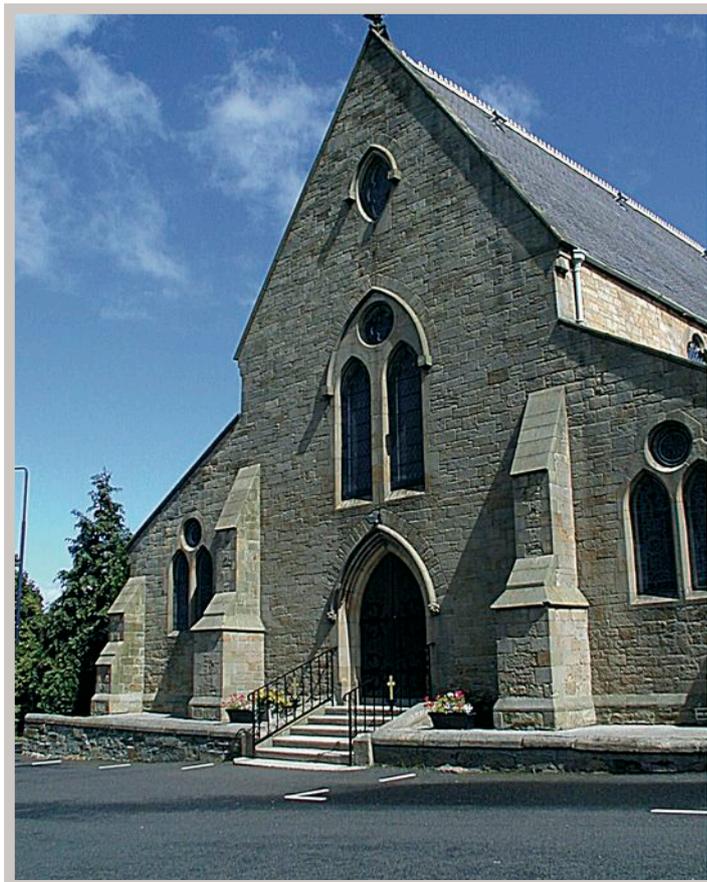


*This magazine is free - please take one home.*

# *St. David's Dalkeith*

*Parish Magazine  
Autumn 2012*



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**Parish Priest :**

**Monsignor Allan Chambers**

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## Deacon-elect Peter.

My name is Peter Andrew Traynor and I live in Mayfield with my wife Margaret. I am a parishioner of St. Luke & St. Anne's, Mayfield where coincidentally, I was married 30 years ago on the feast of St. Joseph in 1983.

As a fifty something father of four wonderful girls, I have been delighted to see that they have now begun to add to my extended family by means of a beautiful grand-daughter and grandson.

I retired from the Police in 2010 and then did something which I said I would never do, I went back to work for the organisation which I had just left, albeit under the guise of a subject matter expert on a national programme!

So how did I begin on the path to the Diaconate?

At a basic level I can recall that 10 years ago I was running a youth group at St. Luke & St. Anne's when Father John McInnes (our parish priest at the time) handed me a leaflet on the permanent Diaconate, but I was in the wrong place at the wrong time what with family and work commitments and so I did nothing about it and that was that, or so I thought!

August of the Year 2010 saw the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of St. Luke's Church in Mayfield

and to mark the occasion, His Eminence Cardinal O'Brien came to celebrate Mass. It was a wonderful day, **warm and sunny**, not exactly two adjectives we've been employing to describe the weather recently!

In his Homily that day, His Eminence spoke with great eloquence when he told us that we had to do more than simply re-dedicate bricks and mortar, that we needed to re-dedicate ourselves to God and to the Church and that we were each called to play a positive and active part in both our Parish and our secular lives.

Afterwards, as we all listened to the brass band, I again bumped into said Father John over a glass of wine and as we began to talk about this and that, I still thought about the Diaconate from all those years ago. Well that got me thinking (and praying!) and I spoke with Monsignor Allan that very Sunday. We had a wee chat and then he put me in touch with our diaconal vocations director, Father Paul Kelly at St. Michael's in Linlithgow.

The pace really picked up then and within a fortnight I was away for a Diaconal awareness day up in Dundee and step by step the next five years of study, discernment, parish placement and continuous assessment were outlined.

The first step was what the church calls a

propaedeutic year, yes we Catholics really know how to use big words!

This is a year of ongoing discernment when the church looks at you and you at the church. This is when I began to look at the word "vocation" as something which, until now, I had only ever associated with the priesthood or religious life, but now I had to examine it in relation to me!!

Having completed an interview and finished the propaedeutic year with my summer school week at Kinnoull in Perthshire, I was let loose on you all (under the watchful eye of Monsignor Allan of course!) for my Parish Placement in St.

David's and St. Luke & St. Anne's, where I hope to stay for the next four years until, God willing, my Ordination!

Well that was about six hundred words to this point so I suppose I should sign off now and, hopefully deliver the next instalment of my journey, where I will go into the propaedeutic year in a bit more detail in the next edition!

If you can, pray for me, as I pray for you all.

God Bless

Peter.



## ***From the Choir Loft.***



### ***Parish Music - Choir.***

This has been a year of flux in the liturgical music following the change in the Mass. Our job is to continue leading the singing of the Mass in the new setting and the psalm for the Sunday, together of course with the hymns. In the Mass there is plenty of work to do to integrate the new music with the new words.

We've managed a number of choir practices on Tuesday evenings (7:30 to 8:30 in the church in summer, hall in winter). It is fun to look more closely at the music and check out the tricky bits.

Come along if you feel like a sing.

### ***Organ.***

As regards instruments for accompaniment, we depend of course on the venerable pipe organ. We have a young student tackling the instrument very well. Sometime we might move into the digital age where instruments have the same rich sound and never need tuning! And also bits of the instrument don't break away in your hand as happened to me just recently!

