

Scratch & Sniff

The Servers Guild last met at OSP on 19 November for what was advertised as an information evening about incense followed by wine and nibbles. The evening started with everyone being introduced and it was mentioned to be one of the largest meetings this year.

The reigns were then passed over to Nigel who gave everyone a crash course in how to be a thurifer. This was particularly interesting for people who have never served as a thurifer before (& useful to see where the current ones are going wrong!).

We were lucky enough to have Duncan along with us who was able to tell us how incense is made. Nigel brought along 5 different flavours along with some pure frankincense, this was a popular favourite, and these were all burnt in separate thuribles. To spice the evening up, Nigel had prepared a short quiz. Everyone had fun walking around smelling and seeing the different types of incense that is used for different occasions. Most people recognised Rosa Mystica without much trouble.

We were all then led downstairs and treated with fine wine, tasty cheeses and delicious nibbles as prepared by Steve. After a suitable amount of food and wine had been consumed we finished our night by heading back upstairs for a beautiful rendition of Compline. A good night was had by all a particular thanks to Nigel for organising another wonderful servers evening.

Robb Liddle



Christmas at OSP



SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE (24 DECEMBER)

4.00pm Children's Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass by candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Family Mass

AGM

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday 14 December after High Mass. This is your opportunity to elect the members of Vestry, review the finances and ask questions.

Nomination forms for the Vestry and other information about the AGM, including the church accounts are now available.

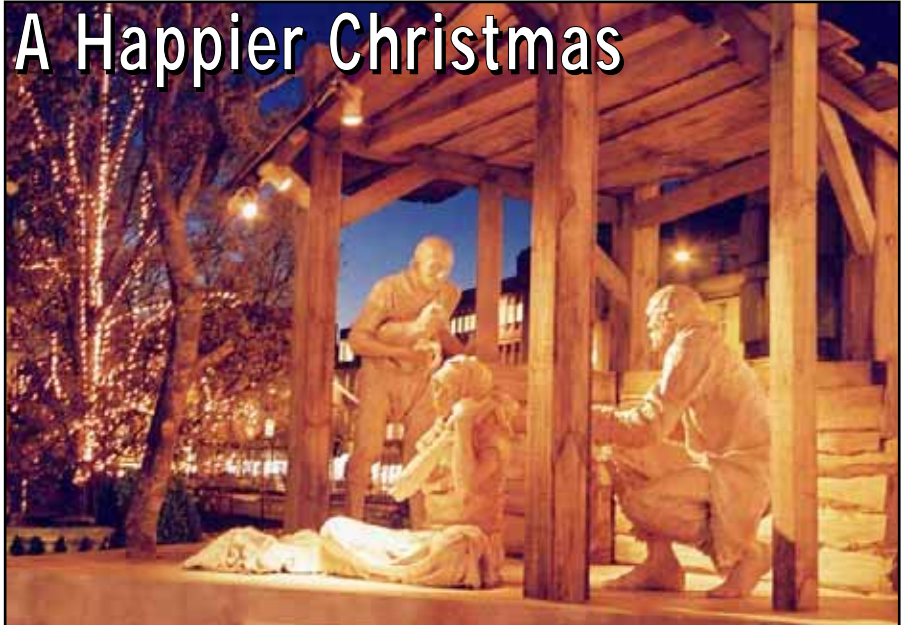
If you are interested in standing for the Vestry or want to find out what is involved please speak to Ginger Franklin (the Vestry Clerk) or other members of the Vestry.

Electronic copies of the accounts can be obtained from the website.

Christmas Cards

We have a new OSP card this year, and there are a number of these on the piano. Please take what you can use for friends and family, and to advertise the various Christmas services at OSP amongst your neighbours and local businesses.

A Happier Christmas



© Peter Stubbs www.cdmphoto.org.uk

I think we can all recognize the truth of the old saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.' Family tensions, stressful situations, and too much food and drink can be an explosive combination.

The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us - as one of us - give us reason to live in hope that things can be better, starting with ourselves.

Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Christmas is that it celebrates the Incarnation, not just the nativity. We do not really celebrate Christ's 'birthday' as a baby, remembering something that happened long ago. We celebrate the stupendous fact of the Incarnation, God entering our world. And God continues to take flesh in our midst, in the men and women and children who form his body today.

It might be easier to run away from what we see as the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we might feel we have a 'holy' Christmas, and avoid all that devilish activity that the old saying was getting at. But then we would be forgetting the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God - the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas, just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. They transformed the midwinter pagan evergreen symbol for life into a symbol of hope, and the pagan midwinter

festival of the sun into a celebration of the light of the world. In our own time, it is we who have to make holy the modern festival of shopping and partying, not by opposing it like puritans, but by transforming it.

One of the modern aspects of Christmas we could try to transform is the giving of gifts. It is wonderful to have an excuse to wrap things up and give them to friends and family. It is also wonderful to tear off the wrapping from the presents we may receive. Christmas celebrates the greatest gift possible, the gift of God which is life itself and the love that can make life complete. The gifts we give each other are mere symbols of that; we emulate the giving-ness of God. But, as Jesus himself said, if you only do this for those who do it back to you, what good is that? Giving among friends is good, but giving to strangers in need is greater.

