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St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Autumn 2013



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Parish Priest :

Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Mgr. Allan.

It, as ever, gives me great pleasure to offer these few words for the Autumn edition of our parish magazine. I thank the editorial team for their enthusiasm and ever willingness to collate the various items into a body of information reflecting life in the parish of St. David's Dalkeith. It's really quite amazing to think we began this a few years ago and it continues to be of interest to those here at home in the parish area and of course those now living elsewhere.

I thank, also, those who are our sponsors, past and current and would ask you, if possible, to please support them in their various businesses.

I have, of course, noticed that another set of parishes not too far south of us has taken a leaf out of our book! Imitation : the best form of flattery!

I dare say, in time, Catholics looking back at this time in the church, in some years ahead, may wonder at what we all went through this past year, since February 2013.

On the 11th of that month the then Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, stunned not only the cardinals present in the Vatican when he made his resignation statement, but also the entire world. I was in the chaplaincy centre in HMP Edinburgh when an officer came in with the news, even he was stunned.

In that act, made of his own free will and in full possession of his faculties, Benedict became the first Pope to resign from the papacy in over six hundred years.

The Catholic Church world wide was unsure and uncertain as to what would happen. Of course, there would be a conclave and the gathered cardinals would, from among their ranks, elect a worthy successor..... but that would be for the future. Meantime, we had to make the adjustment that the Holy Father was resigning and retiring from public life to a life of private prayer in, as he put it, preparation for his own death.

If that were not enough for us, in our Archdiocese,



exactly two weeks later, we would be rocked to our very foundations when it was announced that our Archbishop, the Cardinal, was retiring early for reasons still too difficult, even from this distance in time, to comprehend.

It was, as one priest friend said to me, 'like a double bereavement'.

Remarkably now, some eight months on, we have come through that trauma both nationally and locally.

Wednesday 13th March at about 6.25 p.m. local time, the announcement came, 'We have a Pope,' and there, standing silently in white, gazing down on a vast crowd gathered in the rain in St. Peter's Square, stood our new Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Breaking with years of protocol, he stood dressed only in the white sizar and cross around his neck, no crimson cape or red shoes and, as we would discover later, he had insisted quietly, but firmly, this is how it would now be.

Remarkably, his first words to us were to pray for God to bless him, and with that he quietly bowed before that vast crowd of people and all, whether there in person or watching on TV from afar, prayed for God to guide and bless our new Pope, Francis.

Months on now, there seems to be a renewed energy within our church, a new sense of hope, a new direction, a new, dare one say, pride in being Catholic.



It is hard to explain why, because clearly all the Popes in recent times have been good men. However, with Pope Francis, there is something markedly different which I think, for me, is him going right back to the message of the simplicity and the challenge of the Gospel.

God, revealing Himself in the person of His Son, Jesus, reveals to us the immense love that the Father has for us at all times. We are also reminded that mercy, a favourite word of the Pope's, is paramount in the way we should be living.

We are also reminded that contained within the mercy of the Father is the challenge offered by the Son, to change, to be compassionate, to bring mercy and healing.

As Pope Francis stated himself in a recent interview, when asked who he was, he said, "I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked on with mercy." There is no better description for any of us.

So too, for us in the Archdiocese, we too have a new Shepherd, Archbishop Cushley. He too, in his first interviews, has spoken of the need for us to be merciful in our dealings with one another.

So ten months on from confusion and pain we seem, thanks be to God, a people gradually being



renewed with hope and with a new sense of purpose.

This has come about not just through a new Pope and new Archbishop, welcome though they are, this has come about through our Church, both world wide and local, being powerfully renewed by the Holy Spirit.

"Come O Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Amen."

Monsignor Allan.

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Deacon-elect Peter.

My last entry in the April edition saw me in frantic preparation for my end of year exams and the summer school which follows. Thankfully, my exams went well and I passed with flying colours, so I'm now officially a second year student and already immersed in my coursework and pastoral placement work and my essay deadlines are rapidly approaching!

One of the most rewarding aspects of this last year, for me, has been the liturgical singing which we do at Kinnoull, on the weekends and during the summer school. Indeed we are all urged to sing the liturgy wherever possible.

"He who sings praise to God, prays twice" That quote is often attributed to St. Thomas Aquinas and has led me to a deeper study of the sung liturgy of the Church and sacred music in general.

You will be hearing me sing a bit more often (subject to approval) during the course of the next few years, not because I'm any good, but I can do it loud and I have to practise somewhere and, indeed, to someone, as those who arrive early for the Rosary will attest. That's my practice time, when the church is quiet and my struggles with neums and meter, breathing and Latin pronunciation are thrashed out. I'd like to thank John for helping me with the psalm tones and for keeping me to the tune on the page (which is not necessarily the one I have in my head).

Practice makes perfect they say, and I need a lot of practice, so don't think you're going to hear the next Pavarotti, but I do try!! There will be a few more public performances by way of proclamations, Holy Hours and such, with the big one being the Easter proclamation at the Vigil Mass.

The importance of my pastoral placement work, under the direction of our parish priest, is a crucial part of my foundation as a deacon and getting involved with the baptismal programme in my first year allowed me to begin the practical dimension to my catechetical training where, tentatively at first, I began to use the tools of our Faith in the Catholic formation of others. That work will continue this year, as I become involved in the sacramental programmes in both St. Luke's and St. David's Primary Schools.

