

ALUMNI PROFILE

CATHERINE SCOTT



**THEN (1969 WITH HER SISTER
ANGELA)**



NOW (2016)



Class 1- 7 St Teresa's Primary School (from September 1967 to June 1973).

I was a pupil at St. Teresa's from the day the school opened. I clearly remember the shiny 'newness' of everything; the clean, new smells. Not having been at kindergarten prior to going to school, I remember feeling terrified most of the first couple of years, particularly at the firm discipline, but it got better...highlights were working with clay, and all those wonderful paper decorations we made to decorate the classroom at Christmas. And I loved writing the 'long story' in Sister Rosario's class. I remember filling a whole exercise book with smudged fountain pen!!

I proceeded to Philip Morant School, excellent in the 1970's, where I was very happy, staying on to the Sixth form and leaving with A-levels in English, French & Biology. I moved on to the University of London (Goldsmiths' College) where I read French & English. I spent a year as an 'Assistante' at the Lycée Marceau, Chartres, South-West of Paris. I graduated in 1984 with an upper second and completed a post graduate management and commerce course for language graduates at the then South-Bank Polytechnic.

My first job was working for a Japanese multinational in the City of London, assisting traders in the soft commodities sector (cocoa, coffee, sugar etc). There I quickly decided that rather than exploit for first world profit the raw materials of vulnerable farmers and developing countries, I would work to make their lives better. I decided to move to the development sector. I'd already become a member of the Catholic Institute for international Relations

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(CIIR) in 1986, having attended their AGM with my university Chaplain. I was impressed with their work and analysis and two years later I was working for them on advocacy and campaigning on human rights, social justice, self-determination and many other issues.

I took a year's sabbatical to study for an MA in Development at UEA in the mid 1990's. I became heavily involved in the East Timor self-determination campaign throughout the 1990's. I travelled widely around South-East Asia, and eventually visited West Papua in 2004. With East Timorese independence, I switched to the programmes department which concerned itself with sending development workers to the organisation's country programmes to share skills and strengthen capacities in local civil society organisations. Between 2004 and 2011 I managed the Africa, Middle East and Asia team, as we set up new programmes in East Timor and Malawi. One huge privilege during this time was to support the country directors responsible for the CIIR country programmes in Yemen and Somaliland. I visited both countries several times, giving me a much better understanding of Islam.

I left CIIR/Progressio in 2011 and worked for a tiny environmental non-governmental organisation which campaigned on land rights and against mining and oil palm exploitation in Indonesia, before joining Missio in 2015. I now take care of 1600 volunteers across 15 dioceses in England and Wales, supporting them in their fundraising for Mission.

The thread which runs through is the set of values gained as a pupil at St. Teresa's first, and concurrently as a parishioner at St. Teresa's church. As a teenager, parish activities took up practically all my evenings – prayer group, choir, Youth Action Committee, etc. South London Catholic Chaplaincy in the early 1980's, where its chaplains and students were also a major influence on my faith and life education, helped me to solidify my commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