So please consider very seriously all the opportunities you will have this Christmas to give to strangers. Most of the major charities operate schemes for giving gifts to others in the form of donations to their work - catalogues are available in church - so, alongside the other gifts you may give, please think about giving a gift to some of your family and friends in this worthwhile form, and help some of the world's poorest people. I think that would be a great way to 'put Christ into Christmas,' really to celebrate the Incarnation, and transform a Happy Christmas into a Happier one, for friends and stranger alike.

A Happier Christmas to you all!

Fr Ian

A Letter From India - Fr Jagat's Olive Update

Dear All

Thank you again for your prayers and generous donation for the Orissa victims of violence and persecution. The timely help has been deeply appreciated by the victims. It has brought much needed hope and assured them of concerned friends and community standing by them in such difficult time. Below is a report of my visit to Orissa and some up-date on the situation.

Visit to Orissa

I visited Cuttack and Bhubaneswar in Orissa, as I had planned, where Christians fleeing the persecution are taking shelter. At 11.00 am, Wednesday I reached a Relief Camp in Bhubaneswar (the state capital) where more than 300 men, women and children were staying. I did not expect them to be singing hymns and having a worship service at that time or day. In stead of complaining or despairing they were singing and praying in Kui, standing in a hall, which is also their living and sleeping place now.

These few hundreds of people are living in a big marriage hall (like community centres and common in India) owned by a Hindu businessman, plus in two rooms of the adjoining YMCA. The Orissa government is feeding them and paying rent to the hall owner. Other needs like clothes, bed-sheets, toiletries and medicines are provided by the city churches. I also saw a baby of one week old, born in that Camp!

The 30 some people in a camp in Cuttack, the other city, are supported by one local church and all living in the Church compound. They were 68 when they arrived, now some have returned back to their village. As the Orissa government has initiated some visible action under pressure from Delhi and international community some people have started to return 'home' hoping to rebuild their lives.

I met one of our 1995 seminary graduates who came to see me in Bhubaneswar from his hiding in another city. He is a senior pastor and overseer of a number of evangelists so a prime target, has received death threats. He hid his family in the jungle with one six month old baby for two days and nights! A number of people I met in the camp I knew them before. They have lost all belongings with houses gutted down. Their stories are long for this email. I carried a donation from our St Mary's

Church, Pune which was handed over to two churches taking care of these refugees.

Relief work of OLIVE

Attended a meeting of OLIVE to discuss its relief work with the money from OSP. We decided to work in Berhampur city first, the nearest to Kondhmal, to which maximum number had fled. Here they don't live in a single place like a Relief Camp but scattered in relative or friend's houses or some even have rented places. Two churches from Bombay were first to send help here. Now only about 600 have remained here who are not willing to return fearing for their lives. OLIVE has provided some relief material like food grains and toiletries. Next week blankets and saris for women and clothes for men are planned to be given out.

OLIVE or other NGO's have not yet started direct operations in Kondhmal highlands. Though situation is under control there is still tension, and will remain so at least until Christmas. The additional deployment of Central Reserve Police Force is still operating and will stay at least until Christmas. No one can say what will happen after they are withdrawn. OLIVE has called a team of representatives from the hills, as they can easily come down to the city, to receive the relief materials, mainly blankets, saris and cooking vessels in limited quantity and carry them back to their villages. OLIVE's representative will make private visits to the hills to ensure proper distribution. Private visits are possible which goes unnoticed.

Government relief camps are still operating in the hills with about 10,000 inmates at nights, during the day they go out to attend to their fields.

Beyond Relief:

Orissa Govt has just started giving its monetary compensation for houses damaged or destroyed. Christian NGO's are waiting to see how far that goes, which normally are paltry sums. Moreover the stringent conditions, corruption and bureaucracy will deprive many from the compensation's reach. So NGO's help is still necessary in rebuilding efforts.

OLIVE plans to provide fabricated doors, windows and tin roofs to people whose houses are destroyed. In the hills wooden doors may be cheaper so that option is also open. OLIVE also wants to help the children

in particular. The children are not only traumatised their normal life and education are badly hampered. OLIVE decides to adopt some children. Initially it will be for temporary respite for families to rebuild their houses. Children can go back home once their families are ready to take them. And those willing and need to stay on for reasons of security or poverty OLIVE will take care of them for a longer time.

Orissa Update:

The national and local media has now moved on to other news, but still thousands of people have not yet returned home, they are still in the Relief Camps in Kondhmal. In cities over 600 are scattered in Berhampore, about a thousand are in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack (250km away), unwilling to return feeling insecure.

This persecution has triggered a migration from the scenic hills to far away harsh cities. An unknown number of people have left for other states in India including neighbouring Andhra and Kerala, Gujarat, Delhi, Assam and MP.

The people seek prayer for a peaceful Christmas because of the threat given by communal outfits that if the killers of the Hindu Swami are not arrested before then they will give a call for 'close down' of Orissa (Bundh) for that day to disrupt Christmas.

