

Good News & Better News

First I'd like to thank all of you for your continuing prayers and good wishes while I'm recovering from the surgery. Your cards, gifts, visits, hospitality and astonishing kindness are very important to me, and make all the difference. I'm still waiting for word from the doctors about whether further treatment is needed, but I seem to be doing well and am feeling better every day now, and I'm hoping very much to back at OSP at the end of April.

I'd particularly like to thank everyone who has proved so well that a rector is the mere decoration on the cake: the Wardens and Vestry members, Jean in the Office, and especially the servers, sacristans, choir and ministry Team who made Holy Week a profound and significant celebration of the Passion and Resurrection. To be able to leave OSP in all those capable hands has made it much easier to concentrate on getting well.

Now for the better news. I'm delighted to tell you that in the autumn OSP will be joined by a full-time assistant curate once again. Some members of the congregation will know him already, because over ten years ago he was a member of the Choir. Simon Tibbs is currently in his final year of training at Westcott House, a theological college in Cambridge (where some other members of the team were also trained).

He is single, originally comes from Bedfordshire, but was a student at Edinburgh University and a member of OSP. He has been in training for the priesthood for three years. He is due to be ordained by Bishop Brian in the Cathedral on Sunday 5 October at 2.00pm (please note the date now), and his first service at OSP will be Evensong on that day.

The May edition of the Newsletter will include something from Simon, introducing himself to us, and I hope that he will be visiting OSP on one of the weekends of May so that as many of you as possible can meet him before he moves to Edinburgh in October.

This is great news for us, as curates always bring new gifts and new insights to OSP. But they are also here to learn about being a deacon and a priest, as all curates have been in the past.

Everyone has a part to play in helping them to grow into that ministry, and OSP has become a good and corporate tutor in recent years. So Simon can look forward to

three years of priestly formation, and we can look forward to new ideas and new experience. For myself, I'm looking forward immensely to welcoming Simon as a colleague and a curate, and a member of our ministry Team and our congregation.

Please pray for Simon as he goes into the final term of his training, and prepares for the ordination and the new chapter of his life with us here, and pray for all of us as we prepare to welcome him.

With love and prayers for you this Eastertide, and looking forward to being back among you soon,

Ian



Above: Simon Tibbs on a recent Westcott House trip to Rome

And Now We are Four!

This month *Newsletter* celebrates its fourth birthday. We started in April 2004 as an experimental idea to enhance the communications within the family of OSP and to solve the problem of the rotas. (Anyone who has ever had to deal with them will know what a pain they can be!) Whilst we may not have cracked that one, we are gluttons for punishment and have now extended them to include information on the children's activities (see page xx).

Over the years we have tried to reflect the diversity of our congregation and welcome feedback and contributions. So if there is anything going on that you would like us to publish, please feel free to write about it and email it to newsletter@osp.org.uk

Alternatively speak to Steve Harries after Mass. Remember that we are always looking for people to become more involved as writers, photographers, editors or to help with the layout.

There will be some changes coming soon, after 30 outings, we will be saying goodbye to Reloku, this month's is the last in this series. Watch out for a new mental exercise next month.

It seems that there are a lot of notable birthdays around this time, last year was the Rector's 50th. This year it's the turn of some of the younger members of the servers, it is hard to believe but Jubin turns 21 and Robb will be 18. (Next year will be



bus pass time for some of the others ...) We wish them both a very Happy Birthday and look forward to the celebrations, though we probably won't be covering them in the *Newsletter*, unless there are some good photos ...

Fast Castle - A Quest



On Saturday 28th March, thirteen members of the OSP walking group headed to Pettico Wick by St Abbs Head for what turned out to be a memorable walk along the Berwickshire coast.

Even a glance at the map made us feel excited. From Pettico Wick, we would walk northwest by Thrummie Carr and Snuffhole Stells to Heathery Carr and Mawcarr Stells. Inland we would see ancient forts and settlements. As if in some Herculean quest we would need to pass Hurker, Brander and Souter - in that order - before we could even hope to see the legendary Fast Castle. This clearly was a world of high cliffs, giants and whirlpools. We could expect something allegorical.

