

Rebuilding The Ark

You may have seen the spate of letters and articles in the local press about the closure of The Ark and be wondering what is going to happen to The Ark. To bring you up to date, here is an article by the Ark Management Committee, responding to some misunderstandings and criticisms that have appeared. We are concerned that friends of The Ark may think that The Ark has simply closed for good as a result of reading what has been said. I hope the article will make it clear that this is not the case. We remain in ongoing discussion with the Council about the future re-opening of The Ark, especially as we anticipate moving to new premises as part of the Caltongate development.

Fr Ian



Above: The old Maddock's building, where the Ark is based in the basement

Both the tax-paying public and the Council should be aware of some of the misunderstandings that, unfortunately, seem to have clouded the debate around the Ark. Firstly, the Ark has been feeding Edinburgh's poorest people for more than 70 years. It is the oldest of its kind in the city and as such could never be described as duplicating services provided elsewhere and it is much more than a soup kitchen. The Ark has been grateful for the support of the council, some £166,338 in 2007, but that funding did not cover all our costs and for that we are also grateful to the many citizens, churches, businesses and trust funds for their help.

As unpaid volunteers on the Ark Board, with limited time and resources, we are the first to admit we could have done better. We understand the concerns that led to the Council using private consultants to review our service. Their report was a mix of good and bad and, whilst we could find fault with its methodology, we took the report seriously. We parted company with our Director and addressed all of the points of concern. Most recently, we have commissioned Streetwork to review and improve our systems and structures.

These changes could not take place overnight and sadly we ran out of time before our café funding was withdrawn. We are not criticising councillors for doing so. They have a job to do and we respect that

their judgement was based on the information to hand. Neither are we demanding that this money is reinstated now when the Council has a large deficit to deal with. We know that's unrealistic. But, we do want to have the opportunity to prove that the Ark deserves to be re-included in next year's budget. In the meantime, we are very worried about the loss suffered by our café users and we will do whatever we can to appeal to the public and other funders to reopen as soon as possible.

The Ark Board cannot accept, however, any suggestion that the Ark in any way condones drug-misuse, or knowingly provides a convenient dealing spot for dealers. It does neither. It never has and never will. We have always acted to exclude when there is evidence of wrong-doing. The consultants' report records how our staff tightly supervised the toilets, for example, to prevent drug misuse. Indeed, if the Ark is the den of iniquity it is alleged to be, where were the arrests of dealers after one of the annual and largely symbolic raids by the police to find drugs on the premises? We are not saying there wasn't a problem, but, it must also be remembered that a very high number of homeless people inject heroin these days and every service like ours is faced with this challenge.

The consultant report actually states that, far from our building being unsafe for homeless people, "overall, there are high

levels of satisfaction with The Ark and the services it provides and no real areas of complaint relating to service delivery were identified. On the whole, people felt safe and secure in the Ark, although they [the café users] recognised that incidents do occur that could be unsettling, particularly if they were new to the centre." With regard to the long-term benefit to homeless people, the consultants clearly state that the Ark services "have had a significant impact on clients at a number of levels." The report quotes café users as saying, "Without the Ark I would still be in the gutter." Or, [I'm] "Clean of alcohol now because of [Ark] advice and counselling." "The Ark helped me get a flat. I was on the streets before." And, "If it wasn't for the Ark I'd be dead." This is why the Ark deserves to continue.

When the Council next reviews its services, why should reopening the Ark not be 'on the agenda' if, after due consideration of the options, it proves to be the best option? In the near future, when the Caltongate development is complete, we will have a brand new state of the art building and a chance to start afresh. All we are saying is give the Ark a chance.

Yours sincerely,

The Management Committee
The Ark Trust
August 2007

Then Away We Go To Fairyland!



Following on from their great success with *The Mikado*, OSPROC are about to start rehearsing *Iolanthe* ...

