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St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Autumn 2015



Contents :-

- **Mgr. Allan**
- **Southfield Stationers**
- **Peter's Ramblings**
- **News from the Schools**
- **Parish Groups & News**
 - **Youth For Lourdes**
 - **5 Days in Rome**
 - **Parishioner Photos**
 - **Memories of Kenya**
 - **SASHITA**
 - **& more!**
- **Looking Forward**
- **Gloria's Fast Food**
- **Children's Page**

Parish Priest :
Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Mgr. Allan.

First of all my grateful thanks to our editorial team who are, as ever, doing a first class job in producing our parish magazine. They also are blessed with patience when it comes to waiting for my contribution, which I hope avoids the gift of the wooden spoon!

May I also thank those who sponsor this production and if possible please support them.

As I write this, the season of Advent has begun again for us and it's not without a little alarm that I realise I am moving into my eleventh Advent and Christmas time with you, as your parish priest.

I can hardly believe it myself, but it was way back in August 2005 that I arrived here from Our Lady and Saint Bridget's West Calder.

So much water has flowed under so many bridges in that time and we are living in a much changed world and society. While it is true as Carly Simons sings that *'Nothing remains the same'* (from the song Itsy Bitsy Spider), some things in fact do.

This time of the year is a good example of that. Every year we buy gifts and presents for those who

are dear to us. True there will be those we can no longer shop or buy for because they have gone before us, but there are others, the younger members of the family and perhaps new friends we have made.

This, then, is the season to recall again that one certain and unchanging reality that God so loved us that He sent His Son into our world so that all might be saved.

That is what never changes and that is what we are preparing to celebrate as parish family and as individual families.

It's why we go to school nativity plays and watch the children take part and then recall the times when we did that in our schools with our parents proudly watching us.

We hand down to the next generation this wonderful historical reality, this message of hope and light even when at times the world can seem very dark indeed.

Go onto the internet and look up the Christmas song the "Power of Love".

Watch the original video - it says it all.

My prayer and blessings to you all this festive time.

Fr. Allan.



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the the commandment to 'Honour thy father and thy mother', she asked,

"Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He said, "Call for backup."

The greatest miracle in the bible is when Abraham told his son Isaac to stand still and he obeyed him.

(humour courtesy of Rosehill Residents...)

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Peter's Ramblings.

A Pilgrim's calendar progress (again).....
.....Well, they say pilgrimages are a bit like buses:
you plan to get one to somewhere and while you're
waiting on the first one, you think it might be nice to
go to somewhere else and as you're standing waiting,
another one comes along that you weren't even
thinking about going on which catches your eye as
the first two pull up to the bus stop! Talk about all
the buses coming at one time.

After I completed my pilgrimage on foot to St.
Andrews in 2013 I began looking for another long
distance walking pilgrimage in Scotland which I
could attempt and I settled on the St. Cuthbert's way.

This particular pilgrimage goes from Melrose to
Lindisfarne and I wrote about my first stages from
Melrose to Jedburgh in last year's summer issue
of the parish magazine. Unfortunately many long
years of pounding the beat and various long distance
walks (both military and social) were catching up
with me and I developed a problem in my feet to
such an extent that I had to go and see a specialist.
Thankfully, said specialist told me that, far from
having to hang up my walking boots, but with a
couple of corrective inserts in my boots I could again
hit the hills.

St. Cuthbert's Way - Stages 3 & 4.

All of my daughters and their menfolk suspiciously
had other things on for the dates I had planned to
pick up the St. Cuthbert's way again and so "Peter
nae mates" had to hit the trail for a solo march.

This entire walk can be comfortably completed in 5
or 6 stages, but with numbers 1 and 2 already in the
bag, I planned to do stages 3 and 4 with an overnight
stop in the Borders. That would let me cherry pick
when I would finish off the last stage and then have a
wee "feet wet" splash across the sands to Lindisfarne.

We all know what this
summer has been like but the
two days in June which I chose
to walk this leg were glorious
and I managed to top up the
tan on the way!

Having managed a lift down
to Jedburgh, I set out from
Harestanes and crossed the
Teviot
Water and began the
inevitable
climb into
the hills.





Although it was a bit up hill and down dale, it was a beautiful day and, apart from three gentlemen and a dog, as I climbed out of Teviotdale, I had the world to myself.

The castle of the Kerr family at Cessford reminds us all of the troubles of Border living in past times and why that site, in the old Middle March, was so important to the people of that turbulent time.



After Cessford, it was a very nice stroll to the village of Morebattle and a seat at the old Church coffee shop for a well earned cup of tea and a cheeky wee scone. The name of Morebattle is taken from the old Anglian dialect which was spoken from the Ouse to the Forth and which means a settlement by the lake, a "mere boitl". We see it linguistically brought to life again in our own parish, when, in the 12th Century, monks from Melrose were invited north to form a new settlement near to Dalkeith, which would be known to them as a "neu boitl" or, as we now know it, Newbattle.

From there, the hills and the climb up and over to Kirk Yetholm cannot be avoided and it forms one of the most spectacular legs of the walk.



The climb up onto the aptly named Wideopen Hill is glorious and very "up", but as you climb, it does give superb views of the Border hills all the way back to Melrose. If you thought going up was the hard bit then think again, for after two or three hours of "up" the descent towards Kirk Yetholm plays blue murder on the shins!!!

Bed and breakfast awaited me at Blunty's Mill, a recently renovated and very comfortable and well-appointed mill house, no more than a very grateful 20 metres walk off the beaten track. After dinner and a large glass of red wine (which was purely medicinal), I managed to stay awake until 9.05pm, at which point it was lights out for me and, "Goodnight Vienna!!"



After a great stay at Kirk Yetholm I had a hearty breakfast (they even provided a packed lunch!) and it was back up and over the hills on a 7 hour leg into and over the Cheviots and across the border into England.

The Northumbria National Park offers up some magnificent scenery and places like Yeavinger Bell remind you that the history here goes a very long way back, beyond the nationalistic borders which exist today. Passing these Bronze Age settlements I was then led down off the hills and into the town of Wooler. After a very small map-reading "foxes paw" which saw me enter Wooler from an unexpected direction, I managed, by sheer chance, once again to find a small hostelry, where I partook of a fine pint or two of Northumberland's best "Scotch ale", while I waited for my wee brother who stays in Newcastle to come and pick me up.



Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Dunfermline.