The importance of preparation was hammered home to me when Primary 2 from St. Luke's arrived

after morning Mass for a visit to see the fixtures and fittings of the church. I was just relaxing during Fr. Allan's introduction to the children when he dropped his first hand grenade, ***"Right Peter, you can tell them about the Altar!"***

I was only slightly more prepared when he dropped his second grenade, when he said, ***"Right and now Peter will tell you about the stations of the cross!"***

One major difference in my degree course, compared with other theology degrees offered in mainstream universities, is that the Bishops' Conference has chosen this particular degree because it is structured around the approved ecclesial methods for the transmission of the Catholic Faith and will prepare me, as an ordained minister of the church, to proclaim the Word of God.

Catechesis means to teach orally or, more specifically, to echo the teaching faithfully and it's why

my activities in the parish, with formational work such as baptismal preparation/ Bible study groups/ sacramental preparation and all of the other facets of my training in both parishes, are being developed so that this dovetails with my academic work and allows me to echo the teaching of the Church faithfully, that is without error, in a pastoral setting.

To say that I'm a "work in progress" is something of an understatement!

As the Year of Faith draws to an end, I can truly say that my own spiritual journey has been deepened and nourished immensely and, indeed, profitably by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's exhortation to a systematic study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church often abbreviated to the CCC.

It's an amazing book for any Catholic to read and its four divisions of Profession of Faith, Christian Mystery, Life in Christ and Prayer are beautifully interwoven with the message of God's divine revelation. That is the goal of catechesis, to echo this teaching faithfully and to all.

As my course work becomes ever more complex and challenging I am buoyed by the many words of encouragement that you constantly give me, in both parishes, and I really can't express how much that means to me because I really do need all the help I can get!!

Please remember me in your prayers as I remember you in mine.

God bless, Peter.



Peter's Prooo-oooo-longed Pilgrimage.

This pilgrimage initially started off as what was supposed to be "Peter's Perfect Pilgrimage" back in September 2012, when Pope Benedict XVI announced the Year of Faith which, after all of the events "well kent" since, will finally come to its conclusion at the end of October 2013.

The proposed diary of events for the year, whilst never exactly set in stone, envisaged a possible archdiocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land as its penultimate act, but all things are subject to change, as we all know and indeed they did, with the announcement in the first week of Lent 2013 that the Pope for the first time in 600 years was to set aside his office and stand down from the seat of Peter. Then everything else happened. But seriously, all that aside, I made a vow that I would undertake at least one pilgrimage in the Year of Faith, whatever happened.

Way back then, it seemed that a wee trip to Lourdes with the archdiocesan pilgrimage would

be the very thing, but I decided in the interim to look at something a wee bit closer to home. A pilgrim is essentially a person who makes a journey to a place for religious reasons. The root of our word "Religion", whilst obscure, probably has its source in "Re-Ligare" quite literally to re-connect or to re-bind. In essence to allow the grace of God to bring us back into a closer relationship with God. I was going to be a pilgrim.

I had been looking at some long distance walks since I retired, the West Highland Way, the Southern Upland Way. All were very rewarding but a chance foray onto the internet brought me to a movie called, "The Way" or "El Camino" with Martin Sheen. The title refers to the great pilgrimage route from France to Northern Spain with its great medieval Cathedral of Santiago de Compostella, which translates as St. James of the Field of Stars.

Way back then, when Santiago was a burgeoning pilgrimage destination for the faithful, it had a rival, with a cathedral fully 12 metres longer than its

Spanish alternative, not in Spain, not in France, not in Italy or Germany, but St. Andrew's Cathedral, in the Kingdom of Fife and I decided there and then that I could do that and I would do it on foot!

After a fair bit of research I came upon two possible routes, the St. Andrew's Way and the St. Margaret's Way.

The St. Margaret's Way follows the old pilgrimage route from Edinburgh across the Forth and then along the coast to St. Andrews, about 100 odd miles.

The St. Andrew's Way follows a more eclectic route through Fife, before joining the old Pilgrims' Way from Kennoway into St. Andrews and weighs in at 71 miles.

As the St. Margaret's Way is predominantly a cycle route and as I wanted to walk it, I opted for the St. Andrew's Way.

The route sets off from the Royal Mile and St. Giles' Cathedral, crossing the Heart of Midlothian, but I decided I would begin, not from St. Giles' or even St. Mary's, our own cathedral, but from my front door and so perversely I added 10 miles to the

71 of the route, but as they say, no pain no gain!!

A wee stroll "frae ma bit" to St. Luke & St. Anne's and then two short miles, all down hill!, brought me to the car park at St. David's and a short prayer of intercession for the faithful of both parishes and then off.

The walk into Edinburgh was a remarkably peaceful and reflective one, for at a walking pace I was able to see and think on the many pilgrims who would have walked this route down through the centuries. The actual route itself would have varied widely, roads being atrocious in medieval times, and the only certainties on the pilgrim "Way" would have been the natural choke points where the necessities of food/water and shelter and terrain would have brought pilgrims together at key points of the journey. My first was encountered when I followed the old medieval path around the foot of the Calton Hill and the original "leper-toun" and over to St. Mary's Cathedral just in time for the midday Mass.

That was my shortest section on the Way and the



most expensive, for in sitting down in St. Mary's to pray for you all and for my safe deliverance, I stupidly forgot to remove my kobo reader from my back pocket (it's like a kindle) and cracked the screen!

The next section I undertook led me out of Edinburgh by the Water of Leith and the old railway tracks, which are now mainly cycle ways, and a wee hidden treasure of north west Edinburgh. Then it was out to Cramond Brig and the first major obstacle. The River Forth.

