

# THE WHITE ROSE

*The Parish Newsletter of Old Saint Paul's*

*June 2013*

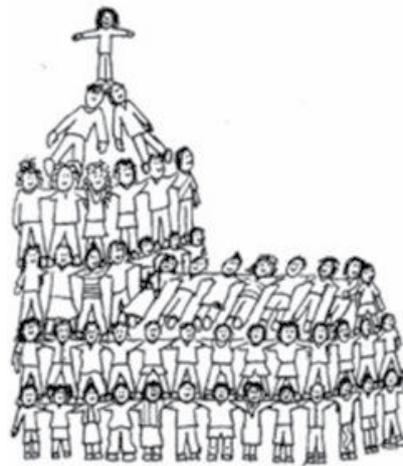
‘Where your heart is,  
there your treasure will be also.’

*Matthew 6.21*

June is the month when we are asking every member of OSP to engage in ‘Stewardship Renewal’. Stewardship means the accountability we all have to God for the use we make of the gifts we have received from him – especially the gifts of money and time. Setting both money and time aside for the work of God’s Church is one of the ways we are called, as members of the Church, to participate in its mission, and express our thanks for the gifts we have received.

We all support many other good causes with our money and time, of course, and that too is part of thanksgiving to God. But we, the members of the Church, have a special responsibility to support it with our money and time. No one outside the Church could be asked to do this, it’s up to us to take our membership seriously enough to give both money and time.

It’s important that all of us review our giving on a regular basis, because trying to become a more generous giver in everything we do is part of being a Christian disciple. So our ‘Stewardship Renewal’ is being offered to you as a member of God’s Church, not just as a member of OSP. It means looking carefully at the amount of money and time it would be right for you to give now. And it means looking at your giving



as planned, proportionate, prayerful, and personal:

**Planned Giving** – putting God first in our own budget. First means first and not most. An easy way of addressing this is to have a Standing Order leaving your bank on the day on which your salary/pension/principal income arrives. On Sundays you’ll be able to place a representative token in the collection, which will be available in church.

**Proportionate Giving** – those with more giving more than those with less. The Bible speaks of giving 10% of income to God. The Episcopal Church has encouraged a level of giving of 5% (5p in every

pound) of income. And everyone is urged to give a proportion of time, using their talents and skills to help the work of the Church. Some people can manage these calls to give easily, while for others it is more of a struggle. What is the right percentage is your decision alone.

**Prayerful Giving** – means talking to God about what he asks of you. Thank God for what he has done and has given you – life itself; faith, hope and love; friendships and family; skills and talents; an income, large or small. Have a look at what you have and say thank you for that. Pray; listen; respond to the call to give back something now.

**Personal Giving** – you have to respond, no one else can respond for you. An easy solution would be for the Vestry to say ‘in order for OSP to work and grow next year, everyone needs to increase their giving by £X per week, and give x hours of voluntary time’. But your personal circumstances may mean that this is too little, or that this is too much. You should only ask yourself, ‘Does this really represent me?’ The proportion of income and time you should give is your own decision, a decision made in faith between you and God.

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# Making the Difference

Last December we reported the Vestry's decision to adopt Reliance Bank as provider of ethical banking services. Reliance is wholly owned by the Salvation Army and comes with impeccable standards of lending and business practice. All profits from the bank go to fund the work of the Salvation Army.

Reliance Bank is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, which guarantees the security of the first £85,000 of each customer's deposit with the bank. So what if the Vestry holds more than £85,000 in cash reserves?

The Vestry has a policy of retaining six months' working expenses in ready cash. Currently, this conveniently equates to £86,000. However, from time to time the Vestry receives legacies and other substantial donations. The Vestry's view is that these windfalls should not be used for working expenses, but be reserved to fund significant projects to support the Church's mission.

At the current time, it would not be prudent to hold such assets

in a bank deposit, because rates of interest paid on institutional deposits are so low that, measured against the rate of inflation, any such deposit would quickly lose value in real terms. To permit this would breach the statutory duties of charity trustees. Therefore, surplus assets are held in investment products.

