

# St Augustine's Dumbarton



# The New Look

Issue 43 April 2010

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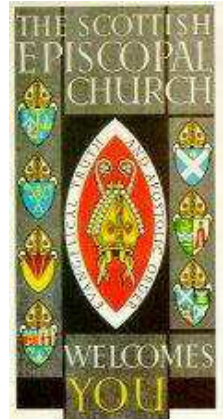
## St Auggie's Heroes!



St Augustine's had a right to be proud of our members last month, as Georgie Duncan was awarded "Citizen of the Year" in Dumbarton. It's an accolade which is well deserved!

Our own Derek Barnes was in London on Budget Day, with Jim Hume who is Chairman of the Army Veterans Association. Derek is, of course, their Secretary and was given a 40minute interview with the PM - Derek did the talking!!!

They were given a tour of the House of Commons with John McFall MP and Gemma Doyle who is standing to be John's successor. Derek said Gordon Brown was very interested in the cause of the Veterans, and all their various problems. They all had tea at Downing St. and Derek and Jim stayed overnight at the Union Jack Club. He is now home and is reporting on a very positive interview.



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## From Kenny....

Snow, sleet, and hail on the window sill! It must be Easter! Did you have a good Lent?

That might seem like an unusual question, since we're not supposed to "enjoy" Lent, but the question persists. Did you have a good Lent? Did the season and the story of the Passion move you in any way? Were you aware of some spiritual growth within yourself? Did you try harder to love and forgive, to make amends to those who you needed to make amends to?

Did you read something that fired you up, or helped you to pray? Did you make an extra effort to spend time in prayer at all? Did you take on a task that stretched you? Some visiting or letter-writing perhaps? Are you closer to God as a result of this season?

If not, perhaps Lent has passed you by and an opportunity has been lost. Maybe not!

Going through Holy Week, (*where were all the St Auggie's folk at the ecumenical services?*) a thought kept coming back to me time and again, and that is our indifference, in modern times, to the story of the Passion of Jesus and what it means.

Then again, that is reflected in the Passion story itself! Jesus explains clearly to the disciples what is going to befall him when he arrives in Jerusalem, and their reaction to this is to start arguing amongst each other as to which of them is the greatest. The ramifications of what was happening on that first Holy Week seemed to have passed them by. No wonder Jesus wept!

The same sorts of arguments seem to pervade our congregations more often than we care to admit! If I were to be honest, I'll admit to the fact that our Lent Group ended this year with the same sorts of arguments. Who is "in" and who is "left out"? Whose talents and gifts do we use, and who is ignored or overlooked?

At the time, as your Rector, I could have wept, but on reflection, I see these discussions as being "growing pains". We are growing, slowly, as a congregation, both in numbers and in the way we care for each other. We are entering into a phase of extended ministry with the new hall, and that is stretching us and our resources to the full. We are trying to re-shuffle and adapt, and that can cause real "growing pains".



The result of all this is a **questionnaire**, enclosed with this magazine. If you need more than one simply photocopy it or ask Kenny for another one! We are simply trying to ascertain who has gifts and talents and how they can be used to develop our ministry here. It must be a *shared* ministry and include all who want to be included. Some of us are Marthas and some Marys, but we *all* have gifts and talents to offer.

Your completed forms will help us develop ministry here, and I would urge you to fill them in, and return them.

You see, this Passion and Resurrection of Jesus demands a response from us. Not that we should argue about who is the greatest, but how we can serve, wash feet, as Our Lord showed us, in The Upper Room. We cannot be apathetic or untouched by the truth of Holy Week and Easter. We are *all* called to serve, and offer our gifts to God, to use for the furtherance of the Kingdom! Indifference is really not acceptable!

We all have a ministry to offer and it will be a shared ministry. One aspect will not be seen as more important than others, but will be acceptable and pleasing to God. That's our aim!

During Holy Week we sing lustily how "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life my all". Now is the time to stand up and be counted. A good Lent or otherwise, now is response-time!

The questionnaire will help us refine and develop our ministry here as we grow into something a bit bigger. The same people can't be asked just to do more and more. They are already stretched! We need new help, new hands, new gifts that can be brought into the equation. It's a question of offering yourself, isn't it, that God can take you and use you in ministry in this powerful little congregation?

Some will feel called simply to a prayer ministry, some to other things, and some to a pastoral ministry of some sort. We are rolling out a course in pastoral care in May to this end. You will be able to read more about this in the May Magazine.

It is my hope that we can bring more people on board to strengthen what is already being done, and to bring new talents and gifts that can be used in new and other ways. Your response, however tacit, is required!

May the Risen Christ uphold you in this Easter Season!

**Kenny**

# Rotas for April 2010

## Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Day (Baptisms)

### 11am Eucharist.

Reader: Margot Rhead.

