

Augustine's New Times

"Grace and Peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2 NIV

£1 Suggested Donation



The news each night over the last weeks has been both frightening and worrying. From the crisis in Ukraine to the rising cost of living; from train strikes causing chaos for travellers; to high levels of depression and anxiety within our local communities.

The world, more so than usual, seems a turbulent and uncertain place.

Not that the political scene offers much hope either. It is an absolute chaos, right at the worst possible time.

The world about us is nothing if not uncertain. Where is our security?

Interestingly, as I write this, the Gospel reading from Luke's Gospel chapter 12 which was theme of reflection at the recent Clergy Conference came to my mind.

It tells the story of a man who got richer and richer and stacked it all away. His trust and security, the meaning and purpose of his life was all safely stored in his earthly wealth. In the story the chap suddenly dies and his hopes to eat, drink and be merry – because all is safe for the future – turns out to be a false and rather short-sighted hope.

The parable of Jesus is a reminder that life is far from certain and placing our trust in wealth or in politicians is bound to let us down in the end. Far better, said Jesus is to put your faith in the One that is eternal, to trust in God, is to know that come what may, war, cost of living crisis, transportation issues, political mavericks, The Lord will never leave us nor forsake us, His promises can be trusted.

His love is certain.

O make but trial of His love

Experience will decide

How blest are they and only they,

Who in his truth confide.

Heller

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

Janette looks back on the unforgettable summer of 2022 when 'the new normal' thrust us back into greater sociability and eager for the good times to return until record -breaking political events obsessed us.

'GO TO THE ANT THOU SLUGGARD.....'

It was early summer when we last saw our happy little insect infesting the back of the Church and reminding us of its message from Proverbs 6 'consider her ways and be wise.' (Note the use of the feminine!) Never has the nation required such wisdom as be industrious, embrace team working and just get on with it. Think back on summer 2022 and how the ants' example featured in all those great celebrations, winning sports events, daunting disasters, soaring temperatures, industrial disputes and depleting bank balances – to name but a few! Yes, it's been a busy summer – how was it for you?

WHAT WAS YOUR SPORT THIS SUMMER?

The greatest publicity went to the heart –stopping moments with Scotland's 'wanna-be' world cup squad, the unbeatable lionesses and the magnificent spectacle of the Birmingham Games when a giant bull featured in more selfies than the current crop of political posers. But my interest was drawn to the Beach Volleyball. Birmingham is about as far away from the sand as you can get but they still managed to stage this modest event. Our own Havoc Shore would have been more suitable had it not been what the dogs leave behind on its sand. Oh yes, we had a Scottish Team that progressed to the quarter finals. A great achievement when the competition included Australia with a sunny beach on every doorstep. As least that's what it said in the late lamented 'Neighbours.' Don't expect to be cheering the Scottish Ladies on 'Sports Personality of the Year' but they did their best!

A BIRD IN THE HAND.

In the 1950s autumn was the time when we bought our new outfits to wear to Church during the Winter – our Sunday best! This meant a new coat, a hat (thanks to St. Paul) and matching accessories. For those who were emerging into that new species 'the teenager' the hat was a misery – not a cool look! Of course we protested and the hat went the way of the corset. How far we have progressed! Now for Church anything goes with dressing up strictly for the birds. Indeed, one of this year's must-have fashion accessories is the pigeon clutch bag. It's sold out apparently and as yet I haven't seen one on the Westcliff bus. This ridiculous receptacle is man (or woman) made with a beaked head and one flappable wing which lifts up for access to your mobile or purse. Surely the stupidest fashion accoutrement ever! With the amount of junk I carry around surely a seagull would have been a more sensible choice!

NOT ANOTHER ONE!

As I write, our new PM has just emerged from the door of number 10 looking immaculate in his silver tie and perfectly fitted suit. Will they soon be a target for the claws and hairs of Larry, the world's most famous cat? Well, Larry was there first! And will there be another ANT before there's another PM? Watch this space!

