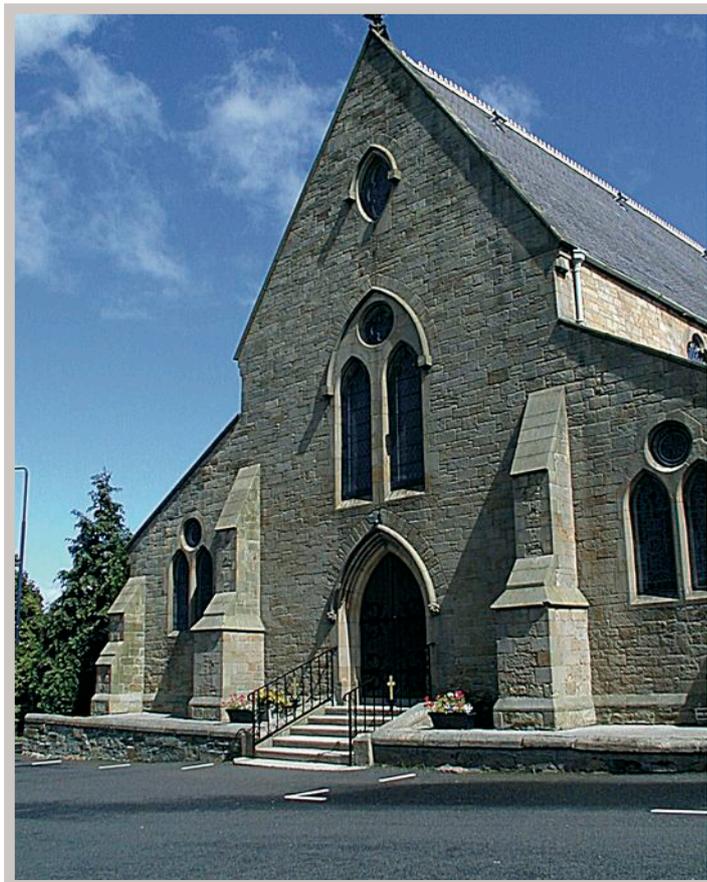


This magazine is free - please take one home.

St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Spring 2013



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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.

Well at the end of my last article for the autumn edition of the magazine, I said that I would tell you all a bit more about my propaedeutic year and my studies to date (yes we Catholics really do like big long words)!

Essentially it is a year of formation and discernment for the Church (and Me!) to make sure that I am suitable for the diaconal programme before the academic and pastoral formation begins and it consists of four study weekends a couple of essays and a lot of prayer!.

The weekends are always jam packed with lectures and talks from some very clever people (including priests and deacons) about the life and role of a deacon and how the balance is to be maintained between the life of an ordained minister of the Church and that of a Husband, Father (and Grandfather) who must still make his own way in the secular world.

One thing which is always stressed is the importance of my wife and family in this equation (and believe me I've been married long enough to know that you don't ignore Margaret in anything!)

The importance of those marriage vows, made in my own case thirty years ago in St. Luke's in Mayfield, are recognised and acknowledged throughout the coursework and training programme and wives attend the third weekend of the year when

the focus is centred on marriage and the family in the life of a deacon and they also come along to the Summer school barbecue with family and friends every year.

In the process of formation there are four main themes which are introduced and then developed over the full diaconal programme for the process of formation never really ends and we look first at:

Human formation which looks at how we as individuals react and interact with others, Psychometric testing exercises such as the Myers-Briggs personality assessment are used to identify through self assessment, our inner personality traits with some surprising results for those taking part!



Spiritual formation is of course closely linked to Human formation and through the introduction of the "examen" process which was developed from St. Ignatius of Loyola's spiritual exercises we are taught how to review our day by becoming:

- Aware of God's presence.
- Review the day with gratitude.
- Pay attention to your emotions.
- Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
- Look toward tomorrow.

One of the great unexpected joy's of the year was the introduction in the first weekend to the Divine Office. It's often called the great river of prayer offered to God by the faithful at key hours in the day. Most people don't know this but our priests are required to say all the offices of the day wherever possible.

As an ordained deacon, I will be required to say the greater offices of Morning and Evening prayer sometimes referred to as the two great hinges of the liturgy of the hours (Lauds and Vespers If you still

like to think of them in old money!). It's a beautiful way to pray and immensely rewarding. Give it a go!

Doctrinal formation is the third theme and so began my study of my faith. When Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI introduced the year of faith, he called on all the faithful to re-learn the use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (often referred to as the CCC) and in my studies to date it has proved to be a pivotal text with a rich wealth of scriptural and doctrinal links into the Bible and of the works of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. This has also lead me into a study of the Holy Trinity, fundamental and dogmatic theology, Christology and ecclesiology to name but a few of these avenues of study, in an ever widening and deepening journey and one which I hope and pray will allow me to pass on to others the foundations of our faith.

Pastoral foundation is the final element and if Human and Spiritual foundation are linked then doctrinal and pastoral foundation are truly two sides of the same coin. The word Deacon comes from the Greek noun diakona or servant but it also shares the same root of the verb diakonia which means to serve, an active rather than re-active process which draws

together all of the human, spiritual and doctrinal elements and allows them to be used in the service of others in Christ.

All this study and training might seem a little daunting, especially to one such as I with no real formal education outside of 4 'O' levels, but it's really not. It has been a glorious journey of discovery and has led me seamlessly into my first year as a diaconal student and my pastoral placement here at St. David's and St. Luke & St. Anne's.

