

THE WHITE ROSE

The Parish Newsletter of Old Saint Paul's Church

November 2009.

Our New Look

You don't have to be a genius to notice that the *Newsletter* has changed. We have undergone a face lift - the first makeover in our five and three quarter year history. Oh there have been wee tweaks in the past but this is our first major change.

Anyway you will see that we have completely changed our fonts and have espoused a new Masthead that brings us closer into line with the rest of the rebranding that has been happening quietly to Old St Pauls over the last few months. This is not something that can be done quickly - redefining all the styles and changing layouts is a time consuming business and your editor has been burning the midnight oil for some time now. (At least that's his excuse for not spotting the typos that will have slipped though into this issue!)

I doubt that we have got it all right and there will need to be some tweaks over the next few issues, so please do tell us what you think of it and we'll take that on board. For instance, as the new fonts are paler and smaller than the old ones, it is possible that we haven't increased their size enough - you will have to let us know.

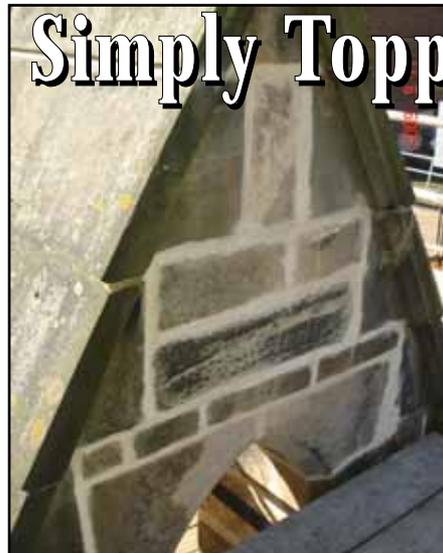
Aficionados of the *Newsletter* will be delighted to hear that our temperamental spell checker is on the blink again, so once again you'll have hours of fun spotting our whoopses!

May I also take the opportunity to thank our regular contributors for their salwart efforts of the years and we are especially grateful to our photographers, Brenda White, Kim Moore-Ede, Jubin Santra and Tim Honisett for their contributions.

So now please enjoy your bumper new 12 page *Newsletter* - I just hope you can read it!!

Steve Harries
Editor

Simply Topping



The Restoration part of our Restoration & Renewal Project was to 'start at the top and work our way down' and there it is, the highest point of the building, restored. There never were any bells so we are not avoiding the challenge!

Scaffolding is due to come down once the Crucifix has gone up, (with an improved, less obtrusive lighting system), the stained glass in the 'east end', cleaned, repaired and protected so that, hopefully, it will be away from Jeffrey Street before Christmas.

At the November Site Meeting of the Architect, the Quantity Surveyor, the Contractors and the Clients, (represented by our Treasurer and our Property Committee Convenor), it was reported that the project is ahead of time schedule and so much within budget that it is going to be possible to proceed with what was first thought would have had to have been 'Stage Two'.

This means that we are going to be able to work further along the roof and walls towards the back of the church. The back wall and chimney was done in Jack Thorpe's time, so that, by the end of February/early March, we shall have been round the block of the exterior of the church.

In the light of our financial situation-an unbalanced budget and the need to recoup about half of our 50% share of the cost of this grant-aided programme-the Vestry, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee,

has agreed that we should not embark on any further Restoration work in the immediate future.

This provides an opportunity for some aspects of Renewal. I venture to suggest that this is a process that works from 'the bottom up'. Already the cleaning contract has come to an end and groups of volunteers are being sought to look after the various areas of the church premises. Prompted by an initiative of Nicholas Uglow to improve the storage of music and encouraged by the curtain making skills of Sarah Wilkinson, other choir members are exploring the options to improve things in the choir vestry in ways that may be high in expenditure of effort but low in cash terms.

There may be similar opportunities for volunteers on other improvements. One thing is certain. Once the work outside is finished there will be the need for a major spring clean of the walls and furnishings inside. It has been agreed that a Saturday morning cleaning group in March would be one of the Lent Groups.

For people of a generally thinking nature, drawn from different neighbourhoods of the city, this experience of working together on a practical project could be a spiritually refreshing experience and an outward and visible sign of Renewal. Come and Join Us!

Jim Wynn-Evans,
Property Committee Convenor

In For A Penny ...

Is your loose change feeling lonely? Why not give it some company by donating it to the R & R Ship Box in church?

Do It From Home

Do you feel that you're not very creative, and haven't really been able to do very much for the R&R appeal so far? Well, don't be downhearted, here's your chance, and you can do it from the comfort of your own home! Or even from your own phone!

Just by searching for things online you can raise money for OSP. Try using Everyclick.com, it is a search engine and retail site - like Google - BUT with a difference; every search or purchase that you make donates a few pence to OSP's R&R Appeal. Follow link on our website and see www.everyclick.com.

Roll up! Roll up!

Roll up! Roll up! For the Raffle! Raffle tickets will soon be on sale during coffee. The prizes, which include a quilt, amongst other things, will be on display in the hall.

So go on treat yourself to a ticket - it's much better odds than the lottery! And there might be a bottle or two to be won ...

CDs Wanted

Dick Turkington, who is running the CD stall at the Christmas Gift Fair, urgently needs your good quality CDs.

You can either see him after Mass or call him on 0131 657 6316

Craft Workshop

There will be Christmas Arrangement & Craft-making workshop in the hall on Saturday 28 November from 10.30 - 3pm. Come along to learn how to make items to sell on Saturday 5 December, at the Christmas Fair.

Contact Ginger Franklin on 478 0178 or email: gingerf@blueyonder.co.uk to find out more. There will a small charge for this to go towards the R&R appeal.

Tickets for the flower arranging will be available from next week.

R&R WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ceilidhs at Old St Paul's

In October a new adventure in ceilidhing began in Old St Paul's. OSP is currently raising funds for its Restoration and Renewal Fund, and this was the spur to getting the ceilidhs off the ground. However, there were other reasons driving this endeavour.....

Frank and Lorraine, who are organising the ceilidhs, had become rather fed up of attending ceilidhs and not being able to hear themselves speak to each other and their friends. They were aching to find a regular ceilidh where the music wasn't too loud and the atmosphere was convivial and friendly. They had also become a bit fed up of the usual round of dances. They were looking for a range of dances which was just a little wider than those offered by the popular ceilidhs. Having drawn a blank in their search, they were thinking of trying to organise some ceilidhs themselves. The R&R Fund gave them the opening they were looking for.

