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St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Autumn 2010



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Parish Priest :

Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Valid during December 2010 and January 2011

Monsignor Allan.

Visit to Edinburgh of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI September 16th 2010.



I suspect had you taken a straw poll of the clergy in the weeks immediately preceding the visit of our Holy Father, the results would have shown a feeling of anxiety, and not a little fear and trepidation as to how this visit would actually go.

What would have caused such unease among the men in particular, who are after all priests of the Catholic Church, at the visitation of the Pope?

In answer to that question many other indicators need to be factored in, in particular the almost universal hostility from the media in the run up to the visit.

Both in the written press and on the television news of both BBC Scotland and STV there was a strong and dare I say unbalanced reporting on the ministry and leadership of the Holy Father.

At times I found the ferocity of the attack on the person of Benedict staggering from those who really should have known better, and from a media which failed to report the forthcoming event in an objective and balanced way.

Any attempt by Church leaders to respond was shouted down or worse rubbished and seen as part of the problem in supporting such a visit.

It is difficult really to think of any other religious or state leader who would have been exposed to such relentless attack, innuendo, and sustained public criticism.

These then I think are some of the factors that influenced the clergy in their feeling of apprehension regarding the visit.

However the reality for us was quite simply the opposite of what we feared. Certainly, to my delight and surprise, the visit of Benedict to our shores was a

wonderful event for us as Roman Catholics.

What I found especially welcoming was the 'tone' of his message and the hope and gentleness of the message.

This I think was particularly evident in his address to politicians in the Great Hall at Westminster Parliament.

Meeting head on the challenge of militant secularism, aggressive atheism, and in a way responding to all who had been so verbally violently critical of his visit, the Holy Father responded not in an aggressive way, but by gently and firmly restating to his audience that religion had something to offer all and deserved a place at the table of debate and reflection.

It was a masterful response to those who had questioned his right to come and visit us and once again caused others to pause and reflect on the society we have become and the values that we have allowed to shape and form us.

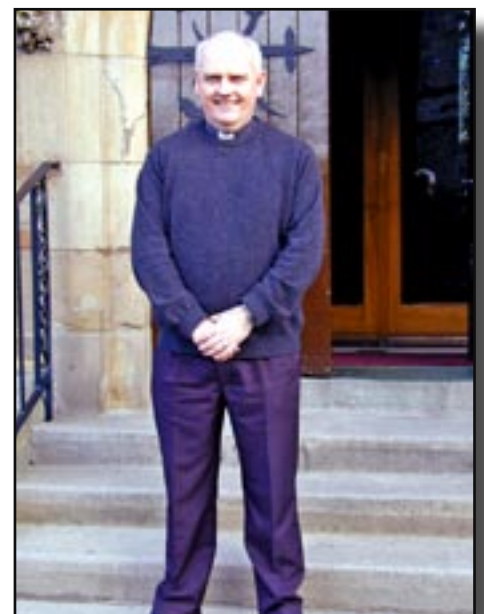
Reading many commentaries in the press afterwards it was evident that this was a message many had longed to hear spoken and were grateful for the way it was delivered.

On a personal note I was privileged as a Chaplain to His Holiness, the grade of monsignor, I was part of the entourage at the Cardinal's house for the lunch along with Monsignor Stephen Robson, parish priest North Berwick and Dunbar.

What we witnessed was indeed a most kind, courteous and gracious man who went out of his way to thank all who made his short stay at the Cardinal's home a welcoming experience.

An added bonus for me, which would pay off in my recent visit to Rome, was that I got quite friendly with one of the Pope's security men, who recognised me in Saint Peter's square on our visit last week and with his help and Cardinal O'Brien's support afforded me a further private moment with Pope Benedict.

Truly an unforgettable four weeks.



News from the Schools.

The Sacred Heart Convent and School in the Philippines.

This year 4 large boxes have been dispatched to the Sacred Heart Sisters in Montalban.

Everything sent was donated by parishioners from St. Luke's & St. Anne's, St. Mary's, Bonnyrigg and our own parish of . . . St. David's.

The box contents included school books, story books, paper, pencils, pens, children's clothing and footwear, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, games, etc.

The Sisters and teachers are very grateful for this help. Sister Yuka also wishes to thank everyone who contributes to the "Sponsor a Teacher" project, where a monthly donation is pledged to pay for a teacher's salary. This pledge is any amount from £2 monthly.

If anyone else would like to contribute to this very worthwhile cause please contact me.



Because of people's generosity, the school are now able to increase their number of pupils from 72 to 92. These pupils from ages 3 - 7 years old are fed daily in the school and receive an early education.

Many thanks for your continued support.
Iris.

St. David's High School - Chaplaincy. S1 Mass.

On Tuesday 5th October Monsignor Chambers celebrated a Mass for S1 pupils and their families and friends, in the high school assembly hall. The Mass was very well attended.

S1 pupils led the readings and bidding prayers.

After Mass there was a tour round the school, where pupils had the chance to show some of their work in the various departments.