Sadly one of Jyotsna's ailing distant relatives, who had fled to Berhampur during the riots, was under shock, never recovered from trauma and has died.

For the past two months we are in regular contact with scores of people from Orissa and are increasingly drawn into this crisis. And listening to long stories of traumatised peoples' horrific experiences of those days of arson, riots and mayhem. We thank God the rioting has stopped, the administration has begun to work and people are thinking of life ahead and the violence is behind.

I will be able to send some pictures next time when I write again. Meanwhile please do not forget but offer a prayer for the suffering people of Orissa.

Regards.

Jagat

*Jagat & Jyotsna Santra
UBS, Pune, India.*

The Best Laid Schemes

Robert Burns's famous words were very apt on the day of the walking group's first outing this season. The planned walk was to be deep in the Lammermuir Hills, round the Whiteadder Reservoir, and so we set off, three car loads of us, first to Gifford, then up, up narrow, twisting roads to our starting point. Unfortunately the higher we went, the stronger the wind howled, buffeting the cars, and the rain was torrential. Just trying to open the car boot to get our walking gear out meant a drenching, and we could hardly stand in the wind. A vote was quickly taken. We weren't mad enough to set off in such conditions.

So back we went to Gifford, coffee and a chat in the Tweeddale Arms. Amazingly, or not so amazingly in our climate, the rain stopped, and in sheltered Gifford conditions were quite pleasant. So with the aid of a helpful leaflet about local walks we set off along a delightful riverside path. It took us by an old mill and, unexpectedly, by a huge enclosure where pheasant chicks are reared. We saw dozens of them, a remarkable sight. This is where there was a little bit of drama, when a pack of not very friendly looking hounds and their owner viewed us suspiciously. It seemed we had strayed from the proper path and were on a private estate.

Back on track, we had lunch, not too uncomfortably, on the edge of a stubble field, then walked on to the tiny village of Bolton. The church was open, it's one of these plain little country churches where there's a real sense of beauty and peace. Then in the kirkyard we saw a remarkable grave, that of Gilbert Burns, brother of the poet, their mother Agnes Broun and one of their sisters. I had known that Gilbert Burns farmed near Haddington, but had never tried to find out more. My book on Burns tells me that 'After her husband's death Agnes Broun lived mainly with the poet's brother and died in Gilbert's home, Grant's Brae, East Lothian in 1820.' I don't know where Grant's Brae is or was, but will try to find out.

So what looked as if it was going to be a disappointing day since our planned walk didn't happen proved to be enjoyable and fascinating. Join us on our next walk if you can. You never know what surprises may be in store.

Christine Stevenson

A Walk By The Sea

In years past, the OSP walking group has been blessed with decent weather on most of its Saturday outings - indeed, we have often remarked that "the Lord is looking after his own"!

Sadly, this season, the Lord and the good weather seem to have deserted us. Our first outing in the Lammermuirs on 4th October was abandoned by unanimous decision, as we stood at the Whiteadder reservoir and surveyed miles of open moorland swept by gales and driving rain (though some members of the group later had a pleasant walk around Gifford, as described in Christine's article- "The Best Schemes").

As the day for our second walk approached, at the end of a week of alternate brilliant and dire days, eyes were riveted on the tv weather forecasts. Saturday 25th October was going to be a dire day - except for a thin strip of east coast where we were due to walk from Gullane Bents to Yellowcraig and thence inland to Dirleton. That alone was not covered by blue.

And so six hardy (or is it mad?) souls assembled at the bus stop on York Place and boarded the X5 service which deposited us in Gullane at 10.25. We walked down to Gullane Bents and surveyed the scene. A lowering sky, a Firth of Forth grey of visage with breakers crashing on the beach, and a wind that must have been at least Force 7.

Off we went, fortunately heading in a north-easterly direction, which kept the wind at our backs and greatly increased

our speed. It was not, in any case, a day for hanging around.

Our path - a bridleway with the marks of many hooves - led us up and down and round about, through thickets of sea buckthorn, its tawny berries thick on the branches awaiting the flocks of Fieldfares that come to feed on them in the winter (hey - who said this wasn't winter?) over footbridges and past an area of felled trees. The felling was apparently due to disease, but new trees have been planted. We emerged then onto a wide track beside the famous Muirfield golf course and turned left towards Yellowcraig.

Our way now took us over the Gullane dunes, which stretch for miles, and are mazed with paths. On our left, the Firth continued grey and white-capped and Fife was lost in the greyness of the sky. After much brisk walking, we diverted left and came to the beach - a beautiful stretch of sand, even on a poor day. It had been planned to have lunch here, but as we had made more rapid progress than expected (wind power!) it was not lunch time!

So we headed along the beach, the knowledge that it would be high tide in half an hour urging us on towards a small headland that had to be rounded. The smooth firm sand of the beach gave way to stones and then to rocks coated with seaweed in places, slippy to walk on and awkward to negotiate. Speed dropped. The tide came in. But the headland was negotiated, its overhang dripping ominously, and the sea lapping at our feet, and we reached the safe haven of the next bay, with the island of Fidra in full view.



