

St. David's Dalkeith

*Parish Magazine
Spring 2007*



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This Magazine is FREE!

***(But any contributions
will go to the Youth
Lourdes Trip 2008)***

Fr Allan's words

“Where are you now, West Calder or Livingston?”

A question asked of me last week as I attended Fr. Mike Regan's Silver Jubilee of Ordination. The person asking had been a parishioner of mine twenty three years ago when I was an assistant priest in St. Kentigern's Edinburgh, coincidentally where Fr. Mike is now parish priest.



In the course of our conversation when we relived memories from the past, the comment was made that the group of priests present that night to honour Fr. Mike seemed to be a very happy bunch and seemed to be enjoying one another's company. Indeed we did and in fact do enjoy each other's company, something I suppose I took for granted, until it was highlighted in that conversation.

I write this as the Church prepares this weekend to celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, traditionally the time we are asked to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

In 2005, I celebrated my own Silver Jubilee, last year Fr. Mike Purcell celebrated his, and last week Fr. Mike Regan his. Adding up the numbers gives over seventy five years of service in the priesthood to the Diocese, not an insignificant amount of time.

More importantly, it is seventy five years in friendship, and shared experience, in a very unique way, in service to the Church.

Without the shadow of doubt, and in spite of some wobbly moments, I would do it all again. It is simply a marvellous way of life, and indeed an immensely privileged one. Marvellous, because of the unique and sustaining bond of friendship that exists among the clergy, particularly in this deanery. Privileged, because of the people we are ordained and sent to serve in the parishes throughout the Archdiocese. It is in this life of service that you welcome us into your families, and invite us to share with you the highs and the lows in living out our faith.

Wherever I have served, including the prisons, it has been my experience that, without doubt, it is a tremendous gift: the call to Priesthood, the gift of Ordination, the opportunity to lead people toward a better understanding of the mystery of God.

I therefore thank all who, over twenty seven years, have sustained, helped and encouraged me in my vocation. I owe you, after my family, a great debt of gratitude, and of course I am grateful for my priest

friends and colleagues.

It is a wonderful gift, and I would encourage any single man who may feel that invitation from God to be bold and courageous, and respond in faith. You won't be disappointed and you will be immensely fulfilled.

Parish Council

In response to the Cardinal's document 'Together in Hope' Graeme Sharkey and myself together with Fr. Loreto attended a St. David's Deanery wide training course held at St. Martin's, Tranent on 15 September 2004 keeping in mind the Cardinal's 5 principles :-

- A spirit of prayer being at the heart of our thinking and planning.
- Conversion of heart.
- Collaboration at every level of Church life being essential to the future of the Church.
- Planning as a way of developing life in the diocese.
- Witnessing in the world to Jesus Christ.

At the first ever meeting of St. David's Parish Pastoral Council on 8th November 2004 the Council began its work: Chair Brian Nimmo; Vice Chair Leo de Haan; Note Taker Graeme Sharkey.

Under the guidance of Fr. Loreto meetings were held to discuss various issues in January, June and July of 2005 and subsequently from September 2005 onwards with Fr. Allan.

While initially concerned with matters of a pastoral nature, i.e. 'setting the parish on fire with faith', the Council has seen its remit under Fr. Allan take on a broader perspective particularly in view of Father's responsibility for two parishes and a prison.

Any member of the above group can be contacted to discuss any parish issue while all meetings are 'Open' to the Parish to attend (held in the Hall) and you will be most welcome. Our express aim is to support Father and the Parish in any way we can.

The most recent meeting was held on 23rd April 2007, the agenda was wide ranging and included the next issue of this Parish Magazine.