S5/6 Music Evening

On Monday 4th October the S5/6 pupil chaplaincy group (known as "The Chaps") performed in a concert to raise funds for the Pakistan Flood Appeal.

The senior pupils organised and arranged the evening themselves, with just a little help from adults. The M.C. for the performance was John Pye, the Head Boy. There was a great variety of music and song, and the



whole evening was a great success, despite the fact there was not a large audience.

The musical talent in the school is a credit to the Music Department. A total of £200 was raised for the fund.

Well done "The Chaps".

S1 Carfin Visit.

On Thursday 7th October, 43 S1 pupils, 2 S5 helpers, 3 members of staff and myself made our annual trip to Carfin. It was a most enjoyable day.

For the first time in years the sun shone, and it made a big difference when walking round the grotto. The manager of Carfin had prepared quiz sheets about the Carfin Centre for the pupils to complete, and they enjoyed the fun of finding all the answers. The pupils visited the Grotto, the Exhibition Centre, the Reliquary, the shop, and the visit ended with a short prayer service in the Glass Chapel. The coach left the school at 9.30 a.m. and returned to school at 3.50 p.m.

The pupils were a credit to the school.



Marie Curie Cancer Care - Field of Hope.

While working with S2 pupils I was aware that many of them asked if we could pray for relatives or friends who were suffering from, or had died of cancer.

Because of this, and in consultation with S2 pupils, it was decided to try and raise some funds for cancer care. The fundraising took the form of planting daffodil bulbs in a "Field of Hope".

The pupils asked family and friends to sponsor a daffodil bulb at the cost of £1 per bulb. The bulbs were planted in the shape of a heart in the school grounds, in front of our small memorial garden. The daffodils should make a lovely show next spring. The bulbs were all kindly donated by Dobbies Garden Centre and Mayshade Garden Centre.

A final amount has not yet been reached, but at the time of writing this it is in excess of £250.



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

Pope's Visit.

Around 30 P6 & P7 pupils travelled to Edinburgh to attend the St. Ninian's Day Parade as Pope Benedict XVI visited Scotland in September 2010.

The pupils waved flags, held up a banner they had made, sang songs and added to the general atmosphere of excitement.



It was absolutely fantastic from start to finish, with the atmosphere and the excitement of the children. They found it really inspiring and are all still talking about it.

Some comments from pupils :-

"I think that going to see Pope Benedict was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It was a great day to see the leader of the Catholic community here in Scotland."

Caroline Cassidy, P7.

"I really enjoyed the parade and the pipers but mainly seeing the Pope. He is such an important person in the world and we can learn many things from his visit - I liked his German accent as well."

Carla Pinkney, P7.



The rest of the school held a prayer service and various themed activities on the day of the Papal visit. The whole school was involved in making a DVD which was played on large screens via a loop system throughout the day at the celebration at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow.

St. David's was one of only 20 Primary Schools in Scotland to be selected to create a 60 second long DVD celebrating Scotland's culture and diversity to welcome His Holiness, Pope Benedict, to Scotland.

The children really embraced the Pope's visit with enthusiasm and excitement. For every child in the school to have played a part in the preparations has brought relevance and meaning to the visit and it has brought the children's experiences to life.

The visit was not the end, it was just the beginning. The class teachers will put the message into a way that is meaningful and relevant in the day to day lives of the children.

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



Parish Outreach.



StreetInvest - Investing in children on the street.

Fr. Patrick Shanahan, President and Founding Member of StreetInvest, is well known to us here in our parish and three of our 'Good Causes' Teas & Coffees in Summer were fundraising for him.

For those not aware of what StreetInvest is about, here are some details from their website

www.streetinvest.org

Mission :-

StreetInvest supports investments in street children so that they can have their rights, needs and potential fulfilled. We do this through the training of professional and committed workers who serve as trusted adults in the lives of street children and by contributing to the investments the workers and children need to secure a real future.

Vision :-

Our Vision will be fulfilled when
"street children are just children".

Our work :-

StreetInvest supports the forgotten children living and working on the world's streets. We believe all children, including these street children, are worthy investments and that we can make a positive difference to their lives through the commitment of ourselves, our time and our money.

Children's needs are adult responsibilities. Street children all too often do not have trustworthy adults in their lives. Trained street workers are the professional and inspirational local adults who fill this role and are the key to helping these children. Through a unique, dynamic and adaptable programme based on almost 10 years' experience, we train street workers to work alongside street children. Trained street workers can tell us what children need and this will guide the other investments we will make to generate real returns for the children, the workers and those supporting us. StreetInvest is a small group of compassionate, experienced professionals with a businesslike approach to providing investments in favour of street children.

Crossroads.

The funds raised during our Summer Fun Day were split with half being donated to Crossroads.

Marie Fiddes, Service Manager, writes :-

Crossroads Caring Scotland is a national charity providing practical support for carers. We provide care in the home for someone who is ill or disabled so that their carer can have a break.