Chalice: Janette Barnes & Fran Walker

Sidespersons: Vernon Perrin & C Ashman.

## Sunday April. 11<sup>th</sup> Baptism.

### 11am Eucharist.

Reader: Tim Rhead

Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Vernon Perrin.

Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & R Blaney.

## Sunday April. 18<sup>th</sup>

### 11am Eucharist

Readers: Margaret Hardie & Morag O'Neill In-

tercessions: Linda Macaulay

Chalice: Barbara Barnes & Maggie Wallace

Sidespersons: David Ansell & Linda Jenkinson

## Sunday April. 25<sup>th</sup>

### 11am Eucharist.

Readers: Maggie Wallace & Evelyn O'Neill

Intercessions: Margaret Hardie.

Chalice: David Rowatt & Tim Rhead..

Sidespersons: Jean Carr & Roberta Mailley.

### Flower Rota:

#### Week ending April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Easter Flowers

Maggie Wallace, Moira McGown, Dee Perrin

Plus any other willing helpers

10<sup>th</sup> Maggie & Moira

check and water

17<sup>th</sup> Margaret Hardie & Linda Macaulay.

24<sup>th</sup> Barbara Barnes & Rosemary McLeay.

## Sunday Rotas

### READERS, INTERCESSORS, SIDESPEOPLE

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!

## Prayers from Fran

### A PRAYER IN TIME OF DARKNESS

All that I love  
into Your keeping.  
All tht I care for  
into Your care.  
Be with us by day,  
be with us by night:  
and as dark closes  
the eyelids with sleep,  
may I waken  
to the peace of a new day.

*This became a mantra for me recently, when the uncertainty of what the next day would bring was a very powerful force.*

*It's from Celtic Daily Prayer: inspirational prayers and readings from the Northumbria Community. Collins, 2005.*

*The same book contains this prayer which I'm finding useful as I begin retirement:*

### A PRAYER IN 'THE MIDDLE YEARS' OF OPPORTUNITY

Lord, help me now to unclutter my life,  
to organise myself in the direction of simplicity.  
Lord, teach me ro listen to my heart;  
teach me to welcome change instead of fearing it.  
Lord, I give you these stirrings inside me,  
I give You my discontent,  
I give You my restlessness,  
I give You my doubt,  
I give You my despair,  
I give You all the longings I hold inside.  
Help me to listen to these signs of change, of growth;  
to listen seriously and follow where they lead  
through the breathtaking empty space of an open door.

## New Hall

Undoubtedly the biggest problem of late is the new hall building! It has leaked from the outset, and despite assurances that everything is fixed and hunky-dory, the next batch of rain brings more leaks.

The interior damage is now beyond belief, but that will all be sorted when the roof is either fixed for good or replaced entirely.

The "wimmin" are really pressing all parties for an immediate solution, and we are preparing to go to litigation if this is not sorted to our satisfaction!

## Lent Group 2010

This year the Lent Group decided that the topic for discussion should be how to continue on from the plans we made as a congregation at the Parish Day in December. All who attended that day spent a good length of time discussing how we'd like our parish to develop and what we'd like to work on as a congregation and so it was suggested it's now time we got on with figuring out how to "walk the walk" as well as "talk the talk".

So over a period of 4 weeks in February and March a number of us got together to try and take this further. It was a good mix of the congregation, comprising longer serving and newer members, Vestry and non-Vestry, male and female, with different people coming in and out for specific sessions and discussion topics. I think the only regular group at the church and hall that weren't represented were the dogs (Toastie, Peanut, Archie, Nina et al).

So what did we actually discuss?

Well, we basically looked at the 5 main priority areas that were established at the Parish Day, taking 1 topic most weeks:

- Working with Youth through Music
- Welcome
- Pastoral Care
- Audit of Time and Talents
- Linkage with Hall User-Groups

We all agreed that when it comes to working with the young people associated with our church, Ghislaine has started us off well. She's organised a drama/music/worship workshop which the young people all enjoyed and culminated in a service that they led themselves. A very good service, as I'm sure all who came along would agree. We've also been lucky enough to have Ruaridh playing his clarsach during the 11 am services in Lent and Jamie-Lee reading part of the Mothering Sunday prayer. There are plans to get the younger members of our church family more involved in services and worship in ways that they feel comfortable with and enjoy. Our group felt that Ghislaine should be encouraged to continue this work, with help from the rest of the Music Group and Kenny.

Then we went on to discuss the topic of Welcome in the church. We all feel that, in general, St Aug's is pretty good at welcoming new people into our midst. However we can't just rest on our laurels, welcome and developing welcoming strategies should be an

ongoing process. Most importantly we all agreed that welcoming isn't just the job of the sides persons but is the responsibility of all those who are part of the St Aug's family, however long or short a time they may have been in the church and whichever service they prefer to attend. We also reminded ourselves that it's not just new people coming into the church who need to be welcomed and made to feel part of things; the people who are current members (and perhaps have been for many years) also need to feel welcome.