Early July came in with some lovely weather (well for a few days anyway) and myself and a few colleagues from St. Joseph's services took some of our service users on the archdiocesan pilgrimage to Dunfermline. This pilgrimage had fallen away back in the 70's when I remember going with my Mum and Dad and it was the Archbishop's intention to start it up again and see what the take up would be. Well, it was jam packed, with the church crammed to capacity and beyond, with the hall and other building being needed for the over spill from the church. The relic of St. Margaret was venerated at the end of Mass and held for veneration for the pilgrims by that other deacon, Tony Lappin, who will be ordained to the priesthood for our archdiocese in 2016.



St. John Ogilvie Pilgrimage to Keith, Banffshire.

This year also saw the 400 year celebrations for the anniversary of the martyrdom of St. John Ogilvie and the national celebration centred on the pilgrimage to the saint's home town of Keith in Banffshire.

This was to be our national gathering, with a Mass celebrated by our own Archbishop and a homily by Bishop Gilbert from Aberdeen. I had been thinking of going as a pilgrim but then I had an e-mail from my Director of Studies, who asked me to get in touch with Deacon Tom Wynne from Argyll and the Isles. Tom was going to be there in Keith on the day and the next thing I knew I was making the arrangements to help Tom run the stall for the Permanent Diaconate!



July's weather towards the end of the month, if you recall, was wet and wild but that day in Keith is one I will never forget. It started off with torrential rain which was followed by storm force winds and more rain. Tom and I were the first to manage to get our gazebo put together in a howling gale and then the first to lash it to the wall of Keith Football Club where the pilgrimage was being held. The Apostleship of the Sea were next and they lashed onto us and that's how it went for the first few hours as we all tried to stay dry, upright, intact and also to get ready for the pilgrims.

There was never any suggestion of cancellation as we knew that buses from far flung Galloway and from all over Scotland were making their way, but it did have an affect on local trade!!

By the time the pilgrims arrived, Tom and I had to deal with multiple congregations of nuns! (I know I'll be punished for this).

It all came about as their own gazebos weren't as weatherproof or durable as ours and when 4 nuns, with pop up banners, buttons, pens, bookmarks and a folding table, look at you with that glint of steely determination in their eyes and then ask you if they can share your tent, what can you do? Then some more arrived!

It turned out to be a fantastic afternoon, the Sisters looked after us well and the camaraderie of the stall holders and indeed everyone who attended was great and we were all rewarded as the clouds cleared, the sun came out and the national open air Mass which followed was a great success. Bishop Gilbert spoke for 45 minutes.



I drove down that evening through the Cairngorm National Park and never saw another soul until I hit Pitlochry. The weather had cleared the roads and the SatNav took me into a spectacular part of Scotland which I'd only ever flown over and it's well worth another look!!

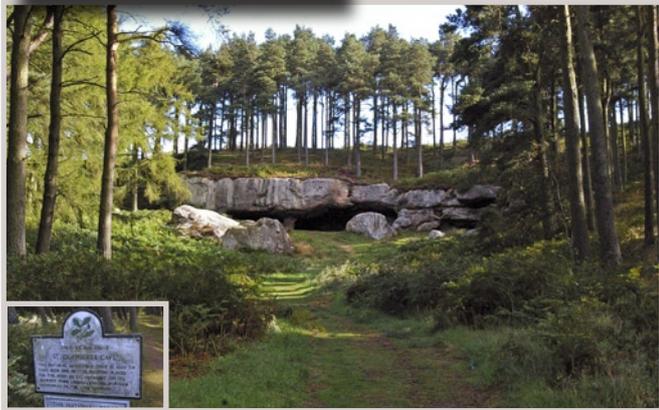
St. Cuthbert's Way - Final Stage.

September saw me back on the St. Cuthbert's way. Coercion is an ugly word which I don't like to use but I managed to secure a lift down to Wooler, from a "volunteer" amidst my extended family, and I was back on the trail.

Wooler was on the route for part of the English army as they marched north to Flodden in 1513 and I crossed one of the old medieval bridges which they would have taken



towards the battlefield. This leg still had a bit of up and down in it but it was generally onwards and downwards towards



the coast via the famous St. Cuthbert's cave.

Legend has it that the Saint's coffin was hidden from a Viking raiding party as it was being taken to Durham to be re-interred. The weather had stayed fine and warm and dry for me and I took some lovely pictures.

Another silly map-reading error saw me miss the causeway by a rather wide Irish mile and I had to backtrack along the side of the salt marsh to the south of the causeway for about a mile and a half before I eventually hit the causeway proper, annoyed and late!!

Lindesfarne is a tidal island and every year the tides catch unprepared tourists, generally motorists it has to be said, who end up in need of rescue as the tide rips in. I was well within the tidal window but at this time of year there is only one bus onto the island, which reaches its terminus at the priory and after 15 minutes it's off again. The bus was my only transport option off the island other than my own two feet so it was boots and socks off and time to hit the sand. There is a walker's route marked



by posts across the sand and I was off. With the lack of any clear and substantial reference marks on the horizon (not the poles as they merge into a solid line) it's a deceptively long walk and if you don't do your research properly you can be left quite literally high and dry in one of the refuge huts as the tides rise and catch the unwary traveller.

With about a quarter of a mile left to go, my heart sank as I saw the white Perryman's bus pass to my left along the causeway and so I redoubled my efforts and hit the far shore with just enough time to get my boots back on and get a few snaps and then get on the bus for Berwick.

Job done! Well not quite. My plan had been to get to the priory and pray the Office of Readings which, had I not gone astray on the map..... I would have completed in plenty of time, so in the immortal words of Arnie Schwarzenegger, "I'll be back", just to finish it off properly.

Just in case you were wondering... my life is not all one big walk or drive in the park, national or otherwise. I did very well in my exams in the summer and Fr. Allan has been keeping me busy in both parishes.

My pastoral development this year will see me do a bit more with marriage preparation and some voluntary work in the High School with the chaplaincy team. That's in addition to my course work and research projects and safeguarding training, national committees and my family life. I do like to keep busy!

That's about all from me for now and I look forward to telling you about my next pilgrimage as part of the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Anyone fancy joining me on a wee walk from St. Mungo's in Glasgow to St. Mary's via the canal walkways over 3 or 4 Saturdays during Lent? Let me know. And then there's Lourdes!!

Peter.



News from the Schools.

St. David's High School.



Chaplaincy News.

I was very fortunate that when I contacted the Chaplaincy team they were in the process of organising a trip for S1 pupils to the national pilgrimage shrine at Carfin in Lanarkshire. I was delighted when I was invited to go along and we all had a great day. I've been there many times before but I always like to go back.



