

White Rose Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter of Old Saint Paul's Church

March 2009.

Mothering Sunday - 22 March

The word 'Lent' refers to the lengthening of the days as Spring approaches and Winter begins to ease its grip. In Scotland during March this idea may just be a test of faith! But that may seem appropriate as the spiritual season moves us on toward Easter. Lent, like Spring, is a time for growth and change, for old things to be renewed and new things to be started. The spiritual disciplines of Lent - fasting, almsgiving, prayer and study - are tools offered us by the tradition to tend the ground of our selves so that, with God's help, this growth can take place.



This is not just about individual spirituality, but also about community spirituality. Something new is happening at OSP on Mothering Sunday, or Refreshment Sunday, or Laetare (Rejoicing) Sunday, which is 22 March. On that Sunday High Mass will be celebrated as a service to include members of the congregation of all ages, the very young to the very old. All of our services are 'all-age' in the sense that they involve and include everyone, as choristers, servers, intercessors, readers, and worshippers. But on this Sunday the service will attend to the needs of the children in a different way. The theme (reflecting on 'Mothering Sunday') is 'Caring Hands,' other people's, our own, and God's. High Mass will be shorter than

usual, one of the hymns will be a children's hymn, and the sermon will involve everyone, of all ages. For that part of the service, everyone is asked please to bring a pair of scissors (wrapped up for safety). You will understand why if you think about the wisdom of the saying: 'I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand.'

In case you are already thinking this service is not for you, I would like to say that this is not so. Good liturgy is OSP's greatest gift, and that is why many of us are here. I want us to be able to experience doing this kind of 'all-age' liturgy as well as we do the Easter Vigil, because it all represents the worship of the

one Christ by his one Church. The Church includes people of every kind - every social or ethnic or religious background, and every generation. We are people of all ages. We do not simply choose what we like in the Church, we do not choose each other. We are called to be together by Christ. We are chosen by him to be members together of his family.

We have to try to re-discover this for ourselves through the discipline of Lent, and this is not meant to be easy or insignificant. That's why making 'all-age liturgy' is a task we all need to be able to participate in. And that's why I want you to be there on 22 March.

Fr Ian



New Look

Work continues apace on Simon's flat in 41 Jeffrey Street and is on target to be completed by the end of the month.

Left: The new kitchen, **Below:** The replaced cupola
Right: High speed painting



Children's Rota

MARCH 1 - 1 PETER 3:18-22

Leader: Paul Lugton
 Helper: Kathryn Jourdan
 Creche 1: Emma Johnston
 Creche 2: Anne Whiting

MARCH 8 - ROMANS 4:13-25

Leader: Paul Lugton
 Helper: Susan Chynoweth-Smith
 Creche 1: Sheila Miller
 Creche 2: Rosemary Williams

MARCH 15 - GODLY PLAY - FACES OF EASTER I-IV

Storyteller: Michelle Brown
 Doorkeeper: Yvonne Martz
 Creche: TBA

MARCH 21 - YOUNG ST PAUL'S

Homelessness Discussion & Family
 Pizza Social (5pm-8pm in church
 hall)

MARCH 22 - MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE

See Michelle for details

MARCH 29 - PASSOVER TALK

Leader: Simon Tibbs
 Helper: Michelle Brown
 Creche: Lynne Niven

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

Child Protection

As most of you already know Lesley Blackmore is our child and vulnerable adults protection Co-ordinator.

She should be the first point of contact for child and vulnerable adult protection related issues.

You can get in touch with her at lesley.blackmore@osp.org.uk



Welcoming Children in the Church

In October, I was invited to join a group that meets to discuss youth related issues in the Diocese under the leadership of Rev Philip Blackledge and Morag Buxel, the Diocese Youth and Children's Officer. This group is working together to support several churches with low numbers of children, or in some cases, no children at all. We are working towards helping the Diocese provide a welcoming church environment for families with children of all ages in each church as part of the church community in worship and fellowship.

How do we provide such a church environment for all ages? This is quite tricky, but the Diocese provides several suggestions. Upon reading through the report this group is working through, I was excited to notice that Old Saint Paul's is on track with many of the Diocese suggested methods of involving all ages. One in particular caught my eye: we are asked to find and set aside a space within the Church for crèche-aged children, which is still in line of sight to the front of the church so that the children can see what is happening up front. This space should have soft and colourful carpeting and a basket of quiet toys and books. This was incredibly encouraging to read as it describes exactly what we have been offering families through the children's corner in the Lady Chapel since last Spring. This idea, which has admittedly received mixed reviews at OSP, is actually something the Diocese is encouraging in all churches.

