



# St Augustine's Dumbarton

Issue 59 May 2012

£1.00



## the new look

### Buddy - Can you spare some time? Passing the Baton -A Pilot Scheme



Throughout this magazine, there is an opportunity to read about our proposed new Pilot Scheme with Bethany Trust and West Dunbartonshire Council, which is now almost ready to begin with the training of volunteers.

This is an important project and it is with dismay that The Rector is finding it difficult to procure some new volunteers to take this forward effectively.

There are many of us who are just not right for this sort of project, simply because we are up to our ears in other parish things which take up so much of our time, but this is an opportunity for some who are not quite so involved to get on board with something which is really going to make a big difference to other people's lives in Dumbarton.

Passing the Baton is an exciting project, where a team from St Augustine's supports someone to maintain a tenancy, and re-integrate into society after a period of homelessness. We commit, as a team, to one individual for one year, helping them to help themselves, and eventually to go on to be useful and productive members of our community.



Even if you feel you cannot commit to this, it's important that we all know what is happening, and uphold the project in prayer, and any other way we can.

However, we hope that on reading some of the words printed in this Issue, that some more would like to take part. Simply speak to Kenny as soon as possible and try to attend the next meeting on May 10th at 7pm.

From Kenny  
Page 2

Rotas  
Page 3

St James the Least  
Page 4

Passing the Baton  
Page 5

Photos  
Pages 8-9

Smile Lines  
Page 10

Wait Till I Tell You  
Page 11

A Priesthood of the Atom  
Page 14

Parish Directory  
Page 16

## From Kenny....

My eye is continually on our Parish Mission Action Plan, and the goals we set for 2012. Some have already been met, and others are ongoing, and the wee Vestry sub-group is working away in the background, determined to keep the MAP alive, and prepared to give a good account of what has been achieved when the Bishop comes to assess what we've done and how we are doing!

One of the main thrusts of our MAP was to regain some balance between the **doing** and the growth of our spirituality as a congregation, and that is working out well. Already a couple of special healing services have been done, the Lenten Study Group was successfully led by Peter Cairns and is about to embark on a new course on contemplative prayer in May. We had a Parish Retreat, and Ghislaine's prayer ministry goes from strength to strength.

During May you will all receive a sheet of paper which will be called St Augustine's Prayer Diary. On it there will be boxes marked from 1-31, signifying the day of each month, and in each box there will be names of people in our congregation to pray for, some parishes in the Diocese to pray for, and one or two groups who use our Community Hall who we will also remember.

It is for us all to use, and every day we will need to set aside 5 minutes to pray for each other and the life and work of the parish. Every communicant member will be remembered through the month, and if your name is missing it is simply an error, and speak to Kenny immediately.

Once in possession of this, I will be able to ask you who we were praying for yesterday, and you will know! It doesn't take long to say a quick prayer for someone! I hope this will be welcomed, and is in a format that can be easily updated as the months go on. Please use it, and give me as much feedback as you can.

This is ticking another box in our MAP as we strive to be Marys rather than just Marthas! We need a balance in the congregation! And please don't tell me you are not one of the "spiritual" people in the congregation. We are all spiritual and we all pray to one extent or another!



However, we have not left the Martha side of our congregational life lie dormant. The Community Hall is still buzzing, and many of us are involved in one way or another with what goes on in the groups that meet there.

Anne Dyer has made a wee space for ourselves on Tuesday evenings, and we now run a Girl's Group, STAGG. which is doing some incredible stuff with young teenage girls in the community and from our own congregation. Some of their work you may have already seen displayed, and along with the carry-on which you would expect from this age-group, there are some pretty deep and important issues discussed which affect their young lives. They are even talking about coming to church soon, en-masse, and that should prove interesting! They are selling cake and candy after the 11am on Sunday 13th May! Well done Anne and her team!

The ecumenical Allsorts Choir are a mixture of Marthas and Marys and it's great to have them associated with St Augustine's, however, our association with Circle is about to end, as Janet Rae has no more funding, due to cutbacks, and that will be a great loss for us.

That is one of the reasons I am leading us into this Pilot Project with Passing the Baton. Another Martha thing! It was heartening that when Bethany approached West Dunbartonshire Council, they themselves pointed to St Augustine's as a congregation that would be open to supporting it.

This is not just letting people use our hall, though! This is hands-on work with an individual in our community who is crying out for a little help and support.

I make no apologies for using up a large part of this magazine to give you more information on the project, and my fervent prayer is that it will encourage some more of you to come on board and help us to have a stronger team than we have at present.

Please, maybe especially if you are on the fringes of the congregation, give this some thought and take the leap to become involved in something very important. Old-timers are welcome too!

I know that we help and support many individuals at the moment, so one more shouldn't make too much difference to us. It will make a great difference, though, to the person we choose to support!

Kenny

# ROTAS May 2012

**Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**11am Eucharist.**

Readers: Margot Rhead & Peter Cairns.

Intercessions: Maggie Wallace.

Chalice: Vernon Perrin & Barbara Barnes.

Sidespersons: Linda Jenkinson & Chrissie Ashman

**Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**11am Eucharist.**

Readers: Vernon Perrin & Margaret Hardie.

