

St Augustine's Dumbarton



The New Look

Issue 46 August 2010

£1.00

Far Trek

Derek Barnes and his friend William embarked on their charity walk from Milngavie to Inverness on 18th July in aid of the Armed Forces Veterans Association

The walk would include The West Highland Way and The Great Glen Way, totalling 174 miles. The first 97 miles was the West Highland Way which is hard going on its own but with the lovely Scottish weather made it that little bit harder.

the Great Glen walking along beautiful forest paths surrounded by breathtaking countryside". Translate that and it reads "trudge along forestry commission man made tracks ...see nothing but pine trees...oh, and how about dragging yourself along 30-odd miles of concrete tow paths along the Caledonian Canal.. with not a lot more to see than the odd boat and a few portaloos."

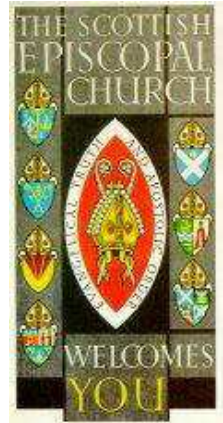
They completed their walk at Inverness on



They begged showers and beds on the way including sleeping in land rovers, tents, youth hostels and even above a paper shop in a nice old ladies spare room. Once the first 97 miles was complete in Fort William it was then onto the next 77 miles... According to the tourist information brochure you "take in the fantastic views of

29th July, worn out and a wee bit smelly looking forward to their welcoming party at the monument at Inverness castle.

Unfortunately the welcoming party was late (after all they had to drive from Dumbarton to Inverness).. Not worried the boys went to the nearest pub and waited there...job well done.



Contents

From Kenny
Page 2

Rotas
Page 3

Circle
Page 4

St James the Less
Page 6

Photos
Pages 8 & 9

Smilelines
Page 10

Wait Till I Tell You
Page 12 - 14

Friends
Page 15

Parish Directory
Page 16

From Kenny....

It's with no apology that I repeat the little parable from Fr Gerard Hughes, (of God of Surprises fame), preached recently.

He asks what you would do if, one evening, there was a knock on the door and, when you went to open the door, there was Jesus standing there.

Jesus is grinning from ear to ear and says to you, "There you are! At last I've found you! How wonderful to see you! How much I love you!" And you smile from ear to ear in return and you invite Jesus into your house.

"Out comes the best china, the tea and the cake . . . and you and Jesus have a really wonderful . . . evening. Now, good Christian that you are, you invite Jesus into your life and you insist that Jesus must stay with you and become part of your family.

And that's when the trouble starts. Before you know it, Jesus has invited the local homeless person to join in with your family. And then, as if that wasn't bad enough, one day you come home to find that Jesus has invited into your house all the local lads who go around the community stealing cars and destroying other people's property."

So what do you do? "You decide you need to put a stop to all this, and you politely invite Jesus to step inside the cupboard under the stairs. [When he does, you proceed to] lock the door [of the cupboard] with Jesus inside and very probably you nail it shut just for good measure.

You then proceed to decorate [the door] possibly with a cross and a candle and maybe even some sort of liturgical cloth for the appropriate time in the church year. And every time you walk past the cupboard under the stairs, you bow to it reverently and say a prayer. The net effect of this is that you've got Jesus, in your house, in your life but most importantly of all you've got him where he can't cause any more trouble!!"

This may sound like a bizarre little parable, but Father Hughes has hit us where it hurts. It's the story of the tabernacle I suppose, in a lot of churches..... we can keep Jesus in the tabernacle and he won't bother us! Jesus, or God, lives in the church, and the way we behave in church, in front of him then becomes a little different from how we behave elsewhere!



This sort of thinking rears its head from time to time in St Augustine's, especially when we are having events in the church building. There seems to be some sort of invisible line which sorts out the things we *can* do and the things we *can't* do in the church building.

I know some people think that there is *nothing* acceptable in the church building except prayer and silence, and although I challenge that, I respect that position. At St Augustine's, however, as we have evolved, that's not really an option.

There is the other view that only some things are acceptable in church, and there are things which are just not right to have in a church building. This is the position that I don't understand.

If it is wrong to have things like a tombola, or to sell raffle tickets in church, then it is obviously wrong to sell them in the hall too?

It's a "tabernacle" theology which is more than a little inconsistent. God is in church, it proclaims, in that building, and it's almost as if we can get away with stuff in the hall where God doesn't see things and will therefore not be offended!

However, God breaks free from our tabernacles, from our cupboards, and is there in our lives, on our streets and in our homes, challenging us at every opportunity. There is no escape from Him, and if something is wrong, then it is wrong, and we should stop doing it altogether!

He is certainly in our hall too! As I look at some of the groups who are sharing premises with us, and the people they are serving and reaching out to, Jesus is indeed around in the hall!