In Ian Bradley's book "You've Got to Have a Dream: The Message of the Musical", there is a chapter on the theology of Gilbert and Sullivan. This may come as a surprise to those who think of the G & S oeuvre as pure entertainment, or worse, as dated, twee and musically lightweight. Bradley comments on the fact that G & S operas have always been popular with schools and church groups because they are considered innocent and clean ... no risqué jokes or difficult subjects. The passage of time has blunted some of Gilbert's sharp satire, and most people's recollections of G & S productions - pretty tunes and lines of chorus in bright costumes moving as one - do not seem to pose any kind of challenge to the established order. Here is a comment from the London "Morning Advertiser"'s first night review of "Iolanthe":

"Their operas have nothing in common with the inanities of modern burlesque. Burlesques they certainly are in a way, but free from vulgarity, commonplace, or coarseness, direct or inferential. Mr. Gilbert does not forget that he is writing for English women.(!!) He is not unwarrantably suggestive, even in his wildest and most eccentric flights of fancy; that is a great point."

So, safe enough then. But what of Strephon's Act 2 aria "Fold Your Flapping Wings", cut from the show after the first performances because it was considered too bitter and hard-hitting for the contemporary audience:

*"Take a wretched thief,
Through the city sneaking.
Pocket handkerchief
Ever, ever seeking.
What is he but I
Robbed of all my chances,
Picking pockets by
Force of circumstances?
I might be as bad,
As unlucky, rather,
If I'd only had
Fagin for a father!"*

There is also evidence to suggest that the word "fairy" had exactly the same connotations in Victorian times as it does now and that Gilbert's audience would have understood the double-entendres of the dialogue between Phyllis and Strephon ("Then I suppose ... *you're a fairy?*") only too well. But for the most part, we are in the familiar territory of Gilbert's beloved "Topsy-Turveydom", poking affectionate fun at the pretensions of the House of Lords, the law, and the propensity of humans - and fairies - to fall in love with completely unsuitable people ...

So what do we have to do?

All those people who sidled up to me while rehearsals for "The Mikado" were going on and said "Oh, I'd love to be in it but I wouldn't be any good" - NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

First rehearsal is on Sunday 9 September at 2 p.m. in the hall

If you'd like to be in the chorus, fairies and peers can each be of either sex, and CD's of the individual parts are available to borrow. We hope to have some spare scores to hand out but if you have your own you can write on it, draw on it during

the boring bits, use it to rest your coffee mug on etc. If you are completely unfamiliar with the show it will help you a lot if you get hold of a recording, have a listen and get some idea of the storyline and who the characters are before you actually have to be any of them.

If you want to have a bash at a principal role, tell us which one as soon as possible, there are rehearsal CD's of each part and you can have the one particular to your role. Ideally you should come along on the 9th prepared to sing a bit of your part but you're not expected to be off-book at this stage. Notes about the characters and voice types will be on the hall board.

And the important people ...

... the ones who welcome the audience and extract money from them, if you'd like to be part of the front-of-house team looking after publicity, refreshments, bucket-shaking and other essential duties, come along (but beware, last time some of our prospective front-of-housers ended up in the chorus).

Rehearsal schedule flexible, likely to be Sunday afternoons but up to what the cast need and want.

*"Soon as we may, off and away
We'll commence our journey airy
Happy are we, as you can see,
Ev'ryone is now a fairy!"*

See you on 9 September!

Catherine Harkin
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Quarterly Financial Report

Old Saint Paul's Church
Unaudited accounts for the 9 months ended 30 June 2007

Summary of general fund

	Actual	Budget	Prior
Incoming resources			
<i>Voluntary income:</i>			
Giving	57,485	59,356	57,275
Legacies and donations	5,824	2,467	4,426
	63,309	61,823	61,701
Space letting & fundraising	8,023	8,985	11,412
Investment income	11,135	12,498	11,691
Income from activities	2,323	1,585	2,238
Total incoming resources	84,790	84,891	87,042
Resources expended			
Cost of generating funds	5,767	1,524	135
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Clergy costs	27,790	29,672	34,712
Worship costs	8,785	10,145	10,487
Premises & fabric costs	27,416	23,578	25,220
Office costs	8,261	8,457	8,934
Other costs	4,370	3,578	3,145
Diocesan quota	8,315	8,631	8,222
Grants & donations	4,530	3,490	130
	89,467	87,551	90,850
Governance costs	650	300	-
Total resources expended	95,884	89,375	90,985
Net incoming/outgoing resources	-11,094	-4,484	-3,943
Transfers to other funds	-900	-900	-900
Net movement in general fund	-11,994	-5,384	-4,843
General fund balance 30 September 2006	419,461		416,199
General fund balance 30 June 2007	407,467		411,356