Intercessions: Linda Macaulay.

Chalice: Maggie Wallace & Sharon Rowatt.

Sidespersons: Margaret Swan & Tim Rhead.

**Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**11am Eucharist.**

Readers: David Rowatt & Tim Rhead.

Intercessions: Peter Cairns.

Chalice: Margaret Hardie & Janette Barnes.

Sidespersons: Roberta Mailley & Ronnie Blaney.

**Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**11am Eucharist**

Readers: Ghislaine Kennedy & Barbara Barnes.

Intercessions: Vernon Perrin.

Chalice: Fran Walker & Tim Rhead.

Sidesperson: Gavin & Ross Elder.

## FLOWER ROTA

Wk ending.....

May 5<sup>th</sup>... Moira McGown & Maggie Wallace.

12<sup>th</sup>. Margaret Hardie & Barbara Barnes.

19<sup>th</sup>. Linda Macaulay.

## Cursillo

This is an important month for Cursillo in St Augustine's. The Cursillo Weekend, held in Kinnoull, Perth, is on May 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, and Kenny is Spiritual Advisor for the weekend. Some of his team include members of the congregation. Participants on the weekend are Jessie Reid, Simon Collings, Etta Burns and Kevin Mason. (Team members: Morag O'Neill, Maggie Wallace, Ghislaine Kennedy, and Gavin Elder.)

Please remember all of them in your prayers.

The Diocesan Welcome Home from this weekend is in St Augustine's Community Hall on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May and you are all invited to attend at 7.30pm.

## Vestry

The Vestry meets on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Community Hall. Please note the earlier start!

## Flowers in Church

You may have noticed, when you read the Flower Rota, that there are very few volunteers at the moment. Probably there are many reasons for this. One reason is possibly the cost .....prices of flowers are rising rapidly, like everything else, and a small amount of people are often bearing the cost out of their own pocket.

Our wonderful building looks beautiful bedecked with flowers, but this is becoming quite an extravagance, as we no longer keep a "Flower Fund", and rely on donations, or, at times, general church funds, such as at Easter and Christmas. However, it would be sad to have no flowers at all, apart from Festivals.

Is there a solution to this problem?

One suggestion is to have a Diary, say for 6 or 8 weeks, at a time, and offers of provision of flowers could be filled in for each Sunday, perhaps on the anniversary of someone's death or even marriage!

Folk could either donate a little money regularly, perhaps £5 or £10, even sharing with a friend, and flowers would be bought or put into church for you, or, you could bring the flowers and those would be "done" for you.

Supermarket flowers are good value, and often last quite well, and their prices give a good indication of what would be a sensible and economic donation.

Garden flowers would be lovely over summer months. Some of us have beautiful gardens and would maybe like to share some of their treasures?

Only two or three small vases or containers would be filled each week, and hopefully, some flowers would last over a couple of weeks.

PLEASE let us have some feed back on these suggestions, .... some of you possibly have much better ideas than we do.

Let's keep our beloved St. Aug's looking "blooming beautiful", all the year round!

# St James the Least of All...

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

## The Rectory

My Dear Nephew Darren,

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small paved area and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.

By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew gardens to the Amazon rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all round the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to shoot them while she smokes her briar pipe.

The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Laird. It contains such a

collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

## Ascension Day

It has been the practice for St. Mungo's, St. Augustine's, and St. Michael's Helensburgh, to celebrate a joint Sung Eucharist on Ascension Day (to mark the importance of the Feast, given that it is never on Sunday.)

At the last North West Regional Council meeting, the Bishop suggested that this year this joint Eucharist might be celebrated at Holy Cross, Knightswood, as a sign of our commitment to supporting our sisters and brothers at that church, which is ailing at the present moment.

So, there will be a Sung Eucharist at Holy Cross, 2064 Great Western Road, Knightswood, at 7.30pm on THURSDAY, MAY 17th.

It would be really good if St Augustine's members could attend this service, a) to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord, and b) to show our commitment to our sisters and brothers at Holy Cross.

Unfortunately, Kenny will be in Perth on that day, but a good turnout of St Auggie's folk would help us to show our solidarity. We should all be in church on Ascension Day anyway!

## Hall Painting

It was wonderful to have some of the women from Alternatives, coaxed on by Fran, painting the main Community Hall in April. It's not easy to find a time, these days, when the hall is free, but they managed to squeeze themselves in, between groups, and did a magnificent job.

Julie had already helped paint the rest, but this was the final touch!

It's great to have hall users not only looking after the premises, but helping to keep it fresh and clean!

# Passing the Baton

Getting keys to your house is one thing, managing to set up home and feel part of the community is quite another. Passing the Baton is a service delivered by volunteers to help formerly homeless people settle into new tenancies, build relationships and get plugged into their local area.

Volunteers act as “buddies” for members, helping them with make their homes look and feel comfortable and personal. Volunteers offer friendly one-to-one support to help members pursue hobbies and social activities that will get them out and about and involved in their community. Some volunteers might just want to be a part of a “Hit Squad” who are called on to do some decorating or DIY from time to time.