Fidra is an RSPB reserve, its cameras relaying pictures to the Seabird Centre in North Berwick. We didn't linger to spot the birds. It had started to rain. So we sought shelter in the lee of the dunes and ate our lunch.

The rain became heavier. Waterproof trousers appeared and were dragged on. A fluorescent yellow cycling cape was donned. Heads went down now, aiming for the far end of the bay, where a grassy track led us away from the beach and gave some shelter from buckthorn nearby and tall trees further back. The Bass Rock was in sight, with the islands of Lamb and Craigleith in front. Further on, Berwick Law hove into view and there was some badinage about going on to North Berwick.

We had been told that when you can see the hole through the island of Fidra, you turn inland to Yellowcraig. And indeed, the hole was discerned, and the track ran inland. From here, the going was easier (though the wind and rain were now in our faces) through the woods at the edge of the Archerfield development (out of character, out of scale and, fortunately, largely out of sight) and then across fields to Dirleton.

We paused briefly in the Dirleton Gallery to inspect the art works, and then headed off to the Open Arms. By this time we were saturated, wind-beaten, and sand-blasted - and looked it! Logs were thrown onto the fire, comfortable settees vacated for our occupation, and we settled down to restorative refreshments. Very soon, we were all glowing with a sense of achievement, and adversity overcome. That was a good walk, that was!

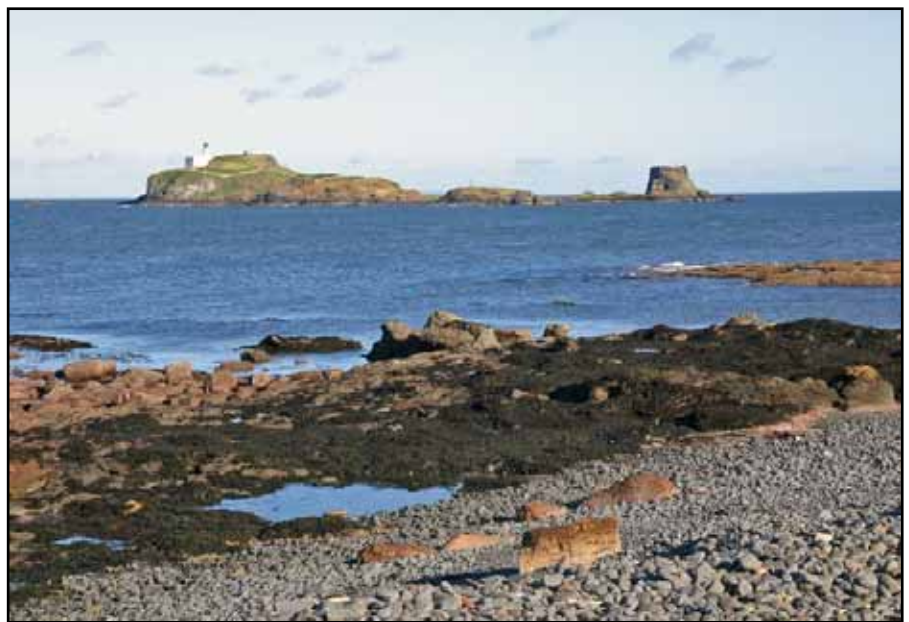
Brenda White

PS The photos that accompany this article were taken three days previously, when I did the walk on a glorious day of sunshine with blue sky and sea. There's no justice, is there?

And some people were worried that the walks were too much like gentle strolls to the pub for lunch!

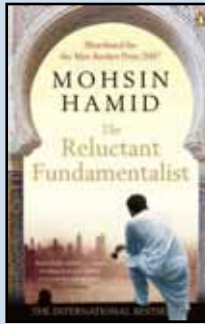
Left: Dirleton village

Right (from the top): Berwick Law, Fidra (can you see the hole yet?) & Gullane Dunes



OSP Book Club

After Mass, on Sunday 16 November, 5 of us met in Jean's flat over a bowl of soup and a drink, to discuss 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' by Mohsin Hamid.



It was a very relaxed but surprisingly animated discussion, especially given the small number of people present. It is always amazing how many new insights you can get by sharing ideas at these sorts of events.

Once again, the choice of an informal setting really enhanced the event.

Our next meeting is on Sunday 11 January at 89 McDonald Road (again after Mass and coffee), to discuss 'The Reader' by Bernhard Schlink.

All are welcome. The only qualification is that you have to have read the book!

A Musical Triumph

On Friday 28 November a small group of us gathered together in Helen Tyrell's flat, eagerly anticipating an informal evening of music.

This was the brainchild of Alastair Learmont and Jean Keltie, who felt that there was a wealth of untapped music talent in the congregation and wanted to encourage people to get up and have a go in an unthreatening environment. They certainly succeeded, and we were treated to a wide variety of vocal and instrumental music.

It was the first of the music evenings that we had had families participating in and it was very nice to have the children join us.

The small size of the group and choice of location added to the feeling of informality and left you impression that you had just spent a very enjoyable evening with close friends. Watch out for the next one. Thanks to all involved.