### ***The Cosmic and the Domestic - a thought for the upcoming season.***

Couldn't be further apart - the cosmic usually means we are "an insignificant speck in a vast Universe" and our sun is "just an average star". Small wonder we prefer the more domestic side of things!

At Christmas, the cosmic and the domestic are unexpectedly united in the Star of Bethlehem, because the name Beth-lehem actually means House of Bread.

How fortunate we are to have the seasonal drape in our parish church showing the Magi guided by the Star to Bethlehem.

John Holden.

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## Talking to Frank & Margaret.

### **Language Teachers United.**

“Jaw-jaw’s better than War-war!” is the bold claim.  
Ententes cordiales must be the great aim,  
Coaching swathes of young Scots  
To be cool polyglots.  
Communication’s the name of the game.  
Frank and Margaret Nicholson.

Frank Nicholson has been a member of St. David’s Parish since moving to Dalkeith in 1960.

He played the organ in the church from 1962 until January 2012 and he taught French and German at St. David’s High School from 1960 until 1968.

His wife Margaret also taught languages at St. David’s High School from 1968 until her retirement in 1993.

Frank Nicholson was born on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1926, in Colchester, Essex. His parents were Percy Nicholson and Lily Diaper, both from Colchester, Essex. From 1931 to 1937, Frank attended St. John’s Green Primary School and went on to attend Colchester Royal Grammar School from 1937 to 1944.



At the age of 18, Frank was called up for Military Service. He trained during 1944 and was still training when the war ended. Frank instructed in the School of Infantry in Germany and was a Captain when he completed his service in the army in 1948.

Throughout Grammar School, Frank was interested in foreign languages, particularly French and German and wished to continue his studies at University.

He knew and liked the City of Edinburgh and, in 1948, applied to Edinburgh University to study French, German and History.

He was accepted for an Honours Degree course and attended University from 1948 to 1954. Frank spent a year of his studies abroad for each language.

While at University, Frank first met Margaret. Margaret was also there studying languages. Both of them had parts in an Honours German Play.

(Frank is wielding a sword and sporting a dark moustache!)



This was only a brief meeting. However, they met again a year later when they were both studying German in Tübingen in South Germany.

Margaret needed matches and was trying to work out how to ask for this in German. Frank came along and Margaret recognised him and asked for some language help. Frank went into the shop and bought the matches for Margaret. They continued to see each other. Frank returned to Edinburgh to take his exams, but when Margaret came back to Edinburgh, to finish her degree, Frank was waiting for her at the station in London.

Margaret went on to finish her degree and Frank attended Moray House for teacher training and they got engaged. They were engaged for two years saving to get married.

Frank and Margaret were married on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1957 in St. Peter’s, Edinburgh.

They were now both qualified teachers.

They understood each other very well. In fact, “They understood each other in three major languages.”

Frank’s first teaching post was at St. Modan’s High School, Stirling, from 1955-1960, and the family lived in Bridge of Allan. Their first two children Peter and Deborah were born there.

In 1960 Frank moved to Dalkeith as Principal Teacher of French and German at St. David’s High School. He introduced German to the school. This section of the school was in Croft Street and was the first year of St. David’s having a 4<sup>th</sup> year class. Frank had to teach some of his classes in accommodation at the back of the school. Accommodation was very cramped and it was a relief to get a new school in Abbey Road in 1966.



The new school had very modern facilities, in the Language lab Frank would be speaking in French or German on a microphone to individual students. This was a new and exciting approach in teaching a foreign language!

Since 1960, Frank and Margaret have lived in Bonnyrigg Road and had two more children Phillippa and Michael.

All are pictured here as grownups running in the Edinburgh Marathon Relay as a family.



Note the picture on the tee- shirts which shows them in the same family order.

Margaret started teaching French and German in St. David's High School in 1968. She was asked to cover Joan McMillan's classes as Joan had left to have a baby. The original placement was for 10 weeks but Margaret was actually there for 25 years!

At this stage Frank felt it was time to move on and took up the post of Principal Teacher of Modern Languages at Holy Cross Academy, Edinburgh, which eventually became St. Augustine's High.

Frank retired from his promoted teaching post in June 1985.

Frank had a love of music from an early age and at the age of 7, from 1933-42, started piano lessons and the Theory of Music. His teacher was Miss Roff, Headmistress of Infants at St. John's Green School.

Miss Roff encouraged him to go for organ lessons and he did so with Bill Kingdon, the Burgh organist at Colchester.

Meanwhile, in St. David's Church, Maria McLaughlin was the church organist. When Maria married Ian McMillan, they moved away.

Organ music was sadly missed in the church and, in 1962, Frank went up to the organ loft to play the organ out of interest. Father Kelly was the parish priest and, after playing the organ, Frank volunteered to be the organist. Thus began a period of 50 years, from 1962, when Frank provided the Church with wonderful organ music. He was accompanied by the voices of the 7 or 8 male choir members.

Frank has introduced hymns to the Church and played on many, many special occasions both happy and sad.

Frank says that it is particularly uplifting to play to a full church especially at Easter and Christmas, when the whole church is full of people and music.

In November 2006, Frank's long service in the Church was officially recognised by the Pope, when Cardinal O'Brien and Monsignor Chambers presented Frank with a Bene Merenti certificate, medal and lapel badge, a merit award in well deserved recognition of his long contribution to the Church.



Frank retired as the organist in St. David's Church in January 2012, aged 85, due to a condition which stiffens up his fingers and restricts his playing.

He is sadly missed in the choir loft but we are so thankful to Frank for filling the Church with beautiful music. Frank is a true Gentleman, steady, self-effacing and totally reliable. He has served this community for over 50 years.

Frank truly is  
"A man for all seasons".