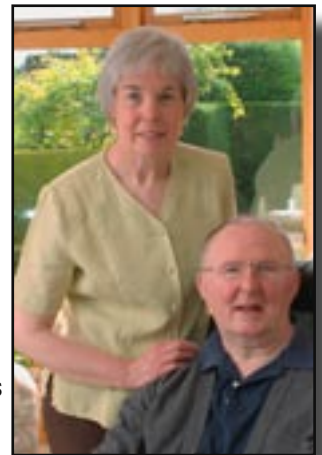
Such respite breaks can give a carer the opportunity to do the things that most people take for granted – go shopping, have a coffee with friends, read a newspaper, or even have an uninterrupted sleep. It can give them a chance to recharge their batteries and take time for themselves.

Our services extend to caring for individuals who are living alone and finding it difficult to cope.

Crossroads Care Attendants are trained in all different avenues of care including Dementia, Parkinson's disease, Mental Health and are trained to perform all of the personal care tasks that a carer usually undertakes which enables the carer to leave the person they look after with confidence.

"Crossroads makes the difference between sanity and depression." Trevor Callaway, North Berwick

Trevor Callaway rose high in the ranks of the financial world, taking on the role as Financial Director in large public sector organisations and also worked abroad for a few months on World Bank financed projects. At the top of his game, he was diagnosed with MS, at the age of 48.



Determined to carry on as normal, Trevor continued working in a high pressured environment. Inevitably, symptoms of MS were becoming apparent and after three years he realised he could no longer sustain the stresses of such a demanding job. Both Trevor and his wife, Jeanette, decided to take the opportunity to travel before the MS took over, and enjoyed trips to Alaska, Cape Town, Vancouver, New England and their favourite, Madeira.

Trevor is now 63 and, although wheelchair bound, is still able to maintain his independence with an environmental controlled system. Using his head to activate the control button, he can answer the door, make a telephone call, change the TV channel/raise the volume and play a CD.

Jeanette, Trevor's wife of 38 years, took early retirement to care for him. They managed for several years on their own. When things proved too much, Crossroads were brought in to provide home-based respite for Jeanette.

Mary, Trevor's care attendant, has been with him for the last four years. They have struck up a fantastic friendship over the time. As one might expect, Trevor uses his time productively, with Mary taking on a PA role. Once a week, Mary and Trevor work on the computer dealing with Trevor's emails, letters, filing correspondence and surfing the net... keeping Trevor in touch with the outside world.

Jeanette also has considerable confidence in Mary and is reassured that Trevor is being looked after properly. Jeanette, too, uses the break effectively, utilising her City & Guilds Parts 1 & 2 qualification, recently achieved, in Creative Embroidery and Design.

Regular breaks, through Crossroads, help Jeanette keep up with her dynamic husband. In her own words

"Trevor is a gregarious character and MS won't suppress him."

The last word from Trevor...

"Mary is part of my life. Thank you to Crossroads for making this happen."

A Crossroads service can be part of a package of support provided through their Social Work Department or through a social work direct payment. Some people prefer to fund it themselves. To do this you can contact the office directly.

If you feel that you or someone you know may benefit from the service please don't hesitate to contact the office where a member of staff will discuss your situation in confidence and, if appropriate, will arrange to meet with you.

Please contact;
Marie Fiddes, Service Manager
Crossroads Caring Scotland
East & Midlothian Service
Edenhall Hospital, Pinkieburn
Musselburgh, East Lothian
EH21 7TZ

The Mark Wright Project.

The funds raised during our Summer Fun Day were split with half being donated to The Mark Wright Project established as a charity in July 2009 with a very clear vision to support our ex-service men and women, ALL branches of the Armed Forces, in addressing post-conflict issues, and to provide hands on, active and practical support to help ease their transition to civilian life.

The Mark Wright Project has three broad aims :-

- To promote and provide participation in healthy sport, recreation, leisure and social activities for ex-service men and women suffering from combat trauma and stress
- To promote and provide post-conflict information, advice and support to promote the physical and mental health of men and women living in the UK suffering from combat and/or conflict trauma and stress
- To relieve the mental and emotional sickness of persons/families resident in Scotland suffering from bereavement or loss of a son/daughter killed or wounded in military combat.

The Mark Wright Project Centre at Eskbank in Dalkeith provides ex-service men and women with physical, social and recreational opportunities, and access to holistic therapies and counselling.



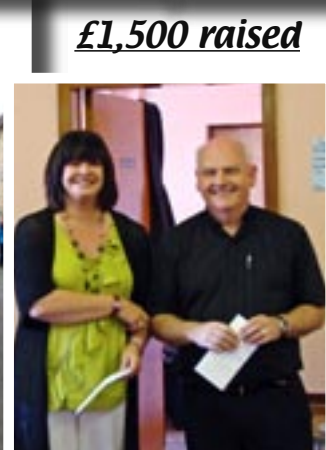
The Mark Wright Project Centre works collaboratively with existing veteran organisations and local and community organisations to ensure that ex-service men and women's needs are addressed and met.

Our Centre is dedicated to providing a person-centred, relaxed and informal environment where ex-service men and women can freely and openly discuss their issues and concerns, and be actively supported in accessing information, advice and services from a wide range of specialist organisations.