The medieval pilgrims would have taken the old ferry, instituted by Queen Margaret for that very purpose, but I had a bridge to cross and when you're on foot you truly appreciate the size of it! So it was up and out of South Queensferry and up and over the Forth Road Bridge to the landing point in Fife.

North Queensferry to Dunfermline, well the first three miles anyway, was probably the least scenic part of the route as you walk around one of the biggest scrap metal yards in Britain, but then its up a short hill into Inverkeithing and past the old Franciscan Friary, which once helped pilgrims like

me on their way to St. Andrews, and on to Dunfermline. The path brings you out at the west door of the Cathedral and takes you through Andrew Carnegie's Park, a gift to the people of the town, which had banned him as an urchin from the private parklands and gardens in the town, but I was carrying on through and up and over "Townhead" to finish my stage at Kingseat.

As I had been doing this pilgrimage in stages, the next bit was the most problematic, both in getting to a start point and making my way back home from a different end point, with different permutations of planes, trains and automobiles. So having pored over maps and agonised over timetables I decided to scrap the stage approach and finish the last 46 miles in a "oner" well if not quite that, then a "two-ser"!!

My plan was for two, twenty odd mile sections interspersed with an overnight camp site near Falkland Palace, with the magnificent name of the "Pillars of Hercules" (I was hoping that it wouldn't

require quite that much effort!)

This was a pilgrimage for me and a very prayerful one at that. As I mentioned in a previous magazine article, as an ordained Deacon I will be required to pray the two major offices from the Divine Office every day, Lauds and Vespers (Morning and Evening Prayer), it's something I've been doing for over 2 and a half years now. The other minor hours are optional for me, but on my pilgrimage I made the time to pray them all. Thankfully, my birthday fell during the course of my exertions and my kobo reader was replaced with a new one and an electronic version of the Office was added.

I have always liked to pray out in the "big cathedral" of the outdoors, but, in our climate a waterproof version is definitely required and my single volume of the Office bears the many scars of fair weather downpours!

The first day out of Kingseat was misty but it brightened up as I "yomped" through Kelty and began the cross country uphill section of the Way. Harran Hill and Bennarty Hill were a bit "Uppy" but not too bad and the reverse slope down into Loch



Leven and the walk to Scotlandswell was idyllic. But as I walked the last stretch into Scotlandswell I could see Mundarff Hill, with its golfball weather station atop at 455 metres as an awesome backdrop to the scenery ahead. I wasn't going up there, was I?

After consulting the map again and the guide book I found that I was and that began the hardest part of the Way. Four hundred and fifty five metres up is almost 1500 feet and quite a few sections felt like a 1 in 1 climb! (1 foot forward, 1 foot up) It was a remarkable climb, not least for seeing the gliders from the Scottish Gliding Centre whispering by me and below me as I climbed to the summit!

That was the biggest "Uppy" bit, but the reward was a glorious panoramic view of southern Fife and the rest was to be downhill!

The Pillars of Hercules were reached as the evening fell and the Office was read with my boots off, feet elevated and a can of Doctor Belhaven's medicinal

sleeping draft to hand (well there might have been a few, but it had been a long day)!

Sunrise crept over the horizon about 5.20 the following morning and I was up and showered, packed, breakfasted and ready for the final march to St. Andrews, 23 miles to go.

Morning Prayer was said on the road back into Falkland and then it was on to the post office at Kingskettle for chocolate (marching food). The climb was gentle, but still in an upwardly direction, as I headed now towards Ceres. But the sun came out and I was down to vest and shorts with a backpack that felt like it was filled with paving slabs!!

I have to admit that the last 6 miles into St. Andrews were agony.

I had bruised the bones in the side of my left foot, but I was determined to press on. There are some very, very, long straight roads in the East Neuk of Fife and I found myself on one for the last stretch and when I finally caught sight of the West Port, I had but one thought, ICE CREAM!

Suitably refreshed, I hobbled on to the cathedral and said



my prayers in front of the high altar, as thousands of pilgrims before me had done and, at that point, I was united with them and with all of the promises made to complete the journey and try

and come back to that special relationship which God offers to each and every one of us.

As I sit here in the dying days of September 2013, almost a year after beginning my pilgrimage, I can actually look down and see the bruises under my toenails from the beating they took on that final day on the road just a few weeks ago, but I've got the bug.

My next pilgrimage is Melrose to Lindesfarne, on the St. Cuthbert Way with my eldest daughter in

tow. I'll pray for you all on my way to Lindesfarne, please remember us in your prayers.

God bless, Peter.

News from the Schools.



St. David's High School Chaplaincy News.

New Term - Staff liturgy in chapel.

S1 Welcome Mass on 2nd October. Family Mass Theme, St. Thérèse de Lisieux. Canon McMullan celebrated this Mass. In excess of 60 people attended. It was a very peaceful and joyful occasion. One student said that she had not been at Mass for a long time and that this Mass had really moved her.

Special services were held in memory of dear Scott Primrose.

Each week there is a Mass/Eucharistic Service on Wednesdays at lunchtime. This has been very well attended by pupils this term and many of these young people have participated in these liturgies e.g. bidding prayers, readings and music.

A new team of enthusiastic "Chaps" have come together this term with plans to do the following :-

- Create a Fairtrade group.
- Create a Rosary prayer group.
- A visit to Archview Lodge.
- Accompany S1 groups to Carfin.
- Lead S1 liturgies group.
- S1 Pilgrimage to Carfin.
- S1 presentation of Bibles from the Gideon's Society.