There is no hiding place, however hard we may try to get rid of Him or compartmentalise Him! Jesus is undoubtedly present in a very special way in the Blessed Sacrament in our tabernacle, but we ignore His presence in our everyday lives at our peril!

Kenny

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Rotas for August 2010

Sunday August 8th.

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Janette Barnes & Linda Macaulay.

Intercessions: Vernon Perrin.

Chalice: David Rowatt & Margaret Hardie.

Sidespersons: Chrissie Ashman & Ronnie Blaney

Sunday August 15th.

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Margaret Hardie & Gavin Elder.

Intercessions: Ann Dyer.

Chalice: : Barbara Barnes & Maggie Wallace..

Sidespersons: Linda Jenkinson & Jean Carr.

Sunday August 22nd.

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Barbara Barnes & Evelyn O'Neill.

Intercessions: David Rowatt.

Chalice: Fran Walker & Sharon Rowatt..

Sidespersons: Tim Rhead & Roberta Mailley..

Sunday August 29th.

11am Eucharist.

Readers: Tim Rhead & Yvonne McAlpine..

Intercessions: Margot Rhead.

Chalice: Janette Barnes & Vernon Perrin..

Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & David Ansell.

HOLIDAY ROTAS

If you have been put on a Rota while you are away from home please try to arrange a "swap". It's quite tricky to fit in everyone's holidays!

Flower Rota:

Week ending July 31st. M Wallace & M Hardie. .

" August. 7th. Moira McGown & Dee Perrin

" " 14th. Rosemary McLeay & L Macaulay.

" " 21st. Barbara Barnes & Betty Gordon..

" " 28th. Maggie Wallace & M Hardie.

SUNDAY ROTAS:

READERS, INTERCESSORS SIDESPERSONS.

There is always room for more volunteers for Rotas. If you would like to read lessons, lead in-

tercessions 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!

Congratulations:

Well done to Cindy Shame, Shadrach's daughter, who had excellent exam marks in her Standard Grades, and puts her on course for attaining her dream of studying to be a doctor!

Church Walk:

The next one is planned for Saturday August 21st from Elderslie along the cycle track to Kilbarchan. Archie may be banned after disgraceful behaviour on his last trek!

Christian Aid:

This years Inter-church quiz will be held on Friday September 17th, although the venue is yet to be decided. Please see Tim if you would like to join the St Aug's team.

Retreat:

Kenny will be on Retreat at St Mary's Kinnoul in Perth from 15th - 20th August. During that time, your first port of call in an emergency will be either Tim Rhead or Margaret Wallace, who will put you in touch with a priest if necessary.

The Bishop and the Ministry Development Officer have both been nagging Kenny to go on a proper retreat for some time now and he's eventually given in! It will focus on interpersonal relations and how they draw us nearer to God.

Vestry Meeting:

The Vestry Meeting Scheduled for August 16th has been rescheduled for Monday 30th August.

Rectory Sale:

It is with great relief that we record the sale of the Rectory at 45 St Andrew's Cres. The new owners moved in on August 6th. This now releases £163,000 into St Augustine's accounts, although we are still owing something in the region of £40,000. In tight times like these, it's an enormous relief to have clinched the sale!

Community Hall

It was when we were getting together the Community Fair, that there was a realisation of all the various groups who are now using our hall. Some pay and some don't, according to their means, but whether they do or not, it is important to see them as part of the St Augustine's family.

Of course, Circle Scotland, in the person of Janet Rae, share an office with Kenny and that is working out well. Many of Janet's contacts are now released from prison and she is helping them rebuild family life in the community. She needs our prayers and support.

There are other groups, too, which are commercial in nature and pay us a fair rent. These include the Slimming Club on Monday and the Karate Club on Tuesday and Wednesday, which, if nothing else, takes youngsters off the streets and teaches them a constructive discipline. The Drama Group which meets on a Sunday afternoon seems to be developing and expanding, and it seems to me that community drama has to be encouraged and supported. (We know how worthwhile the DPT is in keeping folk off the streets....)

The Diocese and the Province of the SEC have used our premises for training sessions and committee meetings. Dumbarton Churches Together also use our hall for their meetings.

Dumbarton United Football Club, which organises various youth football teams and initiatives, meets regularly, and we are pleased to support them.

However, it's some of the other groups that are of, perhaps, greater interest.

The new school term will see an Out-of-School Care Club beginning, and we should be overjoyed to help provide that service.

The Richmond Fellowship, dealing with various client groups with mental health issues runs various drop-ins and support groups during the week. A new women's group has been formed recently to add to their letting hours.

The Carer's Centre, providing support for "carers" in our community also run various groups, providing counselling, support, and alternative therapies. This is a big undertaking, and due to the fact that the Carer's Centre in Church Street has now had to close, we seem to be taking on more and more of the sort of work that was going on there before their closure. Anyone for Reiki? Massage? Aromatherapy?

