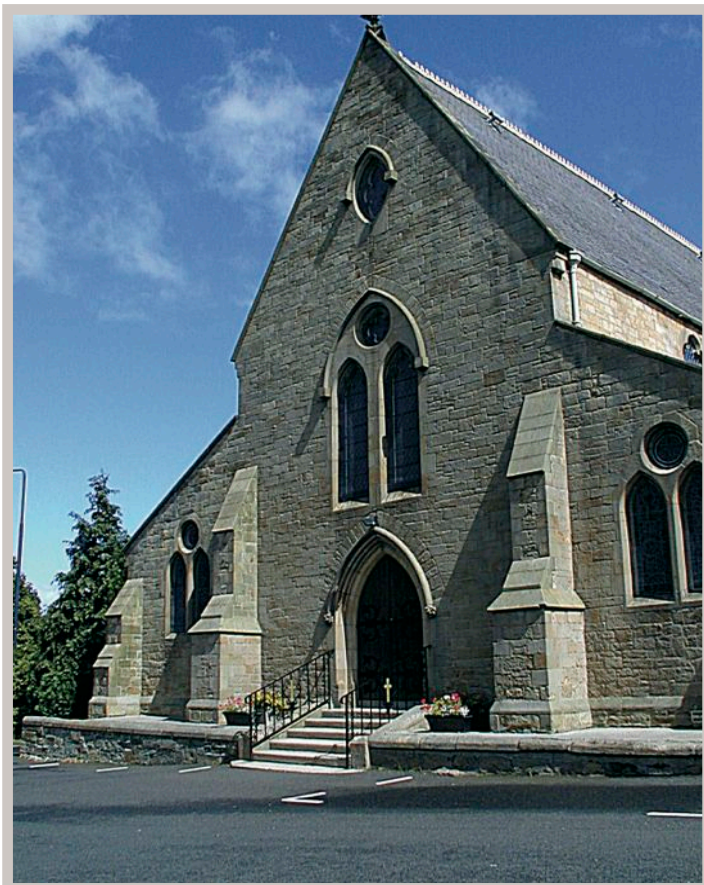


*This magazine is free - please take one home.*

# *St. David's Dalkeith*

## *Parish Magazine*

### *Autumn 2011*



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**Parish Priest :**

**Monsignor Allan Chambers**

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## **Monsignor Allan.**

May I first of all thank the editorial team of our magazine for their dedication and hard work in producing the latest edition of what has become a regular part of parish life here at St. David's.

As the saying goes, magazines do not knit themselves or run off the press or lap top unaided.

While as ever grateful for all contributions from so many and so many interesting articles, the hard work comes in the compilation and promotion, to say nothing of regular pleas in the weekly newsletter!!

So I sincerely thank our very dedicated editorial team for all they do in producing yet another edition.

Incidentally and I think a bit of a feather in the parish's cap, word reached me from one of our larger Edinburgh city parishes that envious glances were made over our last edition!!

I think there was a feeling that if we can do this how come they couldn't. When enquiry was made as to how we produced it and I told them of the editorial committee they were impressed !! If possible please be supportive of our sponsors.

### **REFLECTIONS ON WORLD YOUTH DAY REFLECTIONS MADRID 2011.**

Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup> until Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup> saw me accompany the Cardinal as his chaplain out to Madrid for World Youth Day 2011.

This would be my second World Youth Day the first being in July '08 in Sydney Australia. Consequently I thought I had a fair idea of what I was heading into, however as a prominent theologian once wrote,

"Our God is a God of surprises," and so for me that turned out to be true.....but in a positive way.

As indicated I had gone with the Cardinal in the same capacity to Australia three years ago.

The Sydney experience was good, but because of the time in getting there and the fact we had already been on a shortened Lourdes pilgrimage a few days before the Cardinal that time did not take part in the three days of catechetics.

This year he did and for me that was the big difference that added much to the experience.

The catechetics is a three day workshop in a local parish. The local parish will host the young people, some may even put some of the youth up in their homes, arrange the venue for the Bishop or Cardinal to give the talk and thereafter provide lunch and an opportunity to mix and mingle informally.

The Cardinal had three different events and three different groupings of young people each day. They came from a mixed group of countries, Ireland, England and Scotland were all well represented of course. Of particular interest to me were a young mixed group from Dubai and some of the other United Arab Emirate countries.

Once the Cardinal had delivered his talk, which was always well received, there would be a fifteen minute break and then a re grouping with the opportunity of questions from the floor on a varied mix of issues but all related to our Faith, its practice, and how they could go on making a difference in a world which was, as they put it so well, "not faith friendly".

Going back each day in the car after, we would chat together about the experience and how impressed and encouraged we both were to hear so many young people taking such an active interest in their faith and how best they can spread the good news of Jesus.

Another significant highlight for me was taking part in the Saturday night vigil out at the military airport south of Madrid.

The day was very hot and as the evening came so did the clouds and the clouds brought their good friend the rain and not be outdone at this party, the rain brought his pals thunder, wind and lightning!!!

All in all an incredibly wet and wild experience.

