 'he is not expected to medal'. Is the BBC allowed to meddle with the English language? (*Don't start me - Ed*)

And there's more! They seemed to relish the word 'Podium' and even used it as an adjective i.e. 'he is hoping for a podium finish!' It took me all my time to 'keep the heid!' Oh, and it wasn't only at the Olympics. On a late night current affairs programme we had a guest business woman who punctuated all her remarks with 'definately!' That was almost as bad as the Aberdeen councillors, so stunned by the effect of their city garden cancellation, they went from speechless to assuring us that 'a decisive decision had been made.' Is there another kind? And if I hear another suggestion for the wording on our forthcoming referendum.....

I'VE GOT A LITTLE LIST.....

Gilbert and Sullivan made a song out of this but St. Aug's little lists on 19th August thoroughly confused the congregation. First of all they were urged to decide if they still wanted to be on the Susan Boyle Story list and if so, to please pay their money. Then Fran introduced a list for those wishing to attend Pat's ordination on September 8th at the Cathedral. Next up was a list for those who wanted to attend the après-ordination party in the hall. This was quickly followed by a list for those who were willing to donate food and drink.

By then a glazed look was spreading over the sea of faces and it had nothing to do with Eamonn's sermon! So look out for our little lists and make sure your name is on the right one. And remember – Subo will not be making an appearance at the Cathedral!

Over/

SAVE DUMBARTON HIGH STREET –

WHAT FOR?

A life jacket was thrown to our ailing High Street last week when the idea of building the new Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School on the distillery site was floated. My reaction was what a good idea! All those weans, teachers, parents and visitors would certainly bring life to the High Street. And even more important it would get the convoy of school buses off the Cardross Road!

I expressed this on Facebook and almost immediately my computer was choked up with adverse comments about weans having increased access to a plethora of fast food outlets and gorging themselves into obesity on chips and burgers. Does this mean that only shops that promote a healthy lifestyle should be allowed to open in our High Street? The existing range is hardly a shining example unless you're a dog shopping for a good dinner!

Do we really want no risks, dangers or temptations? Who wants the nanny society? I walked through the High Street every day as a child facing the perils of more than one chip shop, a choice of super sweetie shops, plus a collection of cafes and tea rooms that weren't just selling lettuce leaves. Aye, and my Mother's biggest fear was that we'd run in front of a Brucehill bus or fall in the Leven!

THE OLYMPAUGS

Sorry the Olympaugs didn't make it out of the starting blocks – lack of support was the main reason. Perhaps we're just not sporty down at St. Aug's. However, a few of our congregation seem to have been inspired by the Olympics. Charlie Brown has been spotted out on a boat – 'hingin'ontae the sides' in a trendy orange life jacket. He'd heard that Ben Ainslie had thrown in the towel and fancied a showdown with the Great Dane. Linda Jenkinson can't wait for the new velodrome to be completed – she's already on her bike. And what about Fran and Linda M braving the elements at the outdoor swimming in Greenock. Are they in training for the open water race or just practicing for falling out of a rowing boat at the regatta.

Anyway, I still have all the gold medals and a request to organise an Olympic Bingo in the autumn. Funny, I must have missed that event at London 2012!

JUST LIKE THE W.I.

Now that Sharon and I are learning all those rural institute tips in 'Calendar Girls', surely it will give us a big advantage in the St. Auggie's Community Autumn Fair Cake Baking Competition? The challenge is 'Cup Cakes with an Autumn theme'. Now, Roberta, that's not just sticking a withered leave on wi' a daud of icing! Oh, no, you'll have to be much more creative. So come on, get those baking bowls out and start beating! Does one beat the dough in Cup

Cakes? I'll need to attend a few more rehearsals to learn that. But, I've still got my hand stitched cookery apron from Dumbarton Academy – how cool is that? See Maggie for all the details. But even if your cup cakes fall as flat as pancakes – don't worry, they can still be used in the tea room!

Come along anyway and enjoy all that's on offer. Buy other people's delicious baking, find an early Christmas gift, try on a nearly new autumn outfit or rummage amongst the unwanted treasures at the Car Boot Department. Indulge in a painted face or even a trendy tattoo and shock the neighbours. Pat Smith who will be our new Curate by then will be entrusted to some drawing the raffle-tickets – this is your chance to meet her. Wonder how she is with cup cakes?