Narcotics Anonymous now run two groups weekly, and AA are still present on a Thursday evening.

Alternatives use our premises for staff training and also for an occasional support group for families of drug misusers.

The Community Council and Lennox Children's Trust use our facilities for their meetings, and they, too, are very welcome, tackling community issues and making a difference.

Organisations are catching on to the fact that we provide excellent conference facilities, and there have been various enquiries about that.

We still seem to have enough space to hold our own events, Friends, Cursillo, and Friday Soup and Saturday Coffee, a vital part of our ministry, continues to go ahead.

As the new season begins to get underway, more groups and charities will join us. It's still early days.

What we need to do is avoid the temptation of a n "Us & Them" mentality. We need to be working towards a St Augustine's family situation where we feel we share in each other's work and concerns, and be unafraid to promote the fact that there is a spiritual element to this family which prays for it all and in fact upholds the whole operation in prayer.

Forming strong links and friendships is vital, and may actually help us to invite some of our non-church family to services and other congregational events. This is Service. It's also Mission!

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St Augustine's Day

We will be celebrating St Augustine's Day on Sunday 29th August, and the Revd Fred Tomlinson is coming to preach on that day at the 11am.

As most of you know, Fred grew up in St Augustine's and is married to Anne who is the Diocesan Ministry Development Officer.

It is also our Gift Day, and a Gift Day envelope is enclosed in the magazine. There is no need to tell you how much we depend on this day to help us balance the budget at St Augustine's, and the Treasurer relies on your generosity.

St Monica's Day

I don't usually expect to hear anything much about St Monica until around about 28th August. So it was a surprise that she got more than a passing mention at the end of June in Kingston Parish Church, Jamaica.

She usually gets a mention at our Patronal Festival as she was St Augustine of Hippo's mum and is particularly known for her patience with her recalcitrant son. Despite his wayward ways she continued to maintain contact with him and pray for him, until eventually he was converted to Christianity and became one of the key thinkers in the development of the Church.

Why was she brought to the minds of the congregation? She didn't fit in with the gospel of the day. Although not stated by the rector, I'm sure he had had to minister to parents of young people caught up in the violence that had hit the city. Christopher Coke had been arrested and extradited a few days previously, 73 people had been shot dead and there were still curfews in the poorest areas where Coke was seen as a 'Robin Hood' figure rather than the drug baron he's accused of being.

Difficult times for pastoral care but such a thoughtful part of the sermon to give support to the families and friends of those involved in such awful troubles that have shaken the Jamaican underworld and put the rule of law at risk. They need our prayers in the same way that St Monica was supported by other Christians.

Fran

Bishop Don

(Whilst in Jamaica, Fran was greatly impressed by the preaching of Bishop Don, who has returned to his roots to be a Parish Priest again. Here is a little about him.)

After more than 30 years outstanding service in the Anglican Church in the United States of America (USA) during which he rose to the position of Vicar Bishop for New York City, Jamaican-born the Rt. Rev. E. Don Taylor has returned home to take up duties as Rector of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, more widely known as the Kingston Parish Church. Bishop Taylor's appointment took effect on June 1.

"It's a joy to be home," Bishop Taylor said. He served in the Diocese of New York for 15 years and had oversight for some 81 churches, as well as related agencies in Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx between 1994 and 2009. Prior to that, he worked in Parishes in the Diocese of [Atlanta](#) for nine years; and in 1986, he was elected Bishop of the Virgin Islands (US and British), a position he held until his appointment in New York.

"I have always been a part of the Diocese of Jamaica and the [Cayman Islands](#). I am particularly happy to take up my appointment at the Kingston Parish Church, which was an integral part of my life as a young adult. And, I look forward to serving the members of this historic Church and the people of downtown Kingston," he said.

In welcoming Bishop Taylor, the Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Rt. Rev. and Hon. Dr. Alfred Reid, said his diverse experience in the Diaspora made him an ideal choice to minister to members of the Kingston Parish Church and the wider community.

An advocate for justice, children, the poor and the aged, Bishop Taylor is also a committed evangelist, and he has led missions in many parts of the USA, the United Kingdom and the [Caribbean](#).

Bishop Taylor has used his early training and exposure as a radio and television announcer at Radio Jamaica and the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation to support his Ministry, especially during his tenure in the Virgin [Islands](#) where he established a radio studio at the Diocesan offices in St. Thomas. Through this medium, the Bishop was able to deliver the Gospel to people in remote villages and on boats in the waters around the chain of islands.

A past student of Kingston College and graduate of the University of the West Indies, the new Rector of the Kingston Parish Church received his Master's Degree and Doctorate in Divinity from Trinity College in Toronto, Canada.

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,

It was good of you to take Evensong here last Sunday while I was at my old college re-union – but I would prefer you used the pulpit in future when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete ‘The Times’ crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle.