The chaplaincy team do a great job and they were aided by a team of S6 volunteers who are taking part in the Pope Benedict "Caritas" award scheme.

This sees our S6 pupils commit to working in the

voluntary sector and helping out at events ranging from the S1 visit just mentioned, to helping support adults with disabilities in the communities in residential settings, run by organisations such as St. Joseph's services in Rosewell and indeed by other agencies.

This is tremendous work and we should be really proud of our children and of these young men and women who take part.

The day in Carfin was rounded off with a beautiful Mass in the Glass Chapel with the School's Chaplain, Fr. Basil Clark, from Musselburgh and Deacon Gordon Graham who will be joining the chaplaincy team on a more formal basis.

Peter.

St. David's Primary School

- Mundum Pro Christo Vincamus.



We have a new Head Teacher this school year after Mr. Currie left us for St. Joseph's, in Edinburgh.

We welcome Mrs. Young as Head Teacher at St. David's Primary School, Dalkeith.

HEAD TEACHER'S QUESTION TIME...

- Q. What is your favourite food?
Anything that is home made, especially soup, because it reminds me of my happy childhood meals.
- Q. What is your favourite holiday destination?
Ireland - to visit my family over there.
- Q. What is your favourite Church season?
Christmas, especially working in a Primary School, it is a very special time of the year.
- Q. What were your girlhood ambitions?
I always wanted to be a teacher.
- Q. What is your favourite book?
That is a tricky one. I love books especially biographies, finding out about people, very interesting.
- Q. What are your current ambitions?
To do an excellent job for the children at St. David's Primary School.
- Q. Do you have a favourite Sport?
I do enjoy sports and my family is very sports orientated. My husband does long distance running and my son and I support him all over Scotland.
- Q. What's been the biggest influence in your life?
My parents have made a massive impact and installed such good values and made me the person I am today. Work hard and believe in yourself and you can achieve what you want to.
- Q. Do you have a favourite Saint?
Yes my Confirmation name was St. Jude and I have prayed to him many a time for help, and St. David!
- Q. What is the hardest part of being a Head Teacher?
Finding the time to get everything done that I want to.
- Q. Best time of the day?
I am a morning person, up nice and early. I am most effective in the morning, early to bed!
- Q. Who is a person you most admire?
I admire people who sacrifice their own lives to help other people, e.g. helpers in the Ebola crisis putting their own lives at risk.
- Q. What makes you laugh?
Some of the best and funniest stories usually come from children and the staff at St. David's are brilliant - there is always a funny story to be told in our staffroom!
- Q. Highlights of Headship so far?
Getting to know so many fantastic families and children - it's a real privilege to be part of such an amazing team at St. David's Primary.
- Q. What music do you like?
All styles depending on my mood, but mostly "Chart Music" which keeps me up to date with the children.
- Q. What is your favourite television programme?
I really enjoy documentaries - learning about inspiring and passionate people who do extraordinary things. As a family we all like 'You've been framed', especially my 4 year old son who thinks it's hilarious!
- Q. Where in the world would you like to go and visit?
I have been to a few places around the world but would like to visit Hawaii, my parents often spoke about going there.
- Q. Do you enjoy flying?
The older I get the slightly more anxious I get, but it's no real problem, I am quite a rational person.
- Q. If not a Head Teacher what could you have been?
Can't imagine not being in teaching.
- Q. Where were you born? *Edinburgh*
Where were you raised? *Newtongrange.*
Schools attended? *Newtonloan St. Andrew's PS and St. David's High School. Gained Management degree at Heriot-Watt University and a teaching degree at Moray House, Edinburgh University.*
- Q. What was your first job?
A waitress....and I was very bad at it!
- Q. Can't live without??
Chocolate!!
- Q. Your favourite city?
Edinburgh - it's just stunning!
- Q. What makes you angry?
I am a laid back person, I don't get angry very often.
- Q. Best thing about your job?
Seeing young people progress and reach their full potential.

Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Young for taking the time to answer the questions.

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

Enrolment for children in their pre-school year at Nursery takes place from November 2015 for those children starting school in August 2016.

Please contact the school on 0131 271 4675 to discuss your child's enrolment further. The school operates an open door policy and parents/carers are welcome to 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://stdavidsps.mgfl.net>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stdavidsprimary>

Primary One and Two.

Bonjour from Primary One and Two!

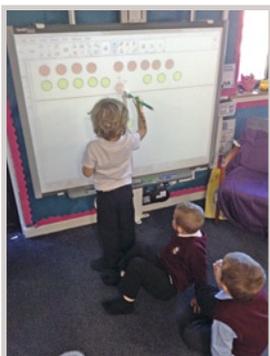
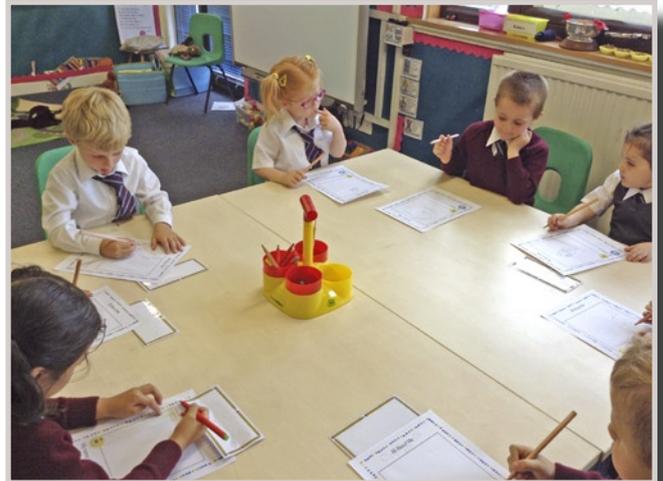
We have been extending our French speaking and listening skills this term. Primary One have begun introducing ourselves in French and sharing how we are feeling using French phrases. Primary Two have been using their knowledge of colours in French to develop and create their own games, which we will be sharing with Primary One to support their learning!

We have both successfully presented a class assembly to share our learning! Primary One delved into the "Life of a P1 at St. David's",

sharing all the exciting things we learn and some of the strategies we use to learn them. Primary Two entertained the school with their own rendition of "The Enormous Turnip" through drama and music, including some very adorable costumes!

Within Maths, Primary One have been extending their knowledge of money! Creating their own Money Men, sorting and organising different coins and working out things they can afford. Primary Two have become expert time keepers this term, learning how to tell time using both analogue and digital clocks!

