



THE WHITE ROSE

The Parish Newsletter of Old Saint Paul's Church

October 2011.

All Saints, All Sinners

The last Sunday in October is All Saints, a time when we think about holiness, and ask whether it has anything to do with us, and is not just about saints in stained-glass windows.

But the holiness of the saints is nothing to do with being perfect people. The Principal of my theological college was fond of debunking some of his students' worst excesses of hagiolatry by saying, "Saints are dead Christians whose lives have been insufficiently researched." I think of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. Both great mystics and teachers of prayer, yet Teresa, as prioress, was always keen to receive a large host at mass to denote her status. John, chaplain of the order, was fond of giving her the smallest possible crumb. And think of St. Peter, who in one day said he would follow Jesus to death and denied even knowing him to save his skin. A saint is not someone with an already perfect life, but someone whose life is a sign of God's transforming love.

Catholics (including Anglican Catholics) believe that God mediates His presence and His power to the world through sacramental signs. Sometimes these signs are people, first of all our Lord Jesus Christ himself, but also, because his Spirit works through them, other people. The fullness of human life is to be a sign of God's love, an instrument of his presence. The saints are people who are, in Austin Farrer's memorable phrase about priesthood, 'walking sacraments.' They are like the sacraments that formed the basis of their lives, effective signs of God's holiness in the real world they were part of. They are holy because we can see, feel, and hear Christ in them.



Above: Fra Angelico's *The Forerunners of Christ with Saints & Martyrs from the Fiesole San Domenico Altarpiece*

Holiness is seen in dramatic and dangerous times, and in the martyrs even death becomes holy. But holiness is found also in very ordinary, even dull circumstances. Take two Edinburgh saints of the 20th century, for example. Margaret Sinclair, born in Edinburgh in 1900 and brought up in Blackfriars Street. From her church, Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in the Cowgate, she helped elderly and homeless people in the teeming slums of the Old Town. At the factory where she worked a member of the Royal family was due to visit and workers all had their wages docked by a penny to pay for a new pavement. As the trade union rep, Margaret asked why the workers were not considered good enough to merit a new pavement in the first place. She died, a Poor Clare sister, in 1925.

Or Albert Laurie, Rector of Old St Paul's from 1898 until his death in 1937. He had and taught an intense devotion to the Real Presence - both in the Blessed Sacrament and in the poor he loved to serve in very ordinary and everyday ways. Regarded as too old to serve as an Army Chaplain in

1914, he nevertheless packed a kit bag, made his own way to France and pushed his way to the trenches, where he served the local 'Pals' brigade of men, many of whom he had once prepared for confirmation as boys.

It is in daily life that we will find real holiness; the liturgy only prepares us to recognise it. It has to do with learning to trust God so much that we can trust others, even when it may seem to go against common sense or self interest. Holiness, like the whole Gospel of Jesus, is not in the end about being more religious, it is about being more human. Each of us is called into that holiness, called to be a saint, and will be given plenty of opportunity to answer that calling in our own lives - at work, at home, among friends, and sometimes at church as well.

Before we all say, "I'm no saint, I'm just another sinner," remember what Robert Louis Stevenson says, "The saints are the sinners who keep on trying." Happy All Saints-tide!

Fr Ian

R&R UPDATE

Hot Chocolate Update

It attracted good audiences, especially when you consider that the weather was absolutely unspeakable. We seriously considered acquiring waterproof cassocks for the brave people who handed out leaflets on and around the Royal Mile every evening.

The good news is that the amount raised was £3,500 - the lower figure in the September Newsletter was provisional and has now be revised upwards.

Our thanks to all the performers and the volunteers who contributed time, effort and talent to this success.

Copper Challenge

We are planning on mounting a Copper Challenge. This does not mean having an argument with the local policeman but it does mean that you can start collecting copper coins (and other loose change). All will be revealed shortly!!

Any Ideas?

Although work on improving access and visibility has not yet begun, fundraising cannot put its feet up and snooze! So ask yourself - *how can I help?*

If you wish to undertake your own fund-raising activity on behalf of R&R - please do so. Just tell us about it so that we can help, if required. Thank you!