It did Lady Plumtree’s vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span. That is why the noise you thought was sidesmen counting the morning’s collection while you preached was in fact the organist jangling his keys in an attempt to remind you that his oven timer had long since switched off and his casserole was getting cold.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half way up the steps

and with his back to the congregation, while our vergier was dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Cathedral bike blessing

FOR the first time in Scotland cyclists presented their bikes for a blessing at a service last month.

The blessing, at St Mary’s Cathedral, Glasgow, on the morning of Saturday 19 June, was given by the Provost, Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth, as part of the Glasgow Cycling Festival. The event was inspired by the Blessing of the Bikes that has been taking place in New York for the past 12 years.

Cyclists lined up in the Cathedral with their bikes for a special liturgy created in the USA. The congregation also remembered cyclists who have died on the roads. The service ended with a great ringing of bicycle bells to fill the Cathedral space.

Kelvin said: “The bicycle is one of the most efficient machines ever invented by human beings. We will be celebrating the delight that cycling gives people and remembering the fragility of the world which needs ecological means of transport.”

Some miscellaneous observations on life today

Sometimes the majority only means that all the fools are on the same side.

Pride is to character like the attic to the house, the highest part and generally the most empty. *Sydney Gay*

If men speak ill of you, live so that no one will believe them. *anon*

It’s not hard to be an executive. Things change so fast you can’t be wrong all the time. *H Prochnow*

Successful man: one who can earn more than his family can spend.

Toe: a part of the foot that is used to find furniture

Reasons for Not Marrying a Clergyman

*(With apologies to the priest I nicked it from)
(Tongue-in-cheek! Ps Linda will hate this!!!!)*

You are expected to go to church.

It is hard to make friends, "heatheners" are people who don't want to be friends with a clergy spouse.

As in above, people come round to talk about their problems, you say "It's our day off", they say "Oh good, I'll stay for a coffee."

You sometimes have to have the bishop around for tea.

You are expected to get "involved" in church things, but get no gratitude for it.

You have to move house when you would really like to stay in the area

Oh I forgot, it's not your house

People talk to you about things when they should be talking to your partner.

Your life is lived in public

No point in taking your partner on local shopping trips, they're always nabbed by someone

Nobody tells you their dirty jokes anymore...

You have to be nice to people you don't really like very much.

You have a feeling that there are lots of people out there that you WOULD like very much that you never meet because they don't mix with more interesting people.

You can't misbehave outrageously in public.

People judge you on whether your house is clean and tidy.

You have to listen to your spouse's recycled sermons (have you mentioned that one?) and it is rude to yawn.

You are not supposed to lose your faith and you can't say things like "I've never been that sure about infant baptism" in study groups.

You are not supposed to have any problems.

If you do have problems, you have no idea if you can safely confide in anyone without them gossiping.

But ironically everyone expects you to listen to their problems and keep confidentiality and not judge them.

You were not "called" to be a bloody vicar's wife (husband) and you don't get paid for it.

Nor does your spouse get paid very much for it...

You feel you have to give a reasonable amount of your (very limited) income to the church if you are going to ask parishioners to do likewise – you sometimes resent this when one of them tells you about their third holiday that year...

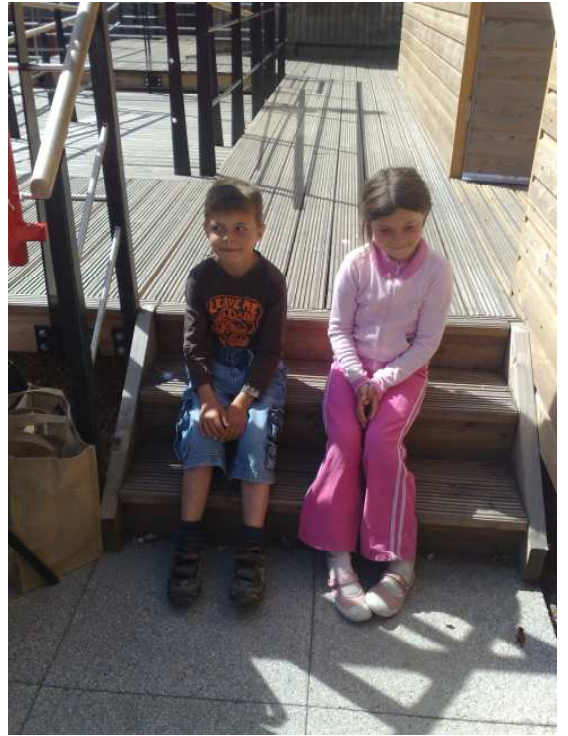
Ten good things about being a priest:

