

## Church Crawling Abroad

*The Davies-Coles have been touring the Baltic, Hilary shares some of their discoveries ...*

In the summer, Charles and I escaped to Scandinavia and Russia to view churches and cathedrals we had heard or read about, but never actually visited.

Our quest took us to Sweden, Finland, Denmark and beyond: to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia.

In St Petersburg we visited the St Isaac Cathedral - what a marvel! On entering you get an uncanny sense of the true reason behind the 1917 Revolution. It's all to do with scale, show and effect. It was certainly grand.

The cathedral, we were told, ranks as one of the world's top architectural splendours of the century. Resplendent in colourful icons, it was so beautiful. Its gilded dome is the chief landmark that dominates the city.

### St Nicolas Cathedral

This graceful cathedral was named after the patron saint of sailors and is known as The Sailor's Church. Plaques on the church walls commemorate sailors who lost their lives at sea.

### Kazan Cathedral

To stand before the wide, embracing arms of the Kazan Cathedral's colonnade is to stand before the masterpiece that welcomed Russia into the Empire period of architecture.

More colonnade than church, it serves as a memorial to Russia's victory over Napoleon.

### The Church of the Saviour of Spilled Blood

This was our favourite. This sparkling, multi-coloured Church

of Christ's Resurrection is popularly known as The Church of the Saviour of Spilled Blood.

The church was built as a memorial to the 'Tsar Liberator Alexander' on the spot where he was assassinated.

This church is like a piece of jewellery - a polychromatic gem of religious mosaics, icons and gilt plaques. Exquisite...we loved it!

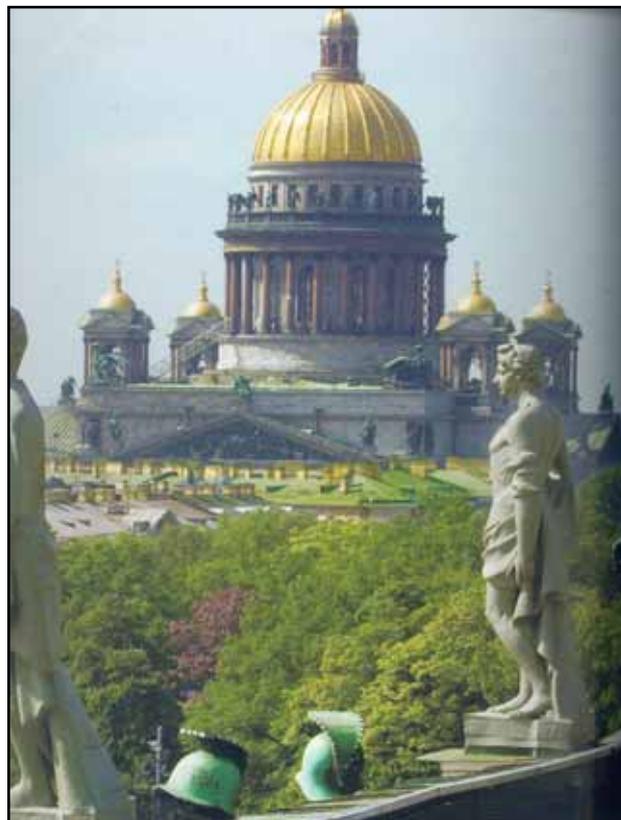
### The Cathedral of the Transfiguration

This is perhaps the most obviously militant of St Petersburg's military cathedrals. Its striking fence is made of upright cannon barrels tied in massive iron chains and topped by Imperial double-headed eagles. Yet the cannons point downwards.

Why this cathedral is named after the transfiguration we were not able to establish. What we do know is that it was a spectacular piece of architecture.

Our tour of Scandinavia and Russia was a real visual and spiritual experience. For Charles and I, these varied art forms and places of worship provided us with some moments of contemplation and meditation. They presented a portrayal of the spiritual in visual form, offering up meaning in a quiet but powerful way.

For us, it was our little pilgrimage - a journey with a spiritual end, leaving us with both perspective and satisfaction. We're glad we ventured.



Top: St Isaac's Cathedral

## OSP's Walkers Autumn

Some of our greatest journeys take place in our back yard. On Saturday 27th October, fifteen members of the OSP Walking Group, mindful of places too often rushed through and overlooked, converged on Craigmillar Castle. The idea was Burt Edgerton's. His plan was to link Craigmillar Castle with Blackford Hill via the Braid Hills. There would be a little bit of road walking but not much. In fact, looking at the OS map of Edinburgh with fresh eyes, we noticed plenty of woodland and exposed contour lines to the south of the city.