Sheila Brock

Correction

In the September *Newsletter* we made a mistake in our *Coffee with Mary Johnstone*, we inadvertently said she had been at Old St Paul's for 16 years, she has been attending OSP since 1979 - in other words 32 years. We do apologise for this error.

RESTORATION & RENEWAL

of Old St Paul's Church

The Winter Bazaar

For our next big R&R effort, we will be holding a Winter Bazaar in early December. It will be a chance to pick up some "last minute" gifts and stocking fillers for Christmas.

We know that this will involve a lot of work and commitment from many people, but we thought it was better to do one big thing rather than run several small events.

So the date for your diary is Saturday 3 December from 10am to 3pm. We are looking for donations for, and offers of help with, the following stalls:

Cakes, biscuits & sweets

Jams & Jellies

Christmas decorations

Books & CDs

New to You

Gardening e.g. bulbs

Cards & Stationery

Tombola

Children's Toys & Books

Linen

There will also be face-painting and mulled wine on offer as well as teas/coffees and soup and bread lunches.

If you would like further information or wish to volunteer, please see Sheila Brock or Ginger Franklin. And don't forget to tell you friends and neighbours about it!

Sheila Brock

A Creative Day to Light Your Fires ...

On November 5th there will be a series of events going on in OSP's Church Hall:

Colour your Autumn with Sheena
(10am-1pm)

Painting workshop for all and all media. Sheena Philips is a successful artist with 30 years experience of teaching art.

Make Prose with a Rose
(10.30am-12.30pm)

A creative writing workshop for beginners and those looking for inspiration. Cecilia Rose is a poet, writer, performed playwright and literature tutor.

Come to the Town's End with Townend
(3pm-4.30pm)

An uplifting walk to three intriguing places on the Royal Mile. Graham

Townend is a published freelance historian living in Edinburgh.

It's Time for Christmas!

(1.30pm-4.30pm)

Make something sweet and beautiful by decorating your Christmas cake. Rosemary Williams is an acclaimed professional baker and cake decorator.

Homemade cakes, tea and coffee will round off every adventure. Please book early as places are limited. Email tina.starbreather@gmail.com or call 0131 662 4317.

This event is being organised to raise funds for Deborah Owusu, a trainee nurse in Ghana as well as for the R & R fund at OSP.

Tina Wood



A New Name & A New Day



Above: The XY Monday group at Fr Simon's farewell party

XYMonday finished for the summer with a goodbye party for Fr Simon as he left for South Africa. It was an excellent and well attended event with some people traveling a long way to be there, including Jenny Morgan's and her fiancée who came up from Sheffield. It was an opportunity to look back at the group's many successes over the past 3 years and to show our gratitude for all of Simon's hard work and dedication. Naturally, it was also a time for looking forward and planning for the group's future, so over the summer we have made a few changes.

Most visibly, you will realise that we are no longer called XYMonday. We've also changed the day of our weekly meetings. Many people had said they would value doing something Church related mid-week rather than having their church social life crammed into Sunday-Monday, so we decided to move the group to Wednesdays. The name XYWednesday was considered but we wanted to get away from the association with male chromosomes and the confusion this has tended to cause. After much discussion, we decided to go for something that emphasised that we would be meeting halfway through the week and so we've gone for the name 'Halfway House'.

The move to mid-week meetings has proved well timed as it will allow us to work more closely with Fr Ian as he begins his new ministry as the Honorary Anglican Chaplain at Edinburgh University - a development very well received by the group.

This term's events began exceptionally well when the newly re-christened group hosted a discussion on *God and Sex* at Old College on 22 September. The University Chaplain, Harriet Harries, expertly chaired a good-natured and wide-ranging discussion between Fr Ian, Bishop Richard and Edinburgh Divinity School's Dr Sara Parvis, with an audience of around a hundred able to ask questions and offer responses. The speakers deserve credit for showing the thoughtful, engaged, reflective side of the church rather than its blinkered and argumentative aspects which often come out in such a damaging way when these subjects are discussed.