I have been thinking about the concerns recently raised at the AGM regarding our corner in terms of the extra noise and distraction some children add at the close of worship, especially during the silence held following Communion. I think it's perhaps best to explain the origins of this corner at OSP for those who may not know why it is there. Previously, after the children returned upstairs for Communion, they would sit in the pews with their families. This is absolutely fine for the older children, however, our families with crèche-aged children found this time increasingly difficult as the toddlers were anxious to keep walking and sometimes running about the church. In one instance, a child fell over while running up the centre aisle and seriously burnt the palms of his hands on the heating grate. The Children's Ministry Committee had been discussing the possibility of a corner previous to this accident, but the accident

definitely helped us realise the time had come to provide a space to help focus the toddlers which would further support their parents to stay in worship with the church community through the end of the worship. The response from the families (both our families and visiting families) has been incredibly positive with several parents being encouraged that the church truly welcomes and appreciates their young ones.

Now, this is a work in progress. There are ways we can adapt the corner, including looking for even quieter toys and talking to the younger children about what that time in worship means to help them stay a bit more still. However, there will never really be complete silence after communion. After all, even the adults make noise. I believe though, that when we stay still and try to hold silence, we are actually allowing space to hear what we might otherwise ignore. Would we be aware of the happy giggling of small children or the occasional cry out of a child if we stayed in the noise of our day-to-day lives? It is in being together as a full church community at the close of worship that we truly get a sense of who we are as a church family and our children in the church are as important as anyone else in the community.

I think this is explained best by Louis Weil who observed that, "In liturgies with children in which I have participated over the years, I have found again and again that the children bring to the assembly the qualities that adult members have lost and need to recover, especially a sense of the immediacy of God. Their noise and movement break the artificiality of our 'sacred silence' and oblige us to remember that we must receive the kingdom of heaven like a little child. This is not a sentimental platitude, but bedrock theology. It reminds us, as Jesus clearly taught, that we meet and serve him in other persons - those in need, those in prison, those who are hungry, and those who are young, small and vulnerable. The assembly of Christians is not an association we must learn to put up with: it offers us the most profound and tactile experience of an encounter with God."¹

Michelle Brown

¹ L. Weil, *A Theology of Worship* (Cambridge, Mass., 2000), p. 47.

East Lothian Walk

Members of the OSP walking group went on a walk from Dunbar to East Linton in February. The day started with a bus ride from Edinburgh City Centre to Dunbar, a bus route the group is becoming familiar with. The bus dropped us off at the western side of Dunbar and we joined the John Muir Country Way, following its path between the coast and the village of Belhaven.

We had a fine view of the beach, the tide was out so the water seemed along way a way. We then walked to the John Muir Country Park and after a short break, we walked with the woods to the right and the llamas to the left (which are part of a visitor attraction), as we discussed John Buchan, John Muir, the Second World War defences and the birds we could see.

We reached the mouth of the Tyne, and began to head inland observing how the countryside changed from coastal to agricultural. The path took us south of Tynninghame and we came to the Knowes Farm Ford, a bridge is provided for pedestrians but for motorists the ford is

notorious. We observed a fellow on a small motorbike crossing the ford, he hesitated for some time and eventually crossed to our applause!

The walk then followed the Tyne to Preston Mill, on the outskirts of East Linton, where we stopped for lunch. The Mill was still shut for winter, so after our sandwiches we walked through the village in search of a decent pub. The Drovers has been shut for some time, so we went to the Linton Hotel which is handily close to the bus stop, before catching the bus back home.

Paul Lugton

- Top Right:** Which way?
- Right:** Journey's end - Alastair inspects the Linton Hotel in East Linton
- Below (left to right):** Setting out on the John Muir Way, The llamas in the John Muir Country Park, Winter trees on the John Muir Way,
- Bottom Row (left to right):** Fording the River Tyne, & A wee rest on the wavy seat.



Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday, 22 March, High Mass will be a service to include people of all ages. The normal service will be shortened, and some of the music will be simpler. The sermon time will be inclusive and interactive for young and old, on the theme of 'Caring Hands' and to help with this, could everyone bring a small pair of scissors with them, wrapped up for safety of course.

The service will finish at 11.30am, allowing time for the Congregational Meeting on the Restoration and Renewal project which will follow and end by 1pm. Light refreshments will be also served.

Lent Groups

There are two Lent groups running this year, both meet in Lauder House at 4.30pm on Sundays and 7.30pm on Tuesdays. Do come if you would like to, even if you haven't signed up.

This is our Faith (Fr Ian), a course of teaching and discussion on basic Christian beliefs and practice.

The Gospel of Mark (Simon), reading and discussing the background and content of Mark's Gospel.

Fair Trade

There will be a Fair Trade stall after Mass on Sunday 15 March. Lynne Niven, who has now taken over running it, is trying to continue Linda's practice of having a stall on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

If you would like to get more involved in helping with this work please speak to Lynne over coffee.

