

Burns Night

On Friday 25 January, members of OSP attended an excellent Burns Evening organised by the Development Group in magnificently bedecked Church Hall.

Fr Ross Bell (sadly without a kilt as he claims "that he doesn't have the legs for it") was piped in and addressed that "great chieftain o' the pudding race". After a traditional supper, there was an opportunity to take to the floor and show off your dancing skills.

This was yet another occasion which saw members of OSP at their very best (although some were not quite so chirpy the following day), so many people contributing to the happiness and success of the evening and all of us feeling a real sense of belonging. Roll on the next one!



Annual Meeting

The 2007 Annual Meeting of Old Saint Paul's congregation on 9 December was well attended. Helen Tyrrell was elected Lay Representative, Lynne Niven as Alternate Lay Representative, and Caroline Gooch, David McLellan and Jim Wynn-Evans as ordinary Vestry members.

Treasurer Nigel Cook presented the Report and Accounts of the Vestry. He highlighted:

- continued giving (£32,000) from the Overseas and Tithing funds
- the appointment of Michelle Brown as Children's Worker
- new appointments in the music department
- the continuing demand for letting of the hall
- ongoing work to replace the website

The year had ended with a deficit of around £5,000, since static income was insufficient to meet costs. The budget for 2008 had not fully predicted the result of the stewardship programme, and was expected to break even.

Margaret Aspen, Stewardship Recorder, praised all who had contributed to the organisation of the recent stewardship programme and the enthusiastic support of the congregation. Including Gift Aid, an additional £50,000 per year had been promised. Nigel Cook reminded the meeting that the value of Gift Aid would reduce a little in April with the reduction of the basic tax rate.

Michelle Brown spoke on the new initiatives for work with children. John Kitchen, Director of Music, commented on new developments with the choir. Janet de Vigne reported on a recent visit to our supported project in Jenin, Palestine.

Helen Tyrrell announced the launch of an eco-congregation programme in Lent 2008. Maggie Stanfield introduced the new website.

In his Rector's report Canon Ian Paton thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and support. After reviewing highlights of the year, he noted that Old Saint Paul's was bucking the trend - there had been a gentle increase in numbers. The congregation was positive and successful in the way that groups and individuals initiated and took responsibility for activities. He was grateful for this, and he looked forward to celebrating the silver jubilee of his ordination in July 2008.

Proposing a vote of thanks to the Rector, churchwarden Sheila Brock praised him as a brilliant co-ordinator and delegator, yet always with his finger on the pulse.

Celebrating St Paul

On 27 January we celebrated the Conversion of St Paul, which is our Feast of Title and the anniversary of the dedication of the church.

To mark the event we had the usual procession and concelebrated Mass. After which we adjourned to the hall to partake in a Parish Lunch, prepared by James Cambell and his team, which was up to their usual high standard. There was also a chance to view the new website.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a very pleasurable day.



Above: The procession, Below: The concelebration and the Parish Lunch afterwards



The Vestry 2008



Rector
Canon Ian Paton



Rector's Warden
Sheila Brock



People's Warden
Janet de Vigne



Clerk
Ginger Franklin



Treasurer
Nigel Cook



Lay Representative
Helen Tyrell



Caroline Gooch



Caroline Hextall



James Hutchinson



David McLellan



Maggie Stanfield



Property Convenor
Jim Wynn-Evans

Attending Vestry meetings in a non-voting capacity are:

Margaret Aspen
(Stewardship Recorder)

Jean Keltie
(Parish Administrator)

The Alternate Lay Rep does not attend Vestry meetings



Parish Administrator
Jean Keltie



Stewardship Recorder
Margaret Aspen



Alternate Lay Rep
Lynne Niven

Other Useful Contacts

Sunday School & Creche
Paul Lugton, Carrie Upton,
Emma Johnston

Young Adults Group
Paul Lugton

Development Group
Alastair Learmont

Overseas Giving Group
Sheila Brock

Child Protection Officer
Mary Thorpe

Eco-Congregation Group
Paul Lugton

Parish Lunch Group
James Campbell

Tithing Group
Janet de Vigne



The Thing About Walking

The OSP walking group has enjoyed three fine walks over the past few months in and about Edinburgh. Lack of day light and uncertain weather conditions may have reduced the length of our walks but have done nothing to diminish our enthusiasm and general merriment.