Nancy Campbell.

Parish Groups and News.

FunDay in pictures.



Lourdes 2010.

Lourdes 2010,
Friday 9th of July.

This year was different from the last couple of years, we hope that everyone in the Parish noticed the difference! The fundraising was less intense, the preparation was less worrisome and the anticipation of the trip was much more relaxing. This is not meant to be negative, but when you are responsible for someone else's child, 6 in the first year or 8 in the second year, then accompanying 4 of our more mature parishioners is a



parishioners feel, the desire to once again visit a place which means so much to so many.

We as helpers were delighted to experience firsthand what this trip meant and it was a privilege and a pleasure to be allowed to be part of it!

You may have noticed that we have started our fundraising for 2011! The thought of sending another group of parishioners be it as youth helper or as mature parishioner drives us to continue in our efforts to enable as many as possible to enjoy this fantastic experience.

Molly de Haan

(On behalf of The Lourdes group)

stroll in the park. Certainly when it came time for us to get some well deserved rest after a hard day at the Grotto, this year we knew where our wards were at midnight! (Remember our motto,

“What happens in Lourdes, stays in Lourdes”).

We are sure that most of you are aware of how much our youth enjoyed their time in Lourdes! For many it was their first time away from home without their parents and we became the surrogates.

This year the children of our mature group became the worried parents, who stayed behind, and once again the texts were sent and the loved ones at home were reassured of the enjoyment, safety and good health of our wards.

Lourdes is a magical place and everyone who visits whether as a youth helper, nurse or pilgrim who needs maybe a little more attention that they would get in one of the many hotels comes home with precious memories of a fantastic trip. We are sure that when all is said and done, our youth from the last two years will know exactly how our mature

Lourdes 1958 Centenary Year.



By chance, does anyone happen to recognise a very young Master Nimmo in the Lourdes 1958 Centenary Year trip photo on the left?

Lourdes 2010 - another perspective.

After many years of “*meaning to go*” I eventually visited Lourdes with the St. Andrews and Edinburgh Archdiocese’s Pilgrimage from the 9th to the 16th July.

I went as a Lady Helper which involved assisting the vulnerable, elderly, sick or disabled pilgrims from our parishes who were staying in the Saint Frai Centre in Lourdes. Helping these pilgrims in any way was a great privilege and both an uplifting and humbling experience. I was very moved by all those doctors, nurses and assistants who had been going to Lourdes for so many years working in the hospital on a voluntary basis and giving their time with such generosity of spirit.

It was also very impressive to see so many young people there with the Youth for Lourdes, such an affirmation of how many young people are actively involved in our churches.

The Grotto itself has a special atmosphere. Lourdes is very busy but among the hustle, bustle and excitement is this very holy place where there is silence and prayer, where candles are lit and people wait to bathe in the water from the hillside.

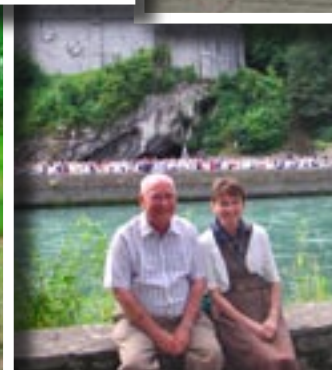
Throughout the week we celebrated Mass each day. We took part in processions, prayed at the Grotto, had a very meaningful Service of Reconciliation and a special service at the statue of St. Margaret of Scotland. It would be difficult to single out any particular service in such a lovely spiritual week but actually for me there were two which stood out and have remained with me since returning home.

One was the International Mass in the massive underground Basilica where there was a congregation of approximately 40,000 pilgrims. To be surrounded by so much faith and hope, with our own Cardinal O’Brien as the main concelebrant, made me proud to be a Catholic and proud to be Scottish.

The second experience which I found beautiful and spiritually uplifting was the Marian Torchlight Procession to the Basilica. Ahead of me and behind me, seeing thousands of people carrying torches and singing hymns, walking in faith and dignity I found totally moving and overwhelming.

Lourdes was a wonderful experience for me, being surrounded by people who were, whether young, old, sick or healthy, full of kindness and also full of fun. There in faith, not necessarily expecting a miracle, but experiencing a miraculous atmosphere of belief, trust, hope and love.

“If you are thinking of going to Lourdes, I would recommend it!” Patricia Barclay.



India Trip.

Written by Nadia Pinkney and Catherine McCann.

After a long journey halfway around the world, across quite a few time zones and the survival of plane food, we touched down in Bangalore Airport, India. As the plane door opened we were greeted by a warm, hazy atmosphere and stepped out from the plane onto Indian soil. A smile stretched across our faces. We were here.

The next few days, our first weekend in India, were all a blur as our bodies acclimatised to the new time zone, Indian cuisine, accommodation, heat and generally the Indian way of life. The large group of 32 to which we belonged consisted of 5 other Catholic schools within the Glasgow region and we all stayed in a Catholic youth hostel called Don Bosco Provisional House where there was a resident Priest – Father Thomas. Additionally we met a number of mentors who worked for the charity APD – which stands for the Association of People with Disability – who took us to the charity founded special needs school after school had ended for the day so we could get a feel for the place.