'Tis the season to be jolly... Primary One and Two have started the much anticipated Nativity rehearsals. We have been learning about the birth of Christ and are now working on our own performance to share this. We are really excited to perform in front of the school, our friends and families!



Primary 3.

Last term Primary 3 completed a class novel study based on Jill Tomlinson's story 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. Through our learning we were able to use a variety of skills developed from across the curriculum. We have had different discussions about the characters in the book, our favourite characters, our favourite part of the story and why. We have acted out different scenes from the story, created Owl collages during art and watched the BBC's Jackanory Junior adaptation of the story. This term we have been focusing on the topic theme of Pirates and linked it very closely with our work in Literacy.



In Literacy and Writing we have been continuing our focus on writing and using the VCOP strategies. This term we have been focusing on description and linked it closely with our interdisciplinary theme of Pirates. We have placed a huge emphasis on including description and adjectives into our writing in order to make our writing more interesting.

In Numeracy and Maths this term we have been continuing our focus on number and using a variety of different strategies in order to calculate addition and subtraction problems mentally. So far we have learned about the jump strategy, the split strategy and the compensation strategy. Through a variety of different active methods we have seen an improvement in our mental maths.

Primary 3 have been given the role of the choir in this year's Christmas Nativity and have been learning a variety of different songs. We are looking forward to the big performance on the 14th and 15th of December.

Primary 4.

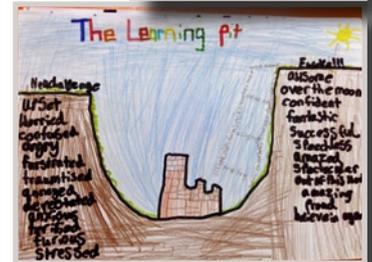
This term in Primary 4 we have been developing our reading skills. We learned all about Bloom's Taxonomy and created a display in our classroom to help us remember the HOT questions and the COLD questions. We have been working on exercising our brains more when reflecting on our books by ensuring we are working at the top end of Bloom's Taxonomy.

We have also been learning about Growth Mindsets. This is when we have an 'I can do' attitude rather than an 'I can't do' attitude. We have to think positively and believe we can do it. We designed our very own Growth Mindset Mascot, Polly the Positive Panda, who is displayed in our classroom to remind us of the positive comments we should be making about our learning.

We have learned that we all face challenges and that this is a good thing. We need challenges to help us improve. We looked at lots of successful people like Thomas Edison, Richard Branson and Steven Hawking who have all faced different challenges in their lives and how they overcame this and fought to be successful.

We are using a visual of a Learning Pit to help us picture where we are in our learning. We all end up at the bottom of the learning pit and in order to get out we need to use strategies to help us. Some of the strategies we came up with were learning from your mistakes, having courage, having patience, asking questions and believing in yourself.

We have just begun our Fairtrade Theme and we are very excited about learning to run our own Business, The Fairtrade Shack. We have all taken on a role in the business so as well as learning about the benefits of Fairtrade we will be setting up a Healthy Fairtrade Tuckshop in the school to help Fairtrade Farmers get the money they deserve.



Primary 5.

So far this year in Primary 5, we have been very busy developing growth mindsets and looking at our learning more positively. Our class motto is: **“Do your best... and a little bit more.”** We have been learning to look at mistakes as opportunities to challenge ourselves to make even more progress and have been using ‘The Learning Pit’ and our ‘Learning Powers’ to help us to do this.

We have been learning about the brain, too, on our journey to becoming ‘Assessment Capable Learners’ and have been doing some interesting research on how it works and how it controls our bodies. During Science Week, we had a Science Ceilidh Band come in and teach us about how our brains control our bodies when we dance. It was fantastic!

Over a number of weeks, we worked hard on developing our performance skills using cajon drums. We developed a greater sense of rhythm using the drums and a range of other percussion instruments and eventually got the chance to compose our own rhythms and chants, which we performed to family and friends in our school hall. It was great to get to show off our new skills!

We have been lucky enough to have gone on lots of trips so far this year too:

We have been orienteering at Ironmills, where we learned how to read maps, finding North and from there, identifying key features and points of interest. We worked in pairs to try to beat our personal best times and had a great day out.



Our ‘Secret Students’ in class also helped us to earn a trip to the cinema to see Cinderella as a reward for good choices in the classroom and around the school. We got the bus there and back

and had a great day eating popcorn and sweets and celebrating our success.



We are learning about our local area and went on a trip to the Mining Museum, during which we got to see how the mines worked in the past and talk to a real-life miner. We learned lots of interesting facts about what our local area was like in the past and it gave us a great opportunity to compare life in the past to life now. We realised how lucky we were to be at school at our age and getting a good education instead of working in a mine!

We are really looking forward to the rest of Primary 5 and can't wait to find out what we are going to learning next!



Primary 7.

Primary 7 have been learning about the importance of showing the impact our faith can have on our communities and communities all around the world.

As part of the Pope Francis Faith Award we spent a long time learning about the hardships of the child refugees in Syria. We were also learning about enterprise and developing the skills we will need for our careers, so, we decided to put our enterprise skills to the test and host a 'Save The Children Coffee Morning' to raise money and awareness for the child refugees of Syria. Although we are still counting up some last minute donations, our event has been a phenomenal success, and our learning experiences were relevant and valuable! We created our own business called 'Smiles for Syria' and a slogan 'Sending Smiles to Syria,' we also created our own logo by combining the logo for Save the Children with the Scottish and Syrian flags. We'd like to thank everybody who came to the event and everybody who contributed – we couldn't have done it without you! We would also like to thank all the businesses, local clubs, local newspapers and radio stations



that we contacted to help us with donations and advertising!

