

THE WHITE ROSE

The Parish Newsletter of Old Saint Paul's Church

May 2011.

Thanking Richard, Remembering Peter



Peter Unsworth, sacristan of Old St. Paul's for a very long time, died in 2009, and in 2010 a fitting memorial for him was dedicated, a new high altar frontal for all the feasts of Mary throughout the year.

When the frontal was in use for Candlemas in February, the opportunity was taken to photograph it, so that we could present the photograph to Richard Wadler, Peter's partner of over 30 years.

Brenda White took the photograph and arranged its framing, and I went with her and Richard's visitor, John Thompson, to present it to Richard at his home.

The frontal is a beautiful and very appropriate memorial for Peter, who had looked after all our altar frontals and vestments with such care. And now this gift expresses our thanks to Richard for his equally loving support and care for Peter over all that time.

Fr Ian

We Welcome You?

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
We will go into the house of the Lord"*

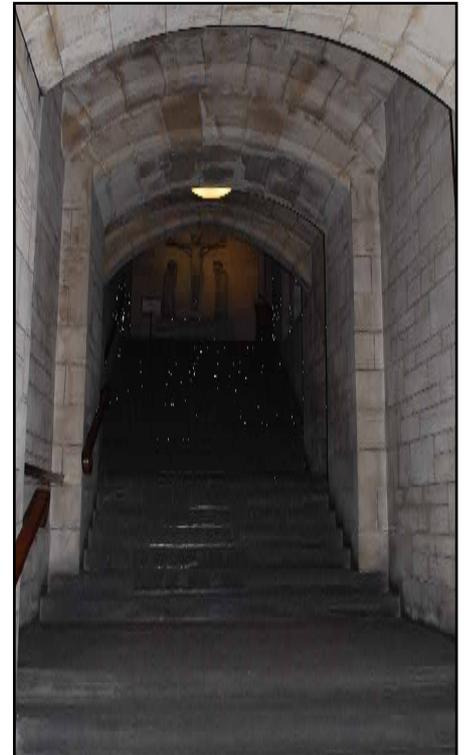
To the unforgettable music of Parry, these words from Psalm 122 were sung by the choir of Westminster Abbey at the start of the Royal Wedding. As an 'Introit' it must rank high among the favourites of choirs and congregations everywhere, for it is a beautiful statement of what it means to enter God's house.

The entrance into Old St. Paul's from Jeffrey Street is also a beautiful statement. It must be one of the most imposing and dramatic ways in to any church in Scotland. I do not mean the doorway itself, which is severely practical and not a thing of beauty, but the Calvary Stair. Ascending the steps towards the Crucified Christ and the church beyond, is part of the experience of worshipping at Old St. Paul's.

But we know very well that not everyone looks at those stairs and immediately wants to say 'I was glad'. For people who have difficulties with mobility, especially people who use a wheelchair, the Calvary Stair is not an entrance but a barrier.

We have a committed and caring team of people who operate a machine that carries a wheelchair and its user up the stair and into church, and I know that wheelchair users deeply appreciate this service. But the time has come to make a more permanent fixed installation of stair climbing equipment so that the stairs can become an entrance for everybody, at any time. The Vestry with the advice of our architect are looking at a number of options for such equipment, and we intend to have a definite design for people to see in a few months time.

This, and other improvements to the Jeffrey Street entrance (such as glass doors,



Above: Are you glad when you see this?

the cleaning of the walls and floor, better lighting, and better paving outside) will form the next phase of our *Restoration & Renewal* project for Old St. Paul's. To achieve these improvements will require the involvement of every member, through fundraising activities and management of the project, over the coming months.