On Monday the 14th of June we were warmly welcomed by the Head Teacher, other APD mentors and the children of the APD School. They decorated the walkway with beautiful mendhi patterns and gave us roses as we entered. The school had organised a welcoming ceremony for us. The children performed a complicated dance for us and a comical drama. On this day we met for the first time lots of children as they were eager to shake your hand and talk to you in perfect English. Catherine was especially touched by the children's enthusiasm for school which they showed in everything they did. Similarly Nadia enjoyed playing with the girls and complimenting their plaits. We found out some of the specific varied disabilities of the children and were made aware that 75% of the children over and above their personal disabilities were hearing impaired or deaf. This readied us for the challenge of picking up some sign language!

During our stay, our larger group was allocated four areas of work. These were – Horticulture, Rural, School and Urban. We had chosen to work in the Urban project (which was a newly driven project aiming to expand and develop more APD schools into the urbanised slum communities) and School which meant we were working in the APD school we were welcomed into; this school became our group's base whilst we were working.





Week 1 was a truly enjoyable experience for us where we worked with the Urban Project. We worked with a collection of older teenagers between the ages of 16-25, whom had attended the APD School and had been selected for this further education, were now being taught life skills to be used in the workplace. Skills such as domestic skills, light gardening and paper bag making. We both had a go at paper bag making. Nadia was good at it and made perfect bags mastering the fiddly bits whereas Catherine made a soggy mess! Interestingly, the Urban project within APD has sealed a contract with Marks & Spencer to make Eco Bags for them. As our week progressed we were included in different activities with the youths such as morning physio exercises, dancing and the much loved Indian sport of cricket. The teenagers were consumed with competitiveness as they divided and began to play. We joined in but did not have the required skill needed to hit the ball with the cricket bat! Additionally to the work at the Urban project we visited the Dia Foundation that also trained youths to make paper bags, candles, chocolates, lamp shades and flower arrangements.

Secondly, we visited one of the poorest parts of the city and within its streets a small community school ran by APD for the severely disabled. In this emotional visit we passed many slums and met children who lived there. Our visit also included a trip to a public mainstream school where they converse in various Indian tongues such as Kanada (yes it's a language but it does sound like a country!). The language barrier didn't matter because the children were more eager to play with us than work because many of the children had never seen white people.

Our hard work was recognised and we were given a day off. But it was not one to laze around it was filled with a cultural visit (which suited us) to a Sacred Dance Studio. The grounds of the studio housed the dance studios and the sacred dancers. We spent our weekends seeing India. We shopped in Bangalore City centre, visited an art gallery with its own market, attended a recital of two Indian Gods and visited a Hindu Temple where we admired the numerous shrines and a solid gold altar.

As week 2 rolled in we began to work with the children of the APD School. The school day began with an assembly outside in the courtyard that consisted of a variety of prayers from the Catholic and Hindu religions. In one of the assemblies we even joined in a chorus of Happy Birthday.

The APD school catered for ages 3-15 with a pre-school and primary school. The children are split similarly into classes by ages like in Scotland but more importantly not by ability as APD strive to focus on the individual child's ability, challenging them and harnessing their talents. However the children are split into classes called 'standards' as opposed to primaries.

In the morning Catherine was assigned to 1st Standard (the equivalent to Primary 1) where she interacted with the children through counting with flowers (as there is an abundance of flowers in the Bangalore city) and drawing. A little boy named Ganesh drew her picture and coloured her skin in pink instead of white! In 1st Standard there were more deaf and hearing impaired children than usual which meant Catherine had to pick up sign language quickly so as to keep up with the lesson. Nadia was equally challenged when she had to read the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar' complete with funny voices and actions.

In the afternoon we had organised a lesson for the children on the solar system. We used a cloth stitched visual aid of the galaxy with the sun in the centre that was complete with Velcro planets and information cards. The children were using the information cards to figure out where the planets were placed in our solar system. This sounds a very hard lesson for the children but they jumped to the challenge and loved it. When the children had learned the position of the planets in the solar system we proceeded in showing them the wonders of papier mache. We made papier mache planets from balloons and newspaper that were relative sizes to the real planets, painted and strung them on a mobile. The children then focused on creating a tree with handmade decorative mendhi patterned leaves.

Unbeknown to us Scots, our presence had stirred some interest among the Indian newspapers. A news reporter and cameraman came to the school one day to report on our visit and the work we were doing. We were both pulled for an interview which was to be aired that night on national Indian news. In

addition to our TV fame, we were pictured with the children playing with bubbles in 3 local papers.

On the last day, we were given the chance to work with the pre-school children of the APD School. We went for a visit to a local park. The children loved the swings, slides, bouncy balls and balloons we had given them. Nadia busied herself with helping the children onto the slides and catching them at the bottom or sitting and sliding down with them. Catherine sang the old nursery rhyme 'Round and round the garden like a teddy bear' to a young boy who confined to his wheelchair couldn't use the slides. We both enjoyed the chance to work with these younger children as we were given the opportunity to play with children as opposed to work to a schedule.