Following the success of our

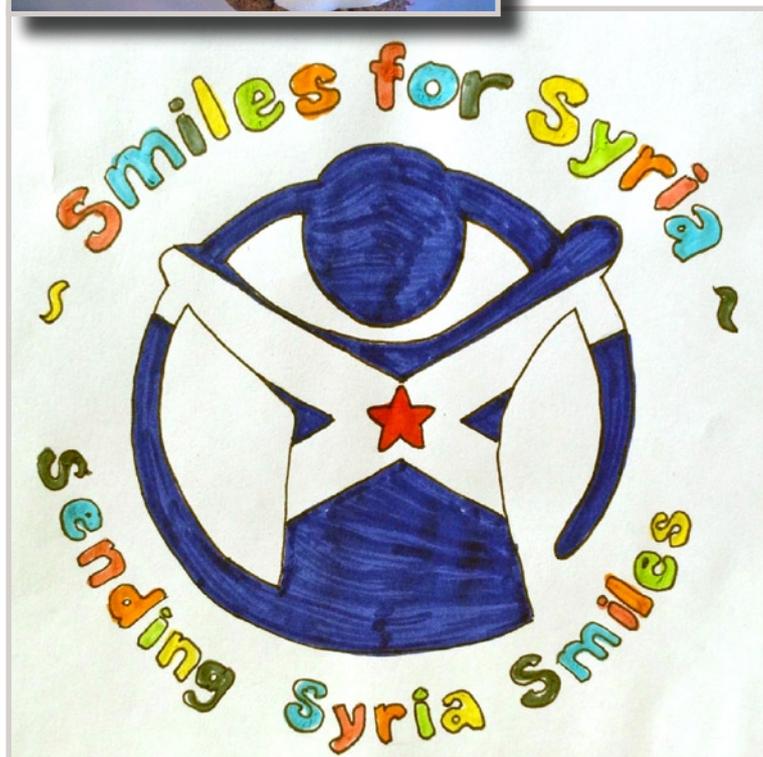


coffee morning and our newly developed business and enterprise skills we then decided to continue working through the Pope Francis Faith Award to positively impact children a little closer to home. We organised a dress down day for Children in Need, which supports children through a lot of different difficulties around the UK. We also organised a special assembly to raise awareness. During our assembly we used a range of literacy and expressive arts skills to create poems, dramas, songs and dances. The assembly was very effective and we enjoyed every bit of it!



Coming up, we will be building on our expressive arts skills as we start to prepare many exciting things for you to enjoy this Christmas – after all 'tis the season! We're also selling Advent Candles for £2 to raise money for LifeLine - get your orders in pronto so the countdown can begin!! Thank you all for your support and encouragement!

Mrs. Kerry Young, Head Teacher, and the St. David's Primary School staff team.



Parish Groups and News.

Lourdes 2015.



This was my third time to Lourdes and the best so far. All of the pilgrimage become very close over the week and relationships grow. I made a lot of good friends among the youth. There is a great group of regulars now with more helpers joining every year - including James and Michael this time. It is a very positive environment and everyone is so supportive. It can be a very emotional and reflective week for the pilgrims and volunteers, but always rewarding. There's a great atmosphere at night time with almost everyone from the pilgrimage out for drinks. Luckily, the weather this year was sunny almost every day, giving us the chance to see more of the town of Lourdes. The trip is hard work at times but the week flies by. The experience for me gets better each time and I hope to go back again next year. Thanks to Father Allan and all the parishioners who continuously support our trips.

Lewis.



Lourdes is an amazing place that never ceases to amaze me. One of my fondest memories of Lourdes is when I first took part in the torchlight procession with the Archdiocese, and I saw hundreds of people carrying their torches through the procession. Upon seeing this spectacular sight, I couldn't help but feel inspired as I saw people from different countries and different walks of life who were brought together by this one very spiritual place.

Liam.



Lourdes was a very special experience which I'll never forget and a place which I will always hold close to my heart. My time at Lourdes may have been short but a very spiritual time as well. My role at Lourdes was being a Brancardier (a male volunteer helper - Brancardier is French for 'stretcher-bearer') and consisted of helping the pilgrims around Lourdes and at the Saint Frai (the hospital where the pilgrims stayed at). After the day of hard work pushing the pilgrims, all of the helpers would 'unwind' at the local pub for a good few hours and maybe visit the Grotto, if we had time to spare, then head back to the hotel for a good night's sleep or for what was left of the night. Personally, the most moving time in Lourdes would have been either the Candlelit Mass or our last visit to the Grotto. The Candlelit Mass was a wonderful sight and was an amazing, unexplainable experience as all the pilgrims from all over the world were all together in this beautiful Mass. Our last visit to the Grotto was memorable because this was where we had time to light our candles and pray for our loved ones and be thankful for what we have and how fortunate we were to be able to experience this once in a life time pilgrimage. All in all, Lourdes is an experience which you couldn't put into words, you can only experience it and then understand how much hard work, fun and spiritual the Lourdes Pilgrimage is.

Michael.

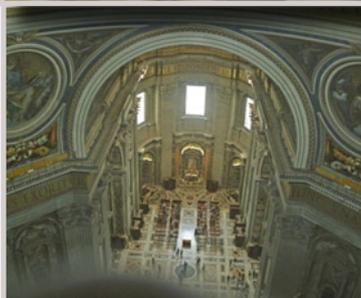
5 DAYS IN ROME.

On an early June morning, a very early morning, 9 of us, Father Allan and 8 family set off for Rome. The main purpose of our trip was to share in the celebration of the Ordination to the Holy Order of Deacons of Tony Lappin, our cousin. The 5 days were socially, spiritually and sensationally magnificent.

Day one: An early flight to Rome, which was on time and fairly smooth. On arrival, we transferred to our respective accommodations. After settling ourselves in and unpacking, we all met up at the Pantheon, the oldest church in Rome and built by Hadrian, a must see for tourists visiting Rome. We enjoyed the afternoon sun at a pavement café, watching the world go by, with a bite to eat and refreshments. That evening we all met up with Tony for dinner in the centre of Rome before returning to our B & B's for a relatively early night.

Day two: A visit to the Vatican (a country in its own right). For some of our group it was a first visit, for others it was a repeat visit. Regardless there is always something to see, even if it is just watching the thousands of visitors and the antics of queue jumping and the entertainment of how fellow visitors deal with this!! St. Peter's Basilica itself is truly magnificent, with guided tours, Masses taking place in side chapels, some chapels curtained off for pilgrims to pray, you can even walk the dome, visit the crypts and museums, not forgetting the

Swiss Guards. You could spend a whole day and still have something to see when you next visit. I'm sure that most people who visit Rome, go back again! As there was so much to see and some of us had seen bits before, we split up and agreed to meet up for lunch at another pavement café! What a great life!! From there, we took in various other Roman sights, such as the Colosseum, the Roman Fort and



Circus Maximus before returning to our rooms for a rest. On the evening of day 2 we had a quieter night after all our sightseeing. Tony was unable to join us as Archbishop Cushley was arriving and Tony was meeting him at the Beda College, where Tony has been studying for the past 3 years. The rest of us had dinner locally to our B & B's to have another early night.

Day three: The Big Event. We all gathered at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, which is very near to the Beda College. St. Paul's is one of the 4 Papal Basilicas in Rome. The others are, St. Peter's at the Vatican, San Giovanni in Laterano and Santa Maria Maggiore. St. Paul's Basilica is absolutely beautiful. The interior is awesome and well worth a visit if you ever go to Rome. St. Paul's tomb is magnificent and very high around the inside walls, are pictures of every Pope, with a light shining on the current Pope Francis. There are also various historical items to view at this church.

