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St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Spring 2011



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Parish Priest :

Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Monsignor Allan.

May I first take the opportunity of thanking the 'team' from the parish of Saint David's who help compile our parish magazine with such faithful regularity.

I know it has now become an established part of our parish family life, with many of the articles contributed of interest beyond the parish boundaries.

To get such a production 'out' is no easy task and I acknowledge with grateful thanks all who have worked hard to achieve and publish this edition.

Looking back and looking forward.

If you were to go to the Catholic Directory of Scotland edition year 2001 you would find entered under the parishes of Saint Luke & Saint Anne's a named parish priest resident in the parish house.

In the same edition you would find under the parish of Saint David's, Dalkeith a named and resident parish priest there also.

Fast forwarding to this year's edition you would now find entered under both parishes that the parishes are now served by one parish priest (me!), though both parishes do retain their separate identity.

Of course, this is not unique to us. A neighbouring colleague Canon Hugh White is parish priest of three separate parishes, no easy task, and dotted throughout the Directory are numerous similar examples.

A declining and indeed ageing priestly population therefore in our diocese and deanery cannot be denied, the statistics support it and practical situations confirm it.

Clearly if one man is now doing the work of two or three then things are going to be different and indeed done in a different way, that is unavoidable.

However it is also an opportunity and one I feel has been more than taken up in the parishes of Saint David's and Saint Luke & Saint Anne's.

It is an opportunity for two separate things which I believe compliment the other.

An opportunity for the parish priest to, as it were, 'let go' and for the parish family to come forward and take on responsibility.

It is, from my experience, something that works and perhaps more importantly allows the priest to focus on what he was ordained to do -

- to preach the Word of God and to celebrate the sacraments of the Church, especially the celebration of the Sacrament of the Mass.



In a sense that is quite liberating, to have groups of the community coming forward assuming responsibility for buildings, lighting, maintenance etc. allows the priest to be fully 'Pastor'.

I am also grateful to those who do now realise how short in numbers we are and understand that things just cannot be the way they once were.

Finally I also believe it is a time to be optimistic in our Faith, its promotion and practice.

A time for all the Baptised to realise their mission and areas of responsibility and to come forward and to have the

courage and faith to practise them.

Some things change, as in the way of 'doing', what does not change is the power and leadership present to the Church of the third person of the Trinity.

It is the Holy Spirit who leads, directs and guides us as with the same assurance in 2011 as He did in the young emerging hesitant early Church we read about in the Acts of the Apostles.

Nothing then for us to fear in the future when we place our trust in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May God Bless you all.

Monsignor Allan.

Talking to Joe.

Joe Millar was born 95 years ago at 128 High Street, Dalkeith. The County Hotel is now on the site of Joe's first home. Joe was baptised in St. David's Church and attended St. David's Primary School which was in the church grounds. Father Head SJ was the parish priest and he was assisted by Father Minelese SJ who also served Pathhead travelling there by a car which was kept in the school shed.

Joe passed his qualifying exam at ten years old and spent four years in the top class at St. David's Supplementary. People in general did not have the money to send their children in to Holy Cross High School in Edinburgh. At that time people had to travel by train from Eskbank to Edinburgh as the passenger train did not go into Dalkeith. Buses were gas driven with solid tyres.

When Father Head died the school children were allowed in to see their priest laid out in his coffin at the Holy Souls Altar holding his crucifix in his hands. Joe can remember it as if it were yesterday.

Joe left school at fourteen and served a six year apprenticeship with David Craig and Sons at Millerhill, Dalkeith. He was an iron and steel moulder with them for eighteen years. He was also seventeen years as a brass moulder with a firm in the North Wynd, Dalkeith making valves for the paper mill in Penicuik. After that Joe worked with John Flett and George Allan on white lines and cats' eyes for the roads.

It was while Joe was training as an iron and steel moulder that he and May Harkin got acquainted through attending Mass and Benediction at St. David's. The future Mrs. Millar was from Easthouses and had a sister Margaret who was best maid at their wedding.

Father Stan Smith was Joe's best man and Father McKeesick and Father Giblin were also friends of Joe's and attended the wedding. All three were from Dalkeith and were training for the priesthood.

Joe and May were married in St. David's Church by Doctor Ward on the 25th April 1945 and received an Apostolic Blessing bestowed by Pope Pius XII.

