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St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Autumn 2014



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Parish Priest :
Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Mgr. Allan.

As ever I wish to begin these few words with grateful acknowledgement to our editorial team who faithfully put in the time and effort to produce what has become a 'staple' in the life of our parish community here at St. David's - my thanks and appreciation for all that you do.

Secondly to our sponsors, thanks for their kindness and generosity. If possible, may I please ask that you may support them in the locality.

Thanks.

What I particularly like about our parish magazine is the ability it somehow has to go far and beyond our parish boundaries. It is not unknown for it to reach across to the other side of the globe, and to be of interest to people who grew up in the parish, went to school here, but have moved on, either because of work or other circumstances.

The articles so generously contributed and edited find a welcome 'home' and recall of happy memories for some now physically far from home, but who hold this area still close in their hearts.

Some of the articles in the past have given us all an insight into how life was for those connected to both parish and the school that stood in what is now the car park. Reading those articles will spark conversation among many and also will recall names,



people and families who were once an integral part of this parish family but have moved on.

I personally think this is both good and healthy. It is good because it gives us a sense of the past, of a sense of history and of belonging. It is healthy, I think, because it also allows, in time of change and uncertainty, to go forward with confidence to a future which may be challenging.

In that respect the Bob Dylan song,

'Times they are a-changing,' comes to mind. Of course we cannot for ever stand still, we

have to change, to adapt and to move forward. In respect of our parishes in the areas of Mid and East Lothian, those who were part of the life of the parish families seventy five years ago would be surprised, if they arrived back today, to see how we have moved on and adapted.

So too, for us. As we look to the future with regard to our parishes, we know we too have to adapt and change for the challenges that are ahead. However we will do that with a faith and a confidence that the same loving God who guided and directed our forefathers all those year ago will do the same for us.

As the season of Advent approaches in preparation for the season of the nativity, may I ask God's Blessing on you all and those you love at this time.

Fr. Allan.



The views for Mgr. Allan and the parishioners, photos kindly provided by Joe Gilhooley Photography. You can view a church portfolio of photos by Joe on our website <http://www.stdavidsdalkeith.co.uk>

News from the Schools

St. David's Primary School

- Mundum Pro Christo Vincamus.



Telephone: 0131 271 4675

Email: stdavids.ps@midlothian.gov.uk

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

Twitter: @stdavidsprimary

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

Enrolment for children in their pre-school year at Nursery takes place from November 2014 for those children starting school in August 2015.

Please contact the school on 0131 271 4675 to discuss your child's enrolment further. The school operates an open door policy and parents/carers are welcome to the school at any point.

The school may also have places for children in P1-7 for families moving into the area during the school year. Once again, please contact the school in the first instance to arrange a tour from our House Captains and to spend some time discussing your child's learning and next steps with the Head Teacher.

There are a number of ways you can contact us:

In person:

2c Lauder Road, Kippielaw, Dalkeith EH22 2PU

Mary's Meals Back-pack Appeal 2014.

Following the success of last year, Primary 6 are developing their citizenship and entrepreneurial skills using Mary's Meals Backpack Project.

Their aim is to fill backpacks with basic educational materials to send to children receiving Mary's Meals. Most of the children who benefit from Mary's Meals



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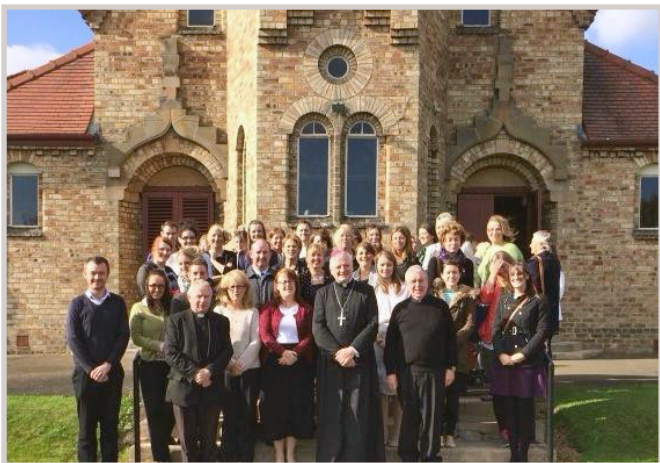


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and the Backpack Project have suffered war, poverty, famine, or natural disaster. Very often families cannot afford to buy basic things like pencils and copy books, or even suitable clothes for their children to wear to school. And so their children miss out on school and an education. A simple backpack with educational materials can be a lifeline to these children as studies show that an education is the best way a chronically poor child can escape poverty in later life. If you can help in any way please add to the drop-box at the back of the church or drop in to the school office in person. Please get involved!

Celebration of Catholic Education in Midlothian with Archbishop Leo Cushley.

We were delighted to welcome His Grace, Archbishop Leo Cushley to St. Matthew's Church, Rosewell recently to celebrate the hard work and commitment of all staff in our Catholic schools in Midlothian. His Grace related the endeavours of all staff in our schools to the example of St. John Bosco and challenged them to do even better!



A big thank you to Monsignor Chambers for concelebrating also – it was a lovely occasion and a great opportunity to celebrate the strength and quality of our Catholic Schools.

Introducing our next School Theme – Celebrating Scottish and French Language, Culture and Heritage.



As part of our efforts towards introducing and developing an additional language from P1-P7, all classes will engage in an investigation and celebration of French language and culture from October-December 2014.