Historically, the Vestry's surplus cash has been invested with the Episcopal Church Unit Trust Pool. However, charities law requires trustees to have regard to the suitability of investments held and the need for diversification. Therefore the surplus is split 50-50 between the church fund and other holdings. Selection of investments is made on the advice of the Finance Committee, which is also responsible for managing the holdings.

All investments are made in unit trusts with ethical investment policies. These will typically exclude companies which profit from the sale of alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography, or tobacco, or which violate human rights or environmental integrity. They may include companies which make a

positive contribution to society and the environment through sustainable and socially responsible practices. The unit trust vehicle is adopted because, unlike direct corporate investment, unit trust managers are also regulated and covered by a compensation scheme.

Aware that the value of investments can fall as well as rise, the Vestry's investments are monitored on a regular basis to ensure that they continue to deliver value, and corrective action is taken where necessary. Over the past year, however, the holdings have delivered excellent returns: a total investment of £125k in a basket of unit trusts has increased in value by some £26k. Additionally, income of £2,600 has been earned to support operating expenses.

These results have enabled the Vestry to realise some of the gain to cover this year's anticipated operating deficit of close to £8,000. However, given that markets are currently at a 12-year high, it cannot be guaranteed that a similar exercise will be possible in future years, and the use of capital to maintain normal operations can never be viewed as more than a short-term solution.

The Vestry is pleased that its current investment activities demonstrate its efficient stewardship of the assets entrusted to it, and that the Church's mission is being served twofold: organisations which exist to improve society and the environment are being supported, and their fruits are assisting the ongoing cost of engaging in mission.

*Nigel Cook*



# Skating in Palestine

Jean Keltie writes: *A number of you will still remember my elder son Charlie who spent 6 years as a treble in the choir here. After leaving school, unsure of what he wanted to do, he took up Sheila Brock's suggestion of spending a few months teaching English as a volunteer at the Jenin Cultural Centre in Palestine, which we have been supporting for a number of years.*

After I left school I spent a quite a bit of time - over a year in all - living, working, and skate-boarding in the Middle East, primarily in the Occupied Territories of Israel. My first visit to Palestine was in 2006. I was a member of Old St. Paul's Church, Edinburgh, who were financially supporting a cultural centre in Jenin, Palestine; and it was suggested that I might be interested in travelling to Palestine and helping with the centre for a few months. I gladly agreed and I travelled there in 2006 to offer my services as a volunteer English and Music teacher.

I have since taught there on and off over the past 6 years, while completing an MA in Arabic here at Edinburgh University. I was mainly teaching English there, but I always had my skateboard with me and the local kids were fascinated by my board and were convinced I had magnets in my shoes! They were desperate to have a go.

The situation there is bleak for the majority of young Palestinians, with 50% of young people struggling to find work whilst living in a state of permanent military occupation; yet I have never seen such enthusiasm for skating as I did in Palestine.

This is why I have decided to dedicate my time to building the first Skatepark/Skate-school in Palestine. The working title for the project is SkatePal, and this summer I have organised an 8-week summer skate camp in Ramallah (the

financial and governmental capital of Palestine).

I have been a skate-boarder for 12 years, and I have met some of my closest friends through this activity.

Unlike many other sports, skateboarding is one where people of all abilities participate and encourage one another to keep pushing themselves. There is a spirit of inclusivity and mutual support. I aim to foster a community like this in Ramallah where both boys and girls can get involved in the sport and can benefit from the positive, creative outlet that skateboarding offers.

The organisation Skateistan (see below) is doing an incredible job in bringing people together through skateboarding in Afghanistan, but there is a little or no skateboarding in the Middle East. After I have completed this project in Palestine I hope to expand to other Middle Eastern countries and spread the love of skateboarding!