Passing the Baton has a 98% success rate for maintaining tenancies from initial resettlement. Now that’s something which is worth being a part of! Volunteers are asked for a commitment of 12 hours per month, although that is negotiable when folk are busy with other things.

We are in negotiation with West Dunbartonshire Council, and they have individuals who they would like us to help who have the greatest chance of maintaining a tenancy, with support. They want this to succeed as much as we do!

The individual we will be called on to help and support is known as a Member. This all sounds great, but what is involved, and how can I find out more?

Well.....

## Our members will .....

- Either, be at risk of becoming homeless with an element of isolation & loneliness
- Or, be a survivor of homelessness and at risk of resettlement breakdown with an element of isolation & loneliness
- Male or female and 16 years or over
- Single, married or living with a partner
- In or moving into their own accommodation

## Our members will not be .....

- Living a chaotic, risk-creating and/or anti-social lifestyle with particular regard to alcohol, drugs and mental health issues.
- If the individual presents as a risk to Volunteers or other Members they will be required to leave the project

## Our members may lack skills in .....

- Social Interaction
- Communication
- Budgeting
- Cleaning

- Personal Hygiene
- Cooking
- Shopping

## Our members may .....

- Have been in hostels and Resettlement services for a while
- Have issues with addiction
- Have mild mental health issues
- Feel forgotten
- Be ex-offenders
- Have learning difficulties
- Never want to attend Church
- Be in negative & destructive relationships
- Have negative & destructive behaviours

## Our members will likely .....

- Have experienced relationship breakdowns with people who meant something to them
- Find it difficult to settle
- Find it difficult to trust new people
- Lack motivation and a sense of personal vision

## BUT .....

- None of this has to prevent them achieving their goals, their aspirations, realising their potential and fulfilling their hopes

## Small Groups, like St Augustine’s...

- If we can ENGAGE people into our service and RETAIN them; we & they always achieve a POSITIVE OUTCOME.
- How do you think you can best ENGAGE with a member and RETAIN them in the service?

## Some Ways to Engage & Retain Members

- Be fun to be around
- Help them find what matters to them and be supportive in helping them achieve it
- Try to be the same ‘yesterday – today – and forever’ (consistency)
- Be someone who can empower them to do things for themselves
- Help them to transition from just being supported by the service to helping other members in the project

## Some Ways to Engage & Retain Members

- Be yourself, be genuine and sincere – don’t pretend to be someone or something you are not
- Try to find ‘common interests’
- Relate to members as people and not projects or something to be sorted
- Be reliable and follow through on what you say you will do – this builds trust
- Be an encourager
- Be Positive minded, but not in a delusional way

- Take an interest in them and their interests
- Don't judge them or criticise them
- Feed back on progress they have made
- Be a good 'role model'

### **Signs that the vision is becoming reality**

- Attending a social event, function or group on their own
- Making friends within the community
- Participating in social action programmes and helping others
- Their home is fully furnished, well decorated and they are physically and emotionally secure in it
- Their finances are all in order and budgeting is being managed
- The feelings of isolation & loneliness are reducing
- They can see or are beginning to see a future for themselves
- A sense of value, purpose and meaning to their life is emerging
- Bethany, with our team identify and evidence progress & the member feeling more positive about themselves and their ability to achieve their goals for the future
- They are growing less dependent on the service and your input
- To Engage & Retain Members we must we keep their needs, their choices, their hopes and their future at the centre of the agenda – not ours

**Remember, always, that if you are going to help, you are part of a team. You should never be alone with this person, take them into your home, or give out your home phone number. This is your commitment and it doesn't involve your family or put you at risk in any way.**

### **Main Responsibilities:**

To develop a companionship level relationship with allocated members 70% of your time

To informally 'buddy' allocated members and accompany them to prearranged engagements and activities 25% of your time

To participate in induction training and ongoing training as appropriate; and work to all procedures and policies that are implemented 5% of time.

Some of you will never have been a part of a church project before, some of you may be fairly new members, some of you are maybe worried that you work and don't have 12 hours a month to spare, but you will be supported, trained, and it's all very flexible. So come on, step forward and be a part of something which will be really important to our church life and outreach!

## **What I learnt about Passing the Baton**

*(from Fran Walker)*

Passing the Baton is a scheme run by the Bethany Christian Trust to help men and women (known as members), over 16, of any or no faith, to sustain their tenancy when they have been homeless or are at risk of losing their tenancy.

In February, Gavin Lawson, from the Trust, accompanied by Sid, one of the beneficiaries of the scheme, came to tell St Aug's and other folks about a pilot proposal for introducing Passing the Baton to Dumbarton. Also in attendance was Janice from the Homeless Unit of WDC.

In his presentation Gavin told us some of the background:

- that approx a third of tenancies are lost in the first 6 months leading to recycling homelessness,
- relationships for the members are critical, those with family and friends, with landlords and with support services and for those with tenancy problems, it is the first category that is often missing,
- at the beginning of the scheme it was found that members *didn't necessarily need professional workers* but did need help to do things for themselves.

Passing the Baton is a befriending project for people who are at the stage of their life when they know that they need to make changes. They are not in risk and are not leading a chaotic lifestyle as volunteers are not trained to work in these circumstances.