Frank and Margaret celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in July 2007.



Following many years of contribution both in teaching and music, they continue to be part of the wider community and regularly attend St. David's Church, now able to sit together during Mass.

Patricia Barclay.

## News from the Schools.

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

#### **Working Towards Excellence.**

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

**"Well-behaved and polite children who are eager to learn and to work for the good of the school.**

**The welcoming ethos, the effectiveness of support for learning and the good standard of pastoral care.**

**Strong, effective leadership from the 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 an established staff team of teachers and support staff.

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

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

Primary 1 have had a fantastic first term at St. David's. They have been learning lots of new sounds and numbers. They are really enjoying the School Theme on 'Forces, Electricity and Waves' and we have been keeping the world up to date with our learning on their blog. You can visit their blog by clicking on the following link

**<http://blogger.mgfl.net/misschidgey>.**

Leave a comment to tell us what you think! They love to read the comments in class and look forward to sharing lots more exciting learning with you!



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

Enrolment, for children in their pre-school year at Nursery, takes place from November 2012 for those children starting school in August 2013.

Please contact Mr. Currie, Head Teacher on 0131 271 4675 to arrange a visit to the school and to discuss your child's enrolment further.

The school operates an open door policy and parents/carers are welcome into the school at any point, especially throughout the month of November.

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

There are a number of ways you can contact us:

In person:

**2c Lauder Road, Kippielaw, Dalkeith EH22 2PU**

Telephone: **0131 271 4675**

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

Twitter: **@stdavidsprimary**

Website: **<http://stdavidsps.mgfl.net/>**

### **Inspired pupil from St. David's Primary School wins Bronze at London 2012 Education Awards!!**



Some of the country's brightest young people welcomed the Olympic torch at Hampden Stadium on its tour of the country and were awarded medals by former Olympian Liz McColgan for their work on the Inspire-Aspire programme.

The Inspire-Aspire Awards programme reached 35,000 young people this year by using the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the character qualities of Olympians to inspire young people to set personal goals and to develop future aspirations.

Winning a Bronze medal at the event was Eilidh Blackley from St. David's Primary School, who chose Tom Daley as an inspirational figure as part of her work on the programme.

Explaining the reasons for her choice, Eilidh said, ***"It is Tom Daley's determination and confidence that inspires me."***

Before presenting the awards, former World Champion and Olympic Silver medallist, Liz McColgan, told a packed audience that it was inspiration from her coach and her determined work ethic which gave her the edge over more talented runners.

Inspire-Aspire aims to help young people gain a better understanding of their own character qualities and values and inspire them to create a personal development plan. Eilidh explained how much of an impact participating in Inspire-Aspire has had on her,

*“I have learned a lot about the Olympic and Paralympic values and how I use them in everyday life.”*

### **The School Theme August - October 2012: Science and Technology.**

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

As always, the achievements of the children were celebrated with a ‘sharing the learning’ event with parents/carers where each class was responsible for organising a series of workshops and experiments leading the parents/carers through their learning journey. It was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of the children and staff team and the turnout from parents/carers and the local community.

It was an excellent opportunity to involve the whole school community in our children’s learning and achievements and to celebrate their incredible talent and confidence. Our School Theme continues throughout the school session as follows:

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

**Term 1** – Science and Technology.

**Term 2** – Our World in the Past  
– Scotland’s History.

**Term 3** –  
Rights Respecting  
School.

**Term 4** –  
Health and  
Wellbeing/  
Citizenship.



### **Introducing our next School Theme - Our World in the Past - Scotland’s History.**

P1-7 will be introduced to our next school theme via an exciting and adventurous journey through the past as we travel through ‘Scotland’s History.’ The non-stop theatre extravaganza will kick off a fountain of knowledge, famous battles, important people and a wealth of ideas and opportunities for what and how we want to learn even more about ‘Our World in the Past’. Other visits and workshops include outings to Dunfermline Abbey, Stirling and Edinburgh Castles and a workshop on the Battle of Bannockburn.

### **Caledonia’s Calling!!!!!!!**

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

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

Football and Basketball kit sponsored by TaylorWimpey.

We received delivery of our fantastic new sports kit, courtesy of our partnership with TaylorWimpey. I think you’ll agree that the children are going to have the competitive edge over their rivals before the game has even begun!



### **Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities.**

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

This term sees Miss O’Reilly leading a Technology Club with a certain ‘Masterchef’ inspired focus.

Miss Fallon leads a multi-sports club which inspires more healthy choices as well as exposure to a wide range of activities.

Mr. Wedlock will lead a Science and Technology Club, tapping into the enthusiasm and energy inspired by our recent school theme.

These additions to our after-school activities complement the ongoing dedication and commitment of Mrs. Jones and our parent volunteers with the Gardening Club, Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Waddell with our fantastic Basketball Team and our very 'street' and 'hip' Dance Club led by Laura and Danielle. Without their time and enthusiasm and undoubted skill and talent, these opportunities would not be available, so we thank them for their continued support and effort.

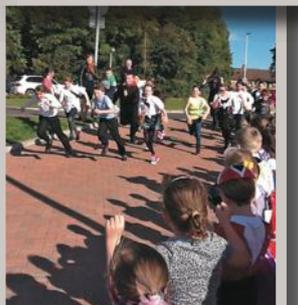
### **Developing Global Citizenship World's Biggest Coffee Morning.**

Primary 2 were very enterprising in organising, promoting and running a very successful Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. They raised a massive **£277** – a great effort by everyone involved and a brilliant example of how capable our young children are in leading the learning in the school for their peer group and others – well done St. David's!



### **Characters from 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.

### **Wear it Pink.**

St. David's school uniform was transformed at the end of September when the whole school arrived, not in our extremely smart wine and sky blue uniform but in pink!