On Saturday 24th November, Paul Lugton organised an East Lothian coastal walk linking Seton Sands with Aberlady Bay. The group followed the John Muir Way, named in honour of the Scottish Naturalist, who achieved international acclaim and whose place of birth was just a few miles further up the coast at Dunbar. Although parts of the way still have to be finalised on the approaches to North Berwick, this section taking in Aberlady Bay is one of the finest. Typically the group dodged the showers and even enjoyed a bit of late autumn sunshine.

A pre-Christmas walk on Saturday 15th December led by David and Sheila Rimmer took us westwards to Silverknowes. Our route, taking in the Firth of Forth, the River Almond and Cammo Estate was an intriguingly varied one. For many, it contained a surprise or two. From Silverknowes we walked along the esplanade towards the site of the old Roman station at Cramond. We paused a while on the quayside

where the old ferry (a rowing boat) used to cross the Almond to Dalmeny Estate. Just beneath us, a monumental Roman lion - now in the Royal Museum of Scotland - had been found in the river bed. We imagined the excitement of its discovery. Moving inland from Cramond we forsook swans for herons. Our group snaked its way up the Almond. We visited a woodturner's house and close to Cramond Brig, came upon a field of Shetland Ponies. Cutting beneath the busy Queensferry Road we headed into for what for many of us was "terra incognita". If we'd gone much further we might have fallen off the edge of our known world.

In the early 18th century, Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, the first Baronet, acquired Cammo Estate from the Menzies family. In 1711 Sir John, musician, poet and general all rounder, turned his hand to landscaped gardening and, over a eight year period, created a landscaped estate in a naturalistic as opposed to formal idiom. What one sees today is, if anything, even more naturalistic. Fire and vandalism have rendered Cammo House a curious folly. Only its façade survives. The stable block build at the beginning of the nineteenth century is derelict. We noticed the soupy remains of a canal and walked down the still impressive East Avenue. Our group fragmented, happily lost in Cammo's glorious treescape.



Is ...

Monkey puzzles, giant redwood and Japanese umbrella pines lent an exotic touch. From the front of the old house, Father Anderson in saintly mode, looked as though he were about to launch into a sermon. The estate changed hands many times over the years. In the end it had ended up in the hands of another Clark family who for reasons best known to themselves changed their name to Maitland-Temple. Percival was the last in their line. We attempted to reconcile stories of eccentricity. A "black widow", possibly Mrs Maitland-Temple, was mentioned. She had lived surrounded by cats and dogs. From Cammo we returned via Barnton Avenue - our very own version of Newport, Rhode Island to Davidson's Mains - David and Sheila Rimmer kindly hosted a splendid and entertaining lunch.

Walking contains a number of natural but nevertheless puzzling paradoxes, viz. 1) the shorter the walk, the longer it takes, 2) the longer the walk, the shorter it takes, 3) the shorter the walk the more tired one feels (and vice versa) and, perhaps, most challenging of all, 4) the more straightforward the walk, the more likely one will get lost. In order to explore and confound some of these mysteries, on Saturday 26th January twenty OSP walkers took to the Water of Leith walkway in a spirit of scholarly enquiry.