St. David's High School and St. David's Primary school are part of a pilot programme introducing a second language, French, from P1 with the option to continue through to Secondary.

If you can support the children or school in any way please contact the school office or your child's class teacher.

Farewell Mrs. Mason, Basketball Coach extraordinaire.



It is with great pride that I inform you of the retirement of Mrs. Mason as basketball coach at the school.

I say pride because yes, we are sad to see her retire, however, we take great inspiration from her energy, enthusiasm and knowledge and pride in her unrelenting commitment not only to basketball more recently, but as member of staff, as a former Head Teacher of our school and an established member of the St. David's Family.

Mrs. Mason, your personality is infectious and your legacy at St. David's will live long. On behalf of the significant number of children you have worked with and families you have supported – thank you!



P7 Coffee Morning.

P7 pupils all worked very hard to raise an enormous sum for Macmillan. Well done P7!



We are an Eco Schools Scotland Green Flag Holder.

After 3 years of tireless work, promotion, development, partnership and learning and progress, our school has been rewarded with a Green Flag from Eco Schools Scotland.

This is in recognition of our efforts to change and improve attitudes and understanding of our environment and to embed this learning within the curriculum and the life and work of our school. Particular thanks to our fabulous Eco Committee, led by Miss Fallon and supported by representatives



from P1-7, school staff and parent representatives. The children were outstanding ambassadors for our school: articulate, passionate and proud of their school, their efforts and achievements. Thank you to staff and pupils past and present who helped the school to this significant achievement and, as our Eco song goes (to the tune of Daft Punk)

.....*'we're up all night to be ECO!'*

Congratulations to our own staff members.

It was with mixed emotions we approached the end of the school session in June as we said farewell to two of our own, Miss Stewart and Miss Fallon, respectively, but so proud of the leadership capacity and experience provided at our outstanding Primary School.

We thank Miss Stewart for her hard work and commitment to St. David's and congratulate her on her successful NQT year and in securing her first position at St. Gabriel's Primary, Prestonpans. Good luck from all at St. David's!



We are also delighted with the achievements of Miss Fallon in securing promotion to Principal Teacher at St. David's Primary, Edinburgh. We have had a truly 'epic, awesome' experience working with Miss Fallon these past three years and are so proud of her achievement.

Congratulations from the St.

David's family and very best wishes to you in your future career.

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



St. David's High School

Chaplaincy News.

This has been a very busy few months back at school and we the Chaplaincy team, comprising of Ms. AM Macnamara PT RE, Mrs. Anne Jabir and Mrs. Nuala Keegan, are happy to report that the Chaplaincy team have had a very encouraging start to this new school term at St. David's High school. We are very grateful for the continued support of our Chaplain, Canon McMullan, who has been in school frequently this term.

In September (16th-22nd) to mark Vocations week Canon McMullan was happy for us to invite other guests in to the school to witness to their personal faith and share their personal experiences on the theme of vocations.

We were delighted to have the pleasure of a couple of visits from a trainee priest, Tony Lappin, who was himself a former pupil of St. David's some years ago. He came into school and spoke to our S5 explaining a bit about his background and his calling to the priesthood. Tony had a lovely manner with the pupils and they were inspired by his words, they engaged enthusiastically with him and were able to ask questions about vocations in a relaxed setting.

On 30th September we had our annual S1 Welcome Mass in the evening at 6.30 p.m. in chapel. As discussed with Canon McMullan our theme for this Mass was St. Therese de Lisieux. The chapel was full and staff, parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents and siblings of our S1 students joined in the celebration of this Mass. The S6 Chaps team led the singing and the prayers and there was a lovely sense of belonging. Mr. Brown from the music department kindly offered his services and accompanied the S6 Chaps on the piano.

In October Canon McMullan joined us to celebrate the first of our 3 House Masses on Wednesdays at 12.15 p.m. in our school assembly hall. The first Mass was for Columba House and the following two House Masses took place on 22nd October for Kentigern House and 26th November for Andrew House. This first House Mass was very prayerful and the S6 Chaps led the singing, accompanied again by Mr. Brown, and they read the readings and bidding prayers. We looked forward to the next two House Masses.

Carfin Trip -7th October –Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

Following last year's successful visits to Carfin, on Tuesday 7th October 2014 - the Feast of Our lady of the Holy Rosary, the Chaplaincy Team took another group of S1 pupils on a trip to the Carfin Pilgrimage Centre.



The day was a very successful one and the pupils seemed to be enjoying the experience.

Pupils were shown around the Grotto Pilgrimage Centre by the Chaplaincy team members. They were warmly welcomed and given a brief introduction to the history of the centre by a staff member at the centre.

A visit was made to the Grotto Gardens, to the Glass Chapel, to the Reliquary and the Exhibition Centre which has an extensive display of information on pilgrimages across the world and from other faiths.



An Education Package was put together to help prepare pupils for their visit. The exhibition and gardens features various pilgrimage sites world-wide, including Santiago de Compostela in Spain, and information on pilgrimages to Rome, Lourdes and Mecca. There was also a large selection of beautiful statues of various Saints. Mass was celebrated with the parish in the Glass Chapel at 1 p.m. The pupils participated beautifully and showed great respect. They sang along with the hymns and took part in Holy Communion.

The pupils were accompanied by Mrs. Jabir the lay chaplain, Mr. William Rogers our technician and Ms Macnamara from the RE Department.