Over The Hills

On Saturday 22 November, despite forecasts of snow, sub-zero temperatures and generally arctic conditions, seven hardy members of the OSP walking group travelled by MacEwans excellent bus service to Flotterstone and assembled at the Visitor Centre there (casting covetous eyes in passing at the Flotterstone Inn and its promise of warmth) and set out to walk to Balerno.

On the ground, the path is relatively easy and certainly clear to follow. It goes first of all towards Glencorse Reservoir, with splendid views of Turnhouse Hill and others beyond, looking at their best in the brilliant sunshine under blue skies, and with a light dusting of snow. It then goes along the side of the reservoir, which itself was a deep blue against the autumnal hills behind. To the right, the slopes of Castlelaw Hill showed a range of colours, from the dark green of the pines through to rusty gold larches.

We then left the reservoir path, and headed up towards Maidens Cleugh, stopping often to admire the view back down to Glencorse and beyond to the Moorfoots in the hazy distance.

The Cleugh - a learned member of the party informed us that "cleugh" means "cleft" - runs between Bells Hill and Harbour Hill, and is indeed a cleft, thereby relieving us of the need to scale the heights. We were glad of this, because the wind and the cold, which were severe enough at low level, would have been considerably more bracing higher up!



The views backwards to the south were equalled, when we reached the top of the cleft, by the view ahead to the north - a vast panorama stretching all the way round to the Forth Bridges.

Down below, Thriepmuir Reservoir lay in a hollow, with the trees round Harlaw on its right. From here, it was downhill all the way, eventually to Harlaw Wildlife Garden where we perched on one of the wooden picnic tables and ate a welcome lunch.

This place would be grand in the summer! In a temperature of -5, though, you don't linger long, and we set off to walk round Harlaw Reservoir, a pleasant meander by the side of the water and then through pine woods to return to the Visitor Centre, where we absorbed a little welcome warmth before setting off on the last lap, down to Balerno.

There, the Malleny Arms welcomed us with warmth, good cheer, beer and coffee, and even a plate of biscuits! One of our members reminisced about the manufacture of custard creams, and a learned discussion took place as to the definition of a "quoin" on a building. The walking group doesn't just walk!

Brenda White

If you want to find out more about the walking group see Brenda White or Christine Stevenson over coffee after Mass

Top Right: Glencorse Reservoir

Mid Right: Harlaw Reservoir

Bottom Right: Heading into the Hills

Below: Lunch at Harlaw wildlife garden

Left: Journey's end, the Malleny Arms, Balerno - a pub just for a change!





Next Walk

The Walking group's next walk is on Saturday 13 December round Linlithgow Loch, followed by lunch. It's a delightful, easy walk, so do try to come along. It might even be dry!

Further information and the sign-up sheet are on the piano at the back of church.

YASG

Remember that on Monday, 8 December, there is no blether. But on Friday 12, there will be a party at Tom Birch's, 8 till late. Tom will be in touch about it by email (if you're not yet on the email list and would like to be, contact Simon.)

That's it for 2008: thanks, everyone, it's been HUGE. Monday nights resume in the New Year.

Concert

In connection with an exhibition at the Ingleby Gallery, pianist Tim Kent is giving a concert on Wednesday 17 December at 6.30pm in OSP.

He is performing Peter Liversidge's Collected Symphony. "All the piano parts of my record collection edited together, with all the instruments and voices removed, performed on a single piano.". The concert is free and all are very welcome.

A New World Christmas

On Saturday 20 December at 7.30pm, The St Andrew Camerata perform a selection of Christmas pieces from America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand alongside more traditional festive favourites, by candlelight in OSP.

Tickets are priced at £8 / £5 and are available in advance from the Queen's Hall box office, or on the door on the night. Conducted by Vincent Wallace and accompanied by Morley Whitehead

Children's Rota

NOVEMBER 30 - GODLY PLAY : ADVENT I

Storyteller: Michelle Brown
Doorkeeper: Paul Lugton
Creche: Lynne Niven & Anne Whiting

DECEMBER 7 - GODLY PLAY : ADVENT II

Storyteller: Carrie Upton
Doorkeeper: Yvonne Martz
Creche: TBA
YSP: Michelle Brown & Alastair Hulbert

9:15-10:15: *The Power of Advertisements
& Talking about Consumerism*

DECEMBER 14 - GODLY PLAY : ADVENT III

Storyteller: John Thompson
Doorkeeper: Jonathan Price
Creche: Sheila Miller & Rosemary Williams

DECEMBER 21 - GODLY PLAY : ADVENT IV

Storyteller: Richard Holloway
Doorkeeper: Paul Lugton
Creche: Emma Johnston

DECEMBER 28 - CHRISTMAS GAMES & STORIES : IN CRÈCHE

Leader: Michelle Brown
Helper: Paul Lugton

To find out more about our Children's ministry, see Michelle Brown after Mass

Picnic Time

The rain poured down the night before the children's ministry back to school picnic. On the big day the ground was far too squishy for a comfortable picnic and the sky wasn't looking very promising either. Despite, the windy and wet conditions outside, a couple volunteers and children happily gathered together for an indoor picnic in the church hall instead.