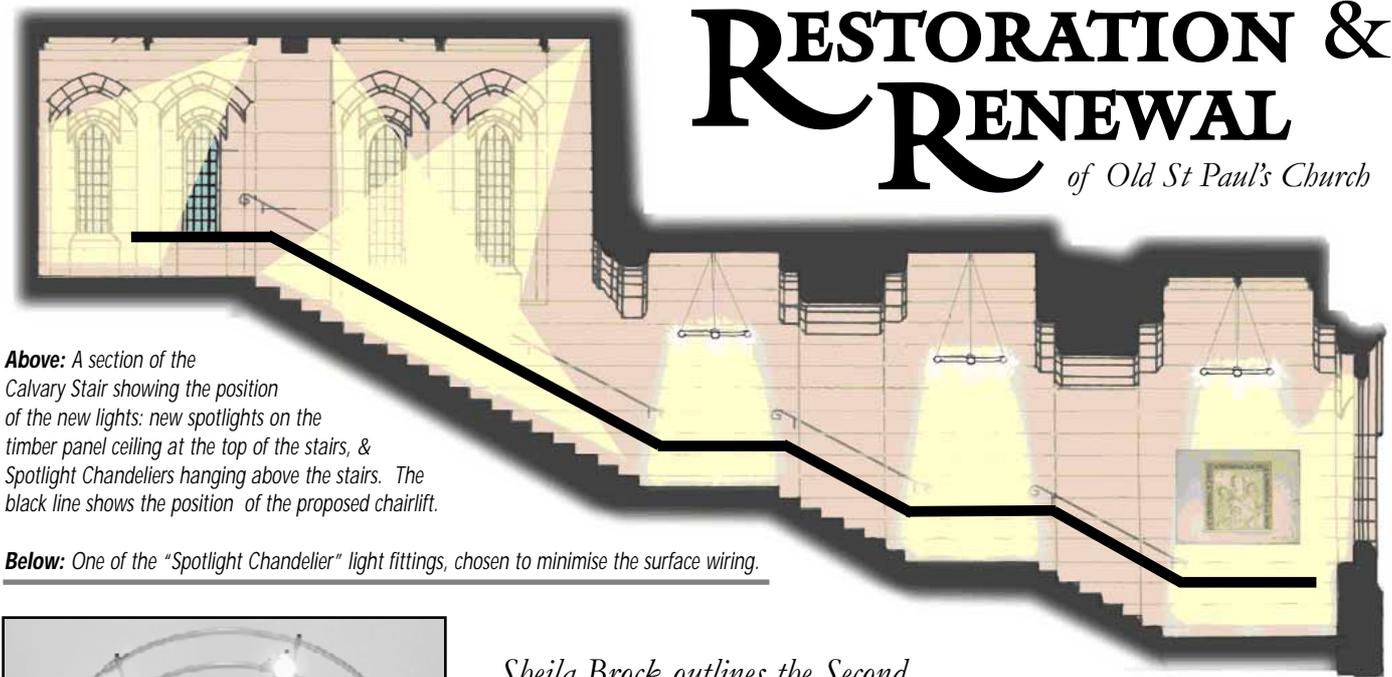
I hope you will become part of this project as it unfolds, because having a good and open entrance is part of our mission as a church. The entrance forms a threshold which people cross as they make the transition from the ordinary world to the worshipping community. It marks out a place where people will begin their encounter of the Church at prayer and the place where the Church will formally welcome both visitors and members.

That's why it matter that everyone should be able to say, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us to into the house of the Lord."

Fr Ian

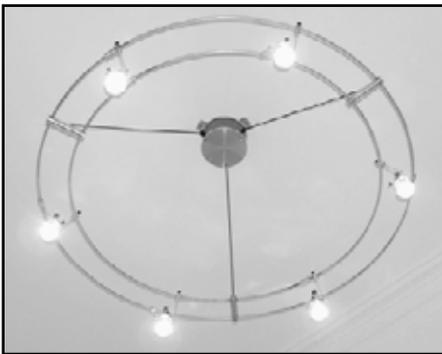
RESTORATION & RENEWAL

of Old St Paul's Church



Above: A section of the Calvary Stair showing the position of the new lights: new spotlights on the timber panel ceiling at the top of the stairs, & Spotlight Chandeliers hanging above the stairs. The black line shows the position of the proposed chairlift.

Below: One of the "Spotlight Chandelier" light fittings, chosen to minimise the surface wiring.



