

# THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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Parish Priest: *Fr. Jock Dalrymple:*

0131 669 5447

Deacon – *Revd Eddie White:*

07986 015772

*Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris, and Chris Vinestock*

*Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP*

*Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini*

*(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)*

Web address: [www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)

Web address: [www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk)

Joint Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: [stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)

## 28 November 2021 - First Sunday of Advent



With this newsletter there is a Pastoral Letter from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

### NEXT SATURDAY – St John's and St Mary Magdalene's Christmas Fayre in St John's Church on Saturday 4 December 2021 from 10am to 1pm

Help and donations greatly appreciated, various stalls including

- Home Baking (please hand to the Parish House by Friday 3 December)
- Plants
- Books
- Jam, Chutney
- Bottle Stalls

- Advent Calendars
- Tombola Stall
- Handmade Christmas Cards
- Christmas Gifts
- Children 's games



**Please do come, all proceeds to the St John's Tower Fund  
and St Mary Magdalene's Camera Fund!**

## Prayer at Night – Starting today, First Sunday of Advent

We are starting online Prayer at night to coincide with the beginning of Advent this Sunday 28 November. This will be on Zoom each night through the winter months until Easter, 17 April 2022. The prayer will start at 9.15pm each evening and last for less than 15 minutes.

This is an initiative of our two parishes, St John's and St Mary Magdalene's, however because it is online it is also accessible for people wherever they are - and all are very welcome.

For ease, the Zoom link will be the same each evening:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9129622900?pwd=b1F1THhtY3NVeGptOWY0VGw2K2xBQT09>

Meeting ID: 912 962 2900 Passcode: Prayer

We will include the link in the parish Newsletter each week and it will also be on the parish website and Facebook page. If you need help in using Zoom to join the prayer, Deacon Eddie or Enrico Fertini will be very happy to help.

## THE RCIA IS RESTARTING ON TUESDAY

ENQUIRY GROUP – for THE RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

**Would you like to discover more about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Faith?** You would be most welcome to come along to our informal gatherings on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7.30pm this Tuesday 30 November in the St John's Church Hall. Portobello. For more information, contact Fr Jock on 0131 669 5447 or [jockdalrymple@postmaster.co.uk](mailto:jockdalrymple@postmaster.co.uk)

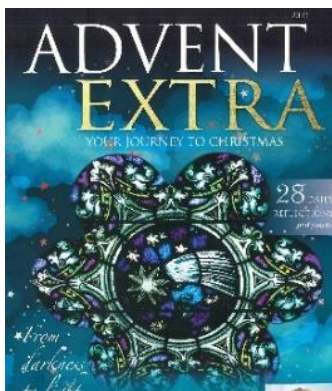
## OUR PARISHES PREPARATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS WILL INCLUDE:

**Saturday 11 December** – the **CLUSTER ADVENT RETREAT** for our five parishes of St Mary Magdalene's, St John's, St Teresa's, St Ninian's and St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith will take place in the Church Hall of St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith, between 10am and 1pm, led by Fr Martin Moran OMI... please sign up on the lists at the back of both Churches.

**Saturday/Sunday 11/12 December – Reconciliation Sunday**...with several priests available to celebrate Reconciliation before each Mass starts...

**Wednesday 23 December – 11am – An Advent/Christmas Ecumenical Pilgrimage Walk around the Churches of Portobello, starting at St John's**

## ADVENT EXTRA 2021: YOUR JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS



With its theme "*From darkness to light*", celebrates the Light of the World, who transforms even the darkest moments. Through articles and daily reflections, a famous painting reveals the birth of that light; birds and the world's biggest choir sing through Covid. London's rough sleepers find hope.

A retired Royal Navy Commander watches for dawn whilst at sea. A Jesuit astronomer stargazes and finds God. A prisoner finds that darkness can become light.

