



# ***St Mungo's Messenger***

Twinned with All Saints-Sharon Chapel, Alexandria, Virginia, USA

June / July 2013

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**Web Edition June / July 2013**



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**Sharing the joy of Christ's love with all**





## SERVICES & EVENTS

### Kalender June / July 2013

**Sundays** 9.00 am *Eucharist* 11.00am *(Sung) Eucharist*

*There is no Sunday School /Mini Mungo Club at present, but children are always welcome at our services.*

*Story cards and Children's Communion Books are always available.*

**Wednesdays** in the Lady Chapel

10.00 am *Eucharist*



### Why do you come to St Mungo's?

In the last edition of St Mungo's Messenger I asked readers to give some thought to why they go to Church. In the magazine 23 possible reasons were suggested, whilst I acknowledged that there are probably as many reasons as there are people who go to Church.

If any one of, or any combination of, the suggested reasons fits you that's great - and you are very welcome. If there are other reasons you are equally welcome. If you include reason 17 in your own list then can I suggest that you think if that really applies.

In case you haven't got a photographic memory and haven't got access to the last edition reason 17 is: "Going to church makes me special to God". In my opinion you are special to God and going to church does not make you any more special. Going to church may help you better understand what God wants of you but simply attending church does not make you any more special to God.

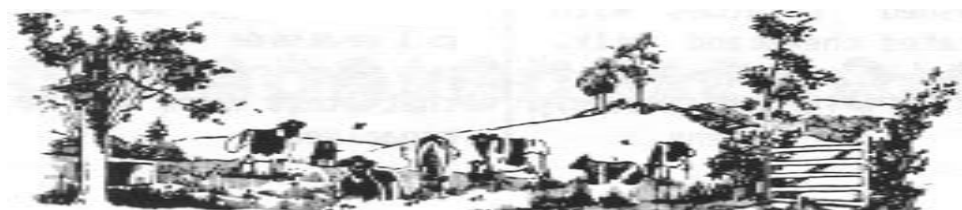
What we really need to is find others at church with us. Church is not the building but the people, and whatever your reason for joining with others at St Mungo's we need you.

*Peter J Higson*

*Front Cover: Margaret Harrison*

## **Readers and Intercessors Rota: June / July 2013**

<b>9 am Eucharist</b> <i>Reader (RCL Year C, Track 1)</i>		<b>11 am Sung Eucharist</b> <i>Reader (RCL, Year C, Track 1)</i>	<i>Intercessor</i>
2nd June Pentecost 2 (Green)	Peter 1 Kings 18:20-21,30-39	Jean B 1 Kings 18:20-21,30-39 Psalm 96 Galatians 1.1-12 Luke 7.1b-10	Fiona W
9th June Pentecost 3	John S 1 Kings 17.8-16	Pauline 1 Kings 17.8-16 Psalm 146 Galatians 1.11-24 Luke 7.11-17	Iain
16th June Pentecost 4	Celebrant 1 Kings 21.1b-10,15-21a	Jim M 1 Kings 21.1b-10,15-21a Psalm 5.1-8 Galatians 2.15-21 Luke 7.36 - 8.3	Pauline
23rd June Pentecost 5	John S 1 Kings 19.1-4,8-15a	Iain 1 Kings 19.1-4,8-15a Psalms 42 & 43 Galatians 3.23-29 Luke 8.26-39	Pauline
30th June Pentecost 6	Celebrant 2 Kings 2.1-2,6-14	Jim M 2 Kings 2.1-2,6-14 Psalm 77.1-2,11-20 Galatians 5.1, 13-25 Luke 9.51-62	Iain
7th July Pentecost 7	John S. 2 Kings 5.1-14	Pauline 2 Kings 5.1-14 Psalm 30 Galatians 6.7-16 Luke 10.1-11,16-20	Jim M
14th July Pentecost 8	Celebrant Amos 7.7-17	Jean B. Amos 7.7-17 Psalm 82 Colossians 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-37	Fiona W
21st July Pentecost 9	Celebrant Amos 8.1-12	Iain Amos 8.1-12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-42	Pauline
28th July Pentecost 10	John S. Hosea 1.2-10	Jim M Hosea 1.2-10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2.6-15 Luke 11.1-13	Iain



# *From David Cook, Interim Priest-in-Charge*

*Dear Friends,*

When you read this most of you will already know that the Diocesan Authorities have ordained that the future of St. Mungo's Church lies in a formal link with St. Augustine's, Dumbarton. What is concerning some of us is that, after taking so long for this decision to be made, there appears to be no urgency in getting the link established quickly so that the people of St. Mungo's can concentrate again on their worship and mission in the community. I am afraid that there is nothing we can do about this and we just have to wait whilst events take their course. Our main role now is to keep praying that everything works out satisfactorily for the good of the Episcopal Church presence in Alexandria and surroundings.