Sheila Brock outlines the Second Phase of the R&R appeal

When I was raising funds for the new Museum of Scotland, I often felt that the word MONEY was engraved on my forehead so that people could take evasive action behind the nearest pillar when they saw me coming. Now with R&R I have the same feeling - that there will be a loud congregational groan at the prospect of the Second Phase Appeal and people will employ the same nifty footwork to become strangely invisible. The fund-raiser's lot is not a happy one!

- Do we want to make a statement in this rather dowdy part of the city so that instead of rushing past without noticing, some may think 'what's that?' and come in?
- Do we want to show that we appreciate the beauty of the Calvary stair by cleaning the walls and improving the lighting (which will also make it safer)?
- And do we appreciate that a platform lift would enable a wheelchair user or even somebody unable to face the 33 steps, to reach the church in a dignified fashion?



Above: An example of the type of wheelchair lift that could be fastened to the right hand wall (as you look up) of the Calvary Stair.

Below: The doors at the top of the Calvary Stair would be replaced with new frameless glass doors



Well, how can I put this? The second phase of R&R is not as obviously necessary as the first. Repairs to the roof were essential. This was reflected in the financial assistance we received from the Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland as well as in the £50,000 we raised from other sources, mainly the efforts of members of the congregation.

This time we are planning to replace unsightly doors, clean dirty walls, improve inadequate lighting - and to retire our ungainly stair climber in favour of a more modern, user-friendly model. The church will not fall down nor will the fabric suffer irrevocably if we do none of these things - but we are stewards of this House of God so we have to ask ourselves some questions about our responsibilities:

- Do we want the entrance to be more visible and more welcoming for passers-by, for those using the Hall, for those, including ourselves, coming to worship?

The total cost of this work is £135k but two generous pledges will contribute about 50% towards this amount, leaving us with a target of approximately £60k to be raised over the next 2 years.

But if the answer to any of the questions is 'yes', I hope you will think about ways in which you can contribute to that target. For Phase One some very imaginative methods were conjured up to raise money - showing that you don't have to earn a banker's bonus to make a substantial donation. And, because every little helps, the number of individual or group initiatives which resulted in more modest sums, were just as important and appreciated.

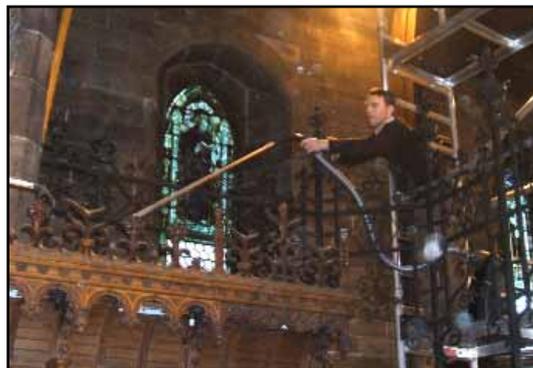
If you don't feel able to fund-raise yourself, then you can buy tickets for yourselves and your friends or you can volunteer your



Above: The Memorial Chapel as it was before the septum (stone altar rail) was built. (One of the proposals is to remove this rail.)



Above: Sarah, Eric & Nick Hoover the choir stalls, whilst Arthur dusts the crucifix before it goes up behind the High Altar.



time. Meantime, every effort is being made to approach trusts who may be willing to help us with specific aspects of the project.

We are- as they say - all in this together. What we value, we are keen to share with others. So talk among yourselves, brainstorm, come up with ideas and together let's make OSP more visible, more accessible, cleaner, brighter and welcoming to all!!

The R&R fund-raising group - David McLellan, Jubin Santra, David Taylor, Felicity Cullen, Sheila Brock, Ginger Franklin and Aileen Robertson - will be glad to discuss all fund-raising ideas and suggestions.

Below: The blue doors would be replaced with new oak arched ones, new vandal proof lights would be installed & there would be new slate paving laid.