I am currently fundraising for the summer skate camp and raising awareness for this project. You can follow the progress on the facebook

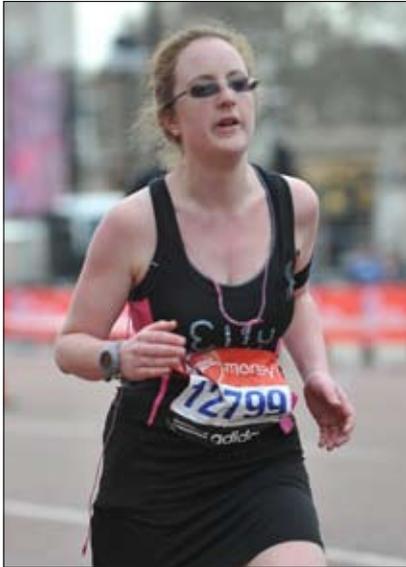


page - <http://www.facebook.com/SkatePalestine>

*Charlie Davis*

*Skateistan is an organisation founded by Oliver Percovich who recognised the potential for skateboarding amongst the youth in Afghanistan. Skateistan started as an Afghan NGO and is now an international non-profit charity which provides skateboarding classes and educational programs to the young people of Afghanistan. 40% of its students are female and 50% are child street-workers. The vision of Skateistan is to use skateboarding as a tool for empowering young people, to create opportunities and the potential for change.*

# Elly's Marathon Report



**M**y journey to the London Marathon actually started over a year ago, when a group of my running friends cajoled me into entering the ballot for places - knowing full well that no-one ever gets in the first time they apply. Out of about 40 of us who signed up, I was the only person who got in! However, it did mean that I was able to run for the charity of my choice, and I knew that any money I raised would be going to that cause rather than part of it having to pay for my place or any additional goodie bags. I only took up running about 2 years ago, and therefore such a long run was quite a daunting prospect, but I started my training in earnest last November to slowly build up my fitness and mileage.

I decided to run for the Old St Paul's Restoration and Renewal fund because I wanted to give an extra something back to the church, which has been a big part of my life throughout the time I have been a student at the University of Edinburgh. Being a student, I can't always afford to contribute to

fundraising events - and giving my time for the Choir is something I would do anyway. So I felt that running the marathon and getting sponsorship both from the congregation, but also from friends and family was something that would be achievable!

The race itself is rather amazing experience: even though I have taken part in what seemed at the time to be big and well-supported races before, the London Marathon is just on a totally different scale altogether. The atmosphere was all the more special and electric following on from the tragedy at the Boston Marathon as 36,000 runners stood together in an act of solidarity and remembrance before the race began.

Despite the staggered starts for various groups of runners, it still took half an hour to cross the start line! But during which time we were all chatting to those around us - and it was a lovely sunny day to be running. This was also heightened by the crowds of spectators who lined the route, supplementing the official water/sustenance stations with jelly-babies, other sweets, and even the odd banana - the fruit of champions and far better than any fancy sports gel.

I have to admit that although my training had started very well, it had rather been interrupted by the fact that I was also finishing the writing-up of my PhD thesis at the time, and I spent perhaps too much time pounding the computer keyboards in the University Library, and not enough time pounding the pavements. However, I was determined to cross the finish line, even if I had to crawl across, and I did walk substantially more of the route than I intended.

Runners often talk about the famous 'wall': the point in any run (however long) that you feel like giving up and dragging yourself to the nearest taxi, tube station, or ambulance. This for me happened around 17 miles and about 4 hours in. I had drunk too much water, and eaten a sports gel that had made me feel rather sick and was sore and tired. However, I paused for a quick comfort-break and checked my mobile phone for the first time in the race to find messages of support from running friends and non-



The Glasgow School of Art Degree Show is open to the public from 8th-13th June and is a great opportunity to see brilliant, beautiful, moving, slightly mad and totally unhinged works of art presented by my fellow art students who are a simply wonderful and talented group. It is the only time of year when it is possible to explore the Mackintosh Art School building without paying through the nose. My own exhibition is in Studio 11, where I will be running a cafe titled 'Performing the Border', serving coffee and conversations.

*Carrie Gooch*

running friends alike. To know that so many people were watching my progress online was both humbling and rather special, and after that I knew I was going to finish. I have to admit I also didn't fancy the prospect of telling the congregation that I had dropped out either!