1. You only work one day a week. Or so I'm told - clearly haven't mastered that one yet!
2. You get to have midweek daytime 'quality time' with your partner. Apparently - see here. Unfortunately, when I had a husband he did a 9-5 weekday job so I didn't master that one either!
3. You get to work when you are in Costa. Sipping a long skinny vanilla latte is in fact work if you are wearing your collar - it is the ministry of presence.
4. Watching videos is work. We all know we need sermon illustrations and they come from contemporary culture. Must book in to see Shrek 3D!
5. You live close to work. Very, very close indeed! Certainly cuts out the commuting.
6. You have tailor made clothes. For the first time ever, someone makes something especially for you, and even puts 39 buttons down the front. However, I did get some personal comments about the difficulty of dealing with my overhang!
7. You don't have to bear boring sermons. No longer do you have to take fruit pastels into the sermon to distract yourself from the tedium of it.
8. You don't have to sing durgy hymns. Or I don't - it is great choosing your own hymns - like having your very own Songs of Praise every week.
9. Life is full never dull. A friend said she was visiting her vicar dad and they were sat in the lounge one evening. Suddenly, the patio doors opened and in popped a parishioner. He hadn't rung the doorbell - just wandered into the garden and let himself in. She jumped a mile.
10. But seriously.. I think it is great - I have learned so much and found it a tremendous privilege. I am very grateful.

Isn't He Lovely? Baby John Makes His Debut!



This month we show Baby John Hardie-Brown, of course, and record how much Lauren has grown in her first year. Opposite we see the quilters, some sun-seeking customers at Saturday Coffee, and a group of American visitors sample the fare! Graduates 2010 from the Gambian School, and Roberta practicing for her gig at the pole-dancing!



Smile-Lines

Whispers

A young curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and, being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicarage bell and the door was answered by a very attractive teenage daughter.

"Is your dad here?" the curate managed to whisper very quietly.

"No," she whispered back, thinking she had got the message. "Come on in!"

Don't go far!

The curate went to the bank and asked for a statement of his account, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday." Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

Staying power

Hospital patients' comment about the new curate: "He can stay longer in an hour than most people do in a week."

Nearly omnipotent

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"

Slow

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. "My problem," explained the curate, "is that I sleep very slowly."

Don't know nothin'

When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money. Can't help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays...

Sky fright

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded forcefully.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

Sky at night

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

Hole for one

A golfing priest, after having been beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse somewhat depressed. "Cheer up," said the layman. Remember, you'll eventually be burying me some day." "Yes," said the priest. "But even then it will be your hole!"

When children write to their minister:

"Dear Mr Minister...

- I know God loves everybody but then he never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8.

- Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, Pete. Age 9.

- My father should be a minister too. Every day he gives me a sermon about something. Robert Anderson, age 11.

- I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my pocket money. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my pocket-money? Love, Patty. Age 10.

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St Oswald

(5th August)

– a king with faith, courage and humility

Many Christians have indulged in fantasies from time to time about doing something spectacular for God, which would be remembered for centuries afterwards. Oswald, who lived from 605 to 642AD, was in a position to do so.

He was a King, but in those times such a title exposed him to danger as well as power. His father Aethelfrith was a great warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. But Aethelfrith was killed by a rival, and Oswald was only twelve years old when he was driven into exile with his elder sister and two younger brothers. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland.

The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona. Meanwhile, warfare raged in Northumbria, and in due course the time came for Oswald to make a difficult decision. Should he remain in safety, or return to claim his kingdom? In 632 his older brother led an expedition there to sue for peace, but instead he was put to the sword. It was a time of broken dreams and bitter grief for the young Oswald, who must have spent many hours in prayer before he decided to risk his life by following his brother south.

In his famous book, *The Ecclesiastical History of England*, Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallon and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. But that night, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, the founder of Iona. Columba prophesied that Oswald would be king, and reminded him of God's words to Joshua at the river Jordan, "Be strong, and of good courage.....for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Before battle commenced, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for

missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria.

Oswald's subsequent victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross which now stands at Heavenfield. Many leaders would have regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and made Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry.

Now it was time for Oswald to reveal a quality less frequently associated with kings, but even more vital to the spread of God's work. That quality was humility. As the sponsor and protector of Aidan, he could easily have imposed his own agenda on this new mission. Such a test came early, when Aidan declined Oswald's offer of resources at court in Bamburgh castle, and chose the remoter location of Lindisfarne.

Not only did Oswald accept the monk's decision gracefully; he continued to spend many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter. His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and play second fiddle to a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.

Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was slain in battle and his brother Oswin succeeded to the throne. Penda continued to wreak havoc with his marauding raids; on one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates.

But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one.

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

Janette looks back on the great Scottish holiday month and wonders if it's goodbye to Summer 2010.

BILIN' OAN THE BALTIC!