As I now gallop headlong towards my first year exams at the end of June, I look back and wonder at how much and indeed how quickly things have happened.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to you all for your kindness and support, for all your cards and gifts and for putting up with me singing in Latin! (They make me do it, honest!)

God Bless
Peter.

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Christmas 2012.

In our run up to Christmas we enjoyed

- Remembrance Sunday,
- St. David's Brass Charity Christmas Concert where a surprised David Moir presented himself with the Allan Moir Memorial Trophy for his achievement over the year, congratulated by Conductor John Dickson,
- Our Nativity Play.



The Church of Today and Tomorrow.

Baroness Nuala O'Loan, DBE, who had been the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland 1997-2007 and since 2009, a Life Peer, gave a talk at the invitation of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Baroness Nuala is seen here seated by Sister Helen.

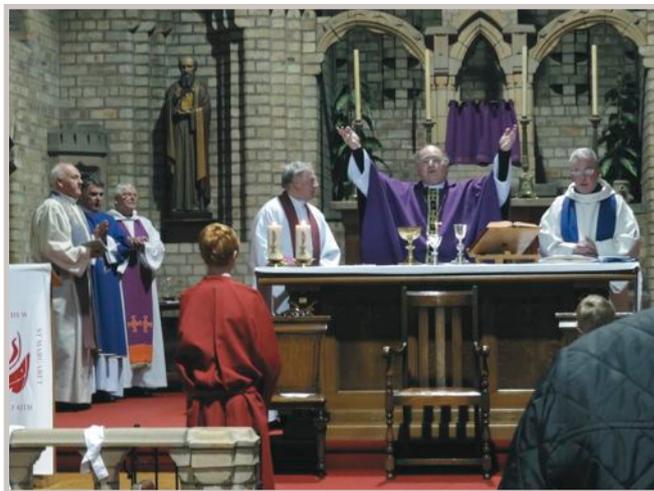


When I arrived to hear the talk, most of the seats were already taken. Looking round for a seat, I was struck by all the grey heads. Where is the church of tomorrow? Surely, there are some young adults in our church who are concerned about the church of tomorrow?

It proved a very interesting and thought provoking talk. The church has not stood still and has become more outward looking. Its concerns are for the poor and the marginalised and this is the future.

Winifred.

Station Mass.



A 'bus load' of St. David's parishioners went to the Station Mass at St. Matthews, Rosewell and heard a moving sermon given by Bishop Stephen based on the 'road to emmaus' story in St. Luke's gospel.

A good feast was enjoyed afterwards in the hall. Julian.

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News from the Schools.

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

Celebrating Success at St. David's Primary School.

Well done Mrs. Young!

We are very proud of the achievements of our own members of staff and I know you will all join with me in congratulating Mrs. Young on her success at interview for the position of Head Teacher, St. Matthew's Primary School, Rosewell.

This is testament to Mrs. Young's leadership skills and professionalism, skills she has enhanced in her 4 years at St. David's, of course.

New Principal Teacher of St. David's Primary.

Following Mrs. Young's promotion to Head Teacher of St. Matthew's, I am delighted to announce that Miss Anna Chidgey was successful at interview for the position of Principal Teacher.

Mrs. Young and Miss Chidgey will commence their new roles from August 2013.

I know you will join me in wishing them both every success in their new positions.



Southern Light Opera Company performed the production of Oklahoma at the Kings Theatre, Edinburgh from the 13th to the 16th March 2013. We received a 4☆ review and had a sell out show! I played the part of Laurey Williams an independent and stubborn tom boy who lives and works on her Aunt's Farm. After much fighting, tears and cowboy dancing she eventually marries cowboy Curly McLain.

It was an amazing experience and one I hope to repeat in the not too distant future!

Miss Chidgey writes,



Farewell to Mrs. McLeod.

Since the Autumn magazine, Mrs. McLeod has had an eventful time becoming a mum for the first time, to Katherine Anne, who is now almost 6 months old and is looking gorgeous. She has also since resigned from her position at the school to spend more time being a mum. We thank Mrs. McLeod for her excellent contribution to our school community and I know you will join me in wishing her every success for the future.

Our School Theme – Rights Respecting School.

Our School Theme from January to Easter 2013 was focused around the development of children's Health and Wellbeing and Citizenship skills and knowledge through our work towards the promotion of children's rights and responsibilities and UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Programme. The purpose of this is to increase their understanding of themselves, their rights and also their responsibilities to respect the rights of others.

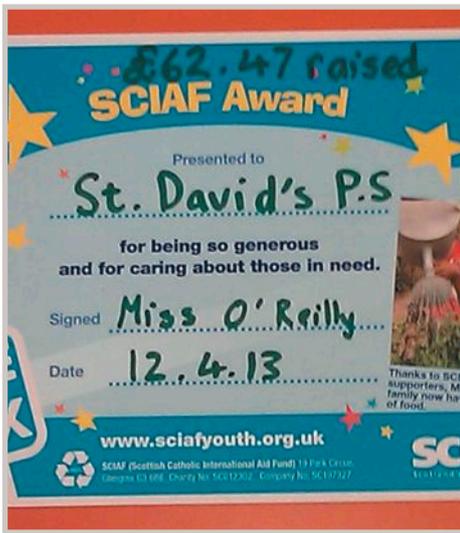


Miss Chidgey and our P1-7 UNICEF Ambassadors have been helping the school get ready for this theme since August 2012 and everyone is very keen to take their learning to the next level. Visit our website to find out more about the roles and responsibilities of our UNICEF Ambassadors. The work of the whole school has secured our certification of 'Recognition of Commitment' awarded by UNICEF – and we aim to be awarded Level 1 Recognition by the end of the school year. Congratulations to everyone at the school for their commitment to this important work.