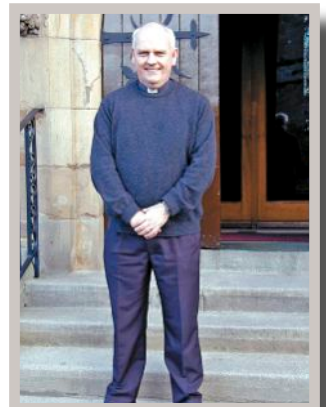
Through it all sat looking like a kindly grandfather was our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI getting just as wet as us and just as windblown. In spite of the best efforts of his staff, he too got soaked, but simply sat there smiling, waiting patiently for the storm to pass which of course it did.

He was listened to by 1.4 million young people in a very profound silence. At the conclusion of his shortened talk the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and Benediction given.

Incredibly, from where I was, there was not a word spoken, simply an intense and very moving silence as these young people, priests, bishops and Cardinals led by our Chief Shepherd knelt in silent adoration and prayed before Christ truly present to all his family gathered from all the nations of the world.

It was very memorable and very uplifting and again as in Sydney a privilege to be part of it.

God Bless you all,  
Monsignor Allan.



## **News from the Schools.**

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

#### **Very Positive HMIe Report.**

Congratulations to the whole school community on what was an extremely positive report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Key strengths highlighted of the school include:

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

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

#### **New Staff Team.**

We welcome to the school three new teaching staff in Miss Chidgey, Mrs. McLeod and Miss Fallon to complement our remaining staff of Mr Wedlock, Mrs. Golabek, Mrs. Lumbard and our Principal Teacher, Mrs. Young.

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

#### **St. David's Primary Achieves National Award.**

St. David's Primary School's efforts to improve the local environment have led to National recognition from the prestigious John Muir Award. John Muir's life and work has inspired people all over the world. Born in Dunbar in 1838, John Muir emigrated with his parents to the United States where he campaigned for the preservation of natural environments through his work as an environmentalist, geologist and botanist.

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It encourages

awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. Four Challenges are at the heart of each John Muir Award;

**discover - explore - conserve - share.**

St. David's focused on the immediate environment around the school and local community with each class taking responsibility for identifying an area, planning their improvements through exploring the area and how it could be used better and then improving and managing the environment - the focus being for people as well as encouraging wildlife back into certain polluted or run-down areas.

The final challenge was to 'share' these achievements and 'in a spirit of fun and adventure' the school organised a Garden Party to celebrate their success. Welcomed by the sound of St. David's Junior Brass Band, the whole school community turned out in their fancy hats, party dresses and smart clothes. Each class then presented their achievements and celebrated the improvements they had made to their chosen environmental area.

The event concluded with the final of 'St. David's Got Talent' in the school grounds also, in order to highlight further the many ways in which we can use our environment for fun and activity. Our upper school classes also produced a record of the process they went through to achieve the Award to share with our partner primary school in Haiti.

Mr Currie, Head Teacher, said, *"I am immensely proud of the efforts of each and every child in the school as they endeavour to take John Muir's lead and improve natural environments both in the school grounds and that of the local Dalkeith community"*.

The next step for St. David's Primary is to continue this effort through the life and work of the school and to lead on from the Discovery Award to the Explorers Award.

#### **The School Theme August - *Enterprise through the Arts:***

Over an eight-week period our children have been engaging in activities



across a number of areas of the curriculum related to our school theme, *Enterprise through the Arts* – a key focus of our interdisciplinary learning experiences.



The achievements of the children were celebrated with a **'sharing the learning'** event with parents and carers where each class was responsible for organising an art exhibition and presentation of their learning through their enterprise activities and other expressive arts, such as music and drama.

It was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of the children and staff team and the turn-out from parents and the local community.



It was an excellent opportunity to involve the parents and school community in our children's learning and achievements and to celebrate their incredible talent and confidence.

Our School Theme continues throughout the school session as follows:

### **School themes for the coming session:**

*Term 1 - Enterprise through the Arts*

*Term 2 - Our Global World*

*Term 3 - Scotland: its history, culture and heritage*

*Term 4 - Health and Wellbeing - The Olympics*

### **Active St. David's - Promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing.**

#### **Football :-**

Our boys and girls football teams performed exceptionally well at recent festivals in Dalkeith and Poltonhall. Thank you to Mr. Cunningham for his coaching expertise and motivational speeches!

P3 and Miss Fallon have also been enjoying weekly football coaching with an SFA qualified coach.

Our after-school football clubs from P1-7 continue to develop the stars of the future – thanks to Mr. Cunningham, Miss Fallon and Mr. Wedlock for their dedication to the National Cause.

Keep up the good work!

#### **Tennis Festival.**

Congratulations to everyone in P4/5 and P7 who participated in Midlothian's first ever Tennis Festival. Special congratulations to

Victoria Hutchison, Amy Canavan,

Stephen Ramage and Matthew Corbett.

Each pupil not only won their league but managed to do it undefeated, each winning their four games. Future Wimbledon champions, perhaps???



**Zumba** has arrived at St. David's for P3, 4 and 5 children and takes place every Tuesday after school. Contact the school office for further information.

Mrs. McLeod has started St. David's first **Athletics Club** running every Thursday after school. It might be a bit soon for the London Olympics but Glasgow 2014, watch this space!!!

These additions to our after-school activities complement the ongoing dedication and commitment of Mrs. Golabek and Mrs. Jones and our parents with the **Gardening Club**, Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Waddell with our fantastic **Basketball Team** and our very 'street' and 'hip' **Dance** coach, Laura Reynolds.

Without their time and enthusiasm these opportunities would not be available so we thank them for their support and efforts.