(Brian Nimmo, Chair, Parish Council)

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After the baptism of his baby brother in church, Scott sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "The priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys".  
~~~~~

News from the Schools



St. David's High School

St. David's High School has had a very lively start to 2007 in all areas of school life.

Our radio station - Radio Boom Box - has had 2 broadcasts, featuring pupils, staff and guests from the community. Pupils involved have developed skills in researching, scripting and broadcasting and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. After Easter, we hope to involve our associated primaries in future radio broadcasts. We would also welcome news from our Deanery parishes.

In February, 25 senior students visited Barcelona as part of their study programmes in Art and Modern Languages. They had a very enjoyable and valuable trip and staff were impressed by their behaviour.

We celebrated Ash Wednesday with 3 House Liturgies, led by Father Chambers and our Lay Chaplain, Iris Lawrie. During Lent, St. David's will continue to support the Association of People with Disabilities in Bangalore through our WOW Project. This project involves the whole school community and assists the work of SCIAF across the world. We hope to add to our Lenten Challenge on St. Patrick's Day, when we will be having a range of musical and sporting events in support of Bangalore.

St. David's was honoured on March 1 to host a visit from Jean Vanier, who was taking part in the International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace in Edinburgh. It was a very moving and memorable occasion, which involved our senior students and seniors from several other Scottish schools. We were also joined by Cardinal O'Brien and Sir Tom Farmer, who have been great supporters of our colleagues in Bangalore. The visit ended with a live video link with India during which Jean Vanier shared his thoughts and inspirational work with the association. The whole event was a major highlight in

the school year.

Our pupils are now in the final stages of preparation for their exams in May. I know you will wish them success.

Many thanks to all parishioners for their support for St. David's High School.

St. David's Primary School

FIRST Minister Jack McConnell visited St David's Primary School in March to launch his strategy for dealing with an ageing population by meeting the Dalkeith school's 73-year-old basketball coach, Bea Mason.

Mr McConnell and Minister for Communities Rhona Brankin spent time watching Ms Mason, who retired nine years ago, as she coached youngsters in the school hall. They also met members of the advisory group who helped to draw up the plan, including David Manion, chief executive of Age Concern, as well as older people who have taken up various forms of volunteering.

Mr McConnell said the aim was to improve older people's quality of life and create opportunities for youngsters to benefit from the experience of their elders. He said: "We need to ensure that people can live life to the full as they grow older."

Principal Teacher Tony Currie said: "Bea is still sharing her talents with the local community with which she is still very much involved."

The school's Pupil Council, which consists of one representative from each P4 to P7 class, showed the First Minister every school display during his visit and explained to him the many initiatives and developments the school has ongoing in order to maintain the high standards the school expects from its pupils.

The school's Head Teacher, Mrs Ann Marie Hepburn commented: "We are delighted to welcome Scotland's most senior Minister to St. David's Primary School. We are very proud of our school. The children and staff work extremely hard to maintain the high standards expected of them."



News from Parish Groups

Piety Stall

The Book Stall at the back of the church had a very good response this year, selling all the Christmas Cards, thanks to the parishioners and visitors.

With the Children receiving their First Holy Communion and Confirmation, there will be on sale cards, rosaries etc. before and after their special day. We hope to get your support once again.

(Pat and Tessa)

200 Club

Some of the money in our fund has been used to pay for parts to repair the church heating & some for a new security light above the church front door. There are always things to pay for and our little fund does make a difference. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past.

We are always looking for new members especially now! Our club did have 300 members, now it has less than 200, so we do need your support. To join, simply come to the hall after Mass on Sunday and speak to Mary, Iain or John and we will sort it out, it only takes minutes. Cost is 25p/week up to £10/session. Prizes :- £20 monthly, plus session Grand Prizes of £200, £100 & £20. Come and join us.

(John Kilday)

Liturgical Music Group

The Saturday Night Music group comprise of a number of parishioners who enjoy celebrating God's glory through music. Maria, Julia and Katharine are the vocal element with Jim and Anne Theresa providing the guitar accompaniment. The wind element is provided by Graeme the clarinettist (I mean that in the best possible taste).

We have been playing for a number of years now and endeavour to introduce new hymns that cover both a contemplative and communal aspect.

Each week we try to select songs that will liturgically reflect the readings and theme of the mass and at the same time enhance people's participation in the mass.

There are occasions when things don't always work out. In particular at Christmas when the guitarists and vocalists were singing Once In Royal David's City but the clarinettist was determined that they should be singing 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. On the third attempt the clarinettist got it right!!! Then there are the odd occasions where we battle with Fr to see who has right of way ... invariably we defer to the higher power!! (Graeme Sharkey)

Society of the Sacred Heart

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart came to Dalkeith in 1975 when a small local community of four Sisters took up residence in "Westwood House", Newbattle Road. This was a second off-shoot from the Community at Craiglockhart College of Education, Edinburgh, the first having been a small foundation in Gilmerton, our neighbouring parish, two or three years before. A third small inserted community



was established in Ballingry, Fife.

The aftermath of the second Vatican Council [Oct 11, 1962 - Dec 8, 1965] witnessed considerable change in the Church and in the Religious Orders of apostolic life. This happened gradually over a period of time. The large institutional religious houses were no longer deemed necessary nor the best thing in a rapidly changing world. As religious reached the stage of first retirement, smaller inserted communities of three to five sisters were established, usually in parishes where specific needs were identified that, according to the charism of the Order, the sisters could help meet. I am sure many in the parish will still remember the late Sister Veronica Blount, who on retiring as Principal of the College of Education, identified Dalkeith as a parish where there would be scope for on-going apostolic work. "Westwood Community" was born with Sister Sadie and Sister Teresa Deasy as the advance guard to be joined a little later by Sister Veronica and then Sister Nora Smyth who was not retired and who went out daily to teach in Mayfield. At that time, over thirty years ago, the Sisters, were still quite active and able to engage in catechetical work and prayer groups, in regular radio-broadcasting and in parish visitation. Various sisters came and went over the years.

Meanwhile, State intervention radically changed the system of catholic teacher training, eventually closing our colleges, and lean years as to vocations gradually changed what had once been certain in the Church. Sisters were getting older and more frail. With no young ones coming into the communities, it was foreseen that there would be no-one to look after the elderly and infirm and that a Care Home would be necessary.

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3-year old Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name".  
~~~~~