While folks in Scotland moaned about our wet, unsettled July, we were cruising on the Baltic where a heat wave kept the cardigans I had humphed all the way from Dumbarton languishing in my suitcase. Russia was 'bilin' hoat' as we embarked on our eleven hour excursion to take in as many palaces, cathedrals and museums as we could manage. Culture on every corner - that's St. Petersburg, Russia's window on the West - but toilets are not in abundance. TBag has vowed never to set foot in this magnificent city.

Yes, in temperatures of 90 degrees Fahrenheit the Russians were trying to sell fur hats and the tourists were buying them! Our second day's excursion was a walking tour - pounding the cobbled streets with feet enlarged to twice their normal size, clutching bottles of lukewarm water and photographic ID.

We were connected to our Russian guide by ear-phones and transmitters which got in the way of our sunglasses and hats but ensured that we didn't miss a single icon. Aye, it was quite an experience and back on board our cruise ship we were updated on the spy swapping deals by BBC World News and the more important news from St. Aug's, via Margaret Hardie's text messages, that the old rectory had been sold and that baby John had arrived.

QUIET SUMMER AT ST. AUG'S.

Since our Murder Mystery Night at the beginning of June, nothing much seemed to be happening at St. Aug's. There was a dearth of Friends' events and everyone was disappearing for the holidays. However, an Exec Meeting is scheduled this week and plans for our Community Fair on 7th August have been simmering away all summer.

A very appreciative audience turned up at our Kiev Accordion Duo Concert on the 25th July. Our Saturday coffee mornings have continued in the Church and it was great to see so many of our regulars continuing to support us.

Watch this space for new and exciting events to fill up your Autumn and Winter diaries. Hopefully, our Risk Street members will not desert us for that swanky, new, upmarket nightclub that's opening in

the Town Centre! And, apart from our vandalised wall, the front of the Church is looking smart and very colourful - thanks to Margaret Murnan's little flower garden which has flourished well in our showery weather.

SHOPPING WITH SHOPJACKET

Save your money, save your waistline and save your High Street with Shopjacket!. No, Roberta, this is not a competitor for your beloved Poundland, it's the latest initiative favoured by the Council and funded by the town centre regeneration fund to make the High Street the place to shop.

The sad and forgotten empty shops will be given a face lift - a trendy jacket made up of exciting panels to tempt new prospective owners and get the High Street looking like the busy, exciting place it once was. And the good news is you can shop all day and your credit card will be unaffected. Shopjacket will bring you virtual shops and they can be what ever you want them to be. Top designer boutiques, trendy bookshops and even a mini-Harrods - the only limit is your imagination!

The main drawback is stopping at the baker's Shopjacket for a pie for your tea. Only virtual pies will be available which means you'll be ravenous by bedtime. And the Shopjacket idea is just in its infancy. Pubs that fall foul of the recession could get a Pubjacket. This means you can virtually drink all night and still drive home. And dare I mention - a Churchjacket could be designed for Churches that lose too many members and fall by the wayside.

This is scary so let's make sure St. Aug's stays alive with real members and doesn't ever need the facility. A seminar is being held by the Council on 26th August to discuss the future of our Town Centre and Shopjacket will be on the agenda. A free lunch will be provided - real not virtual - but let's hope things don't get so bad we all need life jackets or even so mad that we need straightjackets!

SUMMER SALES BONANZA

In the big wide retail world the adverts are urging us to bag those unbeatable bargains. TESCO informs us that it's now time to buy that triple burner gas barbeque that's reduced by £100. What for?

Summer's currently gone into hiding. The large box will lie around all winter until next Spring when you'll be first to get sizzling with the burnt sausages. Has nobody told TESCO that the weans will soon be back at school and that 'the nights are fair drawin' in.'? And even although Maggie's just purchased new sandals, Christmas Nights Out are being booked and shopping days are being counted by zealous shopaholics.

THE BIG SOCIETY

Is it co-incidental that David Cameron is introducing his 'Big Society' at around the same time as M&S is introducing supersize school uniforms for the increasing number of fat weans? Also a PDSA Vet is warning us that 35% of British dogs are now obese and endangering their health by eating - Nina is on a permanent diet. And, it should be noted that by far the largest of the regular groups that meet in St. Auggie's new hall is the Slimming Group. Aye it's a big society, right enough!

THE PRESTONPANS TAPESTRY

Imagine sewing 10 million stitches into a tapestry - some achievement indeed! The Prestonpans Tapestry has just been completed and will soon be displayed in places throughout Scotland before crossing the Atlantic. Like the famous Bayeux Tapestry, only longer, it tells the story of battle - Bonnie Prince Charlie's early campaign in 1745 when he was winning and culminating in the Battle of Prestonpans - the battle that brought notoriety to Sir John Cope, the English commander (Hey, Johnnie Cope are ye waulkin' yet?) and lasted only ten minutes! So watch for this Jacobite treasure coming to a venue near you. It'll certainly be worth a look!