Some seniors to participate in National Youth Event - Catholic Youth Service Scotland at Gartmore House, Aberfoyle.

Chaplaincy is open daily - a large group in attendance this term. This is a very positive start.

Anne Jabir.

St. David's Primary School **- Mundum Pro Christo Vincamus.**

Working Towards Excellence.

Reflecting on an extremely successful year at St. David's it is important to recognise the platform on which the school has gone from strength to strength. Our most recent HMIe report highlighted:

- Well-behaved and polite children who are eager to learn and to work for the good of the school.
- The welcoming ethos, the effectiveness of support for learning and the good standard of pastoral care.
- Strong, effective leadership from the Head Teacher who is supported by staff who work well as a team.

This report provides the platform for the school to continue to work towards excellence and to strengthen further its excellent Catholic ethos and its strengths in learning and teaching.

Complementing the life and work of the school, our children from P1-P7 are supported by visiting teachers of PE and French and instructors of brass, violin and guitar. We have a strong parent body who share in our school vision and aims and challenge us to work together to continue to improve the learning experiences of the children of our parish school.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our local and parish community to provide the highest quality learning experiences for the children of St. David's Primary School.

We welcome some new staff to our outstanding team at St. David's:

Miss Jennifer Kelly, Miss Kirsty Murray, Miss Louise Anderson, Miss Mhairi Stewart and Miss Rachael Gilmore joined our team in August and have already settled in extremely well, providing the most stimulating and challenging learning experiences. Keep up the great start!



Primary 1 have just completed their first term at the school and what an eventful term it has been. Their behaviour and attitude is superb and they have set a very high standard with their school uniform presentation – a big thank you to the parents/carers for your continued support with this – it sets an excellent first impression of the school and the children.

Enrolling your child at St. David's Primary School.

Enrolment for children in their pre-school year at Nursery takes place from November 2013 for those children starting school in August 2014. Please contact Mr. Currie, Head Teacher on 0131 271 4675 to arrange a visit to the school and to discuss your child's enrolment further. The school operates an open door policy and parents/carers are welcome into the school at any point.

The school may also have places for children in P1-7 for families moving into the area during the school year. Once again, please contact the school in the first instance to arrange a tour from our House Captains and to spend some time discussing your child's learning and next steps with the Head Teacher.

There are a number of ways you can contact us:

In person: **2c Lauder Road, Kippielaw, Dalkeith EH22 2PU**

Telephone: **0131 271 4675**

Email: **stdavids.ps@midlothian.gov.uk**

Website: **<http://stdavidsp.s.mgfl.net/>**

Twitter: **@stdavidsprimary**

The School Theme: Our World in the Past – Scotland's History.

Over an eight-week period our children have been engaging in activities across a number of areas of the curriculum related to our school theme, Scotland's History part II.

Through our school theme, children enjoy interdisciplinary learning experiences – this is where we make real and meaningful connections across different subject areas to bring the children's learning to life and help them develop a wider range of knowledge and skills, as well as having a great deal of fun along the way!

Also, it is great to take our learning outdoors and utilise the magnificent resources on our doorstep, from Rosslyn Chapel to Stirling Castle and the Mary Queen of Scots exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland.

The children will 'share their learning' with parents/carers via class-led assemblies and visits to the classroom. This is an excellent opportunity to involve the whole school community in our children's learning and achievements and to celebrate their incredible talent and confidence. Our School Theme continues throughout the school session as follows:

School themes for the coming session:

Term 1 – Our World in the Past
– Scotland's History

Term 2 - Enterprise through the Arts
– school show.

Term 3 – Our Global World.

Term 4 – Health and Wellbeing/Citizenship
- Glasgow 2014.

Introducing our next School Theme – Enterprise through the Arts.

Our focus till Christmas is aimed at developing the children's skills by taking an enterprising approach to learning through a community and business enterprise focus. Part of the challenge will be to plan, write, rehearse, produce, advertise and perform a school show, 'The Nativity', involving all children from P1-7. Performances will take place around Monday 16th/Tuesday 17th December.

If you feel you can contribute positively to any forthcoming school theme or any other part of the life and work of the school, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Active St. David's – Promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing.

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities.

The staff team continue to give of their own time and effort to provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities beyond the school day.

This term sees Miss Dunnigan leading a Technology Club with a certain 'Masterchef' inspired focus. Miss Fallon leads a Monday Football Club for girls and boys which inspires our stars of the future and helps maintain our excellent record at recent football festivals. Miss Gilmore is leading a cross country club, utilising the superb school sports grounds within the school.

These additions to our after-school activities complement the ongoing dedication and



commitment of Mrs. Jones and our parent volunteers with the Gardening Club, Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Waddell with our fantastic Basketball Team and our very 'street' and 'hip' Dance Club led by Laura and Benji, a former pupil. Without their time and enthusiasm, skill and talent, these opportunities would not be available so we thank them for their continued support and effort, enhancing the learning experience for all of our children.

Developing Global Citizenship. Fair Trade School

We are a Fairtrade School



Mary's Meals Back-pack Appeal.

This term we are developing our citizenship and entrepreneurial skills using Mary's Meals Backpack Project. Our aim is to fill backpacks with basic educational materials to send to children receiving Mary's Meals. Most of the children who benefit from Mary's Meals and the Backpack Project have suffered war, poverty, famine, or natural disaster. Very often families cannot afford to buy basic things like pencils and copy books, or even suitable clothes for their children to wear to school.

And so their children miss out on school and an education. A simple backpack with educational materials can be a lifeline to these children, as studies show that an education is the best way a chronically poor child can escape poverty in later life. We will be issuing a separate campaign asking for the support of the Parish. Please get involved!