The worst up and down, positively the last one (in the interests of fair notice) was at Waterside Dean where the high cliff top path down dropped almost to sea level. We zig-zagged down a grassy field. Jubin, dressed as a sherpa, seemed suitably clad. Back on the cliff top, passing a second set of Admiralty Distance Poles we began to look forward to Fast Castle - and lunch.

It was at this point that collectively we began to feel a sense of unease, a sense that very possibly that we might have been brought to this remote part of the Berwickshire coast under false pretences. What in fact was Fast Castle? Might we have been just too literal in our expectations? Just over out of sight, said the intrepid one breezily. Very close, he said. But should we be thinking about a "castle" at all? Was "Fast Castle" a house, or a farm, or something altogether more metaphorical? Somebody even suggested a fence post. As we began to climb towards Dowlaw Farm we began to entertain the terrible notion that the intrepid one might have "misspoken" in the new Clintonian sense of the word. Beyond Dowlaw Farm, where huge views opened up to Torness, the Bass Rock and beyond, we sat down for our picnic lunch, leaning against a row of hay bales. There was still no obvious sign of Fast Castle but rather ominously a sign, pointing in the direction of the sea, told us "Fast Castle 1.3 kms".

After lunch five of us descended towards the sea, towards Fast Castle. And suddenly there it was: some stones in rectangular formation, strongly reminiscent of a sheep pen, hundreds of yards below us. I suspect we could all feel a rather expensive "Visit Scotland"



An extremely bracing south-westerly blew in most of the morning. "Bracing", we agreed, was an excellent word. From Pettico Wick we climbed through fields to the cliff top path. Our intrepid leader spoke guardedly of a few ups and downs. He felt he should give fair notice but perhaps he should never have mentioned them at all. Looking back to our starting point, we enjoyed some stunning views of St Abb's Head. We could have been forgiven for thinking that this great clump of land was an island severed from the mainland by Mire Loch. St Abbs was named after Ebba, daughter of a Northumbrian King. She was shipwrecked along the shore from St Abb's Head and founded a nunnery to give thanks for her salvation. A later abbess, another Ebba, fearing that her nuns be raped by Viking invaders, ordered that they take pre-emptive action by mutilating their faces. An extraordinary, grizzly tale.



television commercial coming on (i.e. "Land of the Mountain and Flood" swelling loudly in the background, a gravelly voice intoning "an abrupt and inaccessible precipice overhanging the ocean...." and lots of swooping camera angles), but we took a vote on matters and decided, on balance, that Fast Castle was probably best viewed from a distance. Perhaps all Fast Castles should be kept in the distance. We turned back. It was the quest that mattered after all. As the rain began to sweep in from the southwest we returned overland via Coldingham Loch to Pettico Wick.

Over a cool glass of beer at the Anchor Inn in Coldingham we reflected on the labours of Hercules before returning, by car, to Edinburgh.

Alastair Learmont

The next walk is scheduled for 26th April and will be Traprain Law and East Lothian. It is being organised by Paul Lugton, who can be contacted on 07984 168 403.



Anti-clockwise from top left: Sherpa Jubin, Descending yet again ... ,Pettico Wick, St Abbs Headlead, Lunch stop (not at a pub?), Menaced by sheep, & How much further?



Gift Aid Update

The Government has announced transitional relief for charities to compensate for the reduction in the basic rate of income tax.

There is some information about the changes on our website, and we are hoping that the Treasurer will write a more user friendly version for us next month.

In the meantime, further information about giving and Gift Aid can be obtained from the Treasurer or the Stewardship Recorder.

Great Give-away

Once again we've got some money to give away - sadly it has to go to good causes and not to individuals! The Tithing group have around £8,000 to give away to this year and want to hear from you.

If you would like to nominate a group or project for them to consider, please complete the proposal form which is on the website in the downloads section: <http://www.osp.org.uk/index.php/about/downloads/> and send it to Janet Devigne at janet_devigne@yahoo.com

Please read the guidelines carefully as the group can only consider projects that fall within their remit.