AND AT LAST.....'I DREAMED A DREAM'

Yes, there's still a waiting list for this popular Friends' event. If your names on the successful list be at the Community Hall on Monday 1st October by 5.30pm for a pre-theatre drink before boarding your luxury coach to the King's Theatre in Glasgow. Tickets will be distributed on the bus along with instructions for your safe return.

We are going on the opening night of the production in Glasgow and Elaine C Smith has been getting rave reviews for her performance as Susan. Oh, and keep all fingers crossed that the real Susan will be able to appear in person. Any enquiries or late cancellations to me, please, on 761398.

AND NEXT MONTH...

Look forward to winter with Friends – only at St. Aug's. See you there!

Janette



Miscellaneous musings on daily life...

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once...

Ask advice, but use your common sense. Yiddish proverb

Kind: someone who could tell you all about his operation – but doesn't.

Government expert: one who complicates simple things.

Farm: a portion of land covered by a mortgage.

Nothing is as inevitable as a mistake whose time has come.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge. "

- Thomas Brackett Reed

"He has the attention span of a lightning bolt." - Robert Redford

Sharp tongues have a way of sharpening other tongues. - E Stanley-Jones

Deficit: what you've got when you haven't as much as if you had nothing.

If I understand what the economists are saying, the situation is hopeless – but improving. Herbert V Prochnow

Some people just can't unbend and be human until misfortune has taken the starch out of them.

Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back.

The average person works themselves to death so that they can live.

Prayer is the slender sinew that moves the muscle of omnipotence. - J Edwin Hartill

Prayer is the rope up in the belfry; we pull it, and it rings in heaven. -Christmas Evans

Most churches don't know that God rules the world by the prayers of his saints. - Andrew Murray

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CELTIC SAINTS

From time to time we have given you here a reminder of saints days during the month. The Scottish Calendar lists many of them, who would be superb in a game of Pointless, they are so obscure!

With Celtic Saints these commemorative days are not easily discerned since the history of these saints is not always known, often their names only given in place names. But their influence on Scottish history and Christianity is certain, and we make our pilgrimage with the saints, the Church living and departed, who set up the cross between the forces of good and evil.

Celtic Christianity developed on the fringe of the Roman Empire and independent of the Roman Church until Pope Gregory I called upon the British monk Wilfrid (later called Boniface) to combat these 'errant beliefs'. (See us Scots- eh?)

Boniface is known to have destroyed not only pagan but also Celtic Christian sanctuaries and crosses. What was it that was so offensive for the Roman Church?

Celtic Saints did have to battle with pagans, especially their holy men, the Druids, but some of their beliefs influenced the Celtic Church, especially their awareness of nature as God given.

For the Celtic Saints, Christ as the Son of God is present in nature and in the elements, for which reason they erected crosses in natural surroundings. At these crosses, Jesus was not shown in his suffering but in his resurrection, having overcome the force of Evil.

Celtic Christianity also stressed free will in contrast to predestination, as taught by St Augustine. In this they followed Pelagius, also called Morgan, a British Saint (died 422), whom the Roman Church condemned as heretical. Also, the monasteries of the Celtic Church did not follow a certain rule, but were brotherhoods, often limited to 12 or 13 in number, like Christ and his disciples. And women played a more prominent part in the church, also a feature of Celtic culture. (We were years ahead of the times!)

Celtic Saints as pilgrims followed the oral tradition of the Druids, whereby the traveller carried his sacred texts in his head, but once settled they developed the art of writing with Celtic design and colour, also expressed on crosses and metalwork.

Poetry and music, previously in praise of human overlords, were now employed for the praise of the High King of Heaven.

St Columba was a well known poet. The Roman historian Diodoros also reported that Celtic Christians believed in the migration of souls (as taught by Pythagoras) which must have been offensive to the Roman Church. The idea that the souls might be re-incarnated in another body, as sometimes featured in German folk tales, is said to have been brought to Europe by Celtic monks.

As so often with Celtic Saints, similar stories are told of different Saints, especially if they have the same name, such as Saint Angus. There are a number of saints by that name.

St Angus McNisse of Connor is the better known, he died in 514, and his Saint's day is September 4th. According to unreliable legends he was baptised by St Patrick. He was an Irish Saint known as the founder Bishop of Connor and founder of Kells monastery.