The event also launched a spin-off discussion group that will be taking up the call Richard Holloway made in his Lenten sermon for us to begin thinking about a Christian sexual ethic that reflects our knowledge and experience of the modern world. The *God & Sex reading and discussion group* will be meeting at 4:30pm every Sunday in October at 41 Jeffrey St. Everyone is very welcome. See the flyers in church or contact me for further details.

As the Autumn progresses, Halfway House will be offering its usual mix of discussions, social events, worship and bible-studies. A particular highlight is likely to be the visit of Fr Graham Ward, Oxford University's newly appointed Regius Professor of Divinity. He will be talking to the group in the Wash Bar at 8pm on Wednesday 12 October. Keep an eye on the notice sheet for further details.

Tom Clement

Newcomers' Lunch

Have you recently arrived in Old St Paul's? within the last 6 months or so? Or are you wondering if this the church for you? If so, you are warmly invited to lunch in Lauder House (the Rectory, 39 Jeffrey St, about 100 yards along from the church, past Jury's Inn hotel) after Mass on Sunday 16 October. Just come along when you've had coffee.

It would be very helpful for catering purposes if you could let us know if you plan to come - though of course, last minute guests are very welcome. Please ring the office, 0131 556 3332, and leave a message if no one's around; or email admin@osp.org.uk or tell Jean Keltie on a Sunday.

Volunteers Needed

Coffee helpers are urgently needed. It is an excellent way of meeting the congregation. Please contact Frances Macleod: francesmacleod@sky.com

Episcopal Election

From time to time during the Interregnum, The Diocesan Office will update the Diocese about the Episcopal Election. Whilst the Election process itself is confidential, they will let us know about any significant events.

The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee took place on Tuesday 13 September. It agreed to place the advert for the Election in the Church Times on Friday 23 and 30 September. It will also appear on the Provincial and Diocese web sites. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Diocese web site. Nominations must be submitted by Friday 14 October. The Committee will then meet to consider the nominations on Friday 28 October.

The Electoral Synod met for the first time on Wednesday 14 September, where The Primus explained the Canon 4 Election process. The Synod considered the key qualities needed by the new Bishop. These will be taken into account by the Preparatory Committee.

A Coffee with ... David McLellan

David McLellan, who chairs the Finance Committee, tells us a bit about himself ...



I was born in England but went to school and university in Edinburgh. Sometimes I feel I am in with the bricks here. I was quite keen to read English at Sussex University - possibly because I would get away from home - but my father persuaded me to read law because he thought it was a good degree to have even if I didn't eventually want to become a lawyer. Certainly his advice has enabled me to have a very good life style.

After five years studying, I was offered a partnership at the firm of Dundas & Wilson. These were the days when partnerships were available for people in their 20s - and when nepotism was quite acceptable. My father worked for the same law firm. However, because they decided to send me to London for two years this was an offer I couldn't refuse. I had a wonderful time and overspent to the tune of twice my salary!

I gave up practising law not because I wasn't enjoying it but because the firm had become too big and too impersonal - and because I wanted to do other things. I did one or two things with my lawyer's hat on - some research for instance.

My real interest was in the arts, especially music. I played the piano and did A-level music, and sang in the chapel choir at school and in the choir of St Giles where I was a member. Until recently I was on the board of the Edinburgh International Festival and Chairman of the Queen's Hall; and I was also on the board of the Tunnell Trust for Young Musicians and the Dunedin Consort.

I did some fund-raising for Scottish Opera and also for Haddo House - the Aberdeenshire home of Lady Aberdeen, which she made into a centre for music in the north east. Lady Aberdeen (who died last year) attracted an extraordinary mix of people to perform in concerts and opera and to put on Shakespeare at Haddo. We

all lived together for a short period in quite a hot-house atmosphere but it was very stimulating and the standard of performance was very high.

Every year I go to America to give lectures in several different places (but the same lecture!) to the Junior Ladies League of America on some aspect of Scottish cultural life. Some years ago I also went on behalf of the British Council to different places in Asia - Shanghai, Bangkok, Singapore and Jakarta.

The biggest influence on my life was my father and also Lady Aberdeen. It was through her that I met so many musicians and other people I could never have expected to meet. And, of course, Old St Paul's ...