You can get your copy from the back of both Churches after each Mass, price £2

## NEXT SUNDAY THERE ARE TWO CHILDREN'S MASSES....

**Arlene Lauder writes: 'Next Sunday 5 December at St John's 9:30 Mass, we welcome our Primary 3's who are preparing for First Reconciliation. The P3s will receive the Rite of Signing of the Cross during the Mass. This is also a Children's Mass to which all families are invited.**

In St Mary Magdalene's at 11:15 am on the same day, our children preparing for First Holy Communion will gather for their 'Do This In Memory of Me' celebration mass. Please welcome all our young parishioners and their families warmly.

At both these masses we are trialling sitting the children and their families at the front of the church. These reserved pews will be clearly marked. If anyone has concerns around mixing with young parishioners in a fuller church at these children's masses, please do feel free to take the opportunity to go to the Vigil Mass on Saturday 4 December at St John's.'

### This Week

#### **Saturday 27 November**

10am-1pm – St John's Hall – **Pamoja Fashion**

6.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** - pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

#### **Sunday 28 November – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass**

#### **Monday 29 November**

10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

4.45pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

5.30pm – St John's Church – **Christmas Fayre Meeting**

#### **Tuesday 30 November (FEAST OF ST ANDREW)**

10.00am – St John's – **Mass with P5 of St John's Primary School** – livestreamed

7.30pm – St John's Hall – **RCIA** – First Enquiry Session

#### **Wednesday 1 December**

10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

3.30pm – Teams - P7 Confirmation Planning Meeting

**Thursday 2 December - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – Mass – livestreamed**

#### **Friday 3 December**

10.00am – Our Lady of Loretto, Musselburgh – **Requiem Mass for Catherine Walker**

10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

10.35am (straight after Mass) – St John's - **Rosary at Our Lady's Altar**

#### **Saturday 4 December**

10am-1.30pm – St John's Church – **PARISHES' CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

6.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** - pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass**

#### **Sunday 5 December – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.30am – St John's – **Children's Mass including P3 Reconciliation Children** – livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Children's Mass with P4 'Do This In Memory of Me' children.**

## IN THE COMING WEEKS

### **Monday December 6**

2.30pm – St John's – **Healing Mass**

7.15pm – St John's Hall – **St John's Pastoral Council Meeting**

**Tuesday December 7** - 11.30am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Requiem Mass for Frances Casement**

**Saturday 11 December** –10am-1pm – St Mary's, Leith - **CLUSTER ADVENT RETREAT, led by Fr Martin Moran OMI**

### **Sunset Benediction - Sunday 12 December at 3pm.**

**Deacon Eddie writes:** 'As it is getting dark so early, we have been asked if we could try something different for this month. A Sunday Afternoon Benediction Service. The official "Sundown" time on 12 December is 3.49pm. We will have Adoration and Benediction from 3pm for half an hour. A chance to sit quietly in the presence of the Lord, to listen to some gentle music and receive the Benediction blessing. Then we will leave the Church open until 4pm for any private prayer - a chance to sit in silence in the peace of the Church. As we approach Christmas, any prayer intentions for sick or deceased relatives (or any other intention) that you would like prayed for during the service, please do call me on 07986015772 or email me on [ewhite@outlook.com](mailto:ewhite@outlook.com)'

## **From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'**

**40 Hours' Devotion** - *The launch of the 40 Hours' Devotion is at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Sunday 28 November from 1pm. Full details at [www.stmaryscathedral.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscathedral.co.uk) A full parish schedule for the 40 Hours' Devotion is at [bit.ly/40hoursschedule](http://bit.ly/40hoursschedule)*

**Nativity Blessing/Carol Service** - Archbishop Cushley will bless the Nativity Scene at the Nativity Blessing & Carol Service, which takes place in St Andrew Square, Edinburgh at 3pm this Sunday 28 November. All welcome to attend and sing carols with St Columba's Choir and the Salvation Army Brass Band.