Seasons for Growth.

In October the final session of Season for Growth took place in the Chaplaincy led by AM Macnamara and Iris Lawrie, our former Lay Chaplain who still supports the Chaplaincy in her capacity as a trained SfG (Seasons for Growth) companion.

Iris Lawrie and I met with a small group of students last term over a period of 8 weeks. These students chose to follow this programme which seeks to help young people to come to terms with change, loss and grief in their lives. The group gives the pupils the chance to examine how issues such as death, separation and divorce have impacted on their lives.

The final session looks back over the course and gives the pupils the chance to reflect on their experiences in the group and give feedback in the form of an evaluation to their companions. The pupils were very positive about their experiences.

Weekly Chaplaincy Events.

Each week there is a Mass/Eucharistic service on Wednesdays at lunchtime. Canon McMullan celebrates Mass with us fortnightly and Anne Jabir and Nuala Keegan lead short Eucharistic services when Canon McMullan is not in school. This has been very well attended by staff and pupils this term and many of the young people have participated in these liturgies e.g. bidding prayers, readings, and music.

S5/6 "Chaps".

A new team of enthusiastic S5/6 "Chaps" have come together this term and supported the Chaplaincy through their leadership.

They have helped so far in the following ways on a regular basis and have offered their support in any way they can.

- Leading services and assemblies in school (prayers, readings, music).
- Creating a Fair-Trade group and hosting Fair Trade coffee mornings.
- Helping to create a Rosary prayer group at lunchtimes.
- Preparing to lead a service for S1 presentation of Bibles from the Gideon's Society.
- The Chaplaincy is open daily at break and lunchtimes – a large group have been in attendance this term. This is a very positive start. Seniors support this by coming along and spending time with the younger pupils.

AM Macnamara, PT RE/ Chaplaincy Team.

Parish Groups and News.

St. David's Cycle Club.

Once again we ran a monthly program of Fun Rides over 'Summer'. This year the weather was not so good and, sadly, some rides had to be postponed or cancelled.



Turnout has also been lighter this year, so all you families with new cycling youngsters, come and join in, after all it is free and good fun. Julian.

Congratulations David and Mary - 1 year on.

David Adam and Mary Hammon married in St. David's 26th October 2013.



Pilgrimage to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela.

John on the Camino de Santiago.

John Mullarkey, a parishioner of St. David's, Dalkeith, walked the Camino Way from the 11th to 17th September this year. I talked to John about his experiences, he was delighted that he had done this Pilgrimage, walking the Way of St. James to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela.

Two years ago, John was ill and in hospital for a major operation. He saw the film "The Way" about a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. John thought "I would like to do that!" He decided that if he recovered and was fit enough he would walk the St. James Way.

After some time, John was fit and well enough to plan this trip through a Glasgow travel firm. John started at Sarria, Northern Spain, arriving at that town from London by aeroplane and 2 buses. However, during the first two days he was not well and was only able to walk part of the St. James Way. John walked part of stages 1 and 2 and then, feeling much better, walked all of stages 3, 4 and 5, which was 85 kilometres over 5 days! John was a little



worried that he would get lost on his walk, especially through the huge forests. However the walk was marked clearly all the way by a large yellow arrow and a shell

John met many wonderful people on his walk. People from all countries and all ages, from youngsters to an 80 year old man and a woman in her sixties with two new knees and a good pair of walking sticks!

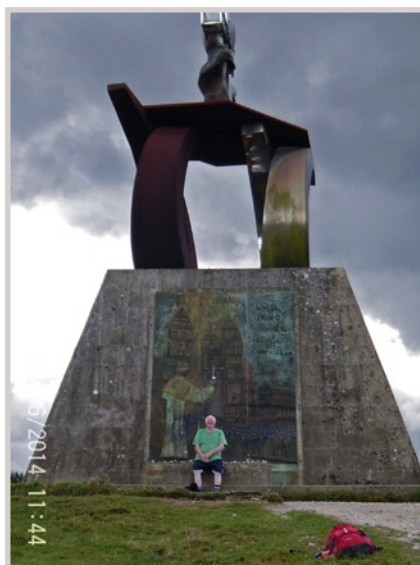
All were friendly and happy to be pilgrims on this Way. One of the highlights for John was meeting all these inspirational people who like himself had decided to do the Camino if they recovered from a serious illness. John found them humbling in their determination and faith. Many of them carried a certificate which they had to get stamped twice a day. This was a certificate of recognition of their successful walking of all the stages of the way to Santiago de Compostela.

John suffered with blistered feet on his walk but had his blister pack with him, plus bottles of water and some fruit. There were plenty of cafes along the way if you needed a coffee, a rest and some company. Here is a photo of John sharing a meal with some fellow pilgrims.



Some of the villages on the route were really beautiful with lovely old churches, which John took time to visit.

On day 5, when John had walked over 12 miles, he reached the village of Rua, where there was a big shell, indicating to the travellers that they had walked a long way and were nearing their destination. From the top of a hill, there was a monument commemorating the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1982, who said Mass there. From here John could look down on the city and the massive Cathedral.



After a few more kilometres, John had reached his destination! John loved the Portico at the entrance to the Cathedral with the Statue of St. James on an ornate pillar. John spent a wonderful two hours walking round the Cathedral and

taking in its timeless beauty and atmosphere.