Summary of other funds

	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment fund
Legacies and donations	641	783	-
Investment income	124	1,626	902
Total incoming resources	765	2,409	902
Premises & fabric costs	4,059	-	-
Other costs	-	127	-
Grantmaking	-	7,000	-
Total resources expended	4,059	7,127	-
Net incoming/outgoing resources	-3,294	-4,718	902
Transfers from general fund	900	-	-
Net movement in funds	-2,394	-4,718	902
Fund balances 30 September 2006	149,259	64,658	39,295
Fund balances 30 June 2007	146,865	59,940	40,197

Treasurer's Report

The table shows financial activity for the 9 months to 30 June 2007, compared with the Vestry's budget and the previous year activity for the same period.

Giving appears to be rather variable. Although there are a few new donors, there have also been some removals. We are still therefore behind budget; some large one-off donations are helping to see us through.

We have had a busier than usual festival, so in Q4 letting income should come closer to budget. Recent rate increases can help our investment income (but not if we have to dip into our investments to meet costs).

Activity costs have continued to fall within budget, except for premises maintenance. The spring and summer have seen a flurry of activity, in the hope of catching small maintenance items before they grow into something bigger. Some of the major items have been met from the building fund. A total of £7,500 was spent on various items during the quarter.

The first round of tithing grants have now been made (£4,500), with a further £2,500 to be awarded before the end of financial year.

The finance department is now busy preparing the budget for 2008, and starting to get ready for the annual meeting, which is on 9 December. The Vestry report and accounts will be available from 2 December (1 December on the website).

I shall be happy to answer any questions on the church accounts which anyone may have.

Nigel Cook,
Treasurer
finance@osp.org.uk

New Rules

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed a new phase appearing on OSP's documents. This is to comply with changes in the rules governing registered Scottish charities, which come into force early next year. The treasurer will be contacting everybody affected shortly.

Prayer Calendar

- 1st For the city of Edinburgh & its people
- 2nd St Giles of Provence & all Abbots
- 3rd Gregory the Great (604), Bishop & Teacher
- 4th For schools & children in their first year
- 5th For their teachers
- 6th For city councillors
- 7th For blessings on all families
- 8th Remembrance of the birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord
- 9th Thanksgiving for the Eucharist
- 10th For those trying to survive Hurricane Dean
- 11th For our help to those in need when we meet them
- 12th For our parliament & their decisions
- 13th For all refugees around the world
- 14th Holy Cross Day - remembrance of Our Lord's Death
- 15th For the people of Darfur, living in such distress
- 16th For all faiths & worship of our God
- 17th St Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop
- 18th For those who sail on the seas
- 19th For all people in thrall to drink and drugs
- 20th John Coleridge Pattison, Bishop & Martyr, 1871
- 21st St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
- 22nd Ember Day & time for quiet prayer
- 23rd Thanksgiving for the Eucharist
- 24th For those who protect wild life sharing the earth
- 25th Finbar of Caithness, Bishop
- 26th For Old St Paul's & those who serve, pray, lead & clean
- 27th Vincent de Paul, 1660. For all priests today
- 28th That the situation of the Ark may be solved
- 29th St Michael & All Angels
- 30th For a response to our advert for a Sunday School leader

Fair Trade at OSP



A woman in Guatemala, Photo courtesy of Jim Loring / Tearfund

I'm sure most of you will have, when visiting supermarkets or clothing shops over the last few years, asked yourself the questions 'how can that bargain cost so little? What are the hidden costs?'

Many people are beginning to recognise that, while supermarket's profits are booming, very little money finds its way to the people who actually produce the food. Our growing awareness of how our decisions in the shops effect the lives of hundreds of other people across the world has, since the late 1990s, produced an undeniable trend towards ethical buying. As 'The Economist' reported in January this year, a quarter of British shoppers claim to be willing to pay more for clothing that comes from firms that pay their employees fair wages or protect the environment while a third of Britons now buy Fairtrade foods when these are available. Despite generally higher prices, Fairtrade has gone from an idea and a hope an establish reality: sales of Fairtrade goods more than trebled between 2002 and 2006.