Joe and May had four children, Josephine, Danny, Anne and Raymond. All four children were baptised in St. David's Church and attended St. David's Primary and High School. Father Kelly was the parish priest at that time followed by Canon Mohan, then Canon Healy.

Throughout his ninety five years in the parish Joe has been a pass keeper, a reader and a member of the church choir for over fifty years. He was in the CYMS (Catholic Young Men's Society) during Doctor Ward's time as parish priest.

They had sadness and tragedy to face with the loss of both their daughters but remained firm in their faith and belief. As Joe says

"Where would we be without God!"

Mrs. Millar passed away on the 18th January 2009 after sixty three years of married life.

Joe continues to be fit, active and independent. Recently over Christmas he travelled to America to spend a month with his son Danny and family. He travelled there and back on his own safely and heavily insured! He returned safe and well, by the grace of God, after a wonderful holiday.

Joe still sings in the church choir. Throughout his whole life he has faithfully attended Mass and continues to do so. He has seen many changes in the town and in the parish but the church and his faith have remained constant.

(from our Special Correspondent, Patricia).

Joe and May's Wedding Day 25th April 1945.



News from the Schools.

St. David's High School.

On a recent visit to Auschwitz.

When the camp came into view, the whole coach fell silent. Seeing the infamous sign above the gates was strange, it was difficult to believe we were really here.



Each block of Auschwitz 1 has been converted into a museum. Massive glass cases contained items taken from prisoners on arrival. There was a case full of glasses, and a much larger one filled with artificial legs with shoes still on the end.

As we left the camp to visit the gas chamber outside the fence, we saw the house where the SS commander in charge of the camp had lived with his wife and children. The guide told us the commander's wife liked the location as it was peaceful and away from the chaos of the war. It was hard to imagine normal life going on so close to Auschwitz. We then saw the ruins of the gas chamber which was burned down by the Nazis before the camp's liberation.

Going to Auschwitz has changed me in many ways. Seeing life treated as so disposable has made me value my own.

(Sarah Buchanan, St. David's High School).

Martial Arts.

Matthew Allison from S6 is well-mannered and polite, and no one could guess that behind his gentle demeanour he is a martial arts master and has a black belt in Judo.

Matthew is 17 and has been doing judo for 6 years. He has won a bronze medal in the British under-20 trials in Sheffield, and a silver medal in the Scottish judo championship, and is now training for upcoming competitions. Matthew trains three or four times a week working on his technique, practising locks and holds, and also conditioning his body through sparring.

Trips planned.

This month there was another Jarnac exchange, with French pupils coming to stay with our pupils.

There is a group of 30 pupils and four adults going to **Rome** in June for a four night visit.



(Wendy Sutherland).

St. David's High School - Chaplaincy.

Support Group.

For the third year running the Chaplaincy has been supported by pupils from S5/6. This year's group have worked well. We have pupils from most parishes

– Catherine McCann, Liam de Haan and Olivia Lyster from St. David's, John Pye from St. Luke & St. Anne's, Madeleine Baird, Caitlin

McGillvray, Cameron McKay, Megan McFarlane and Rebecca Gilhooley from Loretto, Ross Fenty from Our Lady of Consolation and Zoe Simpson from St. Martin's, Tranent. They have been working on daily prayers for all form classes to say at form periods during Lent and they have also been working on a Lenten calendar for all pupils to follow. On pancake Tuesday they helped serve pancakes and coffee to all staff during the morning break. They took part in the five Lenten assemblies and distributed the SCIAF boxes to all pupils, and they will uplift all money collected on Fridays during Lent. The money will be sent to SCIAF and Mary's Meals. We have a weekly meeting in the Chaplaincy on a Wednesday morning. Recently we had a surprise party for Liam's 18th birthday – we all enjoyed it – but I am not sure whether Liam enjoyed the surprise!! Ross Fenty and some other pupils have recently been visiting and helping to build a school in Kenya, Ross said the experience was amazing and he would like to go back again some day.



Marie Curie Field of Hope.

The daffodil bulbs planted by the 2nd year pupils in September and October are all beginning to grow, they should look lovely when they start to bloom. A Marie Curie Field of Hope sign, now 'planted' in the garden, was donated by Mr. Tony McKenna from Musselburgh, and the cheque for £400 was sent to the Marie Curie Foundation. Well done S2!



(Iris Lawrie).

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

My first involvement with St. David's Primary came in August 1983 when my daughter started school - it was the old wooden building. It was later burnt down and a new school built. 1985 my son started and I became a parent helper - helping prepare crafts and assisting the Primary 1's.