To this purpose, "Rosehill", at 27 Park Road and adjacent to the Parish Church, was acquired in 1985. Since then, the building has gradually been extended, to a capacity sufficient to accommodate the elderly and infirm from our Aberdeen, Perth and Edinburgh Communities as need arises, giving them a caring environment within the ethos of religious life. The Westwood community was transferred to Rosehill in 1988.

Rosehill currently houses thirteen Sisters in the septogenarian, octogenarian and nonogenarian age brackets. Because most are no longer physically able to continue in active parish work, the main apostolate of the house is prayer and we are delighted when members of the parish ask us to pray for them or their families. One sister helps regularly with the project for the homeless run by the Sisters of Mercy at Lauriston. Some are still able to help with parish ministries, as readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and taking communion to the housebound. Some still do a little parish visitation. We like to be part of the parish's senior citizen group when there are activities for them or to invite the older parishioners to come along when the Care Staff organize some entertainment in the care wing of the convent. One recent innovation, about which everyone is happy, is the weekly parish Mass held in our oratory on Tuesdays followed by a "cuppa" for those who wish. The Mass is a real meeting point. (Sister Ethel)

St. David's Brass Band - 25 years old

St. David's High School Brass Band was formed 25 years ago by brass teacher John A Dickson, primarily with pupils from St. David's High and its feeder primaries, with encouragement from Head Teacher Thomas O'Malley and the Music Department at St. David's High School. Playing at many school concerts gave the players a taste of performing in an ensemble and a musical social life. The Band has played at many events throughout the years, including for the Princess Royal in Holyrood Park, and a broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland.

Band Players have also triumphed in Solo and Quartet contests over the years and have held the East of Scotland titles on many occasions. In 1986 the Band first appeared on the contest stage, winning the Scottish Youth title. It subsequently had the honour of playing in the Royal Albert Hall representing Scotland.

As players reached the end of their school careers, many wished to carry on playing and so St. David's Brass Band was formed. Starting from humble

beginnings the Band's stature grew and in 1998 it won the Scottish 4th Section Brass Band title, beating many adult Bands in the process. Playing at the National Finals in Harrogate later that year the Band was placed 6th. The same year also saw the award of Lottery funding, allowing the purchase of a complete set of instruments to replace the original ones, some of which were older than the grandparents of the children playing them.

A tour of Germany followed in 1999 with the Midlothian Twinning Association. The Band performed a number of concerts, including broadcasts on both Dutch and German Radio. Contest successes followed for the Band and its individual players in various competitions, including victory in the East Of Scotland Quartet competition, with awards for Band and player alike. In 2004, the Band's biggest success to date was to be crowned Scottish 3rd Section Champions with subsequent promotion to the 2nd Section.