Annual Book Sale

The Christian Aid Book Sale at St Andrew's & St George's takes place on Saturday 10th May and from Monday 12 to Friday 16 May 2008. Watch out for details of how you can donate any old books.

Quiz Night

On Monday 12 May 2008 from 7-10pm we are having a Christian Aid Quiz Night in the hall.

We're setting out to raise a minimum of £253 at this event so we can sink a well in Bangladesh as part of Christian Aid Week's new drive. There'll be wine and nibbles and yes, an entry fee towards the well. More details to follow as events unfold...

Children's Rota

APRIL 6 WALKING WITH JESUS
Luke 24:13-35 / Lord's Prayer

Leader: Michelle Brown
Helper: Yvonne Martz
Creche: Laurelin Burge

APRIL 13 GODLY PLAY
Creation / Eucharist

Storyteller: Michelle Brown
Doorkeeper / Eucharist led by:
Anderson Jeremiah
Creche: Emma Johnston

APRIL 20 - GODLY PLAY
Parable of the Good Samaritan

Storyteller: Carrie Upton
Doorkeeper: Theo Upton
Creche: Michelle Brown & Lynne Niven

Young Saint Paul's:
Fair Trade Discussion with Paul Lugton,
Linda Griffiths, Jubin Santra, Michelle
Brown

APRIL 27 PRAISING GOD
Psalm 66: 8-20

Leader: Steve Martz
Helper: Susan Chynoweth-Smith
Creche: Emma Johnston

MAY 4 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Luke 24: 44-53 / Double Baptism
(Edward Chynoweth-Smith and Matilda Walker)

Leader: Paul Lugton
Helper: Yvonne Martz
Creche: Sheila Miller & Rosemary Williams

If you want to know more about our Children's ministry, please speak to Michelle Brown after Mass or email her at michelle.brown@osp.org.uk

Children's Corner

Don't forget that our new children's corner is at the back of the Lady Chapel during High Mass. This is for any family with young ones in need of a space to play quietly with their parents at the end of Mass.

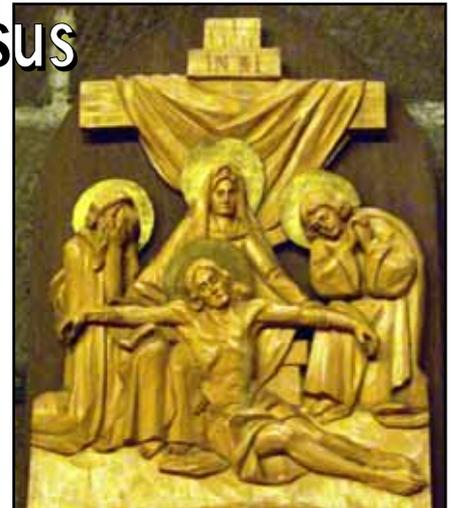
Walking With Jesus

On Holy Saturday, twelve children and their families joined the Children's Ministry Committee, Michelle Brown, Fr Anderson and Mthr Carrie for a Walk through the Stations of the Cross. With Ben, Esther, Christopher and Lydia representing Young Saint Paul's as our guides through each station, the children had a unique opportunity to experience the Gospel, rather than just hear it.

We began at the back of the church on the Godly Play story rug where John Thompson shared a story explaining the different styles of crosses. Then the children were invited to the Chancel steps where we created our own crosses to carry throughout our walk with Jesus that day, using random arts and crafts materials.

Mthr Carrie led us from station to station in song. As we then gathered at each station, Fr Anderson introduced the station to us before our Young Saint Paul's guides read to us the story that coincided with that particular station.

In the Memorial Chapel we had our hands washed. Then we received bread and juice in the Lady Chapel. Next we gathered at the back of the church where 30 coins were dramatically scattered across the floor. Afterwards, we carried the Crucifix and Crown of Thorns to the



front of the church and then we brought Jesus to the Children's Chapel for burial in the tomb before returning to the back of the church to hear about the Easter Garden and to help plant our flowers there. After we learned about the Resurrection, we sang together in celebration before sharing in Hot Cross Buns and juice.