We played some indoor games like musical chairs, hula hoop challenge and a bit of table tennis. Then we gathered around the table or on the picnic blankets and tucked in to our packed lunches. It was wonderful to be inside away from the windy weather.

Advent Connection Classes

The Ministry Team and Children's Ministry Committee have developed the idea of doing special connection times for the children during different times of the year to chat about worship in an interactive way with the Priests taking turns in teaching us. It is a way for the children, youth group and junior choristers to have the opportunity to informally talk with the Priests and ask any questions they've had about our worship traditions.

Our first two classes will be during Advent with Fr Ian. Both will be directly after mass in the memorial chapel. Parents and their children can go to the Memorial Chapel during the organ music at the end of High Mass to meet Fr Ian there to begin at the close of worship. Both classes will last for approximately 15 minutes and are

open for the full family to attend. If, however, parents wish to leave their children there and head down to coffee time, then we'll bring the children down to join you at coffee when we are done. We do ask that parents of toddlers and younger remain with their children though.

The two classes are on 30 November and 14 December. As the 14th is also the annual meeting day, the families staying for the meeting will then bring their children to the crèche following our connection time for food and childcare with Jennie Gardner and Michelle Brown while the parents are at the meeting in the hall.

For more information, see Michelle after Mass or email: michelle.brown@osp.org.uk

Christmas Eve Crib Service

Children's Ministry will be celebrating Christmas Eve together with church families and visiting families on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

Our worship will be located at the back of the church by the Crib next to the Baptismal Font. We will hear a special Christmas message from Fr Ian, pray and

sing some carols together before sharing in some Christmas treats along with juice, coffee or tea.

The worship is a short service followed by fellowship and everyone is invited, even if you don't have children to bring with you since we are all young at heart!

Eco-Children's Ministry

On 22 September, while the congregation heard more about the eco-congregation upstairs in worship, children's ministry also discussed creation and appreciating the gifts that God has given us. Five children took part in hearing a storybook about creation, playing a recycling game, colouring in an environmental colouring book about pollution, designing a large art work about what we love in creation and how we'll help protect it, and then praying for all the creatures on earth. With the help of Yvonne Martz and myself, the children were engaged in chats about the earth and all the creatures we love and want to help protect. The children also



made a list of things they could do to help protect creation.

All the artwork from our lesson was on display in the church hall for the eco-congregation coffee time talk. Our large art work is still hanging in the church hall for all to see.

Travelling to Ghana

On November 25th, the Edinburgh Diocese and the Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana officially linked forging an agreement to journey together as companions exploring the challenges of the Gospel. The Mission of this agreement, as stated by the Overseas Committee, is "to develop links of friendship and partnership between the two dioceses, among congregations and individuals, in ways that are: spiritual, imaginative, sustainable, practical, effective, enriching and fun. The intention is to empower Christian witness by praying for each other, learning from each other, supporting each other, respecting each other's diversity in culture and in theological opinions, and encouraging the development of mutual understanding between the peoples of the Dioceses of Cape Coast and Edinburgh."

As part of this Mission, the Diocese of Edinburgh arranged to send on a team of youth workers to help lead a camp for young people aged 17-25. This mission trip

was organised by the Overseas Committee. They were looking for youth workers in the Diocese to take part. As it turns out, our team coming from Edinburgh consists of just two people, both from Old Saint Paul's. From 15 to 27 August, Paul Lugton and I travelled to Cape Coast to attend and help lead this camp organised by Rev Kofi de Graft-Johnston and the Cape Coast Diocese. Around 500 young people to attended. We were excited for the challenges and opportunities this trip brought to share our faith and work with our companion Diocese.

We took part in the camp by helping to lead Bible studies, participating in Worship and fellowship opportunities and also performing as part of a variety show for the 500 young people who attended the camp (I'm wondering if singing silly summer camp songs with motions counts as a talent????) After our return, we give talks throughout the Diocese of Edinburgh about our experience and maintaining the connections to the youth workers we met in Ghana.



Above: Cape Coast castle
Below: Paul & Michelle at St Michael's & All Angels

We want to thank the Vestry for their generous support in helping to fund our mission trip.

Michelle Brown



Young St Paul's News

On 27 September, Young Saint Paul's kicked off the new term with a baking social event. Six young people gathered with Revd Carrie Upton and I at Lauder House to bake lots of yummy goodies for the Christian Aid tea party held that afternoon in the church hall.

With recipes and ingredients provided by Kathryn Jourdan and Carrie, the young people were well prepared for baking excellence! The chocolate chip muffins, shortbread and chocolate cake went over really well at the tea party. Our group enjoyed trying some of the other goodies there as well as we attended the tea party with Fr Ian.

Before Mass on 16 November we met in the hall to hear about the mission trip Paul Lugton and I took to Ghana this summer to take part in the youth camp. We also be talked about tithing.

Future dates of interest are:
7 December, 9:15-10:15am, Church Hall : The Power of Advertisements and Talking about Consumerism

20 December, 5-8pm, Location to be determined : YSP Christmas Party

If you are between 9-15 years old, then mark your calendars and come along to join us for donuts and discussions!