As our time in India drew to a close we had to say goodbye to the wonderful people we had met during our stay. On our final day before travelling we were treated to another ceremony but now of the goodbye kind. The children sang 'Heal the World' for us and speeches were made. As we left we were given flowers, bindhi's (a dot on your forehead) and a goodbye carved figurine. We also shared some of our talents and some traditional Scottish songs were sung and equally long and grateful speeches were made by the Scots.

We departed from Bangalore tired but thankful and would undoubtedly miss India very much. Whether it was the comical experience of teaching

Indians how to do the Dashing White Sergeant or the touching moments when a child beamed at you as you helped them or the hard challenges we faced like the poverty or the culture shock we will treasure the memory. Whatever the challenge we faced we overcame it through the strength we were given by the nourishing support and comfort we were given by our families, friends, our Indian family and the extended parish community of St. David's. We would like to thank you the reader, a member of St. David's for your support, kind words and your generous donations towards our target which financed our journey.

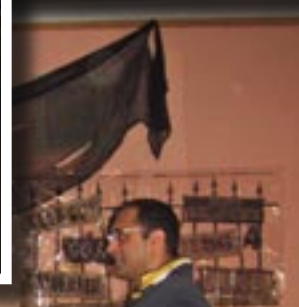
We thank you earnestly once again.

Halloween Party.

Everyone, children and adults had a fantastic time at the Halloween Party!

Scary witches, wizards, vampire bats, skeletons and Pirates from the Caribbean! Pretty fairies, pumpkins and cats! Spellbinding food and sweets hidden in sticky slime.

Fun for all ages!



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St. David's 200 Club.

Here are the results of the questionnaire given out around the end of September :-

- OPTION '3' - 37%
- OPTION '2' - 30%
- OPTION '1' - 26%
- OPTION '4' - 7%

Option '3' has already been put in place for this session. To refresh your memory this option was to cost **50p/week for 20 weeks**. There will now be two 20 week sessions a year, an increase to monthly prizes of 2x £20 and a **"Grand Prize Draw"** with prizes of £200, £100 and £40 at the end of each session.

As for how the money raised should be used, the result of the St. David's Jury were as follows:-

- c) For maintaining an emergency repair fund, 94% YES.
- a) For small maintenance work in the church, 88% YES.
- b) For a parish project e.g. Children's Liturgy etc., 86% YES.

As these percentages were so high we decided to go with all three this year and review them in a year's time.

- d) Help make John a millionaire, for those who voted 'YES', you are obviously very charitable and intelligent people.



I would like to thank all who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

URGENT.

We still need more members, so please come and join us to help make a better parish.

Numbers are available after Sunday Mass in the church hall.

Pedal for Scotland 2010.

Sunday 12th September was a lovely crisp morning, as the McGrath family set off for Glasgow Green for this year's mass cycle event.

There was great excitement in the air as this year they had introduced a 'family event' in addition to the full round cycle from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Connor and Mum (Pauline) were looking forward to completing the family event, Dad (Graeme) was doing the full event and Granny (McGrath) and Joseph were also travelling to provide much appreciated moral support and to be the keepers of the considerable picnic that had been prepared.

First task was to drop Dad off for his early start. A final cheer and shout of good luck were given by all, then it was off to park the car and remove the bikes in preparation for the big event. Despite being early for the family event, there were still many hundreds of cyclists in the park heading to the starting line for the full cycle and as Connor, Pauline, Granny and Joseph mixed in with the crowds in Glasgow Green anticipation for the big off was building.

Having been early Connor and Pauline made their way to the starting line for the event and found themselves in the front row. Shortly afterwards others joined behind in line and Connor found himself shoulder to shoulder with Mark Beaumont (the fastest individual to cycle around the world) on the starting line. Connor being Connor conversation followed with Mark being quizzed on how he had actually managed to cycle around the world 'on the sea'. Anyway, Connor soon realised the 'hooter' was about to go and prepared himself for a fast start against Mark Beaumont.



Then it was time, the 'hooter' went and they were off, Connor made a very fast start and left Mum (Pauline) behind a considerable way. After the first 0.5 mile Connor found himself neck and neck with Mark Beaumont, who then turned to Connor and said "*Is this pace ok for you?*" to which Connor

replied "*yes it's ok, but to be honest my Mum and me usually go much faster than this*".

This comment seemed to rock Mark Beaumont, who stopped his cycle shortly after 0.5 mile, much to Connor's surprise.

Anyway.....onwards Connor went with Mum (Pauline) catching him up and them completing the full 6 miles together (4 times around Glasgow Green). At the finishing line Connor and Mum received their gold medals, a well earned drink of water, a cuddle from Granny and Joseph and a tuck into the ample picnic. Not long after they had packed their bikes onto the car and were heading back to Edinburgh to see Dad arriving back from his cycle.

It had been a great family day out for all and a good deal of exercise into the bargain.