Book Club

The occasional book group - will meet on Sunday April 5 to discuss *Reading in the Dark* by Seamus Deane.

We will meet (after coffee at church) at 89 McDonald Rd, and discuss the book over lunch. Everyone welcome - but you must have read the book!

Local Tourist



*For all of you who live here and have said:
'I have wanted to do that'.*

This month: Gladstone's Land - Royal Mile, Edinburgh

Originally the home of a prosperous Edinburgh merchant, Thomas Gladstones, in the 17th century. As parts of the building are let out to different tenants, and in the style of the times, the 'land' housed people of different classes and backgrounds under the one roof. It is the oldest unchanged (but uninhabited) buildings on the Royal Mile. It started as a small flat that eventually incorporated the flats around it becoming the flat of a high-status family.

Just west of Bank Street, the house has period decoration and two floors are authentically furnished to give visitors an impression of life in Edinburgh's Old town some 300 years ago. Features of the building are the remarkable painted

ceilings and the reconstructed shop booth complete with replicas of 17th-century goods.

Stories accompanying are also thought provoking - like whale-oil lamps lighting the house, the stench must have been overwhelming! Couple that with the state of the streets and sewage... wow! Each of the rooms offer antiques and stories enough to entertain and shock. Unfortunately no pictures can be taken inside, it certainly is worth a visit.

So why not take a trip to the past and pop in to see how people used to live?

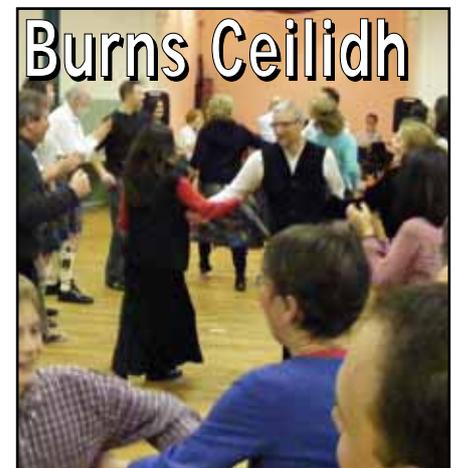
Kimberley Moore Ede

XYMonday

As part of their current programme of events, the XYMonday group (Young Adults) are meeting on for a Film Night on Monday 16 March at the Brass Monkey pub in Drummond St (off South Bridge) to see the Oscar-winning film *Dead Man Walking*. Please meet at 7.45 for 8pm start.

There will also be a trip to Lindisfarne on Saturday 28 March. If you would like to come, then email xymonday@gmail.com or respond to the event invitation on Facebook.

Please see Tom Clements or look on Facebook for more info about the group and its events.



The Burns night ceilidh was a great success. It was well attended and a good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone involved for all their hard work.



During Lent, Christian Aid are blogging a virtual journey through the Holy Land. With help from people who have travelled in the region and those who live and work there, they let us see the sights and hear what it is like to work for peace in this troubled region. It's offering the opportunity to hear directly from Israelis and Palestinians living in the Holy Land today.

Many pilgrims in the Middle East find themselves on a tour bus, with little opportunity to speak to people about their lives and experiences. This pilgrimage aims to break down those barriers and

enable people to hear the stories from both sides - in a spirit of understanding and tolerance.

We hear two kinds of stories; firstly of the painful reality in the Holy Land today, of violations of human rights and policies which keep people in poverty. And secondly, stories of hope from Christian Aid partners who bring relief from suffering, who stand up for human rights and who look to a future of peace with justice and security for all.

To find out more, visit their website: www.christianaid.org.uk/pilgrimage



Above: *It could be You ...*

Strippers Wanted

Good, now that we have your attention, we need some volunteers to help out around the church.

There are 4 main areas that we would like help with, firstly to help move furniture to 41 Jeffrey St on 2, 3 & 4 April, as Simon will be moving back in.

Secondly before Easter to remove the graffiti from the church, so we can present a more welcoming aspect for the Holy Week and Easter services.

Then after Easter, to clean, strip and scrape and then paint the stair 41 Jeffrey St, and to do the same process at the top and foot of Carrubbers Close.

Also, is there anyone handy with a sewing machine who could help with making curtains?

Please see Jim Wynn-Evans, Robb Liddle or Jean Keltie to sign up or find out more.

Green Fingers?

Could you spare a bit of time to help Elspeth Strachan, Kay Smith and Jim Wynn-Evans? On Saturday 21 March they are tidying up the Memorial garden and would be glad of your help. See them at coffee or just turn up.

We will also be running a Seedlings Stall at Coffee in the Hall after Easter and during May. So its time for the gardeners to get sowing! Everyone else Come on! It's not that



difficult! Get some plastic pots & packets of seed and HAVE A GO! Especially 60+'s. You can get 10% off on a Wednesday in a certain store beginning with B and ending with Q.

