



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

**December 2011/January 2012**

**Web edition**





# St Mungo's Messenger

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

Dec. 2011 / Jan. 2012





## SERVICES & EVENTS

Kalender Dec. 2011 / Jan. 2012

**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*

### Special Services during December and January

Wednesday 28th December in the Lady Chapel 10.00 am Eucharist  
Holy Innocents

Sunday 15th January Patronal Festival  
St. Mungo

Wednesday 25th January in the Lady Chapel 10.00 am Eucharist  
Conversion of St. Paul

### Christmas Services at St Mungo's

#### Sunday 18th December Advent 4

9.00 am Eucharist 11.00 am Sung Eucharist

#### Thursday 22nd December

7.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols  
Mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies in the Hall

#### Saturday 24th December **Christmas Eve**

3.30 pm Children's Service  
11.00 pm Carols  
11.30 pm Festal Eucharist

#### **Christmas Day**

9.00 am Eucharist  
11.00 am Family Eucharist

#### Sunday 1st January

9.00 am Eucharist  
11.00 am Sung Eucharist

10.00 am Eucharist every Wednesday as usual

Cover: Bishop's visitation, November

## **Readers and Intercessors Rota: Dec. 2011 / Jan. 2012**

<b>9 am Eucharist Reader (RCL Year B)</b>		<b>11 am Sung Eucharist Reader (RCL, Year B)</b>		<i>Intercessor</i>
11th December Advent 3	David McB.	Jock S-P	Isaiah 61 : 1 / 11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5 : 16 - 24	Jim M.
18th December Advent 4	Ian A.	Jim M.	2 Samuel 7 : 1 / 16 The Magnificat (Luke 1 : 46b - 55) Romans 16 : 25 - 27	Pauline D.
25th December Christmas Day	John S.	TBA		
1st January The Circumcision Naming of Jesus	David McB.	Pauline D.	Numbers 6 : 22 - 27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4 : 4 - 7	Jock S-P
8th January Epiphany	Ian A.	John G.	Isaiah 60 : 1 - 6 Psalm 72 : 1 / 14 Ephesians 3 : 1 - 12	Pat B.
15th January St. Mungo Patronal Festival	John S.	Jean B.	To Be Arranged	Fiona W.
22nd January Epiphany 3	David McB.	Pat B.	Jonah 3 : 1 / 10 Psalm 62 : 6 - 14 1 Corinthians 7 : 29 - 31	Jim M.
29th January The Presentation Candlemas	Ian A.	Jock S-P	Malachi 3 : 1 - 5 Psalm 24 : 7 - 10 Hebrews 2 : 14 - 18	Pauline D.
5th February Epiphany 5	John S.	Jim M.	Isaiah 40 : 21 - 31 Psalm 147 : 1 / 20c 1 Corinthians 9 : 16 - 23	Jock S-P

Readers, please arrive at the Church in time to make sure that the book is on the Lectern and open at the right place before the service starts. At the 9.00 am Eucharist the reading is normally just the Second Reading/Epistle from the Revised Common Lectionary, and at the 11.00 am Sung Eucharist readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, as shown above. In the RCL it is Year B. The page numbers and layout are the same as in the smaller paper-back edition. If you need to change dates, please arrange an exchange, and let me know. S.G.



## FROM THE RECTORY

*Dear Friends,*

**T**he word Advent means coming; Advent is a time when we watch and wait and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, in several ways: in particular the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas; the coming of Christ into our lives in the Eucharist; and the coming of Christ in merciful judgement at the end of the age.



After the expectancy of Advent we will celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. Our Christmas carols and hymns help us to approach the manger with reverence and awe, to see the Christ-child and to hear the angels sing, an experience which is a good starting point for our spiritual journey.

Our Christian calling demands that, after worshipping at the manger, we follow Jesus from that stable into the harsh reality of a world where now, as then, unrest, oppression, military occupation, and religious division are found all too often.

Our Christianity needs to be more than a spiritual experience; our faith needs to be grounded in the messiness of real life - that is what the Incarnation is about. The little town of Bethlehem in the 21st century is far from the image of that in the carol. Partly because of the Israeli separation barrier, Bethlehem is a place of poverty and social injustice. It is but one pointer towards the theological imperative to make connections between faith and everyday life.

In his adult life Jesus spoke and acted with authority and without compromise, resulting in his death on the cross. And, of course, without the cross, and the resurrection, we would not be celebrating Christmas now, over 2000 years later.