From this we came up with a number of ideas to make the place more welcoming, including: tidying up the outside of the church on the High Street; producing Welcome Packs and Welcome Cards; having a welcoming team in addition to the sides persons whose role would be specifically geared at welcoming people when the sides persons are busy giving out books and can't talk much; trying to follow up on people who have come to church a couple of times and also following up when a regular hasn't been seen around for a while.

It's was also felt that Pastoral Care is a key area for development. The diocese has agreed to run a training course for our local region at the church. This will probably take place in May over 2-3 Saturdays and anyone who is interested will be able to attend. It should also be possible to go to some sessions that are of particular interest without signing up for the full course. We don't have the full details just yet but they will be available soon.

Our next topic for discussion was an Audit of Time and Talents – the "posh" name for "Lets find out exactly what everyone in the congregation can offer, has time to offer and would like to offer in the way of skills that will help individuals or the church as a whole." So before anyone starts saying "I don't have any talents", the list we came up with was pretty wide-ranging varying from dog walking, baking, cleaning to computer and admin skills, a willingness to open up the hall for user groups, hand crafts of all different types to being able to listen to others, pray alone or with others, picking up the phone to check how someone is doing..... the list was almost endless. The plan is to put it all together in a questionnaire for everyone to think about and fill in then see if we can match skills with jobs in the church and make sure that anyone who feels they would like to contribute to what goes on at St Aug's in any way has the chance to do so.

Finally we looked at Linkage with User Groups. The Lent Group actually came to the conclusion that at the moment the hall is functioning well and the user

groups seem happy with the current level of support we give them. We're considering running a barbecue with stalls in the summer as a Friends event and suggesting the hall groups might like to take part, by having stalls or producing information on what they do and we want to ensure they understand that they are welcome at all events being run by the church.

But in the main, we felt maybe our focus just now should be more on the church and trying to have it open and available for quiet time during the week. Kenny, with help from Tim, Maggie and quite possibly a few others, has agreed to hold a short prayer service at lunch times Monday to Friday. It'll last about 15 min max, starting at 12.30 and we'd like to keep the church open for about an hour at that time so that anyone who wants knows they can come in for the service or just for some peace and quiet. Overall it was a great set of meetings, with a lot of good ideas coming out of it. Of course all the suggestions we came up with have to be approved by the Vestry at their next meeting and they'll also have the task of deciding how best to prioritise all the ideas and when to implement them. I'd like to think we've given them plenty to consider. **MORAG**

## Church Walk

*The next Parish Walk is on Saturday April 17th.*

*We will walk in the grounds of Finlaystone near Langbank.*

*Meet in the carpark there at 1.30 pm. There is an admission charge. Spring flowers. More info from Tim or Rosemary*

## Daily Prayer

From Monday in Holy Week, a wee prayer service is being held daily, Mon - Friday at 12.30pm. It is there just as a wee witness at lunchtime for those who hang around the High Street, and through time we hope to build up a wee core of people who will pop in depending on their daily schedule.

It also keeps the church building open at a time when office workers are out to lunch and shoppers are around too. We will try to be that little oasis in the High Street that we talked about on our Parish Day. The service is not always clergy-led, and if you feel you want to take part as "leader" on one day per week, or even monthly, then that would be fine. Just speak to Kenny!

It may be that this will take a while to catch on, or maybe a while to be made known, but three or four of us are determined that we are in for the "long haul" here and are determined to make it work!

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# *St James the Least of All..*

(We continue to publish our series of letters from Eustace, a wise old Rector to his nephew Darren, Curate in a much more modern, evangelical setting!)



## **The Rectory St. James the Least**

My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to place a notice board outside your church seems a good one – and its design in blue plastic with luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying “all are welcome” may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts’ bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts’ collective smirk during the following week’s Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs’ collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus “So light up the fire and let the flames burn” only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the note the last one left, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring *you* something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmers’ Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember what while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

Here’s the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-

committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year’s bonfire night.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

## **Prize Draw**

This year we have decided to postpone our Prize Draw until Easter. Several organisations have Christmas raffles and draws so we thought that leaving it until Easter may be more beneficial to us. We hope that we can still count on your support with prizes and promotion of our tickets. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance in April to draw the prizes!

## **Dumbarton Churches Together**

### **ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL**

16<sup>TH</sup> April Clydebank Salvation Army Band  
St. Augustine’s at 7.30pm.

17<sup>th</sup> April Ceilidh with Voice Box and Light  
Supper £6.00  
St. Patrick’s Church Hall  
(Tickets from Janette)

18<sup>th</sup> April ‘Spring Prom Praise’  
St. Augustine’s at 7.30pm.