The first one, (Friday 9th October) succeeded in achieving what they had set out to do. In other words it was a clear success, and there was much encouragement to continue with them as the band introduced us to a number of very easy new dances and one more complex one, and of course gave us many well kent favourites too.

We are therefore going to continue the run for the foreseeable future. There is a bar which is cheaply priced and crisps and nibbles are on sale too. The ceilidhs are all on the second Friday of the month, so, - November 13th, December 11th, January 8th, etc. They start at 7.45pm and run to 11.00pm. Tickets can be bought at the door or at coffee on Sunday morning in Old St Paul's. £7 for adults and £4 for 15 - 4 years. Under 4's are free.

Frank Ribbons

Servers Go Click For Coppers

No - not in that way! Over lunch after Mass some of the servers held a competition to see who could raise the most cash using www.everyclick.com. This is a search engine that raises money for OSP every time you use it (see "Do It From Home" in the left hand column). As only Nigel, Jubin and Stiofán had WAP phones, the rest of us suggested things to

search for to see who could raise the most cash. It was intriguing to see how the amounts raised varied depending upon who was advertising on those pages. Unfortunately nobody can remember who the winner was, or what the winning search was! Whilst we didn't raise all that much, every little helps, so why not try it yourself.

A Sparkling New Start!

As we are all aware, OSP is operating on an extremely tight budget at the moment - the present economic climate plus the R&R work means that it is imperative we economise.

Because of the recurring difficulty of employing and retaining individual cleaners, OSP has used a cleaning agency for the last few years - at a cost of about £7,500 annually. The vestry has now decided that we should be responsible for our own cleaning - thus making a considerable saving.

As you may know, a few people - Maisie Orr and Jimmy Blair for example - are in the church most weekday morning, polishing brass, dusting and sweeping; and now, in the light of the vestry's decision, some of us have started meeting regularly on Saturday mornings at 11am to clean the church. The servers and the choir have been asked if they would take responsibility for their respective vestries and

areas of operation in the church - the choir to be responsible for the choir stalls, and the servers to look after the area around the high altar.

So far, there are just three of us who are coming on a Saturday - and there's a lot to do. If we could get together a group of about eight to ten helpers, we could all take a fortnightly or three-weekly slot - which would spread the load. Perhaps a couple of people would like to take particular responsibility for the Memorial Chapel - or the pulpit. Saturday morning cleaning could always be followed by attending the 12.20 mass and lunch somewhere perhaps.

As you can see, we need volunteers - for a very necessary on-going task, which could also involve a pleasant, sociable Saturday morning. Please speak to Jean Keltie (556 6095 - home; 556 3332 - Wed & Fri - church office) if you would like to help with this.



& HOW YOU CAN HELP

A Jam-maker's Story

Liz Sim has been a stalwart of the jam stall, cajoling all & sundry to make & buy jams & preserves, we asked her how she got started ...

Some years ago Glasshampton Monastery, a House of the Society of St Francis near Worcester, began to take 'working guests' during the summer, to help with the running of the house (sounds good - but primarily the cleaning and cooking!). They also have a very large kitchen garden, with loganberries, raspberries, gooseberries (red, green, and white varieties) and blackcurrants, and generous local friends who would donate plums, greengages, damsons (in the years when damson trees deign to fruit), and other fruits, usually in quantity.

The working guest tasks therefore included picking fruit, and preparing it for freezing or for conversion into jam. The actual jam-making was in Margaret's capable hands, a delightful lady from Yorkshire, an expert jam-maker with years of experience. She had an ancient and tattered 'bible' on making jams and preserves, which turned out to be vintage 1920 - something, produced by the Ministry of Food. Further enquiries revealed that it is still available through the Stationery Office, but on a 'print-on-demand' basis, so I obtained a copy of this treasured tome, and began to make my own jams with produce from my own garden.

Meanwhile I picked the fruit and Margaret jammed it, until the year she was too ill to join us, and I was 'promoted', to the 'hot seat' by the Aga. An Aga is ideal for making jam (and bread - it is just possible to make 8 loaves and a batch of jam between lunch and tea-time!). However, slaving over a hot jam-pan and Aga in high summer is not ideal, so I suggested we concentrate on picking and freezing, and offered to return in the winter for the jam-making stage.

So Lorna (a friend from Glasgow) and I set off late one January, into a snow-bound Worcestershire, to discover a chest freezer packed full to the brim with fruit. We only had a week, but in that time managed to convert half of the freezer contents into over 200 jars of jam (by which time we were getting short of jars, even though we'd taken some with us).



The kitchen in winter is the warmest part of the house, thanks to the Aga, so jam-making becomes much more comfortable than in summer. An Aga has another advantage: fruit can be left in a pot in the bottom oven overnight, and next morning its is ready to finish in no time at all in the jam pan.

Some jams are easy - loganberry, blackcurrant, gooseberry. But damsons are a different story - they have stones, and are too small and hard to deal with 'cold'. The books say to fish out the damson stones as the jam is boiling - a very hazardous process; our new swear-word became 'damson-stones!' After much trial, error and frustration, we developed the 'Falklands' technique - weigh out the damsons, count them into the pot and leave them in the bottom oven overnight. The stones can be removed en route to the jam pan, and counted again, to make sure there were all accounted for, and the rest was easy.

There is something very satisfying about (growing and) picking the fruits of a well-prepared garden and preserving them, in large quantities, for future pleasurable eating and giving. Perhaps starting the whole process in a monastery garden, with the pattern of life based on the Chapel and the Daily Offices, gives an extra 'something' to the finished jam.

Liz Sim

Liz is always on the look out for empty jam jars, so if you have any spares (complete with lid please) she her after Mass.

She would also welcome any other offers of jams, chutneys, curds, pickles, cheese etc for the Christmas Gift Fair on 5 December.

Christmas Gift Fair

Are you creative? Do you sew ... crochet ... make lace... chutney ... Christmas cards? Do you carve wood? Or bake?

We are going to hold a Christmas Gift Fair on **Saturday 5 December**, 11am-5pm in the hall - and we need lots of contributions to sell.

Here are the ideas for stalls so far. Please contact the person in charge about contributions.