Primary 1 have settled in really well at school and have been enjoying learning new sounds and numbers. Parents joined us for first lunch in school and have been in to see our learning. We enjoyed attending St. David's Church last week for our very first Mass!

They are looking forward to learning lots more!!



Primary 2 have been learning all about our Parish Church - St. David's. Father Allan took us on a tour of the church and taught us the names for lots of special things. We now know all about the altar and the candles that are used. We also saw where some of us were baptised at the Font. We really enjoyed our visit and especially liked asking Father Allan some challenging questions! We look forward to spending more time learning more about our Parish and getting to know all the Parishioners.

Primary 3 have been looking at the Rights of the Child, learning about the rights that they have and the responsibilities that match them. The children worked in groups and as a whole class to create their own classroom Rights and Responsibilities. From this, we created our own Class Charter display.

The children created a drawing of themselves which they signed to show that they agreed to the class charter. They work incredibly hard throughout the tasks and have made this fabulous display.



Primary 4 and Miss Murray had the opportunity to go on a trip to the theatre this term to see James and the Giant Peach. The class were all very excited to see the show and travel on the bus into Edinburgh. The show was very interactive and filled with musical entertainment. All the actors could play more than one instrument and were very talented. The highlight of the show was when a giant balloon peach bounced across the audience from the back of the theatre down to the stage. Primary 4 found this hilarious and spoke excitedly about the event for many days. As this is their most recent novel study, it was great to be able to enhance the children's learning experience further through attending the stage show.



The enthusiasm generated has helped motivate the children further in all their reading and writing experiences.

Primary 5 has been taking part in a Drumming for Excellence programme this term. We have been creating rhythms on the Djembe, the Dooms, the Ghana Bells and the Caxixi



related to our School Theme. Linking the rhythms to our school theme has helped us learn more about Scotland's history and remember our rhythms. We have been working on putting the rhythms together and trying to keep in time when someone else is playing something different. We recently performed to the school community with a rousing reception - outstanding achievement P5.

At the beginning of term, Primary 5 won the schools eco song challenge. We had to create a song explaining the values of being an eco school and we chose to use the song, 'Get Lucky', as our backing music. After changing the words to fit with our topic

we performed it to the whole school and, after a tough decision, P5 were announced the winners.



We now have the challenge of teaching the whole school our eco song.

Primary 6 have been studying Mary Queen of Scots. Last Thursday we managed to visit an exhibition about her life in the National Museum of Scotland. After viewing many portraits of the people in Mary Queen of Scots' life, we decided to recreate some of the pieces of work and present them in our very own P6 Art Gallery. While painting we learned about proportion, layering, and shadowing. It was hard work but we have done brilliantly!



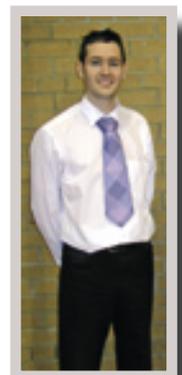
Primary 7 have been learning about the famous French artist Claude Monet.



They had to use their Literacy skills to read and discuss information about his life and his painting. Using the Impressionism style of art, they recreated his very famous 'Water Lilly Pond' painting.

As a class, they then decided to create a 3D water Lilly pond in the classroom.

Mr. Anthony Currie, Head Teacher, and the St. David's Primary School staff team.



Parish Groups and News.

Cycle Club. 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲

Our St. David's Cycling Club Fun Rides are popular. Membership now stands at 45 plus the occasional guest rider.

We have had 8 Fun Rides this year, so far, on the second Sunday of each month - last ride November.

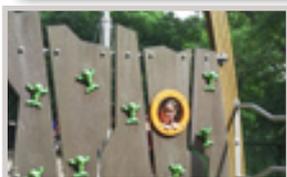
Our rides this year use at least 4 different routes:

- Dalkeith/Penicuik Railway Cyclepath,
- Ormiston/Pencaitland Railway Cyclepath,
- Longniddry/Haddington Railway Cyclepath,
- Glentress Green Route from the Buzzard's Nest,
- plus we will be trying out a new route alongside the River Tweed from Innerleithen to Peebles and back.

As you can see from the photos, our emphasis is on family rides and fun.



Club membership and rides are free to parishioners and friends of all ages, all you need is a bike.



We usually have refreshments in the hall after a ride. Please note that children must be accompanied by a cycling parent or guardian. Do come along and have some fun riding with us.

Julian.

News from the Philippines.

The Sacred Heart school reopened in June after their summer break. New government legislation now means that the number of nursery pupils have to be restricted, but even



with that rule the school still has 80 pupils. With outside help, Sister Yuka still manages to provide a meal for each pupil every day, and on Sundays a meal for many more children in Montalban. The youth, who were former pupils in the school, still volunteer on Sundays to walk through the streets of Montalban to invite as many children as they can to work with them and cook food for them. There has been some flooding lately when the school had to close for a week to accommodate families who were affected by the flooding, but the damage was not as bad as it was last year. We continue to support the school with school materials and clothing (mainly from parishioners of St. Luke's & St. Anne's parish) and money from various fund raising events in St. David's parish. School staff in St. David's High School and parishioners from St. David's parish are still supporting the "Sponsor a Teacher" fund. All of this support from everyone has made a tremendous difference to Sister Yuka and her teachers and pupils, and she has asked me send her heartfelt thanks to all.