This was one of those wonderful walks where the end was in the sight from the beginning and the beginning, Craigmillar Castle, from the end. Craigmillar castle is in fact every bit as much a landmark as its more popular relative a mile or two to the northwest. For forty five glorious minutes, we lost ourselves within the thick walls of Craigmillar, all of us, I suspect, feeling the excitement of our youngest members. The general impression was of turrets, spiral staircases and dungeons. The castle has associations with Mary Queen of Scots whose French ladies in waiting lived at the bottom of the hill in "Little France", now the site of the new Royal Infirmary. Probably built in the 15th century, the castle remained inhabited to the late 18th Century when the then owners, the Gilmours, decamped

to the Inch just down the road. In the now drafty great hall, we tried to imagine a more intimate setting- tapestries, rush matting, a blazing fire. From the walkways above the Tower House, the views of Edinburgh were immense.

A surprise was waiting for us half way up Kingston Avenue, a Victorian mansion of pink sandstone - high pointed turrets, Gothic windows, a billiard room in the sky, the building seemed to be positively spilling everywhere. "Charming Ruskinian Gothic" Pevsner called it, the sort of phrase which, of course, one uses every day. We were amazed. Kingston Avenue became Mount Vernon, to our left the Roman Catholic cemetery, to the right sweeping views of the city. Somehow we seemed to be getting more out of this than the occasional surprise view from the top of a double-decker bus.

From Liberton House, an ochre coloured 17th century tower house, we climbed into the Braid Hills. Again this was strangely unfamiliar territory. We had our lunch just below Buckstone Snab, the second highest of Edinburgh's seven hills. The wind now had got up; it was one of those extraordinary days when it blew in our faces whichever way we walked. From the Seven Hills Indicator, we could make out the Bass Rock and in the near distance Craig



# Outing

House, part of Napier University. On the golf course below we unwittingly found ourselves walking across the first tee.

By the time we reached Braid Burn, we had split into Blackford Hill and Blackford Pond parties. Two particularly plucky members of the former group were all but blown away on top of Blackford Hill, an eventuality which, had it happened, would have produced the most extraordinary headlines ("Vicar and Top QC vanish in freak gust - Wig last seen over Blackford Hill"). Yet again this had been a very happy walk, leaving us with feelings of renewed delight in the familiar and pleasant surprise in the unfamiliar. Our next walk, a Longniddry Coastal Walk, will be on Saturday November 24. Details will follow shortly. All are most welcome to join us.

*Alastair Learmont*

*And from a different perspective:*

At first, the feeling of getting up early for the walk was bad but it all turned around when we started. As the walk went on we came to a golfing area. While the adults ate and sat down we went around picking up long pieces of grass which we pretended we were harvesting. Sadly, when the walk drew to a close, we had to leave our harvest behind. I thought the walk was brilliant, (even though it was 5 miles.) I would certainly like to do it again.

*Lydia Upton*



## Music Night

On 27 October fifteen members of OSP met for a third musical evening at the home of Brenda White.

As usual some of those present did their party pieces. There were two flautists, two pianists, four singers and a final short recitation of the Bard. There were duets and trios ranging from Donizetti to popular parlour music. The songs ranged from Mozart and Sullivan through Edith Piaf to a Thirties singalong, concluding with a rousing rendition of Stormy Weather, which was greatly enjoyed by the residents of the flat down below.

Jean Keltie held the whole thing together with her wonderful accompaniment on the piano. It was all great fun and much appreciated by all.

*David Rimmer*

## Iolanthe

The OSP Reduced Opera Company will give a concert performance of Iolanthe in the hall this coming Saturday 10 November, at 7.30pm. Suggested donation: £6 and £4 (includes wine). Any profits will go to the Alero Olympio Trust - which supports work on sustainable building in Ghana.



## Meaning of Icons

On Wednesday 21st November the Scotland - Russia Forum have organised a talk and discussion on The Meaning of Icons at the German Speaking Church, 1 Chalmers Crescent, EH9. It will be led by Father Stephen Platt, a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. The cost is £4 for non-members of the SRF, which includes refreshments.

*Margot Alexander*

## Caring Trees

Bethany's Winter Care Shelter has already opened its doors, providing hundreds of homeless people with hot meals, a safe place to sleep and advice over the winter.

To help raise the money needed they sell Christmas trees. This is where they need your help. The Caring Christmas Trees are fresh, needle-last and great quality. You choose the size, collection site and date that is most convenient for you. Buying a Caring Christmas Tree means you get a fantastic tree and you help a homeless person to receive shelter and support this Winter; that's definitely something worth telling all your friends about!