Jams, chutneys, curds, pickles, cheese etc

Contact: Liz Sim lizsim@btinternet.com
445 1448

Crafts, jewellery, Christmas cards, sewing

Contact: Pam & Emma Johnston
pamjohnston@blueyonder.co.uk
467 1307

Homebaking, sweets, tablet, chocolate

Contact: Rosemary Williams 665 6465

Good quality books & DVDs

Contact: Carrie Gooch 552 7529
caroline.gooch@talk21.com

CDs

Contact: Dick Turkington 6576 6316

Plants

Contact: Catherine Harkin 552 7529
catkin19@blueyonder.co.uk

Flowers, table decorations, candles

Contact: Ginger Franklin 478 0178
gingerf@blueyonder.co.uk

Bottles/tombola

Contact: Lesley & Tim Blackmore
l.blackmore001@btinternet.com
336 1610

Christmas ornaments Young St Paul's

Contact: Michelle Brown 653 0837
michelle@broonandmish.net

'New-to-you' - unwanted, good presents, duplicate gifts etc

Contact: Sheila Brock 667 2196
docsbrock@googlemail.com

Please contact Sheila Brock or Jean Keltie if you have any other ideas for stalls and activities.

And of course don't forget to bring your friends along on the day, when tea, coffee, home baking & light lunches will be available (lunches from 12-2pm). There will be an entrance charge of £1 to help cover costs.

A Helping Hand?

Are you good with a camera? Or have a witty turn of phrase? Or perhaps you have an eye for a design and layout? Do you have some ideas for articles or features that you would like to write?

If so please do get in touch with the *Newsletter*, we would love to hear from you and are always on the look out for new volunteers. If you would like to find out more about what is involved, please speak to Steve Harries after Mass.

Prayer Group

The next Prayer Group meeting will be at 6pm on Wednesday 11 November, in 41 Jeffrey St. This group normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the month. See a member of the clergy for more details.

Fair Trade

The next Fair Trade stall will be on Sunday 15 November over coffee. There will be an opportunity to buy your Christmas cards and wrapping paper as well as all of your usual groceries. This will be your last chance to get stocked up for a while as it is the last one this year. So make sure you don't miss it!

Parish Lunch

Once again the liturgical year is drawing to a close, and as usual we will be having a Parish Lunch to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday 22 November. As always, James Campell & the Parish Lunch team will be delighted to receive your contributions towards the meal. So please see the list on the piano and sign up.

Lone Arrangers

The Flower team, who produce the wonderful flower arrangements every week are lonely. They would like some more volunteers to come and join them in their creative endeavours. If you're a little uncertain of your creative abilities, why not come along to the Craft Workshop on Saturday 28 November in the hall (see page 1 for details) and see them in action.

If you are interested in joining them, please see the notice in Hall and contact Tina Wood on 662 4317.

Suggest A Sausage

Do you fancy winning £250? Well the *Newsletter* has come across a competition you could enter and donate your winnings (if any!) to the R&R Appeal ... All you need is a winning sausage!

All you have to do is come up with the winning new recipe for sausages. So at long last those of you who were a bit embarrassed by your sausage munching habits can put your vast experience to good use. You can even make multiple suggestions as long as each one is unique. And your winning sausage could be available at butchers all over Scotland - fame at last!

So do have what it takes? Maybe hidden away in your family, passed down from generation to generation is the recipe for the winning sausages, perhaps it was hidden in genes! See Jim Wynn-Evans for more details.



The closing date is 30 November and, all entries will be judged by a panel of sausage lovers. So what are you waiting for?

What Do They Believe?

On Wednesday 2 December 7pm - 9pm, as part of the Edinburgh Inter-Faith Week, Rev Prof Frank Whaling, Emeritus Professor of The Study of Religion and President of the Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association, will be giving a lecture. It is entitled: An Introduction to the Heart of the World's Faiths: A Model for Understanding, and is being held at Augustine's United Reform Church, George IV Bridge.

Why not come along and learn the basics about some of the world's great religions with one of the world's leading experts. It is an opportunity to explore other peoples' beliefs and customs, which will hopefully lead to a greater understanding, tolerance and insight into other cultures.

This event is a free introduction to a 10 week course which will be starting early in 2010. For more details contact Tom Lea on 228 8146 or email at tom@eifa.org.uk

Another event in this series on Sunday 29 November from 1:30pm will give you a chance to find out more about the Sikh religion. Entitled "Meet Your Sikh Neighbour", it is being held at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 1 Sherriff Brae, Leith.

The Sikh Community at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Leith invite everyone to come and experience Sikh worship, hear a short introduction to the Sikh faith and the Gurdwara with the opportunity for questions. Then everybody is further invited to join them for Langar (a shared vegetarian community meal).

On the subject of food, The Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association hosts a Community Meal in the Church Hall of St John's Church, Princes Street on the first Monday of every month. Come and meet old and new friends. All food is vegetarian and there is a vegan option by request.

Adventures In Faith Lecture Series

In association with the Scottish Episcopal Church 'Adventures in Faith' Series, and to begin the second Lauriston 'Environment Series', Professor Brian Kilbey of Edinburgh University will present six evening talks on evolution and faith.

2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species', which broke new ground in understanding evolution. These talks will attempt to show that evolution, as it is currently understood, is not only compatible with a belief in a loving creator God, its

acceptance is vital if we are to reach a better understanding of God's activity in the world.

The lectures are on Monday evenings, 7.30 - 9.00pm, from 26 October to 30 November, at 28 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh. EH3 9DU.

Everybody is welcome, for more information contact please contact: Elspeth Strachan, on 538 7033 or 07768 491799 or email her: adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org. Alternatively contact Fr Chris Boles SJ, The Lauriston Jesuit Centre, 477 5795 email: cboles@lauriston.org.uk



Another Ordination



My career choice at 14 was Anglican vicar or a colonial District Officer: to late for the first and too early for the second! Anthropology and then theology have been a fair compromise. Sabah, Malaysia, as a VSO in 1966 on an interior Anglican mission school saw me teaching village children, mainly in English. I'll be in that same mission two Sundays before my ordination: that's appropriate, as it's part of why I'm here now. Despairing in the 1970s of the church's attitude to the local and Christian traditions of villagers there, I opted out for a decade while living in Australia, coming back to Anglicanism there while doing research among Lutherans: I realised I could hear kindly encouraging Father Ben at St. Aidan's between two heavier Sunday morning services. Living in Germany for a decade, I took services at the lay-led English Church in Heidelberg. I've been in Edinburgh since 2001 (also 1967-71 too at University) where I teach at New College. On 6th September, I prepared for ordination not by the usual retreat but by

taking part of the service at the Anglican Cathedral in Seoul, while visiting former students and giving a British Council lecture on domestic violence!

The places-Borneo, Australia, Germany, Edinburgh; the faith traditions, Anglican, Lutheran, local Borneo; the students and friends I work with and for; my daughters Freya and Olga; the Anglican Communion both world-wide and in Edinburgh: there is so much to rejoice over, to be happy about, as I take a breathe and pause in this 'time before.'