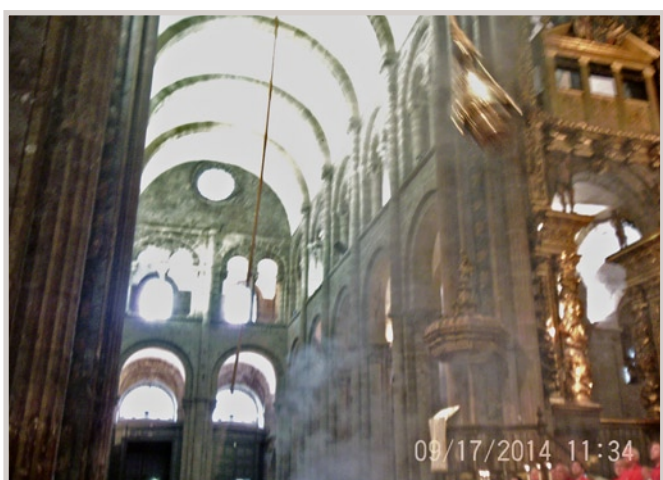
John stayed on for an extra day to attend the Pilgrim's Mass. This Mass is held after each pilgrimage at 12 o'clock in the Cathedral.

John was there at 9.45 a.m. and had a front seat. By the time Mass started, it was standing room only, the

cathedral was totally packed! At this Mass, with John in a great, front seat, the eight priests filled the Botafumeiro and proceeded to swing it on a rope



the length and breadth of the cathedral, the whole of the area was filled with clouds of incense, an overwhelming experience for John. The Botafumeiro is a huge and famous thurible which is filled with incense, raised up by 8 brothers during the Mass and swung the length and breadth of the nave of the cathedral. Breathtaking !



John found the whole experience amazing. The walk, reaching his destination and attending the Mass in the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela. The people he met walking the Way, their stories were inspiring and moving. There were people on foot, on horses, on bikes, who shouted "Buen Camino" as they passed.

If you are walking it, as John did, the scenery is beautiful, extra special and spiritual. Everyone did it for different reasons but all were uplifted by the experience.

Well Done John, you were a part of it!

Patricia Barclay

Choir.

The parish choir thanks Monsignor Allan for his warmly encouraging remarks from the altar regarding the music!

Over the summer we managed to do a number of Psalms using a variety of new musical settings with the help of Nora Holden as cantor. Many thanks to Nora and we all wish her well in her continuing voice studies.

In relation to young musicians and the liturgical music of the Church, there is a vast amount of contemporary material to explore and a great opportunity for new musicians vocal and instrumental (particularly keyboard, but wind and strings as well of course). Please contact me after Mass if you are interested.

In more traditional terms we did set ourselves the task of singing the correct Marian anthem for each of the four liturgical seasons, so I guess we'd better do some work on Alma Redemptoris Mater so that we can switch to that at the beginning of Advent!
John Holden.

Humour.

- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid.
He says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

Chuckles thanks to Sister Ethel.

Eilidh's - Out of Africa.

My expedition to Malawi began with 18 months planning and fundraising, so it felt a little bit surreal when I finally met up with the rest of my expedition group at Edinburgh Airport.



We were all quite nervous but by the time we got on the first plane we had forgotten about our worries and the excitement started to kick in. We spent two days flying around the world from Edinburgh, to Heathrow, to Ethiopia, and finally to Malawi. After spending ages on various planes it was so nice to be back on solid ground.

After making our way through Lilongwe Airport we set off for our campsite which was just outside Lilongwe, Malawi's capital. I was completely unprepared for the sights I saw on the journey to the campsite. The only houses I saw were mud huts and the occasional brick shack that looked like it would fall down any second. Women wrapped in brightly patterned cloth carried huge, filled baskets on their heads while babies dozed on their backs, only attached to their mothers by thin cloth. Armies of tiny children waved manically at us when we drove past, they looked so happy even though most of them were painfully thin and dirty. By the time we reached the campsite I knew I had made the right decision by coming on the expedition.

We spent our first day in a huge, local market, getting completely lost. It was noisy, cramped and hot, with tiny paths that twisted between the stalls. It resembled a maze! Every time I turned a corner I saw something new :- Wooden carvings, beautifully patterned material, local food and jewellery. We spent hours trying to see everything before returning to the campsite with all the food we needed for the next few days.

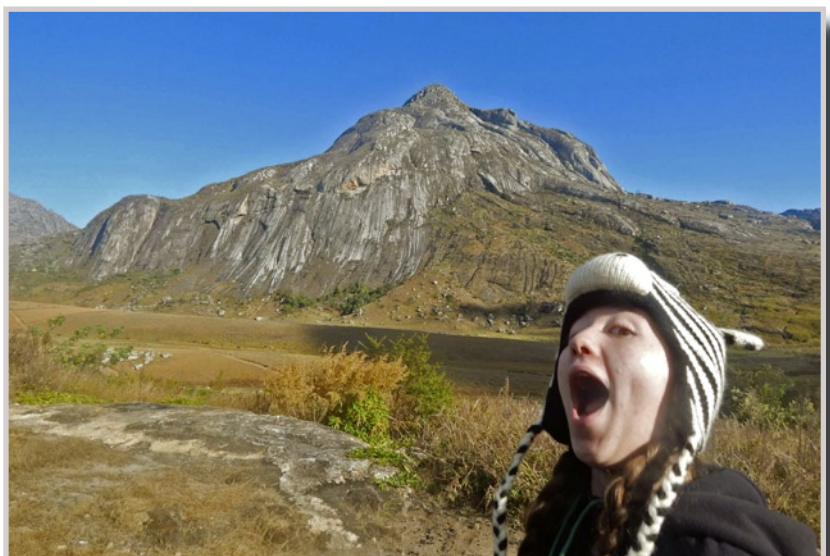
The next day we travelled to our first project :- Kuti Wildlife reserve. We spent a week building benches, doing animal surveys, fixing paths and visiting the local market. On the last day we went on a safari around the reserve. I got to see so many animals including millions of zebras and a baby giraffe with its father.