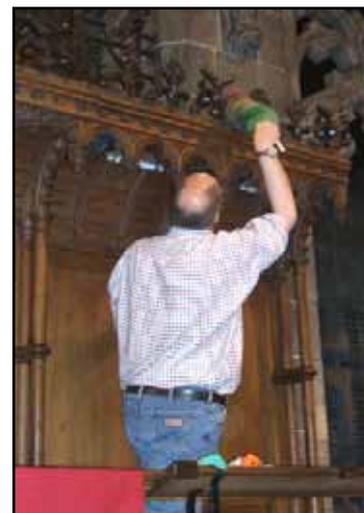


Spring Cleaning

On Saturday 16 April we had our annual Church Spring Cleaning session. This year's was a little more entertaining due to a clash in bookings. At one point it looked as though 4 different groups would be using the church simultaneously, leading someone to comment "...The organ masterclass, with obligato hoover, accompanied by scaffold climbing and ladder swinging, is apparently still on ..."

In the event it all went smoothly, if a little noisily, although there were some minor disputes over ladders ... A very big thank you all involved, it really did make a difference.

If you missed out on this, there is still a chance to help the Holy Dusters. They are happy to have more volunteers for their regular Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning cleaning sessions. They are also looking for extra people to provide holiday cover over the summer. Please contact Sarah Wilkinson if you can help, you can email her at cleaning@osp.org.uk



Above: A quick dust works wonders, **Below:** Sometimes it's better not to ask what they're up to ...



Contemplative Saturdays

*A*mass, ameal, amovie. No, not the conjugation of an obscure tense of the Latin verb *amare*, but what some of us enjoyed on six Saturdays during Lent.

First, a contemplative Mass in the church - often beginning, like the Christian life, at the baptismal font then moving to the pulpit for the word, then a time of silence using the whole space of the church and culminating at the altar for the Mass itself, using very few words.

Secondly we moved in silence to the Hall for a simple, but tasty meal - thank you again, John. During it were read aloud extracts from the Desert Fathers, Desert Mothers or the Philokalia (Eastern Orthodox writings), some of which raised a wry chuckle or two.

Then on to Lauder House where we watched and discussed a video, chosen and introduced by a member of the congregation each week. We travelled to America twice, to Sweden, Denmark, Canada and, lastly, to a fantasy world where the wild things were.

Over tea or coffee, Border (there are other makes) biscuits (or on St. Joseph's Day Simon's homemade cake) we discussed the films in greater or lesser depth. As few of us had seen the films before, this made the experience rather different from a book group's discussion of a volume everyone had read. It was interesting to note how different the discussion went not only according to the film, but also according to the make-up of the group on any particular Saturday.

One thread linking the films was love. Love of adults, love of parents, love of strangers, love of food and fishing and underlying it all the love of God for us all in all its manifestations. So, continuing the initial Latin theme - "*Charissimi, diligamus nos invicem, quia charitas ex Deo est.*" (1John 4:7 Vulgate.)

Margot Alexander

It Could Have Been Me ...



Sue Brightman, a member of OSP, has got an exhibition at the end of the month. We asked her to write about it & the new arts complex where she creates her work ...

There is a tendency in Britain to do nothing, instead of something, especially in response to the deepest tragedy. A former Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, London, said "*No man is an island entire of itself*". What happened in West Cumbria on 2 June 2010 did not come from nowhere. The human rights lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith has said that "*the desire for suicide is rooted in the inability of those around us to support us in living a happy life.*" The actions of Mr Derrick Bird, who undertook a murderous and suicidal journey on 2 June 2010, speak of intolerable psychological pain. As a nation, we need to look for, to hear and to heed the lessons of that desperately sad day.

That is the purpose of the forthcoming exhibition "*It Could Have Been Me*" by the completely unknown artist, Susan

Brightman. This is a sculptural visual arts show which requires the active participation of the viewers to complete several of the works.

Susan Brightman was born in 1959 and spent her formative years in West Cumberland (now Cumbria). Later, she trained formally as a geographer and, mostly, informally as an artist. The psychological damage, which resulted from a family crisis in 1964, has had significant long-term consequences. Happily though, she is still alive and is now free to make art.