## **GORSILAURE -**

### **Direct Aid to The Congo..**

The Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra is performing in the Denny Civic Theatre on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Please support Gorsilaure on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their work in the Congo.

Tickets £5.00 - available from Keystore.  
(McDermid’s)

Please try to support this local charity and its work especially during this difficult time.

## Bishop's Consecration

**THE consecration of Very Revd Dr Gregor Duncan as Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway will be in St Mary's Cathedral on 23 April.**

Admission will be by invitation only because of space limitations.

As reported in *Diocesan News* last month, all members of the diocese could apply for an invitation, with a ballot to take place if applications exceed places.

Everyone will be welcome at a special Evensong in the Cathedral at 6.30pm on Sunday 25 April. As well as letting the diocese celebrate our new bishop, the service will see the installation of the new Dean, Revd Ian Barcroft.

## What happened at Diocesan Synod

*Diocesan secretary Gib Fitzgibbon reports. . .*

**THE annual Diocesan Synod was presided over by the Dean, the Very Revd Gregor Duncan (Bishop-elect), on Saturday 27 February.**

It was attended by the Lay Reps of most charges, most of the clergy in the diocese, and visitors from other denominations.

**The Dean's homily** spoke of how, at times of grief and at times of joy, we realise that we really do belong to a community of love, a community of the love of God, love rooted in grief and joy, in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Appointments:** Synod appointed the Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, the Property Committee, the Boundaries Committee, and the Diocesan Auditor; and elected diocesan reps to General Synod, the Provincial Faith & Order Board; and the Provincial Mission & Ministry Board.

Synod approved the accounts for last year, and the budget for the current year.

The finances of the Diocese are sound, and we have weathered the financial storms fairly well thanks to a well-structured portfolio, but the underwriting of the Paisley project will affect cash flow until the funds have been raised to repay the diocese.

Synod approved the proposed changes to Canon 35, in the light of several years' experience, which will make it easier to make minor changes to buildings; Canon 57 which will allow official communications to be sent electronically; and Canon 52 to tidy up membership of the Standing Committee of General Synod.

Synod received an update on facilities for the disabled in the churches of the diocese.

Presentations were received on...

◇ The St Matthew Centre – the subject of this year's Lent

Appeal – which helps to bring hope and support to the disadvantaged in and around Possilpark;

◇ The role of the Lay Representative;

◇ The work and proposals of the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson

Synod also heard from:

◇ Revd Tim Tunliffe, the newly appointed chaplain to Missions to Seafarers;

◇ Representatives from our companion Diocese of Gothenburg;

◇ Dr Jamie Hill on the proposal that the Stewardship Action Network develop a knowledge base on grants and external funding;

◇ Revd Dan Gafvert on the Pilgrim Trust.

Notice was given by the Bishop-elect of his intention to appoint Revd Ian Barcroft as his Dean following the consecration.

**Next Synods:** General Synod 10– 12 June; Diocesan Synod 5 March 2011 (TBC).

For more details, see your Lay Rep.

## Ministry Celebration

**THIS year's Ministry Celebration Service will be at Holy Trinity Church, Ayr, on Saturday 5 June.**

A buffet lunch will be served from noon followed by the service at 1.15pm. This year the focus will be on the ministry of Eucharistic Assistants. If you are a Eucharistic Assistant, ie a Chalice Bearer, you should try to be in Ayr on this date.

## Climate science —when prophecy fails...

**BRIDGE of Weir's Episcopal congregation will host another keynote lecture this year.**

David Saxon writes: "Following the success of our centenary lecture last year, the 2010 St Mary's Lecture will be held in church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 May. Once again we have a top-rank speaker.

"Prof Michael Northcott is Professor of Ethics at Edinburgh University. He is an Anglican priest, a Traidcraft trustee and former academic chair of the Centre for Human Ecology.

"His topic is 'When Prophecy fails: Climate Science and Christian Witness'."

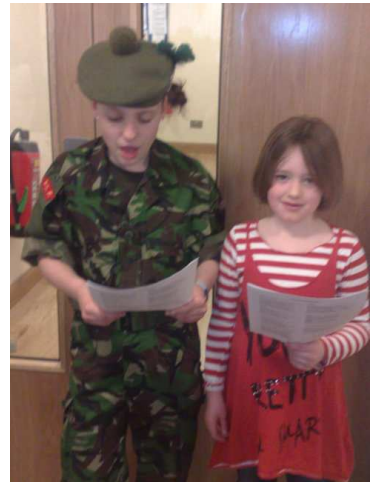
There will be discussion after the talk, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

The white-painted church is on Johnstone Road. As you approach from Johnstone it is on the left, by the first street light.

The car park is opposite, over the little bridge.

# We'll Meet Again!

*Some photos from the 40's Night!*







*Four Generations*



## Smile-Lines

### What would Jesus do?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookshop, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for "What would Jesus do?" and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions. The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think he'd pay £9.99 for that hat."