I even met an ostrich (named Evelyn) who attempted to eat all the buttons off my trousers.

After Kuti we visited Fisherman's Rest which was our second project. We spent every day, for the next week, at a nearby primary school which had over 700 pupils. We built bricks for new classrooms, taught the children English, served the morning porridge and painted walls. I loved lunchtime best as we were given some time off to go and play with the children and talk with the locals. The children were so excited to play games with us and the locals were really interested in learning about our lives in Scotland. Thanks to them I now know some Chichewa, the language of the Malawi.



My group and I found it really heartbreaking to leave the school after our week was up, but it was made easier knowing we had made a difference to the lives of the schoolchildren. We moved on to the next stage in the trip - trekking up Mt. Mulanje. I was dreading the trek as I don't really enjoy excessive exercise (unless it's swimming) and some of my group weren't in exactly peak physical condition



but after 5 days we had somehow all managed to walk 8 hours a day through rain that reminded me of Scotland and heat that I had never experienced before. And we did it all without collapsing or faking a broken leg to get out of walking. I was really proud of myself, but I have since decided that I'm not cut out to climb mountains, I much prefer looking at them from a distance. The last week of the expedition was a chance for us all to relax. We visited Lake Malawi and stayed for 3 days before beginning the long flight home.



The expedition has been the best thing I have ever done, it's made me 100% sure that I want to become a doctor and hopefully work in Malawi one day. There were good bits and not so good bits (I really missed my family) but overall it was a fantastic experience and I would definitely do it again. Thank you to everyone who supported me, I couldn't have done it without you.

Eilidh :)

SSVP.

As a convert I was always fascinated by those "old time" words in the Catholic Church such as "sodality". My Oxford English Dictionary defines sodality as

"A confraternity or association (especially R.C.)". I would imagine people were usually recruited into sodalities by personal invitation.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) certainly fits this description. However the main reason for SSVP is the continuing inspiration of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederick Ozanam. SSVP began in Paris and is now found in parishes across the globe.

A familiar sight for parishioners like ourselves is the SSVP collection box held out after Sunday Mass. Some may remember the old time stalwarts holding

a pole with the SSVP insignia. The point of these collections was to immediately disburse all of the money to deserving cases amongst the very poorest of the parish.

In our more affluent times, we are a long way from these earlier, simpler times and people have a right to know where the collection goes. Whilst never immediately disbursed, it is nevertheless made available as soon as is practicably possible to groups within and beyond the parish. And because SSVP has a National Office (Scotland) in Glasgow, we in St. David's contribute to the running of that. This in turn helps to maintain overseas links and assist the very important and vibrant SSVP Youth section.

I hope that helps shed some light on one of our few remaining "sodalities"! Please take a moment to have a look at the SSVP Magazine at the back of the Church.

John Holden.

St. David's Pro-Life Group.

With the help of parishioners who come along to our tea, coffee & scone mornings our pro-life group continues to support organisations that are doing their best to protect unborn children and other vulnerable groups in our society. In addition to Life, The Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative, Lifeline and SPUC we have also been able to offer assistance to bodies such as Mary's Meals and Father Pat Shanahan's Street Children Project.

The practical care work done by the above mentioned groups is an essential part of the pro-life movement as are the efforts of individuals such as Glasgow midwives Connie Wood and Mary Doogan, who continue with their legal battle not to be involved in abortions. Mary Doogan and Connie Wood are being taken to the Supreme Court by their employer, the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, who want to force them to cooperate in the killing of unborn children.

Thanks to your generous support, SPUC has been able to provide financial support for the two midwives as they bravely fight for the right of medical professionals to refuse participation in abortion. SPUC's final legal bill could reach £600,000, an enormous figure for SPUC compared to the tax payer funded Health Board legal department.

Helen Holden.

Lourdes Youth Trip.

Despite my initial worries of whether my second trip to Lourdes would live up to the first - I had a brilliant time.

This year, the Pilgrims were able to attend more events, as the town had completely recovered from last year's flooding. Two of the new events were the International Mass and the Underground Basilica, both of which can bring in 20,000 people at a time. There were also the usual events during the week such as the Candle Lit Procession - our Pilgrimage was asked to lead the ceremony, plus the day trip to the Local Lake and the Party Show that the helpers organise for the pilgrims, both were really enjoyable.