The Ordination was at 11.00 and we all gathered at 10.30 giving us time to soak up the atmosphere before the start of a very moving and spiritually uplifting experience. There were 7 candidates being ordained and, as well as the family, several of Tony's friends made the trip and a number of priests from the Diocese were in attendance. The other candidates came from various corners of the world: 1 Scottish (Tony), 1 Irish (Warren), 2 English (Declan and Thomas), 2 Australian (Geoffrey and Darien), and 1 Nigerian (Humphrey).

Family members were involved in various parts of the service with Molly carrying the Stole and Dalmatic and Lewis taking part in the very colourful Offertory Procession. The Nigerian candidate's family were dressed in beautiful national costumes and carried an enormous basket of multi-coloured fruit which looked heavenly.





The concelebrated Mass was led by His Grace, Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh and was well organised with approximately 70 priests from all over the world on the Altar. After the prayer of

Consecration, the Stole and Dalmatic were brought forward to each of the new Deacons and, with the aid of some of the assisting priests, each of them was helped with the Stole and Dalmatic. Father Allan and Father Alex Davie helped Tony with his.

Following the ceremony, the congratulations and many photographs, we made our way across to the Beda where each candidate had a colour coordinated table set out in the lovely grounds of the College. We were greeted by a very committed and professional team of up and coming seminarians who offered us bubbly or a soft drink prior to us taking our seats at the colourfully set tables. The lunch was buffet style and the wine flowed. It can honestly be said that there was so much choice of beautiful and tasty food that it was impossible to have tasted it all – not only were there savoury dishes but lots and lots of superb dessert dishes and fresh fruit – it was wonderful. Throughout the lunch, the staff were very attentive and everyone was so friendly and the atmosphere was definitely one of total celebration of a wonderful morning.

Fortunately the weather was splendid but rain had been forecast. However, it stayed in the sky until lunch was over, then the heavens opened and it poured down. There was a canopied walkway where

everyone was able to shelter for about 20 minutes, then the skies cleared and the sun came out again.

It was time to leave after saying our goodbyes and making arrangements for meeting up later that evening for a special dinner arranged by Tony and one of his “new” Deacon colleagues, Darren, whose family and friends would also be there. Our group left the Beda and taxied back to central Rome for more sightseeing (we had a change of shoes, at least us girls did, from our ‘heels’ worn for the Ordination). The arrangement for dinner was that we all met up at the Pantheon as the restaurant, L’Eau Vive di Roma, was only a few minutes walk away. We were to meet at 8 but, as usual, there were a few stragglers but we used the time to mingle with some of the young seminarians from Scots College who were attending the dinner. What a great night we had, with speeches and very good company of family, friends, various clergy and seminarians in attendance, as well as lovely food. This restaurant is run by nuns who cook and serve the excellent food and when dinner is over, the nuns lead the diners in song and we sung Ave Maria, lovely.

We all had a wonderful night following a fantastic day on a very special occasion and a special event for the two new Deacons in our presence.

Day four: Our last day and we were all going back to the Beda to join Tony for his first Mass as a Deacon. Father Allan celebrated the Mass in the college chapel. This was yet again another very special and personal event in our week in Rome.



The Mass was simple and spiritual with participation in serving, readings and Offertory Procession by the family. Two retired priests from the diocese also attended this Mass, Father John Morrison, formerly of Loanhead Parish and Father Tom McNulty. Mass was followed by a tour of the College with Tony showing us where he eats, sleeps, studies and relaxes. It was very interesting to see the college and a bit unusual as it was the end of term and many students had already gone home so it was very quiet. Tony was leaving with us the next day and still had to pack up his room!! This is common practice at the end of the academic year as the rooms are all thoroughly cleaned and any maintenance carried out. Before leaving, we joined Tony for a refreshment at the coffee shop in the grounds of St. Paul's Basilica, giving us another chance to view this magnificent building. We left Tony to pack before we all met up again that evening for our final dinner in Rome.



Day 5: Time to pack up and return home. We had a lunchtime flight so not too early a rise. We had our transfers to the airport arranged and we had an uneventful flight home. However, although we had our transfers back to Dalkeith organised, we didn't count on the gridlock we encountered at Edinburgh Airport on our return. A word of advice – avoid if possible travelling to and from Edinburgh airport when the Highland Show is on! Our transfers were on time but the airport car parks were a nightmare!!

Reading this you may think that all we did for 4 days was eat and drink!! Well, I suggest that you are correct, but it was a holiday and we made the most of it!! We also did a lot of sightseeing, some shopping and a lot of praying. We all had a great time and for those in our party who had not been to Rome before, they all said that they would return. It is truly a Magnificent City and our 5 days there were Wonderful.

We have to thank Tony for his invitation to attend his Ordination and his hospitality while we were there. We would also like to wish Tony and all the Deacons who were ordained alongside him our best wishes for their future in the Priesthood and their Ordinations next summer.

Kath King and Molly De Haan.



Parishioner Photos.

Here is a photograph of two ladies in our parish, celebrating their birthdays. They had a joint party. Mrs. Flynn was 80 and her sister Mrs. Pryde was 90.! They sit right at the back on a Sunday.

They do a great deal of fund raising for charity.

All the proceeds from their party went to a local charity.

The charity which Mrs. Pryde and Mrs. Flynn collect and donate to is Newbattle Mental Health.



Memories of Kenya.

Do you ever grumble that you'd like more than you have?

Working with street children in Africa for many years, children mostly in torn clothes who would supplement the diet of maize and beans that we gave them with half-rotten titbits they picked out of bins, I was anxious to help them realise God cared for them, and to do whatever I could to develop their relationship with Jesus. I would often mention how much He loved the poor and concentrate on Gospel stories showing this.

Imagine my surprise when on asking a group if they were poor, I received an emphatic "No!" "You're not poor?"

"No."

"Why do you say that?"

"We've got food and clothes and somewhere to sleep."

I had nothing to say.

Are YOU poor?