You must pre-order your Caring Christmas Tree before the December deadline, to do so visit their website, [www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com)

## Jubilee Scotland

The Jubilee 2000 movement came into being to call for the cancellation of poor country debt. Jubilee Scotland is a coalition of churches and charities, including the Scottish Episcopal Church, which continues this work into the new millennium in Scotland, and we rely enormously on the support of Scotland's congregations for the success of their campaigns.

Their current campaign is to overturn the great injustice of Indonesia's debt. The unelected dictator General Suharto took out loans from rich countries like the UK for weapons to oppress his own people. Now that he is gone these people themselves are still paying back the money. It is a country riven by poverty and inequality, with half of the population living on less than 2 dollars a day, but it toils under the largest unpayable debt on earth. It would cost comparatively little to the UK to cancel the \$1bn it is owed by Indonesia, but it would set an example of justice which would have a global impact. And just a handful of personal, thoughtful letters to each Member of Parliament could have the effect of bringing about this cancellation. You can find out more at [www.jubileescotland.org.uk](http://www.jubileescotland.org.uk).

## Fair Trade Christmas

In the last couple of months, there has been a fair trade stall on the 3rd Sunday of the month, in the hall, after church, and I am pleased to say it has done very well. By buying goods from the Fairtrade stall at OSP you have gone a small way towards helping the producers of those goods to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty. Thank you.

However, as many of you will have noticed, most of the supermarkets and high-street shops have already started vying for your Christmas cash; trying to persuade you buy your Christmas food and gifts from them. This is my shameless bid to do the same.

In the lead up to Christmas, there will be a fair trade stall held every two weeks at OSP; on the first and third Sundays in November and December. It will have a selection of fairly traded Christmas cards and goods available for purchase; plus, there will be traidcraft and tearfund catalogues which you can browse and order from. Through the catalogues,

there are a wide range of fairly traded products available; including Christmas cards, wrappings and decorations, jewellery, toys and candles.

So, as you and your family dig into a fair trade Christmas pudding on the 25th of December this year, you can remember that by buying fair trade gifts, you will have benefited many more people than just those that you give them to.

Linda Griffiths

There will be Fairtrade stalls on:

4 November: Christmas Products Launch (Cards, Calendars & Catalogue Orders)

18 November: Food Stall & Christmas Products

2 December: Christmas Products

16 December: Food Stall & Christmas Products



## Local Tourist: On the Buses

Have some time to burn? Or perhaps you have visitors in town and just don't know what to do? Well, I have a solution for you. The Edinburgh Bus Tours! The rides are around one hour long, offer hop-on, hop-off service and have commentary, some live, some taped. All tickets are good for 24 hours, too, so you can ride as many times as you like. The tours all start on Waverley Bridge but you can get on anywhere you see a tour bus stop and can buy a ticket directly from the driver.

The rides are fun and informative. If it's a nice day, I recommend the open top buses, they have the best views going! The tidbits of information offered are good to use anytime for any visitor. Did you know the story behind King George's statue on George Street? It is NOT his actual likeness. It was commissioned after a visit to Edinburgh many years ago and was very generously designed. King George was not tall and slim, he was short and round (and apparently like to wear VERY short kilts!). He is the George mentioned in "Georgie Porgie Pudding and Pie" and he really did like to try to "kiss the girls" when the boys were away. Cheeky!

There are 4 bus tours to choose from and some ticket deals that allow you to ride any tour bus as many times as you like. Some deals even offer entry into other locations, for example The Royal Yacht Britannia. I chose this tour deal when a friend from Canada came to visit. The Britannia is much smaller than you would expect and quite simple. The Queen did not want anything outrageously extravagant and even fired the first designer as he designed something far too lavish. It even has its own canteen where it makes its own Royal Yacht Britannia fudge in several flavours. Yummy!

So if you want to pass some time, it's a great way to spend a day. Even if it's wet, being on a bus is so much better than slogging around in the rain. It may even take you to one of your desired locations, such as Holyrood Palace or the Royal Botanic Gardens. So hop-on, sit back and enjoy!

If you have any other locations you would like me to report on or if you would like to write a local tour yourself, please let me know at [kmoorede@yahoo.ca](mailto:kmoorede@yahoo.ca).