Whole School Charity Fundraising – SCIAF.

Throughout the season of Lent, our fundraising was dedicated towards our partners at SCIAF and the children and families of Burundi in particular. Led by Miss O'Reilly and P4/5, children were involved in a series of fundraising activities planned and organised by each individual class.

All classes used their 'Wee Box' for spare change



and also from anything they had given up during Lent, we decided to put in the 'Wee Box' instead.

A massive thank you to everyone in the St. David's School

Community for their enterprising efforts and achievements in supporting such a wonderful campaign and also in raising the awareness and understanding of the needs of children and families of Burundi – our children should be very proud of themselves and the example they set as global citizens.



Our class are now looking forward to a very active and busy Summer term. We are excited to be going to London on our class trip and can't wait to see all the sights and experience a live London show!

At the moment we are about to take part in Bikeability sessions to help us improve our cycling skills, just in time for summer.

Later this term in June, we will be participating in the Midlothian Athletics championships and can't wait to show off our skills to the other schools taking part, aiming to win the Trophy for the 4th time in 5 years!!! Go St. David's!!!

An example of Curriculum for Excellence in action at St. David's Primary.

Interdisciplinary Learning – School Theme – Natural Scotland.

Each term the whole school are involved in a school theme approach to learning across different areas of the curriculum. Between Easter and June our learning experiences will be based around social studies, technology and literacy. We are also working towards achieving a Green Flag from Eco Schools Scotland in recognition of our school's efforts towards improving the local and global environment. Our focus theme next term is based around 2013 as the 'Year of Natural Scotland' and, in particular, developing children's awareness of recycling, waste minimisation, climate change and, of course, litter. All children are involved through their class activities and they are supported by Miss Fallon and class representatives in the school's Eco Committee. We also have staff, parents and other partners involved in this committee.

Some of the activities we have planned include



Sporting successes.

Primary 6/7 have had a great Easter term with lots of sporting activities to take part in.

each class continuing to develop an area of the school grounds. We have organised a litter pick in the local and wider community as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful campaign. P4-7 will work towards securing a John Muir Award for their efforts in transforming a 'wild' area as well as walk to school weeks and our 'walking bus', after school clubs, cycling proficiency, music motivators and keeping myself safe.

The theme will conclude as always with a sharing the learning experience where the children plan, organise and present a whole school Eco-Fashion Show – watch this space!

Primary 3 have been enthusiastically getting started on our school theme – Natural Scotland. We have started our Learning Wall and brainstormed all the things we know already and have come up with questions we would like to know the answer to. We have discovered we know a lot already about animals in Scotland – we particularly enjoyed going on an insect hunt in the school grounds - and we have also found out that Scotland has a wide and varied landscape.



We have put our artistic skills to the test by painting several landscapes inspired by our research. We can't wait to learn more!!

Climate Week 4-10 March 2013.

St. David's Primary in Dalkeith made their mark in the UK's biggest environmental competition!

Children from St. David's RC Primary School, Dalkeith, competed with tens of thousands of other people from schools, colleges and workplaces across the UK, in the country's biggest environmental competition.

The Climate Week Challenge ran from 4th-10th March as part of Climate Week, the UK's biggest

climate change campaign. 140 children from Primary 1 – Primary 7 took part in the Challenge which aims to encourage as many people as possible to come up with creative ideas to help the environment.

The Climate Week Challenge was open to everyone and teams of 4 to 6 people competed within age categories, although they all worked on the same core challenge. The Challenge was only revealed to the teams on the morning they were due to take part and they were given until the end of the day to complete the task.

Natalia from Primary 1 came runner-up in the UK



wide challenge. Her idea was a house made from wood because we can continue to grow more trees. It has solar panels on the roof so it can get energy from the sun. It has straw inside the roof to keep it warm and stop energy escaping.

Miss Fallon, Eco Coordinator at St. David's, said: "The Climate Week Challenge was a great chance for our children to put their classroom learning about climate change into practice. The challenge was an engaging and useful way for our children to continue learning about the effects climate change is having on our planet and also an excellent opportunity to develop strategic thinking about the potential solutions."

Miss Chidgey, Primary 1 Class teacher, added: "We were very excited to be part of the UK's biggest environmental competition and we are all extremely proud of Natalia's achievement! It is evidence of our schools' focus on creativity and problem solving within real and meaningful contexts."

Kevin Steele, Chief Executive at Climate Week, said: "The Climate Week Challenge enables young people to develop their skills of innovation and team-working to help combat climate change, which is one of the most important issues they will need to address as the emerging generation. We were hugely impressed with the response from schools and many of the ideas developed by this year's [number] participants were brilliant."

Climate Week is Britain's biggest climate change campaign, inspiring a new wave of action to create a sustainable future. The campaign is backed by eminent individuals such as the Prime Minister and Sir Paul McCartney, and by organisations including the National Association of Headteachers and Eco-Schools.

St. David's Primary School, Promoting Fairtrade.

St. David's Primary School has been dedicated to promoting Fairtrade in our school. This year we have made a big effort to encourage the purchase of Fairtrade goods.

We set up a Fairtrade stall this year, we have sold £195 worth of Fairtrade goods with our stall. Thank you to the community for your continuing support.