Connor had decided he wanted to donate some sponsor money he had collected to the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home, so the following Friday Connor, Joseph and Dad (Graeme) all made a trip down to Seafield so Connor could hand in his sponsor money. Connor was greeted at the reception by a kind lady, who took Connor's money gave him a little certificate and arranged for a guided tour of all the dogs and cats at the complex.



The Dog and Cat Home were very pleased with Connor's contribution and took a photo of him and published the following details on their website.

"6 year old Connor McGrath took part recently in the 'Pedal for Scotland' family event and managed to raise £40 by cycling 7.5 miles. A fantastic achievement for someone his age.

Well done, Connor!"

A walk down memory lane from 1933/34.



Parishioners pose on the church steps after Mass. Do you know anyone in this photograph? Photograph kindly lent by Margaret Orr.

Visit to Ukraine.

I have just returned from yet another visit to the Ukraine. This time I was invited to visit L'viv, a very interesting old town in the west of the country. I was there ten years ago when the women there were just getting together to see what they could achieve. I arrived, on that occasion, by train. It was very hot and I was dirty and smelly as I had been travelling for several days in the same clothes as my luggage was lost on the way. However, I was welcomed and taken on a clothes shopping expedition. To add to the problems then, there was a water shortage so there was water for only two hours a day!

To avoid the awful train travel, over night from Kiev, I flew in which was much better, and I had my luggage.

In the last ten years, the Soroptimists have achieved much with the help of friends from Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Luxemburg. I visited two hospitals, the first was a children's hospital where they treat eye and teeth problems and the second catered for maternal health.

Some 80km from L'viv, lies a large coal mining town with a coal enriching factory. This has led to technogenic pollution of the environment and resulted in high levels of fluorine, and the salts of heavy metals (lead, cadmium and strontium) in the drinking water. This has caused serious injury to the



teeth so that the children suffered constant tooth ache as well as other health problems. A new water pipe line helped but could not cure the damage already done.

Children rarely smiled. With funds and equipment from various countries, treatment now manages to save about 80% of the children's teeth. Children now smile. The buildings of the hospital are still very run down so again funds are necessary. The rooms are being restored one at a time as money is available so it is a slow job. Equipment is better, but as much of it has been donated by richer countries that are modernising, it is 'old-fashioned.'

The maternity hospital is also striving to do a good job with limited resources. Again, the rooms are being modernised as money becomes available. While I was



there, the Danish group unveiled a plaque showing that they had collected the money to do up two rooms.

The main problem at the hospital, as the superintendent pointed out, is the water supply and drainage.

"All medical instruments necessary for operations get spoiled very quickly because of the poor quality of the water.



It is not possible to cook meals using such water, either. The industrial filters are necessary. The pipelines are in a critical condition. They often get clogged up, stop functioning and give out a bad smell. The centre is financed from a state budget which means constant lack of money for everything."

I then moved on to the capital, Kyiv where I have made many friends over the years. The group of women there have been supporting a school/orphanage for blind and partially sighted children. When I first knew the project, the requests for help were usually for basic essentials, such as potatoes or bedding. Now, the requests are for equipment to help the children lead happier lives and to prepare them for life after they leave the school. The money has come from various sources including Munich and Edinburgh. I was able to give them a small cheque from the women of Edinburgh. The women in Kyiv also raise money through various schemes. For example, they are willing to teach Russian and look after anyone who would like to spend a period with them. They can also organise a sightseeing tour, lasting about a week, around Kyiv for any foreign visitor.

All the women that I have met in the Ukraine are very imaginative when it comes to raising money. For example, some years ago, on World Women's Day, the group of women in L'viv refused to do

any housework and barricaded themselves in a centre. They had collected small things, such as key rings, flowers, cheap jewellery etc. If the husbands wanted their wives back, they had to buy one of these small gifts and present it to their loved one! Would this work in Dalkeith?

One Family sees the Pope in Edinburgh.

For us a day off school is quite exciting then going into the city on a double decker bus adds more to the adventure. So only when we were on the bus did we begin to talk about Pope Benedict and why he was visiting the UK.

Princes Street was busy but St. Andrew's flags were everywhere, as were people in high visibility vests directing others to crossing points on the street.



The atmosphere was one of happy anticipation. We spoke to people around us, families like us who wanted to witness this great day, tourists who happened to be in the city and office workers who were extending their coffee breaks to join the crowds and be part of this occasion.

We watched the clock on the Balmoral, time passed quickly once we had found our perfect spot. Then suddenly there was murmuring, pointing and fidgeting further down the street. There was the Pope Mobile with the gentle, tartan-draped figure smiling and waving to us all. We saw his Holiness for a few clear seconds then he was driven on past us. I was surprised at



how emotional I felt and the children were really excited to have been so close to his Holiness. A few moments we will all remember and share in the future.

Bridget, Euan, Lorna and Gregor Mackay

Mary's Meals Open Day 2nd October 2010.

This was the first time that I attended the annual Open Day. It was truly inspiring. I will not give a full account of the afternoon but pick out the items that moved me.