St. David's High School pupil council decided to slightly change their uniform, with the result that there were some school t-shirts and sweatshirts in school colours still in stock. I was offered this stock, to send to the Philippines. The pupils were delighted with their new clothing and sent some pictures wearing their new "St. David's" uniform. Next year the school will be ten years old, and because of the determination of the Sacred Heart Sisters many, many, children have been given an education they otherwise would not have had the opportunity to have.

If any parishioner would like information about the "Sponsor a Teacher" project, please phone and ask about it (660 1555). It only means a minimum donation of £2 per month.

Iris.



Midlothian Special Needs Playscheme Monday Club.

Trip to Badaguish, Aviemore 6-8 September 2013.

Fifteen of us left for Badaguish Outdoor Centre at Aviemore on Friday afternoon, all excited for our trip. Arriving after 3 hours on the mini bus, we were ready to start our adventure. The lodges were lovely and had plenty of space in them. On Friday night we got ourselves unpacked and watched television.

Saturday, up early as we were going on the Steam Train. It took us from Aviemore to Broomhill and back. We were booked into 4 first class compartments and had tea and shortbread. It was the first time some of us had been on a train. It was great!

In the afternoon we went shopping in Aviemore, where we bought lots of nice gifts. It also had a great sweetie shop.

Sunday, we went to the Landmark Centre. There was lots to do - it was fantastic. We were on the

water slides and the roller coaster. We went on a tree top walk and we had a fantastic day. After having our dinner, we set off for home and got back at 9.00 p.m. - a long journey, but well worth it.

Thank you to St. David's Brass for the donation they gave us. Without it we would not have been able to go on the trip this year.

Jean.

St. David's Brass Charity Christmas Concert (this year Friday, 6th December, 7.30 p.m.).

Thank you! Your donations last year enabled the Monday Club's residential trip to Aviemore, giving these young people fun and new experiences. The photos are inspirational.

We have accepted Monsignor's generous invitation for St. David's Church to host our Charity concert this year, too. The Monday Club, our chosen cause, has already started to plan next year's trip.

We look forward to seeing you
Deirdre.



Aviemore Photos



'Youth for Lourdes' Trip 5th - 12th July 2013.

The trip to Lourdes was one of the best experiences of my life so far - exceeding all of my expectations. I met some great people and made friends with the other youth.

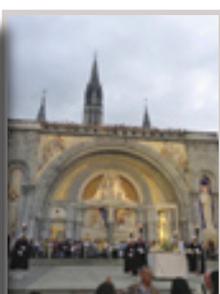
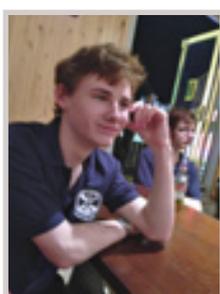
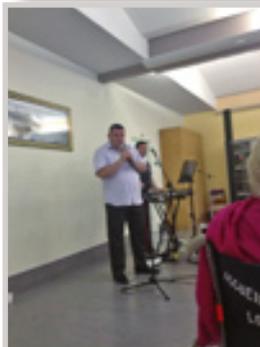
We had fantastic weather for the entire week and despite the devastating flooding before we arrived, almost none of the planned events were affected. Although there's still much to do, a lot of the town was already repaired.

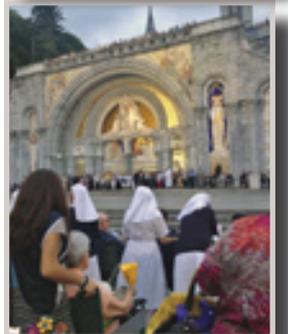
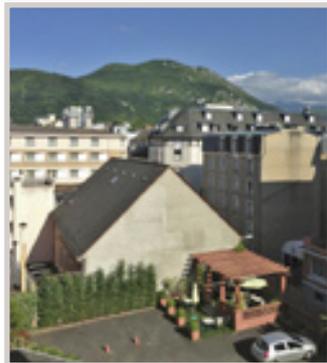
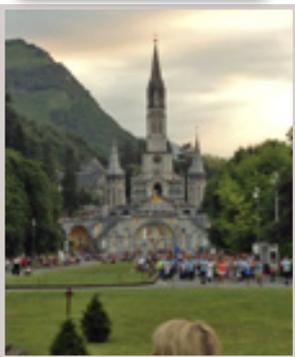
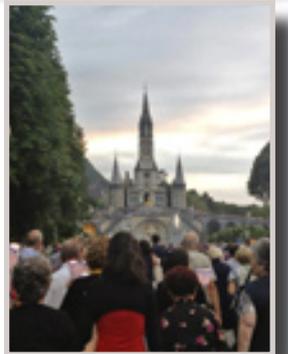
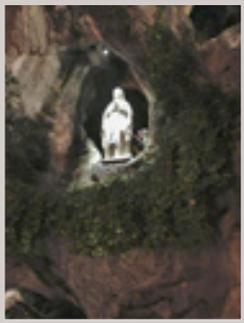
Every day after breakfast the helpers would head to the 'Saint Frai' Hospital to help pilgrims get ready and attend a morning Mass. We participated in many activities during our week, services at the Grotto, Confessions, 'Stations of the Cross', went to the Baths and also spent a day at the local lake for a picnic. The most memorable event for me though was the Candle Lit Procession. This is when hundreds and hundreds of people gather every night at the Grotto. Our pilgrimage, along with others, walked the length of the Grotto and then returned for an International Mass at the altar. The atmosphere was emotional for a lot of the pilgrims and the Mass showed just how beautiful the town of Lourdes is.