It was a blessing to share the Easter story with the children and it was an even greater blessing to see the children and youth group involved in telling the story as this ministered to the adults present as well. Thanks to all involved in helping to prepare for the children's program!

Michelle Brown

Thanks so much!

From March 3rd-5th I had the opportunity to attend the Godly Play Training in Birmingham led by Peter Privett. It was an extraordinary experience! Having helped at Godly Play since arriving on staff here at Old Saint Paul's I had an idea of what to expect from the course, but the course itself exceeding my expectations.

Not only have I been trained as a storyteller but I've also been given a clearer overall vision of this incredible ministry as well as had the opportunity for spiritual retreat and reflection. The training sessions ran from 9am-9pm on the first two days and then finished by 5pm on the third day (just as I was rushing away for the last train to Edinburgh!) What could have been an exhausting experience was actually one of the most refreshing "holidays" I've had in a long time.



I am incredibly thankful to the Vestry, clergy team, children's ministry committee and the congregation for the opportunity to attend a training session for Godly Play.

I am also thrilled to be back home in Edinburgh to put all that I've learned in place with our Godly Play team led with much love by John Thompson and Carrie Upton.

Michelle Brown

Hats Off to Michelle

Unlike the National press, we at the *Newsletter* don't often print emails that we have received. However, we made an exception with this one, so we contacted the author and he was happy for us to include it ...

I just had to say how much I enjoyed the Easter 5am service.

I would especially like to thank the lady who took up the elements in procession for wearing such a magnificent hat.

You see it was hats at Easter that made me decide to join OSP full-time back in the early eighties.

At the time I first discovered the existence of OSP I had just started as Organist at a large, very well-to-do Church of Scotland on the outskirts of the city - which had better remain nameless. I had done this to oblige quite a large group of friends who sang there and whom I knew from Scottish Philharmonic Singers. As Organist there I had to rehearse the choirs and play for two large Sunday Morning Services, one after the other. I used to come to OSP every week for the 5.15pm Mass and hang around for Evensong too.

I hated the Organist job. The choir was great to work with but the worship was dire. There was no sense at all of any one Sunday in the year being any different from any other Sunday. I had promised myself that I would stick it for a year, but after 9 months Easter came round and I went to the 5.00am at OSP. What seemed like 90% of the women in church had made a huge effort and were wearing



Even Michelle would find it a challenge to beat this hat

bright and cheerful Easter Bonnets or yellow feather boas or whatever. I was so taken with it all. Then later on the same day I sat in the organ gallery for two services looking down on the same drab dark-brown and black coats that were worn every week. Later that day I handed in my resignation.

So that hat made my day.

Malcolm Wood

Sadly we were unable to get a picture of Michelle Harding in "the hat".

If there is something about OSP that has changed your life, or you feel that we ought to celebrate, and you would like to share it with the congregation, then please email us at Newsletter@osp.org.uk

Diary Dates

April

WEDNESDAY 2ND 11AM
Hall Mass followed by a light lunch

THURSDAY 13TH 8PM
Finance Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY 16TH 6.45PM
Vestry Meeting in the hall

SUNDAY 20TH
Fairtrade stall after Mass

SATURDAY 26TH
OSP Walking Group: Traprain Law and East Lothian Walk, time to be announced, contact Paul Lugton on 07984 168 403 for details.

May

THURSDAY 1ST 7.30PM
Ascension Day - High Mass

MONDAY 12TH 7PM
Christian Aid Week Quiz Night in the hall

MONDAY 12TH - FRIDAY 16TH
Christian Aid Book Sale at St Andrew's & St George's

SUNDAY 18TH
Fairtrade stall after Mass

THURSDAY 22ND 7.30PM
Feast of Corpus Christi - High Mass and Procession of the Eucharist

May issue deadline : 27 April

Send any details to **Jean Keltie** or email: newsletter@osp.org.uk

Reloku

No. 30

This is a version of Sudoku, using letters and with a religious theme. Fill the grid in so every row, column and 3x3 box contains the following letters:

I N K S A L U T E

When completed, the grid will reveal the author of an account we read during Eastertide. This month's puzzle is rated easy. Solution next month.