After a much-needed donation of a banana at 22 miles I began to pick up my pace a little with the end feeling much more in sight. The last stretch before Buckingham Palace is along the Thames towards the houses of Parliament - and there were still so many supporters - including runners who had already finished that there was an amazing atmosphere. Even more so when the markers on the side of the road stopped counting the miles and started counting DOWN the metres to the finish line. I even managed to pull together enough energy to sprint the last 400m! I have to admit there may have been some tears at this point - but frankly

I think I had earned them! I also managed to get a photograph of me with my medal to the choir and servers in time for Evensong.

One of the most humbling things about doing a marathon like London is the sheer number of charity runners who (like myself) were advertising their chosen charities on their clothing. There are so many good causes that people support and millions of pounds must have been raised that day by all those blisters and aching muscles.

Which takes me to a big thank you to all those people who have given what they could to support my own aching muscles: so far the total collected is £1175.20 - and this is not counting the Gift Aid that we are entitled to collect, which will hopefully bring the total closer to £1400. The EveryClick fundraising page is still open at [www.everyclick.com/ospmarathon](http://www.everyclick.com/ospmarathon) but thanks so much for all the support!

*Elly Smith*

## Jack Thorpe



Jack as Happy in Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

for us, especially his management of property maintenance and leadership of the welcomers. But most of what he gave was his unfussy but reliable friendship to many of us in the congregation.

The funeral service for Jack took place at Mortonhall Crematorium, and the chapel was filled with family and friends, colleagues from Scouting, and members of OSP.

As Isabel McNab, a Scouting colleague who spoke at the funeral, said of Jack, 'He was a good, kind man with a heart of gold and a growl as and when needed. He will be remembered by the many people whose lives he touched. He epitomised the highest ideals of Scouting and like all good Scouts he has gone home.'

May Jack rest in peace and rise in glory.

## ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Deacon Kate Reynolds was ordained to the diaconate in September 2012, and we have appreciated all the many gifts she has brought to ministry as Assistant Curate of OSP. The time is approaching for Kate's ordination to the priesthood, and this will take place with Bishop John at OSP on **Saturday 17 August 2013 at 11.30am.**

Kate's first celebration of mass will be the High Mass of the Feast of Mary, Mother of God on **Sunday 18 August at 10.30am.**

Please note both of these dates, and be part of the congregation at both of them.

*Fr Ian*

Sadly, after a period of illness, Jack Thorpe died peacefully on 21 May. He had celebrated his 90th birthday earlier in the month.

Jack was a Yorkshireman who had made Scotland his home, having married Mary here 68 years ago.

Jack and Mary shared not only their commitment to their family, but also to Scouting and the Church. We continue to give Mary our love and prayers.

Jack was People's Warden of OSP for many years, and, with Mary, an active member of the congregation for many more. He did many things

## Alistair Pow

At the time of writing we have just received the sad news that Alistair Pow, former organist and director of music of OSP, has died at his home in Norway. His funeral requiem will be celebrated at OSP in the next few weeks, date yet to be confirmed.

May he also rest in peace and rise in glory.

# A Coffee With . . .



# . . . Bishop John

I was actually born in London but spent the first few years of my life in Bath where my father was a Vicar. When I was eight, he died, leaving my mother with four small children and a very small pension. We moved to her home town of Carlisle, then after four years moved to Alston in the Pennines and then to Edinburgh. I experienced all forms of education, ending up at Merchiston and from there to Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge where I started reading Law.

I had made a decision to take my faith a bit more seriously. I enjoyed Chapel and discussion groups, Christian Union and others. I had undertaken to read Law partly because I was thought to be good at arguing – and instead found that faith became the big issue in my first year. I argued with myself – especially about the Atonement and the difficulty I had with the Christian Union position on this theological problem. Finally – at the age of 19, on Good Friday at St Margaret's Easter Road - I worked it out to my satisfaction and resolved to switch to reading Theology and to apply for ordination.

Looking back it seems that in a relatively short time I had been selected and decided to go to Salisbury/Wells College. There were

about 60 trainee ordinands with a huge variety of gifts and interests, many of them practical. Coming from the academic hothouse atmosphere of Cambridge, this was a revelation!

Immediately after leaving College, I was fortunate to have the chance to go to Newfoundland for what turned out to be a seminal six months assisting a priest with health problems. I returned to Carlisle where I was ordained in 1980 and then went as curate to a church in Barrow in Furness where I met my wife, Clare.