### **Library visits.**

We are presently in the middle of weekly visits to Dalkeith Library to help broaden our children's experience of reading and to celebrate reading as an enjoyable past-time. Congratulations to Anthony Archibald, P3, who won a competition run by the Library and received first prize of a doodle book.

### **Characters from a Book Fancy Dress Fun Run.**

As the climax to our Book Fair Week, the children decided to have a Characters from a Book Fancy Dress Fun Run. The Fun Run took place around our new turning point area and was supported by a host of parents/carers. We would like to thank Mrs Kettle, not only for her efforts with the Book Fair but her organisation of the school library every Thursday throughout the school session – her passion for reading and her commitment to the school and the children knows no bounds! Thank you.

We have agreed that all donations received will go towards our **East Africa Famine Fundraise Appeal - Children Helping Children -**



we will continue to raise funds for this throughout the school session. Please contact the school should you wish to contribute to this.

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

website: <http://stdavidsp.smgfl.net>



## **St. David's High School.**



### **News from St. David's High School Chaplaincy:**

It is good to see all the new S1 pupils settling in to their new school. They have all visited the school chapel and chaplaincy. During the month of October we have spoken about prayer and the rosary, and we recited a decade of the rosary for their intentions. On the run up to Advent and Christmas we will be making wreaths for the school chapel and the R.E. classrooms. It is usual for S1 pupils to make a visit to Carfin at the beginning of October, but this has been postponed until nearer Easter.

Before the end of the summer term a very successful "Seasons for Growth" programme was organised for some S1 and S2 pupils, and it is hoped that this will be repeated for other pupils during the Spring term.

There was a great number of S5/6 pupils applied to join the senior pupils chaplaincy team this term (they call themselves "the chaps"). I don't know if it was just to receive one of the very sought after chaplaincy badges!! (I will be in trouble with them for saying this). We have 18 members at the moment. They are planning several charity events and are writing up an Advent calendar for the school. This is the third year that the pupils have organised their own Advent calendar which is displayed in every classroom during Advent - if any parishioners would like a copy (free of charge) it should be ready at the end of November.

As one of the charity initiatives the seniors are organising a Christian Rock Music Concert on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 7.00 - 8.00 p.m. in the school assembly hall, tickets are £3 and family tickets (2 adults and up to 4 children) are £8. The proceeds

from this event will be donated to the Philippines typhoon appeal. Many children have again been left homeless after the typhoons at the beginning of October. The proceeds from other charity events will be donated to Mary's Meals and Teenage Cancer Groups. They are a very hard working and enthusiastic group.

### **Rome Trip for Senior Pupils.**

At the end of June, 3 members of the teaching staff and myself accompanied 26 pupils on a trip to Rome. It was a wonderful experience. Apart from all the sightseeing the highlight of the trip was on the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul where we all attended Mass in St. Peter's. Pope Benedict was the main celebrant at the Mass. Despite the Mass lasting four hours everyone enjoyed the experience. The only down side was that one of the pupils was sick during Mass, and they were sick in someone else's new hat! I am sure that visit will go down in history!

Iris.



### **Rome Trip 2011.**

The 'I love Roma' T-shirts could not have been a more apt phrase for me to describe my enjoyment in Rome in June. My camera could not be prised from my hands. I found that the buildings had such beautiful character and the narrow winding streets were utterly gorgeous. The constant sunny weather was also particularly foreign for me and greatly welcomed!



Our group, of current 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils, were whisked around the various sights that Rome had to offer such as the Trevi Fountain, Piazza Novona, The Coliseum





and the Vatican. We actually managed to visit the Vatican twice because we first went for a look at the spectacular marble and the next day for a special Papal Mass. I found the visit memorable as it was the first time I had seen the Pope in the flesh.

I would honestly recommend everyone to go and see Rome for themselves because I felt it had so many exciting and new things to offer. And even for the unadventurous type, the food was amazing!

Katharine

### **Auschwitz-Birkenau Trip 2011.**

Mark Lawrie and Catherine McCann, two pupils from sixth year were fortunate enough to be selected to go on a one-day trip to Krakow, Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. The famous Nazi concentration camp was the largest ever built and it has been estimated that between 1.3-1.5 million people perished in the gas chambers there of which 90% were Jewish. The other 10% were Poles, Soviet Prisoners of War, Roma Sinti, Jehovah Witnesses and Homosexuals. Some agree that only after visiting a death camp a person can truly understand the sheer magnitude of the loss of life and persecution suffered by these individuals.

The Holocaust Educational Trust actively engages many young people across Scotland in their

'Lessons From Auschwitz Project', which has proven to be deeply moving and of great value to those involved. St. David's has in total put forward four of its senior pupils in the past two years namely Sarah Buchanan and Rachel Gold from the previous year.

Both Mark and Catherine are genuinely interested in History and so in consequence were happy to board a 7 a.m. flight on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September for their day trip to Poland along with 202 students of similar ages and teachers from the Edinburgh region.