This month's puzzle is rated easy.

		S				K	E	
			L					
	T			N			I	U
			K				N	L
K					U			A
S	I							
					E		U	N
						T		
		L			N		S	I

Last month's solution concerns hell's jaws as found in the third verse of the Easter hymn "Ye choirs of new Jerusalem".

N	G	O	E	I	V	U	R	D
I	U	R	G	D	N	V	E	O
D	E	V	O	U	R	I	N	G
E	V	N	R	O	U	D	G	I
O	I	D	V	G	E	N	U	R
U	R	G	I	N	D	O	V	E
G	D	U	N	E	O	R	I	V
V	N	E	D	R	I	G	O	U
R	O	I	U	V	G	E	D	N

Calendar & Rotas for April 2008

Day & Observance	10.30 am High Mass				6.30 pm
	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Offertory	Readings & Reader
April 6 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116.1-4,12-19 1 Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24.13-35	Andrew Kerr Susanna Kerr	Mhairead Robertson	Frank Ribbons Lorraine Simpson	Micah 4.1-5 Luke 24.36b-48 Steve Harries
Weekdays:	Wed 9 - Dietrich Bonhöffer, theologian & martyr, 1945; Thu 10 - William Law, priest, 1761 Fri 11 - George Augustus Selwyn, bishop & missionary, 1878; Sat 12 - William Forbes, bishop of Edinburgh, 1634				
April 13 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10	Margot Alexander Stephen Burge	Lorraine Simpson	Maisie Orr Mary Thorpe	Ezekiel 34.1-10 John 10.11-18 Nigel Cook
Weekdays:	Wed 16 - Magnus of Orkney, martyr, c 1116; Thu 17 - Donnan, abbot, & Companions, martyrs on Eigg, c 617				
April 20 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 7.55-60 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14	Elizabeth Koepping Alastair Learmont	Margaret Aspen	Anne & Bert Edgerton	Deut 4.32-40 John 15.1-8 Margaret Dickson
Weekdays:	Mon 21 - Anselm of Canterbury, bishop & teacher, 1109; Wed 23 - George, martyr, c 303 Fri 25 - St Mark, evangelist; Sat 26 - Albert Ernest Laurie, priest, 1937				
April 27 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 17.22-31 Psalm 66.8-20 1 Peter 3.13-22 John 14.15-21	Jennifer Scarce Helen Tyrrell	Pam Gilchrist	Margaret & Peder Aspen	Isaiah 55.1-11 John 15.9-17 Fiona Taylor
Weekdays:	Tue 29 - Catherine of Siena, mystic and teacher, 1380 Mon, Tue, Wed - Rogation Days, of prayer for the fruits of creation & human labour				
Thu May 1 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (7.30 pm)	Acts 1.1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1.15-23 Luke 24.44-53	Jennie Gardner tbc	tbc	tbc	
Weekdays:	Fri 1 - SS Philip and James, apostles				
May 4 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 1.6-14 Psalm 68.1-10,32-35 1 Pet 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11	James Campbell Hilary Campbell	Andrew Paterson	Maggie Stanfield Andy Collier	Ezekiel 36.24-28 John 17.6-19 Niall Franklin
Weekdays:	Thu 8 - Julian of Norwich, mystic, c 1413;				
May 11 THE DAY OF PENTECOST	Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.24-34,35b 1 Cor 12.3b-13 John 20.19-23	Trevor Harding Elspeth Strachan	John Thompson	Anthea Orr Jimmy Blair	Deut 16.9-12 John 4.19-26 Lynne Niven

Month	Coffee Setup (9.30)	Coffee Server (10.30)	Morning Steward	Morning Sound	Evening Steward	Evening Sound
April	Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197		Margaret & Peder Aspen, Mary Thorpe	Alastair Learmont	Paul Lugton	Paul Lugton
May	Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197		George & Margaret Dickson, Pam Johnston James Campbell	David & Elfridda Nelson	Maisie Orr	Tim Blackmore

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Margaret Aspen 01383 822611

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