While problems with incense has lead to my moving on to Christ Church Morningside, Old St Paul's, Ian's ministry and that of all its members, offered a crucial haven. Leaving Germany and all that life represented was a big step: Old St Paul's embraced me as I was: Thank you, and may you long continue welcoming strangers into your midst!

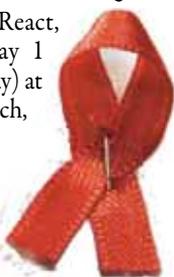
Elizabeth Koepping

World AIDS Day

Remember, Reflect, React, Takes place on Tuesday 1 December (World AIDS day) at 6.30pm in St John's Church, Princes Street.

This popular annual event provides an important opportunity for us to take time out of our busy lives and to reflect on HIV in a global and a local context. The event includes music by *Loud & Proud*, Scotland's LGBT choir.

An important part of the event is the reading of names of those known to attendees who have died of AIDS. An opportunity will be given before the start of the event to write a loved one's name for inclusion in the reading of names.



Inter-Faith Quiz

The Big Inter-Faith Quiz takes place on Sunday 29 November at 7pm. It is being held in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral (hall), 61 York Place.

Following the success of last year's Big Inter-Faith Quiz, we invite you to flex your grey matter once again and show us how much you know about the world's great faith traditions. Remember, the more religiously diverse your team is, the greater chance you have of being crowned Big Inter-Faith Quiz Champions! Tea, coffee and delicious kosher cakes will be served.

For more information or to enter a team, please contact: Tom Lea on 0131 228 8146 or at tom@eifa.org.uk. You can enter as an individual and be assigned to a team on the night or enter a team.

Interfaith Week

This year the Edinburgh Interfaith week runs from 22 November to 29 November, full details of the programme are available from www.eifa.org.uk. Here are some of the events:

Saturday 21st November - 7:30pm

Inter-Faith Vigil for Peace:

Invitation to share love, light & blessings at 20 Polwarth Crescent For details contact: 229 7229 or 07767474650 email: vigilforpeace@compassion.org.uk or see: www.compassion.org.uk/vigilforpeace

Sunday 22nd November - 6pm

Faith, Life & Work: A conversation between Bashir Maan, CBE & Revd Ewan Aitken, Church of Scotland Minister & City Councillor, on the divide between politics & religion. At Annandale Street Mosque & Islamic Centre, Annandale St. There will be time for questions from the audience and the event will be followed by refreshments.

Monday 23rd November - 6pm

Inter-Faith Week Community Meal in the Church Hall, St John's Church, Princes Street. Come and join us for a 'taster' of our monthly Community Meal during Inter-Faith week.

Tuesday 24th November - 10am -12pm

Open morning at the Portobello Soto Zen Buddhist Priory, Portobello Buddhist Priory, 27 Brighton Place. An opportunity to learn about the Soto Zen Buddhist tradition. Come and share a cup of tea and conversation at the Priory and take some time to sit quietly in the meditation room. o info@eifa.org.uk

Thursday 26th November - 7pm

Inter-Faith Week Lecture: Pluralism. Given by the Right Rev. Brian Smith, Bishop of Edinburgh, at St John's Church, Princes Street. The lecture will be followed by a response from an Inter-Faith panel with an opportunity for contributions and questions from the audience.

Sunday 29th November - 11am

Symbols, Objects and Rituals that Give Meaning to our Faiths - A talk, discussion & sharing. At St Mark's Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace. You may wish to bring a symbol, object, or a piece of art to share. Following the discussion, tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall.

Sunday 29th November - 1:30pm

Meet Your Sikh Neighbour. at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 1 Sherriff Brae, Leith. See page 4 for more details.

ESO Concert

Edinburgh Studio Opera perform an Evening of Opera Scenes. This promises to be an evening of high quality entertainment and a great introduction to some wonderful operas.

It takes place on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November 7.30pm in St Cecilia's Hall. Tickets cost £8/ £5 (concessions), if you want to book tickets or find out more information, call 07551932767 or email: secretary@edinburghstudioopera.com

Leaflets are also available from the back of church.

Job Vacancy

The Diocese of Edinburgh is looking for an enthusiastic, proactive person with good IT and PA skills to provide an effective, efficient and confidential secretarial service to the Bishop, and contribute to the administration of the Diocesan Centre.

The post is for 24 hours per week and pays £16,914 per annum pro rata, and the closing date for completed applications is: Friday 27th November

Application forms and information packs can be obtained from the Diocesan Administrator, 21A Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EL; tel. 538 7033; email: office@edinburgh.anglican.org

Children's Worker

St Ninian's Episcopal Church in Comely Bank, Edinburgh are looking for a Church Children's Worker. The post is part time, 10 hours per week, and will commence on January 1st 2010.

Do you have a strong personal Christian faith and an ability to share that faith dynamically with young people? If so, join us and help develop a programme of activities to build on our existing ministry and outreach.

The salary is £5,200, the closing date is Friday November 27th and interviews will be held in Mid December

For more information, visit their website: www.stninians-edinburgh.org.uk and click on the young church section. Alternatively, contact Reverend Andrew Bain on 0131 228 1066.

Stewardship Matters!

My arm was twisted - gently but firmly, by the Rector first, and then by Margaret Aspen. The result is, that after a lot of hesitation, I have become the Stewardship Recorder for Old St Paul's. Fortunately, for the first six months of the job Margaret and Nigel Cook have guided me through the intricacies of recording Green Envelopes and standing order payments, Charity Fund receipts and claims for tax refunds and it hasn't been quite the nightmare I envisaged. But the record keeping is the easy bit.

The real problem comes in putting faces to names. Having been a member of the church over many years I know most of the regular congregation by sight, many by first name, but comparatively few by surname. Other people seem to have the same problem and running down Mr or Mrs Anon can be difficult, sometimes hilarious, especially if queries arise about their giving. Maybe we should all have labels

Of course, the Stewardship scheme in its various forms makes a major contribution to our church's finances and I have been very moved to see the generous contributions made by so many of the congregation. But.....(and there's always a 'but', I'm afraid)... the costs of running OSP rise inexorably while giving tends to lag behind. I would like to suggest a number of ways in which everyone can help to maximise their giving:

1. Support our church by contributing regularly through standing order and Gift Aid; this way we have a regular income stream and can claim tax on it. A



substantial number of the congregation give this way and I can supply the appropriate forms to anyone who wishes to give by this method.