**Advent talks: Faith, Hope & Love-** Find out more about the season of Advent and the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love in a series of online talks held each Monday in Advent. Hosted by the Archdiocese, the first takes place on Monday 29 November 7:30pm-8:00pm, led by Canon Hugh White. No registration required, simply use this link each week to join: [bit.ly/AdventTalk](http://bit.ly/AdventTalk) (or webinar ID: 891 8951 4801)

**Advent: Rosary for Life (attachment for social media)** - Join parishioners and clergy from across the Archdiocese each Tuesday throughout Advent to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. Begins this Tuesday (30 November) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Fr Kevin Douglas. Event on Zoom, register at [bit.ly/30NovRosary](http://bit.ly/30NovRosary)

**The Archdiocese is recruiting** - The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is looking to recruit a full-time Religious Education Adviser (Primary Schools). Details at [bit.ly/vacancy\\_2021](http://bit.ly/vacancy_2021)

## NOTICE BOARD

### **A Request from The Bethany Christian Trust**

#### **One Donation, Double the Beds!**

'Next week on #givingtuesday, we would love you to join us and help Buy double the Beds! Every donation to Buy a Bed next week will be doubled by **The Big Give** initiative, until we reach our target of £20,000. It's the very first time we've taken part in the Big Give's Christmas challenge and we're so excited that your donations will have double the impact.'

From 30 November to 7 December every £21 you donate towards Buy a Bed will be doubled, enabling the Welcome Centre to provide **two people with a warm bed**, hot food and individualised support to move on into more permanent accommodation. That's one donation, double the impact!

In return, you can get a beautiful Christmas card to keep or give to your friends and family, showing that a bed has been purchased on their behalf.

Together we can end homelessness in Scotland, two people at a time.'

*Donate via <https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/> or to Jim Roarty or any member of the Justice & Peace Group*

### **....and a Thank You Message from the Justice and Peace Group**

'A big **THANK YOU** for your response to our "Water for a Village" appeal – SCIAF's Real Gift of clean water for drinking and irrigation for villages who presently do not have access to it. The total cost of the Real Gift was £1088; the Justice & Peace Group covered half of it and members of our two parishes have very quickly donated the other £544 so a cheque has been sent off to SCIAF from our two parishes for £1088. Thank you again for your generosity.

And, while we are on the subject of **SCIAF**, there will be a **Real Gift stall after all Masses this weekend** and next as well as at the **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 4 December**, so, if you are struggling for Christmas presents, look no further!

**We hope to re-introduce Tea and Coffee after 11.15am Sunday Mass at St Mary Magdalene's...**but to do that **we need volunteers** to help serve and clean up afterwards..... if willing to go on a rota, please give your name to Fr Jock

**...we are also looking for volunteers willing to help with banking, with the 200 Club, and with co-ordinating gift aid and the Church Stall** in the aftermath of Rob Moyes' death and Madge's recent move. If you are willing to help, please see Jean McNally, Jane Marin or Fr Jock.

## **AN ADVENT REFLECTION BY A PRISONER ...**

### *From Darkness To Light*

Come to Jesus. Let Him take your pain  
Don't wander around in darkness: you have everything to gain.

Come to the light. He loves, he believes the best.  
He has a great future for you: believe in Him and enter His rest.

He will restore your soul and fill that God-shaped hole in your heart.  
He will never leave you. He will be light to your path.

Call on the name Jesus and see your darkness turn bright.  
Call on the name Jesus and know your sins have turned white.

Don't delay, this decision can be made today.  
Reach out to Jesus and see your hopelessness fade away!

*From within the limitations imposed by his prison cell, "T" has found that darkness can become light.*





# Parish Register



*Welcome to the world... Alfred Adrian Aylward-Page, born last Saturday, 20 November, a first child for Molly and Leo.*

*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

**Ian Henderson  
Murdo Tait  
Frances Casement**

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:*

**Willie Robertson  
Robert Watson  
Basil Juska  
Charlie McLauchlan  
Elizabeth Elton  
Patrick McClory**

## **Anniversaries:**

### **St John's**

**Nov. 27:** Helen Reid (2016); Jean Melrose (1993); Francis Bell (1991); Joseph Mullan (1978); Margaret Brennan (1948);

**Nov. 28:** William McGill (1990); Margaret Knowles (1960); Michael Murphy (1945); Angelo J Scott (1937); Winifred Greenan;

**Nov. 29:** Margaret M Freeman (2012); Catherine [Rena] Begg (2010); Margaret Philips (1989); James Magee (1976); Henry McKenna;