That first Christmas night, a light began to shine, Christ, the Light of the World. And by that light we can come from the darkness into the spiritual light of Christ. We begin to see who we are, and who we are created to be, and how we can strive to make a difference in the world, following the supreme example of Jesus Christ.

The darkness in the world - greed, corruption, war, man's inhumanity to man - will not overcome the Light as long as faithful people continue to shine; as long as we do what we can to give hope to the poor, the marginalised and the oppressed.

By worshipping together we help to build up the St. Mungo's family as the Body of Christ in this community. Let us gather together in strength this Christmas, and fill the Church to celebrate and worship Christ the Light of the World.

With every good wish for a blessed Christmas

*Sally*

**PATRONAL FESTIVAL**  
**SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY 2012**

**11.00 am Sung Eucharist**

Preacher: **The Very Rev'd Ian Barcroft**  
*Dean of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway*

Bring & Share Buffet Lunch in Church Hall

Everyone is invited to come and join our worship and celebrations.

**Recent Charity Appeals**

*Milton Animal Home* A retiring collection at the Pets Service raised £50.41.

*Harvest Festival* £87 was collected for St. Augustine's Dumbarton Gambia Fund, and a car-load of food taken to the Glasgow City Mission for distribution among the needy.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to these appeals - it is important for us to continue to be outward looking and remember those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Action of Churches Together in the Vale (ACTiV)**



**Ecumenical  
Carol Service**



St. Martin of Tours Church, Renton

Wednesday 7th December  
at 7.30 pm

Collection for Erskine Hospital  
and St Margaret's Hospice

Refreshments

## **Pets Service**

The Pets Service again went well, affirming the dignity and value of animals as an integral part of God's creation. Almost twenty adults and five children attended, together with 18 or 19 dogs, (they wouldn't keep still long enough to count accurately!) and a hamster (a first for St. Mungo's



Pets Service). All the congregation behaved impeccably - even the people! - and each pet was blessed individually.

## **St. Mungo's Christmas Fair 2011**

The Christmas Fair on 26th November went very well, despite the weather! A good number of customers came in through our doors, and browsed among the stalls, as well as enjoying a chat over cups of tea and coffee, and mince pies

Proceeds on the day amounted to £538. Extra sales on the Sunday, etc., together with some donations that have not yet been counted, mean that the final total may well exceed £600. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way, by setting up and preparing everything, donating gifts, home baking and so on, in the kitchen, on the stalls, on the door, and last but not least, clearing up afterwards!

## **Bishop Gregor's Visitation**



On Wednesday 23rd November Bishop Gregor carried out a Pastoral Visitation at St. Mungo's. After the Eucharist tea and coffee were served in the Hall, and Bishop Gregor soon got folk involved in an animated discussion on a variety of issues which are important to church and society. Then followed a soup and sandwich lunch, before members of the vestry adjourned to the Rectory for a meeting with the Bishop, at which everyone shared something of their individual spiritual journey. Next Sally took Bishop Gregor on pastoral home visits, and the Visitation was rounded off by your People's Warden entertaining your Bishop and your Priest to an excellent dinner at his home. (I don't know how long Jim had been

slaving over a hot stove - but it was time well-spent!) All in all it was a really good day - in which ideas were exchanged, and diverse opinions were heard in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

## **Vestry Notes**

### **Church Drains**

Several blocked drains around the Church have now been fixed. The drain near to the Queen's Drive gate was damaged and completely blocked by tree roots. The contractor has constructed a soakaway as an alternative, and all appears to be well.

### **Notice Board**

The new notice board by the Queen's Drive gate has been installed.

### **Diocesan Growth Strategy**

After a minor administrative hitch (a letter from St. Mungo's Vestry to the Dean somehow went missing) we have now been assigned our Growth Strategy facilitator, Gill Reynolds from Lochwinnoch. Sally and Gill met in mid-November. The next step is that Gill will be attending St. Mungo's 11.00 am Sung Eucharist on Sunday 11th December, to get the feel of things and meet the congregation informally over a cup of tea in the Hall. After that a meeting with the Vestry will be arranged, to start in-depth discussions on St. Mungo's Growth Strategy.

### **Back to Church Sunday**

This year 13 folk accepted our invitations, which was a really good response once again. The Vestry would like to encourage members of the congregation to invite a friend more often - at any time - you don't need to wait until the next Back to Church Sunday! Talking to folk from a number of Episcopal churches, it does not take long to discover that most of them either were brought up as a Piskie, from childhood, or were initially invited by a friend, and found a welcome and a spiritual home. Evangelism is as simple as that!