Befriending is undertaken in teams of from 3 to 12 people, working collectively with one or two members, each giving up to 12 hours a month commitment. There are 3 strands to the activities:

- social events, accompanying members to places where they can meet new people and develop new friendships
- social action programme, including painting, decorating, DIY to make accommodation a 'positive living environment', where members are proud of where they live and will not be embarrassed to invite people into their home,
- raising community awareness

Members are also part of the process as there are also opportunities for those being helped to help others. As well as being recipients they also have something to give. Sid gave us a very illuminating account of how he had been helped.

Passing the Baton is small scale, with concentrated effort and careful matching between members and



volunteers. The team structure allows volunteers to give as much or as little as they can at any particular time with each individual being supported for around a year. Throughout, the focus is always on the needs of the member.

We already have about four folk in our team, but we could do with another four, and one or two others who would be interested in helping only with DIY and redecorating when needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

## KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE NEEDED FOR THE JOB

The essential qualifications and characteristics that will be required of the person undertaking the role are:

- Be 21 years or over
- Be sympathetic to the vision, mission and values of Bethany Christian Trust
- Be able to work under the guidance and support of the Volunteer Community Rep, Volunteer PtB Team Leader and Lead Facilitator
- Demonstrate an openness to learn and a willingness to be team orientated
- Have good time management and organisational skills
- Have good communication skills
- Have a genuine interest in the members and be non-judgemental
- Be free from addiction issues or substance dependency for 1 year
- Be honest, reliable and trustworthy
- Be sociable and have an approachable manner

\*\*\*\*\*

## Gavin Lawson

Gavin is the person who will head the pilot scheme in Dumbarton and comes with great experience of being on the other side of things. He was rescued from rough living on the streets of Edinburgh, and a life ruined by addiction some 17 years ago, and now is happily married with children and a very responsible post with Bethany. He writes:

*The main factors that enabled me to sustain my recovery and go on to become an employee within Bethany were as follows;*

### **House**

*I was allocated a good flat in Leith which I really enjoyed staying in and the décor was great.*

### **Sense of Belonging**

*Having build healthy meaningful relationships with people both within Bethany and outwith Bethany, gave me emotional security and the sense I was part of a relationally focused community.*

## **Meaning and Purpose**

*o Being given the opportunity of becoming a volunteer with Bethany and contributing to the helping of other people gave a sense of positive meaning and purpose to my life. This was very important to me.*

*These 3 factors together, I believe were the critical factors to enabling me to positively grow and become truly interdependent. I have now worked for Bethany in a number of roles and at a variety of levels of responsibility.*

*When I was the Manager of Bethany House I was given the remit to help people after they left Homeless Services to sustain their accommodation. All I did was, over an 18 month period get 6 people who were moving out of Bethany House to new accommodation and working together with them we built the full Passing the Baton concept.*

*I asked these 6 people what they would like to be called. I said to them, "I'm going to have to call you something, what do you want to be called – clients, customers, service users?" And they said, "Members". That said it all to me – they wanted to belong to something, feel part of something and be able to contribute to something – this is vital.*

*To date we have supported 67 people across Edinburgh, Fife, West Lothian and Aberdeen and can evidence a 98% success rate for settling people and enabling them to sustain their accommodation. It is a Volunteer driven project and 6 of our Volunteers are former Members. Two of them have won awards at the Scottish Parliament for their services to communities; some of them have been on radio and even television, done talks and presentations at Schools, Universities, and Conferences and run work-shops at Seminars.*

*In Passing the Baton we have Regional and National Steering Groups and our Members are part of those groups.*

*I believe one of the main reasons why we have seen this project secure these outcomes, is because people who were formerly homeless, marginalised and excluded were empowered to become involved in designing, developing and delivering the service - this will always be at the core of Passing the Baton. One of the members once said to me, "You can't expect the excluded to include themselves Those that are on the inside much reach out to those that are not". I believe it is the responsibility of those that are on the inside of society to reach out to those that are not – it is not the responsibility of the marginalised to try and force their way in.*

*To effectively tackle homelessness and the associated marginalisation and exclusion of vulnerable people in Scotland through homelessness, we must learn how to better create structures and systems that empower them to - become part of the change.*







The photos this month are from the Walk of Witness on Good Friday outside St Aug's, (see if you can spot Anne Dyer), the Blessing of the New Fire on Holy Saturday, the Folk Night on the weekend of the Spring Festival, and Ghislaine putting the All Sorts Choir through their paces!

Managing to squeeze in this month is Hailey, Kenny's grand-daughter, who just wanted to say "hello"!!

# Smile-Lines for May

## Mea Culpa

A group of lads took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up, too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.

After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and had asked the father to stand up.

## Finding

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in the dark.

## Sportsmanlike

During a game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when offside is called, or you are fouled, you don't argue or curse or attack the referee. Do you understand all that?" Again, the boy nodded yes. "Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

## What did I do with the car?

Several days ago as I left a meeting at our church, I suddenly realised I could not find my car keys. They were not in my pockets. They were not in the church. Then I thought – I've left them in the car! As I burst through the doors of the church, my heart sank: the church car park was empty.