Meantime, in the middle of July I shall be taking 3 weeks' holiday. I do not know what provision the Diocesan Authorities will be making for cover for St. Mungo's, but Pauline and I hope to be able to give you some information in due course.

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“**W**hat is truth?” We heard that question asked at least twice as we followed the events of Holy Week and Good Friday. Different readers place different emphases on the words. **WHAT** is truth? **What IS** truth? **What is TRUTH?**

I wonder how Pilate actually emphasised his retort to Jesus. I expect that to Pilate truth was a flexible commodity, depending on who he was trying to curry favour with. (History records that Pontius Pilate was not the most shining example of a good Roman administrator/governor.)

Christian tradition tells us that Jesus Christ is truth personified. If God is perfect - and as God He has to be! - then His Son Jesus, as part of the Holy Trinity, must also be perfect. Amongst the many attributes of perfection must be **TRUTH**.

We human beings, whilst being children of God, cannot attain closely to the perfection exemplified in God. So obviously not one of us can claim to **BE** truth or to really **KNOW** what truth is. But we know that Jesus is Truth personified, and so all He did and said was true. He calls us to **TELL** other people what, and who, Truth is, and should do and say.

The Christian Church, as Christ's Body on earth, has access to Truth and what sort of life - individual and community - should result from trying to follow the One who calls Himself 'the way, the truth, and the life'. Trying to witness to this Truth sometimes results in the need to 'speak truth to power'. This is a famous phrase which has been given several outings in recent months, courtesy of the retired archbishop George Carey, the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and in the reviewing of Pope Francis' time as Jesuit Provincial and then Archbishop and Cardinal in Argentina. The fact of the matter is that, when Christians do have to 'speak truth to power', the result is that they/we usually get vilified, treated contemptuously, or ignored. Archbishop Temple discovered this in 1943/44; the Bishops of the Church of England discovered it when they published their report 'Faith in the City' during the reign of Prime Minister Thatcher. (I and several of my contemporaries were first ordained to

serve in urban priority parishes in the wake of that report as the Church of England bishops showed that they could ignore what was said to them as well as any parliamentarian could!) Friends can receive the same reaction if they feel they have to ‘speak the truth’.

Our Easter faith, as ‘Alleluia People’, encourages us that, even if it seems at the time that ‘speaking truth to power’ (or whatever) is a waste of time, we can at least hold up our heads and know that we have tried to follow in the foot-steps of Him who IS the Truth. The Holy Spirit, whose arrival we will have celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, is given precisely to empower us with the courage to take what is often a very difficult action.

God Bless you all,

David Cook

## News of St Mungo’s Folk

The cover picture shows Margaret Harrison in fine fettle as she celebrates her 95th birthday at a get together with St Mungo’s congregation after the 11am Eucharist on 5th May. The occasion was to wish her well and to say cheerio as she leaves Dumbarton to live with her daughter Anne in Castle Douglas.

*Margaret sends the following message:*

“I just wanted to thank everyone for the good send off you gave me on Sunday. I was surprised when I entered the hall to see all the tables set round the hall. I hadn’t expected such a big do and I am grateful. I will always think of St Mungo’s as my church wherever I worship. I will miss it and all of you. It is such a friendly church and you’ve all been good friends. It has given me a lot over the years and I am thankful.



Reception for Margaret on moving down south and her 95th birthday.

My new address is 108 Cotton Street, Castle Douglas DG7 1AN, Please keep in touch and if in the area you are welcome to call.”

Margaret along with her late husband Bobby, were made Freeman of the Burgh of Dumbarton in 1985. Their portraits hang within the Municipal Building in Dumbarton and painted by Stephen Conroy.

Billy MacWhirter has decided to resign from his position as Pastoral Assistant. Billy has served St Mungo’s in a number of roles and we are grateful for his contribution over many years. We wish him good health and hope he continues to enjoy participating in the congregation.