### Awful noise

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

### Confessional

A Catholic went to into the confessional box at a church while on holiday. He noticed on one side a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the other wall was a dazzling array of the finest Cuban cigars. Then the priest came in. "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting these days." The priest replied "Get out. You're on my side."

### MPs in heaven

At the pearly gates, St Peter greeted a minister and a member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite."

When the vicar objected, St Peter explained: "Listen, ministers are ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."

### Can do

Q: Can you do anything that other people can't?

A: Sure, I can read my handwriting.

### Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

I can't remember the last time I forgot something.

Why remember quotes when you can make them up?

Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of your life.

Oh, I'm sorry, were the voices in my head bothering you?

Failure Is Not An Option. It Comes Bundled With The Software.

Heredity: every parent believes in it until their children act like fools.

I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.

Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.

Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.

### Door of heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

### New car

A husband, the owner of a new car, was somewhat reluctant to allow his wife to drive his prize possession, even to the local shops, a few streets away from the house. After she insisted, he finally relented, cautioning her as she departed, "Remember, if you have an accident, the newspaper will print your age!"

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## Holy Saturday Night and Easter Morning

The Bible tells us, that the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross on the Friday late afternoon and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. The burial had to be finished before the start of the Sabbath in early evening. Guards were placed in front of the tomb so that no disciples could take the body away and say afterwards that Jesus had risen.

Yet the disciples had all fled and it isn't clear that they actually believed in the possibility of a resurrection.

The Sabbath of Jesus resting in the tomb is the quietest day in the Church's calendar, there are no services and no church bells, no organ playing either. But already in the night before Easter many churches arrange wakes and early morning services and breakfasts. Fires are being lit, Easter water collected, Easter Candles prepared and blessed, children baptised, and with manifold customs church communities express their joy at the biblical reports of the women discovering the empty tomb in the morning. Especially Eastern European Christians greet each other with the traditional greeting: 'Christ is risen', to which the reply is: 'He is risen indeed.'

I found a report of such a wake in one of the church magazines I had from Germany. This is about a small alpine church in Bavaria. Those willing and able to stay the night assemble around 7 in the evening without having much light- only a small candle by the side of the cross. They are sitting in silence, only once an hour they sing a psalm without the organ. What can you do in a night lasting 8 to 9 hours without light.?

Since it is still Saturday everything is dead, one can contemplate on the death of loved ones, or one's own death, can put aside all disappointments and guilt, some go to confession, others are writing down their thoughts. Some walk up and down the church yard, can smell the smoke of Easter fires. At 3 am they assemble around the altar and sing of the three men in the fiery furnace- in this story there is a hint of the freedom that overcomes all.

Towards five the path to the church will be lit with torches, all over sudden more people arrive; by 5 the church is full. The ancient Bible readings are still done from the dark, until the Easter candle is carried into the Church, accompanied by a threefold cry:

'Christ is the Light' and the people answer: 'Thanks be to God'.

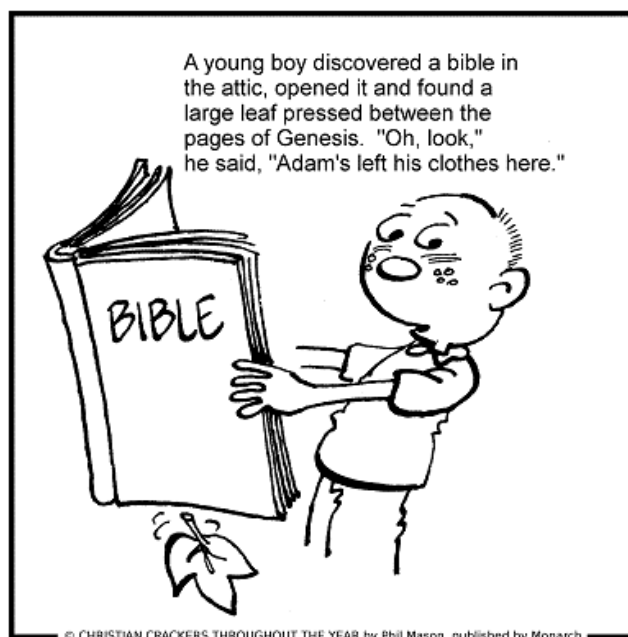
The light from the Easter candle is passed on through the pews by people lighting their own candles from it, and all over sudden you can see the face of your neighbour: you can feel the joy, not only think it, that one light -small as it is- is a beginning, people start singing: 'wake up, my heart, the night is gone', and suddenly the organ is joining in, which had been silent since Friday.

The light is being carried out into the churchyard, so that the people can sing to the dead about the resurrection: 'Surrexit Christus, Halleluyah'. There is something of a trespass in this, something unheard of, and yet, where else should you sing about the resurrection but here. -

Flowers are taken to the altar, new altar cloths are being spread, everything made festive, the heaviness of the night has fallen away, people greet each other in great joy and then proceed to celebrate the Eucharist. You can feel that it is a joyful meal, festive, in which the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is being celebrated.