We followed a section of the walkway from the Shore in Leith to the Museum of Modern Art, adjourning briefly at the Botanical Gardens for coffee and cake. After so much recent rain, seldom had we see the river so high. In the Dean Valley we were staggered by the sheer force of the river. We watched as it tumbled over a weir and transformed itself from smooth chocolate to raging torrent. Just beyond the Dean Village, the walkway was flooded. Leaning over the parapet of a footbridge we didn't know what to do. We had never through in terms of "a Plan B" walking along the Water of Leith and our gallant leader seemed only vaguely aware of Plan A. Jubin as ever came to the rescue and forged a cunning path back to the Water of Leith just a few yards beyond the obstacle. At the Museum of Modern Art, in the manner of Scott of the Antarctic, we sat outside and consumed yet more coffee. Wearing a pointed possum fur hat which covered his ears, our intrepid leader had now taken on a curious gnome like aspect. How many coffees, we wondered, does it take to convert a morning walk into a coffee morning? We had happily failed to confound any of our paradoxes.

The walking group takes to the hills, or wherever, every month. Everyone is welcome.



Lent Courses

Several study courses are running during Lent:

Living the Questions

'*Living the Questions*' is a DVD-based programme to help people wrestle with basic questions often avoided by the Christianity they grew up with. Sessions include, for example:

- thinking theologically
- evil, suffering and a God of love
- prayer, intimacy with God

Discussion follows a short DVD presentation, with distinguished thinkers.

This course meets on **Thursday** evenings at 7.30pm from 7 February.

Tokens of Trust

'*Tokens of Trust*' is a recent book by Archbishop Rowan Williams. It is an introduction to Christian belief, loosely based on the creeds. Discussion will be based on reading a different chapter each week.

The book can be obtained through Cornerstone Bookshop, or multiple copies can be ordered slightly more cheaply.

This course meets on **Tuesday** evenings at 7.30pm from 12 February.

Eco-congregation

A group will meet to discuss and plan for Old Saint Paul's to move towards becoming an eco-congregation as part of our spiritual life as a church.

This means taking on board the urgency of environmental issues generally, and achieving certain specific targets in the near future.

This course meets on **Thursday** evenings at 7.30pm from 14 February.

Details of course venues can be obtained from the church office. Everybody is welcome to attend.

To Lighten the Gentiles

Biblical tradition seems to have a mania with time periods of 40 days: the flood lasted 40 days and nights, Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai, Elijah spent 40 days walking to Mount Horeb, Jonah gave Nineveh 40 days to repent; and the children of Israel wandered forty years in the desert.

Most are familiar with the forty days of Lent, a symbol of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, but our Christian calendar contains other examples of forty days - for example, the forty days from Easter to Ascension, and also the forty days from Christmas to Candlemas, which we celebrate on the Sunday nearest to 2 February.

Candlemas is the last feast of the Christmas season, before we turn our minds towards Lent and Easter. Usually, they follow after a decent break. This year, however, Lent comes along just 3 days later, the earliest it has been since 1913, and it will be 2228 before it happens quite so early again. (Ash Wednesday will occur in the week of Candlemas in 2035.)

In one sense, Candlemas is another Epiphany. In the 1662 Book of Common Prayer the Epiphany carries the alternate title "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles", in the persons of the travellers from the East. And in Luke's account, from which the Candlemas celebration is based, the aged Simeon proclaims Christ as "the light to lighten the Gentiles".

The feast of Candlemas is variously known as the Purification of the Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It recalls that under the law of Moses a first-born male was to be presented as holy to the Lord, and that the mother of all male children was to be ritually purified after exactly 40 days. The 1662 Book of Common Prayer exclusively uses the Purification title, the Scottish book of 1929 adding the word 'Candlemas'.

Help Wanted Urgently

We badly need more people to be willing to take charge of the Sound system at High Mass and at Evensong.

We also need additional Stewards at Evensong. Both these are important jobs but they are not difficult and the more volunteers we have the more fairly the



The earliest account of a celebration comes from that intrepid 4th century nun Egeria, travelling in the Holy Land, who reports a procession to the Basilica of the Resurrection in Jerusalem 40 days after the celebration of the Nativity. The feast was established throughout the Eastern Empire in 542, and in Rome is to be found in the Gelasian Sacramentary of the seventh century. Here, for the first time, it is known as the Purification of the Virgin.