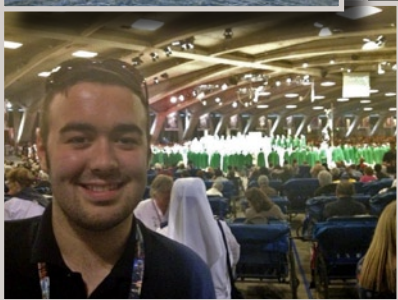
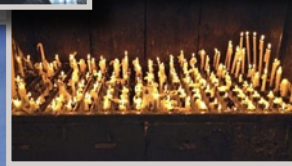
Although it wasn't as sunny as last year, it did make it easier to push all the wheelchairs and voitures around town. The youth also got to stay in a much better hotel this time. It was situated right on the town's river bank and had been restored after the floods. The rooms were bigger and food was much nicer - which was a bonus!

Another great bunch of people went this year along with more youth which made the work easier. In between the different Masses and events, we got to look around town, take the pilgrims out shopping and to cafés. The rest of the time, we caught up on our sleep so we could go out at night.

My second trip to Lourdes exceeded the first - I knew what to expect from the week and was already friendly with regulars from the pilgrimage. I had a great trip and would definitely go back for a third time.

Another fantastic experience with fantastic people.
Lewis.





Philippines 10th Anniversary.

Tenth Anniversary of Tahanan ng Mahal na Puso (Sacred Heart Home).

Indeed, small acts of kindness and generosity can go a long way. It is helpful to a lot of people as well.

Tahanan ng Mahal na Puso (Sacred Heart Home), an early childhood education program of St. Madeleine Sophie Foundation, Inc. was started in 2004 with 12 children, and on August 24, 2014, Tahanan ng Mahal na Puso celebrated its 10th anniversary. We did not even notice that we've already reached out to more than 300 children in the community plus their parents. We have provided them not only with educational services but also with health and nutrition through our feeding program, together with other programs such as the Community Library, Youth Formation Program and Income Generating Project for some parents. We did not notice it maybe because each and every child is really inspiring especially their smiles. Also, each and every encounter with every person who comes to our place here in Montalban was indeed very enriching.

We had a very meaningful celebration. Each and every child was very excited about it. The following were some of the highlights:



The blessing of the Tofu Factory and the motorcycle which is used to deliver the products. It was witnessed by some of the staff and friends of SMSF.

This was followed by a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Fr. Danny Pilario CM. The Mass was very child friendly and the celebration was truly a sacred expression of gratitude to God and to everybody.



A special program was also one of the best parts of the occasion. It was packed with joyful and meaningful presentation from the kindergarten children, the elementary kids and also the youth members. The program gave the children opportunity to show their talents and skills. Everyone was very confident about their presentation and they were very glad doing it.

In collaboration with some volunteers including the music Teacher from Japan – teacher Kyoko, all the presentations came out beautiful and successful.



The program helped everybody reminisce about the past ten years. It was a venue to extend deep gratefulness for all the help, support, kindness and generosity received throughout the year from kind-hearted people.

Friends from different places who have been part of SMSF in one way or another also sent their messages and were presented in a gallery on the day of the celebration. There were photos of the last ten years presented in the gallery as well. A film viewing of the significant events of the past one decade of Tahanan ng Mahal na Puso (Sacred Heart Home) was shown to end the program on that day.



The celebration gave way to some members of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (RSCJ) to gather together and celebrate with us the fruit of their hard work and diligence here in Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal. Their programs through St. Madeleine Sophie Foundation, (SMSF) Inc. are really helpful, very inspiring and enriching. Every member of the foundation is very grateful about being part of it.

We will not reach this far without each of YOU sharing life, talent, skills, love, care, and treasures with us here in SMSF. Your huge hearts can help us go on and reach another ten years and even beyond. Our sincere gratitude to all of you who walked with us in the last ten years. Our wish is that you may keep on journeying with us so we can continue to reach out to the people in our community and bring a smile to everyone's face and help them achieve their dreams in life.

Lizette.

P.S.

Our 10th anniversary Video came out to the website of the RSCJ. Saiko made a video that shows the background of SMSF and the 10th anniversary. Please browse and enjoy,
<http://rscjinternational.org/news/sacred-space-montalban-philippines-10th-anniversary-sacred-heart-home>

23 Years of Service.

After 23 years of dedicated work, one of our parishioners, Muriel McCormack, has decided to retire. For all this time she has been working as a volunteer with the Dalkeith Old People's Welfare in various capacities. Most recently, she has been the co-ordinator, organising events so that the not-so-young residents of Dalkeith remain happy and active by participating in the varied social events she has set up.

Over the years, there have been many changes in the organisation, including a change of premises, and, of course, a changing population. Muriel's drive and enthusiasm has steered Dalkeith Old People's Welfare through these. Many people in the area have a lot to thank Muriel for. No doubt, she will be greatly missed.

For her work, Muriel received the Long Service in Volunteering Award in June this year.
 Winifred.

St. David's Brass.

(Scottish Charity SC028401)

Following success at the Scottish Championships, the senior Band came 15th out of 17 at the Nationals. On a positive note, we are in the top 15 of the Second section in the whole of Great Britain. The senior band now includes three youth players from this parish and four more from other local parishes. It was a great experience for them, after all the hard work in rehearsals.

Next year we advance to the heady heights of the First section, competing against bands such as Newtongrange and Dalkeith & Monktonhall.



Christmas concerts :- Fri. 5th & Fri. 12th December.

This year there will be two Christmas concerts. The Youth Bands will be playing in St. David's Church on Friday 5th December, entry is free with donations going once more to Midlothian Special Needs Playscheme Monday Club.