**Nov. 30:** Grace Knowles (1990); Helen McKinnon (1989); Alfred Reading (1957); Connelly Family;

**Dec.1:** Elizabeth Elton (2017); Catherine Gannon (1991); Margaret Davie; Frank Rafferty; Joseph & Catherine Smith; Robert Watson;

**Dec.2:** John Wallace (2020); Barbara Walker (2012); Elizabeth Ogilvie (2006); Annie Donati (1993); William O'Donnell (1993);

**Dec.3:** Jean Tunley (1997); Andrew & Mary Malcolm; Patrick McClory;

### **St Mary Magdalene's**

**Nov. 28:** Iris Beattie (1980);

**Nov. 30:** Basil Juska (2015);

**Dec.1:** William Robertson (2016);

**Dec.2:** Archibald Mawdsley (1969);

**Dec.3:** Leonora Hanlon (1990);

## **Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:**

**St. John's:** David Dowie, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, John Waugh, May Thomson, Sheila and George Service, Margaret Campbell, Ann Dobie, Kim O'Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Mike Iannarelli, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Alf MacNamara, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

### **St Mary Magdalene's:**

Jacqueline Marinello, Anne Tolson, Sandra Watt, Sam Burns, Mary Cole, Denis Davidson, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Clive Davis, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Newall, Michael McPhillips, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary and James Muir.

## **Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:**

Robert Daly, Una Johnston, Michael Ramsden, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Stuart Falconer, Tom Sutcliffe, Nan Doig, Ant Ridge, Claire Johnston, Emma Bromet, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Lewis White, Baby Alfie McDevitt, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Niamh McDougall, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Leo Stone, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Michael Igoe, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, John Walsh, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Ranier Carpo, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Frank Palmer, Ellen Green, Andrew Preston, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme

## **Offertory Collections – 21 November 2021**

<b>St Mary Magdalene</b>	<b>St John the Evangelist</b>
<b>£194.00 total</b> including Offertory of £118.90 and Gift Aid of £75.10	<b>£ 1328.32 total</b> including Offertory of £225.92, Gift Aid of £157.40 and £945.00 Online Donations
<b>£ 18.00</b> Scottish Catholic Education Service	<b>£188.63</b>



**October Tower Tombola Draw** –The prize of £297.50 has been won by Kathleen McLeay, congratulations to her! **Next Sunday is the monthly Tower Fund Collection** at St John's.

# A REFLECTION ON THE FIRST READING FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

I have quite a few ‘girl’ friends – friends who are girls - but have only ever had one *girlfriend*. I was 14 years of age or so, though I may have been a bit younger. I was part of a large group who met on a Friday evening in Sunderland Town Centre. As was usual in such a grouping one of the ‘males’ enjoyed an overabundance of good looks, and he enjoyed the attention of the girls – as well as himself. One of his admirers was Eileen, who sent one of her friends to ask him if he would ‘go out’ with her. His reply of “I’m not desperate!” was bad enough but what made it worse was the fact that Eileen heard. Eileen wore a caliper on one leg but cheerfully carried her disability and was always great fun to be around. She possessed a superb sense of humour, and was quick witted. I saw the hurt in her eyes and my sense of chivalry kicked into overdrive. To my complete surprise she became my one and only girlfriend. I think we went out for about 15 months. In reality, I didn’t have a clue what was going on but one thing I did learn was the thrill to be had from reckless giving. I didn’t enjoy a lot of pocket cash but can still remember how her face would shine when I gave her some little trinket or token. It was perhaps a blessing for me that ‘Adonis’ (as he liked to view himself) was not ‘desperate’. I became the beneficiary.

I recognise that there have been many low moments in my life – moments when I struggled to maintain clear vision and even purpose. Only once have I felt desperation. I have no desire to dwell in that place, but love revisiting the growth I experienced. Alcohol was tightening its grip, throttling my soul and suffocating my spirit. It was a Thursday morning when I was able to cry out: ‘I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.’ I was desperate. Events happened at what seemed to be breakneck speed and within a little over 24 hours I was learning to adapt to life in a rehab clinic – and life without alcohol. My desperation had reached such a point that I had no option but to let go and let others. They took the lead, and, in my desperation, I was happy to be led by the hand.