2. Make your Sunday Collection contribution using the Green Envelopes, even if you give regularly by standing order. This means we can get the taxman to help us again; £1 a week in a green envelope gives the church say £50 in a year, on which we can claim £12.50 from the Revenue. See me if you wish to make your collection-giving go further.
3. Encourage visitors to use the Yellow Envelopes for their Collection. We can claim tax back if someone is a taxpayer and gives only once to OSP. 'Many a mickle makes a muckle' applies here as well!

Finally, we can all review our giving regularly. I know that many of us give to other charities as well as to OSP but at a time when Restoration and Renewal are on everyone's tongue, it is well to remember that the everyday working of the church also needs our continuing financial support.

John Dale

The Sacrament of Healing

Some of you may remember that many years ago on the last Thursday evening of every month the Sacrament of Healing was offered after the Eucharist, in the Lady Chapel. As you can imagine, it was a time of great peace and beauty, and there was a very real sense of the Presence of God. But very few people seemed to feel the need of healing; the congregation, on most of these occasions, numbered two. Eventually, for various reasons, the Thursday evening Eucharist was cancelled and the routine offering of the Laying on of Hands and Anointing disappeared. Disappointingly, there was no great outcry over this change.

Of course, this Sacrament, like all other Sacraments, is available at all times - one only has to ask a member of the clergy team. And of course, it has become a regular feature of our worship on Maundy Thursday. But it would be a mistake to think that that is the only way this beautiful Sacrament can be accessed. We

all are in need of healing, being restored to wholeness, and it would be wonderful and beautiful if this became normative, if we could come along to Church knowing that God the Healer is there before us. And it would be wonderful and beautiful if, while still recognising the great beauty and 'specialness' of the liturgy, we left behind our fear and embarrassment and came to the Sacrament with a sense of joy and confidence.

On the Sundays of Advent (Nov.29, Dec.6, Dec.13, Dec 20) you will have the opportunity to meet God in this way. If you feel anxious about any aspect of this, or if you would like to know in more detail what is involved, do please talk to any member of the ministry team. The Sacrament will be offered in the Memorial Chapel before High Mass, from approximately 10 a.m. until 10.30 a.m. We hope that many of you will find it a great blessing.

Fr Ian

XY climbs Meall nan Tarmachan

XY successfully climbed Meall nan Tarmachan on Saturday 17th October, and then walked its delightful ridge on what was a beautiful autumn day on the tops above Loch Tay and Killin. This made it the 7th Munro they have climbed in 6 outings which have taken the group from Callander to Bridge of Orchy in search of hills.

They have braved all weathers, from downpour to wintry snow and ice to glorious sunshine in every season. Having started last December with the Corbett (hill under 300 feet) Ben Ledi, they intend to complete 2009 with an anniversary climb of another Corbett, this time Ben Vrackie above Pitlochry, and to celebrate with a meal in one of the Pitlochry hostelrys. This last outing of the year is intended to include walkers who might be

daunted by a full scale munro in a wilder setting. Ben Vrackie is a lovely walk on a good well maintained path which starts in the outskirts of Pitlochry.

So if you like a walk and are up for a gentle climb, and would like to get into some highland fresh air, come and join us. Although the walks are done under the auspices of the XY group, there is no age limit to the hill walking activities, and the walks are a great opportunity to get to know people whom you might not know. The Ben Vrackie walk is on Saturday 12th December. Meet at 54 Traquair Park West. Time still to be confirmed but it will be announced nearer the day. If in doubt, phone Frank on 0131 476 0499.

Frank Ribbons



OSP Walking Group

The start of the day looked iffy but the clouds soon gave way to a gloriously sunny day. Starting in Darnick just west of Melrose, 11 of us set off on a beautiful fall walk. Following the Borders Abbey Way, we followed along the River Tweed and through stunning forests seeing herons (6 or 7) and a few roe deer. The colours were out in their splendour offering views of yellows and rusts.

A little over an hour along the route, we stopped for coffee at the Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott. A mansion to die for, this place is a wonderful getaway in the country. We were lucky enough to catch this place on its last day of the season. The scones were lovely and the coffee perfect! Off again, we continued through woodland and across fields

(watch out for the cow pats!) until we got to Cauldsiels Loch for our lunch break. Once done, we continued along through the woods and along fields until we got to creepy Rhymers Glen Forest. Dark and spooky (and even a little misty), the general consensus was that none would be surprised to see an orc or two emerge from the darkness.

Once through this forest, we were almost back to the cars. Piling into cars after a successful walk, we headed into Melrose for the well-deserved trip to the pub. As it was Halloween, some partook in the Warlock ale and we were all treated to costumes from the fancy dress party. Looking forward to the next one at the end of November!

Kim Moore-Ede



Children's Rota

November 1: All Saints, Revelation 7:9-17

Leader: Steve Martz
Helper: Sonya Stevenson
Crèche: Rosemary Williams & Sheila Miller

November 8: Remembrance Sunday - Intercession Preparation

Leader: Michelle Brown
Helper: TBA
Crèche: Anne Whiting

November 15: Godly Play - Parable of the Great Pearl

Storyteller: Richard Holloway
Doorkeeper: Paul Lugton
Crèche: Lynne Niven & Michelle Brown
Intercessions: YSP with Alastair Hulbert

November 22: Godly Play - Parable of the Sower

Storyteller: Carrie Upton
Doorkeeper: Steve Martz
Crèche: Emma Johnston

November 29: Zechariah's Prophecy - Luke 1: 67- 80

Leader: TBA
Helper: TBA
Crèche: TBA

Ice Cream & Chat

On 14 November from 2-3:30pm various local youth groups, including Young Saint Paul's, Christ Church Morningside and St. Philip's Church, are meeting at the Church Centre, Christ Church Morningside (6a Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DD) to engage in conversation with other young people over Luca's ice cream while learning about Christianity in India through a presentation by Fr Anderson Jeremiah. See Michelle Brown for details.

A Big Thank You

Our Harvest Festival offerings were much appreciated, we have a letter from Josiah Lockhart, a Field Worker at the Grassmarket Mission / Greyfriars Community Project, who wrote:

"The donations from OSP were fantastic, please let everyone know how thankful we are.

So a big Thank You to all of you who contributed.

Local Tourist



Located on the royal mile next to and associated with John Knox House, the Scottish Storytelling centre is a lovely spot in the city. A modern building, it houses a lovely café along with several areas for events: The Netherbow Theatre is a 99-seat auditorium with fixed raked seating, the George Mackay Brown Library has seating for up to 35, the Storytelling Court which is situated on street level with spectacular views to the historic closes and gardens of the Netherbow area, the Global Stories Bothy is a flexible, partially enclosed space within the Court, ideal for informal storytelling sessions for up to 30 school children, or small-group workshops and presentations. This last area is a lovely spot, bright, with big pillows for sitting on.