Our extended St Mungo’s family has been joined by a group from AA who meet in the hall each weekday. We are pleased to share our facilities with a community group. Please keep them in your prayers.

## St Mungo’s needs YOU!

Please give some thought and prayer to how you could contribute to the life of St Mungo’s.

There is an acute shortage of readers and intercessors – could you help? These are important roles in the worship that is valued by the congregation.

Could you welcome people at the door on Sunday? A smile and a genuine welcome are so important especially for visitors and those who are feeling down or anxious.

If you have other talents that you feel may be useful in the life of the church, please tell someone!

How about singing in the choir?

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## **Future for St Mungo's**

As we enter our second year of vacancy, the Rectory has been refurbished and awaits a new occupant. Unfortunately, as discussed previously, our financial situation is such that we are unable to offer even a half stipend to a prospective priest. The vestry have had a number of meetings with the Dean to try to find a way forward. The Bishop has now written to the vestries of St Mungo's and St Augustine's asking them to meet together in early June to have a 'discussion with a view to creating a linkage which, with provincial ministry support, a half stipendiary post with house could be created and so a team for mission and ministry across the two charges could be built up'.

There are a number of churches in the Diocese which have become linked whilst maintaining their own vestry and identity and it would appear to be an acceptable solution for other denominations facing challenges of reduced congregations and income.

Please feel free to ask questions and raise any areas of concern and do keep praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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## **WHY DID YOU PLAY THAT? by Andrew Baxter**

Before the Easter Sunday Eucharist I played from Tournemire's "Petites Fleurs Musicales"(little musical flowers).

**Charles Tournemire**, 1871-1939, studied organ with Cesar Franck and C-M Widor. We sing Franck's Panis Angelicus at St. Mungo's, and many a wedding service ends with the Widor's Toccata. After extensive studies at the Paris Conservatory he returned as Professor of Chamber Music and also taught an organ class. He was appointed organist at Franck's old church, St.Clotilde and to this day remains unsurpassed as a liturgical improviser. He castigated some of the younger Parisian organists "for their showmanship at the the expense of content...and not musical content alone". Of the two generations of musicians passing through the Paris Conservatory during the first four



decades of the 20th century many attended Tournemire's classes. Now all dead, these men and women were the embodiment of modern musical culture, and are his recognised legacy.

Tournemire's best known work is the "Orgue Mystique", a series of 51 suites, one for most Sundays and the Great Festivals. Each suite consists of 5 pieces ranging from brief interludes to towering yet intensely spiritual constructions built with striking modernity on the plainsong for the day. Until about 40 years ago these works were played by virtuoso organists as examples of the avant-garde, but have now become unfashionable, the avant-garde having moved on to, amongst others, his pupil Messiaen. Petites Fleurs is similar in concept but accessible to less accomplished players using a modest instrument. He also composed piano and chamber music, songs, operas and 8 symphonies. These other compositions are virtually unknown but are of exquisite and poetic beauty. Perhaps Tournemire's position as a leading church musician was unhelpful to his other works getting a fair hearing in the intensely anti-religious culture of the post-war years. He can now be heard playing and improvising on a cd produced from wax recordings he made for radio in 1930-31. Niche labels have issued a few recent recordings of a variety of works in recent years

What interested me and moved me greatly when I found the Petit Fleurs for Easter Day was the expression of grief and anxiety of those first visitors to the Garden of Gethemene, interwoven with strange, soft, fanfares announcing that something deeply mysterious and profoundly important was going on. The alleluias were for a little later in the day. Not to mention eggs and rabbits!

Charles Tournemire's death by drowning whilst on holiday did not make it to the papers the next day. Hitler had invaded France.

## Monthly Rota for June / July / Aug

### Sidesmen/women Rota

Alicia S.	June 30th and Aug. 4th
Tom and Ian M.	June 2nd and July 7th
Jean Brown	June 9th and July 14th
Tom and Ian M.	June 16th and July 21st

### Cleaning Rota

Fiona and Jean	June 9th and July 28th
Lynnette	June 16th and Aug 4th
Eveline	June 23rd
Finella and Jean	June 30th
Iona and Mary	July 7th
Margaret and Robert	July 14th
Rachel and Iain	June 2nd and July 21st

### Flowers

JM	June 2nd	E. MacP	June 9th, 16th, Aug 4th
PD	June 23rd, 30th	FS	July 7th, 14th
JM	July 21st, 28th		

