

THE WHITE ROSE

The Parish Newsletter of Old Saint Paul's Church

January 2010.



Half Time

The first phase of the work was done in time so that much of the scaffolding was down by Christmas; some is still needed for the Crucifix to be put back on the outside wall of the Memorial Chapel. Thanks to favourable weather and good site management by Graham Tait, of Campbell & Smith and the skill of our architect, John Sanders and his assistant, Janet Dieren we were on schedule so that the upper reaches of the stone and slate work are looking good. There is a lot of good new work much lower down, well within eyesight. Look around and see, for instance, the subtle touch of window guards that do not obscure the stone tracery. Discover the new stonework in Carrubbers Close. Now it is time to:-

Change Ends

The second phase will involve some more work at high level, including safety guardrails that are really secure, window guards, stonework and pointing in North Grays Close and the finishing off of the roof and guttering over the Lady Chapel and the Carrubbers Close entrance. No more buckets to avoid when you come in the door!

What's Next on the Fixture List?

The Restoration & Renewal Committee would like to address the matter of how we present ourselves to the world outside and how the building may be more encouragingly welcoming to people who pass by. There has been some recent discussion and agreement at the simple level of signage, which will be carried through with the Notice Boards both at the top of Carrubber's Close and in Jeffrey Street, where Arthur Williams' new 'A' board is the first example.

The more testing area is the physical matter of approach to a church built, for historical reasons, on a difficult site. As I said at the AGM, we are most fortunate in that our architect, John Sanders, has great respect for the fellow professionals who have gone before him. It is out of this respect that he gives a fair amount of space to the circumstances and to the life of Harold Tarbolton, who designed the Memorial Chapel and the Calvary Stair. Go and have a look at other examples of the work of 'Tarrybreeks'!

John Sanders has given us some suggestions as a stimulus for discussion

rather than a final solution! (You can see these on pages 2 - 4.)

This area of the church was the subject of considerable discussion at the time when it was built; it has been discussed by a sub-committee during the past 10 years. In more recent years a small group of us looked at a number of the problems / opportunities presented by our premises. The debate goes on!

How can we, interest, encourage, accompany, affirm, challenge, passers-by with the Gospel? Most of us are not very good at this at a personal level. Can our building help us?

How Can We Help in the Process?

Have a think after a look at the suggestions. Then walk-in off the street, as if you've never done it before! Make some notes, then get hold of a trusted friend who does not come to Old St Paul's and ask them to chum you on the same journey, make some more notes on their reactions or, better still, get them to make their own notes and comments.

continued on page 2

Half Time - Change Ends

continued from page 1

Have a chat with someone, who is involved in the process, which will lead to the creation of an Architect's Brief.

OK speak to the clergy but don't load them down, there's plenty of others!

If you are bewildered by the *history* see Peder Aspen, who looks after the Archives.

Or speak to a member of the *Property Committee*; Tim Blackmore, James Campbell, Jennie Gardner, Carrie Gooch, James Hutchinson, Pam Johnstone, Trevor Harding, Steve Harries, Robb Liddle, Lynne Niven, Arthur Williams or of the *Restoration & Renewal Committee*, Sheila Brock, Carrie Gooch, Nigel Cook, Niall Franklin, David McLellan.

Or, if you are shy, by email to wynnevans@gmail.com because I'm on both!

*Jim Wynn-Evans,
Convenor of the Property Committee*

Disabled Access

This remains a continuing concern. The most satisfactory resolution would be through the proposed development of the 'Tannery Site' behind Jury's Inn. We continue our discussion of this possibility with the agent for the owners of the site, who are very helpful in this proposal.

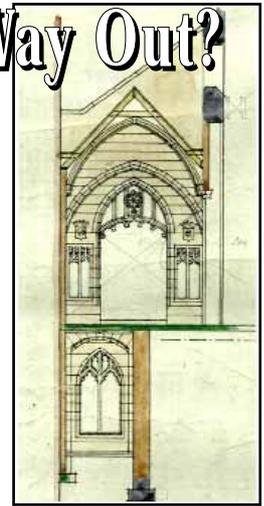
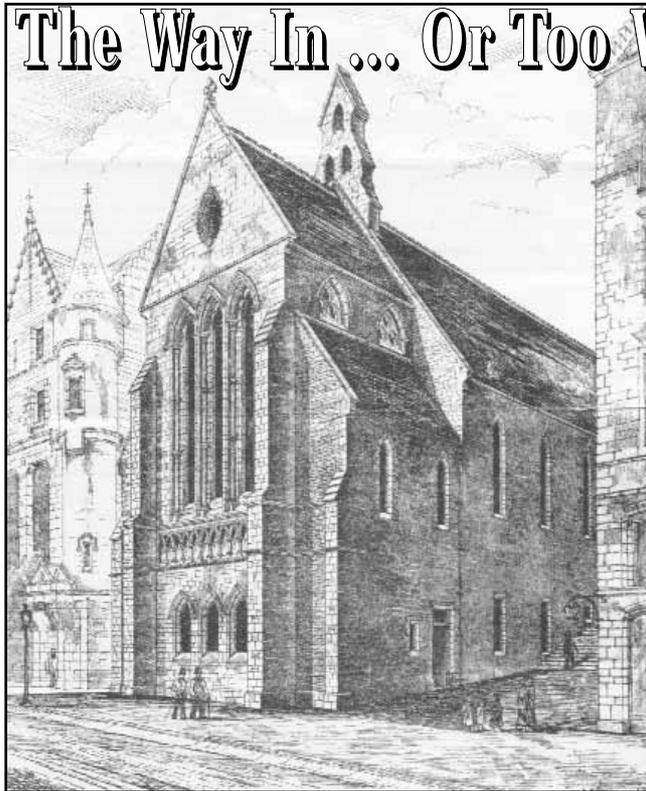
Whilst we are awaiting developments, we plan to train up a team of people able to support Trevor Harding in the management of our existing system.

Please see Jim Wynn-Evans if you are interested in helping with stair climber.



Right: Trevor supervising the climber

The Way In ... Or Too Way Out?



Proposals are being developed as part of a wider scheme that is intended to improve the function of the church for the congregation, improve the impression that the church gives to the surrounding streets and provide access for people with restricted mobility.