On arrival, the group visited a Jewish cemetery to acknowledge a traditional Jewish burial. Then Mark and Catherine were taken on a guided tour to Auschwitz concentration camp. They saw the living conditions of the working prisoners and various rooms filled with their stolen possessions. Behind glass cases stood piles of shoes, suitcases, prosthetic legs, glasses and even two tonnes of human hair. Mark commented that,

*"Since I have stepped foot in Poland I have lost the ability to laugh or smile."*

Also on the same note Catherine said that,

*"The visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau made me realise that the people behind the figures are actually real. The realisation of this sheer loss of life was chilling."*

Finally the group visited Birkenau, the branch of the death camp that housed the gas chambers and also where experiments on women and children would be carried out. The camp built by prisoners contains the iconic watchtower found in the film 'Schindler's List.' Then to close the day a reflection was given by Rabbi Marcus from London.

The experience will never be forgotten and with this mentality Mark and Catherine intend to present back to their school their experiences to try and emphasise the importance of a zero tolerance to racism.

Catherine & Mark.



## **Parish Groups and News.**

### ***Annual Carfin Day Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September.***

Annual Carfin day was Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

At just after 11 a.m. our party of some thirty parishioners set off by coach for the Marian Shrine of Carfin.

The weather was ideal.

Coming off the M8 there was a minor hitch in direction finding which sent us off into the depths of the country. A backtracking operation corrected our itinerary.

The party alighted at the Carfin Centre and gathered in the hall where picnic lunches were consumed and the excellent soup on sale was enjoyed (so thick a spoon would stand up in it).

At 1 p.m. scores of visitors gathered at the main grotto and formed up into a long column to begin the Rosary Walk. It was very uplifting, yet very relaxing, to say this prayer in solidarity with a large group of people in procession on a beautiful day in the setting of Carfin. There was much to aid reflection, such as the sculpture of Blessed Pope John-Paul II seen in our first picture.



At 2 p.m. Mass began in a very full church, a joyful gathering of the Vincentian family in honour of St. Vincent de Paul. The chief celebrant was emeritus Bishop John Mone of Paisley diocese (see our next picture) and the

homily was given by Fr. Michael McCullagh CM. Other leading figures included Michael Balfour, National President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Sr. Marie Raw DC, Provincial of the Daughters of Charity and Sr. Kathleen Appler DC, General Councillor of the Daughters of Charity.

Liz Ann O'Hare conducted members of the deaf choir who signed the hymns during the liturgy. Bishop Mone is himself an enthusiastic signer so the event was a veritable Sign Zone! There is something very striking about signing as applied to the liturgy – a graphic picture to convey what is being sung, said or read.

After a wonderful Mass some time remained before setting off for home and this was spent in the Visitor Centre shop and cafeteria.

Our final picture shows some of the St. David's party about to board the coach for the return



journey. A more comprehensive photo call had been planned but by this stage most of the party were ensconced aboard and decanting the coach might have been a little unpopular!

John Holden.

### ***Children's Liturgy - help needed.***

The organisers of the Children's Liturgy are looking for volunteers to help. If anyone is willing to help perhaps they could speak to me after Mass.

Thank you.

Iris Lawrie.

### ***Trophy Winner.***

Trudy wins another trophy for our champion dog breeder Eileen Forrest!





## ***Please help our First World War database in Midlothian.***

2014 will mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. This promises to be a time of major national commemoration and reflection.

In preparation for this event, Midlothian Library Service and Archives has started a major research project about the local area and the war.

The research project has two aims :-

- To record all First World War memorials in the Midlothian area.
- To research the individuals named on memorials with the aim of creating a Roll of Honour for Midlothian.

The First World War had an enormous impact on Midlothian. Almost every family was affected in some way and many local men and women lost their lives. Both during and after the War, numerous memorials were raised to commemorate local loss. Some of these are well known local landmarks, such as the memorial in Dalkeith Public Park which lists over 170 names.

There were also many smaller and less well known memorials which were placed in local churches, workplaces, schools and clubs. Over the years, some of these have been moved or destroyed.

The Library Service is seeking information on any memorials to the First World War, especially less obvious ones which may be hidden away in buildings. Some people appear on more than one memorial whilst others were never recorded although their deaths were mentioned in local newspapers. The names listed on memorials will be added to our database of Midlothian casualties.

The Library Service has already recorded over 60 memorials in Midlothian and over 1800 names have been added to the database. In addition, we have had the Midlothian County Council memorial restored and re-hung in the Council Chambers in Dalkeith. A memorial to the Penicuik Co-operative Society has been rescued from destruction and will be re-sited in future.

We are also trying to locate several other memorials that have gone missing, including the Dalkeith High School memorial, the Penicuik Free Gardeners memorial and a framed series of photographs of Bonnyrigg soldiers.

The database will become a great resource for family history and also will help to preserve memories of the fallen.

The Library Service has produced a leaflet listing town and parish war memorials in Midlothian. Copies are available free of charge at local libraries.

Councillor Peter Boyes said:

*"I hope that local people will support this project. The Library Service recently restored the Midlothian County Council war memorial. Originally, it hung in the Council Chambers in Edinburgh, but was put away for many years when the building closed. The memorial has been re-erected in Midlothian House, Dalkeith where it is a striking feature near the Council debating chamber."*

If you know of any First World War memorials in Midlothian, please contact Local Studies on 0131 271 3976 or email [local.studies@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@midlothian.gov.uk).

## ***Weddings!***

We congratulate our recently married parishioners and spouses and wish each couple a long, happy and blessed married life.



## Parish Cycle Club.

We formed a parish cycle club on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The aims and objectives of the Club are to promote cycling by providing the opportunity for 'fun' cycle rides to the St. David's, Dalkeith Parish, it's Club Members and their guests. Membership of our club is free.