Mrs. Murray.

~~~~~

Mrs. Murray, better known to some of you as Miss Montgomery, worked in Kenya for nearly 17 years.

These photographs show Mrs. Murray at the school with some of the children.



The first photograph shows Mrs. Murray with the children playing a matching card game. The children have drawn, cut out and coloured their hands and displayed them on the wall in the background.

The second photograph shows Mrs. Murray with the children outside the school in Kenya. The building in the background is the school.



## SASHITA.



SASHITA Sa-shi-ta was founded by Maggie Mazoleka and named after the village of Samuye in the province of Shinyanga, Tanzania, where Maggie was born and raised to be a Tanzanian woman but has since lived, studied and worked in Edinburgh for over 23 years.

Inspired by the stories Maggie told us of the poverty and hardship suffered by her family and the villagers of Samuye, a group of enthusiastic people got together in May 2008 and set up SASHITA as a registered charity.

Our immediate objectives were to raise funds to build a water well in the village where there was neither running water nor electricity. The water had to be collected by the women and children from some distance away and was often unfit for human consumption.

By July 2009 enough money had been raised to survey the land in the village and employ contractors to drill for water. By November that year the shaft for the well had been drilled and lined. The water was found approximately 80 - 100 metres underground and required a strong pump and therefore electricity to run it.

SASHITA volunteers have fundraised, organizing Grand Balls, concerts, sponsored cycles, football matches and many other events, to raise the £28,000 needed to install electricity to the village to power the pump and build a large enough tank to hold and store water.

The well and electricity project has almost reached completion but we still have much to do. Projects planned for the future will focus on sanitation,

education and healthcare. We are in the process of setting up a Community Based Organisation (CBO) in the village, so that we can fully engage with the people, help to reduce poverty and set up long term developments in the community.

In 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 small groups of volunteers have visited Samuye to see the difficulties first hand, as well as building strong bonds with the villagers. Everyone involved with SASHITA is a volunteer and trips have all been totally self-funded.

The latest trip was organised in order for the Charity to follow up on issues regarding water connection to the well and complete the formation of a community group in Shinyanga village, including opening a bank account, which would ease money transfers etc. The Trustees were also interested in confirming future plans and projects by having discussions with the local group and other villagers and by finalising the purchase of a piece of land.

We prepared for this trip as we had previously. We got our travel vaccinations, checked travel websites for updates and on this occasion searched for information about the Ebola epidemic.

As usual we had too much luggage, but after some negotiation at check-in we managed to take a bit more than we should.

On arrival in Tanzania, Maggie's family picked us up at Dar Es' Salaam Airport and drove us back to their family home in Dar, where we

stayed for 2 days while we arranged our flights and transport to the village of Samuye in the Shinyanga Region of Tanzania.



Unknown to us, the airstrip at Shinyanga had been closed (not unusual in Africa). We had to fly to Mwanza via Kilimanjaro then had a drive of 3 and half hours to Shinyanga. The flight seemed to go smoothly. However it was not until we reached Shinyanga that we realised that items were stolen from our luggage, including some of my photographic equipment (a lesson to be learnt, always carry valuables with you in hand luggage).

During our previous trips to Samuye we had always stayed in the village. However, on this occasion we had decided to rent a three-bedroomed house in the town and engage the help of a local woman to prepare an evening meal. We were aware that all the cooking is done outside on an open fire and takes a considerable amount of time. So after we had spent each day working we were very grateful to return to Mama Penda's tasty dishes.

Maggie is fluent in Swahili and the tribal language of Skuma. Janet and I could speak only a little Swahili, however, along with sign language we could make ourselves understood, albeit I don't think either of us would get a degree in drama anytime soon!

Communication was difficult by phone too. Although we were able to use a borrowed dongle for email and internet, our personal phones were rendered useless even though we had been assured by our mobile providers that they would work. This proved to be another expensive lesson.

Our time in the village was short compared to previous trips, however we still had valuable time with the villagers. Over the first week we spent time observing village life, their routines, visiting homes, the primary school and the hospital. One great step forward was the introduction of electricity to the

hospital although the conditions are still desperately poor.

We were very privileged to be invited to observe the dowry negotiations for a young couple from the village. We discovered that October is the time of year for weddings, as the crops have been harvested and it's the start of the rainy season. It is also the start of the very hot days and with no air conditioning this was quite a challenge for us.

We had difficulty at first arranging meetings between our SASHITA group and the local Chief. During the wedding season everyone is involved in preparations and celebrations. There is a definite air of excitement in the village during this period.

Another sign of progress that we saw while visiting the next village was the use of small solar packs for portable lights and for charging mobile phones. These turned out to be reasonably cheap with prices from £20 for small solar cells and £40 for large cells. This could be very useful in our village and is definitely something worth looking at for the future.

One of the reasons for this trip was to secure some suitable land for a community centre. In comparison to Scotland land is cheap but we needed to be sure it was right for our project.

On the Saturday we met with various landowners to look at land but were made an interesting offer by Maggie's father, Mr. George Mazoleka, and his family. The offer was that we would be given two acres of land in return for the use of water

and the building of security fencing for the land, this was in any case a priority for health and safety. We spent many hours emailing our Trustees in Scotland regarding this offer of land and all responded favourably. That day we wrote up a contract to seal the deal.





Faith plays a large part in the life of the villagers and on Sunday we visited the village church and took part in their weekly service and communion. The villagers were excited and happy to see us back and gave us a very warm welcome. We thanked the villagers for welcoming us back, the villagers have made a lot of improvements to their church and it is now a bright and happy place. They were pleased that we had noticed all their hard work. They have an amazing choir, all self taught, and they do so much to enhance their worship.

After church we spent a good while talking to the villagers and were introduced to one of the schoolteachers, Martin Masoonga, whose English put our Swahili to shame. As Martin is also a local authority facilitator he was able to give us information about a government survey that is currently being carried out, in order to identify families of real poverty requiring support and assistance. We were encouraged by the fact that young adults from the village had been trained to carry out this research. The exciting thing is that he is very happy to work with the villagers and us and has said that they will pass on the results of the survey to us to use for our work in the village.

Something we have been trying to do is help the village to build a sustainable organisation that will help them to improve their way of life. Each time we have visited Samuye we have managed to purchase additions for the group of livestock. We have successfully bred some



goats and on this occasion we decided to visit a cattle market some 25 km away. On arrival at the market, we identified a man who could help us find suitable breeding cows. We spent a very interesting day watching all the bartering and buying. If it had been left up to us we would have bought the really pretty cattle with huge eyelashes, however, we finally settled as advised on two young heifers which will hopefully be the foundation of the Sashita herd. Both animals were registered and will be branded to comply with local laws. Our next problem was how to get the cows back to

