

**St Mungo's  
Scottish Episcopal Church  
Alexandria**



**Christmas 2013**

## From Kenny....

It just seemed a wee bit strange not to have any sort of publication as we march into 2014, so I thought I would cobble something together before the New Year comes in, simply to keep everyone up-to-date with all that's happening and about to happen over the next couple of months.



Of course February sees St Mungo's being linked with St Augustine's, and the Bishop has set aside 21<sup>st</sup> Feb for that to happen. At the moment, he has still to make up his mind about which building that will take place in. Revd Alison Jones will be Instituted as Associate Priest and I as Rector of the Linked Charge. Alison had sent us all a picture and written a little bit about herself, and it gives me great pleasure in publishing this, and welcoming her to the Team in February.

Linda and I have moved into the superb Rectory at St Mungo's and Alison will live in the Rectory at Dumbarton with Angela. The house in Queen Street is rather special, and it's fantastic to have a real fire, although smokeless fuel doesn't come cheap! It was certainly fun gathering "winter fu-eel" from B&Q just before Christmas! We are as snug as a bug in a wonderful home and couldn't be happier!

It's important to remember, though, that I am not your Rector until February 21<sup>st</sup>, and things will have to carry on as they are until then. I will do what I am able to with two parishes to look after, but sometimes things are just not possible and I have a full commitment to St Augustine's before then. Please be patient until February!

It has been a long vacancy, and I understand that many of you are very tired. A new beginning is just around the corner!

*Kenny*



## **From our New Associate Priest!**

Dear Friends,

Come to Dumbarton and Alexandria, the advert said ‘opportunities, challenges and lots of fun!’ So here I am, on my way, starting to plan the removal and looking forward to meeting you all.

And already having visited twice, I can see that ‘opportunities, challenges and lots of fun’ is spot on.

Certainly soup on a Friday in St Augustine’s fair buzzes with laughter and noise! And the tours of Dumbarton and Alexandria and the two churches on interview day highlighted some of the good things that are already happening as well as some of the challenges.

I guess you’d like to know a little about me! At the moment I’m the Rector of 3 small city churches in Dundee. They were linked on my arrival 3 ½ years ago, my job was to link them, so I’ve experienced some of the joys and possibilities and, it has to be said, some of the more sticky bits of becoming Linked Charges.

And while I’m going to miss the silvery Tay, I’m sure the Clyde, the Leven, and Dumbarton Rock will be beautiful alternatives! It’s clear however that I’ll have to lay aside my Dundee phrase book for a West Central version instead – and I was just getting used to it!

Before returning to Scotland I served in 3 different parishes in Lincoln, having been ordained there in 1996, and I’ve also had some time away from ministry when I did all sorts of things such as working in a supermarket, as a finance assistant in a college, even a year of social

work training, not to mention struggling with the benefit system ... But always that sense of call to ministry wouldn't let me go – God is very persistent!

The astute among you will have clocked 'returning to Scotland'. Although I was born in Nottingham (hence the accent), my mother's family are Scottish and when I was 8 we moved to Gullane, near North Berwick and later I studied Physiology at St Andrews University before life took me off to England.

However, my partner, Angela, and I both love Scotland and we leapt at the opportunity to return here - now wild horses wouldn't drag us south again. We're really looking forward to moving to Dumbarton and getting to know the area – and my three children, Iain, Alastair and Kirsty, all grown up and independent, are looking forward to visiting us too ('free holiday' was mentioned!).

So roll on February 21st, and the start of our new journey together, linking St Mungo's and St Augustine's: creating opportunities, helping with each other's challenges and having lots of fun!

Blessings

**Alison**

Alison will bring a wealth of experience and so many skills and talents with her. She will belong to **both** parishes, and it's important for us to grasp that she will be working and being paid as a part-time priest. As her Rector, I will not allow her to get into the Sally situation where we had a full-time priest on half-stipend. Ministry will be shared, and that means that you will be seeing a lot more of me!

The first few months will be strange as we work out how to do things best, but by summertime things should be settled into some sort of routine, depending on our priorities!