'WE ARE GOING ON A CRUISE.....'

Her Majesty is off on a Cruise - perhaps inspired after reading about the Friends' Murder Mystery Cruise in June. But why on earth is she setting sail for the Western Isles at the Glasgow Fair with half her family on board for a free ride? There will be rain, arguments and midges - that's for sure! But at least the Glasgow Fair holidaymakers will be away on the Med. or even 'hingin' about Turkey'. And she's taken along some board games and a jigsaw - in case one gets bored!

'WHIT DAE YOU MEAN - I CANNY SING?'

So, there's a wee woman trying to get compensation from Simon Cowell and his crew for upsetting her by questioning her ability to sing in tune? Well, if I had a pound for every time someone's told me I had the same problem, thrown me out of choirs or put

me into choirs to mime and not utter a sound (along with Margaret Hardie), smiling away in the front row just to make up numbers, I'd be a millionaire. So, get over it hen, there are worse afflictions!

THE SELF CHECKOUT - IS THIS REALLY PROGRESS?

I really hate going to Morrison's these days when it's busy and I'm left at the mercy of that smug self checkout machine which seems hell bent on making me feel like an *eedyit*. The trouble is I never have my specs with me, I don't concentrate so I make mistakes and it announces it to the whole shop. Then some sixteen year old shop assistant has to come along and put things right. It's bad enough having to shop but surely the least they can do is make it easy and provide a human being to tell me how much it costs.

PANTOMIME? DOESN'T TIME FLY?

After my holiday I was enjoying the euphoria of having nothing to do all day, when a simple little e-mail reminded me that a Panto meeting had been arranged. It's really difficult to get into the mood in July but plans have got to be made, scripts written and ticket hunters assured that they are on the list for the final Saturday. So its decision time on the title, the characters and the scenes before the writing can begin. Funny how your mind goes completely blank.....oh, yes it does!

NOW ONWARDS INTO AUGUST.....

Most important day for St. Auggie's folk is the 7th when our first Community Fair takes place. Our MP, Gemma Doyle, hopes to join us and there will be lots on offer. Come along for Morning Coffee, Barbecue Lunch or Afternoon Tea - or better still stay all day and don't miss the bargains or the entertainment. If you wish to donate to our stalls speak to a member of the Friends' Exec. Kitchen help is always welcome.

Remember you've still time to work at the Fair and then prepare for the Glorious Twelfth- if you intend to take up the pursuits of the aristocracy and bag a few grouse. Unfortunately, it'll be too late to sell them at the Fair but a donation of Home baking will suffice Let's hope the birds will all keep out of sight and survive the season. So, back next month with more stuff and nonsense.

Janette

D GAMBIA EDUCATION ASSOC. - AGM.

Ten members of Dumbarton Gambia Education Association met on Tuesday 27th July in St Augustine's Community Hall for the AGM.

Kenny (chair person) reported that during his visit in November he had renegotiated the renewal of the tenancy agreement with Wally Faal, the current landlord. All future communications will be through GETS rather than with the head teacher and the informal agreement that we repair/repaint the building will continue and be formalised in writing. A new roof had been put on the school before the rainy season and it is planned to repaint the walls after the rains have finished.

After looking at our funding position it had been decided to close the adult education class. During her visit in January Fran had given Mariama the statutory 6 months redundancy notice. Mariama chose to continue to work during this period rather than take the payment. Fran was also able to tell the staff that they would be awarded 10% pay rise* and that the 'traditional' 1 by 6 loan for Tobaski would be continued.

It was with regret that Lamin Trewally had resigned from the post of deputy head teacher, to take up a post with the Electoral Commission and there was discussion about obtaining a replacement and to continue to ensure that the funds would be used in the best way for the children.

In her treasurer's report Linda gave us the following information:

Amount in UK account, July 2010: £6,640.48
Funds in The Gambia: enough to run the school until September
Income from regular giving: about £700/month amounting to £8,290 in 2009/10
Additional income in 2009/10: £4877.99, including Gift Aid (£1509.69) and contributions from the West Kirk, Helensburgh (thanks to Tina), Bracklenlea School, Eve Underhill's 60th birthday party
GETS management fee is still £60/month, plus £30/month for the sponsorship of 2

children, so the percentage of our funds used for administration remains low.

She also reported Doreen McCamley CA, the Independent Examiner, was putting the accounts into OSCR format, that the flow of information from GETS is now extremely helpful and that the Gambia a/c spreadsheet, being too big to print out, is available electronically should anyone wish to see it.

In conclusion Linda commented that although there had been a drop in the number of regular subscriptions, the finances were steady and the school was sustainable in the short term. However it is necessary to continue to have fund raising activities to make up the short fall between regular giving and the actual costs.

The office bearers were re-elected unopposed, as were the existing committee members. whilst the vacancy on the committee was filled.