The exhibition is runs from 12noon - 6pm daily on 28 May 2011 - 5 June 2011, at: Gallery 1, Art's Complex, St Margaret's House, 151 London Road, Edinburgh EH7 6AE

Art's Complex

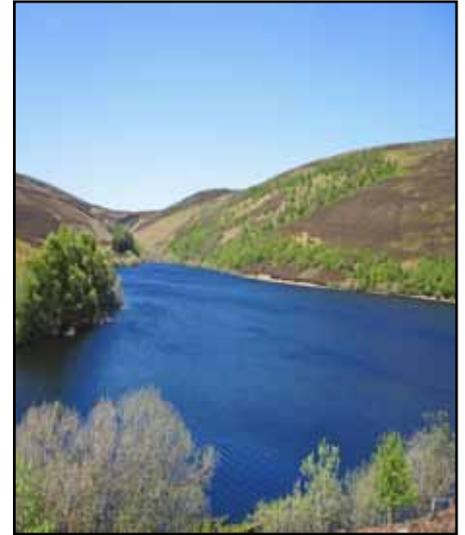
Art's Complex is a charity which is reinvigorating a former office building with abundant new life! St Margaret's House, near Meadowbank stadium, used to house government offices and the occasional letter relating to teacher's pensions still turns up. Now, however, all 9 floors of the building are being used as creative arts spaces.

There are organisations providing educational functions for adults with learning difficulties and complex physical needs, art therapies and community

initiatives to support real and lasting change in chaotic lives. The Beltane Society is based at art's complex as is at least one theatre company.

In addition, there are now about 200 individual artist's studios in the building and three large gallery spaces. Tenants and studio holders are organising themselves to recycle and to exchange materials. Further developments are planned including a kiln room and safe woodworking space. You can find out more from their website: www.artscomplex.org

A Spring in our Step



By 30 April Spring had truly sprung and it was time for the OSP walkers to tackle a slightly more challenging walk than we'd done in the winter and early spring months. With the Pentlands, Moorfoots and Lammermuirs making up Edinburgh's 'hills of home' we chose the latter, which make an attractive and intriguing terrain with their ranges of rounded grass and heather hills. (The name 'Lammer' is almost certainly from the word 'lamb' as sheep are numerous on these high pastures. Lower down we saw lots of cows with their delightful calves, which we 'ooh-d and aah-ed' over.)

We began our walk near the hamlet of Longyester south of Gifford and were soon walking steadily up the shoulder of Lammerlaw, which at 1,750 feet is the largest and most prominent of the hills. With deep blue skies, sunshine and just a slight breeze, conditions were just perfect for an exhilarating, reasonably strenuous walk. We enjoyed wonderful views to the north, with features like North Berwick Law, Traprain Law and the Bass Rock clearly visible. The patchwork of fields was just lovely, in many shades of green with squares of bright yellow making a dramatic

contrast. Soon we got glimpses of the star-shaped Hopes Reservoir, which seems tucked into a secret glen. It seems odd that there are practically no true lochs in this hilly area, but instead there are several reservoirs supplying the Lothians with water. We picnicked beside the Hopes Reservoir, enjoying the scenery, sunshine and conversation. From there on the walk was gentle, the countryside just beautiful.

We ended back in Gifford to enjoy a refreshment in the garden of the Goblin Ha'. The name has always intrigued me and I found out from Nigel Tranter's delightful book 'A Portrait of the Lothians' that the goblin was probably Sir Hugo de Gifford who in 1267 built the first, now totally ruinous castle of Yester, complete with a huge subterranean vaulted hall, and who became known as the Wizard. Many centuries later Goblin Ha' was referred to by Sir Walter Scott in his poem 'Marmion'.

So in every way we had a wonderful walk. The superb weather helped, of course, and if you don't already know this part of East Lothian it really is well worth exploring.

Christine Stevenson



Above: Ascending Lammer Law; Hopes Reservoir; Safely on the other side of the fence! & Hopes House
Below left : Lunch stop; **Below right :** Post-walk refreshments at the Goblin Ha' in Gifford



Godly Gadgets?