The Storytelling court is used frequently for various events and exhibits for all ages. Many are free and all are open to the public. When I was there, there was an exhibit by Stephenson College, a collection of photos from emerging photographers combined with recordings of some of Scotland's finest storytellers.

The next event this November? Imagine my surprise when I read that the next display was going to be a Christmas angels display by our very own Emily Learmont! So why don't you drop in for a visit, or see what is going on at <http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk>

Kim Moore-Ede.

Bishop's Christmas Card Competition

Entries are invited from all children in the Diocese (under 16) to design Bishop Brian's official Christmas Card 2009. The artwork should be no larger than A4 (the final card will be A5). Please put name and age of artist, church and contact details on the back of all entries. Please send entries by post to:

Michelle Brown, Youth & Children's Officer, Diocese of Edinburgh, 21a Grosvenor

Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EL.

Alternatively you can scan them in and submit by email to youth@dioceseofedinburgh.org.

Impartial judging will be done by Bishop Brian and guest judges. There will be a prize for the best entry. The closing date is 18 November 2009.

Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection

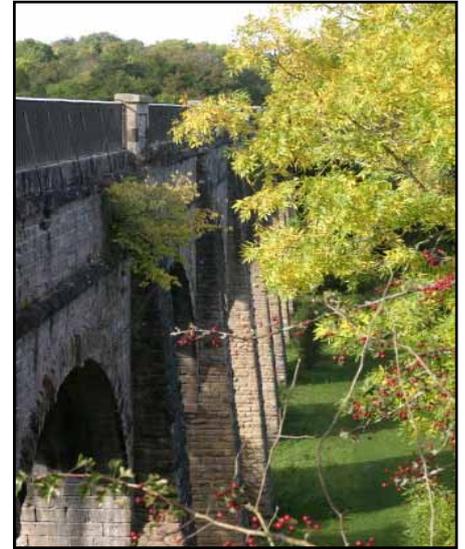
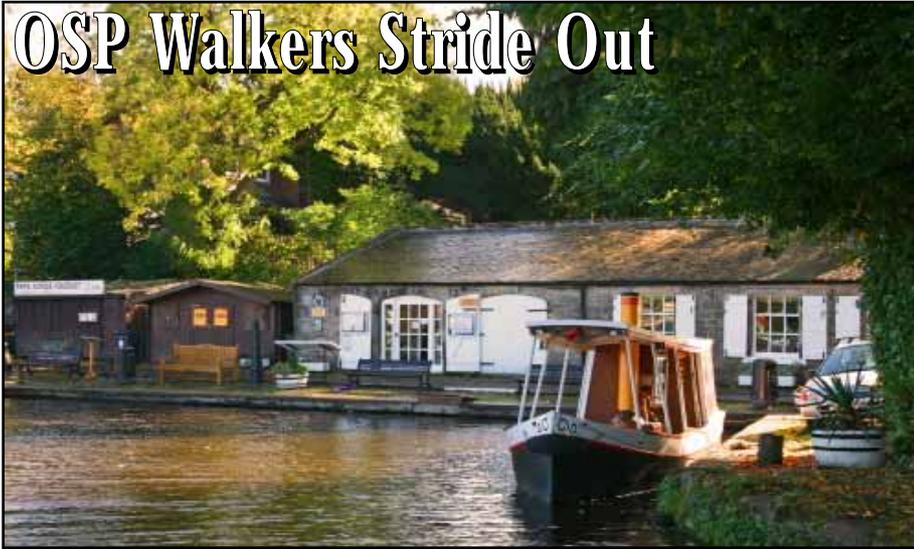
Our Vulnerable Adult and Child Protection Officer for Old Saint Paul's is Lesley Blackmore. She is in post to help children's ministry, youth ministry and the pastoral care group with protecting and supporting the young people and vulnerable adults within our congregation through helping to establish the best possible practice for working with such groups.

If you have a concern about the safety of anyone within either vulnerable group, please

speak directly to Lesley. If your concern is raised outside of a Sunday morning, you can reach her at: 0131 336 1610 or 077 1082 5702. Her contact numbers are also listed on the Child Protection Poster on the Church Hall Notice Board.



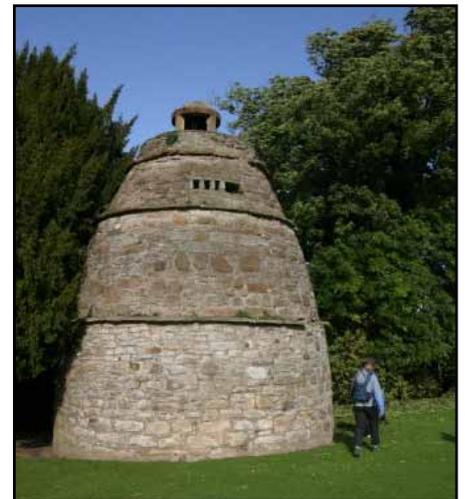
OSP Walkers Stride Out



Undaunted, as they say, by wind and occasional rain, we left Linlithgow Palace, the Loch and St Michael's Church behind us and strode out of the West Lothian town on our first walk of the season. We were soon in Burgh Mills Lane leading towards the River Avon - not, of course the one upon which Stratford sits, but very pleasant nonetheless and with its own non-Shakespearean dramatic features. The mighty Avon Viaduct, for instance, built in 1840 and still carrying the main Edinburgh/Glasgow railway line is truly impressive. At one point we were able to count nineteen huge spans. Then nature provided its own drama with perfect rainbows over the harvest fields, a sign that the weather was improving. Autumnal leaves and conkers along the riverbank reminded us of the changing season, and it was very pleasant walking by the fast flowing Avon as it rushed towards the Forth east of Grangemouth. We saw two unconcerned looking mallards being swept along by the current, and also the occasional coot and moorhen.

we're fortunate to have the canal as a place for leisure activities. (The OSP group might like to walk other stretches of the Union Canal towpath some time, so watch this space.)

On the last part of the walk back towards Linlithgow along the canal towpath, the views were again splendid. The ruins of Linlithgow Palace, birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots, are a reminder of the area's royal connections, while the tall, modern spire of the medieval St Michaels Church is a strong Christian symbol.



After lunch in a sunny sheltered spot by an ancient doocot, we made our last stop in the Four Marys hostelry in Linlithgow. A snatch of song I learned a very long time ago came to my mind.

'Yestreen the Queen had four Marys. The night she'll hae but three. There was Mary Seaton and Mary Beaton and Mary Carmichael and me.'