Concerts take place regularly in the Dalkeith and Edinburgh area, with a Christmas concert rotating between the Churches in the town, all proceeds being donated to Friends of Midlothian's Children. The Band also plays at the Dalkeith Festival and other Gala events in Midlothian. All money raised is re-invested, helping to purchase new music and maintain the equipment.

The community band supports the High School Band and the Midlothian Schools Brass Band with music and instruments for the pupils to use.

The Band has its own website and forum which are regularly updated: www.stdavidsbrass.co.uk

There are many people Band members wish to thank for support over the years, too numerous to mention. Foremost is John Dickson, without whom none of this would be possible. We are very grateful too, for the many years support and encouragement given to us by the late Canon Liam Healy, especially in our 'homeless' days. Thanks also to the Parish Priests who followed him, not forgetting the Parish Community of St. David's who have supported, not only our concerts, but also our fundraising efforts for our long distance ventures, always with great enthusiasm. (Deirdre Kettle)

Medjugorje

Pilgrimage: Edinburgh to Medjugorje 15-22 September 2007.

Interested? Please contact Tricia Nugent 0131-331-2265. (Isa Duff)



Youth Group

Our second year got off to a fantastic start with the social evening which followed on from our second youth Mass! The support and enthusiasm from the parish was once again overwhelming. This event was our first serious attempt at fund raising in support of the youth visit to Lourdes to join in the festivities to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the apparitions.

Other events planned to support our cause are 'Tales of Old Edinburgh' which took place in March; Social Evening for over 30's with music from the 70's / 80's on the 19th of May; and a Folk Concert which is planned for June.

As always, in order to make these events a success we rely on the encouragement and support of our parishioners.

A meeting will be held in May to establish what criteria needs to be met to establish how many of our youth will be eligible to make the trip. This will be reported back in the next Parish Magazine! (Youth)

The Parish Choir

"And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."
(Hamlet V.ii)

One of the highlights of our modest Choir's life was a performance of "On that Christmas Day morn, when a new world was born" to the enchanting tune of Brahms' famous Lullaby. More recently we have been wary of doing choir-only items because of problems of imbalance. New recruits would be very welcome, particularly Soprano and Bass. If there were rewards for longevity, our loyal band of singers would benefit richly.

Although when faced with a sheet of music (what Eric Morecambe called "those funny squiggles") they may initially seem bemused, it's not long before their healthy blend of native talent, intuition and earnest practice produce the required results. We look forward to providing our share of the singing for Holy Week, Easter and beyond to First Communions and Pentecost.

So here's to the Choir up in their Minstrels' Gallery! Not angels perhaps, but possibly cherubim!

Anyone interested in joining us should please contact any chorister, or me at the organ.

(Frank Nicholson)

Children's Liturgy

The Children in the parish are still enjoying

their weekly meetings for children's liturgy. There was a short break over the Christmas period, and the liturgy will be suspended during the school summer break, but will start again at the end of August.

New leaders are required - both men and women - the more leaders involved the better. Not a lot of commitment is required, and leaders are only involved a few times a year. Please help if you can. Let Father Chambers know if you can help. (Iris Lawrie)

Gift Aid

Thank you to all who take the time to use the scheme. This is a valuable source of income which only costs the time of filling in a form and using an envelope.

For the tax year 2006/7, our reclaim from the Government will be £5,000 which is an increase of 80% on previous years. All envelopes for current members for 2007/2008 have now been sent out. If any other taxpayers would like to join the Scheme, there are forms at the back of the Church in the Gift Aid box which can be filled in and left in the box.

As an example - if you redirect a contribution of say £1.50 a week and you register for Gift Aid, the church can claim £110 back over the next 5 years from the Government purely for the fact you use an envelope.

Please call Jim Ewing on 441 6656 or Email ewingjtc@ukonline.co.uk for any further information. (Jim Ewing)

Ministers of the Eucharist

The new Ministers of the Eucharist seem to have settled in to their duties. The duties are carried out on a rotational basis. It is hoped to have a meeting with Father Chambers in the near future.