After three years, I became part of a team ministry as Chaplain to Agricultural and Rural Life in Cumbria and from there became Chaplain of Manchester University. Our four children were all born in Manchester and I started my PhD!

I like to think of my thesis as 'Theology and Muddy Boots' but its official title was 'The Socio-critical identity of Social Institutions: a theological investigation' looking at the way in which institutions,

particularly the Church and the University affect people's lives. We cannot escape their influence so how can they be liberating rather than enslaving?

I was Area Dean in Rossendale for four years before becoming Rector of St John's Princes Street on 31 August 1998. For 14 years I enjoyed living and working with this lively, colourful congregation. It was a great thrill to become Dean but Bishop Brian had already announced his intention to retire so I knew there would be many demands on me. My name went forward for the Episcopal election just before Clare's illness was diagnosed. 2012 was a strange year. I was elected, left St John's, began a new job whilst Clare's various treatments continued. In October my mother died and then we prepared to move house.

Now I am beginning to come to terms with the complexities of the job of being Bishop of Edinburgh, trying, for example, to get a handle on the training of ordinands and

## It could be you!

Old Saint Paul's altar servers are preparing for the Exodus, but this one is not led by Moses. Numbers are about to be significantly reduced – some are currently on leave of absence, but this autumn we shall be losing several of our servers, to such far-flung places as Dundee, York and Ontario. The servers always welcome newcomers to the team, but will be particularly happy to welcome new recruits this autumn. If you think you look good in red, and would like to care for a candle or a thurible, it's for you. Full training is given, and there are frequent social activities. If you think this could be for you, please speak to one of our MCs, Jubin, Lynne or Nigel.

the placing of curates. I really enjoy going to a different church each week, getting to know the congregations and hearing about all sorts of new ideas and initiatives.

If I have an aim for the diocese it is that we would grow in that sense of who we are. I feel strongly about what I term 'diaconal calling' – that we are all called to serve, to a ministry of caring and prophecy. The church has no need to be apologetic in the public arena either. It no longer has special privileges but is entitled to be heard; we should be committed to working out what we think so that we can apply Christian principles when required.

#### EL MUERTE

In alignment  
with a cross  
in the cathedral graveyard,  
a hedgehog  
lies on the ground.  
I hear Spanish tourists  
stooped to look.  
'El muerte,' they say,  
'el muerte.'  
I hoped  
he was just rolled up.  
But there his narrow feet,  
crisscrossed, with his long claws  
and brown and white spikes  
neatly in order,  
his black eyes fixed open.

The slender spire  
sails beyond.

*Martha Pollard*  
20 April 2013  
OSP Retreat  
*The Cathedral of The Isles*  
*College of the Holy Spirit*  
*Isle of Cumbrae*

I was greatly influenced by my parents who created a home where faith was natural and relaxed, where questions were treated with respect – and all very unstuffy. I was also influenced by Dick Walters in Newfoundland and by what I saw there of the relaxed way in which the Bishop wielded episcopal authority – not at all like the 'prelates' I had experienced in the Church of England!

I enjoy gardening especially, at present, finding out what is coming up outside our new house. We enjoy travel, cinema, theatre – and eating! And I like watching sport.

Where people don't think and write off groups of people because of prejudice and bigotry – that makes me angry. People who define others as 'not Christian' because they don't subscribe to the same set of beliefs – that makes me angry.

Gatherings where there is a lot of laughter, often with the family make me happy. But I am also happy alone in a quiet place.

I could imagine retiring to the south of France with all that sunshine, food and wine – but my favourite part of the world is wherever my home is.

At the moment I have just begun to read *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel and looking forward to getting on with that next week when we are on holiday. Recently, on retreat, I read Evelyn Underhill. I like her writing – part of me is drawn to the whole mystical thing!

What gives me hope? The young people I meet doing confirmations around the diocese, or going into schools and answering children's questions. And I suppose oddly enough the Church – there is something irrepressible about it. This is not ignoring reality or the need to change. In the end, God gives me hope.