It is the poor of the world that suffer most at the hands of unfair trade. Fair trade seeks to challenge the injustices in conventional trading structures and practices that so often lead to the exploitation and marginalisation of poor people. By buying fair trade we are helping some of the world's poor every time we shop. It is only part of the solution but fair trade enables the producer to lift himself and his community out of poverty.

Fair trade organisations, backed by the consumers, are actively engaged in supporting producers, raising awareness and in campaigning for change in the rules

and practice of conventional international trade. Fair trade is based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equality in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of marginalised producers and workers.

Through commitments to long-term relationships and building the capacity of producer groups, fair trade gives producers the confidence to plan and invest for the future and the ability to compete in international or local market places. Fair trade also exercises a high degree of care towards the environment. Consumers benefit from being able to buy quality products, knowing that others have not been exploited through the production process. Buying fair trade products can also send powerful signals to businesses and governments about concern for justice and ethics in trade. This consumer pressure can encourage other organisations to develop fair trade ranges and challenges businesses to improve their wider impacts on society.

OSP is getting involved in the Fairtrade movement by serving Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and on the 16th of September there will be a fair trade stall in the hall after church selling mostly food items such as rice, sugar, dried fruit, tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. Cash only. We need people to help run the stall and people with cars who can collect and return the stock to Portobello. If you can help or if there is anything you would particularly like to see on the stall please talk to Linda Griffiths (melk5@hotmail.com) and if you can't find her, Jubin Santra can usually point you in the right direction.



Above: The Servers & friends under the watchful eye of Miss MacKay.

The Servers' outing to "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" was attended by the crème de la crème! Obviously we were all trained by Nigel, "Give me a server at an impressionable age and they will be mine for life!"

Much fun and hilarity ensued with costumes worn by a few including our esteemed Headmistress Miss MacKay (Safety First girls!) and by Miss Lockhart who ended up married and living in

Cramond! A pinned up sleeve turned one server into Teddy Lloyd!

There was much quoting and gales of laughter from our group probably to the consternation of other theatre goers!

Afterwards a trip to Guilliano's a must of every Server's outing, was heartily enjoyed and as always those whose education was severely lacking were educated into the ways of Miss Brodie's grrrrlls!

Diary Dates

September

TUESDAY 4TH 6.30 PM

Property Committee meeting in the hall

WEDNESDAY 5TH 10.30 AM

Hall Mass outing to Culzean Castle and then on to Ayr. Depart from the hall. Enquiries to Mary Thorpe (449 5826).

SUNDAY 9TH 2 PM

First rehearsal / get together for Iolanthe in the hall.

TUESDAY 18TH 7.30 PM

Development Group meeting at 9 Lonsdale Terrace

SATURDAY 22ND

OSP Walking Group: St Mary's Loch circular walk, organised by Helen Tyrell (225 5992) & Jennie Gardner (225 2921)

TUESDAY 25TH 7.30 PM

Development Group meeting in Lauder House

October

FRIDAY 5TH 7.30PM

Quiz Night in the Hall

SATURDAY 27TH

OSP Walking Group: Craigmillar Castle / Blackford Hill walk, organised by Burt Edgerton (669-7160) & Alastair Learmont (558-1253)

October issue deadline : 25 September

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

Reloku

No. 25

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:

B U I L T H A Z E

When completed, the grid will disclose the first person to hear the Magnificat. Watch out for red herrings! This month's puzzle is rated moderate. Solution next month.

This month's puzzle is rated moderate.

	H							
		U				H		T
		I	L	E				U
	B			U				
								Z
Z							A	
	U			B			Z	
L		Z	U			I		
		T	I		E			

Last month's solution was the decalogue, or the ten commandments, received by Moses on tablets of stone on Mount Sinai.