(Iris Lawrie)

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A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time".

~~~~~  
A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright girl replied, "Because people are sleeping".
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## Web Site

Our website has been up and running for over a year. It has a lot of information available e.g. current bulletin details for Mass times and intentions, diary dates, useful links - go on try it

[www.stdavidssdalkeith.co.uk](http://www.stdavidssdalkeith.co.uk) (Julian Kettle)

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

I should like to write a note of appreciation to S.V.D.P. Group and others who organise so much for the Senior Citizens of the Parish. Firstly the visit to Dobbies Garden Centre which heralds the start of the Christmas Spirit, our very nice Christmas Dinner and Party, followed by the Spring visit to the Theatre, and bus trip to Carfin Grotto.

For all these favours, many thanks to our benefactors and all concerned. (Anon.)

## St. David's H.S. Chapel & Chaplaincy

The pupils and staff of St. David's High are rightly proud of their small chapel and chaplaincy base. Having this facility is certainly a bonus and the envy of other schools.

The chapel can seat approximately fifty people. The altar was gifted to the school by the Passionist Fathers when St. Joseph's school and chapel in Tranent closed down.

There is a lovely painting hanging on the wall which was painted by a former Deputy Head teacher, Mr. Felix McCullough. Posters of Stations of the Cross hang on two of the walls. There is a keyboard in place at the back of the chapel which is invaluable for the various services which take place there. The sanctuary lamps are former miners lamps.

The pride and joy in the chapel are the two stained glass windows. The windows were designed by pupils in the school, and depict the life and work of the local community.

Our Blessed Lady and St. David are featured in one of the windows.



Agriculture, mining, fishing, engineering and Newbattle Abbey are also encompassed in these

beautiful windows.

The windows were created and painted by two Edinburgh artists, Ann Sinclair and John.



The money for the windows was raised through various fund raising events, which people from our parish generously contributed to, but the bulk of the money was donated by HBG who built the school building. The full beauty of the windows can be seen when the sun shines and the colours are shown brightly on the chapel walls.

The chapel was consecrated by Cardinal O'Brien. The chapel is widely used. Mass is celebrated every Tuesday lunchtime. During Lent, services of Stations of the Cross are held. The Rosary is recited in the chapel during May and October, whenever possible. Prayer meetings, etc. are held regularly. Staff and pupils also come to the chapel for private prayer.

The chaplaincy is a wonderful resource for pupils and staff. Chaplaincy staff man the room for most of the week. Groups of pupils meet in the chaplaincy for prayer and discussion. Pupils and staff also meet with chaplaincy staff on one-to-one meetings. At morning break and lunchtime the room is utilised by pupils as a drop-in base, and it can become quite crowded and sometimes noisy. Meetings between the Deanery Clergy and the core chaplaincy group take place several times a year in the chaplaincy. The chaplaincy core group arranged a very successful pilgrimage to Carfin during the first school term, and it is hoped to take another first year group to Nunraw during the summer term. Subject departments are invited to the chaplaincy for coffee and cakes on a rotational basis. The room has had many distinguished visitors including the Cardinal and the First Minister. There is always a warm welcome to everyone from the least of us to the greatest.

The St. David's R.C. High School Chaplaincy endeavours to build a community based on gospel values and to facilitate religious practice, and is witness to a faith presence in the school.

(Iris Lawrie)

## **Altar Serving**

When I moved back into the Parish in 1986, Fr. Gardiner, St. David's assistant to Canon Mohan asked me if I would get involved, take charge, and tutor the altar boys (no girls then). A daunting task for me then, as I was a raw recruit also. After some thought I accepted the position, and looking back now over the years I have certainly enjoyed the involvement, not just on the altar, but getting more insight backstage in the Sacristy!!

Over the years countless children and some adults have served in St. David's. What pleases me is watching the very young starting fresh, nursing them along and still see them serving for many years to come.

Outings to Drygrange, or indoor bowling, even a trip with Fr. Healy to Parkhead were great days out for the children. Fr. Gardiner used to encourage all children to serve. At one point I was looking after more than 30 children. In those days we had 2 or more priests, so the servers had to go on a rota. Christmas was hectic, as all the children wanted to serve Midnight Mass. Could be very cramped up there on the altar.

Two special boys, Alec & Sandie from the Faith & Light Group also served, but with their own handicaps, they ended up wanting to ring the bells all through Mass. On another occasion the thurible burst into flames because of the candle wax. Couldn't see Canon Mohan for the smoke!!

When Fr Healy came to St. David's he introduced different coloured albs for the servers to wear, white, purple & green. A picture of Killarney Football Team adorned the back wall in the Sacristy and all the servers had to bow to the team or else they would not serve!! Canon Healy even told the kids he played in that team and could they pick him out? Some did!! Canon Healy at first didn't want girls on the Altar, but after visiting the Primary, he was overwhelmed with the response for new altar servers.



Mostly girls came along, and St. David's has never looked back.

For every new priest the altar servers have adapted to their ways. The children on the altar are a great credit to their parents, grandparents, families and teachers. St. David's has a great bunch of servers who are loyal, dedicated, do their duties with respect and enthusiasm, and still have smiles and happy faces. I am sure this reflects on the congregation along with our P.P. Fr. Chambers. We are always looking for a new child to come along and serve, you never know where it will lead. (Ian Clarke)