History

In 1915 a new porch and access way was proposed to reach the existing stair up to the church from Jeffrey Street. This work was commissioned from the architect H. O. Tarbolton. It was not carried out but it does indicate that both church and architect were already considering alterations which would become the design for the Warrior's Chapel 7 years later.

The OSP Magazine of April 1919 records that Albert Laurie first developed an idea for a Mortuary Chapel as a "place for the congregational dead to lie and not just for the War Dead". Later, in 1925 he credited Miss Burleigh, Matron of the Sick Children's Hospital as having the original idea.

Drawings dated 1920 show proposals for the chapel. In this design, the stair rises much as constructed but the design for the memorial chapel is more complicated than eventually constructed. The design shows a lower chancel for the chapel with a stone screen. A stone porch was proposed inside the church.

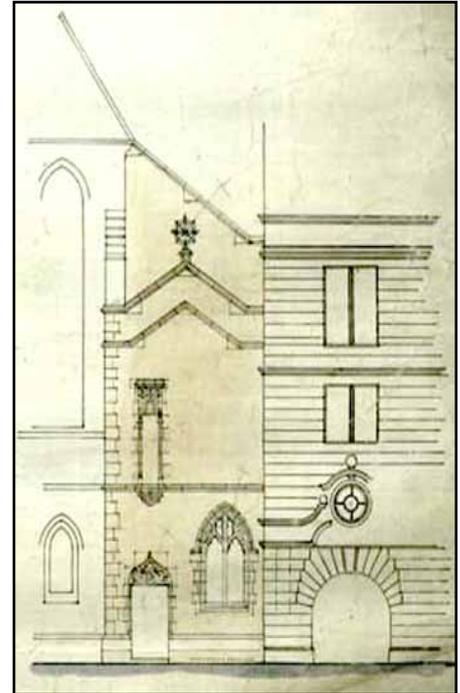
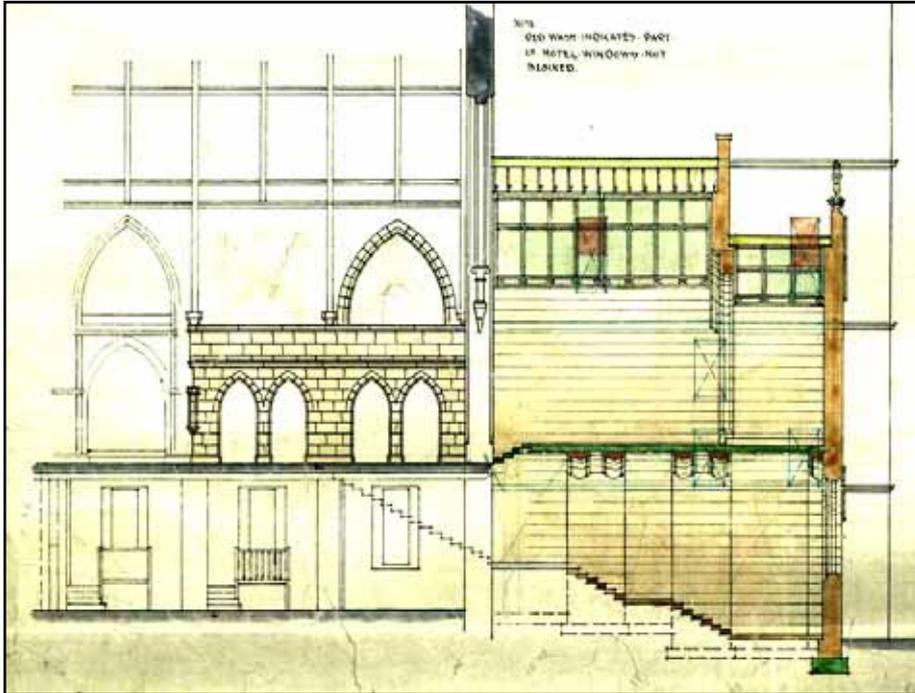
The Calvary at the top of the stairs was given anonymously. It was carved by Gilbert who had worked on Liverpool Cathedral. According to a contemporary review, it is "an exact copy of the medieval Calvary in Worcester Cathedral" but the influence of the Art Deco style or even the Expressionist Movement might reflect an urge to look to the present and to the future.

The Architect

Harold Ogle Tarbolton was born and trained in England but his working life was spent in Scotland. He became well enough accepted to have earned the nickname 'Tarrybreeks'. Indeed he took an active part in public and professional life. Elected to Edinburgh Parish Council, he was convenor of the Building Committee of Edinburgh Royal Hospital and a member of the board of governors for both Edinburgh College of Art and Heriot-Watt.

In 1907 he took over the practice of Hay & Henderson, who had been responsible for the three phases of the building of Old St Paul's; the third phase in 1904 being the 'west' end of the nave and Lady/Seabury Chapel.

As well as work on country and large suburban houses, Tarbolton was involved in a number of Scottish Episcopal Churches in conjunction with other architectural partnerships; St James-the-Less,



Above: The Church c.1880 before the Calvary Stair & Warrior Chapel were built, Design drawings for Warrior's Chapel, c.1920 by H O Tarbolton, & H O Tarbolton himself. **Below** St Bride's, Hyndland & St David's Pilton

Penicuik; St Baldred's, North Berwick; St Paul's, York Place; St Peter's, Torry, Aberdeen; St Salvador's, Stenhouse; St Bride's, Hyndland, Glasgow and solely responsible for St David's, Pilton. He designed the Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital, which marked up to date attitudes and the Old Sailors' Ark, Canongate, to meet other needs of the time.

Another example of his association with advanced ideas was his responsibility for the design and building of the Church in Bangour Village Hospital. This psychiatric hospital, built as a self sufficient community, marked a departure from the old model of prisons or large country houses to that of the Village. Although there were some 'secure units' there were no padded cells. It was for this reason that it was taken over by the War Office to accommodate the thousands of casualties, both physical and mental, flooding back from the trenches. In 1924 Tarbolton was commissioned to design a church which was to be both a memorial and an active inter-denominational place of worship. At this time his work at Old St Paul's would have been well advanced.