From their hair and shirts and ties to the sparkly shoes and boots, the whole school was awash with pink. There was a serious side to the fun. The children were raising awareness of the British Cancer Care Campaign on Breast Cancer. **Over £100** was raised for the charity into the bargain and we received a lovely message on our Twitter account from the charity themselves – check it out for some additional pictures of the day also: [@stdavidprimary](https://twitter.com/stdavidprimary)

### **Christmas Shoebox Appeal.**

P5/6 pupils at St. David's RC Primary School have been leading Blythswood Care's charity shoebox appeal, making up shoeboxes full of small gifts to send to people in countries all over the world.



Miss Cairns, P5/6 teacher said, *"The children have really enjoyed working together to help others through this project whilst developing many valuable life skills including budgeting and teamwork."*

P5/6 pupil, Leah, added, *"My favourite part was getting to wrap and fill the boxes because it was really fun!"*



Mr. Anthony Currie, Head Teacher, and the St. David's Primary School staff team.  
website: <http://stdavidspg.mgfl.net>

**St. David's High School.  
NEWS:**



**ROME TRIP.**

Miss Barbini is planning the fourth trip to Rome for senior pupils. The trip will take place in June 2013. After the success of former visits by pupils to Rome, the places for next year are being taken fast (30 places).

**CARITAS AWARDS.**

Some of the senior pupils are working towards obtaining a Caritas Award. (This is an award given by the Catholic Church to young people who give loving service either through work with their church or school).

We wish them all good luck.

**SENIOR PUPIL CHAPLAINCY GROUP.**

The senior pupil chaplaincy group organised a Musical Extravaganza Concert on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

They worked very hard at rehearsals



and gave a superb, enthusiastic performance on the night, which was enjoyed by a packed audience.



The proceeds from the night, **£850**, will go to local charities - supporting young people suffering from cancer, and supporting people with special needs.

Thanks must go to Mr. & Mrs. Tony Crolla for donating a meal for 2 people as a raffle prize.

Thank you Tony!

**AUSCHWITZ VISIT.**

The two pupils chosen by the History Department to visit Auschwitz this year were Louise Hutton and Neil Martin (both pupils from Pathhead).

Iris.

## Parish Groups and News.

### **Pro-Life news.**

Without any major changes to our routine, Dalkeith Pro-Life continues to raise funds for groups such as :

- Life,
- Zoe's Place,
- Cardinal Winning Initiative,
- SPUC.

Our Sunday teas, coffees and scones are, as always, well supported by the parish.

If at times our activities seem a little humdrum it is good to be reminded that the money we send to the various groups is invaluable to them in their front line efforts to protect human life from the very beginning to its natural end.

In May, we received a letter of heartfelt thanks from SPUC who are fighting to uphold the right of pro-life medical professionals, such as nurses, doctors, midwives and pharmacists, not to be involved in any way with abortions. At the moment they are championing the right of two Glasgow midwives, Mary Doogan and Connie Woods, to abstain from procedures that go against their conscience.

The Court of Sessions dismissed their case stating that since they were

**“sufficiently removed from direct involvement”** their beliefs were not being compromised.

Undaunted they are appealing the judgement with the financial support of SPUC.

John Smeaton, SPUC's National Director, wrote to our group,

*“Thank you again for your generous gift which is enabling SPUC to back the most critical pro-life legal challenge that I can remember in my 37 years at SPUC. Without your support, it simply wouldn't be possible for the Society to take a stand on behalf of the Glasgow midwives and our unborn children. May God bless you and all those dear to you for your unstinting support and generous donation to the work of the Society.”*

Our thanks again go out to St. David's parish for helping us support these groups. Anyone wishing to join us would be welcomed with open arms!

Helen Holden.

### **Cycle Club.** 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲

Our St. David's Cycling Club Fun Rides are popular. Membership now stands at 43 plus the occasional guest rider.

We held 9 Fun Rides this year - at 2.00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month - March to November - when afternoon sunshine had been booked!

We may have to rename them Sun Rides!



Our rides this year were on 4 different routes :

- Dalkeith/Penicuik Railway Cyclepath,
- Ormiston/Pencaitland Railway Cyclepath,
- Longniddry/Haddington Railway Cyclepath,
- Glentress Green Route from the Buzzard's Nest.

Club membership and rides are free to parishioners and friends of all ages, all you need is a bike. Please note that children must be accompanied by a cycling parent or guardian.

We will start the rides again in March next year. Come along and have some fun riding with us.

Julian.

## Philippines news.

Although we didn't manage to visit the Philippines this year, we are still in constant touch, and the children in the Sacred Heart School in Montalban benefit from the generosity of parishioners from St. David's, St. Luke's & St. Anne's and Our Lady of Consolation, who donate school materials, books, toys, clothes and financial help on a regular basis. This has made a tremendous difference to the lives of the children and young people in Montalban.

They have recently, once again, been the victims of flooding, with one family's home being completely swept away.

There are 96 pupils in the SMSF (St. Madeleine Sophie Foundation) school this year, with ages ranging from 3 – 15 years. All are given a meal on a daily basis at the end of their school lessons.



I am told that they look forward to the boxes, which contain all the goods donated, being delivered and the boxes being emptied.

The boxes, when filled, are uplifted (at the cost of £45 per box) by Alsomavic Cargo, a Philippines transport company, they are then transported by road to London and shipped to Hong Kong, from there they are transferred to another ship and taken off board at Manila. From Manila they are transported by road to Montalban. The whole process takes 6 – 8 weeks, but well worth the effort for the joy it brings to children who need our help. When we visited last year it was good to see all the books and school materials being utilised throughout the school.



Not forgetting the "Sponsor a Teacher" scheme, which takes the form of monthly direct debits for the suggested amount of £2 per month, which helps Sister Yuka with the payment of teachers' salaries. Anyone interested in joining this scheme can collect a bank form from Iris Lawrie.