## **War Memorial**

The wreath laying service on Remembrance Sunday was very moving and thought provoking for many people. The service was held after the 11.00 a.m. Mass and was well attended. I am sure this will now be an annual service.

The plants gifted from Lady Lothian's Funeral have now been planted around the memorial and will provide a colourful backdrop for many years.



Grateful thanks to the parishioners who assisted with the planting. (Isa Duff)

## **Counters**

The counting 'team' is made up of eight teams, who count the parish collection, candle money, and paper money on a rota basis once every eight weeks.

This is working very well and everyone has learnt very quickly how to make up the money ready for banking.

These teams have helped Fr Chambers and the parish enormously, and I would like to thank them for giving of their free time :-

Pat & Tessa, Sybil & Helen, Graeme & Lorraine, Marie & Barbara, Leo & Ben, Pat & Irene, Barbara & Isa, Kathy & Margaret.

(Barbara Nimmo)

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A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus".
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## **Other Recent News**

### **Success for local dog breeder**

Elgin is the name of the Rough Collie looking at you with success glinting in his eyes.

Eileen Forrest is the parishioner of St. David's who is a most successful dog breeder and show judge.

Eileen has bred a small family of Rough Collies who have managed to be successful in the show ring for the past 5/6 years.



Elgin has won Best Limit Dog in Dublin August 2006 at the All Ireland Collie - Sheepdog Society Championship Show. He also won his class at Crufts thus giving him the chance to compete for the Championship Ladypark Trophy offered by the British Collie Club.

We hope to print a fuller report in our next magazine, in the meantime check out the website [www.scottishcollielclub.co.uk](http://www.scottishcollielclub.co.uk) for more details.

### **Antonella, Marchioness of Lothian - Obituary**

ANTONELLA LOTHIAN, universally known as Tony, combined the resilience and humour of her father's Yorkshire roots with the warmth, vitality and style of her Italian mother, but she found her greatest sense of belonging in the Border country of Scotland which was her home for most of her 84 years.

She was born Antonella Reuss Newland in 1922, and spent her childhood both abroad and also in Suffolk where she had moved in 1928 on her mother's remarriage.

It was during those years that her knowledge of country life and people began to grow, as did her abiding love for the sea, both of which remained integral to her happiness and peace of mind throughout her always busy, and often hectic, life.

Tony married Peter, the 12th Marquis of Lothian, in April 1943 at the Brompton Oratory in London.

Born Peter Kerr, he had succeeded his cousin Philip Lothian in 1940 when he was 18. Their Christian belief, deeply strengthened by their shared Catholicism, was the foundation of their life-long commitment to the importance of ecumenicism and Christian unity, and also to their open-minded

understanding and acceptance of faith in all its forms. In 1995 Lady Lothian, together with the distinguished Presbyterian theologian Professor Tom Torrance, founded the Scottish Order of Christian Unity, a specifically ecumenical group dedicated to the encouragement and defence of essential Christian ethics, as applied to everyday life. She actively supported its work, in person and financially, for many years, and her financial support continued even when she was no longer able to play an active personal part.

Rev. Dr Dennis Wood, chairman of the Order's executive committee, said: "We are extremely grateful to her for all that she did on our behalf and feel that we have lost a staunch defender of the Christian faith. It is no small measure due to her that we continue to operate successfully."

Tony was driven by a huge curiosity, energy and courage to connect with all those she met, and also to fight for those people and causes that needed a voice to champion them.

She lived by Burns' maxim, 'A man's a man for a' that', and her column in the Scottish Daily Express from 1960 to 1975, as well as her inspirational founding of the Women of the Year Lunch in 1955, are a testament to her drive, charisma, and genius for finding ways to get people from all walks of life to communicate and become friends.

She made her closest friends from this diverse yet universal group: Valentina Tereshkova, the first Woman in space, Joan Armatrading, and Mikki Doyle, editor of the Morning Star, were some among a multitude of others.

It was the friendships and sense of community that she found in the Borders that were her abiding love and source of comfort, especially after Peter's death in 2004.

She skilfully and lovingly made a family home at Monteviot where her six children enjoyed the happiest of childhoods, but her greatest satisfaction was to restore Ferniehurst Castle to its rightful position as the Kerr family historical stronghold, and to let it once again become an integral part of Jedburgh life.

Nothing gave her more pleasure than taking part in all the great Jethart festival events, the Kirking of the Callant, and the ride out to Ferniehurst on Festival Day.

For her, wherever she lived, Jethart was always here, and her spirit will forever remain in her beloved Border hills.

*Obituary provided by Lady Dalkeith,  
and printed by kind permission of the Lothian Family.*

Lady Lothian's funeral Mass took place in St. David's on Monday 15th January 2007, followed by internment in the crypt.

The flower display in the church was magnificent and the flowers were kept on display for some time. The external display plants were transplanted to the foot of the war memorial for a perpetual display.

(Winifred Keeves)

### Sudoku Puzzle Solution

Our Autumn 2006 magazine had a Sudoku puzzle.

Here is the solution :-

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 |

*There were no entries for our Autumn competition - shame on all those pseudo-latin scholars out there.*