At the initial meeting our keen cycling parishioners 'volunteered' their help as follows :-

Chair: Bridget Mackay.  
Treasurer: Brian Nimmo.  
Secretary: Julian Kettle.  
Ride Leaders: Bridget Mackay, Alec Crow, Graeme McGrath, John Kettle, Julian Kettle.

Committee: Barbara Nimmo

Our club is affiliated to the Cyclists Touring Club - a national cycling organisation which provides advice, information and most importantly ride leader insurance. Our members can also choose to join the CTC for a modest annual subscription which provides them with personal insurance during rides.

Most of our 7 Fun Rides have been along the Dalkeith-Penicuik railway path, we usually get about as far as Rosewell or Roslin Castle Station with the youngsters before fatigue sets in. For variety, one ride was along the Ormiston-Pencaitland railway path, the youngsters and their bikes were ferried to and from the start by car/van. After each ride, back at the hall, home baking and drinks are consumed during the après ride chat.

If we have enough ride leaders available on the day we can form 2 groups, one for the fit cyclists and one for the not so fit or very young riders. Each group will have a leader and a sweeper

upper who tails the group and can fix bike problems. It is important that any youngster who is cycling is accompanied by a cycling parent or guardian.

*"I enjoyed cycling all the way to Penicuik which I had only done once before."*

*"I like finding the pictures on the ride to Ormiston and enjoy talking to Julian."*

*"I really like the cycling after church. I like coming home when it is all downhill."*

*"I always want to be at the front beside Gerry (waiting for him to fall off his bike!)."*

*"I had fun doing it . The baking afterwards was nice."*

*"We're waiting on Monsignor signing up for the next one!"*

*"We have all enjoyed the cycle rides as a chance to get together with different people, to chat and cycle at the same time."*

*"Its great to see all the places of interest that are right on our doorstep."*

*"Definitely a good afternoon out for us all!"*

As you can see, below, we will have to get some secure bike parking installed to allow the many bikes to be locked up after rides or during Mass once we get more people cycling to church. We have done some initial fundraising to go towards the cost of club equipment and installing secure bike parking, please support us when we do some more.

We have probably had the final ride of 2011 by the time you are reading this, but we are planning more rides once the weather brightens up after Winter. Most rides will probably be on the Dalkeith/Penicuik cyclepath

as that is just across from the church and is very suitable for young riders or those who wish to avoid road traffic. We will throw in the occasional ride for variety where we drive to and from the start, there are some very nice 'disused railway' cycle paths in East Lothian and the Borders which are not very far away.

Bicycle maintenance is a skill which most people lack, luckily we have available a reservoir of knowledge and access to bike tools in the cycle club. You will be encouraged to learn how to look after your bike and to keep it in a fit and safe condition, ready for regular use.

Maybe you would eventually like to go cycle touring/camping in the UK or Europe. Come and find out about this fantastic leisure activity.

You are cordially invited to join our cycle club whatever your age and level of cycling experience, young and old, beginner and experienced. All you need is a bike!





2011



Julian Kettle, Secretary

## ***Philippines - this time a family trip!***



It was great once again to visit the children in the Sacred Heart School in Montalban. I enjoyed having the company of my daughter and granddaughter on this visit. The last time I was there 42 pupils had enrolled, this time there were 97 pupils - the school is bursting at the seams. It was worth the long journey just to meet up with them all again. I could not believe how grown up the nursery pupils were from my last visit. I was able to communicate with them more this time as their English had improved. There are two nursery classes in the morning and three tutorial classes in the afternoon with classes starting at 7.00 a.m. and the last class finishing at 6.00 p.m. Whatever time the classes finished - morning or afternoon - the children were served a meal before going home.

Sister Yuka asked the parents if we could visit their homes so we could see their living conditions. We felt very emotional after seeing how the children are forced to live. Some of their "houses" consisted of roofs and walls of corrugated iron sheets and most were one small room which was used for living, sleeping, cooking and washing. We were greeted warmly by every parent. Although conditions are so bad, everyone appears happy and no one seems to



complain. The children who lived in the fields near to the school had their homes flooded and washed away by the typhoons which happened at the beginning of October. This is the second time they have lost their homes in 12 months. We were unable to visit some areas because there were people who were suffering from Dengue fever.

Whilst we were there we met volunteers and Sacred Heart Sisters from Japan, Germany and Mexico, everyone trying to help and bringing their own talents to the children.

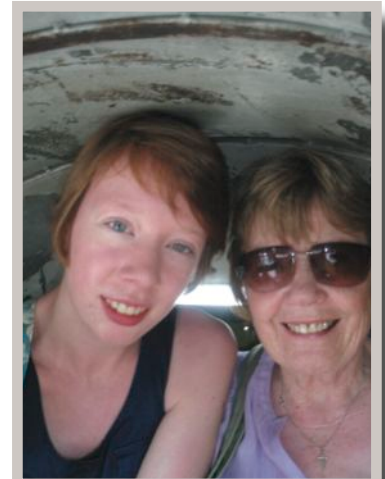
The youth who had themselves been educated in their early years in the Sacred Heart School entertained children and toddlers in the school on Sundays and cooked a meal for them. It was a day they all looked forward to. It was the rainy season, and when it was not raining it was very, very hot. The heat and rain certainly brought out the creepy crawlies which we don't see here! We all took turns working in the kitchen, so we experienced different types of food!