Nowadays, however, the feast is more widely known as the Presentation of the Lord, since the predominant feature for us is Simeon's proclamation, known as the *Nunc dimittis* from its opening words in Latin, recited daily at Evensong and Compline. Simeon has been promised that he shall not die until he has seen the Messiah. Guided by the Spirit to the temple, he takes the infant Christ into his arms, and proclaims the Child as the Saviour of all, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and to glory the people of Israel.

The observance is now stripped of many of its medieval accretions. All present hold candles, which are lighted while we sing the words of Simeon. The candles are then blessed, asking God, the source of light, to pour into our hearts the brilliance of his splendour, and that we may be worthy to stand in the eternal temple. Immediately, the candles are carried in procession as our preparation for Mass, echoing the grand procession witnessed by Egeria in 4th century Jerusalem.

load could be spread. At the moment, people doing these tasks are on duty for two months of the year - that is 8 weeks. Some do Sound and Stewarding morning and evening!

If you would be willing to help, please see either Tim Blackmore or Sheila Brock.

Our New Website

On 20 December a new OSP website was launched on the world. The site, crafted by former OSP member Justin Reynolds, was commissioned by the Vestry, after the previous site vanished without trace. This had been maintained for some time by Richard Bloomfield, now in Ireland. Unfortunately, the hosting server had been exposed to several hacking attacks, leading to a total loss last May.

The new site (www.osp.org.uk) has a bold and exciting look, containing information about what goes on in OSP, richly illustrated by many images of our activities. In addition to details of our services, and information about our history and building, there are extensive facilities for all our church groups.

These provide each group with a holding page, containing a summary of what the



group does and links to news and information about the group. This assumes that each group keeps their information up to date with its news and events. The site editors are keen to involve as many as possible in maintaining the site.

To this end, all group leaders are invited to a session in the hall on Tuesday 19 February from 6.30 to 9 pm. There will be a detailed presentation of the various facilities available, and how they work. Those who wish will be able to edit their own material; otherwise, material can be e-mailed to the site editors for inclusion. Anyone who has any views or comments is welcome to send them at any time to comments@osp.org.uk.

Depleted Servers

Our serving team is currently depleted - Beth has been on maternity leave, and Cecilia, Gill, Lynne and Peter are currently suffering from illness or surgery. We wish them all well, and hope to see them again soon.



Trying to convince Robb ... You will look good in it ..

Meanwhile, the servers have carried on through Christmas and Epiphany without showing any gaps, although it has meant some appearing more frequently than usual. At the same time, Jubin, for some time an Evensong MC, has now done that role at High Mass for the first time. And Robb is now a crucifer, once we managed to convince him he'd look good in a tunicle.

The servers always welcome new members to their ranks. As has been said before, all that is required is that you can walk in a straight line while holding a candle, and that you do what you're told. Being a server is a valuable and rewarding ministry. Anyone who is interested is invited to grab Nigel Cook to find out more or be signed up.

Diary Dates

February

WEDNESDAY 6TH

11.00am: Hall Mass followed by a light lunch

7.30pm: Ash Wednesday - High Mass and imposition of ashes

THURSDAY 7TH 7.30PM

Living the Questions Lent Group, every Thursday, see page 6

SUNDAY 10TH 9.30AM

Coffee training in hall. Please come if you would like to help with this.

TUESDAY 12TH 7.30PM

Tokens of Trust Lent Group, every Tuesday, see page 6

THURSDAY 14TH 7.30PM

Eco-congregation Lent Group, every Thursday, see page 6

SUNDAY 17TH AFTER HIGH MASS

Fairtrade stall after Mass.