the village without an animal carrier. This was solved with the help of three young men who earn a living herding animals home for people. Our cattle arrived back at the village well after dark but none the worse for their ordeal. Massatu, one of the young boys within the village, is going to take care of the

Sashita livestock and build them a corral. In return for this work, we hope to help support Massatu in his education and living expenses. This has long been a project that SASHITA has wanted to initiate and it has now become possible with the help of our wonderful supporters in Scotland.

One of the important things we needed to do was to register the group in Samuye, so we attended a meeting where Maggie extensively covered points in the constitution in order for it to be approved by the village group and signed. We also discussed the maintenance and day to day running of the deep well, water tank and the electricity once it was up and running and whose responsibility it should be.

In order to finalise all these details we needed to open a bank account. This meant that we had to register the local organisation in the village which could have been a very lengthy process. We needed the Community Based Organisation (CBO)



registration, also Samuye I bingo SASHITA group constitution finalised and signed by all the group members. Above all we needed signatures from the Village Officers Samuye-Ward, and the Samuye I bingo Village and the Director of the Shinyanga Rural Office.

We prayed we could do all this in the short time we had left in Shinyanga. Miraculously and with the help of Regina Runyoro, our group's advisor, we were able to identify an official who helped us use the correct structure acceptable to the local government. After much running around and chasing people, quite literally, we were in possession of the much needed certificate of registration. We managed this and the opening of the bank account all on our last day.

We returned to the village feeling very tired and the icing on the cake was the arrival of the huge transformer needed to connect the electricity for the water pump. The scary part of this whole process was that the

delivery guys did not have the right equipment needed for the safe delivery of this equipment. They were trying to cut corners even although they had been paid to hire a crane. With the amazing help of the Mazoleka family and local boys from the village we

eventually managed to off load the equipment without any damage to person or equipment. In the future health and safety will be a priority.

The organization Future Centuries also arrived to oversee the electricity installation by Transco, the national electricity company.

The time of our visit flew by but we still managed to achieve most of what we set out to do. Our new friend Martin has agreed to be an advisor to the group in the village, it is a great help having someone there who speaks English.

We will continue to look at ways in which we can support young people through education, which will help them to realise their potential.

We are also hoping to work with the community to improve the health and well being of women and

children in particular. We were given donations to purchase some hospital mattresses for the maternity ward. The best way to do this is being looked into at this time.

Our next trip to the village won't be in October due to the heat and hence their holiday season. We will plan to allow more time to spend working with and getting to know the villagers!

We are also looking forward to continuing with our new projects.

Building a wall around the water tank will be started as a matter of urgency. This will secure the well and stop children from playing on top of the tank.



A wall for the community land will need to be completed and the children's play area will be built. The funding for this was donated by 6VT youth project in Edinburgh.

Temporary shelters for work units will be built - this will facilitate micro businesses.

We also want to look into Solar power use in the village.

It was a great help to have Regina from the Mazoleka family with us to speed up these processes as she has more understanding of how the system works. Our grateful thanks go to her, all the Mazoleka family and all our supporters and fundraisers here in Scotland. Without their help and generosity none of this would be possible.

Lesley Lynch.

<http://www.sashita.org.uk>

## **The Bishop's Mistake.**

The bishop glanced through his window pane  
On a world of sleet and wind and rain,  
When a dreary figure met his eyes  
That made the bishop soliloquize.

And as the bishop gloomily thought  
He ordered pen and ink to be brought,  
Then 'Providence Watches' he plainly wrote  
And he pinned the remark to a ten-bob note.

Seizing his hat from his lordly rack  
And wrapping his cloak around his back,  
Across the road the bishop ran  
And gave the note to the shabby man.

That afternoon was the bishop's "at home"  
When everyone gathered beneath his dome,  
Curate and canon from far and near  
Came to partake of the bishop's cheer.

There in the good old bishop's hall  
Stood a stranger lean and tall,  
"Your winnings, my lord," he cried, "Well done!  
'Providence Watches', at ten to one."

It is to be noted on Sunday next  
The bishop skilfully chose his text,  
And from the pulpit earnestly told  
Of the fertile seed that returned tenfold.

ANON.

## **St. David's Cycle Club, R.I.P.??**

We have been running a cycle club for 5 years. We have had some great rides along the way but this last year, with the closing of the railway cyclepath, the monthly club rides have been very poorly attended.

I will be proposing to close the club at the end of March to save the money spent on ride leader insurance and unnecessary work running the club.

If you want to keep the club running in 2016 please see me before the end of February.

Julian.

## **Looking Forward.**

### **February :-**

- Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> Burns Night Fundraiser for both Parishes. There will be another prize bingo night and a quiz night, but so far no dates!
- Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Parishes meeting with the Archbishop 1.00 p.m. in the hall for St. David's, Dalkeith, St. Mary's, Pathhead and St. Luke & St. Anne's, Mayfield.
- Tue. 9<sup>th</sup> Pancake Tuesday, Yum Yum!
- Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday

### **March :-**

- Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
- Thu. 24<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday
- Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday
- Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday
- Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday

### **May :-**

- Thu. 5<sup>th</sup> Ascension
- Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> Pentecost
- Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> The Most Holy Trinity
- Thu. 26<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi

Saturday's sermon 'Jesus Walks on the Water'.  
Sunday's sermon 'Looking for Jesus'.

The Prayer & Fasting Conference includes meals.

A Sunday School Teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

What is the main reason for divorce? - Marriage.

Sunday's sermon will be 'What is Hell?'  
Come early and listen to the choir practice.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a chance to get rid of things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

(humour courtesy of Rosehill Residents...)

***This is our 19<sup>th</sup> Parish Magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it.***

*All our Parish Magazines can be read on our website <http://www.stdavidsdalkeith.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 0131-663-0556.*

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tomato pizza  
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1 Veg pakora  
Doner meat, Chips  
Salad, Chilli &  
Salad dressing

*Kids Munch  
Box*

**£6.00**

7" Cheese &  
tomato Pizza  
2 Sausages  
3 Chicken nuggets  
Chips

*Combo Box*

**£7.00**

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tomato pizza  
3 Veg samosa  
3 Chicken wings  
Chips  
Sweet chilli

*Munchie  
Box*

**Small £8.50**

10" Cheese &  
tomato pizza  
2 Veg pakora  
2 Chicken pakora  
Doner meat & chips  
Salad, Chilli &  
Salad dressing

**Large £12.00**

12" Cheese &  
tomato pizza  
3 Veg pakora  
3 Chicken pakora  
Doner meat & chips  
Salad, Chilli &  
Salad dressing

**These are excluded  
from the free bottle of  
juice offer**

**Children's Page.**

**2015 1st Communion photos...**