We met up with Sister Deirdre O'Brien when we visited Manila, it was great to see her. She has been living and working in Manila for a few years, but when we met her she was preparing to go to China for three months to teach English to young men hoping to join the seminary. She is truly a wonderful person and I don't think she ever means to retire.

Sister Yuka asked me to thank all the people in St. David's and St. Luke & St. Anne's parishes once again for all the material and financial support the Sacred Heart School receives from them. She is overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of our parishes, without this support there is a lot they could not accomplish. The scheme for "Sponsor a Teacher" is still going strong with people donating from £2 a month by direct debit. If anyone else is interested please let me know.

Thank you once again for all your support and interest, despite the fact that there are many other worthwhile causes which you will contribute to.

Iris.





The children in both nursery classes were eager to learn English and I introduced them to the Jolly Phonics programme which involved teaching the children sounds. The phonics programme has a picture to go with the sound and also an action and finally a song. We had a lot of fun doing the action and the song for each of the sounds. The nursery practice was based on the Montessori approach and there was a lot of time for playing which the children, myself, my mum and Katharine really enjoyed.

I have to admit that I most enjoyed working with the older children in the afternoon tutorial classes because they were highly motivated to learn all aspects of the curriculum. The children and their families really value education and view it of central importance for the children's future. I was able to help the children with their science lessons and in particular Biology which is the subject I taught when working in school. I learned a lot from the children about the flora and fauna of the Philippines. The average class size in the state schools was 50-60 which is much bigger than class sizes in Scotland. The two teachers in the school started work at 6.30 a.m. and finished at 6.00 p.m. Monday- Friday and they worked extremely hard. The teachers also worked on a Sunday with the youth and this involved collecting children from the streets and bringing them to the school for activities and food. I was really impressed by the work rate and the values of the teachers and vowed never again to complain about my work in education.

Sister Yuka who runs the school is an amazing woman who has achieved so much for the children and their families in Montalban and her love of the people she works with is clear for all who have the pleasure of working with



her. I found it very hard leaving the children when I had to return to work but I will return at some point to work in the school. One highlight of the trip was meeting up with Sister Deirdre O'Brien who I worked with for many years in providing religious education for catholic teenagers in the Scottish Borders. Deirdre is based in the Philippines and works on formation programmes for those entering the priesthood and religious life. Sister Deirdre is 80 years old and still working - what an inspirational lady!



Katharine, my mum and myself had a wonderful experience working at the school and we were humbled by the staff who live out their faith on a daily basis by loving and providing for the poor. We all shared one room and every night Katharine and I had to go on a lizard hunt to make sure there were no lizards in the room - it was usually about 2.00 a.m. when my mum woke us up and shouted that a lizard was in the room!!!!!!!

Our lives are enriched by the experience we had and we will continue to try and support the school which runs entirely on charitable donations. I have overall responsibility for all schools in the Galashiels area and two primary schools are adopting the Philippines school as their charity and I am doing quite a few assemblies about school life in the Philippines.

Anne-Theresa (daughter).



## My Life Changing Journey to the Heart of the Philippines

The following text contains a few extracts of the diary I made on my recent trip to the Philippines. I wish I could include more as there were so many magical moments, but I have chosen a few which reflect the main themes of my visit. Before I start I would like to say thank you to my Gran, Iris Lawrie, for introducing me to the St. Madeleine Sophie Foundation, and for letting me share this unforgettable journey with her.

Day 1 - We drove for two hours from Manila airport to Montalban. What struck me was how crowded this little island seemed. Miles and miles of corrugated iron houses, built almost on top of each other, looking as though they were going to collapse with the slightest breeze. People would just be sitting on the street watching the world go by, as the relentless traffic roared past. We passed almost every type of shop imaginable - eateries, nail salons, opticians, bakeries and more, all of which looked like nothing more than old huts. It was like the forgotten world - just poverty and decay. I wondered where you would start if you wanted to help this country. It seemed so hopeless, and this was only the first day.

Day 7 - The St. Madeleine Sophie Foundation is just inspirational. I have really grown to love these children already - it's impossible not to. They are all so happy, well behaved and eager to learn - very different from the attitudes in our schools. It is so great to teach the older children and see their improvement so quickly - they are so smart. They just need a chance. Teaching them English gives them more of a chance. I think this is the type of work I would like to do in the future. And the staff are the warmest, most hard working and uncomplaining people I have ever met. They are so happy to have visitors, and they have become like family to us. They work miracles in what seems like a hopeless state of affairs, and they do it with a constant smile on their face. This is the type of person we should all look up to and aspire to be like.



Day 13 - It is getting hotter and hotter each day. The heat is unbearable. And I miss normal food.

A digestive biscuit and a cup of tea would be good right now. They found I liked pineapples though so they bought me twelve! They taste so much better over here.

Day 15 - Before the tutorial class today one of the teachers took us around the neighbourhood so that we could see where the children actually live. It was so eye-opening.

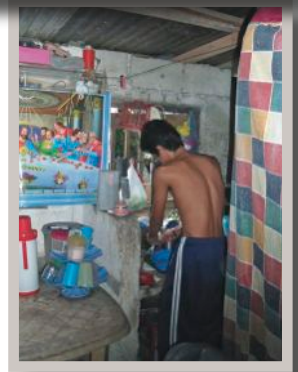
Because we have got to know the children, it felt very close to home and personal when we saw their houses. It was shocking to see the conditions between the lovely school and the surrounding streets. Tiny tin huts, flies, chickens, dogs everywhere, with everything covered in a layer of dust.