Above: The Linlithgow canal basin, The Avon Aquaduct, & The Lunch time doocot

Below: St Michael's church from Canal towpath, The River Avon (with cows), The Union Canal on Avon Aquaduct, & The Avon Viaduct

The next dramatic man-made feature we came to was the 810 feet long 86 feet high Avon Aqueduct which carries the Union Canal across the deep river valley. It's the second longest aqueduct in Britain and it's a thrill to walk along its narrow towpath. The views are spectacular and it's amazing to think that it was built nearly two hundred years ago. This was during West Lothian's coal and shale mining boom and shortly before the railway age superseded canal transport. Nowadays

I don't know what happened to the fourth Mary, but her fate was surely linked to that of the tragic queen.

So this was an interesting walk, mainly giving us exercise, attractive surroundings, sociability and fun, but also giving us things to think about, such as the genius of the Victorian canal and railway engineers and also poignant episodes in our history.

Christine Stevenson



Peter Unsworth, 1931 - 2009



Peter Unsworth was a familiar figure to anyone who came into Old St Paul's on a weekday, particularly in the days before any great festival. As Sacristan for so many, many years, Peter faithfully prepared the altars, vessels and vestments - or as he called them, 'the props' - that are needed. He has been one of the most faithful and committed servants of this congregation.

Peter died at St Columba's Hospice on 22 August. We are going to miss him very much indeed. Old St Paul's is going to miss his gifts of organisation and attention to detail. Everyone who knew him well, and above all his partner of 40 years, Richard Wadler, are going to miss Peter's gift of friendship and love, and

the characteristic twinkle in his eye. Our love and sympathy for Richard will be expressed in all kinds of ways, but at the Requiem Mass for Peter on 28 August we were able to pray for Peter and support Richard in a liturgy that Peter himself had planned many years before.

Bishop Richard Holloway preached the address at the service. Here, below, are his words, in memory of Peter Unsworth.

Fr Ian

I can't remember what year it was exactly, but I think it must have been Lent 1971, when I preached a course of sermons at Old St Paul's on the Christian attitude to sex. This was long before the Anglican Communion entered its long slow nervous breakdown on the subject, so I can't think why I chose that subject for Lent, apart, of course, from a normal, maybe even abnormal, interest in the subject

Anyway, the sermons were not particularly radical, and I probably offered a benign version of the tradition: sex as the sacrament of physical interchange between two people who loved each other, that kind of thing.

At the end of mass, after one of these effusions, a new member of the congregation glided over to me and asked, smilingly, when I would talk about 'the other side'. What did he mean? I asked. People who love members of their own sex, he replied: where do they fit in the Christian equation? I said I would deal with the issue the following Sunday, and thanked him.

Having reflected, I saw no reason to alter the basic principle that the Christian understanding of sex was that it was a sacrament of physical interchange between two people who loved each other, and the controlling principles were mutual consent and not harming - and the gender arrangements, as such, did not matter.

I have started in this way, because Peter Unsworth, who was the man who delicately but strongly challenged me that Sunday morning, was the agent through whom I was brought to recognise a conviction that had been implicit in my thinking, but now needed to be brought out and publicly expressed. This

is a common biblical theme: the stranger who asks a question or poses a challenge, and thereby discloses the future of God. The Syro-Phoenician woman did it to Jesus, when she challenged him about his attitude to gentiles; as did Cornelius to Peter, when he challenged him over the same question. In Scripture, God overturns Scripture by the challenge of the stranger who is Scripture's victim. And so it is in life, which is why we should pay particular attention when strangers approach us with uncomfortable questions.

The man who glided over to me that Sunday morning - and glide is the right verb, because Peter Unsworth appeared to move not on clumsy feet, but on perfectly oiled and silent castors - was born in June 1931 in the Yorkshire town of Osset, to Bert and Muriel Unsworth. Interestingly, I heard about Peter's death last Saturday, when I was working at the Book Festival. Later that day I was speaking to the novelist David Peace, author of *Red Riding*, *Damned United*, and other fine books, who told me that he had been born in Osset. He did not know Peter's family, but he said that Unsworth was a well-known name in the area.

Bert Unsworth was an architect, but it was probably Muriel who had the greater influence on Peter. She was a woman of rare intelligence and sensitivity, and it was from her that Peter derived his love of beauty and his eye for an unrecognised treasure in the antique shop hunting that was a lifelong passion.

There was an aunt who was a highly qualified nurse, so this might have been part of what motivated Peter to enter that profession, but I suspect that a deeper motivation was his own character. Peter was a natural carer who

abundantly possessed the most beautiful of the virtues, kindness.

He trained in London, deferring his two years national service till qualified, then serving with the Medical Corps in Kenya, during the Mau Mau uprising. Relatives have memories of him in his tropical white uniform, immaculate as ever. After his release from the army he returned to London, to Guy's Hospital, where he worked for the next fifteen years, till destiny struck one day in 1970.

He came up to Edinburgh for a course of some sort, and during time off, looking for a church to attend on the Sunday, he walked in to OSP. There he was shown round by a fresh-faced, fair haired young man, with an abrupt manner that was actually a form of shyness, hiding a loyal and affectionate nature. His name was Richard Wadler, and they discovered a natural affinity. Richard was a skilled craftsman at the Royal Infirmary, a maker of surgical instruments, and one who could turn his hands to almost anything that required precision and attention to detail. Walking round Old St Paul's, they fell in love, and Peter knew, almost instantly, that he would have to move to Edinburgh. Back in London after the course, he saw an advertisement for the post of Sister Tutor at the Royal Infirmary in Lauriston Place, applied for it, got it, and moved to Edinburgh in 1971.

The following winter Peter and Richard came to me and told me they wanted to promise themselves to each other for the rest of their lives. So one evening at St Paul's tide we met in the Lady Chapel, I read the Marriage Service from the Scottish Prayer Book, and they promised to be true to each other till death did them part.



Thereafter Peter became an important part of the community at the Royal Infirmary, where his professionalism and kindness were valued. Inevitably, he became Sacristan at OSP, succeeding two wonderful women, Isabella Crocket and Mary Stevenson; and just as inevitably, there was a paradigm shift in attitude to that important job.

Someone, a new Barbara Pym, ought to write a novel about sacristans, the routines they follow, the secret passions that ignite them, the deals they have to negotiate with clumsy and unfeeling clergy. Peter took to the job like the maestro he was. New vestments appeared, the Victorian embroidery on old frontals was taken off and applied to better ones. Stolen crucifixes were replaced with ones found by Peter in obscure antique shops. All of this I accepted, but I resisted his plan to sew lace on everything, for all the world like those foreign weeds that now infest our hedgerows. Sadly, my successors succumbed to his blandishments, so the noxious weed now appears from time to time even in this austere house of prayer.