I came to Old St Paul's because Simon Crookall (formerly managing director of the RSNO) told me that I must come to the service on Easter Day. That was 15 years ago. I thought it was wonderful - a completely different world! Eventually I told the minister of St Giles that I was moving down the hill.

What attracts me? It's not just the liturgy and the singing that I like but there is a real sense of the presence of God. It feels like a holy place.

What do I do in OSP? I seem to be becoming more and more involved! I am a member of the Vestry and Chairman of the Finance Committee and am on the R&R committee as well.

I do enjoy reading - when I have time. I like detective fiction - PD James, for instance and biography. I have just bought Alistair Darling's autobiography 'Back from the Brink' to take on holiday with me. Last year I read William Hague's biography of William Pitt the Younger.

My idea of a perfect holiday is to be somewhere, with my friend and travelling companion, Mo where I can relax but where there are also interesting things to see. One place I have not been to but would like to visit is Machu Piccu.

I am at my happiest entertaining friends in my own house.

I don't often get really angry but the tram saga has made me quite annoyed.

Who would I invite to a dinner party? President Kennedy who was assassinated when I was still at school. And Terry Waite. I once sat next to his wife at dinner but did not get the chance to talk to him. And Queen Victoria towards the end of her life as she must have seen so many changes.

The elephant in the room? You mean my wheelchair? In February 2010 I came back from London by plane and could not get out of my seat when I arrived in Edinburgh. I have been in a wheel chair ever since. In the early days and months in various hospitals I seriously felt the support of Ian and Old St Paul's. Now I am quite surprised at myself and how I have coped with this - and am impressed by the way in which society all round the world copes with me and my wheel chair. There are very few places I can't go to - they even say that I could go to Machu Piccu - but for the moment, in my desire for independence, I will settle for a new platform stair lift on the Calvary stair!

David McLellan was talking to Sheila Brock



Local Tourist: National Museum



The much expanded National Museum of Scotland opened to the public again on 29th July 2011. It has revamped the inside and the exhibits, starting with a new entrance into what I would describe as 'crypt-like'. I quite liked the look, the brickwork in the ceiling is more than just functional. It also boasts a new tea room so you can have a quick cuppa before you get started. However, if you chose to get started, there are other cafes to be found within the museum. Unfortunately they also seem to have added a few more gift shops as well, a bit too commercial for me - one at each entrance is plenty!

There is so much to see here. They have reverted back to what I assume was the original look of the museum, with a large hall with several floors of galleries that you can view from. It has so much to see (wouldn't want to have met one of those giant crocodiles with head bigger than me!) but does seem to be aimed a bit more to children. The information offered is simple and there are several hands-on areas for the kids. The permanent galleries

include the Grand Gallery, Discoveries, World Cultures, Natural World and Science and technology and have made sure some of your favourites are still there. Dolly has made it back along with the elephant and several other animals, but being new here, I am not sure what you look for in your museum. I remember the museum I loved back home had a 'crazy kitchen' which was a kitchen on a tilt and was a hoot to walk through - and makes your brain feel funny! It wouldn't be the museum if that was gone, so hopefully your favourite is back too!

The main museum doesn't appear to have changed too much and temporary exhibitions still abound, currently including a behind the scenes look at the transformation of the museum, and fascinating mummies. I didn't take enough time for my visit, but it could take several hours to truly explore the museum. Please take the time to come and see this jewel, just be careful of giant crocs!

Kim Moore Ede



God & Sex

You may remember Richard Holloway's Lenten sermon in which he challenged us to go away and consider a Christian sexual ethic for our times that reflects our knowledge and experience of the modern world.

A group of us have decided to take up this challenge. We'll be reading a different text each week during October and discussing them on Sunday afternoons. We've decided to start with Rowan Williams's *'The Body's Grace'* as it uses traditional theology to provide a moving exploration of the role sexual intimacy can play in deepening our experience of God's grace.

We then plan to give those who attend control over the direction of our readings and discussion. The group will be meeting at 4:30pm each Sunday at 41 Jeffrey Street.