Last term we were very busy organising an outstanding event, our 'Fairtrade Coffee Morning'. Primary 4/5 had the opportunity to organise this event, they worked well in their co-operative teams to prepare the school. We were overwhelmed by the turnout for this event, thank you for making it such a great event.

Mr Currie comments -

We are now a Fairtrade School!

Excellent work over the last few years in learning about and promoting the Fairtrade message from P1-7 and within the local and wider community.

Here are pictures of our Fairtrade Steering Group.



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

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

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**

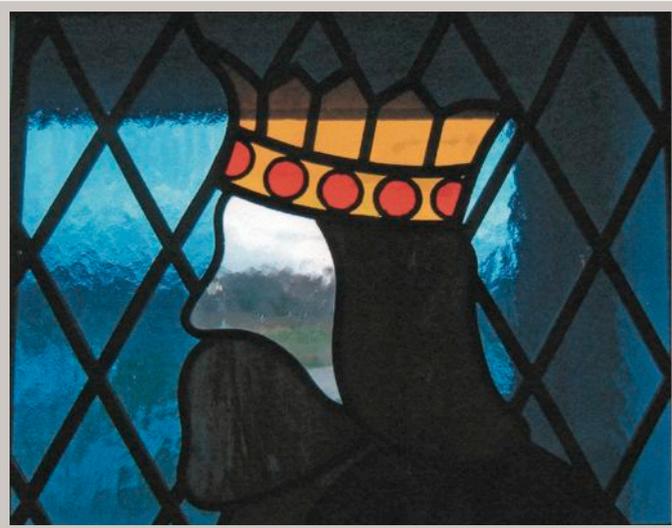
Twitter: **@stdavidsprimary**

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



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

St. David's High School.



NEWS:

Sporting Success.

Emily Dalgetty in S4 was selected to represent Scotland in the U16 Open Strokeplay Golf Championship at Strathmore Golf Club on the 4th and 5th April.

On the Thursday she shot an excellent 4 over par round and was only 4 shots off the lead. One bad hole on the Friday spoilt, an otherwise, excellent performance on her first outing in Scottish colours. As well as the individual championship there was a team event involving teams from Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales and Italy.

I went up to Strathmore on Friday to support



Emily and found the whole event very impressive and a fantastic experience for Emily.

I'm sure you will all want to congratulate her on this success. The photo shows Emily with the rest of the Scotland team.

Mrs. Joan Lunn.

St. David's High School - Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award

In September of last year, 17 sixth year students began the Caritas Award programme supported by Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Jabir and our school Chaplain Iris Lawrie.

The CARITAS AWARD has been established by the Bishops of Scotland as one way of keeping alive the legacy of Pope Benedict's historic visit to our country in 2010.

It takes 3 elements - Witness, Learning & Reflection - and provides a structure through which to experience, record and share the impact of these on their faith journey.

The award takes a snap-shot of a young person's faith witness in one year but is built on the learning and reflection that (s)he has experienced over the course of time within school. It is hoped that the award will encourage young people to recognise that they are part of a community of living faith and to consider how they can share their gifts and talents with the wider Church in the future.

It recognises that some are already active and committed within their homes, schools, parishes and dioceses and it invites others to respond to God's call of love. It supports and celebrates the faith witness which young people give within their communities.

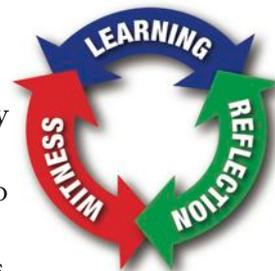
Introduced in 2011, this award asks young people to use their faith learning as a starting point for further faith reflection, leading to actions which show their faith witness. Participants in the Caritas Award will be supported in deciding how they can develop and use their gifts in a way that witnesses to God's love ("Caritas") in their communities.

The presentation of the Awards to our students will take place at a lavish ceremony in the Clyde Auditorium in Glasgow on 2nd June attended by our Bishops, clergy, families and friends.

Congratulations to Rosie Anderson, Abbie Boyd Ellison, David Bradley, Hannah Brosnan, Emily Brown, Katherine Cassidy, Jessica Dalgetty, Taylor Eldon, Alice Grainger, Louise Hutton, Owen King, Rachel Paterson, Catherine Pye, Aodhan Sheridan and Liam Tucker on a tremendous achievement.

Two of our students have kindly agreed to share their reflection of the journey through the programme in the articles below.

Wendy Sutherland
Headteacher.



Caritas: An Extraordinary Force in my Life David Bradley S6 - St. David's High School.

Caritas, for me, has been a motivational program which is designed to encourage the youth of a community to take part and give time to their community.

The Pope saw Caritas as "the love which God lavishes upon us and which we in turn must share with others" (Deus Caritas Est, par.1).

Reflecting upon this I came to my own understanding of these words. I have never been devoutly religious and often attribute the goodness I see around me to ordinary men and not God's intervention however Caritas has shifted the perspective somewhat; 'the love which God lavishes upon us', is not referring to some no corporeal fuzzy packages of warm emotion that God showers us with that we may then give them one at a time to those we meet; 'we in turn must share with others'. I see this love that we are lavished with as our inborn capacity to love and care and to show that love and caring to others. We are creatures of the heart as much as the brain and we all have the capability to love, be loved and show love and Caritas encourages that we do good around us and feel and show love to those that we encounter.

Caritas enforced my long held belief, that religion will never be obsolete because it is an active force for good in the world and continually tells its pupils to do all they are capable of to help their community.