The Entrance at Jeffrey Street

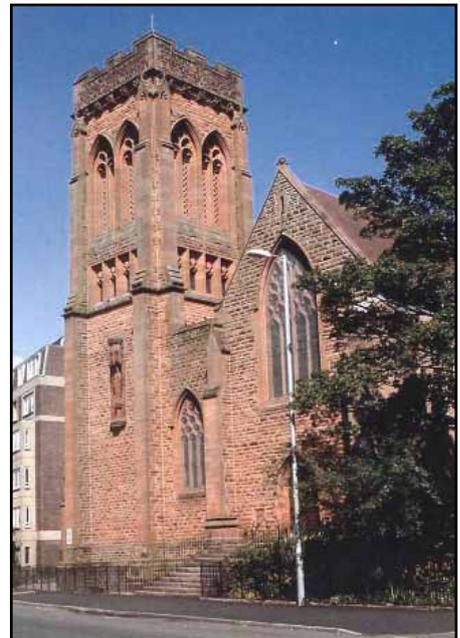
The right angle turn from the pavement, through two arches and then a further 90 degree turn to the left to ascend the Calvary Stair is one of the most dramatic entrances to any church in Scotland. It is

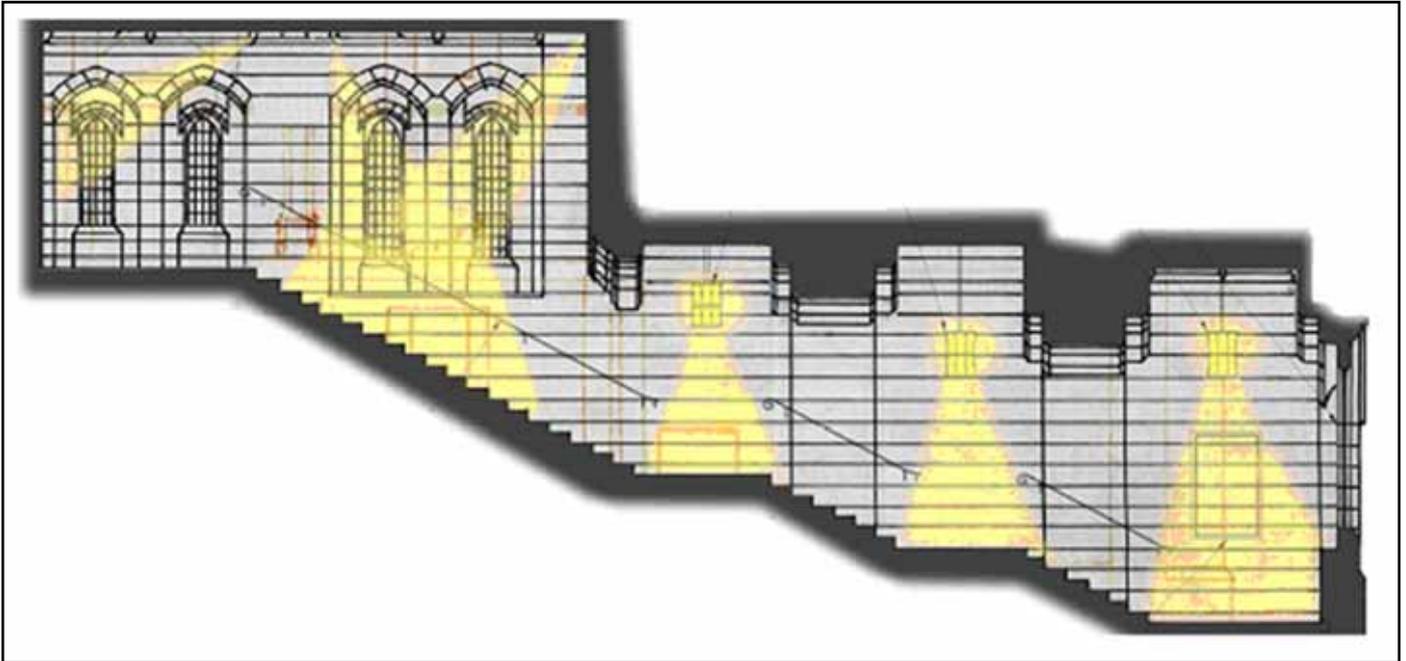
well detailed in high quality stone and it makes a great architectural virtue from the constraint of restricted space on this city centre site and the sharp changes of level across the site from north to south.

This entrance might have a slightly austere and unwelcoming character but this was intended by the architect. The concept of a city church was often discussed between late Victorian church architects. It was an idea imported from continental cities, particularly in Spain. A visitor would be surprised by passing through from an austere, unassuming exterior into a jewel box interior. The influential Victorian architect, G F Bodley, talked about bringing the worshipper to their knees on entering a church. At Old St Paul's this city church idea would have been well known to the clergy involved in commissioning the Warriors Chapel and their architect.

Nearly a hundred years after Tarbolton's design, we have different expectations of the character of entrance to a church. It is possible and appropriate to make changes to meet contemporary expectations and needs. However, the result will be most successful in architectural terms if we work with the original intention rather than trying to change its character into something different.

One of the main things which could be added to the building without spoiling it is better lighting. A good lighting scheme





Above: Proposals for The Calvary Stair & The top of The Calvary Stair before the glass doors were fitted
Below: Proposals for the Jeffrey Street entrance