Keeping in Touch

We may have our roots in the past, but this doesn't prevent us from taking advantage of modern developments. We're upgrading our contacts system, and would love to be able to keep people up to date by email. As you know, this is an efficient means of keeping in touch, and saves on the cost of stationery and postage. If you wish to receive electronic communications from us, please send an email containing your name and email address to email@osp.org.uk.

Please be assured that we only use personal information held by us for direct communication. We do not exchange personal data with others. You can keep in touch with us by using the appropriate email address shown on the back page or in the contact section of the website.

Book Sale

The St Andrew's and St George's Christian Aid Book Sale will be held on Saturday 14 May and Monday 16 to Friday 20 May. If you want to donate books or other items for sale, you can do so from 9am - 9pm on Monday 2nd May to Wednesday 11 May (except Sunday 8 May).

Any items you wish to donate should be taken directly to St Andrew's and St George's Church, George Street, and not to OSP please!

Tell Us About It ...

Don't forget that the new email address media@osp.org.uk is for all information for the Newsletter, website and weekly notice sheet. Please use this email address for any notices you want Jean to put in the weekly sheet rather than the office email one.

Next Issue Deadline

The deadline for the May issue of the Newsletter is **Tuesday 31 May**. Please email any contributions to: media@osp.org.uk



Sara Wasson investigates Anglo-Catholic devotions & the iPhone

Podcasts, smartphone apps and mp3 players can be fantastic aids for devotion and prayer. This short article aims to describe just a few of the ways that these devices can enrich your leisure time and even your commute, genuinely helping to create a space for a peaceful encounter with God.

The podcast 'Pray As You Go' by the Jesuit Media Initiative deserves special mention (www.pray-as-you-go.org/). It is designed to be 'not a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer'. Accessible on the webpage or, more conveniently, as a daily podcast, it always features beautiful music (often choral), a short Bible reading and a reflection. It lasts approximately ten to fifteen minutes.

While podcasts are wonderful, apps have value too, particularly when you have not got time to hear an entire podcast but would still like to use the time to open to Christ and spend time reflecting on His love. '3 Minute Retreat' by Loyola Press is a short meditation app for iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad which plays music and gives simple, meaningful prompts for reflection and prayer (www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm). A nice touch is that it is self-paced - instead of being at the mercy of a pre-recorded script which might go faster than you would like, you listen to music and read prompts and press 'next' when you want to move on. While its name implies it takes 3 minutes, it can be much longer if you prefer, the gentle music and beautiful images helping you to focus on God at

each stage. It can certainly transform a bus journey!

For longer intervals, you might wish to join in the office of the Hours or Daily Prayers. You can get an excellent RSS feed of the texts for the Scottish Episcopal Church at <http://meltedgold.com/secdailyprayer/> you can either view the daily prayers on the website or subscribe to an RSS feed via a feed reader like the free Google Reader.

There are also several fantastic smartphone apps that help you participate in the full Divine Office of the Hours using the Roman Catholic schedule of readings - very similar to the Episcopalian schedules but not identical. The most notable of these programmes are iBreviary and, most thorough of all, Universalis, which offers the full text of the Divine office including all antiphons, prayers, Bible readings, information on saints' days, and more. The software designer also does a free version entitled 'Catholic Calender' which you can try out to see if you like the interface.

It is wonderful but not surprising that these technologies can help us connect with God, helping us draw a space around ourselves where we can shed distractions and focus on Him, reaching up 'with the arrow of our love' as described in the fourteenth-century *Cloud of Unknowing*. Through sound and image, these podcasts and apps can wrap us in a reflective encounter with God, helping us to reconnect to Him, the true source of living water.

From the Archives: The Memorial Chapel Mother & Child

Peder Aspen, our archivist, has been investigating the stories behind some the statues & paintings that we take for granted in OSP.

This month, he's looking at one of the statues that most people don't even realise is there ...



There are a number of statues of the Virgin and Child placed around OSP (count them the next time you are there!), but none is more curious than the very dark oak statue, high up on your left at the altar in the Memorial Chapel. It is difficult to see, but has a long and involved history at OSP.