Dementia Workshop

Faith in Older People, in collaboration with Positive Dementia are presenting a one-day workshop on Communication. Entitled 'A matter of the life and death of the mind: Finding ways to connect with people with dementia' it seeks to explore the many aspects of communication including language, non-verbal channels, creativity and humour. It is hoped that participants will gain many ideas for new ways of connecting with people with the condition

It is being held on 13 January 2009 - 10am-4pm at the Gillis Centre, Strathearn Road, Edinburgh and costs £95. For more information contact: Faith in Older People Tel: 346 7981, or email: fiop@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Justice & Peace Talk

Morningside Justice and Peace Group, meet every Wednesday during the autumn and spring months from 10.30 to 11.30 at The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road. These meetings are open to all, consist of a short talk on a topic of local, national or international concern and are followed by questions and discussion.

To cover costs, a contribution of £1 is requested at each meeting. Topics discussed in January include:

Jan 7: DNA, health, medicine & beyond.
Jan 14: Protecting and preserving our city's heritage buildings.
Jan 21: Margo MacDonald - End of life choices

Any Interest?

Is anyone interested in a ceillidh in the hall on Tuesday 30 December? If so, tell Jean, or sign the list on the piano.

Burns Night Ceilidh

Advance warning! There's going to be a family Burns Night ceillidh on Friday 23 January in the hall. This year it is intended to be a very family friendly i.e. no endless immortal memory droning on!

Off to Moffatt



On Saturday 22 November, the MCs headed off for one of their regular 'awaydays'. Originally intended to be their spring outing they were running a little late. Almost unimaginable to anyone who knows them.

Plans were made for an autumnal trip into the Borders for lunch a gentle stroll and then afternoon tea (we are very civilised in the servers). Unfortunately the weather intervened as this was the weekend of the first arctic blast of winter.

This caused a great deal of distress for Mistress Niven who, after last year's failed back flip on ice, has a deep distrust of frozen water (unless it is accompanied by

lemon and tonic!). It resulted in Jubin being on 'ice alert' for the entire event, and the three of us had to carefully shepherd Lynne past numerous puddles of 'liquid ice'.

In spite of dire weather warnings we made it to Moffatt in time for lunch, where the red wine & roast lamb worked wonders at driving out the winter chills. With regret we then tore ourselves away from the warmth and went sightseeing. Fifteen minutes later we were looking for a cafe for tea!

The return journey was made more interesting when our driver decided to ignore several signs for Edinburgh and took us on a mystery tour of roads running near to the ones we actually wanted.

Christmas Appeal : Rock Trust

The Outreach group at St Mary's Cathedral is appealing again this year for Christmas gifts for distribution to the young homeless people who use the services of the Rock Trust. The young people - male and female - are mainly in the 16 - 19 years age group but the age range goes up to 25 years.

Most of them have no family support or connections and many will not receive any Christmas presents. These young people often are quite troubled and have little self esteem. Their feelings of isolation and rejection are heightened at this time of year. You can help these young people to feel that someone cares about them at Christmas by making up shoe boxes of small items which are passed to the Rock

Trust staff to give out to the people using their services.

They are asking you to bring along a shoe box - preferably wrapped in festive paper - and filled with small (unwrapped) items such as socks, gloves, toiletries (no razors or aerosols), puzzle books, pens, sweets. The boxes should be clearly labelled as to suitability i.e. male or female. The Rock Trust staff will collect the boxes on Sunday 21 December after the 10.30am service from the Cathedral (Palmerston Place). So please hand your box in to the Cathedral's vergier or office during that week.

You can find out more about the work of the Rock Trust at: www.rocktrust.org

Adventures in Faith : Opera Series



It has the power to move people like nothing else, representing at its best a fusion of music, poetry, drama and visual spectacle.

Go beyond the caricatures of large ladies in winged helmets (though there may be some of them too - and not only on the screen) with this four session course exploring opera, that most remarkable of art forms.

A large proportion of each session will be spent watching extracts of operas, enabling us to see and hear not only a variety of different music, but a variety of different performers and performance styles, too.

There will also be some exploration of the theological themes in opera (of which there are surprisingly many), but the main focus of these sessions will be to offer as broad an introduction as possible to the remarkable, joyous, profound, moving and occasionally just downright silly world of opera.

The course will be run by Michael Fuller on Monday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30pm from 19 January to 9 February at 2 Cobden Road. It costs £15 or £10 for concessions.

For more information or to book a place, contact Elspeth Strachan on 538 7033 or email adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Advent Art & Prayer Workshop

On Saturday 13 December, St James's Leith are organising an Advent Art and Prayer Workshop from 10am - 4pm.

It will be run by 'Soul Marks', a charity based in Edinburgh using the visual arts as a tool for prayer, worship & community. It is led by Edinburgh artist Carol Maples, who has been creating images for worship and running art and prayer workshops all over Scotland for the past 15 years

The cost of the day is £30 per person. This includes all art materials, lunch, coffee and biscuits. Soup and bread is provided for lunch. They recommend that you wear warm clothes that you are prepared to get messy.