Kim Moore-Ede



# Getting Ready for Advent

"Advent is the beginning of the end of all in us that is not yet Christ," wrote Thomas Merton. It is the time Christians set aside for spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ celebrated at Christmas. Even as Christmas has become more secular, the Advent season, which begins at the end of this month (Advent Sunday is 2 December) can still bring joy in the observance of ancient customs. Christian families can find quiet moments lighting candles in the Advent Crown at home; children use Advent calendars to count the days until Christmas arrives.

Advent is also a pilgrimage, a journey. It is a way that we answer what Goethe called "the holy longing." During Advent we will leave the place of our birth to journey to the birthplace of another. It is an invitation to be born again.

"There is great virtue in practising patience in small things," wrote the 20th-century English mystic and artist Caryl Houselander, "until the habit of Advent returns to us." The disciplines of Advent are ones that teach us to do small things greatly, to do few things but do them well, to love in particular, rather than in general. This habit of small "successes" generates creativity, a sense of well-being, a generosity of spirit rooted in satisfaction. It generates hope.

We light the Advent candles to remind us that things are not always as they seem, and that hope is always something we have, but do not always understand or even perceive. We sing kyrie eleison, 'Lord, have mercy,' launching our hope out into the distance and the darkness we cannot

see. The clergy at the altar stand and face the cross, in the old style, not to 'turn their back' on the people, but so that clergy and people alike can turn in the same direction and together pray to the God who is always beyond us, yet always coming to us.

In his great poem "Jerusalem," William Blake wrote, "I give you the end of a gold string./Only wind it into a ball,/It will lead you in at Heaven's gate/built in Jerusalem's wall."

The first Christians, or 'followers of The Way' as they were called in the 1st century, wove together a 'gold string' that reaches back to the creation of light in the Genesis story and forward to Advent 2007. There is a golden thread that sews us together as disciples of Jesus Christ. Paul calls this thread 'grace.' It is passed, hand to hand, from one generation to the next. Like nursery children on a field trip through the big world, we are given a rope and told to hold on. We know that the rope reaches all the way back to the teacher, the anchor, the shepherd.

Advent is a time to marvel at the golden thread and to make sure that we have not become separated from it. If, by chance, you have become separated from it, do not be afraid. Christ extends the end of the string to you again. What candles are there already shining in your life? What hope and expectation is there for you already? Your answer is the beginning of the thread. "Only wind it into a ball," my friend, and "it will lead you in at Heaven's gate."

*Canon Ian Paton*

## Diary Dates

### November

**FRIDAY 2ND ALL SOULS DAY**

Said Masses at 12.20 and 7.30

**SUNDAY 4TH FEAST OF ALL SAINTS**

Fairtrade stall after Mass.

5pm: A Mass for the Departed, with Fauré Requiem

**WEDNESDAY 7TH 11AM**

Hall Mass followed by a light lunch

**SATURDAY 10TH 7.30PM**

Concert performance of Iolanthe by the Old Saint Paul's Reduced Opera Company

**SUNDAY 18TH AFTER HIGH MASS**

Young Adults lunch in Lauder House, with Fr Ian. Contact: Paul Lugton 07984 168 403.

Fairtrade stall after Mass.

**THURSDAY 22ND**

Stewardship Celebration in the church, invitations on the piano.

**SATURDAY 24TH**

OSP Walking Group: Longniddry Coastal Walk. Organised by Paul Lugton (467 0843).

### December

**SUNDAY 1ST ADVENT SUNDAY**

6.30pm: Advent Carol service

December issue deadline : **25 November**

Send any details to **Jean Keltie** or email: [newsletter@osp.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@osp.org.uk)

## Reloku

No. 27

This is a version of Sudoku, using letters and with a religious theme. Fill the grid in so every row, column and 3x3 box contains the following letters:

**T H I S A B O D E**

When completed, the grid will reveal the birthplace of a patron celebrated this month. This month's puzzle is rated easy. Solution next month.

*This month's puzzle is rated easy.*

I		E	S				H	A
	A	H	B	I				T
D				A			S	
E	B	S	I					
	H				E			I
			H		B	A	E	
	S				D	H	I	
			T	B	S	O		
B		A			I		T	E

Last month's solution was Simon (&) Jude, observed on 28 October. Jude is known as patron of lost causes (but also hospitals), Simon is patron of carriers and tanners

U	S	E	N	M	O	D	I	J
N	M	J	D	I	E	S	U	O
I	D	O	S	J	U	M	E	N
M	J	S	I	U	N	E	O	D
E	N	U	J	O	D	I	M	S
D	O	I	M	E	S	N	J	U
S	I	M	O	N	J	U	D	E
O	U	N	E	D	M	J	S	I
J	E	D	U	S	I	O	N	M