With a heavy heart I called the police, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the really difficult call: "Darling," I began (I always call her 'darling' at moments like this). "Darling, I have left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen."

There was a little gasp. "You did not *have the car*. I dropped you off. Remember?"

My heart sang as relief flooded through me. "Of course! Thank God! Well, come get me quick – I am already running late... what is keeping you?"

That was not smart. My wife replied with ominous calm: "What's keeping me? I'll tell you what's keeping me. The police are here. They think I've stolen your car..."

## Torch:

A case for holding dead batteries.

## Gift?

I asked my mother if I was a gifted child... she said I must be, because they certainly wouldn't have paid for me.

## Goliath

If Goliath is resurrected, would you like to tell him the joke about David and Goliath? No, he already fell for it once.

## Skydive

You do not need a parachute to skydive - you need a parachute to skydive *twice*.

## Fear

The only thing to fear is fear itself... and spiders.

## Honest artist

The aspiring young artist tried to concentrate on his work, but the attraction he felt for his model finally became irresistible. He threw down his palette, took her in his arms and kissed her. She pushed him away. "So, do you kiss all your models?" she demanded.

"I've never tried to kiss a model before," he protested. "Really?" she said, softening, "How many models have there been?"

"Four," he replied, "A jug, two apples, and a vase."

## Hot air

My clergy friend put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the toilets at his church, and two weeks later removed them in a hurry. I asked him why, and he confessed that they worked fine, but when he went in there one day he'd seen a sign that read: "For a sample of next week's sermon, push the button."

## Where am I?!

A man was driving to work when a lorry hit his car broadside, and knocked him cold. Passersby pulled him from the wreck and revived him. He began a terrific struggle and had to be tranquilized by the paramedics.

Later, when he was calm, they asked him why he had struggled so. He said, "I remember the impact, then nothing. I woke up on a concrete slab in front of a huge flashing 'Shell' sign...and somebody was standing in front of the 'S'!"

## *‘Wait Till I Tell You.....’*

*Janette looks back on the month of Easter Eggs, April showers  
and a busier than usual scene at St. Aug's.*

### **HOPING FOR A DOUBLE DIP SUMMER**

Remember March and that early summer weather? Some folks actually got sunburned while others managed only to discard one of their winter jumpers ‘*Aye, don’t cast a clout till May be oot*’ - that was my Mother’s mantra! Then along came April with chilly winds, flooding in England and a return to winter. So we didn’t rush out to replenish our Spring wardrobes thus plunging the country into another recession - the dreaded double dip! It also meant gloomy faces amongst our politicians as they struggled with errors, discontent and Rupert Murdoch! Who didn’t dine with that guy, one wonders? Now, if only it would get a little warmer.....

### **LITTLE DROPS OF WATER.**

But they weren’t so little when reflected on our latest Business Stream account for water used at St. Aug’s. Not that we’re extravagant with water - we don’t do many multiple baptisms and even TBag O’Neil only imbibes an average of six cuppas per day!

And the Friends, in spite of their biblical knowledge, have not yet succeeded in turning water into wine for their monthly social events.

The bad news came by telephone on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - just the day for it. The answering machine informed me that St. Aug’s owed nearly six thousand pounds for water! And to ensure that I had heard correctly they left a second message.

I rang back to query the amount and was assured of its accuracy. I explained politely that the Titanic had been sunk with less but they urged me to check for possible leaks. If one was found it may be that we could be entitled to a ‘leak allowance’! Now, there are only leaks at St. Aug’s on Fridays when the soup kitchen is on and surely a leak worth £6000 would have swept our Community Hall right down the High Street! Archie, our Architect, described his design as a ‘floating box’ - was it now living up to its name?

Our Business Stream expert also advised me that ‘not all leaks were visible’ so we agreed to do a thorough check and Barbara even brought her ‘wellies’ to the hall the next day. Meanwhile they promised to have an engineer visit to recheck the readings and show us the location of the offending meter. This visit could take up to ten days but our bill would be suspended. This would give us time to get it on the prayer list!

Then Derek got involved - he knew a man who was high up in water - so he recruited him to our side. A visit immediately followed and it was confirmed that we had no leaks on our premises. Halleluia! But, we still awaited action from Business Stream.

Kenny, since it was coming up to Shakespeare’s birthday on the 23rd, decided to ‘*cry Havoc! and let slip the blogs of war*’. So, our story was told in cyberspace and, quick as a flash, a charming Customer Relations Manager for Business Stream was on the case. He confidently advised us that the readings were being adjusted and that we did not owe £6000. A letter of apology would follow as well as future assistance with our water costs. So it’s now looking like we’ll not be seeking volunteers to carry buckets up from the Leven in the event of being disconnected. Surely a case of beware of the blog!

### **TEN REASONS TO MOVE TO DUMBARTON**

Following the City of Dundee’s list of reasons to locate there, perhaps Dumbarton could do likewise. Suggestions could include:

1. You can have your funeral at St. Augustine’s
2. Your weans can be educated at the same school as Sir Jackie Stewart.
3. You can join a choir even if you can’t sing.
4. You can park in the High Street.
5. No wind farms can be seen from its Golf Course.
6. Economical shopping with attractive plastic shop fronts.
7. Stroll in a town centre with no crowds.
8. Future plans for a canal could see gondolas on the Quay.
9. Dumbarton is unmistakeable with its unique red brick edifice..
10. Regular ‘dauds of culture’ at the Denny Civic Theatre.