Janette

Church Boilers

They are not in the prime of life. They need TLC. They do not run on the greenest energy (electricity that is 4 times the cost of gas). Eventually they will need to be replaced. But with what? In another 5 years there should be greater understanding of how buildings like ours can use greener energy sources (heat pumps, hydrogen, renewable electricity etc).

Our diocesan architect tells us that efficient gas boilers are the best thing to stay with at the moment and to sit it out and wait.

So the vestry decided to stick with the boiler we have, get it fixed, and add a little used boiler (same make, same pipework) no longer required in a local building. This work will be carried out by Peter McFarlane who has nursed both our boilers and radiators over many years. We hope that the amazing fund-raising efforts that been undertaken will just about cover these costs and also allow us to fit a remote temperature control system.

But... this is not a long-term solution. We have to be mindful that we will need to change our heating system within a few years, hopefully at a time when research and development have provided better solutions than are available today.

Fran

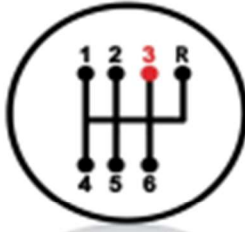
3rd Gear is Never Going to be There!

We currently have an automatic vehicle. Just as well- John says that I fight with the gears and just try too hard sometimes- If I had a penny for the times he has had to exclaim-patiently of course- "Third gear is never going to be there!"

It's a bit like that in my faith journey- sometimes I just try too hard on all the wrong things, trying to get my head round this or that theological conundrum or bishops edict- we shouldn't be doing this-why are we doing that- or looking for the presence of God in all the wrong places when really all He needs me to do is to relax into His love and let Him deal with the nonsense! In this context, third gear for me has to be walking humbly with God and doing my best to love those people he puts across my path.

Simple, when you don't fight it!

Micah 6:8 puts it like this; "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."



Now that's where third gear is!

Kirsten



St Augustine's said Welcome to **Laguera Pearl Mirren** and **Ashlin Lindsay** through baptism.

We give thanks to God for the new life in Christ offered to Laguera and Ashlin, and we pray for them.

We pray also for **Harlow and Connor McKeown**, and for **Elaine and Gordon Wallace** whose lives were united in marriage.



And we said Goodbye to: David Mills and Ian Alderdice. We give thanks for their lives as we leave them in the care of Jesus our Lord.

CONTACT

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Find us on the Web:

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Advent Group 2022

Christmas is coming and the church is freezing cold,
Join us at home if you can be so bold.
We will natter, read and think it through-teasing out the story
Finding insight fresh and new and giving God the glory.

For those who have not joined us before, I am offering two house group sessions. These are warm and friendly. We pray together (some prewritten, some off the cuff for those happy to pray in this way), sometimes we sing (depends if someone comes with a guitar!), we explore sections of scripture, reading, discussing, sharing ideas as to what the section implies for us today, always in an informal and mutually respectful way. Be warned- we will not always agree with each other- and that is fine! Sometimes there may be a small creative task to complete...

We finish each week with a cuppa and some home baking. The final session is being led by Heller in the church. This is to make sure that anyone who is allergic to dogs (I have two small spaniels) or who is uncomfortable coming to a private house has the opportunity to come to one session. I do always Hoover prior to the group and said dogs can be banished to the kitchen if that helps! Further information to follow...

From 10 things they never told you about Jesus:

"Christmas is about old people. That is the gospel truth....It is as if God's vocation for the elderly is that they should be the midwives of the new thing that God is doing..."
Who are the "oldies" in the Christmas story?

Ps/ Sessions run from 7.30-9pm at our house in Dumbuck Road, Dumbarton.

Dates: 30th November

7th December

14th December in the church with Heller

Please sign the sheet at the back of the church to give us an idea of numbers attending.

Kirsten

Here I am, Lord. Send me!



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?" and who will go for us? and I said, "Here am I, Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

The use of "Here I am Lord" reveals purpose. Isaiah was saying he was here on earth for a specific purpose, and he wanted that purpose to be the Lord's. He immediately followed it with "send me," he did not wait to hear what the Lord would say, but wrote a blank check to the Lord, a universal yes to God's plan for him.