A great big thank you from Sister Yuka to anyone who has donated either materially or financially to the running of the school, which is run wholly on charitable contributions. The money donated also enables Sister Yuka to invite all other street children in Montalban to come to the school on Sundays and share a meal which has been cooked by young people who are former pupils of the school.

Iris.

## ***The Lourdes Experience.***

Here are some of the thoughts and experiences of Molly de Haan and Barbara Carr who have been regular pilgrims and helpers with the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes for the last five or six years. Molly, being a trained nurse, uses her skills with the sick, while Barbara is involved with the caring.

Their involvement with Lourdes starts as soon as the last journey is over, as they coordinate all the fundraising. Sr. Ethel and private donations are a great support. The Parish need to raise about £800 for each youth helper going for the first time, and for each sick pilgrim. Everyone else has to meet the full cost themselves.

On the day of the trip, Molly and Barbara and all the other helpers start work at the church where the Dalkeith contingent musters. The helpers need to see that everyone is comfortable for the short journey to the airport. At the airport, they help the sick on to the plane and make them comfortable. Airports and planes are not designed with handicapped people in mind so there is much to do. One helper is allocated to every two sick people and they stay with them throughout the flight.

Having reached Lourdes, all the helpers are rapidly hard at work getting all the sick people plus their equipment to the hospital or hotel where they plan to stay. The youth and the brandcardier come into their own doing a lot of the heavy work. They need to set up fans because of the heat, hoists and beds. Everything has to be spick and span.

During the stay in Lourdes, the helpers are constantly on the go, partly because there is so much to do and partly because they don't want to miss out on anything. The official day starts at about 6.30 am.



and shifts are allocated, but helpers can still be around late into the evening because parties of one sort or another are constantly being arranged and nobody wants to miss out.

While the work is tiring, it is also very rewarding. For the sick people, this may be the only holiday they will get. Take for example a young mother who is not well but still has to meet the emotional needs of her family. This can be the only time that she can have to concentrate on herself and recharge her batteries.

Every day there is Mass at different locations from fairly early in the morning, other Masses throughout the day, and a candlelight procession in the evening. In between, there is a lot going on, trips to the grotto, bathing in the waters, the Masses for anointing the sick etc.

The bathing in the waters is a particularly poignant experience. The water is very cold and the bather gets in and kisses the feet of Our Lady. It can be described as "Our Lady's Invitation" to get close.

The helpers can be divided into five groups: the nurses; the carers; the brandcardier who do heavy work; the youths who are often seen wheeling





## Sacraments - Photo Gallery.



the sick from one place to another. While some of the sick can cope while they are in the familiar surroundings of their homes, in Lourdes they need more help as they need to get from one place to another and the terrain is very hilly.

There is also the music group who offer their services as needed for the liturgy.

Unfortunately, because of the recession, it has not been possible to get as many young people involved as previously, but those who have volunteered recently have done valiant work and have been a credit both to their school and the parishes.

The whole experience of Lourdes is very emotional and it is difficult for any of the participants not to be touched. They may not witness any 'Miracles' but they see lesser miracles taking place around them. Many of those who feel better for their journey express the wish to be able to help others achieve the same. All want to come back in one capacity or another. What can I say about the helpers?

There is only one word to describe them,  
**ENTHUSIASTIC**

Winifred.



## **Erasmus.**

ERASMUS is a university exchange programme which facilitates students across Europe to spend one of their university years in another European country. I am currently on an ERASMUS exchange year, studying at Sciences Po University in Paris.

Before leaving Edinburgh, I had mixed feelings about the exchange. I was excited about spending part of my student life in such an amazing city as Paris, but I was also apprehensive about leaving a family and community life that I am so attached to. However, I hadn't quite realised how quickly I would feel part of a new community in Paris.

I share a flat with two French girls my age and initially, I found it difficult to communicate in French; for example, once I confused my words and ended up telling my flatmate that there were seagulls in the rubbish bin! However, we soon realised that we were all very similar and enjoyed spending time with each other. The flat is owned by the Order of the Sacred Heart, and one Sister in particular, Sr. Marie-France Carreel, looks out for us. We spent a weekend in September in a town just outside Paris called Joigny, where St. Madeleine-Sophie was born. The town is gorgeous and the weekend was fantastic – we went for walks in the vineyards, explored the 16th century buildings and enjoyed meals together. It was a weekend in which I felt closer to my 'family' here in Paris and in which I really appreciated the wonderful experiences an ERASMUS exchange brings.

University life is very different over here. The course load is much heavier than at Edinburgh University and at the start I was struggling to keep my chin up about it! But now it has become normal and

I am feeling the benefits of this new challenge – the new skills I am learning will surely be useful when it comes to completing the last year of my degree. My courses are in English, so I have met many other international students and have made friendships that I hope will last for the rest of my life. Being around such a wide mix of nationalities really opens your eyes to the variety of cultures and views in the world, and I think experiences such as this help to create more rounded people.

Finally, I can't discuss my life in Paris without mentioning the food. When walking to university in the morning the smell of croissants immediately puts me in a good mood and the café culture here is infectious. Paris is fantastic for people-watching and when it is accompanied by the famous French treats such as freshly baked baguettes, you cannot be anything but happy. There is a fantastic market round the corner from my flat which takes place every Sunday and I like to pass by it after Mass to pick up a cake or two!

Overall, while I miss my family a lot, I am having a great time here in Paris. The mix of university work, being involved in spiritual activities with the RSCJ and enjoying a social life with new friends is making my year abroad unforgettable in many ways.

Katharine Weatherhead.



## St. David's Brass - Christmas Concerts.

Last Christmas our chosen good cause was Midlothian Special Needs Playscheme Monday Club. We believe you will agree that the funds you so generously donated were well used when you read the following account of their trip to Kielder ....