We spent the rest of our days showing the pilgrims around Lourdes, shopping or going to local cafés. At night, the youth and helpers went out for drinks in the local pubs to relax.

The week flew by and personally I didn't reflect much whilst there. It was only when I returned home that I realised how much I enjoyed the trip. The best thing about Lourdes is the people you go with. Everyone is there to support one another - all the helpers, pilgrims and priests. I would recommend the trip to Lourdes to anyone.

Lewis Lucchesi.





The Society of the Sacred Heart.

“Mummy, mummy, do you have to be very old to be a sister? Do they just sit around all day?”

Perhaps these are some of the questions that you have tried to answer, and maybe you would like to know more about the members of the Society of the Sacred Heart.



The religious order was founded in France by Sophie Barat in 1800, in the middle of the French Revolution. From your knowledge of history, you will remember that it was a time when the Church was under severe persecution and repression, so how did this come about.

Sophie was born in 1779, in Joigny, the youngest child of a comfortably-off working class family. Her father was a barrel-maker and her mother was an educated woman, unusual at that time for women of her station in life. Sophie was a premature baby so she was baptised the day after she was born and her brother Louis was her godfather. It was from her mother that Sophie inherited the taste for study. Louis, her eldest brother by eleven years, made himself responsible for her education, imposing on her a vast programme of studies including Latin and Greek. Under his stern influence, Sophie was almost crushed and lost confidence in herself. However, she came through having acquired great culture of mind and strength of spirit.

By 1800, Sophie's brother Louis was already a priest in Paris, and he had joined the Fathers of Faith, a newly established institute of priests who wanted to re-

establish the Society of Jesus which had been suppressed by the Pope in 1773, except in Russia. The fathers wanted to found a congregation of women consecrated to the Sacred Heart and vowed to the work of education. Several years earlier, Louis, who had recognised Sophie's worth, persuaded his parents to let her come to Paris with him. When Fr. Varin, Louis' superior, met Sophie, he also saw her potential for carrying out the task of setting up the Society. Although she had been keen on joining the Carmelites, she gave up this plan. On 21st November, 1800 the Society was born. In 1802, Madeleine Sophie Barat became the first superior of the Society of the Sacred Heart. With the help of Father Varin and other advisors, the way of life of the Society was gradually drawn up and the Constitutions, based largely on the Jesuit model, were accepted by the Vatican in 1815. They were rewritten in 1980, although many changes had already been introduced after Vatican II, and were finally accepted in 1986.

“Both the 1815 and the 1986 constitutions describe our charisma as that of glorifying the Heart of Jesus. For us this means that we try through our love and service to the church, God's people, to radiate the very love of God for the world that Jesus came to reveal. Our source and sign of that love is the Heart of Christ, and our way of being part of the work of Christ is through the service of education, chiefly but not solely, of the young. Alongside this work and necessary to it, is our tradition of daily prayer and contemplation. It is a tradition that continues today in Rosehill and in our communities all over the world. Mother Barat spoke of her longing to gather a 'crowd of



adorers of the Heart of Christ’- people who would give time to prayer. Our work of retreat giving at all ages and stages of life and to all kinds of people grew and grows from this desire.”

Sr. Thérèse.

The philosophy of education for these schools was way ahead of its time. Real instruction is not just a matter of learning off words or ideas; it involves the arousing of interest. ***“Give them a taste for history and they will be able to glide high above their little miseries,”*** she (Sophie) said. And again: ***“we must know how to inspire in our pupils a passion for the beautiful.”*** She said that the teacher should begin with those aspects of reality closest to the child’s personal quest for life. Education should be involved with the development of the whole person so that they are fit for life. Teachers should always show the children respect and believe in their potential to grow. ***“Having respect for the child means, getting into the child’s skin in order to find out what the child is able to do and what is psychologically sound at any particular stage. In this respect, the most difficult pupils and the poorest children must be given preference.”***

As Sophie had intended to join an enclosed order, it is not surprising that the society had a strong contemplative element as well as an apostolic one. The sisters rarely left their convents, not even to visit the dentist. Contact with the outside world was minimal. Even the habits they wore put a barrier between them and other people. Mother Sophie had never envisaged having a habit but accepted it in order for the Society to be canonically acceptable. The original habit was, in fact, the ordinary dress of the people at that time. It was not surprising that small children were puzzled. One brave little boy, after peering carefully at one of the nuns, asked, ***“Do you have ears under your bonnet?”***



In the earliest days of the Society this group of young women worked together to look after the children entrusted to them. Some of them were accompanied by maids who actually chose to join the little group with their mistresses! As time went on the separation between those who were able to teach and those who helped became the norm – as in other congregations. But clearly the care of the children was shared by all. Anyone who has taught in a boarding school knows that it is a 24/7 job – and includes being with the students at recreation/ study/sport etc. As well as house-mistressing, a ‘choir’ nun shared the dormitory with her house children and then taught them all day! (If she was lucky enough to have a cubicle - Sr. Rose Harding remembers having a folding bed in a cupboard in her classroom!) Also, the children themselves were expected to help with the housework – keeping their classrooms swept and dusted. The religious who did the domestic work involved in running a large house did indeed work extremely hard doing house cleaning, laundry, cooking, baking etc. – but so did the teaching religious.

Education has always been understood in the wide sense. In Dublin, for example, they ran a night school for poor children who had to leave school and go to work at twelve years of age. One of the sisters describes how happy she was to go to school each evening. Besides academic learning, they were also taught Irish dancing which was a great source of joy for her.