I see myself in Isaiah. Lord send me, the prayer of Isaiah has always been an active prayer for me. I knew I would never become a missionary in a far-off country, nevertheless, I am now a missionary, and like me everyone is called to be a missionary, sharing the good news of Jesus wherever we are.

Before every life transition I am about to enter I always remember to pray the same prayer that Isaiah prayed: Lord here I am, send me. I want to be an obedient disciple no matter where it takes me, or what God wants of me.

I want to serve the Lord and do what I can do to give God the glory. I want others to know God's love and salvation that will fill the never-ending void that is in our hearts, as I have come to know the one and only thing that will fill it.

I want to be like Isaiah and be ready to say every day: Here I am Lord, send me.

Ultreya!!

Montse

St Andrew's Lamin 2022



For many years now St Augustine's has had an informal yet supportive link with St Andrew's Church in Lamin, The Gambia. Fr Kenny served as a priest there during his sabbatical whilst for me it's my local Anglican church where I worship when I am in The Gambia.

For all the years I have been going there, the congregation has met in a hut which is cramped and leaking in the rainy season. Then there was a plan for a new building, next to the old one. Great progress was made until, one day, the government announced a road widening scheme. Building work stopped.

Now, with great faith, St Andrew's has started building again, further back from the main road on a nearby site, beginning the work by transferring the bricks already made on the old site.

I was able to visit in August, fortunately wearing jellies as the mud was thick and gooey. It was fascinating talking to their equivalent of their fabric convener about the problems they had to overcome building a brand-new church (compared with our maintaining one that's nearly 150 years old).

There was great excitement about the arrangements for the following Sunday: the blessing of a solar powered bore hole that provides the much-needed water for construction work. I had to give my apologies, I would be home by then, but Fr Chris and Mr Campbell both passed on their thanks to all at St Augustine's for their support over the years.



Fran

Winter

Oh no! Winter is on its way,
Chilly by night, same during the day.
So out come the woolies to keep us warm,
Scarves, and gloves to save us from harm.

Cardies and jumpers of numerous hues,
All the cosies, whatever we choose.
We'll huddle inside wrapped up so well
Hoping snow won't fall and swell.

While Mr Frost may nip at our toes,
And icicles fall from our frozen noses.
Of course the sun may well appear,
And melt that snow far and near.

A clear winter day with sun sparkling
On icy frozen bushes and flowers,
Winter can bring us much beauty and cheer
So it isn't all gloom and chilly showers.

And then before too long you'll see
Spring has sprung, and we'll fill with glee.
And when you think about it all
We're lucky to have what comes from fall to fall!

Daffodils, tulips, snowdrops and such,
Brightening our lives with gentle touch.
Soon bringing lots of smiles of delight,
And that will be a wonderful sight.

Issy

Word Game

How many words of four letters or more can you get out of this word.... **ISRAELITE** (Ancient Hebrew Nation)
each word must contain the letter A.
Target is 40 plus.



ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

2A HIGH STREET, DUMBARTON, G82 1LL

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

THEME: "Christmas in the Community"
Open from Thursday 8th December
till 25th December 2022

Entries welcomed from individuals, Groups, Businesses, Organisations, Charities and Churches.

It's all about you!
Display your exclusively decorated tree (4ft - 5ft and lit) in our beautiful 19th century Church.

Entry Forms or further information from
Rector Heller on 07496 841775. No entry fee.



Trophies will be presented to the winners
at our 'Carols by Candlelight' Gala Evening
on 18th December at 6pm.
All welcome.



Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst...
for they will be filled.

This verse, says Ghislaine Kennedy, is one of those texts from Scripture that is always with me. Everyday it inspires and guides me to live out the Gospel message remembering that Christ, according to St Theresa of Avila, has no-one now on earth but us to bless and to heal.

It is my belief that blessing and healing takes place at the Soup Kitchen every Friday. It is such an honour to listen to the stories of people who come each week not only seeking nourishment but also a place of warmth and love.

I feel blessed and humble to have a team of volunteers sharing the same vision. With fuel prices rising and people struggling to heat and eat, we are certainly blessed to be able to offer our hall as a safe and warm hub for all.

Ghislaine