Micko (a 4 year old with the most gorgeous smile) had a big polystyrene float outside his house which they hold onto when their house is submerged in floodwater. It's so sad. Micko is the second youngest of nine children. Seven of them live in that tiny hut. But the mother was so happy. All of them were smiling in fact, all happy to meet us, welcoming us. Such kind and friendly people. If only more people in the world had the same attitude as them. Why should I get to live in such lovely conditions when millions have to put up with these degrading conditions?

Day 27 - Just about to leave. I'm going to miss this place. These people never catch a break, yet they seem far more fulfilled than we do. I have learned so much about a world that I knew existed but never fully understood. I have met inspirational people and felt the true warmth of Christianity. God truly is here with them. Whatever happens I will never lose contact with SMSF and I will never forget the life changing experiences that I have had here.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated, and would help feed and educate these beautiful, yet unfairly disadvantaged children.

Katharine (grand-daughter).



## St. David's High School Christian Rock Music Concert

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 7.00 -  
8.00 p.m. in the school assembly hall.  
tickets £3, family tickets are £8  
(2 adults and up to 4 children).

**The proceeds from this event  
will be donated to the Philippines  
typhoon appeal.**

### Choir Up-Date . . ♪

#### Brave New Words

The new words are nigh! Raise the banner!  
In our memory they throw quite a spanner!  
But it can't be too hard;  
We'll get help from a card,  
And it won't even cost us a tanner.

New words mean new music. We look to adapt,  
But to wait for a widely spread version's more apt.

*"Coming soon!"* claims the printer,  
But he's no Bolt the sprinter.  
If it's not here for Advent,  
his knuckles get rapped!

Frank Nicholson (Organist).

### Budding Artist!

Many of you will recognise Alan, a quiet, reserved and gifted young man with a wicked sense of humour, who usually attends the Saturday Vigil Mass. A former pupil of St. David's Primary and Secondary Schools, Alan was successful in 2010 in obtaining an apprenticeship in something he loves, Art.

Despite many hurdles to overcome throughout his life, Alan is a remarkable young man with a great talent for Art.

In September 2010, Alan embarked on an apprenticeship with a Gallery in Edinburgh and has flourished through hard work and talent.

Alan's Art Development Worker Paul Penrice says, Alan Lucchesi, 22, is currently in his second year of a two year creative traineeship at The Gallery on the Corner. He works two days per week and is based in the gallery's Newtown studio where he creates artwork with his colleagues as part of his training programme.

Alan has been concentrating on a collection of artwork based on Edinburgh landmarks. His latest piece 'The Duke of Wellington's View' is a large black and white acrylic painting of The Balmoral Hotel and Alan's fifth piece to be sold.

The success of Alan's art has been down to hard work and the talent of a young artist with a unique style. His work continues to grip the imagination of the New Town faithful who are seeing their city in a new and exciting way. Alan's work is exhibited at the gallery throughout the year.

Alan explains, "Working at the gallery is good. I like earning money from making art...Focussing on painting has really helped me to learn more about art and I think its good people like my paintings".

Opening in March 2010, The Gallery on the Corner fully represents and supports inclusive artwork and crafts produced by artists who have a physical or mental health condition. It provides a platform to exhibit and sell artwork in a high profile location in the heart of Edinburgh's gallery district. The gallery was the first social firm from Autism Initiatives UK. These social firms are being set up to create employment opportunities for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions.

The Gallery on the Corner  
34 Northumberland Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 6LS



## Lourdes 2011 July 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

A Family Affair or the best thing I've ever done!  
After helping with the fund raising and attending special Masses for the last three years, I decided this



year I wanted to find out for myself what all the fuss was about!

I was always

impressed by how Lourdes made Molly feel, she always came back refreshed, but at the same time telling me she never works as hard as when she is in Lourdes. So this year I decided to see for myself.

As a new recruit I was totally unprepared at how I would react to this completely new situation. I remember saying at one stage I didn't think I would be able to carry out some of the tasks, and was told that everyone should work within their own comfort zone. By the end of the week I was fully involved with the whole Lourdes experience and more than willing to participate in all aspects of the pilgrims care/journey.

This year the parish took Victoria Muir and Mick and Rena Kennedy as sick pilgrims.

On the first day I took Mick Kennedy out for a stroll through the domain and after coming back to the San Fre (hospital), I took him back to his room, parked his wheelchair where Mick told me to park him and low and behold he stood up and walked to his bed!

I thought Hallelujah this is a miracle!! But then I remembered that he always had some mobility.

For the torchlight parade I was asked to carry the banner which I happily did, during the parade there where so many pictures taken of me that it made me feel really

special, until I turned my head around at some point to find that the Cardinal had entered the parade and was walking behind me (one of the proudest moments of my life).



For those of you who have been to Lourdes you will know exactly what I mean, for those of you who have thought about going but never quite got there, take it from me this was by far the best experience of my life, for the pilgrims who accompanied us, a huge thank you for allowing me to be part of this very special experience.

Obviously more than a few photos were taken for posterity, and the saving account has been opened for Lourdes 2012, who wants to join me?