I have long been an active member of my community through my representing the school and various clubs but in recent, quite busy, years I have felt my loyalty to these groups strained as I looked more to my own goals in academia.

Caritas facilitated my renewed loyalty to those community activities that I was growing impatient of and led me to represent my church at a tri-church meeting; this experience I found tremendously enjoyable and I took a great deal from.

Caritas seems to have given me more fulfilment in my activities than I got before. This I think is because Caritas made me somehow more aware of the necessity for goodness and love and so because I was aware of the need, I became aware of the results. That gave fulfilment.

In tutoring maths and perfecting and being an active member of my church I see and feel the good that I am accomplishing; I can see the improvement in those I tutor and can feel their growing confidence. Much of that is their own doing but I know I have contributed towards it and that gives

me great satisfaction.

That is what Caritas has given me and will continue to give me as it has ensured my participation in community and church events indefinitely.

David Bradley S6.

Caritas - an extraordinary force in my life Katharine Cassidy S6 - St. David's High School.

Throughout the duration of my final year at school I choose to take the opportunity to take part in the Caritas journey as it intrigued me, what could I learn from this? Despite being a catholic and having been raised in Christian family I felt as though the Pope had never played a particularly influential role in my life or in my faith. This was mainly I think because I had never really been exposed to his teachings as much as I had the scriptures themselves. The opportunity to learn more about my faith through the leader of the faith offered by my school R.E department and Chaplaincy appealed to me greatly.

Religion has always been a medium that fascinates me completely; I am going to Edinburgh University to study it next year. After my degree which I hope will allow me to fulfil my knowledge and understanding of religion and its importance within our world past present and future, I hope to become a teacher and I feel this experience has encouraged me to work with young people. The Pope himself said we must listen to young people, they are the future. I hope to be able to take the lessons I've learned from Caritas and from my degree to pass on to the children. Not to convert them to Christianity, but to open their minds to the love.

At the start of the Caritas project I was somewhat surprised to discover the Pope took an active role in teaching Christians about the faith and what it means to be part of it. The Deus Caritas Est was my first encounter with the Pope and his role within the faith. Through his messages I have truly developed a deeper understanding of my faith and what it means to go in the world as a Christian. I have come to understand what it means to show love, and how it can transform lives for the better and lead to the greatest encounter with God. 'Love is the light—and in the end, the only light—that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practise it because we are created in the image of God. To experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world' – this message remained strong in my

thoughts as I see this as the Popes main invitation to Christians.

The Footprints in the Sand story was influential and what it taught me has changed my views on the stability of my faith and where it comes from. To think of how your faith is always with you, and can carry you when you feel as though you are lost and cannot continue, it is a warming and saving thought. For me it is the realisation that Jesus is our Saviour. The story brings to light the fact that you are never alone when you have faith in the Lord.

Through witness of the church volunteering I worked with many young people who views and questions echoed in my mind, and sometimes posed a great challenge for me to find an answer from the Popes teachings or from the scriptures. Many stemmed from the idea of loving your neighbour as yourself, a difficult concept for many Christians and indeed the children to understand. It is hard to tell someone they should love those whom they do not like. Through deep reflection on the Pope's reflection I tried my best to understand why, and I found the strength to tell them to find love within themselves, and always treat others how you would like to be treated, even if they do not show you the same courtesy because God loves that person, and so should you.

'Loving God is loving your neighbour' Through discussion, self and group reflection I came to notice how a main message of Christianity is to show love and compassion to all God's creation. It led me to think on all the religious wars, the violent religious movements and how many horrible sins are carried out in the name of God and how completely contradictory they are to the faith itself. I found this part of my personal journey a struggle but after discussion with my peers I realised the role of the many Christian denomination churches did not follow the teachings of the Pope which seemed to remain to the true likeness of the Christian image and God's hope for humanity which encouraged me to have hope in humanity in light of such dim and vile crimes committed, especially at a time when the crimes and sins of those who are leaders in faith such as priests and cardinals have come to light. In these times of uncertainty turning away from God would seem easy, but for me, wrong as the idea of 'omnia vincit amor' or 'Love conquers all' and it comes from God and he will triumph.

The Caritas journey encouraged me to believe in the love God has for us and how I can communicate that in my life to all human beings God loves just as much as his followers. "God is love, and he who

abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 Jn 4:16). It teaches me to go on in my life and try to do God's work. A very positive notion has been bestowed in my mind, 'love grows through love' and I feel as though with this message if we can spread it the world can become a better place. I think the experience has allowed me time and opportunity to reflect on my own beliefs and values, and now, has strengthened them bringing me to a deeper understanding of my connection with my faith and our Lord.

Katharine Cassidy S6.

SENIOR PUPIL CHAPLAINCY GROUP.

Sister Yuka Arita's Visit to the High School.



Sister Yuka spent the day in St. David's High School, where she spent time with teachers and pupils. As she is Japanese, she was able to tell the pupils about education in Japan, where pupils' day begins at 8.00 a.m. and finishes sometimes at 10.00 p.m., with the result that many pupils fall asleep during class time the next day. The first part of the day is from 8.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m., then children must do two hours of exercise, and after exercise there will be two or three hours cramming sessions. Tea is then at 10.00 p.m. This apparently is a normal school day for Japanese pupils.



Seasons for Growth Programme.