What some of you may not know about Peter is that he did the training for ministry course in the Edinburgh Diocese, with a view to being ordained to work here in the parish as a non-stipendiary priest. He even preached occasionally, kind, witty, well-constructed sermons, mildly camp - if anything Peter did could be described as mildly camp. But he was never ordained. As an out gay man, who bravely refused to deny his nature, the bishop, reluctantly, told him it would be impossible to ordain him. Peter took it graciously, but I thought that another one of those moments that bring God's future had been lost by the church, and there have been many since.

I received a letter from Peter and Richard at the beginning of 1997, inviting me to celebrate a pontifical high mass for their 25th wedding anniversary, followed by a good dinner in the hotel next door. I was glad to do it, and in a sense it was a milestone for me. The following year was the 1998 Lambeth Conference, the darkest period of my life, and the beginning of the hatred that is now charging like a torrent through the Anglican Church, because it did not recognise the strangers who were bringing to it God's future, people like Peter Unsworth.

I have already said that Peter's strongest characteristic was kindness, but he had another conspicuous virtue, one without which the other virtues cannot stand: courage. Peter was a brave man, morally and physically. It took immense courage for a man of his generation to refuse to deny his nature, to hide, to pretend to be something he was not. It is because of men like Peter that the battle for the rights of gay people has been won in society, if not yet in the Church.

I've emphasised that side of Peter's life because the cause was important to him, but it was not what defined him as a human being. He was a good, kind, bold, witty, fastidious man, who happened to be gay. Now he is gone from us, and we mourn his passing even as we give thanks for his life. Above all, we give Richard our love and assure him of our support, as we commend Peter to the God in whose accepting love he trusted in his life and into whose surrounding arms he surrendered himself in death.

Bishop Richard Holloway

... and Peter bowed

In the mid 1970s Peter Unsworth visited me in my bedsit in Tollcross. I had been attending OSP for over a year. We had coffee together at a table by a window overlooking the Meadows. It was a sunny, bright Spring day. We talked about a range of things and as we were finishing our coffee, Peter unfolded a piece of paper. It had a few columns on it with neatly spaced words, each a little blurred from the ribbon of the typewriter. He asked me - would you like to become involved in any aspect of Old St Paul's?

I looked up and down the columns, studying the opportunities. Finally, I said "I would like to do that", pointing at the area that had warmed my heart, aroused my interest, and seemed to be a place where I could learn what was going on. I looked up at Peter. He looked at me with his big eyes and he bowed. He didn't say anything. I had pointed at the words "altar server".

In the Autumn of that year I got a phone call from Richard Wadler inviting me to train as an altar server. Over the following weeks I spent time with Richard and Peter learning about "God in the detail" and preparing from my first mass - Christ the King. The training was a privilege. I also learned that over the months between the visit and the phone call much discussion and compromise had taken place within OSP because women were not allowed to be altar servers. As I had come in from a very different tradition, I didn't know this when I had responded to Peter's question.

Peter's silent bowing to my request is one of the special moments in my life, and it is with warm thanks that I remember Peter and I remember Peter and Richard, their contribution to the life of OSP, and to my life. I would wish to give Life the graceful bow as Peter did.

Lesley Scott Reid



Calendar & Rotas for November 2009

	10.30am High Mass			6.30pm
Day & Observance	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Readings & Reader
November 1 ALL SAINTS	Revelation 7.9-14 Psalm 34.1-10 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	Frank Ribbons Margot Alexander	David Todd	Wisdom 5.1-5,14-16 Rev 21.1-4,22-22.5 Ginger Franklin
Weekday observances:	Mon 2 - All Souls; Tue 3 - Richard Hooker, priest and teacher, 1600 Sat 7 - Willibrord, archbishop of Utrecht and missionary to Frisia, 739			
November 8 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 17.8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9.24-28 Mark 12.38-44	Jim Wynn-Evans Elspeth Strachan	Bill Morton	Mass for the Departed: Isaiah 61.1-3 Lynne Niven
Weekday observances:	Mon 9 - George Hay Forbes, priest at Burntisland, 1875; Tue 10 - Leo the Great, bishop of Rome and teacher, 461 Wed 11 - Martin of Tours, bishop, c 397; Thu 12 - Machar, bishop in Aberdeen, c 600 Sat 14 - Consecration of Samuel Seabury, 1784			
November 15 24th Sunday after Pentecost	Daniel 12.1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10.11-25 Mark 13.1-8	Judith Brearley Robin Carmichael	YSP	Sirach 26.1-3,13-16 1 Cor 12.13-13.3 Nigel Cook
Weekday observances:	Mon 16 - St Margaret of Scotland, queen, 1093; Tue 17 - Hugh of Lincoln, bishop, 1200 Wed 18 - Fergus, bishop in NE Scotland, c 750; Thu 19 - Hilda of Whitby, abbess, 680; Sat 21 - Columban, bishop on the Don, 615			
November 22 CHRIST THE KING	Daniel 7.9-10,13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1.4b-8 John 18.33-37	Mary Johnston Hope Murray	Tom Clement	Zechariah 9.9-16 Matthew 21.1-13 David Bassett
Weekday observances:	Mon 23 - Clement of Rome, bishop and martyr, c 100; Tue 24 - Lucy Menzies, teacher, 1954			
November 29 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Jeremiah 33.14-16 Psalm 25.1-10 1 Thess 3.9-13 Luke 21.25-36	Jennie Gardner Janet de Vigne	Lynne Niven	Advent Carols
Weekday observances:	Mon 30 - St Andrew, apostle, patron of Scotland; Tue 1 - Charles de Foucauld, hermit in Algeria, 1916 Wed 2 - Nicholas Ferrar, deacon at Little Gidding, 1637; Wed 3 - Francis Xavier, priest & missionary in Japan, 1552 Fri 4 - Clement of Alexandria, teacher, c 210			
December 6 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Baruch 5.1-9 Luke 1.68-79 (resp) Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6	Jennifer Scarce Tim Blackmore	Sophie Cartwright	Isaiah 11.1-10 Matthew 3.1-12 Niall Franklin
Weekday observances:	Mon 7 - Ambrose of Milan, bishop & teacher, 397; Tue 8 - Conception of Mary, mother of the Lord			
December 13 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Isaiah 12.2-6 (resp) Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18	Hilary Campbell James Campbell	Frank Ribbons	Isaiah 35.1-10 Matthew 11.2-11 David Todd

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