~~~~~  
One particular young lad prayed and prayed to God for a new bike as his main birthday present.

Once it was obvious that no bike was forthcoming, he stole one, then prayed to God for forgiveness.

Looking Forward

A 'Day for Life' Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's Cathedral by Cardinal O'Brien on Thursday 31 May 2007 at 12.45 pm. This year is the 40th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act.

The Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Friday 6 July – Friday 13 July 2007. For further details contact: Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd, 6 The Hillock, Astley, Manchester, M29 7GW (tel: 01942 888844).

The Silver Jubilee of the visit of the late Pope John Paul II to Scotland will be marked with a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at Carfin on Sunday 2 September 2007 at 3.00 pm.

St. David's Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2008 (150th Anniversary year).

Look out for fund raising events to support.

*This is our 2nd parish magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it.
Please pass your feedback and ideas for the Autumn 2007 edition, to Isa, Winifred, Brian or Julian.*

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A Selection of Spring Poetry and Pictures from our Primary School

Wake up everybody,
It's time to clap and cheer.
The winters gone and the day is fine,
And spring is nearly here

Spring is here,
And the sun is gleaming.
She floats in the air smiling and beaming.

Come out flowers,
It's time to play.
The snow has gone
For another day. (Emma Jane Glen, P6)

Picture - Lee Linton, P3



Spring has come,
Lambs are out,
Butterflies are beautiful,
Without a doubt.

Cows have calves,
Birds go tweet,
When they are hungry,
It is worms they eat.

The flowers are beautiful,
When they come up from underground,
And the best thing about them,
Is they make no sound. (Aiden Moffat, P6)

Picture - Natasha McDonald, P3



Picture - Caroline Cassidy, P3



Spring is great cause winter is gone.
People start their spring cleaning.
Riding and play all day long until the sun goes down.
It is to hear the birds sing.
Nice weather begins to come.
Gardens get nice flowers. (Joanna Waddell, P6)

Picture - Kieran Morrison, P3



Spring is the best time of year,
I can't believe it is here,
I love light nights,
They are great, wonderful sights.

March, April, May,
I like to go out and play,
I like to hear the birds sing,
I love spring. (Caitlin Mooney, P6)

Picture - Adele McGuire, P3



Spring, spring,
It's Easter soon,
There will be chocolate,
And eggs will be rolling down hills,
Spring, spring. (Kirsty McMahon, P6)

A grateful word of thanks to our sponsors