This programme has been implemented once again for pupils in S2. The programme is run for small groups of children and is based on research that highlights the importance of peer support. It focuses on issues such as managing feelings, problem solving and effective communication. The programme is offered to pupils who have suffered loss through death of someone close, or through separation or divorce in their family. It is an Education Programme (it is not counselling or therapy). Some school staff have been trained and accreditation must be achieved before this programme is offered. The programme is presented by Mrs. Macnamara and Mrs. Lawrie.

Senior Pupils Chaplaincy Group Social Event.

The "Chaps" enjoyed a "Ghosts and Ghouls" night out exploring the vaults in the Edinburgh underground. Some of them found the experience more than a bit scary, but others thoroughly enjoyed being scared.



They were joined by the Headteacher and members of the R.E. and Chaplaincy Departments. This was an enjoyable night before the beginning of the SQA Exams.



Youth for Lourdes.

There are four senior pupils in the school who have volunteered their services in Lourdes during the forthcoming Annual Pilgrimage. Many events have been taking place to raise funds for this project, including coffee mornings, concerts, karaoke, etc. Well done to all the pupils who have been instrumental in these fund raising events.

Iris.



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Parish Groups and News.

Cycle Club. 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲

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

We have 9 Fun Rides this year - at 2.00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month - March to November - when afternoon sunshine had been booked - although it had snowed a bit in March as our recent photos show.



Our rides this year will be on at least 4 different routes:

- Dalkeith/ Penicuik Railway Cyclepath,
- Ormiston/ Pencaitland Railway Cyclepath,
- Longniddry/ Haddington Railway Cyclepath,
- Glentress Green Route from the Buzzard's Nest,
- plus any others requested by members.



Club membership and rides are free to parishioners and friends of all ages, all you need is a bike and maybe some sunblock. We usually have refreshments in the hall after a ride. Please note that children must be accompanied by a cycling parent or guardian.

Come along and have some fun riding with us.
Julian.

News from the Philippines.

The news from Montalban has been quite positive since the last magazine report. Sister Yuka had a small building situated in the grounds of the Sacred Heart Convent restored and had equipment installed to begin a small tofu making business.

The idea was to employ local unemployed people, and most importantly to produce cheaper food for the children in the Sacred Heart school, and the families in the neighbouring area. Although the business is still in its infancy, at the moment it is doing well. Some of the mothers of pupils in the school have also started producing hand made goods to be sold in other parts of the world. They are producing small items such as greetings cards, toilet bags and other hessian type bags. They have been provided with two sewing machines and are allowed to use the school library to produce their goods. Although unemployment and poverty is very obvious in Montalban, the Sisters of the Sacred work very hard to help and encourage local families to help themselves.

The other news was that Sister Yuka came very unexpectedly to Scotland for a few days where she had meetings with our own Sacred Heart Sister.

She very much wanted to speak to parishioners in St. David's and St. Luke's & St. Anne's to thank them for all the support they have given over the past 5 years, and to tell them about the difference that support has made to the lives of the children in school. She took that opportunity by speaking to some parishioners after Masses in Mayfield and Dalkeith. She is overwhelmed by the kindness and support she has received and wanted to convey that message to people personally.

She also took some time to visit Edinburgh and a little of the surrounding area. She thinks she probably will never get the chance to visit Scotland again, but loved every minute she was here.

Iris.



The Lourdes Experience.

'Youth for Lourdes' Trip 5th – 12th July 2013

I first heard about the trips to Lourdes when my older brother and sister took part a few years ago. They said it was one of the best times of their lives and a great life experience. After hearing about their experiences, I considered participating when I was old enough, but it was only this year that I finally felt ready to go. It was particularly reassuring to know that my cousin, another youth, Liam de Hann would be going with me on the trip. This year will be Liam's fourth time going to Lourdes. He continually goes because of the rewarding feeling he receives when helping the pilgrims.

Jamie Stewart and Darren Lindsay are two of the other youth going to Lourdes this year. Both are in their fifth year of high school and attend the parish of Our Lady's St. Matthew's and St. Margaret's. Jamie has previously enjoyed voluntary work for St. Catherine's Cathedral and thought the Lourdes trip would be beneficial to him. Darren was also curious of the trip as he went to Lourdes last year with the Jumbulance Company 'ACROSS'. After attending a Mass at St. Kentigern's Church and learning more about the trip, both of them decided to participate.

Other youth going include Taylor Elden and Jessica Dalgetty; they also attend St. David's High School and belong to St. Margaret's and St. David's Parish. They grew interested in the trip after listening

to Liam's presentation on Lourdes and talking to Darren and Jamie.

The fundraising aspect is vital when planning the trips to Lourdes - without it we wouldn't be able to afford to go. A lot of people from different parishes have given us their support. So far there has been a Quiz Night, St. Paddy's Night and a Musical Extravaganza. We will be planning other events including an Easter Hamper Raffle, the Soup Kitchen and Curryoke. Fundraising can be hard at times but also fun and can get you in the right mind set. After each event, the money earned from ticket sales, raffle and the bar etc. is collected and counted. The money raised from each event is put towards the Lourdes budget. If we go over the budget, the extra will be brought forward for future years.

After hearing the stories about Lourdes, we hope to have a great experience there. We're also excited about meeting the other youth and pilgrims to see what they get out of the trip. The only worries we have at the moment are the lack of sleep and making sure that we do a good job with the pilgrims.

From now until we leave, we're expected to attend meetings which will explain some of the details of the trip. We're also going to special Masses dedicated to Lourdes and will be involved in 'Vulnerable Adult Training' to prepare us for helping some of the pilgrims.

Lewis Lucchesi.



Helped by Liam,
Jamie, Darren,
Jessica and Taylor.