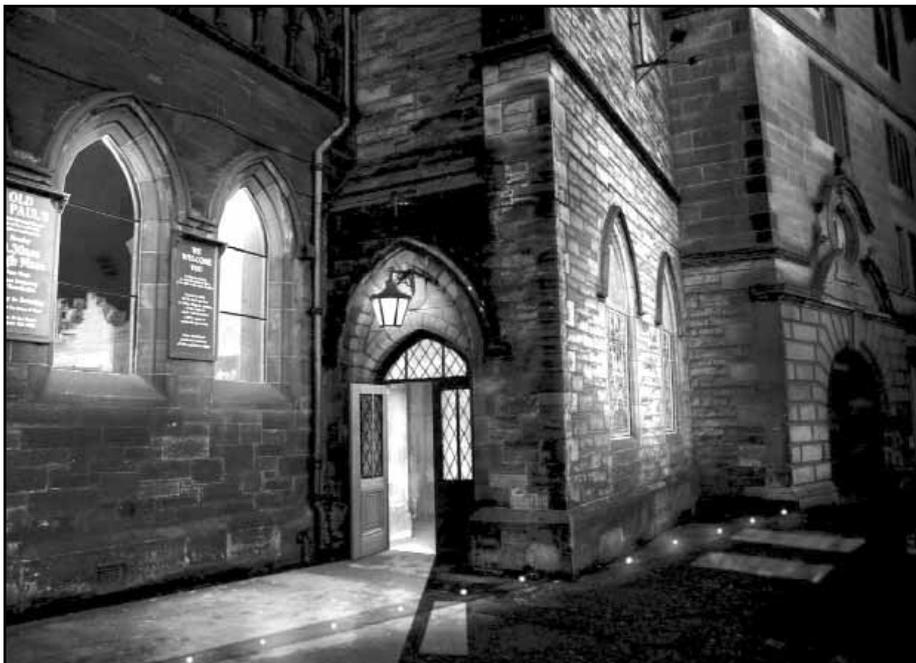
could make the corridor and stair both more welcoming and safer to walk up and down. The two windows facing north at the foot of the stair could be well lit internally, possibly with the addition of some stained glass panels.

Another discouraging quality of the entrance is the character of the door. The outer door should have an Edwardian character which is in keeping with the architecture around it but there should be an improvement on the current doors. The doors should include some glazing so that a visitor is able to see beyond the door before they enter. This is an essential component of making the entrance to a building welcoming. The church symbol, derived from the screen in the church, would be ideally suited to the leaded glass fanlight. (See the illustration at the top of the next page.)

The inner door is needed so that an event or meeting can take place in the church hall without the church being accessible. The inner doors could be glazed. Glazing on the exterior of a building can make the entrance look blank because it reflects its surroundings but a glazed door within the building would give a different impression, especially with careful lighting. The view from the outside, through the glazed doors would focus on the Donatello relief panel of the Virgin and Child.

There is a potential for art or craft work at this entrance. This could include a motif etched onto the glazed inner doors. The uncarved keystone over the arch at the foot of the stair could be carved as always intended. This carving need not be Edwardian in style and could be a lively detail which would add interest to the route from the church down to the church hall.





The Area Outside the North Entrance

There are two triangular areas of paving between the pavement to Jeffrey Street and the right angle walls of the entrance porch and the north wall of the chancel. These areas could be improved by sandstone paving and lighting. There is a further opportunity for an art mosaic in this pavement. We have indicated a sword and bible for St Paul outside and an Icthus symbol inside but the symbolism can be considered as the design develops.

The lighting at the front area could be pavement lights which would provide a wash of light over the north walls. There would be a pool of light in front of the main door from a lantern.

The Calvary Stair

The Calvary Stair is a remarkable set piece. The lower part is entirely lined with stone, including the walls, arches and the vault. There is a timber ceiling at the head of the stair where a further right angled turn is made into the church. The main issue with the Calvary Stair at present is safety. For people with restricted mobility the stairs present a challenge to get into church. The colour of the stone walls and the steps is fairly similar so even with good vision it is not always easy to distinguish steps due to the low light levels.

It is possible to cut three parallel grooves across the front of each tread and fill with a contrasting colour, either white or black. But, in terms of conserving historic fabric, it would be better to make a temporary and reversible alteration in case a less

intrusive improvement can be made in another way in the future.

The most effective improvement that could be made to the Calvary Stair is in its lighting. New lights can be fitted to the upper part of this stair where there is a timber ceiling in the stone vaulted part of the stair.

Lanterns would be considerably better suited to light the space than the existing light fittings. As well as providing general light, lanterns could include smaller fixings which could direct light into the area that needs to be illuminated at the front edges of the steps.

The existing lighting in the stair is served by surface mounted cables. They have an unfortunate effect on the appearance of the stair in general. The Warrior's Chapel has a woodblock floor. It would be possible to lift areas of woodblock to allow a cable to pass down to the vault. The precise positions of the light fittings could be plotted so that all surface cables could be removed from the stair.

It is important not to affect the drama of the steps. The lighting design and specification must provide an appropriate amount of light without flooding the architectural elements of the stair so that Tarbolton's carefully judged architectural balance is not damaged.

*John Sanders
Architect
Simpson & Brown*

R&R

Plinth Piles It In

Jim Wynn-Evans' stint on the Plinth last year has now raised £6000. Not bad for an hours work! Half of this money goes to the R&R appeal and half to Br Kentigern's project in Leeds. You can find out more about the project on page 7.

OSP Ceilidhs

Come to the R&R ceilidhs, they have an excellent 2-piece band, playing a wide range of dance music, it's NOT deafening, so that chat is definitely a part of the evening. They play a range of dances with excellent directions given, drinks and nibbles on sale and it's on the 2nd Friday in the month.

Even if you're not an avid dancer, come with friends and have a sociable evening and know that you're giving substantial support to this R&R fundraising effort. These ceilidhs are great fun - but they need more support in order to make them an effective fundraiser.

Tickets (£4) are available on the door (7.45pm start) or from Frank Ribbons and Lorraine Simpson after Mass.

Grand Music Fair

It is proposed to hold a Grand Music Fair shortly after Easter. On sale will be CD's, DVD's, Videos, Sheet music, Scores and LP's. We already have a sizeable number of items, notably the Peter Unsworth collection of LP's, but help is needed to collect more from the congregation and friends!

It is also essential that this Fair is promoted widely as there will be something here for all music lovers. If you have items for sale - or can persuade others to part with them - or if you have ideas about publicity - or if you are willing to help with sorting, arranging or selling - please see Dick Turkington.

A firm date for the Fair has yet to be established but is likely to be the last Saturday in April or the first Saturday in May. All proceeds will go to R&R.

The Vestry 2010



Rector
Canon Ian Paton



Rector's Warden
Sheila Brock



People's Warden
Frank Ribbons



Clerk
Kim Moore-Ede



Treasurer
Nigel Cook



Lay Representative
Helen Tyrell



Janet de Vigne



Jennie Gardner



Carrie Gooch



James Hutchinson



Finance Convenor
David McLellan



Property Convenor
Jim Wynn-Evans

The Holy Dusters

Are you hoping to lose a few inches regained over the Christmas break? Would you like to give more to Old St Paul's - but are at your limit as far as money is concerned?