All are welcome. Please contact Ron Hafidson if you'd like further details: email: hafidrk@gmail.com or ring 07791 744344.

Evensong Suppers

From September 25, worshippers at Evensong are invited to stay for supper afterwards. This will be held either at the back of the church or in the hall, and a warm invitation is extended to all.

Fair Trade Stall

There will be a Fair Trade stall on Sunday 16 October after Mass. Thereafter they will be on the third Sunday of the month. Lynne Niven is looking for volunteers to help her man the stall, if you are interested in helping, please speak to her after Mass.

Next Issue Deadline

The deadline for the October issue of the *White Rose* is **Monday 31 October**. Please email any contributions to: media@osp.org.uk

Calendar & Rotas for October 2011

	10.30am High Mass			6.30pm
Day & Observance	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Readings & Reader
October 2 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 51.1-7 Psalm 80.7-15 Philippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21.33-46	Judith Brearley Eric Stoddart	Tom Clement	Job 1.1; 2.1-10 Mark 10.2-16 Jennie Gardener
Weekday observances:	Tue 4 - Francis of Assisi, deacon & friar, 1226; Sat 8 - Alexander Penrose Forbes, bishop of Brechin, 1875			
October 9 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 25.1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14	Andrew Kerr Susanna Kerr	Baptism	Job 23.1-9,16-17 Mark 10.17-31 tbc
Weekday observances:	Tue 11 - Kenneth, abbot in the Western Isles, 600; Wed 12 - Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845 Sat 15 - Teresa of Avila, teacher, 1582			
October 16 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 45.1-7 Psalm 96.1-13 1 Thess 1.1-10 Matthew 22.15-22	Mhairiad Monelle Elspeth Harrison	Lynne Niven	Job 38.1-7,34-41 Mark 10.35-45 Calum Robertson
Weekday observances:	Mon 17 - Ignatius of Antioch, bishop & martyr, c 115; Tue 18 - St Luke, evangelist Wed 19 - Henry Martyn, priest & missionary to India & Persia, 1812			
October 23 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Lev 19.1-2,15-18 Psalm 1 1 Thess 2.1-8 Matthew 22.34-46	Felicity Cullen Tim Blackmore	Pam Gilchrist	Job 42.1-6,10-17 Mark 10.46-52 David Bassett
Weekday observances:	Thu 28 - SS Simon & Jude, apostles; Sat 29 - James Hannington, bishop, & Companions, martyrs in East Africa, 1885			
October 30 ALL SAINTS	Revelation 7.9-17 Psalm 34.1-10 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	Elspeth Strachan Mary Johnstone	Junia Willson	Wisdom 5.1-5,14-16 Rev 21.1-4,22-22.5 Ron Haflidson
Weekday observances:	Wed 2 - All Souls; Thu 3 - Richard Hooker, priest & teacher, 1600			
November 6 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost	Wisdom 6.12-16 Wisdom 6.17-20 (resp) 1 Thess 4.13-18 Matthew 25.1-13	Frances Macleod John Dale	Kay Smith	Haggai 1.15b-2.9 Luke 20.27-38 Jean Keltie
Weekday observances:	Mon 7 - Willibrord, archbishop of Utrecht & missionary to Frisia, 739; Wed 9 - George Hay Forbes, priest at Burntisland, 1875; Thu 10 - Leo the Great, bishop of Rome and teacher, 461; Fri 11 - Martin of Tours, bishop, c 397; Sat 12 - Machar, bishop in Aberdeen, c 600			
November 13 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost	Zephaniah 1.7,12-18 Psalm 90.1-12 1 Thess 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30	Andrew Kerr Susanna Kerr	Young Saint Pauls	1 Samuel 1.4-20 Mark 13.1-8 James Cruise
Weekday observances:	Mon 14 - Consecration of Samuel Seabury, first bishop of America, 1784; Wed 16 - St Margaret of Scotland, queen, 1093 Thu 17 - Hugh of Lincoln, bishop, 1200; Fri 18 - Fergus, bishop in NE Scotland, c 750; Sat 19 - Hilda of Whitby, abbess, 680			

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