**Lourdes Trip Fundraising
- Quiz Night.**



**Lourdes Trip Fundraising
- Beetle Drive.**



Early Days at St. David's Primary.

I started at St. David's Primary in August 1948. The school was where the church hall is now. My first teacher was Sister Mary Columba who was very strict. If you did not behave she used to hit your fingers with her ruler. She also used to throw her chalk duster at you.

Our classrooms had gaslights and my brother who was two years older than me was banned from lighting them. He used to put the taper right through the mantles. We had some boys at school from Nazareth House in Bonnyrigg. They must have been the best fed Home Boys in Scotland. Everyone brought food for them.

On our First Communion day we all went to our classroom and had our veils put on. They belonged to the school and so were all the same, they were placed right over our heads with a thick circle of elastic on our crown. After it felt as if they were putting a whole packet of Kirby-Grips into our skulls the veils were also folded back down our backs. I can still remember the pain.

Our Communion teacher was Miss Morris who did not stand any nonsense. After communion we went into our classroom for our breakfast. We had boiled eggs, bread and butter and a cup of milk. I don't know how long they boiled the eggs but they were very hard. A large Communion cake was in the centre of the table, you only got a piece of cake if you ate your egg.

St. David's Primary only went up the Primary 5 with the school at the church. Primary six & 7 were up at Whitehill Old Fever Hospital. It was a long walk from Dalkeith, it was worse if it was a wet day. Primary 4 & 5 were divided by a sliding door. Primary 5 was on a higher level than 4. It was a coal fire in Primary 4 with a big metal fireguard round it. If it was a windy day the smoke used to blow back down the chimney and fill the room with smoke. In cold frosty weather the milk crate would be placed on the fireguard to melt the frozen milk.

When I went to take my daughter to start school years later her Primary 1 teacher was Miss Dowds the same one I had all those years earlier. She was a very kind teacher to me and my daughter. My days at St. David's were very happy days.

Pat Wilson (nee McCluskey).

Mary Queen of Scots' Prayer Book - The Untold Story.

This Prayer Book is one of the Treasures of The British Jesuits Archives in Stoneyhurst College, Lancashire. It returned to Scotland, for a very brief period, for the first time in 400 years.

Mary Queen of Scots' was born on 9th December 1542 and was sent over to France on 7th August 1548 where she was well educated. She was married 24th April 1558 to Francis Dauphin of France and was executed at Fotheringay Castle on 8th February 1587 after being accused of plotting to assassinate Elizabeth 1.

The Prayer Book was made for Mary Tudor, Queen of England and The Netherlands but she was beheaded before it could be handed over. The maker of the Book realising that he would lose a great deal of money had a bright idea. Mary Queen of Scots' had just married so the bookmaker persuaded her husband that it would be a kind gesture if he gave her a Prayer Book. M.R. (Maria Reginae) was marked on it and this would do for either Mary anyway. Her husband agreed to buy it, not noting that the Coat of Arms on the cover was that of Mary Tudor and not his Mary!!

The slender volume, bound in red silk velvet was carried by Mary as she made her way to be beheaded, its words providing solace and comfort, to cushion the blow of the executioner's axe.

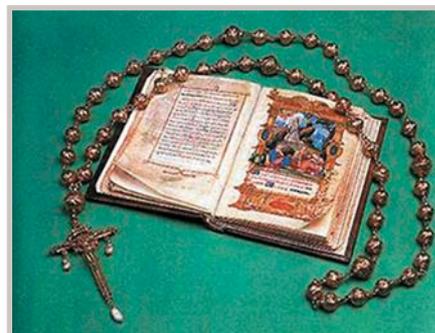
It is thought Elizabeth Curle, one of two women who accompanied Mary to the scaffold picked up the Book, went to France and gave it to her nephew who became a Priest attending the Scots College at Douai. All of the other articles of Mary were burnt to destroy the evidence of her death.

Around 1640, Ignatius Loyola, the Founder of The Jesuits, was canonised. A big celebration was held then and it is quite likely The Book was given to the Jesuits as a gift.

The Prayer Book has never been a major exhibition and can only be seen by appointment at Stoneyhurst College. There is optimism that it will be exhibited at Edinburgh Castle in the early summer of this year.

I was so inspired by 'The Untold Story' and feel I would like to share it with you.

Eileen
Forrest.



A postcard from Viet Nam.

Xin Chao (Hello) as they say in Vietnamese (hello!). Last October I spent 4 weeks as a volunteer in a seminary approximately 60 kilometres north east of Ho Chi Mihn City (still referred to it as Saigon by the Vietnamese people I met). I was working with Sr. Deirdre O'Brien rscj whom some of you may know. Sr. Deirdre is currently based in the Philippines but is a member of the Rosehill community and spends 2 - 3 months, twice a year teaching English to the students in the Seminary.

My desire was to gain some experience of teaching English as a foreign language and having contacted both Sr. Deirdre and the Seminary they were happy for me to visit. I was based in St. Joseph's Seminary in Long Khan which is within the Xuan Loc Diocese. There are currently approximately 400 students training for the priesthood and this should increase to over 500 in the next few years. The students range in age from 24 to 35 and the majority of them have studied at University prior to entering the Seminary. Sr. Deirdre takes classes with the 2nd and 3 year students, helping them with their English and works with other students and priests on a one to one basis to help improve their English and French. Sr. also teaches English to pre seminarian students in Bien Hoa which is 30 kilometres from the Seminary, twice a week.