Well Here's the solution ... Join our small but enthusiastic group of Holy Dusters.

When? Wednesdays at 2pm and/or Fridays at 11am - for about an hour and a half. (Other times may be possible).

How often? We're flexible! Fortnightly, three-weekly - some of our stalwart helpers

come every week. So just take your pick, what would suit you?

The choir, the servers and the clergy are already cleaning parts of the church regularly as well ... BUT we still need more help. All who worship in Old St Paul's benefit from the work of the Holy Dusters; so please consider giving a little time to this unglamorous but vital and sociable aspect of our life in OSP.

To find out more, contact Sarah Wilkinson call 0131 446 9576 or email wilkinsonhq@btinternet.com



Providing A Warm Welcome

*Half of the money
Jim Wynn-Evans raised from
his stint on the Plinth went to
Br Kentigern, so we asked
him to tell us about the
project ...*

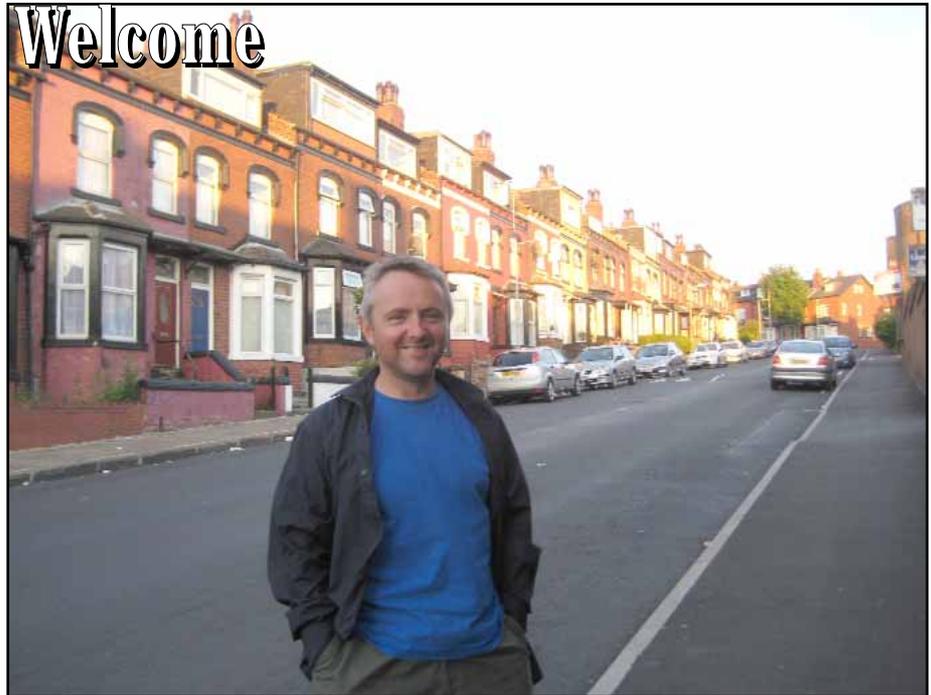
We all know good hospitality when we experience it. I'm not thinking of the chocolate on the pillow in a guest house or attentive waiters in a restaurant I'm remembering times when someone saw me not as a stranger (and to be feared) but as a fellow human being who needed to be befriended.

I was walking across Mull (and probably holding the map the wrong way round) and ended up cold and wet on an isolated farmhouse doorstep with the light failing along with my sense of humour. I knew that all I could ask for was directions, that much seemed reasonable. The door was answered by a Scottish granny - entirely carpeted in red tweed - who insisted that I come in doors and be fed sandwiches and cake along with the sugary tea. My destination, as it turned out, was only a couple of miles away so I set off for it much restored.

She didn't need to do what she did. It was dark, she was living on her own, she could have quite rightly not even answered the door but she either overcame her fear of the unknown person at the door or she was a woman of much graciousness who had good instincts or had learned along the way that it's ok to risk welcoming the stranger and to welcome them generously.

Leeds (along with Liverpool and Glasgow) were, until recently, the main "distribution" cities when the Home Office were housing asylum seekers. When the process fails or is interrupted people end up with no benefits, no right to work and no means to move on. It's estimated in a report by the Joseph Rowntree trust that there are about three thousand destitute asylum seekers in Leeds; we can hardly hope to scratch the surface with even a few of them but I believe it's worth having a go.

Jim's stint on the plinth, spending an hour as a work of art, has raised a generous sum and along with money received from the tithing fund (money you've given) we now have the means in the year ahead to do



Above: Br Kentigern standing in Karnac Road with the Brothers' house in the background.

Below: Br John and Shwan

small things that make a real difference. We can buy a phone card, provide food, money for bus fares but also more creative responses to people's sense of alienation and isolation like a trip away for the day for no purpose other than fun. We try as much as possible to keep all this in the context of our relationship with people, so it's not handing money over and hoping they go away but having people in, round our table, taking time to build trust and respect.

Like most people I have lurking doubts about whether I can welcome all the

strangers in our midst; will there be enough to go around, am I being conned, isn't this someone else's responsibility. But I'm inspired and given hope when I remember my Highland granny and the other times in my life when I've had my dignity and worth honoured or restored.

Br Kentigern

Thanks to people's generosity we are able to give Br Kentigern a cheque for £3,500, £3,000 from Jim's Plinth stint and £500 from the Tithing Fund.



Children's Rota

- January 3** *Godly Play*
Baptism / Worship Talk
Storyteller: Michelle Brown
Doorkeeper: Jean Keltie
Crèche: Susan Sommerville & Emma Johnston
- January 10:** *All Age Worship*
Jona Martz's & Leah Martz's Baptism
- January 17:** *Godly Play*
Parable of the Sower
Storyteller: TBA
Doorkeeper: Yvonne Martz
Crèche: Pam Johnston & Anne Whiting
- January 24:** *Godly Play - Parable of the Leaven*
Storyteller: TBA
Doorkeeper: TBA
Crèche: Sheila Miller & Rosemary Williams
- January 31:** *Guest Speaker*
Speaker: Simon Tibbs
Helper: Paul Lugton
Crèche: Emma Johnston & Lynne Niven

New Arrivals

Old Saint Paul's is excited to welcome two new babies to the OSP family. George Chynoweth-Smith was born to Nicholas and Susan on 26 November 2009. His older siblings, Tilly and Edward are thrilled.

