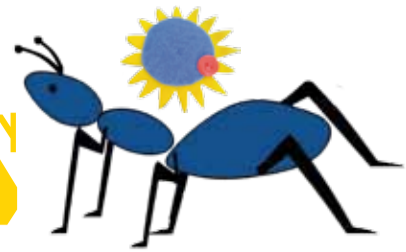


# Augustine's New Times



"If Christ had not been raised from the dead, our faith would be in vain" 1 Corinthians 15:17

£1 Suggested Donation

## The Lord is Risen: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!



Thus the anthem reverberates across the world this Eastertide. Many of us have accepted the invitation to walk the way of the Cross this Lent. We have explored the meaning of the Cross – that central symbol of Christianity; we have pondered on the meaning of resurrection and new life, faith and forgiveness, through worship, film, our Lenten Study Group, the paintings of the stations of the cross, services with prayers for Healing, guided meditation with colourful images from Quidenham Monastery....

It has been a vigorous and robust journey for those who have taken it up! The journey was nothing if not exhausting and the wonderfully joyful Easter Day service may have given us the feeling "we made it"! But we have been left with questions... still some unanswered questions. And yes, there are no easy answers. Like the tragedy of Covid that still haunts us each day at the moment, and the absolute horror and mind-numbing stories of people in Ukraine caught up in war and fleeing for their lives. It doesn't bear thinking about. But it does evoke in all of us a response of empathy and deep sorrow for those suffering, and the nightmare that many parents and families now live. We have been hearing from our friends Oleks and Igor interesting updates. Our prayers and love we believe, in some mysterious way, are carried by God to those who walk in the valley of the shadow of death. We carry the burden with and for the sorrowful. We believe that brighter days will come, and no - the devastation and pain won't go easily away- but in the rising sun each day and at its going down, the gentle balm of healing and comfort will settle on many families. And so, I am sharing a photograph of our Easter Garden, the Tomb of the Resurrection, with little sunflowers for Ukraine and so much for us to reflect on.... The surprise and the joy of the women at dawn reminds us that there is hope in death, that resurrection happens, and that the darkness and blackness of mourning gives way to the beauty of new life; and all freely given to us by the self-sacrifice of Jesus on a cross. This is the message of Easter. A new hope, a lasting joy and eternal peace for troubled and broken souls. I wish you all a Joyous Eastertide. The Lord is Risen: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Heller*

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

Janette comments on some of today's most ludicrous headlines as we venture into the new normal. **OSCAR '22 – A PERFORMANCE TO REMEMBER.**

It's the most exciting event in the world of show business with the red carpet, the famous stars, the glamorous gowns and the champagne receptions. Will Smith gave us a performance to remember with what could best be described in Glasgow as 'a wee bat oan the mooth!' No gleaming Hollywood teeth were harmed in the process and the story knocked more important items off the world headlines. Yes, Will got an Oscar and a ten year Oscar ban. He's also involved in 'a wee domestic' which means 'he's no' talkin' tae the wife!'

### WHEN HARRY MET GRANNY.

How often did you go to see your Granny? Prince Harry happened to be flying into the Netherlands for the Invictus Games so he stopped off for a visit to his Granny, better known as HM the Queen. He did a quick check on her wellbeing then announced to the world in a TV interview that she was on good form. He wanted to check that she was being well looked after like any good grandson would. Listen, Harry, in the UK if you're frail and ninety-six you're entitled to 4 council carer visits per day with microwaveable meals before being put to bed at 7pm. So don't worry!

### ARE WE LETTING OURSELVES GO?

Some really daft headlines appeared in the press last week about how we are spending much less on beauty products. Are we letting ourselves go? Maybe working from home is to blame – no point in applying blusher for the cat! Or the rising cost of living means a choice between a new lipstick or switching the lights on. But help is at hand. On 1st May all beauty conscious young ladies will be seen early in the morning in the garden washing their 'peely- wally' winter faces in the early morning dew. It's an age old custom and many beautiful women swear by it. But will it still work with today's artificial grass lawns – or do we have to find one that's strictly for the birds? Watch this space!