That word ‘desperate’ has been foremost in my mind these past few days. How desperate do you have to be, to travel thousands of miles, often in cramped and dangerous transport, before arriving on a cold windswept beach in northern France. There you are encouraged to climb into a flimsy craft of dubious seaworthiness and head into the inky darkness, across one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes without safety lights, navigation, or adequate lifejackets. The word ‘desperate’ doesn’t come near! They have paid eye watering amounts of money to the people traffickers with no option but to put their trust in them and be led by the hand, even as they climbed into the flimsy rubber dinghy. Those who drowned in the English Channel this week were human beings, each one special in the eyes of God. They were not immigrants or asylum seekers (legal or otherwise) – they were humans, each with a life-story. Even this morning, the BBC continues to refer to those who died as illegal immigrants. They are not illegal. Anyone who applies for asylum only becomes ‘illegal’ (such an awful term) if their application is rejected – just as anyone arrested in connection with a crime is only criminalised once a court has reached a verdict of guilty.

Already many words have been spoken and written. Sound bites have flowed; excuses proffered; blame apportioned and very few solutions. Some words pealed with the hollow ring of hypocrisy – but no matter how many the words, lives had been lost, human beings, one as young as five. And, for what? The dream and aspiration for a better life? Are we not guilty of the same, the yearning for a better life? We crave a better work/life balance, a better school for the children, better care for our elderly parents. We all yearn for a better life. It is not a crime to admit it and we would not expect to be marginalised for so doing. The second reading this weekend could almost have been written with these last few days in mind. Paul’s exhortation is as difficult as it is brief: *May the Lord be generous in **increasing** your love and make **you love one another and the whole human race** as much as we love you.* There is an abundance of selfish people in the world, very few who are committed to, and live, the Christian Gospel and Christian values. This responsibility falls on our shoulders.

# FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

## Chapter 46 – Our Own Hidden Beauty

It is a raw December day, but bright and still. From the top of the Clent Hills the view takes in Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. My moment of delight is interrupted by the faint cry of a sheep. A little way down the side of Calcot Hill I spot an ewe, struggling to escape from a web of briars in which it has become entangled. As I approach, it struggles frantically to get away. But the more it struggles, the tighter becomes the mesh in which it is trapped.

The animal rears in terror as I try to steady it and attempt to pull away the briars that cling tightly to its thick winter wool. When it is free, it races off like a wild thing.

It reminded me of how some people are afraid of God's approach. For some, it takes real courage to sit still before the Lord. It may be difficult at first, particularly if we have a sense of being no good in God's eyes. But be reassured. *'God sees so much better in us than we see in ourselves,'* says Augustine.

And one of the ways in which our lives are transformed by God in our time with him is that we learn to see ourselves through his eyes. To our disbelief, we begin to see our lives through his compassionate gaze. We begin to see the hidden beauty of our inner self.

This is not a result we would expect or, perhaps, believe to be possible. But God is not bound by our expectations.

God's work within us during our time of silence is hidden, hidden from the casual glance but visible to someone who loves us deeply. The transformation goes on in secret. God's healing touch is gentle. Slowly, as our view of ourselves changes, we begin to believe in our own worth.

As we grow in compassion towards ourselves our self-confidence blossoms.

We have been so used to seeing ourselves in a critical way that it may be a long while before we start to see the beauty of our inner self, made in the image of God. But when we see it, we cannot hold on to the over-critical image of ourselves that, maybe, has paralysed us. We begin to believe in ourselves.

*'In prayer,'* Thomas Merton (an American Cistercian monk, theologian and poet) wrote, *'we discover what we already have. You start where you are, and you deepen what you already have. We have everything, but we don't know it and we don't experience it. All we need is to experience what we already possess. The trouble is, we aren't taking time to do so.'*

On our journey into silence, when we do take the time, we become aware of what is truly in the depths of our being. We become aware of the wealth of goodness within. On our journey into silence, we begin to recognise ourselves. We are learning to know the person we really are.