There must be many more!

### **FRIENDS MAKE UP A GREAT AUDIENCE AT THE THEATRE.**

The April event for Friends was a Night at the Theatre and after a delicious buffet tea in the hall they made their way round to the Denny Civic. The play was the Ray Cooney farce, set in a hospital called ‘It Runs In the Family’ - and our party contributed greatly to the laughter that night. They did have a wee sherry or two before walking round but we were assured that this wasn’t necessary since the performances were hilarious! over/

## SONGS AND SCONES

This was Coffee Morning - the Musical, and held in the Church on Saturday 14th April in aid of the Allsorts Choir. The event was really popular and crowds flooded in from the High Street to enjoy the café and spend their money at the stalls while listening to the singing from the choir.

Ghislaine had a previous important meeting in Edinburgh so Christine Niven substituted musically while TBag assumed overall command. I'm told she was so harassed that she did not have a cup until half-way through the morning. They raised almost £600 and those who attended commented very favourably on what was an excellent way to spend an otherwise dull Dumbarton Saturday. Profits at our major supermarkets must have plummeted that day.

## VIVA ESPANA!

Didn't that jug of Sangria look really inviting in the May edition of the Community Advertiser - full of fruit and decorated with a sprig of mint? It's sure to improve the numbers at this year's Friends' AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> May .

We decided to conduct our affairs this year with a Spanish themed evening - lots of tapas, sangria and Spanish music. Aidan Barnes will be bringing his guitar and Roberta and Chrissie are planning their flamenco dresses and castanets.

In the calendar part of the Community Advertiser there was a picture of a Spanish shawl relating to our 'do' and just beside it a picture of a Highland Bull. We would like to point out that this bull was advertising the Drymen Show and that there will be absolutely no bull fighting at the AGM!

Perhaps greater numbers would be persuaded to attend AGMs if more imaginative ways could be found to enhance them. A Diocesan Council Meeting would sound much more attractive if the agenda called members to 'A Parisian Rendezvous' avec croissants et vin rouge. The General Synod could be exciting if billed as 'An Italian Job' with pizzas and Chianti and our own Parish AGM, that struggled for a quorum last year, could go Greek with Ouzo and Olives as they come to grips with the balance sheets. And as long as our finances don't go Greek - then all will be well!

So, come along on the 18<sup>th</sup> to 'A Spanish Affair' - you'll find Friends have lots of interesting plans for the coming season. And who knows, we might even elect Rafael Nadal as Chairman!

## GOSSIP!

Margaret Hardie was tagged (to use that horrible Facebook expression) in the Clipper during April being manhandled by a strange man who had approached her from the rear. When confronted pro-

tectively by the other 'ladies who lunch' he admitted that he thought she was somebody else. That'll be right! He'd better look out or John will '*gie him a bat on the mooth*' before offering to repair his teeth!

Meanwhile Fran has been seen around the Church measuring up with a red curtain and a pole. She is not constructing a confessional box. She simply went off to Rome for a short break - not to look at designs for one!

The photograph of Roberta that was published in last month's New Look has come to the attention of Estee Lauder. She has been approached to feature in an ad for their new range of skin care. Roberta has turned down their lucrative offer saying that she must always be available for choir rehearsals whenever they happen to occur!

## IT'S A JUBILEE MURDER MYSTERY.

At Friends this June we are not doing a common old street party. There will be dozens of these in Bellsmyre and Castlehill.

Down at St. Aug's on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June it's a Jubilee Murder Mystery entitled 'Mrs Arbuthnot's Last Jubilee'. Her Majesty has not been told about this but +Gregor is coming and will be amongst the usual suspects. There will be a 3-course meal with aperitif and sparkling wine.

This will be a luxury buffet served by attractive young girls and will include Fresh Salmon, Ham and other Meats with a delicious array of accompaniments. There will be tasty starters and a mouth watering selection of sweets.

But you'll still have to work out 'who dunnit?'. What happened to poor Mrs Arbuthnot at the Royal Pageant on the Leven? There will be a royal prize for the winning team and a booby for the daftest. To join in the fun wear red, white and blue and keep your eyes open for clues. A notice will be up soon - watch for details and don't be left out.

## I DREAMED A DREAM - THE SUSAN BOYLE MUSICAL.

Our October Friends' event is a visit to the Kings Theatre for this new musical which stars Elaine C Smith and is getting rave reviews throughout the country. Never has an event been sold out so fast and at present we are operating a waiting list.

## GET IN TRAINING FOR 'THE OLYMPAUGS'

(on August 12th)

Give the grouse a break this year on the Glorious Twelfth and enter the Olympaugs.

Track suits and trainers will be worn at our outing in the Levensgrove Stadium for a programme of silly



sports. There will be no drug tests since most of the competitors will be on some form of medication for their blood pressure or arthritis! And zimmers and sticks will be allowed. So don't be put off. Follow the torch, try for a medal and enjoy the picnic / bar-becue that will follow.