### DON'T FORGET TO VOTE.

Yes, coming to a Hall near you – the Local Government Elections on 5th May. Never has so much paper been moved from my letter box to the blue bin in such a short time. There's a much better selection for your votes on Saturdays with Britain's Got Talent. The dog always gets mine!

### AND NOW FOR THE STUPIDEST STORY.

So the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party is trying to distract the Prime Minister by the movement of her long, beautiful legs? This must be straight out of Politics for Dummies! But what if it gives our First Minister ideas? Nicola could liven up her Westminster Team at PM's Questions by suggesting they appear in their kilts – that'll give them all something to be distracted about!

### GO FOR GROWTH.

At last it's time to open that packet of sunflower seeds and prepare for Friends' Great Sunflower Challenge. By the middle of May the green shoots should be appearing and you're on your way to winning a bottle of Prosecco at the end of August for the tallest flower in town. Good luck!

*Janette*

## Passover Seder Demonstration



Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us... is the great news we celebrate in our services over the Easter Season, now until Ascension Sunday.

The Demonstration Seder, our Passover Supper held on Maundy Thursday was a fantastic evening helping us to remember what most probably happened when Jesus shared his last supper with his disciples.

We were privileged to have friends, brothers, and sisters from other local churches with us. It was an amazing evening with a delicious meal, a time for learning, fun, and excitement.

Well done Sharon Rowatt for asking the famous question, "Why is this night different from every other night?" setting up the right atmosphere to try out the Passover sandwiches.

The Haroset was far more popular than the Horseradish!

Special thanks to Fran and the great team of helpers for catering for all of us, - and to all those who helped behind the scenes and contributed one way or another (cooking, providing resources, setting up tables, clearing away...)

The profound stillness when the altar was stripped, and the Church was darkened, was incredibly poignant.

THANK God for our Passover Lamb!



## Good News

The Easter message is good news? But Jesus suffered and died how is that good news? Why did he have to die? As we reflect on the Easter story we have to look at the background in the Old Testament for the Law requirements laid down by God to atone for sin. Leviticus chapter 17 verse 11 tells us blood needs to be shed to atone for sin. This is echoed in the New Testament where Hebrews chapter 9 verse 22 advises "no shed blood no forgiveness of sin". In Psalm 49 verses 7-9 we read that we are not able to pay for sin ourselves. So, this is God's chosen plan to redeem us from having to pay for our sins: Christ became our sacrificial substitute! This is the good news! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are no longer liable but in the courts of heaven we are declared "not guilty". The requirement for us to pay for our sins is expunged by the shedding of Christ's blood. 1 Peter 3 verse 28 says the price for sin was paid "once for all" through the shedding of His blood. So let us rejoice again this Easter as we re-visit the Good News that we are cleansed forgiven and pardoned because of Christ's death on the cross. Hallelujah.



*Dot Russell*

## Lazarus



I breathe - I live again - am I reborn?  
To God the glory!  
Oh the marvels these sleeping eyes have seen,  
the bounteous beauty of God's domain

burns deep in my spirit.  
Take these wretched funeral rags from me for they reek of death  
and not the scents of paradise.  
I wish to dress in my finest robes and revel in God's infinite glory,  
these insufficient earthly tongues can never express!  
Heaven weighs heavy on my soul for I would dwell there forever sublime,  
yet my heart delights to be here with you my beloved sisters.  
God be praised for my dilemma!  
Your tears fall needlessly, shed no tears of sorrow for me  
but weep tears of joy for I Lazarus have returned.

*Jhon P. Russell*

## A little bit of humour...

A Rectory in the 1970's was haunted by a ghost. The Rector complained again and again to the Vestry, but nobody believed him. So, to convince them, he set out to photograph the ghost. He asked the ghost's permission and got it, set up his camera and tripod that night, and took the photograph. Unfortunately, when the film was developed there was no picture. "Ah"...., said the Rector to the Vestry: "The spirit was willing, but the flash was weak".