There is also St Angus of Balquiddar in Perthshire. (where Rob Roy McGregor was buried.) There is little certainty about his history. He was supposed to be a holy man from Dunblane.

Some tales about him are also told about St Kentigern. His Saint's day was 'the Wednesday after the second Tuesday in August'. He is said to have been 'the first apostle of Christ in Balquiddar. (quote from Wikipedia)

The remains of the 'oratory of St Angus were visible within living memory (1887)' It must have been below the medieval church or in a field nearby with a name which implies a Celtic monastic association.

The place is said to have been a sacred place in pagan times, with a Neolithic temple (1880 BC) on nearby Ben Ledi and worshipping stones on 'Tom nan Aingeal', (Hill of Fire) where pagan festivals like Beltane were held. A stone carved in the image of a priest holding a chalice was found – said to have marked St Angus's grave- and taken into the present church in 1917. St Angus' Church, Lochearnhead (near Stirling), Scottish Episcopal, built in 1888 as a private chapel of the Stewarts, Carnegies and McGregors, has pictures on the Reredos of St Angus, St Blane, St Columba and St Ninian.

St Angus of Keld in Ireland is later and better documented, he died ca 824. He is often called 'The Culdec' after this type of a group of monks in the Irish and Scottish church, who really were anchorites but lived together (13 in number like the apostles) Angus was born of the Royal House of Ulster and sent to a monastery at Clonenagh near Dublin. His Saints day is March 11th.

See Saints? See obscurity!

Dalmatic

The people who come to the 9am Holy Communion service on Sundays have bought a dalmatic for Pat, and the parish as a whole, to be worn at the Eucharist on "white seasons". (Easter, Christmas and saints days)

At her ordination at St Mary's Cathedral she will be robed in this vestment by the Bishop, as a sign that she has taken up the Office of Deacon. It has been beautifully made by Sister Vivienne and matches the white chasuble that Sister also made for us.

But what is a dalmatic?

The dalmatic is a long wide-sleeved tunic, which serves as a liturgical vestment in the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and United Methodist Churches, which is sometimes worn by a deacon at the Eucharist or other services. Although infrequent, it may also be worn by bishops above the alb and below the chasuble.

Like the chasuble worn by priests and bishops, it is an outer vestment and is supposed to match the liturgical colour of the day.

It may interest you to know that a dalmatic is also worn by the British monarch during the Coronation service.

Historically, the dalmatic was a garment of Byzantine dress, and was adopted by Emperor Paul I of the Russian Empire as a coronation and liturgical vestment. In Orthodox icons of Jesus Christ as King and Great High Priest he is shown in a dalmatic.

It was a normal item of clothing at the time when ecclesiastical clothes began to develop separately around the fourth century, worn over a longer tunic by the upper classes, and as the longest part of the dress of men of lower rank.

When Pat is ordained priest, Kenny will wear the dalmatic at eucharistic celebrations, as a reminder that he was first of all ordained to the Diaconate. From time to time a bishop will wear one underneath his chasuble for the same reason.



This is a fairly traditional and fancy dalmatic, but Pat's will be a little simpler!

Harvest: First Sunday in October!



"After the summer we've had, I'm expecting a lot of people to bring fish!"

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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)

Tel :- 01389 732341

Secretary to the Vestry: Janette Barnes (01389 761398)

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

Alternate Lay Representative: Maggie Wallace (maggiwallace@blueyonder.co.uk)

Fabric Convener: Margaret Hardie and her Team

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

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

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

Baptism



Every child who is baptised in St Augustine's is very special, and every one is entrusted to our care to love, teach, respect and nurture. We keep them in our prayers and hope and pray that one day they will come to have their own faith, and be committed enough to come for Confirmation. One is no more important than others.

Parents and Godparents make special commitments, and maybe grand-parents should too! We certainly make commitments as members of the congregation.

At the time of writing, Hailey Myra Caroline Macaulay has a date with the font on September 2nd. This is just another chance for me to show her off to you!

Already an internet star, this young lady has travelled to Barcelona and went to the Camp Nou to watch that wonderful football team, been to Firhill to watch Partick Thistle Nil, and found time to holiday in Tenerife.

She now descends on Dumbarton for a very special blessing! I'm sure we'll see her often!