Timothy Jonathan Adams was born to Nick and Heidi on 29 December 2009. His older brother David is very happy.

Edinburgh 1910-2110

To mark 200 years of Mission & Theology, the Diocese has organised 2 conferences on Saturdays 6 & 27 February, from 10am - 4pm in Holy Trinity Church, Haddington.

On Saturday 6 February, the theme is "Looking Back: 100 Years of Mission & Theology since 1910". Saturday 27's theme is "Looking Ahead: 100 Further Years of Mission & Theology".

For more information and to register, phone 0131 538 7033

We Are All On a Journey



On 24 December in the early evening children and their families and friends gathered together at the back of the church by the crib. We learned about how we are all on a journey to Bethlehem during Advent. We learned how we are all following the star and walking alongside the prophets, Holy Family, shepherds, angels and the magi as we travel towards the birth of Jesus. This lesson was lived out by the children and some adults during our crib service as people were given different roles to play in our improvisational nativity narrated by Fr Simon. The cast of characters included some animals too with Jona as a donkey and Fr Ian as the cow surprised to find a

baby in his feeding box. We also had a visiting sheep named Eliot amongst the crowd.

During our time together we sang a couple of carols and heard some Christmas Eve prayers read out by the children. We closed our all age worship time with some juice and cookies, along with continued fellowship time. Despite the snowy winter conditions, we had quite a large gathering of OSP families and visiting families. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear the Christmas story one more time and perhaps hearing something new in this improvisational telling.

Michelle Brown

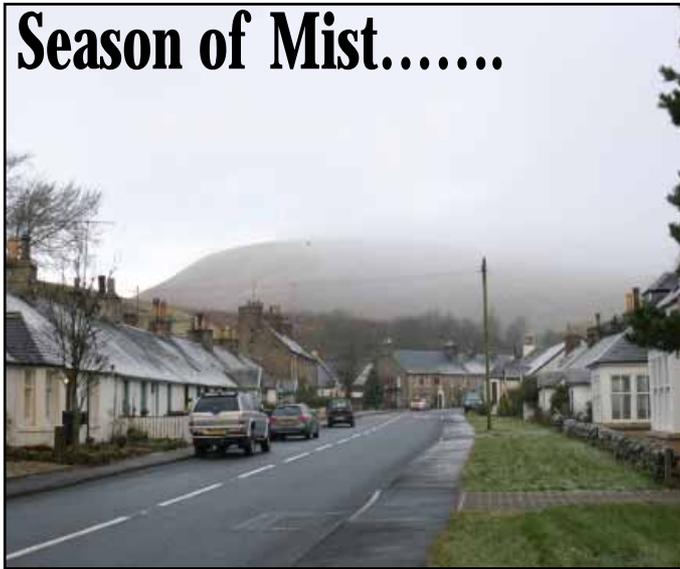
Sponsor a Bible

Our current set of Bibles for Sunday School has been well-loved and well-used over the years and is currently falling apart. At the moment, Michelle and Fr Simon are looking at several children's bible versions to decide upon which version to order in to replace our current set of Bibles. Most children's Bibles run between £10-15 per bible. As our budget is tight this year, we were hoping that members of the congregation might be interested in sponsoring a Bible for children's ministry.

We'll have more information about the bible we'll be ordering later in the month and we'll have a table set up at coffee time for people to sponsor a bible. Basically, if you give us the money to purchase a Bible for Sunday School, then you can dedicate that Bible in someone's name. Please consider helping us to provide new resources for our children at OSP.

For more information, please contact Michelle at michelle.brown@osp.org.uk
Thanks!

Season of Mist.....



Yes, I know the poet John Keats was referring to autumn when he wrote these words, but they were in my mind on the day of the walking groups's December outing. And it was not just mist but fog that surrounded us as we drove towards Carlops. However, as can so often happen in this unpredictable, weird climate of ours, clear patches appeared, with blue skies and sunshine magically lighting up the Pentland Hills to our right. Our spirits rose. It was not to be a morning of gloom, gloom, gloom after all. (I must add that any suggestion of gloom would only ever apply to the weather on an OSP walk. There's something about being in a group, striding - or sometimes even dawdling along, all the while talking ten to the dozen, that enlivens the dullest day.)

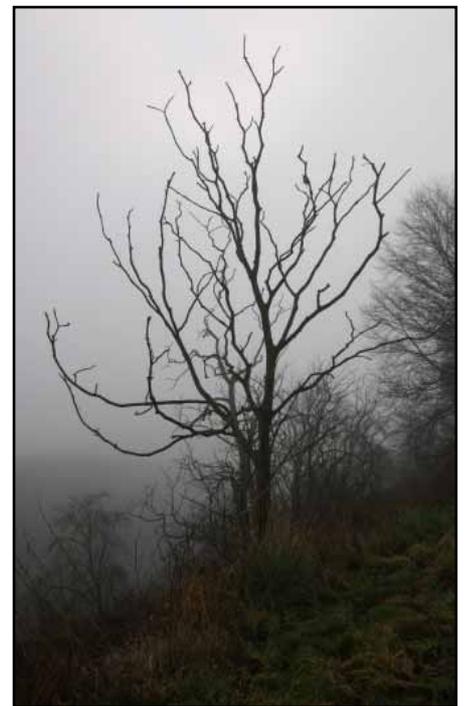
So that was the pattern for the rest of the morning as we set off up the track out of Carlops and towards the North Esk reservoir, frosty, misty conditions with occasional moments of amazing brightness. It's sometimes said that each season of the year has its own delights, and

this was certainly a chance to admire the beautiful patterns made by frost on grass and the strange effect of little rivulets trickling down the track beneath a window of ice. (Difficult to describe in words but Brenda's photographs capture it perfectly.) Needless to say, ice can create hazards, as one member of the group found when her foot slipped and she landed, in a very dignified way I have to say, and unhurt, on her bottom.