## CONTACT

Want to contact St Augustine's Episcopal Church?

Rector: **The Revd Heller Gonzalez, OC**  
Office: 01389 734514  
Rectory: 01389 602677  
rector@staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk



Find us on the Web:

staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk  
staugustinesdumbarton



Layout/Design: Montse Aparicio

## Big Turnout for Coffee Morning



St Augustine's had the biggest turnout yet to its Saturday Coffee Mornings on 19th March, held in support of Ukraine. Barbara Barnes writes: "From the moment we heard about the situation in Ukraine we knew we had to do something to help. A very special thanks to everyone who donated goods, helped at the stalls and to those who attended. A special thanks to Fran for the masks and sunflower badges which were so popular, and to Montse for her lovely Ukrainian handmade Doll and the Guess Her Name challenge, without forgetting the ribbon badges - all sold out on the day!". We raised an amazing £1370! £1000 were sent to Igor and Oleks in Kyiv. They held



concerts in St Augustine's several times when they were raising funds for people who became ill due to the Chernobyl disaster. The balance of the funds went to the Disaster Emergency Committee and UNICEF. Many thanks to everyone.

## Kindness Trail



I am a great fan of inspirational quotes, stories and uplifting images- they can set you up for the day by simply redirecting your thoughts and can create a kindness chain! Teachers are reminded of the importance of greeting their class with a smile and cheery good morning, busy doctors encouraged to put their patients at ease and a bar tender on the news recently pointed out the value of a simple, mask free smile to diffuse conflict situations. Of course, kindness is something we all aspire



to give and love to receive!



On a mini break to Glen Trool recently, I was delighted to stumble across (well, not literally, phew!) their community effort to share kindness with all and any who happened to be passing through. They have created a kindness trail- a collection of painted stones, some carrying inspirational messages, some simply looking cute or TV themed (there was a Harry Potter section). There were painted bees and bugs which the passer by was welcomed to take away (none of those left when we got there) and even a collection of letters allowing the passer by to form and leave their own message behind, I loved it! It got me thinking- could we create hash-tag St Augustine's stones with uplifting messages/scripture quotes which we could place around, say the park? You never know, being reminded that they matter, that they are valued and precious might just be what someone needs to hear... Proverbs 16:24 reminds us that "kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul and healthy for the body."

*Rusten*

## The Kyiv Classic Accordion Duo



Every summer, since 2006, music from the Ukraine has resounded around St Augustine's and, from time to time, St Mungo's. It emanated from the accordions of Igor and Oleksii, also known as The Kyiv Classical Accordion Duo. They had both graduated from the Conservatoire the previous year and were employed by Ukrainian national orchestras.

During their annual summer breaks they spent 2 to 3 weeks touring the UK raising funds for Hippokrat, a charity based in Chernihiv, that supported children and their families affected by the nearby Chernobyl nuclear explosion.

On their first visit we didn't really know what to expect. Would it be accordions like those played in Scottish dance bands? Certainly not. The sounds emitted from two large button (no keyboard) accordions gave us Bach, Vivaldi, Elgar, South American tangos, traditional Ukrainian and Russian tunes and much more.

Each year I had the privilege of having Oleks and Igor stay in my home. They knew where everything was, including the wi-fi password, and over the years I heard about their weddings, their children, their successes in international competitions.

Sadly covid put paid to their 2020 and 2021 tours and now they are in a war-torn country and not able to play in their orchestras. It may sound strange, but now I feel all war moods in any music. Even my old recordings sound like fighting, shooting etc.