The entrance to St James overlooks Leith Links where John's Place intersects with Duncan Place (the hall sits back off the road). It is about 5 minutes' walk from the foot of Leith Walk.

Enquiries about bookings for the St James workshops should be made to: admin@soulmarks.co.uk or phone: 0131 669 2431

For further information about the nature of the workshops please contact: Carol on 0131 467 6243 or send an email to carol@soulmarks.co.uk or you could visit their website at: www.soulmarks.co.uk

Diary Dates

December

MONDAY 1ST

8.00pm: YASG blether in the downstairs room of the Canon's Gait will include mass, see Simon Tibbs for details.

WEDNESDAY 3RD

11.00am: Hall Mass followed by a light lunch

7.30pm: Poetry Group meet in Lauder House, contact Helen Reid Thomas 229 5623 for details.

SATURDAY 6TH

Young Adults Social Group walk up Ben Ledi (and, ideally, down again). Offer of supper in the evening for those who want it, contact Simon Tibbs for details

FRIDAY 12TH

YASG Party at Tom Birch's flat, contact Simon Tibbs for details

SATURDAY 13TH

OSP Walking Group: Around Linlithgow Loch, followed by lunch. See sheet on piano for more details.

Advent Art & Prayer workshop - see article on this page.

SUNDAY 14TH

AGM and refreshments in the hall after Mass

WEDNESDAY 17TH

6.30pm: Tim Kent concert in the church, free. See page 7 for details.

SATURDAY 20TH

5-8pm: YSP Christmas Party, See Michelle for details

7.30pm: St Andrew's Camerata concert in the church, tickets £8 / £5. See page 7 for details.

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER

6.30pm: Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE, 24 DECEMBER

4.00pm: Children's Crib Service

11.30pm: Midnight Mass by candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am: Family Mass

January issue deadline : 6 January

Send any details to Steve Harries or email: newsletter@osp.org.uk

Calendar & Rotas for December 2008

Day & Observance	10.30 am High Mass				6.30 pm
	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Offertory	Readings & Reader
December 7 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85.1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8	Andrew Kerr Susanna Kerr	Bill Marshall	Tim & Lesley Blackmore	Baruch 5.1-9 Luke 3.1-6 Jennie Gardner
Weekdays:	Mon 8-Conception of Mary, mother of the Lord				
December 14 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thess 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28	John Dale Sheila Brock	Andrew Paterson	Anthea Orr & Elspeth Strachan	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Luke 3.7-18 Niall Franklin
Weekdays:	Wed, Fri, Sat - Ember Days of prayer for the vocation of all God's people				
December 21 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2 Samuel 7.1-11.16 Luke 1.47-55 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38	John Thompson Helen Cook	Jim Wynn-Evans	tbc	Carol Service
December 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (11.30pm on 24th)	Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20	Helen Tyrrell Frank Ribbons	Clergy	tbc	
Weekdays:	Fri 26 - St Stephen, deacon & martyr; Sat 27 - St John, apostle & evangelist				
December 28 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.22-40	Jim Wynn-Evans Judith Brearley	Lynne Niven	tbc	
Weekdays:	Mon 29 - The Holy Innocents; Tue 30 - Josephine Butler, worker among women, 1905 Wed 31 - John Wycliffe, priest, 1384; Thu 1-The Naming of Jesus Fri 2 - Seraphim of Sarov, monk & teacher, 1833				
January 4 2009 2nd Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31.7-14 Psalm 147.12-20 Ephesians 1.3-14 John 1.1-18	Maggie Stanfield Margaret Aspen	tbc	tbc	Sirach 3.3-9,14-17 John 6.41-47 Steve Harries
Weekdays:	Tue 6 - The Epiphany of the Lord; Sat 10 - William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, 1645				
January 11 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Genesis 1.1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1.4-11	David Rimmer Felicity Cullen	Lorraine Simpson	tbc	Isaiah 40.1-11 Jn 1.1-7,19-20,29-34 David Bassett
Weekdays:	Tue 13 - St Kentigern (or Mungo), bishop of Glasgow, c 603 Wed 14 - Hilary of Poitiers, bishop & teacher, c 367; Sat 17 - Anthony of Egypt, abbot, 356				
January 18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	1 Samuel 3.1-20 Psalm 139.1-6,13-18 1 Cor 6.12-20 John 1.43-51	Trevor Harding Jean Keltie	Young St Paul's	tbc	Isaiah 62.1-5 John 2.1-11 Nigel Cook

Month	Coffee Setup (9.30)	Coffee Server (10.30)	Morning Steward	Morning Sound	Evening Steward	Evening Sound
December	Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197	See Hall Noticeboard		Frank Ribbons	tbc	Ginger & Niall Franklin
January	See Hall Noticeboard	See Hall Noticeboard		Alastair Learmont		George Dickson

CLERGY

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OTHER ROTAS

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Margaret Aspen 01383 822611

TREASURER

Nigel Cook 557 2656

VESTRY CLERK

Ginger Franklin vestry@osp.org.uk