TUESDAY 19TH 6.30-9.30

Introduction to the website: presentation for group leaders

SATURDAY 23RD

OSP Walking Group: Tentsmuir to Tayport Walk, time to be announced see Alastair Learmont for details.

WEDNESDAY 27TH 6.45PM

Vestry Meeting

March issue deadline : **25 February**

Send any details to **Jean Keltie** or email: newsletter@osp.org.uk

Reloku

No. 28

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:

M A D U N C L E S

When completed, the grid will reveal the name of a February festival. This month's puzzle is rated moderate. Solution next month.

This month's puzzle is rated moderate.

						U		A
			N		C			
			L	A				E
L	E		D	N				
	S				A			
			S				C	L
A	N					M		U
		M						
						N		S

November's solution was Bethsaida, reputed birthplace of Saint Andrew.

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

Calendar & Rotas for February 2008

Day & Observance	10.30 am High Mass				6.30 pm
	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Offertory	Readings & Reader
February 3 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	Malachi 3.1-4 Psalm 84.1-7 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40	Jean Keltie Margaret Keltie	Michelle Brown	Maisie Orr Mary Thorpe	Haggai 2.1-9 1 John 3.1-8 Fiona Taylor
February 6 ASH WEDNESDAY (7.30 pm)	Joel 2.1-2,12-17 Psalm 51.1-17 2 Cor 5.20b-6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	David McLellan Brenda White		Margaret & Peder Aspen	
February 10 1st SUNDAY OF LENT	Gen 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11	John Dale Judith Brearley	Pam Glichrist	Tim & Lesley Blackmore	Genesis 9.8-17 Mark 1.9-15 Michael Thrusfield
Weekdays:	Wed, Fri, Sat - Ember Days of prayer for the vocation of all God's people ; Thu 14 - Cyril, monk, 869, and Methodius, bishop , 885, "Apostles of the Slavs"; Fri 15 - Thomas Bray, priest and missionary 1730				
February 17 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT	Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17	Helen Cook John Thompson	Andrew Paterson	Elfrida & David Nelson	Genesis 17.1-9 Mark 8.31-38 Lynne Niven
Weekdays:	Mon 18 - Colman of Lindisfarne, bishop, 676; Tue 19 - Martin Luther, reformer, 1545 Sat 23 - Polycarp of Smyrna, bishop and martyr, 156				
February 24 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT	Exodus 17.1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42	Jennifer Scarce Helen Tyrrell	Mhairiad Roberston	Maggie Stanfield Andy Collier	Exodus 20.1-11 John 2.13-22 Niall Franklin
Weekdays:	Sat 1 - David, bishop, patron of Wales, c 544				
March 2 4th SUNDAY OF LENT	1 Samuel 16.1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5.8-14 John 9.1-41	James Campbell Hilary Campbell	Frank Ribbons	Anthea Orr Jimmy Blair	Numbers 21.4-9 John 3.14-21 Jennie Gardner
Weekdays:	Mon 3 - John and Charles Wesley, priests and evangelists, 1791, 1788 Tue 4 - Adrian of May Island, abbot, and Companions, martyrs, 885; Thu 6 - Baldred, bishop, 608 Fri 7 - Perpetua and Companions, martyrs at Carthage, 203; Sat 8 - Duthac, bishop in Ross, 1068				
March 9 5th SUNDAY OF LENT	Ezekiel 37.1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8.6-11 John 1.11-45	Andrew Kerr Susanna Kerr	Youth Group	Dick & Marjorie Turkington	Stations of the Cross Reader tbc Reader tbc

Month	Coffee Setup (9.30)	Coffee Server (10.30)	Morning Steward	Morning Sound	Evening Steward	Evening Sound
February	Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197		L. Blackmore, T Blackmore, Bert Edgerton, J Keltie	Tim Blackmore	Bert Edgerton	Tim Blackmore
March	Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197		H. Davies-Cole, J Burnside, S Rimmer, T Birch	David & Elfrida Nelson	tbc	tbc

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