And we go out with joy into the Easter Morning.

Brigitte Williams (based on the report by Susanne Niemeyer in *Andere Zeiten* 1, 2003)



**Silence is Golden... During and after receiving Holy Communion. Please be aware of other's needs!**

# 'Wait Till I Tell You.....'

*Janette looks back at life in St. Auggie's and beyond during the mad hare month of March.*

## **FRIENDS GO GREEK FOR MAMMA MIA NIGHT!**

Friends brought February to a close with a Mamma Mia Night on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The taverna atmosphere was just perfect with delicious Aegean food - olives, tzatsiki, crusty bread, and baklava (a la Bonhill) mingling with chicken drumsticks and 'biled ham' for those of an unadventurous palate. And the wine and the candles certainly helped us feel a little like the avant-garde Meryl Streep character of the popular movie.

Oh, we all dressed up - Josephine and Lauren were best Abba look-a-likes. The problem arose with the audience participation. We had to get everyone singing and dancing to the music. There were enough plugs, wires and technology to light up Corfu but would it all work? Sharon and Gillian were in charge with Charlie and David as backup and miracle of miracles - multi media - music, pictures and words!.

Soon the entire company was up and gyrating to the wonderful Abba sounds - everyone really letting themselves go! A healthy profit was realised - enough to make a difference to the dodgy Greek economy!

There's nothing like the Greek factor to bring on feelings of sunshine and relaxation - unless you're trying to get a taxi as siesta time approaches.

There's no queuing or semblance of organisation. Everyone noisily jostles, pushes and jumps aboard dragging their chickens, their candles, their granies and their kitchen sinks! The polite British tourist doesn't stand a chance. Once in this unfortunate predicament a simple Sunday School lesson from St. Auggie's came to my rescue.

After about a dozen knock backs, I squeezed into a taxi of which a family of Greeks had claimed total occupancy and looking at the driver exclaimed '*Look, Jimmy, we are alpha - they are omega!*' I pulled a reticent Maggie on board and the entire overcrowded vehicle took off - health and safety is not an issue in Greece! By the time we reached our destinations we were all best friends - see when you

know the language!

## **MARCH CAME IN LIKE A LAMB**

And we all know that means it will 'go out like a lion'. This March we've seen very little wild, windy weather and the only storms have been at the Lent Group! Since the month ends during Holy Week then we may have to hold onto our Easter bonnets!

## **NOW WE ARE 60!**

It's no secret that a number of significant St. Auggie's ladies will reach this important milestone in 2010. Suspects are Fran, two Linda s and a Margaret. Frankie, an enthusiastic member of Friends, celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> in March with a bonfire on Helensburgh shore. OK, you can get away with these quaint ongoings in Helensburgh but try lighting a fire 'doon the quay' and the 'polis' would be first to arrive! Her invitations said - 'bring a dry piece of wood and waterproof shoes'. The rumour was that we were building a raft! Did she really want to end it all? No - she is so looking forward to her bus pass! And hot drinks around a bonfire in March was indeed novel and great fun! So who is next to party? Follow Frankie and go for the unique - the unusual. Also remember, girls, 60 is the new 40. Nothing will change. You just need more dieting, frequent colouring, regular sugaring, occasional tanning and extra whitening. Grow old disgracefully and expensively - it's much more fun! And the heating allowance will offset the costs.

## **WHO'S THAT IN DOWNING STREET WITH DEREK BARNES?**

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March Gordon Brown had a lot on his mind. It was Budget Day and he had to convince the country that he had all the answers to the problems of the economy. He had had to face up to the jibes and criticism of Messrs. Cameron and Clegg before going home for his tea and meeting our Derek - there to further the needs of the army veterans. Aye, Gordon, it's certainly tough at the top! Just when you wanted a quiet night at the telly here was Derek asking difficult questions.

I am reliably informed that Derek really enjoyed his

day out in the Westminster corridors of power where he posed with John McFall and his potential successor, Gemma Doyle.

Oh, and during tea at number 10, Derek met Sarah and was served by a wee waitress who was an exile from Dalmuir. She had to persuade him to have a beer - now that is where the story gets unbelievable! Aye, there's nothing like taking your case to the top of the tree and Gordon was very interested in Derek's cause. Unfortunately he didn't get a chance to mention St. Auggie's new leak!