### Kielder trip September 2012.

A group of 12 departed Dalkeith on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September: 5 carers, 2 volunteers (from St. David's High School) and 5 children. The journey took us 2 hours.

We arrived at Kielder just in time to put our luggage in our lodges and go for dinner. After dinner we had to pick our activities for the weekend. The decision was, swimming in the hydrotherapy pool, climbing, zip wire, abseiling, orienteering and sailing.

It was a very busy weekend and the children took part in all activities even when feeling a wee bit scared.

We arrived back on Monday afternoon all sad that we had to come home, children and volunteers had had a great time. Carers were brought to tears on many occasions when seeing the children taking part in all the activities they had not had the opportunity to do before.

It was a very tiring trip, so much so, that when Jean arrived home she noticed she had two odd trainers on, 1 pink and 1 white. We are already talking about our next trip.

We would like to thank the band for giving the children the chance to experience time away from family and take part in activities that they never thought they could do.

Jean

.... This year, our Christmas Concert returns to St. David's, where the parishioners are always so supportive and our chosen cause is again the Special Needs Monday Club. The pictures below are truly inspiring. The Concert is on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

Deirdre.



## St. David's, Dalkeith??

Have you wondered, or have your children asked you, *"Has the church of St. David's always been there?"* *"What was it like being a Catholic in Dalkeith in the olden days?"*

I will try to answer some of these questions as I have been reading a book loaned to me from the library of the Sacred Heart community. It was written by the family of Cecil, Marchioness of Lothian, using diaries and other contemporary material.

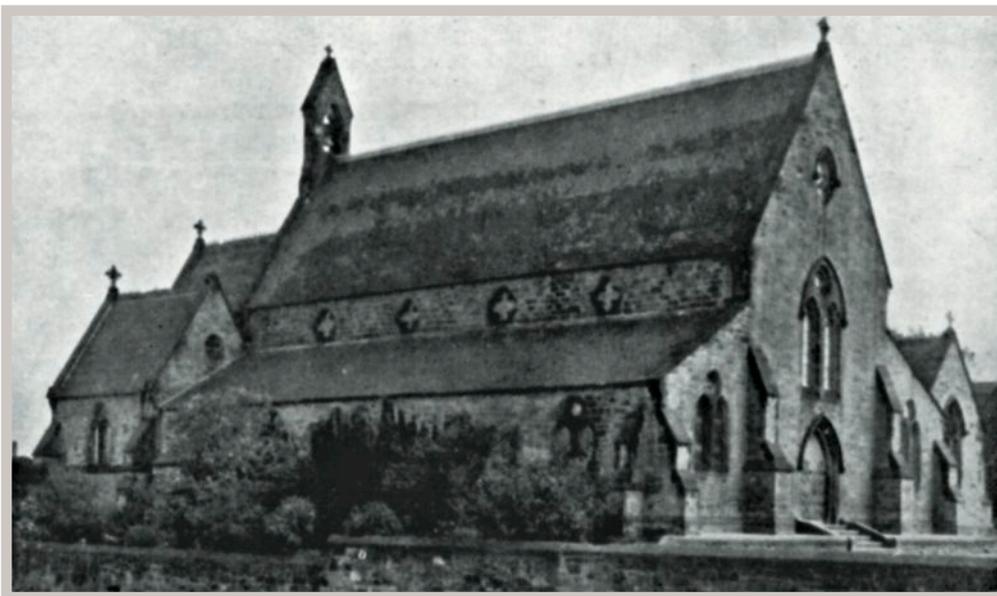
Cecil, Marchioness of Lothian, was born in 1808. The Napoleonic wars were still going on and there would have been many French émigrés around her circle of acquaintances. This meant that she would have had some contact with Catholics from an early age.

As I am sure that your children will tell you, the first half of the nineteenth century was the time when the industrial revolution started in Britain. It was the time that railways were being built around the country, so, many Irish navies were coming over for work. The potato famine in Ireland also added to the number of Irish settling here.

Cecil married John, 7th Marquis of Lothian, in 1831 and after her honeymoon, she settled in Newbattle Abbey and had seven children. Both she and John were Anglicans, and while it was usual for Anglicans to attend the Church of Scotland while they were in Scotland, Cecil never liked this. This was a very happy time in her life but short-lived. John died just ten years after their marriage leaving her to bring up her young family. To help her manage the estates for her eldest son and to help her with the problems of raising her family, guardians were appointed.

The other important movement that influenced Anglican thinking in the 19th century was the Oxford Movement. Many well known thinkers and others were questioning some of the tenets of the Church. The result was that some chose to become Catholics, Cardinal Newman among them.

Cecil and her friends and some of her relations were influenced by the Oxford Movement with the result that, after much deliberation, she became a Catholic in 1851. This caused consternation among the guardians who considered her a potential evil