Saintly Stance

You don't have to be a complete saint... and it's only just for an hour! www.oneandother.co.uk invites you to follow the example of Simeon Stylites and spend an hour on the top of the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.

Simeon was born c.390 on the Syrian border of Cilicia. After moving to Antioch he became an anchorite at about the age of 16, withdrawing from the world to live a solitary life of silence, prayer and mortification.

After ten years he built a pillar, at first low, but gradually increased to a height of forty cubits and lived on top of it until his death, occupied in adoration and intercession. ...and we think it is in our time that celebrity culture was born!

Antony Gormley invites people to register now and then apply to be one of the people from all over the U.K. to be allocated an hour on the plinth. It's a chance to bear witness or get sponsorship for a good cause. Go on! Have a Go!

Walking Group

The next walk is on Saturday 28 March, and will be a circular walk from Eddleston. Information and a sign-up sheet are on the piano. New walkers are always welcome.

Concert

There will be a Concert in OSP by Edinburgh Practice Choir, Saturday 4 April at 7.30pm. They will be performing Gounod's Mass for St Cecilia's Day and Haydn Te Deum.

Parish Office Hours

Please note that the office is open Wednesdays 10.15am - 5.30pm and Fridays 9.00am - 5.30pm (ie later opening on Wednesdays.)

April issue deadline : **31 March**

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

Calendar & Rotas for March 2009

Day & Observance	10.30 am High Mass				6.30 pm
	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Offertory	Readings & Reader
March 8 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT	Genesis 17.1-7,15-16 Psalm 22.23-31 Romans 4.13-25 Mark 8.31-38	Stuart McIvor Sheila Brock	Bill Morton	Rosemary Williams & Sheila Miller	Gen 15.1-12,17-18 Luke 13.31-35 Ginger Franklin
Weekdays:	Tue 10 - Kessog, bishop in the Trossachs, c 700				
March 15 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT	Exodus 20.1-17 Psalm 19 1 Cor 1.18-25 John 2.13-22	Stephen Burge Helen Tyrell	Alastair Hulbert	Dick & Marjorie Turkington	Isaiah 55.1-9 Luke 13.1-9 Jenny Morgans
Weekdays:	Mon 16 - Boniface of Ross, bishop, 8th c; Tue 17 - St Patrick, bishop, patron of Ireland, 461 Wed 18 - Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and teacher, 386; Fri 19 - St Joseph of Nazareth Fri 20 - Cuthbert, bishop of Lindisfarne, 687; Sat 21 - Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, 1556				
March 22 4th SUNDAY OF LENT	Numbers 21.4-9 Psalm 107.1-3,17-22 Ephesians 2.1-10 John 3.14-21	Judith Brearley John Dale	Young St Paul's	Young St Paul's	Joshua 5.9-12 Luke 15.1-3,11b-32 Niall Franklin
Weekdays:	Tue 24 - Paul Couturier, priest in Lyons, 1953; Wed 25 - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Sat 28 - Patrick Forbes, bishop, 1635, & the Aberdeen Doctors, teachers				
March 29 5th SUNDAY OF LENT	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Psalm 51.1-12 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33	Jimmy Blair Brenda White	Helen Tyrell	Frank Ribbons Lorraine Simpson	Stations of the Cross Steve Harries tbc
Weekdays:	Wed 1 - Gilbert of Caithness, bishop, 1245				
April 5 SUNDAY OF THE PASSION Palm Sunday	Mark 11.1-11 Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm 31.9-16 Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 15.1-47	David McLellan Felicity Cullen	Andrew Paterson	Jimmy Blair & Christine Stevenson	Stations of the Cross Steve Harries tbc
April 9 7.30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY	Exodus 12.1 4-14 Psalm 116.1-2,12-19 1 Cor 11.23-26 John 13.1-17,31b-35 Mark 14.26-72	Lorraine Simpson Frank Ribbons	Clergy		
April 10 1.30pm GOOD FRIDAY	Isaiah 52.13-53.12 Psalm 22 Heb 4.14 16; 5.7 9 John 18.1-19.42	Maggie Stanfield Trevor Harding			

Month	Coffee Setup (9.30)	Coffee Server (10.30)	Morning Steward	Morning Sound	Evening Steward	Evening Sound
March	Volunteers wanted. See Hall noticeboard		Hilary Davis-Cole Sheila Rimmer	Frank Pottinger	Niall & Ginger Franklin	Niall & Ginger Franklin
April	Volunteers wanted. See Hall noticeboard		Peder & Margaret Aspen	Tom Birch, Arthur Williams	Paul Lugton	Paul Lugton

CLERGY

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