This was the society into which many of the current residents of Rosehill came into. They had a clear idea of who they were and what they were doing. ***“It had always been like that.”***





they are inactive. They initiate a number of activities in our parish such as the knitting group, also fundraising beetle-drives for Lourdes, as well as being involved in general parish activities.

Winifred.

Garvald Glenesk - Thank You St. David's For a Christmas Concert.

It was early summer and while most of the country was slapping on sun tan oil the new fundraising team at Garvald Glenesk were talking Christmas Concerts with Monsignor Chambers; a man who likes to say yes.

Our Christmas Concert on Sunday 8th December at St. David's, while being the best Christmas Concert you are ever likely to attend, will also give all who buy a ticket the opportunity to support a small Eskbank charity that provides accommodation, in two houses, for adults with a learning disability, autism and mental health problems.

After Vatican II, the world changed. The society had to decide whether it wanted to continue to be contemplative or apostolic. They could no longer be a hybrid. This was a very difficult decision. To meet current demands, they elected to continue with their educational role, but interpreted it to include a wide range and not just schools and colleges. This meant retraining for many in nursing, general health care, spiritual guidance or general parish work. Over the years, they cast off their habits and adopted lay clothing. From being cut off from the outside world, they were thrust into it. (Anyone who has worked in local authorities knows how unsettling reorganisation can be!!)

The sisters here in Dalkeith, are all over retirement age, but as you know, this does not mean that



The work that we do is vital to the health and welfare of this vulnerable group of men and women. Increasingly, we have to fund a range of what we feel are essential services from charitable sources. Part of this search for new ways of maintaining adequate levels of funding has resulted in this, our first ever public fundraising event, presenting a stellar lineup of groups playing, singing and reading Christmas favourites, old and new, with just a few less familiar pieces to surprise you.

We are looking forward to an evening of sounds, singing and readings that will guarantee to give you that very special Christmassy feeling with the wonderful brass sounds of the Dalkeith & Monktonhall Brass Band, the extraordinary beauty of the singing of the Dalkeith Singers and a range of very special readings read for us by the men and women of the Edinburgh People's Theatre.

We are also hopeful that a local Primary School will join us resulting in the audience being entertained by the special sound of a Primary School Choir with the added bonus of selected readings being provided by the boys and girls.

Tickets at £8 (children go free) for the Concert can be purchased from Flowers by Pam, the Eskbank Trading Company, Kings Park & St. John's, St. Nicholas, and St. David's from Monday 11th November. Advance booking available by post from 1st November by contacting Garvald Glenesk 15-16 Avenue Road, Eskbank EH22 3BP (0131 561 9549). Please make cheques payable to Garvald Glenesk.

We look forward to welcoming you to a very special evening and a celebration of the spirit and magic that is Christmas.

Ian.

Baptism Photos.

We received 2 photos for this magazine, we congratulate Joseph, Giorgio and their proud parents.



Looking Forward.

November :-

- Saturday 2nd Lifeline Advent Candles go on sale.
- Monday 4th Beetle Drive, "Youth for Lourdes Fund" 7.30 p.m., Rosehill Convent, tickets £3.
- Saturday 9th Piety Stall Christmas Cards on sale.
- Sunday 10th Special Needs Toys Teas & Coffees. 2.00 p.m. St. David's Fun Cycle Ride.

December :-

An Advent Penitential Service will take place in St. David's, day and time to be confirmed. A number of visiting priests will be available to us for this.

- Sunday 1st Pantomime Tickets - payment for and collection of after morning Mass.
- Wed. 4th 11.00 a.m., Exposition, 12 Noon Mass.
- Friday 6th St. David's Brass Band Charity Concert in St. David's, starts 7.30 p.m., entry free.
- Saturday 7th Christmas Dance (Disco) in the hall, 7.30 to 11.00 p.m., Tickets £5.
- Sunday 8th Garvald Glenesk Charity Concert in St. David's, starts 7.30 p.m. Tickets £8, children go free!
- Wed. 11th 11.00 a.m., Exposition, 12 Noon Mass.
- Saturday 14th SVDP Christmas Dinner.

- Sunday 15th Pantomime Trip, bus leaves directly after morning Mass.
- Wed. 18th 11.00 a.m., Exposition, 12 Noon Mass.
- Sunday 22nd Nativity Play 14.00-14.30, followed by Mulled wine & Mince pies in the Hall.

PROGRAMME for CHRISTMAS:

Tuesday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE.

St. Luke & St. Anne's.

**6.00 p.m. Service of Carols and Readings,
6.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib & First Mass of Christmas.**

St. David's, Dalkeith.

**8.00 p.m. Service of Carols and Readings,
8.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib & First Mass of Christmas.**

Wednesday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY.

St. David's, Dalkeith.

11.00 a.m. Mass of Christmas Day.

• Thursday 26th BOXING DAY.

CRUSE meets in hall 10 a.m.-12 noon.

- Saturday 28th Annual Mass for Feast of Innocents, St. David's, Dalkeith 12 Noon.

January :-

- Wednesday 1st New Year's Day Mass at 11.00 a.m.

This is our 15th Parish Magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it.

All our Parish Magazines can be read on our website <http://www.stdaviddalkeith.co.uk/>

If you have any ideas for the Magazine, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please pass your feedback and ideas for the next edition, to Patricia, Winifred, Brian or Julian.

If you are interested in being a Sponsor for our next Parish Magazine,

please contact Brian on 663-0556.

Children's Page.

First Communions.



Primary 3 - some artwork (Luke 15:3-7 the parable of the lost sheep).