# Calendar & Rotas for November 2007

Day & Observance	10.30 am High Mass				6.30 pm
	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Offertory	Readings & Reader
<b>November 4</b> <b>ALL SAINTS</b>	Revelation 7.9-14 Psalm 34.1-10 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	<i>Robin Carmichael</i>  <i>Mary Johnstone</i>	<i>Pam Gilchrist</i>	<i>Anthea Orr</i> <i>Jimmy Blair</i>	<b>5 pm Mass for the Departed:</b> Isaiah 61.1-3 tbc
<b>Weekdays:</b>	<b>Wed 7</b> - Willibrord, archbishop of Utrecht & missionary to Frisia, 739 <b>Fri 9</b> - George Hay Forbes, priest at Burntisland, 1875; <b>Sat 10</b> - Leo the Great, bishop of Rome & teacher, 461				
<b>November 11</b> <b>24th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	Sirach 35.12-17 Psalm 84.1-7 2 Tim 4.6-8,16-18 Luke 18.9-14	<i>Trevor Harding</i>  <i>Brenda White</i>	<i>Bert Edgerton</i>	<i>Dick &amp; Marjorie Turkington</i>	Josh 24.1-3a,14-25 Matthew 25.1-13  <i>Richard Calvocoressi</i>
<b>Weekdays:</b>	<b>Mon 12</b> - Machar, bishop in Aberdeen, c 600; <b>Wed 14</b> - Consecration of Samuel Seabury, 1784 <b>Fri 16</b> - St Margaret of Scotland, queen, 1093; <b>Fri 17</b> - Hugh of Lincoln, bishop, 1200				
<b>November 18</b> <b>25th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	Malachi 4.1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thess 3.6-13 Luke 21.5-19	<i>Jimmy Blair</i>  <i>Jennifer Scarce</i>	<i>Sheila Brock</i>	<i>Tina Wood</i> <i>Pam Gilchrist</i>	Judges 4.1-7 Matthew 25.14-30  <i>Lynne Niven</i>
<b>Weekdays:</b>	<b>Mon 19</b> - Hilda of Whitby, abbess, 680; <b>Wed 21</b> - Columban, bishop on the Don, 615 <b>Thu 22</b> - Cecilia, martyr at Rome, c 230; <b>Fri 23</b> - Clement of Rome, bishop & martyr, c 100 <b>Sat 24</b> - Lucy Menzies, teacher, 1954				
<b>November 25</b> <b>CHRIST THE KING</b>	Jeremiah 23.1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1.11-20 Luke 23.33-43	<i>Margaret Aspen</i>  <i>Nick Adams</i>	<i>clergy</i>	<i>Alastair Learmont</i> <i>Margot Alexander</i>	Zechariah 9.9-16 1 Peter 3.13-22  <i>Steve Harries</i>
<b>Weekdays:</b>	<b>Fri 30</b> - St Andrew, apostle, patron of Scotland; <b>Sat 1</b> - Charles de Foucauld, hermit in Algeria, 1916				
<b>December 2</b> <b>1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Isaiah 2.1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13.11-14 Matthew 24.36-44	<i>Helen Cook</i>  <i>David McLellan</i>	<i>Margaret Aspen</i>	<i>Trevor &amp; Michelle Harding</i>	<b>Advent Carols</b>  <i>see separate rota</i>
<b>Weekdays:</b>	<b>Mon 3</b> - Francis Xavier, priest & missionary in Japan, 1552; <b>Tue 4</b> - Clement of Alexandria, teacher, c 210 <b>Thu 6</b> - Nicholas of Myra, bishop, 4th cent; <b>Fri 7</b> - Ambrose of Milan, bishop & teacher, 397 <b>Sat 8</b> - Conception of Mary, mother of the Lord				
<b>December 9</b> <b>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Isaiah 11.1-10 Psalm 72.1-7,18-19 Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12	<i>Andrew Kerr</i>  <i>Susanna Kerr</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>Jimmy Blair</i> <i>Jennifer Scarce</i>	Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1.1-8  <i>Niall Franklin</i>

Month	Coffee Setup (9.30)	Coffee Server (10.30)	Morning Steward	Morning Sound	Evening Steward	Evening Sound
<b>November</b>	<i>Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197</i>	<i>4 Caroline Gooch, Alastair Learmont.</i>	<i>George &amp; Margaret Dickson; James Campbell</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
<b>December</b>	<i>Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197</i>			<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>

**CLERGY**Fr Ian Paton 556 3332 / 07751 510594  
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Margaret Aspen 01383 822611

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**VESTRY CLERK**

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