I think that Jesus would make a good dinner guest – he was used to eating with publicans and sinners. And the first Queen Elizabeth – she would be interesting and we could find out what she really thought about marriage. And Mahatma Gandhi would keep Elizabeth in check. And Clare of course – and maybe I can have some fictional characters? Possibly Dr Who? Captain Kirk?

*Bishop John was talking to Sheila Brock*

#### *Where your heart is*

*continued from page 1*

Over the next four weeks every member will receive, either at a Gathering in another member's home which you have already been invited to, or by post, an envelope containing information, explanation, and response cards. Please consider what they say prayerfully and seriously, and then respond, using the response cards which you return in a sealed envelope. Responses are confidential, and will be recorded only by our Stewardship Recorder. They should come back to OSP in

time for the Feast of S. Peter and S. Paul on Sunday 30 June, when they will be received during High Mass.

Stewardship is about saying Thank you. So let me say now - Thank you for responding to the invitation. Thank you for coming to a Gathering. Thank you for reading the information. Thank you for prayerfully considering your response. Thank you for completing the response cards. Thank you for being part of Old Saint Paul's.

*Fr Ian*

# Calendar of Readings for June 2013

<p><b>2 JUNE 2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> <i>High Mass</i> 1 Kings 8.22-23,41-43; Psalm 96.1-9; Galatians 1.1-12; Luke 7.1-10 <i>Evensong</i> Genesis 8.13-22; Matthew 7.21-29 <i>Weekday Observances</i> Mon 3—Charles Lwanga and Companions, 1886, Janani Luwum, bishop, 1977, martyrs of Uganda; Tue 4—John XXIII, bishop of Rome, reformer, 1963; Wed 5—Boniface of Mainz, bishop missionary, martyr, 754; Fri 7—The Sacred Heart of Jesus; Sat 8—Ephrem the Syrian, deacon and teacher, 373</p>
<p><b>9 June 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> <i>High Mass</i> 1 Kings 17.17-24; Psalm 30; Galatians 1.11-24; Luke 7.11-17 <i>Evensong</i> Ezekiel 34.11-16; Titus 2.11-15 <i>Weekday Observances</i> Mon 10—St Columba of Iona, abbot, 597; Tue 11—St Barnabas, apostle; Wed 12—John Skinner, priest, 1807, and John Skinner, bishop, 1816; Fri 14—Basil of Caesarea, 379, Gregory of Nazianzus, c 390, Gregory of Nyssa, 394, bishops and teachers</p>
<p><b>16 June 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> <i>High Mass</i> 2 Sam 11.26-12.10,13-15; Psalm 32; Galatians 2.15-21; Luke 7.36-8.3 <i>Evensong</i> Genesis 18.1-14; Matthew 9.35-10.8 <i>Weekday Observances</i> Tue 18—Bernard Mizeki, martyr, 1896; Thu 20—Fillan, abbot, c 750; Sat 22—Alban, first British martyr, c 209</p>
<p><b>23 June 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> Isaiah 65.1-9; Psalm 22.19-28; Galatians 3.23-29; Luke 8.26-39 <i>Evensong</i> Sirach 48.1-11; Luke 1.5-23 <i>Weekday Observances</i> Mon 24—The Birth of St John the Baptist; Tue 25—Moluag of Lismore, bishop, c 592; Wed 26—Robert Leighton, bishop of Glasgow, 1684; Thu 27—Alexander Jolly, bishop of Moray, 1838; Fri 28—Irenaeus of Lyons, bishop and teacher, 202</p>
<p><b>30 June SS Peter and Paul</b> <i>High Mass</i> Ezekiel 34.11-16; Psalm 87; 2 Timothy 4.1-8; John 21.15-19 <i>Evensong</i> Isaiah 49.1-6; Galatians 2.1-9 <i>Weekday Observances</i> Mon 1—Serf, bishop in Kinross, c 500; Wed 3—St Thomas, apostle; Sat 6—Palladius, bishop in Tayside, c 450</p>

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## Next Issue Deadline

The deadline for the July/August issue of the White Rose is **Monday 1 July**. Please email contributions to [media@osp.org.uk](mailto:media@osp.org.uk).