#### **'WEE SLEEKIT COW'RIN' TIM'ROUS BEASTIE'**

Why do those attractive little creatures get such a bad press? During the winter there were traces of one (or more) in my house. Not that I would have noticed these things since I'm either at the DPT or at the Church, but my friends did and urged me to embark on a strategy to get rid of them.

Maggie even knew the name of their droppings - mouse purls if you're interested! Sandra knew that they didn't like steel wool and advised me to fill in the holes round my pipes with Brillo pads. And a wee wumman on the Westcliff bus told me that they can squeeze through a tiny hole and that they urinate constantly on your floors.

Ginni stopped visiting and told me I'd get botulism while Roberta nearly fainted in the Church kitchen when I offered her a piece of tablet from my bag that Mickey had got to first! He should not have stolen my tablet - it was expensive stuff from the House of Darroch!

So off I went, reluctantly, to Homebase for a remedy - or a poison from Rentokil. It was strange but I never ever saw one of the little creatures. Then one day I noticed the delicious blue cereal that I had prepared for them had gone - all eaten up. And since then all trace of them seems to have disappeared. Sorry it had to be this way but 'the best laid schemes' really worked this time.

#### **MAY'S BACK!**

Now that the merry month of May is back we're delighted to see our May's back as well!. And she's obviously on the way to recovery from her winter of illness since she's wearing her mascara! The Golden Girls are complete again! Welcome back! And talking of May - the first of the month was a glorious day - perfect morning for getting out onto the washing green to bathe your face in the early dew. What do you mean you forgot? You'll just have to use Botox instead!

#### **NEARLY THE HOLIDAYS!**

One more magazine and then it's off to the Med. - so hope you're all booked up as well. And don't miss next month's New Look for all the news and photos of A Spanish Affair.

*Janette*

### **Macleans the Jewellers**

106 High Street Dumbarton  
Quality jewellery -  
In the heart of Dumbarton  
Tel: 01389 733331  
Please Support this Business!

### **Richmond Architects**

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

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

### *Gowns & Crowns*

**Dressmaking & Alteration Service**

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

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

**137 Glasgow Road, Dumbarton**

#### **FIRST APPLIANCE CARE**

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

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

Call Alan Mailley 07710 327999



Authorised Agents

## A PRIESTHOOD OF THE ATOM –

fanciful ideas about Nuclear Energy

Let me first say that this is not an article about a religious issue, but an environmental one. However, a late friend and vicar in Suffolk advised his congregation to be at least aware of the non-Christian element in environmental organisations like Greenpeace, which he thought 'New Age' and concerned in nature worship.

At present there is indeed a movement of thought to admit that there are invisible forces which we cannot explain. Christianity has thought to deal with this, the Nicene Creed states that God made the visible and invisible world. Yet everyone knows 'uncanny' experiences, which in time past were explained by works of Satan, or at least demonic forces. Jesus certainly believed in them, as did our friend, who was the vicar responsible for exorcism in the diocese. But the 'esoteric' movement of nature worship, of dancing by the moon and such like, is considered heretical by the Church, since it goes back to a Manichean world view in which demonic forces are opposing God. Radiation, the invisible force of atomic energy, is a kind of scientific twist to the unscientific, the spiritual world, which deals with invisible powers.

This by way of an introduction. I wanted to tell you about a German newspaper article (FAZ 5/2/2012), which informed its readers about the history of the nuclear lobby.

Initially the peaceful use of atomic power promised the world untold blessings, of health and wealth, of new techniques to combat cancer, of clean air and the greening of deserts, of the desalination of oceans and of an all round peaceful co-existence of nations.

Countries, which did not develop peaceful atomic power were considered backward and uninformed, like Japan, where in 1969 the population had voted against it. That was explained as 'prejudiced' through past war experiences.

In 1956 the American Firm Glenn L Martin allegedly had developed a nuclear power station which could be pre-packed in 7 crates and transported by air or lorry to any place in the world, where it could be easily assembled, preferably half a meter below ground or sea level. It would provide electricity for a town of 10,000 people. Surprisingly, nobody afterwards heard of this cheap power station again. (When produced in series, it would cost less than 1 million Dollars).

Politicians contributed to the nuclear lobby by stressing that our future depended on it. In 1968 Helmut Kohl declared: 'Opponents to atomic energy are reactionaries, against progress'.

However, from as early as 1956, the disposal of atomic waste became an issue. The American physicist R.L.Murray recommended to deposit the waste in a

large designated area of desert, or mix it with concrete, enclose it in oil barrels and dump it in the sea, 30 miles from the shore, as had been done by the state of California and probably still is.

The prominent German physicist Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker recommended in 1957 to deposit waste into mountains, which would be as easily done as digging up the uranium from there. But since fear of the dangers of these nuclear dumps increased in the population, the Department of Industry in the German state of Niedersachsen recommended to replace the term 'Atom-Müll' (Atomic Garbage) with the term 'Kernabfall', ('Nuclear Waste') which sounded less alarming.