### **WHO'S FLYING OVER THE RAINBOW?**

Soon we'll be glued to our tellys on a Friday night for the latest reality TV show, 'Over the Rainbow', with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Graham Norton. They will be searching for a new Dorothy to 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road' and already hundreds of wannabes are lining up for the part. But, a new Toto (the dug) is also being auditioned and Nina (our Jack Russell) is desperate to be selected. She has dieted down to a model doggy figure, promising to be lovable and not to have a nip at Sir Andrew. Oh, we all know Toto's a Cairn but *Nina's no' carin'!*

### **SAVE DUMBARTON HIGH STREET.**

Have we left it too late? When did you last shop there? Is there a future for Dumbarton's dilapidated High Street - the street where I was born! Yes, number 70 was home for the first 10 years of my life and what an exciting place it used to be. Our building was known as Heggie's Building and in earlier times it had been a hotel and even housed a library. You don't get that in the High Street in 2010!

Our windows overlooked Quay Street and the Brucehill Bus stop where all human life could be observed. We didn't have TV - nobody had - and we didn't need one. Here we had real reality. We noted who was winching who and at closing time laughed at the drunks who all seemed to be in charge of a poke of chips. There were shops for every need and for every budget. Places to eat and places to go. And we had an inside toilet - the mark of a privileged upbringing! Sadly, the building was demolished in the '60s with the new town centre planning disaster.

There was no plaque on the wall to indicate that I had resided there but I did manage to write my initials on the wet cement of a close repair to the annoyance of the neighbours who liked to keep 'a nice

close' where everybody took their turn of the stairs.

### **A MURDER IS BEING ARRANGED.**

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June there will be a murder in our new Hall which will be disguised as a posh Royal Episcopalian Cruise Liner called the 'Enigma of the Seas'. After cocktails on the deck, dinner will be served and a strange assortment of suspects will be available for detection. There will be two Bishops on this Cruise so wear your best frocks, something nautical -or even *naughtycall* ! More information about how you can book up in next month's magazine.

### **THE NEW RECTORY BUFFET**

The good folks of Helenslee Crescent must have been twitching their lace curtains on 19<sup>th</sup> March as the Vestry of St. Auggie's descended on number 54 for a visit to the 'new hoose' and to enjoy a delicious supper prepared by the Rectory Wife. Oh, they were all on their best behaviour - no daft games, no dressing up! The new Rectory, situated in the crème de la crème area of Dumbarton just out of earshot of Brucehill is looking very stylish, well decorated and not a leak in sight. Wine was copiously dispensed by the Rector which meant the abandonment of a considerable number of members' cars! Great wee night!

### **A BUDGET DAY REFLECTION.**

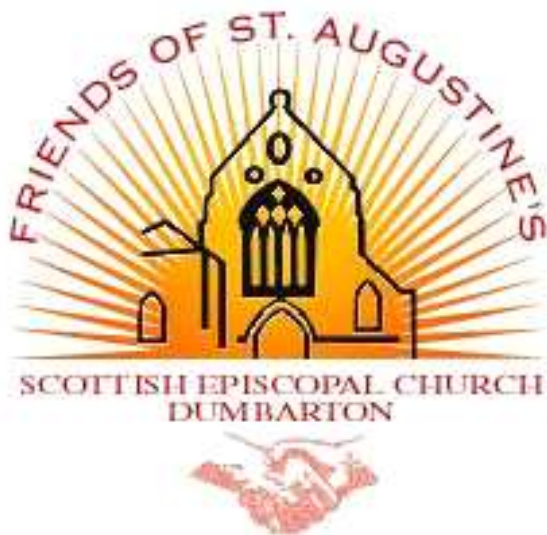
There was Alistair, posing on the steps of number 11 with the famous battered briefcase containing Britain's economic future. But the eyes of the nation must have been on his adoring wife, Maggie, who clutched a dowdy plastic-look handbag which wouldn't have sold at a St. Auggie's Nearly New! Oh Maggie, it's great to see you supporting your man's stringent economic measures but surely a designer bag is not a big deal. Come on Alistair, you can get them on E-Bay!

### **SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.**

With Easter eggs, lower gas bills, holidays, and the promise of a BBQ summer. What's that? An election? Well I suppose we must - so try to bear up. Things could be worse - you could be a Celtic supporter!

Back next month.

*Janette.*



March 28<sup>th</sup> saw the “Friends of St Augustine’s” reliving the war years, or in many cases learning about them for the first time. Many wartime songs were sung, copious quantities of vegetable soup were eaten and then of course there was the chance to taste the delights of spam sandwiches made with plain bread.

Some of us, myself included, showed up our lack of knowledge of things wartime at the quiz – apparently the ladies magazine popular during war years was “People’s Friend” not “Hello”. Then for those with a lucky ration book, there were prizes to take home; leeks, carrots, potatoes, syrup of figs..... A profit of around £300 was made at the evening, which will go into our funds to be accessed by the church when required.

The next event to look forward to is at the start of May, when we will be having a “Sparkle Night”. The chance for everyone out there, men and women alike, to learn about jewellery making and buy some presents for family, friends, loved ones etc. There will be a full evening of entertainment and glittery fun which you won’t want to miss. Full details will be announced soon but in the mean time put Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> in your diary as a date not to be missed and sign up on the notice in the hall.

In Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, to coincide with a visit to the parish by Bishop Gregor (as he will be then), we are holding a Murder Mystery Night. Speculation is already rife about who will be the victim on the night but as the plot is being written by Janette it will be a brilliant thriller and a great event.

All members of the congregation, their pals, users of the hall, everyone in fact, is welcome at all Friends

events. To come along, either sign up when the posters appear in the hall or talk to one of the committee members.

Morag

## Cathy Hoatson

Cathy has asked us to pass on her thanks to all who have upheld her during her recent illness - for cards and visits and prayers. Cathy is now undergoing chemotherapy, and I know you will all continue to keep her in your prayers at this time.

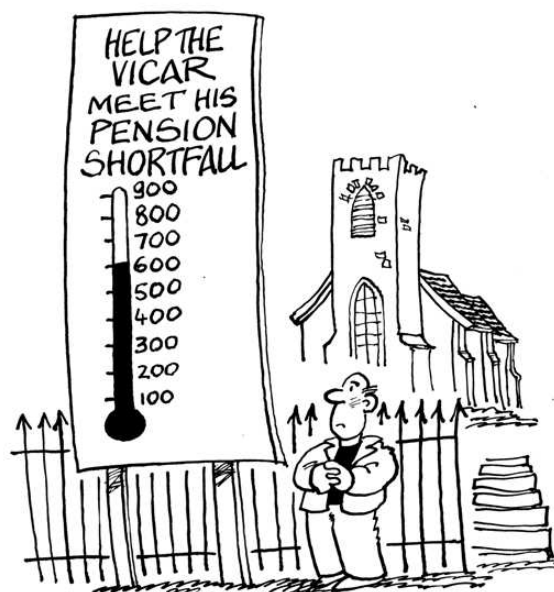
## Thanks

A big “thank you” to all who set up, provided, and served food on Maundy Thursday. Of course, as ever, we had a full house, and more and more people from the Reformed Churches are participating. To celebrate the Eucharist with them is a joy.

Thanks, too, to those who prepared the church for Easter. That, in itself, is a wonderful ministry to have!

## Rectory

The house in St Andrews Cres has still to be sold, although there is one interested party. **This is our investment income, and its on cold storage until someone buys! Maybe we need to shift it with some extra prayer!**



## From Fran - The Gambia!

As many of you know I visited the Gambia twice in the last two months to deal with a container full of educational and other charity goods.

During my first visit I attended Christ Church, Serrekunda when our friend the Revd Canon Jimmy Cole took the service. He appealed for money for a new computer.

Thanks to Maggie we had a spare, reasonably up to date computer in the container, which I was able to offer, little knowing that it was on the way to Dubai, not Banjul (hence the second visit).

As you can see from the photos, Fr Jimmy was able to uplift the computer (along with a long promised, but now bent, filing cabinet) and should now be able to produce wonderful looking pew notes much more easily.

He also loved the screen saver of a little black and white kitten! Can you spot it?



*It is great to hear news of Fr Jimmy, or as he is now known, Canon Cole, and the people of Serrekunda and Lamin. I know he wants to come over soon to the UK, but he is busy over their holiday season, which is the only time, ironically, that they can get cheap flights!*

## For Every Woman

For every woman who is tired of acting weak when she knows she is strong,  
there is a man who is tired of appearing strong when he feels vulnerable;

For every woman who is tired of acting dumb,  
there is a man who is burdened  
with the constant expectation of 'knowing everything';

For every woman who is tired of being called 'an emotional female',  
there is a man who is denied the right to weep and to be gentle;

For every woman who is called unfeminine when she competes,  
there is a man for whom competition is the only way to prove his masculinity;

For every woman who is tired of being a sex object,  
there is a man who must worry about his potency;

For every woman who feels 'tied down' by her children,  
there is a man who is denied the full pleasures of shared parenthood;

For every woman who is denied meaningful employment or equal pay,  
there is a man who must bear full financial responsibility for another human being;

For every woman who was not taught the intricacies of an automobile,  
there is a man who was not taught the satisfaction of cooking;

For every woman who takes a step toward her own liberation,  
there is a man who finds the way to freedom has been made a little easier.

Nancy R Smith, Images: Women in Transition

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## The Goat Lives!

### Correction

I must apologise for an inaccuracy in the last edition of New Look.

Although the onions have been distributed to needy families, the goat, given to Christ Church, Serrekunda, in thanksgiving at a baptism, is still alive.

Sources close to the goat tell me that he has

been moved from the church grounds to a more secure area. His future has yet to be determined.

He will either go to the Anglican mission farm at Farafenni or be auctioned for church funds at Harvest Thanksgiving.

Fran