Chairperson: Kenny Macaulay

Vice chairperson: Tina Kemp

Secretary: Fran Walker

Treasurer: Linda Macaulay

Fund raising co-ordinator: Morag O'Neill

Committee members: Barbara Barnes, Mhairi Halliday, Faye Suso

In the AOCB slot, Tina told us that St Cuthbert's, Clydebank now wished to be involved in supporting the school. We also spoke about the stall the Association will have at the forthcoming Community Fair which will provide information as well as Gambian good for sale.

The meeting took just a little over an hour! Not much time to ensure that in September 2010, after three years nursery education, another thirty very poor, small people, will be able to enter mainstream education and have a fair chance in life. Should you want to know more about how you can directly support the early education of children in The Gambia (one of the world's poorest countries) please contact Kenny, Tina, Linda, Fran or anyone else on the committee.

* Please note that the president had recently announced that civil service/government employees, including teachers, would be awarded a 20% rise.

Fran



Scottish Charity
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Friends in August

This is the time of year when we start planning our future events so that we

know what we are doing through until after Christmas and the New Year. This was our task when the Exec met last week. Of course the primary reason for the meeting was to finalise plans for the big **Summer Community Fair**. By the time you read this it will be all over and hopefully St. Aug's will have benefited from the day, not only in cash for our funds, but most importantly, by cementing our relationship with the groups who use the hall. It is important that they are a part of St. Aug's community and that they feel that we as a congregation are open to their presence and their needs.

So what do you have to look forward to this year?.... Follow the Monoblock Road to The Merry of Land of AugZ! Meet up with Dorothy, the tin man, the straw man and the cowardly lion as we go to Mid West America for an evening with the Wizard of Oz or AugZ on this occasion.

Put 6th November into your diary and look out for the list on the notice board in the hall, and start putting together your outfit. We want to see lots of munchkins as well as the main characters. More details will emerge as our plans crystallise into an evening of stunning entertainment St. Auggies style.

Other events:

Fish Supper Bingo: Friday 10th September at 7pm

Night at the Theatre: DPT present 'A view from the Bridge' by Arthur Miller on Thursday 7th October
Tea in the hall at 5.30pm then off to the Denny Civic.

The Big Event -Saturday 6th November

Christmas Party + Carols December – date tba.

The July raffle prize of £10 M&S voucher was won by Margaret Swan.

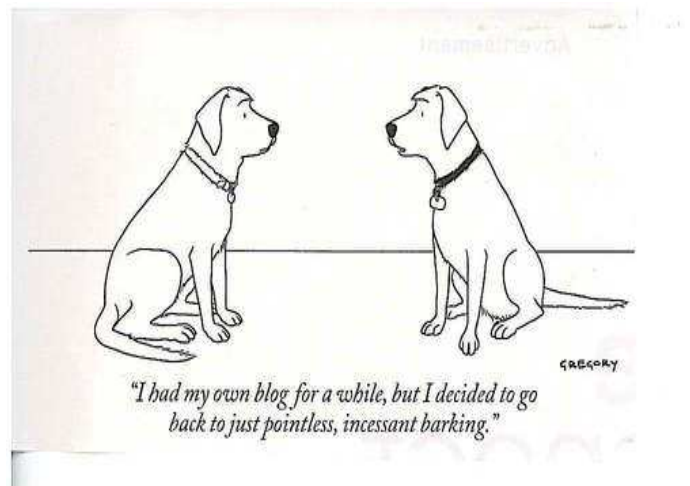
You can be part of this free raffle if you are a Friends member. This is one of the perks of joining up as well as a discount on all events and a free Church Magazine each month. You won't be getting a prize or discounts if you have not paid up your membership renewal, so please pay Margaret Hardie if you haven't already done so. Please remember that you are helping the church as well of having fun if you are a Member of the Friends of St. Augustine's.

Linda

Website

The Church Website has had a makeover but is still at the usual address, www.staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk

Why not give it a visit and add a comment or two!



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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, Rosemary McLeay, Shadrach Shame.

Regional Council Representative: Roberta Mailley (01389 731863)

Fag Ends

It is a disgusting job, and someone needs to do it. Poor Fran recently emptied the free-standing ash tray outside the Community Hall.

In an ideal world, nobody would smoke, and none of our hall folk would even dream of a cigarette, but when we are dealing with a lot of people who are under incredible stress, that's unrealistic!

Perhaps, however, one or two of our congregational smokers would take a turn of emptying out the big ash-tray? It's unfair to ask anyone else to do it!

The photograph itself disgusts the Rector so much, and reinforces his need to give up the weed! It is becoming such an anti-social habit, we all feel like lepers you know, and the spiraling cost, is enough to drive anyone to their nearest pharmacist!

Maybe a prayer or two would help him on his way!