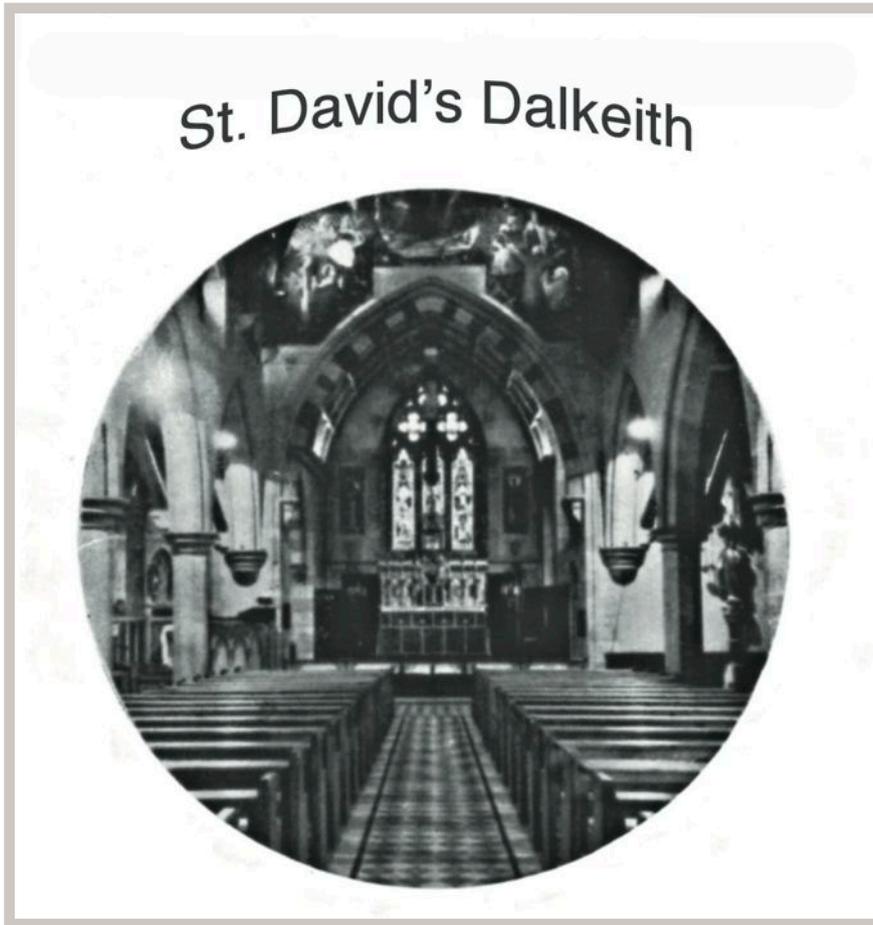


influence on her children.

After her conversion, the family went to Blickling for their holidays. The children were disappointed that their mother would not go to church with them. However there were compensations. The children went alone to the parish church which had box pews to separate them from the rest of the congregation who had to sit on benches. They misbehaved as the sides of their box walled them off from the sight of other people. The clergyman was a kindly old man but it was more than the children could stand to see the old gentleman drink a glass of sherry which was handed up to him by the clerk before the sermon. The children also discovered that the service could not begin until the family from the Hall, themselves, had arrived. Further, on entering, the school children and the villagers stood up "and turning to us, salaamed, the girls curtsying, the boys waving their hands in salute from brow to knee." The children enjoyed the attention so they arranged to enter the church singly to ensure that the performance was repeated a number of times. But Cecil put a stop to it when she heard. The service now started on time, however, it did not stop the children fighting and rolling on the floor of their pew.

After the holidays, Lady Lothian returned to Newbattle and went to St. Mary's Edinburgh on Sunday. She was sorry not to be going to St. Mary's in Dalkeith as it had been her spiritual home for so long. While she had no doubts that she had done the right thing and was very happy, this happiness was tinged with sadness. She writes, "I do not think that anyone who has not passed through the ordeal can fully realise what it is to be alone in the midst of one's family..... to know that everyone is against one, condemns or pities one....."

On her return to Scotland, Lady Lothian set about building a Catholic church in Dalkeith. At the Reformation the church of St. Nicholas was desecrated and there were no Catholics left in the town in the early part of nineteenth century. In 1850 the Irish labourers who had moved in, with their families, asked the bishop if Mass could be celebrated in Dalkeith. A hall was hired from the Freemasons, but when this was withdrawn, they “took refuge in the attic of a baker’s house where the windows were unglazed and the red tiles of the roof rested on cobwebbed rafters.” The little room served as a chapel, sacristy, and confessional. It was so small that a strange ritual was introduced for confession, as it was impossible for the priest and the penitent to speak together without being overheard. As the congregation could not be asked to wait outside, as there was only an open street at the bottom of a narrow stair, a new “ceremonial rite” was invented and two heavily shod labourers were appointed to tramp up and down while confessions were heard.



Lady Lothian had difficulty acquiring a site for the new church because of prejudice. In 1853 she succeeded in acquiring a site on the outskirts of the town. A strange scene was witnessed at the laying of the foundation stone of St. David’s, Dalkeith. Lady Lothian, her two daughters and a few others were kneeling in the wooden building where the ceremony was taking place. At the door stood a crowd of black-faced colliers, all trying to see over each other’s shoulders, and facing them was Bishop Gillis, in full pontificals, saying, “*My dear brethren, you are surprised at seeing me in this dress. This dress is one thousand eight hundred years old.*” All mouths were agape, and the discourse that followed these words

was listened to with breathless silence, whereas at first nothing could be heard but the pelting of stones against the wooden shed, as a Protestant demonstration against the popish doings within.

Following her conversion, Lady Lothian came up against the difficulties caused by the guardians. She wrote, “I wish to be understood to concur fully in the guardians wish to protect the children, and to promise that ..... namely by not bringing them within the effects of Roman Catholic influence from the society of Roman Catholics, lay or clerical.”

In spite of this, all her movements were monitored. The result was that the younger children allied round

her, believing that if there was so much opposition there must be something in it. The two girls soon decided to join their mother. Her eldest son never wavered and remained an Anglican all his life. Schomberg and Walter were away from home. John, the youngest child, then about 12 years old, had made up his mind and longed to become a Catholic. Ralph was wavering, being under a lot of pressure to think about his

future, as many career doors would be closed if he left the Anglican Church. The guardians, knowing this, determined to get these two out of harm’s way by sending them south at the end of the holidays. Lady Lothian was not easily deterred.