The statue was first installed in a niche at Saint Saviour's Child Garden at 8 Chessel's Court some time after 1910, as an old photograph from that time does not show it in this position. However, a later picture from around 1925 shows the niche and statue immediately to the left of the stairs to the upper floor, whilst a photograph from 1969 shows the same situation. Thus the statue had at least 40 years of exposure to wind, rain and sun in the Child Garden!

The Child Garden closed in 1977 but there is no record of what happened to the statue before the time of Rector Alan Moses (1985-95), when a concerned member of OSP congregation (AK), noted that the statue had suffered badly

from the years of exposure to the elements and had it conserved at the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. The weathering had rotted much of the wood and a water-soluble resin (polyethylene glycol) was used to consolidate and harden the wood, resulting in a conserved, but very much-darkened Virgin and Child.

The pediment where the statue now stands is an original feature of the Memorial Chapel and was first occupied by a white plaster statue of the Virgin and Child, as seen in a 1926 photograph of the completed Memorial Chapel. The position was deliberately chosen so that early morning sunlight would illuminate the statue. This is a common feature in many ancient monuments and churches.

Finally the plaster statue of the Virgin and Child was moved to the Lady Chapel, where it still stands above the Votive Candle Stand. The next time you are in the Memorial Chapel, look up to the left and ponder on the strange journey of our "Dark Madonna and Child".



Above left: The present Virgin & Child in the Memorial Chapel, standing on a new oak base
Above: A photograph of the completed Memorial Chapel from 1926, showing the plaster statue of the Virgin & Child, right of centre; Close up of that statue.

Below left: A 1910 photograph, no niche can be seen to the immediate left of the lady standing on the stairs
Below right: A photograph from 1920-30 showing the niche & statue just to the left of Canon Laurie.



Calendar & Rotas for May 2011

	10.30am High Mass			6.30pm
Day & Observance	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Readings & Reader
May 1 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 2.14a,22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1.3-9 John 20.19-31	James Campbell Hilary Campbell	Ingrid Uglow	Isaiah 43.8-13 John 14.1-7 Nigel Cook
Weekday observances:	Mon 2 – St Mark, evangelist; Tue 3 – SS Philip & James, apostles; Wed 4 – Albert Ernest Laurie, priest, 1937			
May 8 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116.1-4,12-19 1 Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24.13-35	Margot Alexander Robin Carmichael	Paul Henderson	Micah 4.1-5 Luke 24.36b-48 Lynne Niven
Weekday observances:	Thu 12 – Thomas Rattray, bishop of St Andrews, 1743; Sat 14 – St Matthias, apostle			
May 15 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10	John Dale Felicity Cullen	Lynne Niven	Ezekiel 34.1-10 John 10.11-18 Hope Murray
Weekday observances:	Sat 21 – Helena, discoverer of the holy places, c 330			
May 22 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 7.55-60 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14	Jennifer Scarce Janet de Vigne		Deuteronomy 4.32-40 John 15.1-8 Jean Keltie
Weekday observances:	Mon 23 – William of Perth (or Rochester), 1201; Wed 25 – The Venerable Bede of Jarrow, teacher, 735 Thu 26 – Augustine of Canterbury, bishop, c 604			
May 29 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 17.22-31 Psalm 66.8-20 1 Peter 3.13-22 John 14.15-21	Margot Alexander Judith Brearley	Fiona Farris	Isaiah 55.1-11 John 15.9-17 Nigel Cook
Weekday observances:	Mon, Tue, Wed – Rogation Days of prayer for the fruits of human labour; Tue 31 – The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth			
Thursday June 2 ASCENSION OF THE LORD (7.30 pm)	Acts 1.1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1.15-23 Luke 24.44-53	Andrew Kerr Frances Macleod	Clergy	
Weekday observances:	Fri 3 – Charles Lwanga & Companions, 1886; Janani Luwum, bishop, 1977; martyrs of Uganda Sat 4 – John XXIII, bishop of Rome, reformer, 1963;			
June 5 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 1.6-14 Psalm 68.1-10,32-35 1 Pet 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11	Jean Keltie Ann Kelly	John Thompson	Ezekiel 36.24-28 John 17.6-19 David Bassett

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