I have been able to keep in touch with both of them via Whatsapp. Oleksii lives near Kyiv, in a small village which they hoped was too small for the Russians to worry about. Igor and his family are living half way between Kyiv and Lviv and are thankful that his parents' flat in Chernihiv has survived the missiles even though some of the windows are shattered by the shock waves. His wife and two children have been offered a place to stay in Drymen (another tour host), yet as I write this on Thursday 21st April they only have the correct paperwork for mum and one child! Igor is not allowed to leave. While they have missiles there is no safe place in Ukraine. That is why I want to send my family to Scotland. And then rely on our government and forces.

The monies that we were able to send both Igor and Oleksii were very gratefully received. Dear Frances! I am happy to let you know that Oleksii and myself both have received your money transfers today! Thank you so much. I will pay my bills now and keep our domestic services working in times of war wherever it's possible. Thank you SO much. Please, send our love to all involved! This fund will help not only me and my family, but others who need some help instantly! I will definitely share this money with volunteers and other people here.

It was so good to know that monies raised by our coffee morning went straight to people who needed support (even Western Union waived the transfer fee). Let us pray that soon the country will be at peace and we will be able to welcome Igor and Oleksii back to Dumbarton.

*Fran*

### Your local Ovensclean specialist:

#### Neil Atkinson.

Neil will ensure a friendly, professional service with 100% customer satisfaction. Services include cleaning ovens, hobs, microwaves, BBQs and extractors, all with the use of non-caustic products.

No job is too big or too small, prices start from £25.

**Call Neil for a quote on 07774992994.**



## Sanctuary

Anyone who occasionally years for a quiet Service with space for reflection will welcome the latest addition of Sanctuary.



Sanctuary takes place on the first Friday of each month at 7pm in St Augustine's. The atmosphere is calm and prayerful, so that we may contemplate without distraction but interspersed with some carefully chosen music, stillness, prayers for healing, laying on of hands and anointing.

"I have left these services feeling refreshed and without any of the anxieties I may have come with". Just one of the comments heard from one of the persons who have been attending Sanctuary.

There is an open time for those wishing to share their personal testimonies or experiences which are often a great source of encouragement.

It's really heart-warming to know that Sanctuary once a month will provide a safe space to refresh body, mind and soul. Why not come along and give it a try?

## A Combined Tenebrae & Seven Last Words



Members of our Congregation took part in an atmospheric and evocative Service on Good Friday afternoon: Tenebrae, which is the Latin word meaning "shadows", an ancient liturgy recalling the story of Jesus' betrayal and abandonment on the cross.

As we walked the VIA DOLOROSA, seven candles on the Altar table were gradually extinguished, one by one. It was all accompanied by prayers, hymns, readings from Scripture, and part of Haydn's musical reflection on Jesus's last words before the crucifixion, skillfully played by our very own Richard Murrell.

During the final hymn, the Christ candle was removed from its place signifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil and Christ's death, and a loud noise (called the strepitus) was heard as a reminder of the earthquake at the time of the resurrection. Silence followed and we all departed in silence.

## Helping our Ukrainian families

To raise funds for this good cause,  
A coffee morning did the trick.  
The hall was full that's for sure!  
So the coffers were filled real quick.

The place buzzed with eager friends.  
The raffle, tombola, sales and all,  
Were speedily gathering pounds and more  
From excited folks having a ball!

A cute Ukrainian hand made doll,  
Which wanted all to guess her name.  
Who would win that little beauty?  
Twas a lady, I think Pat was her name.

The busy ladies in the kitchen  
Served yummy food enjoyed by all.  
Teas and coffees flew around,  
I said they were all having a ball!

If you won a prize, well done you.  
If you didn't then that's too bad.  
But the best prize of the day  
Were the funds we surely gladly had.

A successful day, that's for sure,  
And thanks must go to workers all.  
Well done, you know who you are.  
God bless you one and all.

Great achievement. What's next?

*Issy*

## Word wheel

S H T C  
E A U  
I R

How many words of 4 letters or more can you find using the letters above, with each word having the letter A?  
The 9 letter word could mean "sacrament".  
40 + excellent.