The day before the boys were due to return to their respective schools down south, Lady Lothian felt it her duty to help John although he was still a minor. Ralph, being 16, could choose. It was arranged that Lady Lothian should slip off during the night with the children and go to meet Bishop Gillies at St. Margaret’s Convent in Edinburgh. John went into the sacristy with the bishop and soon returned smiling.

It was then Ralph's turn. "He ( Bishop Gillies) asked what I sought and whether it was the Catholic Faith. I shuffled and steered a middle course.....there were some of her (Catholic) tenets that I could not accept. He answered that he would be the last to ask me to become a Catholic. 'Go then, I cannot receive you as your brother, but do this: pray constantly to God..... you cannot trifle with grace.' The thought crossed my mind, 'What an excellent bishop. He does not in the least want to catch me.' So I went to the door when he said, 'One more word Ralph ..... Were an angel of God to come into this room between you and me, and were he to say to you, 'Ralph, in ten minutes you are to stand before the judgement seat of God,' what would you do?' 'I should ask you to receive me at once.'"

Thus he became a Catholic.

After this, it was deemed better for Lady Lothian to leave Newbattle and make her home elsewhere. However she did have the joy of

being present with her children at the opening of St. David's church by Bishop Murdoch, Vicar-Apostolic of the Western District in April 1854. After this, she set off with Alice and her other daughter, Cecil, for a tour of the continent.

This was a happy time for Lady Lothian as she was visiting Catholic countries, France and Italy, in particular, where she felt accepted. The girls too were content. Soon Cecil decided to join the Sacred Heart nuns in France, but after only six years, she became ill and died.



During her last years, Lady Lothian was very busy with different charitable works. She took a very keen interest in the various foundations of the Sacred Heart order. Her great wish was that they should have a house in Scotland as Cecil had bequeathed her dowry for this. "It may be that. as religion spreads, that higher education for girls will be needed and the Sacred Heart will come."

In the middle of 1870s, she visited Dalkeith and describes it thus, "St. David's looks very pretty. There are between five and six hundred Catholics. .... very good news from St. David's. Crowds of young men in the front rows. Church getting too small. Nuns going to teach in the schools."

In 1877 Lady Lothian died in Rome where she had gone to mark the jubilee of the Priesthood of Pope Pius IX. Her last resting place is at the foot of the altar of St. David's Dalkeith.

Ralph seems to have remained close to his mother. After serving with the army in India, he settled with his

family at Woodburn, close to his old family home. He was often seen in Dalkeith, his plaid over his shoulder, his faithful Dandie at his heels and usually fingering a little leather bag in which was hidden his rosary. He died in 1916 and was laid to rest in St. David's Church in the family vault.

Many of you will recall that Antonella, Marchioness of Lothian, who showed the same inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm for doing good, was also laid to rest in St. David's in 2007.

Winifred.

## **St. Vincent de Paul.**

St. David's parish SVP welcomed three new members this year. This gave a tremendous boost and demonstrates the importance of fresh membership. We often review the overall aim of the Society in the parish context. This puts us all on the same level where new people have a vital contribution to make. So if you are interested let us know.

There is great potential for developing a Youth SVP group within the parish and creating links with the very active Youth SVP in St. David's High School.

### **Carfin Day Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September.**

Our coach eventually arrived to collect the 20 of us for the journey to Carfin Pilgrimage Centre. The coach firm had mistakenly sent the driver to St. David's High School! We arrived at the Centre without navigational mishap. Unusually the St. Francis Xavier Hall was booked (for a wedding reception) so the full brunt of the SVP influx from far and wide fell on the cafeteria where some of us had a slightly (!) longer wait for a cup of tea and a sandwich. All queued good-humouredly. The wise ladies who had brought lunch were rewarded for their foresight! Finally refreshed, we had to improvise our own Rosary Procession, having missed the main one!

It was, as usual, a very fine Mass, expertly signed as always (Bishop Mone paid tribute to his teacher of signing). A visiting Vincentian priest from Dublin delivered a striking homily on what animates the St. Vincent de Paul Society. After the Mass some of us looked around the huge Relics collection next door to the church. Finally we boarded our coach and the return journey was made safely. Thanks be to God.

John Holden.



## **Looking Forward.**

### **December :-**

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Annual Ecumenical Nativity Carol Service 4.00 p.m. in St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Brass Concert 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Dance 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> - SVdP Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch 12 Noon.
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> - Parish Pantomime Visit, Buses leave soon after Mass.
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Nativity Play in the afternoon.
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> - CHRISTMAS DAY. Mass 11.00 a.m.
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> - Annual Mass for Feast of Innocents, St. David's, Dalkeith 12 Noon.

### **WORLD YOUTH DAY RIO July 23-28, 2013.**

Registration for Rio 2013 is now open, see: <http://worldyouthday.com/rio-20>

After a risk assessment, the Archdiocese is not organising a group to travel to this World Youth Day but St. Francis Xavier's Parish, Falkirk is hoping to take a group of young people to Brazil in July 2013. Young people from other parishes are very welcome to join them. You will need to be at least 18 years old at time of travel. If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Anthony Caruana on 01324-623-567 or email [stfxfalkirk@aol.com](mailto:stfxfalkirk@aol.com) as soon as possible.

### **SCOTTISH WORLD YOUTH DAY – Scotland's Rio – July 23-28, 2013.**

CYSS (Catholic Youth service Scotland) will arrange our own WYD event at the University of Stirling at the same time as the event in RIO and link up with the main events there with technology!

Anyone between 14 and 25 years is eligible to attend. The cost is £250 per person, which covers accommodation and all meals for the 4 days. It is hoped that each participant's parish will pay £50 of that. As there are only 35 places per Diocese, it is advisable to register as soon as possible, with a £50 deposit (non- refundable).

Applications are on our Youth page at [www.archdioceseedinburgh.com](http://www.archdioceseedinburgh.com)

***This is our 13<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.*

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