D	L	U	G	E	A	C	S	O
S	E	A	D	O	C	U	G	L
G	O	C	L	U	S	E	D	A
C	U	D	A	G	E	L	O	S
E	A	O	S	L	U	D	C	G
L	G	S	C	D	O	A	E	U
U	D	E	O	S	L	G	A	C
O	C	L	E	A	G	S	U	D
A	S	G	U	C	D	O	L	E

Calendar & Rotas for September 2007

Day & Observance	10.30 am High Mass				6.30 pm
	Readings	Readers	Intercessor	Offertory	Readings & Reader
September 2 14th Sunday after Pentecost	Sirach 10.12-18 Psalm 112 Heb 13.1-18,15-16 Luke 14.1,7-14	John Thompson Brenda White	Lynne Niven	Amy Richards Linda Griffiths	Exodus 3.1-15 Matthew 16.21-28 Nigel Cook
Weekdays:	Mon 3 - Gregory the Great, bishop of Rome & teacher, 604; Sat 8 - The Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord				
September 9 15th Sunday after Pentecost	Deut 30.15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14.25-33	Hilary Campbell James Campbell	Bert Edgerton	Tina Wood Pam Gilchrist	Exodus 12.1-14 Matthew 18.15-20 Michael Thrusfield
Weekdays:	Thu 13 - Cyprian of Carthage, bishop & martyr, 258; Fri 14 - Holy Cross Day				
September 16 16th Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 32.7-14 Psalm 51.1-10 1 Timothy 1.12-17 Luke 15.1-10	Stephen Burge Margot Alexander	Jim Wynn-Evans	Elizabeth Koepping Christine Stevenson	Sirach 50.1-24 2 Cor 2.12-3.11 Margaret Dickson
Weekdays:	Mon 17 - St Ninian of Whithorn, bishop, c 430; Thu 20 - John Coleridge Patteson, bishop & martyr in Melanesia, 1871; Fri 21 - St Matthew, apostle & evangelist; Wed, Fri, Sat - Ember days of prayer for the vocation of all God's people				
September 23 17th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 8.4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2.1-7 Luke 16.1-13	Liz Sim Mary Jackson	John Thompson	Margot Alexander Alastair Learmont	Exodus 16.2-15 Matthew 20.1-16 George Dickson
Weekdays:	Tue 25 - Finnbar, bishop in Caithness, c 610; Thu 27 - Vincent de Paul, priest, 1660 Sat 29 - St Michael & All Angels				
September 30 18th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 6.1a,4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6.6-19+ Luke 16.19-31	Helen Cook Jimmy Blair	Janet de Vigne	Margaret & Peder Aspen	Exodus 17.1-7 Matthew 21.23-32 Lynne Niven
Weekdays:	Mon 1 - Gregory the Enlightener, bishop in Armenia, c 332; Thu 4 - Francis of Assisi, deacon & friar, 1226				
October 7 19th Sunday after Pentecost	Habbakuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4 Psalm 37.1-9 2 Timothy 1.1-14 Luke 17.5-10	Mary Johnstone Elizabeth Koepping	Sheila Brock	Liz Graham John Thompson	Exodus 20.1-20 Matthew 21.33-46 Ginger Franklin
Weekdays:	Mon 8 - Alexander Penrose Forbes, bishop of Brechin, 1875; Thu 11 - Kenneth, abbot in the Western Isles, 600 Fri 12 - Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845				
October 14 20th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Kings 5.1-3,7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2.8-15 Luke 17.11-19	Nick Adams Maggie Stanfield	Margaret Aspen	Lesley Bortolo Tim Blackmore	Exodus 32.1-14 Matthew 22.1-14 Sam Lever

Month	Coffee Setup (9.30)	Coffee Server (10.30)	Morning Steward	Morning Sound	Evening Steward	Evening Sound
September	Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197	Mary Johnstone Bert Edgerton Mary Thorpe	Frank Ribbons	Bert Edgerton	Tim Blackmore	
October	Volunteers wanted. Contact Janet de Vigne: 477 8197	Joan Burnside Nick Adams Sheila Rimmer	Alastair Learmont	Paul Lugton	Paul Lugton	

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Nigel Cook 557 2656

VESTRY CLERK

Ginger Franklin vestry@osp.org.uk