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow told us how he started Mary's Meals. In the early days, his work was to ship goods from Scotland to Bosnia to help the poor people after the war. He recounted how he visited an old friend and neighbour on one occasion and was offered soup. He noticed that this lady used a mug to ladle out the soup. On asking what had happened to her ladle, she explained that she has given everything that she did not actually need to him for Bosnia.

Later Magnus went to Malawi at a time when there was famine. He asked a boy what his ambitions were and received the reply,

"Not to be hungry and to go to school."



This inspired him to set up Mary's Meals, a way of feeding children and getting education for them.

While the main thrust of this charity is to feed the children, it also gets involved in helping in times of disaster, but only if they are already working in that area.

For this reason, Magnus went out to Haiti within a few days of the disaster hitting and offered help.

Two of the workers from Haiti who were paying a very brief visit to Scotland, gave accounts of the conditions after the earthquake struck. Both Fr. Tom and Doug had to be pulled out of the collapsed

building and then went on to pull others out. They gave a graphic account of the choking dust that got into the lungs of the people who were buried and their horrible death. In one building they managed to get

everyone out except two who Fr. Tom buried



outside his tent. Fr. Tom described how every time he shuts his eyes he can still see mothers asking if their child is alive or children asking if their mother is alive. All he wants is a world where children do not die of starvation.

At the end of the afternoon, we were offered a tasting of the porridge, Likuni Phala, that is served in Malawi schools. It consists of maize, sugar, soya beans, powdered milk, salt and other essential minerals. It was very tasty and filling.

Magnus has been named a Top Ten Hero of CNN for 2010 and will receive £15,000 for this on 25th November.

Just a note from the Choir . . . 🎵

There was once an old lady of Tring
Who, when somebody asked her to sing,
Replied; *"Aint it odd,
I can never tell "God
Save the Weasel" from "Pop goes the King.""*

No such problems for our Choir. They know their *"Morning has broken"* from their *"Day is done"*.

They may perhaps quaver to distinguish minims from semibreves, but one does not get too crotchety over that. Once launched, they chirrup as blithely as the blackbird on our beech-hedge.

Nevertheless, new volunteers for the male voice section would boost the sound. Ability to read music is not essential, but it helps.

We were very glad to have Emily from Wisconsin joining us during her studies in Dalkeith. Now, from far in the other direction, we welcome young Iryna from Ukraine and wish her a happy time in Scotland.
Frank Nicholson.

Looking Forward.

- **Sunday 28th November 4.00 p.m.**
- **Annual Dedication of Crib and Carol Service.**

This will take place on the First Sunday of Advent, in St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh. The location will also be where the Nativity Scene by the artist Tim Chalk & gifted to the City by Sir Tom Farmer will be sited throughout the Christmas season. The event is free and open to all. You are invited to be part of this seasonal Christian witness & celebration. It will be led as usual by Cardinal O'Brien and leaders of the Churches in Edinburgh and the Lord Provost. Music will be led by the Exile Choir in partnership with a school choir.

St. David's . .

- **Saturday 4th December - Christmas Hop.**
- **Sunday 5th December - after 11.00 a.m. Mass**
Nativity Play practice.
- **Friday 10th December - 7.30 p.m. St. David's Brass**
Christmas Charity Concert
in St. Nicholas Buccleuch Church,
High Street, Dalkeith.
- **Saturday 11th December - 12 Noon - 5 p.m.**
SVDP Christmas Lunch.
- **Sunday 12th December - 1.00 p.m. Pantomime.**
Buses leave sharp after 11.00 a.m. Mass.
- **Saturday 18th December - 7.30 p.m.**
Christmas Dance.
- **Sunday 19th December - 2.00 p.m. Nativity Play.**
- **Wednesday 30th March 2011 - 7.30 p.m.**
St. David's Deanery Lenten Station Mass.
This Mass will be held in Our Lady of Loretto
& St. Michael's, Musselburgh. All welcome.

• **11 – 23 August 2011 - World Youth Day, Madrid.**
Our group of 70 young people from the Archdiocese, who will travel to this great event to celebrate their faith with young people from all over the world in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI, is almost complete. You need to immediately contact **anne.mcevoy@staned.org.uk** if you wish to apply.
Please pray for the success of this special pilgrimage and for our young people and their leaders world wide as they begin to prepare.

This is our 9th 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 663-0556.*

CAVALIERE



“Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year”



High Street

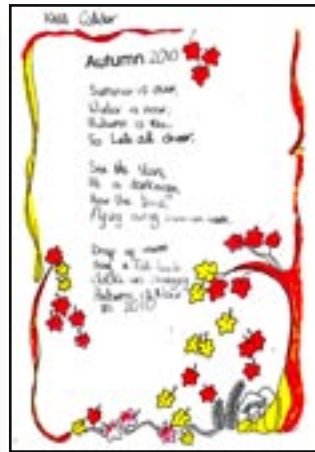
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Children's Page.

Some illustrated poetry by our Primary School pupils.



First Communion.



Names in alphabetical order :- Aleksandra, Alexander, Cameron, Ciarán, Dawid, Kacper, Rebecca.