### **Vestry Awayday**

It was agreed to ask the Rev'd Dr. Anne Tomlinson, Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, to organise an Awayday for the Vestry, some time in the new year. (After consultation with Anne, this has been amended to a vestry afternoon in the Church Hall on Sunday 5th February 2012. Vestry members - please put this date in your diaries. Soup/sandwich lunch after the usual Sunday tea/coffee, then down to business! Anne will be preaching at the 11.00 am service in the morning, so will be able to meet the congregation informally as well.)

### **Vestry Secretary**

The Vestry is pleased to announce the appointment of Morag Cameron as Vestry Secretary. Many thanks to Morag for taking on this task. Morag is taking over from Jenny Taggart. Jenny and James have now moved to Fife.

### **Retirement Date**

The Rev'd Sally Gorton will retire at the end of April 2012. The Vestry agreed to her request for a further month for her and John to stay in the Rectory, in order to pack and move out.



The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Friday 23rd December, beginning at 10.00 am. Greenery, etc, and lots of helpers will be made very welcome!

Please come and join in the fun!



Action of Churches Together in the Vale

Ecumenical Service  
for the Week of Prayer  
for Christian Unity

Sunday 22nd January 2012  
at 3.00 pm

Alexandria Parish Church, Balloch

Preacher: Margaret Long

Ecumenical Officer for Glasgow, Churches Together

Followed by Refreshments in the Hall

## Thanksgiving for Marriage and Renewal of Vows

During November two couples have come to give thanks for their marriages, and to renew their vows before God and their friends.

**Fiona (née Drain) and Derek Morrison** were married in St. Mungo's on 14th November 1986, by the Rev'd Christopher Lyon, Priest-in-Charge. They marked their Silver Wedding Anniversary with a service in St. Mungo's attended by many friends and family, followed by a party.



**Valerie and William Nicol** (known to everyone as Val and Billy) were married in Essex in 1992. Their 19th anniversary fell on Advent Sunday this year, and they renewed their vows during the Sung Eucharist that day, supported by the whole congregation.

In an age when many folk seem unwilling to make any kind of long-term commitment in a relationship, it is very encouraging to know that there are people who love and respect each other, and nurture their marriage, and seek God's continued blessing, with thanksgiving. We wish Fiona and Derek, and Val and Billy, many more years of happiness. God bless them!

**A poem from Margaret Harrison  
marking 50 years of Amnesty International**

**THE PRISONER**

I am a prisoner behind bars.  
For what I know is true  
I've given up my liberty  
To build this world anew.

But through the bars of this dark cell  
A last hope sends its ray.  
In this old world are folks who care  
They've started Amnesty.

I sit here in the cold and dark  
Behind the bars so strong  
And yet I know within my heart  
That I did nothing wrong.

It spreads like wildfire through the world  
This torch for human rights.  
Hope cheers the prisoner's darkest days  
And brightens up his nights.

I had to speak. I had to write.  
There was no other way.  
I couldn't see injustice done  
That's why I'm here today.

We seek a world where all can live  
And to themselves be true.  
To end torture and cruelty  
Amnesty counts on you.

---

---

## Monthly Rota for Dec. / Jan.

### Sidesmen/women Rota

Derek	Dec. 4th and Jan. 1st and 8th
Tom and Ian	Dec. 11th and Jan. 15th
Bob	Dec. 18th and Jan 22nd
Tom	midnight 24th Dec.
Alicia	Dec. 25th

### Cleaning Rota

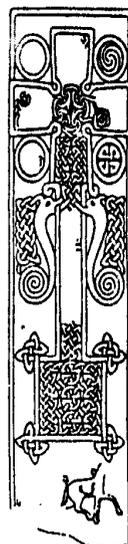
Fiona and Jean	Jan 1st
Lynnette	Jan 8th
Eveline	Jan 15th
Finella and Jean	Dec. 4th and Jan 22nd
Iona and Mary	Dec. 11th and Jan. 29th
Margaret and Robert	Dec. 18th and Feb. 5th

### Flowers

J. M	Jan 1st
E. MacP	Jan 8th and Jan. 15th
P. D	Jan. 22nd and Jan 29th

### from Nov. 29th till Dec. 23rd No Flowers

**All helpers December 23rd**



## Obituary

### David William Walker

8th January 1962 - 5th October 2011

David was born in 1962. He had a younger brother and sister, John and Jane. Their childhood was not without problems - they spent some time in foster care, but David was always there for Jane and John, helping to hold the family together. Jane says “Dave loved and lived life to the full; he was always full of energy enjoying his cricket, rugby, football and fishing, he would take great delight in dragging us all out into the garden to play the sport of the moment which would often result in neighbouring green houses being smashed. He was also keen on Scouts and enjoyed making camp in the back garden until one day his campfire nearly destroyed the neighbour’s hedge. I remember how proud we were of him when he was chosen to throw javelin for the county, sport was his life.”