As Victoria Muir said  
*"It was a holiday for the soul."*

Leo.







## ***Cycling Home from Paris.***

I am cycling on a road in the middle of the night somewhere in the north of France, although it may as well be anywhere. This is because I am in fact absolutely nowhere, and I have absolutely no-one to share it with: I have not seen a car for at least an hour, a person for at least three. There is not

even the haze of artificial light on the horizon to betray the presence of any nearby conglomeration. I have utterly miscalculated the length and duration of what seemed to be a straightforward route and to tell you the precise time would constitute an overly rapid initiation into the insanity of the situation in which I find myself.....

This represents a still rather vivid memory from the first night of my recent 'holiday', in which I cycled from Paris, where I work, to Dalkeith via Belgium and Holland in five days. In fact at that point the fun was only just beginning; I had much more to look forward to: a horrific puncture at the most inopportune moment; seemingly innocuous country roads which turned out to be major routes connecting different epicentres of northern Europe; inscrutable directions and labyrinthine cycle paths; and a pretty nasty dose of bad weather on the last leg from Newcastle to round it off. One question of course immediately suggests itself: why bother?

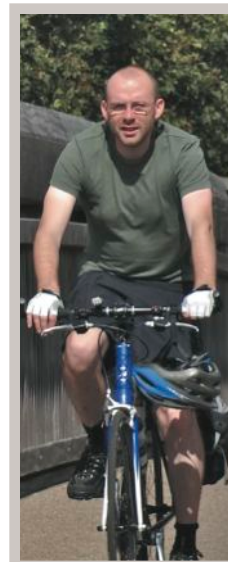
Why indeed? Well to reconstruct a little more that scene from the first night, I have stopped at a crossroads originally to check my map, but now remain transfixed. The moon is intensely bright.

The stars are so clear and the horizon so open that I might as well be in a planetarium. The only object obstructing the view is the lone signpost in front of me, taking on somewhat the aspect of an axis mundi. The place names on it have become irrelevant; it may as well be indicating the route to the big dipper sharply engraved into the patch of night sky directly above and gesturing almost bullishly downwards. Slightly later I entertain the possibility of sleeping on a field somewhere near the road, not simply out of exhaustion, but also because on this calm summer night it seems like the most natural thing to do in the world.

A good cycling trip is one in which moments of serendipity balance out the moments of tiredness, stress and indeed anxiety which come inevitably with them. You should of course bring equipment to prepare for all eventualities: given long enough, everything that can happen will happen and it is better not to learn this the hard way.

Minimizing exposure to some of these possibilities can also be accomplished by marginally underestimating, rather than seriously overestimating, how far it is possible to cycle in a single day. This should by no means, however, preclude a degree of openness to chance, the element on which such a trip thrives and which in the language of the country from which I set out slides from its English sense of 'randomness' towards that of 'good fortune'.

Terence Holden. 



### ***Child Protection, Awareness & Safety.***

All existing and new workers with children, young people and vulnerable adults must read and act on the following policy statement. Contact any of the Parish Team for further guidance.

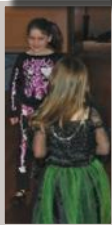
**“The Catholic Church in Scotland is concerned with the lives, safety, wholeness and well-being of each individual person within God’s purpose for everyone.**

**It seeks to safeguard the welfare of people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organizations.**

**As a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us, ordained, professed, paid and voluntary members, to work together to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect of children, young people and vulnerable adults.”**

St. David’s Parish Team (0131 663 4286) Mgr. Chambers, Ginny Hamilton, Karen Hamilton, Brian Nimmo.  
Archdiocese of St. Andrew’s and Edinburgh - Office for Safeguarding Support 0131 623 8943.  
National Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

# Halloween Party Time!



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## **Looking Forward.**

### **November :-**

#### **•25<sup>th</sup>—27<sup>th</sup> Sports Ministry Training Weekend.**

Come along to this brilliant weekend which will help you to link your passion for sport with your faith and enable you to help others to do the same. Gain new coaching skills and qualifications, learn from those working in the field of sports ministry and explore how you can use sport in your church, organization or community. More information about this event is available from [alan.gray@yfc.co.uk](mailto:alan.gray@yfc.co.uk)

#### **• Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 12.45 p.m.**

##### **Celebration of the Feast of St. Andrew.**

The Concelebrated Mass for the Feast of St. Andrew will take place in our Cathedral. The Principal Celebrant and Preacher will be Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien. All welcome.

### **December :-**

- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas Hop.**
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Christian Rock Music Concert**  
7.00 to 8.00 p.m. St. David's High School assembly hall.  
Tickets £3, Family Tickets £8  
(2 adults, and up to 4 children).
- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> - SVDP Senior Citizens' Dinner.**
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 2.00 p.m. - Pantomime 'Cinderella'.**  
Bus leaves St. David's at 1.00 p.m.
- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - Nativity play in afternoon.**  
Mulled wine after.
- **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> - CHRISTMAS DAY.**
- **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon.**  
**Annual Mass for Feast of Innocents.**  
This Concelebrated Mass will take place in St. David's Church, Dalkeith, all are welcome. The Preacher will be Mgr. Allan Chambers and there will be refreshments in the hall after.

***This is our 11<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 663-0556.*

# Children's Page.

## St. David's 1st Communion Day 2011.



### Some artwork from our Primary School.