As we are now based in Gorebridge, on Friday 12th December the senior Band will play at Gorebridge Parish Church, which also runs a local foodbank. Entry is £5, concessions £4, with Primary School children free. Proceeds will be shared between the two charities, Gorebridge Parish Church and St. David's Brass Band.

We would be delighted if you could come to both concerts. Watch out for our posters!

Deirdre.

Sick Kids Fundraising.

Julian has been asking me for a number of years now to write something for the Parish magazine about *“being a mum in the 2010s”*, but I kept thinking *“what can I write about that nearly half the parish haven’t done before me at some point? Why would anyone else be interested in hearing how difficult it is to keep two young children, who are used to active learning at school and nursery, quiet and still in church?”*

And then I realised - how grateful I am that Rebecca, in particular, is able to be heard at all and how difficult I find it to ask her to be quiet, even in church, when two years ago we were struggling to hear her at all. This article isn’t going to be all doom and gloom about the ten plus operations which she has been in for over the past year and half since being diagnosed with recurring growths on her vocal chords or how much I worry every time she coughs or speaks in a croaky voice, but about the positives which have come out of these many trips and the fantastic work which the Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF) do to make trips to hospital so much easier for children and their families.

As already mentioned, Rebecca has been in at least ten times in the past 18 months to have these growths removed and has twice had to stay overnight.

For those of you who have perhaps not visited the hospital for a while, each of the wards has a play room, partially equipped by the Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF), with a variety of toys and activities for all ages, and lots of arts and crafts materials for the patients to do, both before their operations and afterwards.

Rebecca has always loved playing in the “waiting rooms” before her operations and then watching DVDs in bed afterwards, but I think one of the highlights of her visits is if she gets visited by the Clown Doctors - it is such a joy to hear her, and other children waiting for a variety of different operations, laughing hysterically as these clown doctors walk into walls or doors or try to start singing. It really does make the wait before surgery so much easier as a parent. Thanks to the SKFF, the clown doctors and these activities and toys, Rebecca now actually looks forward to and gets excited about going in for her ops!!



Anyway, after doing some fundraising for African children whilst at nursery, Rebecca decided that she wanted to raise some money for “her hospital” and so we found ourselves dressed as Snow White, in Meadowbank stadium in June 2013, ready to do the Teddy Toddle at the Sick Kids summer fair. Thanks to the generosity of friends and family, Rebecca and Jennifer managed to raise £619.50 But daddy had decided that he wanted to go one better and say our thanks to the Friends Foundation for the great work which they do at the hospital and he signed up to complete the 110 mile cycle from Glasgow to Edinburgh last year, raising £779.

As we took Rebecca’s stabilisers off at the start of this summer, and the gap between her operations had increased to four months instead of four weeks, Rebecca asked if she could raise more money for the hospital and do the same cycle as daddy did last year as she didn’t feel that the toddle round Meadowbank was long enough. As she had only just turned 6 and was still very very wobbly on her bike, we thought that 110 miles might have just been a little bit far - if not for her, certainly for mummy!!!, so the whole family found ourselves one Sunday morning at Kirkliston Leisure Centre waiting to complete the family ride to Murrayfield.



The girls were really excited - especially when they saw Heather and Caitlin and their parents. I was taken aback by the number of people there, and lots of young children all kitted out with helmets and bikes. Lots of people were cycling for fun and there were lots of others cycling for different charities and everyone was having great fun - the weather was definitely in our favour, dry and not too windy. The girls loved cycling through the country and were fascinated seeing planes coming in to land as we went past the flight path.

As we approached Murrayfield, we became aware of people waving and cheering us on, as well as more and more cyclists as we were joined by the Glasgow cyclists who were also finishing at the same point. The atmosphere in the stadium crossing the finishing line was fantastic and the sense of achievement was immense. Not only had we cycled the ten miles successfully but we had raised over five hundred pounds for the Sick Kids, which we have since found out will be matched by Elliot’s workplace, making a total of one thousand and seven pounds.



Now that the legs have recovered, I am sure that Rebecca will be looking for our next challenge..... and not only will you understand how difficult it is to keep the girls quiet during Mass but you may find us chasing you on a bike in fancy dress for a donation for such a worthwhile cause, so very close to our own hearts.

Lesley-Anne (Mum)

Editor’s note - come and join us in the cycle club Fun Rides next year, cycling families most welcome.

More Humour.

- I took the job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went.
Then it dawned on me.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- I wondered why the ball was getting bigger.
Then it hit me!
- A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn’t control her pupils.

More chuckles thanks to Sister Ethel.

Deacon-Elect Peter.

“Well” said the editor at the Lourdes quiz night in October, *“you’re in the running for the wooden spoon again!”*. *“When do you need it?”* I replied with a very big sigh, *“four weeks ago”* said the editor, so here I am at the computer to get my article done before the other well known contender!!!

The time since April and my last article has flown by and now with the nights really drawing in its nice to sit down and reflect back on what has been a pretty hectic but very eventful summer.

April saw a very nice wee milestone in my formation to date, and that was the culmination of a petition I had to formally make to the Archbishop to be appointed to the ministry of Lector, or reader as it’s sometimes referred to today. This was once one of the minor orders on the path to full ordination but following the Second Vatican council, it became a Ministry in its own right. My fellow diaconal student John Smith is based in his own parish of St. Peter’s in Morningside and so in April of this year we were both made Lector by Archbishop Cushley at the deanery Mass in St. Peter’s.