With the growing difficulties of disposing of nuclear waste it became somehow problematic to burden future generations with such waste dumps, or even how to tell people living 10 000 years or more hence, that these deposits are dangerous.

In 1984 the Department of Energy in Washington suggested a number of fanciful ways to communicate these dangers. It recommended creating a Priesthood of the Atom, which was to proclaim the 'Bad News', following the model of religious messages! Another suggestion was to mark the nuclear dumps by henges, large complexes of standing stones (like Stonehenge), or install huge messages in pictorial language like cave paintings. So far these ideas have not been followed through, but indicate that religious messages are seen as everlasting, scientific ones are not.. –

It is sad that we forget this past controversy about the benefits and dangers of nuclear energy and insist that our future depends on it. The half life of Plutonium 239 is 24,110 years, we still need ideas about how to best communicate this to our and to future generations.

**BW**

*Windfarm, anyone? - Ed*

## Bishop's Lecture

Our Bishop is giving one of his Lectures on "The Fall - and Human Failure - an exploration", on May 28th at All Saints Episcopal Church, Drymen Rd, Bearsden from 7.30pm - 9pm. Tea and coffee will be served from 7pm.

+ Gregor's Lectures have been well received in the Diocese, and this is one that should be particularly interesting and the cause of some discussion afterwards.

If you are free on this evening, can I suggest that it will be well worth your effort to attend?

## Dumbarton London Corner School -The Gambia

Things are going well in the school at the moment, and we have managed to replace the equipment which was stolen at the break-in. Sulayman, the Teacher-in-Charge, is delighted, and delighted, too with his new Jollyphonics teaching materials which are such an important part of the curriculum.

We are all now ready for the joint Sports Day with the Sunrise Centre pupils on May 21st and Kenny is looking forward to reports of epic victories in Gambian sports like climbing the greasy pole! Trying to keep on top of things at London Corner often just seems that way!

Rats have been coming in through a badly laid floor in the store room next to the kitchen, so we are about to apply new concrete flooring to keep the little pests at bay.

The issue of the kitchen is still ongoing. Although we received a generous donation to build a chimney, a new suggestion has come to light, which although it will be as costly to set up as the chimney, may be a very ecologically friendly way of solving our smoke problem.

Greentech, [www.greentechgambia.com](http://www.greentechgambia.com) – make brickettes made out of groundnut shells and Helen went to their workshop in Senegambia.

She was most impressed – the briquettes are smokeless and of course environmentally friendly. They make the specially designed cooking stove in accordance with the size of the pot(s) used.

Each 25kg bag of brickettes are D125 and they deliver free of charge. Helen has done some quick calculations and they should cost no more than what LC is spending on firewood each year.

Of course we have the initial cost of the stoves and the pots, but it is all smokeless and means our grand chimney plan could be abandoned!

Now - cooking with peanut shells? Interesting!

## Study Group

Peter Cairns' Study Group on Reflective Prayer begins on Wednesday 9th May in the Community Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend! This group has been initiated by the folk who raved about how good his Lent Group was, and there was a desire for some stuff on prayer. Peter is delivering, so please support this!

## Country Trips

These are replacing Parish Walks this summer, simply because some of our walkers can't walk so far at the moment! The first is on Saturday May 5th to Inchmahone, the island on the Lake of Menteith near Aberfoyle. We will meet at the car park at the pier at 2 pm. There will be a charge for the boat and dogs are not allowed. After visiting the island, we will call at a tea room. Please tell Tim if you want to come and if you can give anyone a lift. We could still do a longer walk some other time if anyone is interested.

## Intercession Day

This is for folk who take our Intercessions and for those who are thinking they might like to have a go sometimes! The Diocese are putting on a workshop on May 19th from 10am-3pm, and lunch will be provided! Please try to be there if you can.

## Service of Rededication:

A call to Pastoral Assistants, Eucharistic Ministers, Chalice Bearers, and worship Leaders. The Diocesan Service of Rededication is taking place at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow on Saturday 26th May at 1.15, although you can come earlier for lunch!

More information can be had from Kenny, but we all need to ensure that our current licenses are up-to-date!

## Co-op Taxis

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

**01389 753376**

## GALT TRANSPORT

Bankend Road,  
Dumbarton

**Tel: 01389 730460**

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

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

Please support our 'supporters' with  
your custom

# St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church

High Street, Dumbarton G82 1LL

01389 734514

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

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

**Rector:-** Revd Kenneth Macaulay

54 Helenslee Cres

Dumbarton G82 4HS (frkenny@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01389 602261 Mobile: 07734 187250

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

Tel :- 01389 732341

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Child Protection Officer:** Barbara Barnes

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

## Praise Night has us Dancing!



The Dumbarton Churches Together Spring Festival was again a successful weekend, and ended up with the Big Sing in St Augustine's on Sunday 22nd April, with the AllSorts Ecumenical Choir.

We had been hosts on the Saturday to a Big Folk Night, with Graeme Maule from the Iona Community entertaining us well, together with the usual suspects from Dumbarton!

This all rounded off a weekend which started with a very successful Ceilidh in St Patrick's.

At a time when ecumenical relations in Dumbarton are low-key, it was a joy to be part of something so lively!