Fortunately, there were no serious slips or blips. After a coffee stop at the reservoir we went up the fairly steep side of Patie's Hill, so that we were above the mist at times. It was lovely looking back over the valley where the bluish water with the mist swirling above it made it seem unreal.

An hour later we were back in Carlops, piling into the Allan Ramsay Hotel where we'd booked our Christmas lunch. A very good time was had by all twelve of us. We look forward to our walks in the New Year. Please join us!

Christine Stevenson



Above: Carlops vilage, Hitting the trail (or something!), & It was a little foggy ...
Below: North Esk Reservoir, & Christmas lunch at the Allan Ramsay



Job Vacancy

Tim Honisett - our Hall Assistant - is leaving this job because he has decided to embark on further study. We are glad that Tim has been successful in his application for further university study, and we are very grateful to him for his faithful hard work in the hall.

Applications are invited for this part-time post of 6-10 hours per week. Further details are available from Jean Keltie in the office, 0131 556 3332 or email her at: admin@osp.org.uk

Please note that this post is on a probationary period and subject to an Enhanced Disclosure. If you are interested in applying for the job please contact the office by Friday 29 January.

OSP Burns Supper

This year, our annual celebration of Burns is being organised by XY, our OSP young adults group. It is at 7.30pm on Monday 25 January in the hall.

It is definitely an evening for everyone in the congregation, and will involve a tasty dinner, entertainment and probably dancing. Tickets (£7 & £4) are on sale during coffee from Jennie Gardner and other XY members or you can contact the office on Wednesday or Friday (556 3332) and there are discounts for families.

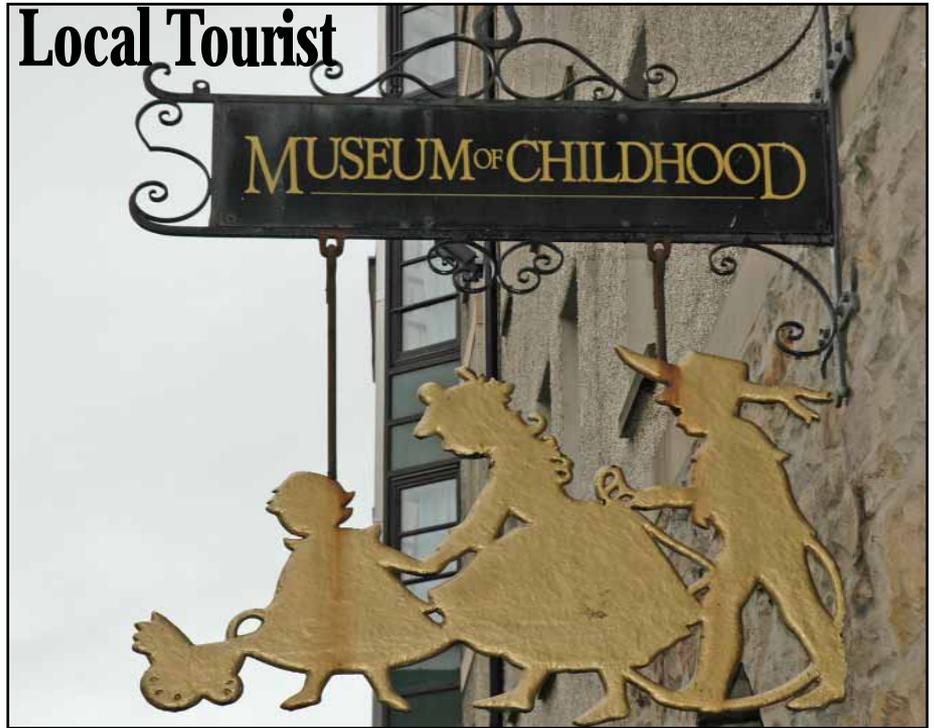
There are flyers on the piano for you to give to friends and family to encourage them to join us and we hope that a significant sum will be raised for our Restoration and Renewal appeal.

Bishop's Lent Appeal

The total amount collected for last year's Bishop's Lent Appeal was £15,865. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed - Mary's Meals and FiOP will be extremely grateful for the donations.

Details of this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal will be sent out shortly

Local Tourist



*How well do you know your town?
This month: The Museum of
Childhood*

Situated in the Royal Mile in one of Edinburgh's medieval townhouses, the Museum of Childhood has been welcoming generations of adults and children for many years. The first of its kind, built in 1955 and extended in 1986, it has 5 galleries on 5 floors in which you can re-live memories of the joys and tribulations of childhood. There are toys, games and dolls from around the world, along with tricycles and train sets to get the imagination flowing.

Adults can take a step down memory lane as they recall their own childhood with an extraordinary display of toys and games spanning generations, from Victorian Dolls (although none of us go back quite

that far!) to the racing cars of the 1970s and early 1980s.

Children can experience a taste of yesteryear as they listen to multiplication tables recited in a 1930's classroom or sample one of the 1950's street games that their grandparents enjoyed, such as hopscotch. Also of interest at the Museum of Childhood is an exquisite array of 1970's Star Wars figurines and an enchanting early 20th Century Teddy Bear collection.

The museum regularly puts on temporary exhibitions and events so there really is something for all the family. Admission is free and hours are Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 12-5pm. So why not take a trip (or even a skip) down memory lane?

Kim Moore-Ede

Holocaust Memorial Day

To mark the 2010 Holocaust Memorial Day, there will be a screening of the BBC film *God On Trial* on Wednesday 27 January at 7.00 pm in St Thomas of Aquin's School Hall, 2-20 Chalmers Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9ES

The screening will be introduced by the writer, Frank Cottrell Boyce and will be followed by an opportunity for questions and answers with him. *God on Trial* is set in a camp blockhouse in Auschwitz, and is

the deeply moving story of how prisoners soon to be taken to the gas chamber charged God with breaking the Covenant made with Moses and the Jewish people. Admission is free and all are welcome.

For more information contact: Fr Chris Boles SJ, The Lauriston Jesuit Centre, email: cboles@lauriston.org.uk or call 477 5795. You can find out more about the Jesuit Centre from their website: www.lauriston.org.uk



Serenity cafe

OSP's Hall Swings & Sparkles for Recovery

Do you know what goes on during the week? OSP plays host to various groups, we thought we'd find out about one of them ...