Most of you will know that I dipped my toe back into the waters of employment for the summer and April also saw me working on the American flights out of Edinburgh with a private security company. The training and the shift schedule looked manageable so I decided to give it a go. The people were great and I made some new friends but I soon found out that the schedule had a bit of a negative impact on my personal life and my formation for the permanent Diaconate so I took the decision to look for something else. I’m currently “resting”, to use the acting term, although I’ve been building walls and landscaping the garden and a few other bits and pieces in between.

My formation is gathering pace at an amazing rate. We’ve had a full summer of baptisms this year. There has seldom been a Sunday where we haven’t had one (and on occasion two!) and that has really kept me busy as I’ve been doing a fair bit of the baptismal preparation with the families concerned under the watchful eye of Monsignor Chambers of course. As my parish priest, he is also my mentor for my pastoral formation and I’m very grateful for the trust he has shown in me because as a deacon I am being formed to serve in a pastoral role within the parish context.



My studies have gone pretty well from an academic perspective, all exams passed with flying colours in fact, but my degree will be in ecclesial service and its main aim is to enable me to pass on the faith to others. My portfolio of catechetical tasks which I submitted to the examination board also returned some of my highest marks and that has been down to the depth and breadth of my formation here at St. David’s and this catechetical dimension to much of my work this year has also turned out to be one of the more rewarding sides of my formation so far and has led to my involvement in sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation.

I can’t do it all on my own though and this year Mrs. Colette Pye from St. Luke & St. Anne’s has been helping me with the formation of Lauren and Megan Primrose who made their full entrance into the faith in November this year when they received 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation here in St. David’s. They have been a true joy to teach and full credit also has to go to Mum Amanda and Dad Neil for all of their support and of course to Briony who although the youngest of the sisters who were baptised here in the parish this year, will follow her own sacramental preparation programme at school.

I’m back into the studies now, Philosophy 1, from Socrates to St. Thomas Aquinas, has been submitted and I’m currently working on Church History 1, fourth to fourteenth century. That will be followed by Systematic Philosophy, Christian Anthropology, Patrology and Trinity and Our Life in Christ, for good measure.



No Portfolio this year as I have my first of six doctrinal themes to begin before Christmas. This is where I now begin to see the light at the end of the academic tunnel, for these doctrinal themes will form an integral part, along with my written submissions, of my final oral examination.

This year I've been to three ordinations of my fellow students to the permanent Diaconate.

The first was Tom Wynne in Fort William, the 2nd, Joe O'Donnell in Glasgow and in August I was in the Cathedral in Dundee for the ordination of the 3rd, Len Moir. I had always wanted to go to St. Andrew's in Dundee because a few years ago I was given a "Magnificat" card with the prayer of Our Lady on one side and on the other, one of the stained glass panels of the "Rosary window" which shows the 2nd Joyful Mystery, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth.

The Magnificat is from the Gospel of Luke (Lk 1:46-55) and I sing it every evening when I pray the office of evening prayer because it's one of the three canticles or songs of the Church sung in the office. The others are the Benedictus at Morning Prayer and the Nunc Dimittis at Night Prayer.

After the ordination I made a point of going over to see it, the Cathedral had been packed when we all arrived and then I made my way down to the undercroft for a cup of tea with my fellow students who had all made the trip. "Well Peter" said John "that's the last of the fourth years ordained, the next will be ours".

Well now, there's a thought!
Peter.

Looking Forward.

December :-

An Advent Penitential Service will take place in St. David's, day and time to be confirmed. A number of visiting priests will be available to us for this.

- Wed. 3rd 11.00 a.m., Exposition, 12 Noon Mass.
- Friday 5th St. David's Youth Bands Charity Concert in St. David's, starts 7.30 p.m., entry free.
- Saturday 6th Christmas Disco starts 7.30 p.m.
- Sunday 7th Pantomime Tickets - payment for and collection of after morning Mass.
- Wed. 10th 11.00 a.m., Exposition, 12 Noon Mass.
- Friday 12th St. David's Brass Christmas Concert in Gorebridge Parish Church, starts 7.30 p.m., entry £5, concessions £4.
- Saturday 13th SSVP Christmas Dinner.
- Sunday 14th Pantomime Trip, bus leaves directly after 11.a.m. Mass.
- Wed. 17th 11.00 a.m., Exposition, 12 Noon Mass.
- Sunday 21st Nativity Play 14.00-14.30, followed by Mulled wine & Mince pies in the Hall.

PROGRAMME for CHRISTMAS:

Wednesday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE.

St. Luke & St. Anne's.

6.00 p.m. Service of Carols and Readings,
6.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib & First Mass of Christmas.

St. David's, Dalkeith.

8.00 p.m. Service of Carols and Readings,
8.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib & First Mass of Christmas.

Thursday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY.

St. David's, Dalkeith.

11.00 a.m. Mass of Christmas Day.

Friday 26th BOXING DAY.

No Mass.

- Sunday 28th Feast of the Holy Family, (in other years The Holy Innocents)
11.00 a.m. St. David's, Dalkeith, Concelebrated with His Grace Archbishop Leo Cushley.

January :-

- Thursday 1st New Year's Day Mass at 11.00 a.m.

This is our 17th 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.
First Communions.



Primary 4 - some Christmas artwork.