David joined the Royal Navy at the age of 16, serving for 24 years, mostly as a submariner. He then signed on for a further 3 years as a Full-time reservist, finishing his career at Faslane as the head of the Buffer’s Party and the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Instructor. He made many friends in the Navy, and continued to live life to the full, often with a full pint glass or two!

David’s first marriage, to Kirstine, eventually broke down, but, typically for David, he harboured no bitterness; he retained a caring attitude to her after their separation.

David and Fiona met in 1997 at the Cardross Inn. They were each there with their own friends, then David approached the girls with an unusual chat up line: “Excuse me girls, but would you two please get lost because it’s her I want to talk to!” In 1999 David transferred from submarines to surface ships and it was during his so-called “world cruise” on HMS Cornwall that he arranged for Fiona to fly out to San Diego for a holiday, and where he proposed marriage. They were

married in St. Anne's Church, Southowram, near Halifax, where Fiona grew up, in 2001, and David, whose roots were in Derbyshire, became an honorary Yorkshireman.

Towards the end of his time in the Navy, David began exploring his Christian faith, and was confirmed by the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway here at St Mungo's in 2002. David made a great contribution to the life of St. Mungo's, in numerous ways. To mention a few: he was on the rota of lesson readers, some years ago he did a sponsored walk of the West Highland Way, to raise money towards our Church Hall Extension, and last year he took over as Social Convenor, and quickly established a reputation for his home-made soup.

After finally leaving the Navy, David worked for some years at Ballikinrain School, near Balfron, giving of himself and his loving, caring personality to the boys there, whose lives were full of problems.

His faith remained important to him, and, along with Fiona's love and support, was a significant factor in seeing him through dark days of depression and losing his job last year. In turn, David was Fiona's strength and help through her diagnosis with breast cancer and subsequent treatment.

Fiona says, "David was my husband for only 10 years, but we lived through some of the best of times and worst of times together. We truly lived "for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health ..."

We all remember David as a big, smiley, caring friend - a big man with a big heart, as several folk have put it - a giver of great bear-hugs - a good man to have beside you in a crisis. We give thanks to God for the years that he was with us. He is sorely missed.

## *From the Registers*



**Funeral**

**15th October**

**David William Walker**

**age 49**

## CHRISTMAS AT SEA by Peter Higson

On Sunday 4th December 2011 my son John Higson (seen on left in the photograph) and his rowing partner Barny Mabbs leave La Gomera in the Canary Islands heading for Barbados. They will be racing against 8 other boats to complete the North Atlantic Rowing Race. John is raising money for Cancer Research UK and has already been able to send them several thousand pounds.



The boat weighs just over a tonne is 24 feet long and carries 90 days food supplies and 150 litres of emergency drinking water to be used only if the electric and hand operated desalinators both fail. If

the wind, current and weather conditions are all in their favour they hope to complete the race in under 60 days. Their schedule involves one rowing at a time for a 2 hour stint, the following 2 hours for eating, plotting position, washing, cleaning, writing the log and getting some sleep before swapping again. 2 hours on/2 hours off for 2 months! During that time they expect to use between 8000 and 9000 calories a day and with their dried food rations only providing between 6000 and 7000 calories a day they will return lighter than when they left.

The main hazards they face other than the weather are shipping (usually on auto-pilot which does not see small rowing boats); flying fish (apparently quite painful when they hit you in the face); and small marine life that attach themselves to the bottom of the boat necessitating a swim under the boat to scrape them off every few days.

The race is entirely unsupported so everything has to be on board when they leave and all equipment and food packaging has to be accounted for at the other end. Time penalties are incurred for any missing items or if the emergency water seals are broken.

During the race the boats can be tracked on the race website:

[www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com](http://www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com)

Further details are on the team website: [www.h2row.com](http://www.h2row.com)





Christmas at St. Mungo's c. 1948