In June 2009 Old St Paul's Hall became the site of a trial initiative which is unique in the UK. It's not often a church agrees to let a nightclub run from its hall, but this one has been fulfilling an important gap for people in Edinburgh and demonstrating just how important celebration, fun and social life is for people who are rebuilding their lives after years of turmoil.

As a society we are often forced to think about addiction and alcoholism, and consider what we can do to address the damage caused to individuals, families and communities. People can and do recover from dependency, but their chances of sustaining their sobriety for the long term are much stronger if they can feel they are part of a community, especially with other people who have shared similar experiences, and develop a sense of hope for their recovery.

The Serenity Cafe is all about hope and shared experience. It is a cafe-club with a difference - we transform the space with lighting, music, themes, tasty menu and a soft bar. When we held those trial nights in June we didn't know what to expect, we felt if 50 people turned up we would be doing well. However we regularly have around 140 people coming along to dance, enjoy mocktails and food, and enjoy a social night feeling completely safe from the drugs and alcohol that are so pervasive on Edinburgh's social scene. This may seem a frivolous thing, but people tell us that they felt their social life was over when they stopped using drugs and alcohol, and that the Serenity Cafe has been a highlight of their new sober life, helping them believe recovery can be enjoyed not just endured. More than that, people find



Above: The Serenity Cafe's Hogmanay party

support and inspiration from each other to keep working at their recovery, which for many people is a daily struggle.

People in recovery are the volunteers who run the events, and from this they are gaining confidence and skills for their future. We do desperately want to extend this initiative to become a full time, permanent cafe. Sadly Edinburgh property prices and availability are making this aspiration something of a challenge, so meantime we are immensely grateful for the flexibility and support Old St Paul's has given us. However we are determined. Eventually we want to say Edinburgh has the first recovery cafe, which will be a hub of social networks and opportunities, helping people to stay clean and sober, and preventing relapse. When that happens, we'll remember to tell everyone it all started at Old St Paul's!

You can find out more about the Serenity Cafe at www.serenitycafe.org.uk and cafe club events are open to anyone who would like a night out without alcohol and drugs.

The organisation supporting Serenity Cafe to develop is Comas, for more info about them see - www.comas.org.uk

Ruth Campbell of Comas

Building Homes & Building Hopes

Home is:

- the place Abraham had to leave to go on with God;
- an ark in which to survive the storm;
- the place the prodigal son returned to, where his father and brother waited;
- a place to lay your head, which Jesus lacked;
- the new Jerusalem for which we hope;
- ... and more ???

As part of Poverty and Homelessness Action Week (30 January - 7 February 2010), we will explore some of these thoughts in a day conference "*Building Home, Building Hope*", in Martin Hall, New College, Edinburgh on Saturday 30 January from 10am - 4pm, drawing especially on the experience of churches and Christian agencies in tackling homelessness.

The Keynote speaker Raymond Young is a respected housing practitioner, a member of the Iona Community, Chair of both Architecture and Design Scotland and the Rural Housing Service. His contribution will be thoughtful and provocative.

The conference is organised by the Centre for Theology and Public Issues in partnership with Scottish Churches Housing Action, Bethany Christian Trust and the Salvation Army. The £10 cost includes lunch, and some free places are available through graham.blount@ed.ac.uk. Please register by 25 January.

Further information and registration forms are available at: www.div.ed.ac.uk/CTPIevents.html

Next Issue ...

February issue deadline : **31 January**
Send any details to **Steve Harries**
or email: newsletter@osp.org.uk

Calendar & Rotas for January 2010

	10.30am High Mass			6.30pm
Day & Observance	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Readings & Reader
January 3 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.1-7,10-14 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Andrew Kerr Susanna Kerr	Paul Henderson	Isaiah 52.7-10 Matthew 12.14-21 Jean Keltie
January 10 BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Isaiah 43.1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8.14-17 Luke 3.15-17,21-22	Elspeth Strachan Robin Carmichael	Baptism	Genesis 1.1-2.3 John 1.29-34 David Todd
Weekday observances:	Mon 11 - David, king of Scots, 1153; Wed 13 - St Kentigern (or Mungo), bishop of Glasgow, c 603 Thu 14 - Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and teacher, c 367			
January 17 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 62.1-5 Psalm 36.5-10 1 Cor 12.1-11 John 2.1-11	Jennifer Scarce Brenda White	Lynne Niven	Isaiah 49.1-7 John 1.35-42 Nigel Cook
Weekday observances:	Mon 18 - The Confession of St Peter; Thu 21 - Agnes, martyr at Rome, c 304			
January 24 CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	Acts 26.9-23 Psalm 67 Galatians 1.11-24 Matthew 10.16-22	Jean Keltie Felicity Cullen	Sophie Cartwright	Sirach 39.1-10 Acts 9.1-22 David Bassett
Weekday observances:	Tue 26 - Timothy & Titus, bishops & companions of Paul; teacher, 407; Thu 28 - Thomas Aquinas, teacher, 1274; Sat 30 - Charles I, king, 1649			
January 31 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	Malachi 3.1-4 Psalm 84.1-7 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40	Jennie Gardner Tim Blackmore	Frank Ribbons	Haggai 2.1-9 1 John 3.1-8 Tim Honisett
Weekday observances:	Mon 1 - Bride of Kildare, abbess, c 525; Wed 3 - Saints & Martyrs of Europe Sat 6 - Paul Miki, priest, & Martyrs of Japan, 1597			
February 7 5th Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 6.1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Luke 5.1-11	Jim Wynn-Evans Helen Tyrrell		Isaiah 58.1-12 Matthew 5.13-20 Lynne Niven
Weekday observances:	Wed 10 - Scholastica, religious, 543			
February 14 Sunday next before Lent	Exodus 34.29-35 Psalm 99 2 Cor 3.12-4.2 Luke 9.28-43	Margot Alexander Robin Carmichael		Sirach 48.1-11 Luke 9.18-27 Michael Thrusfield
Weekday observances:	Mon 15 - Thomas Bray, priest and missionary 1730			
February 17 ASH WEDNESDAY (7.30 pm)	Joel 2.1-2,12-17 Psalm 51.1-17 2 Cor 5.20b-6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	Niall Franklin Ginger Franklin		

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