**Kenny**

# ROTA FOR JANUARY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Read/Inter</b>
<b>5/1/14</b>	<b>Jean/Fiona</b>	<b>Jim M</b>	<b>Jean B</b>	<b>Jim M</b>
<b>12/1/14</b>	<b>Lynnette M</b>	<b>Jim M</b>	<b>Tom/Ian M</b>	<b>Iain T</b>
<b>19/1/14</b>	<b>Eveline</b>	<b>Finella</b>		<b>Jean B/Jim M</b>
<b>26/1/14</b>	<b>Finella/Jean</b>	<b>Finella</b>	<b>Alicia S</b>	<b>Pauline</b>
<b>02/02/14</b>	<b>Iona/Mary</b>	<b>Pauline</b>	<b>Tom/Ian</b>	<b>Jim M</b>

## A Linked Charge

I know that many of you are wondering what that will mean. Some of you may even be anxious! Firstly, I will be your Rector, and I hope you will come to the Rectory often, even for a cuppa and a chat, or to offer to take Archie out for a walk! It is our home, but your house, and you are most welcome at any time. It is a big house, and should be used for meetings and social gatherings!

Both parishes will continue to have their own Vestry, Accounts, and different styles of worship, but ministry will be shared by Alison and me. We don't care who you prefer, but use us any way you want or need. Tim Rhead, as Pastoral Assistant, and Peter Cairns who fulfils a similar role will both be seen around St Mungo's and may well do some sick visiting and Home Communions. Perhaps one or two others will be recruited from St Mungo's so that we have a proper Pastoral Team.

However, we will work together and share resources as much as possible. There are many resources, human and otherwise, that St Augustine's will be keen to share, but that will have to be reciprocal if the Link is going to work.

Occasional Services, like Healing and Anointing will take place in both buildings, and I would expect us to support each other at times like these. Things will be different, but that is something we all have to accept if the Link is going to work! I want St Mungo's to become vibrant and lively again, whilst maintaining and growing the ministry at St Augustine's. As someone once said, "We are all in this together!"

Both Alison and I are great believers in Incarnational Theology. This means that we will be reaching out to the community here in new and exciting ways and the profile of St Mungo's in Alexandria will need to be raised a bit! There are so many resources and opportunities here, and we will seek to use them as much as we can!

I know that many of you have worries about me, and churchmanship. Actually, despite the rumours, I prefer an Anglo Catholic style of worship, and perhaps some of that can be reintroduced at St Mungo's. Who knows? Our Mission Action Plan can lead us into very different places and situations.

The Bishop is coming to meet us all to discuss our MAP on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, and it's important that as many of us as possible can attend that meeting. I can't stress how important this is to us as a congregation, and Alison is intending to be at this meeting too.

Meanwhile, may I take this opportunity to thank Revd David Cook and all the other clergy who are helping things tick over at the moment? Fr David is a star indeed, and I couldn't cope without him! Soon, it will be all hands on deck as we begin a new era! I'm certainly looking forward to that and so should you be too!

**Kenny**

## **New Year**

We have a tradition in The Rectory of having "Open House" on Hogmanay from about 8.30pm until the last one leaves. Yes, there is usually champagne, but you are encouraged to bring your own bottle, whatever your poison, and Linda provides the food! Anything can happen, but one promise is that everyone is given a lift home. We are short of folk this year as the core group from St Aug's are taking themselves off to Aberdeen.

This is where you come in, and we need a goodly number to come along and help us usher in 2014. It's a bit of a "house-warming" party too, and everyone is welcome. Come and go if and when you want, but please come along anyway!

Around 11.30pm the tallest darkest man (I know that's usually me, but I always bring bad luck), is selected to be thrown out about 11.57pm, and they become our first foot. Coal and whisky is provided!

Please come along and help us celebrate a New Year in a new home. Guitars and other musical instruments are welcome! We would be honoured if you will be our guests! (Oh! And bring a pal(s) if you want! No credentials needed!

## **Why?**

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



"It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab a pew by the electric socket."

**Happy 2014 to one and all!**