So, where do I begin? Should I tell you about the 4.30 a.m. starts, the food, the language And how one word can have 6 different meanings, the open air baptism of over 1,000 people by the Bishop, parishes with 13,000 parishioners

Lets start with a normal day!

Day began in darkness at 4.30 a.m. when I joined the students in the chapel for morning office, private reflection and mass which ended just in time for breakfast at 6.00 a.m.. After breakfast I would normally go for a walk in the grounds and would be invited to join some of the students for 'coffee' although it was really an opportunity for them to practice their English on me!

The students would attend classes from 8 - 11 a.m., during this time if any of the students or priests were free they would often visit and ask for help with some translation or ask me to help correct something they had written. Lunch was at midday, followed by a short walk in the shade (by this time the temperature was normally in the high 30's and they would give me puzzled looks as I always wanted to walk in the sun!) before their 1 hour siesta. This was the one part of the day I could not adjust to. On the one occasions I did have a siesta I woke up more tired than I was before it.



Classes recommenced at 2.00 p.m. until 3.45 p.m. (we had classes with the students on a Wednesday and Thursday) followed by recreation activities until 5.00 p.m.. These included jogging (in that heat!), football (in that heat!), outdoor badminton or volleyball (in that heat!), indoor table tennis (that was the one for me!). Although my table tennis skills improved enormously I was still no match for any of the students.

Dinner was at 6.00 p.m. followed by another walk in the grounds (by this time in darkness). I felt like a magnet since as soon as dinner was finished and we went outside students would join me for a walk and start asking questions. They had a standard set of questions.....How old are you? (Invariably followed by 'But you don't look that old' :-)) Are you married? (For those in the parish who don't know me, I'm not married). To which they would reply 'why not? Are you a brother or a priest? You are so handsome - note to editor there may be some artistic license here!!!!!! They found it very difficult to understand why I was not married. What do you do? How much do you earn?.... I can't possibly tell you what their response to that was. The day ended as it had begun, in darkness, in the chapel. The students would go back to their dorms and work in silence until 9.30 p.m. when lights went out.

On the days we went to Bien Hoa we would leave at 6.00 a.m. to make sure we arrived by 7.30 a.m.. Although it was only 30 km from the Seminary

the main road was so busy, particularly with motor cyclists (I think everyone in Viet Nam must own a motor bike!) and there were very few passing places we rarely managed to get above 30 mph. The morning class in Bien. Hoa normally started at 7.45 a.m. and finished at 10.45 a.m.. We would then go to the main parish house in Bien Hoa for lunch (followed by siesta - or a little visit to a coffee house for me!). From 2.00 p.m. Sr. Deirdre would work with some deacons and newly ordained priests and I would work with some university students who had already decided that they wanted to join the seminary. We would normally arrive back at the Seminary in time for dinner at 6.00 p.m..

Did I find this trip (some may say holiday or 'jolly') worthwhile? Undoubtedly it was one of the most rewarding trips of my lifetime.....
Graeme.

Looking Forward.

May :-

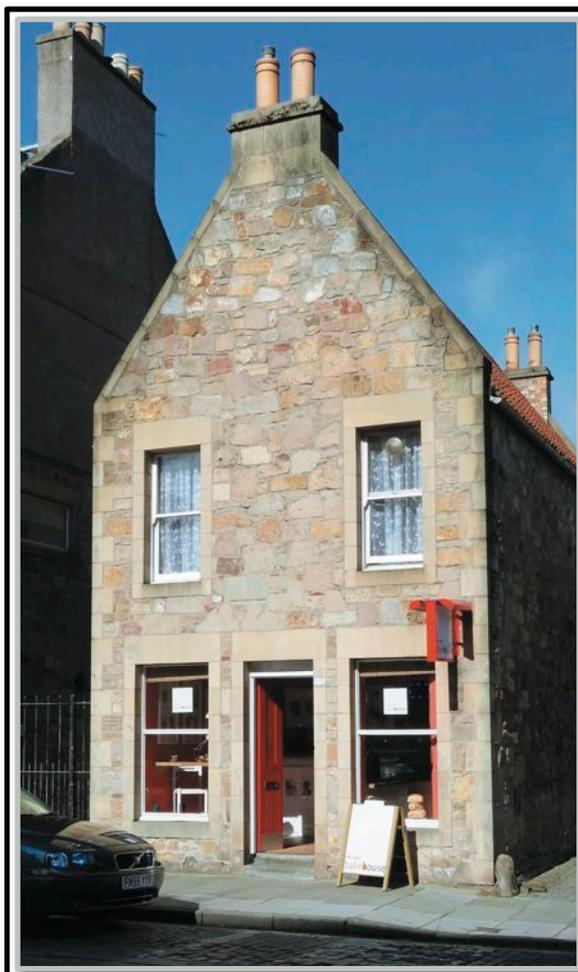
- Sunday 26th St. Luke & St. Anne's, Mayfield Confirmations & 1st Communions at their 11.00 a.m. Mass
NOTE Mass at St. David's is 9.00 a.m.

June :-

- Sunday 9th St. David's Cycle Club Fun Ride 20 Dalkeith/Penicuik Cycleway leaves the hall at 2.00 p.m.

July :-

- Friday 5th Lourdes Youth & Pilgrims leave.
- Friday 12th Lourdes Youth & Pilgrims return.
- Sunday 14th St. David's Cycle Club Fun Ride 21 Longniddry/Haddington Cycleway leaves the hall at 2.00 p.m.



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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.

Easter photos.