I was also the treasurer/chair of the Parents Association and became Clerk to the board for many years - even after my children had left Primary to go to High School. For a brief spell I was Clerk to the board at St. David's High School.

22nd February 1988 I was employed as a classroom auxiliary working 1:1 with a pupil, I also assisted in the dining room and stood in for the cashier in her absence.

On 4th September 1989 I was offered the post as secretary working 4 hours a day. As my children got older my hours increased and I now work 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. I love the variety of the work - lots of things have changed - when I started I used a manual typewriter - then computers were introduced into the office.

I have assisted on many residential trips to Low

Port Linlithgow, Dalguise Perth, York plus day trips and panto visits.

I have seen lots of pupils flourish into young men and women - some have achieved great things - Doctors, Forensic Scientists, Paramedics, Managers of retail shops, Teachers and even a West End Superstar.

I have met lots of lovely families, work colleagues, Headteachers - Mr. Currie is No 4.

Some of the former pupils now have their own children attending the school.

I love my work and fun times at school - many a good staff night out has been had!!

I hope I have many more years yet at the school.

Mrs. Jones - she's the woman who is always on the door greeting everyone at the many functions held in school and is usually heard saying,

*"would you
like a raffle
- £1 a strip."*



FairTrade.

P4/5 have been learning about FairTrade.



We have put on a Presentation and a Coffee Morning and everything there was FairTrade! Stuff like chocolate, tea, coffee, smoothies and juice drinks.



We were trying to raise money and also to give more to the poor farmers and when you go shopping look for the FairTrade Logo.

It is not just food that is FairTrade, you get FairTrade shoes and FairTrade clothes.



(P4/5 pupil).

Twin Winners.

The P7 twins Carla and Jenna were successful in their excellent brass instrument playing.

Carla, competing in the East of Scotland Solos contest, became the Junior Champion in the under 12s section, which had 27 entries.

Jenna was presented with the St. David's Brass 'Allan Moir Memorial Junior Quaich', in recognition of her coolness while performing her first ever solo performance on flugel, in front of a



packed auditorium at the Scottish Youth Band Championships in Perth Concert Hall last November.

Expressive Arts – Performance of School Show Summer Term – Joseph!

All P4-7 pupils are in the midst of intense rehearsals towards their interpretation of the hit musical, 'Joseph'. Since the end of February our pupils have been singing, dancing, singing, dancing and singing some more phew!

We took inspiration from our Christmas outing to Edinburgh Playhouse where we supported our former pupil and leading man, Keith Jack, in the wonderful performance of Joseph. The pupils were delighted that Keith took the time to thank them for their support and to see his younger cousin, Kirsty!



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 Haiti in particular. Pupils were involved in a series of fundraising activities planned and organised by each individual class. Some of the activities included a pyjamas to school day, sponsored keepie-uppie, skipping and silence (which was sheer bliss!) and P5/6 donated half of their profits from the weekly Healthy Tuck shop towards their efforts.



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 affected by such tragedy throughout the world – our pupils should be very proud of themselves and the example they set as global citizens.

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

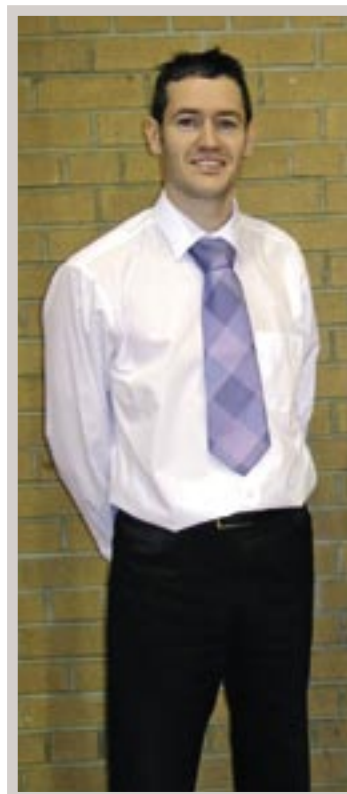
School Theme Approach – Term 4 – Eco Schools.

Each term the whole school are involved in a school theme approach to learning across all areas of the curriculum. Between Easter and July we are working towards achieving our first Green Flag from Eco Schools Scotland in recognition of our school's efforts towards improving the local and global environment. Our focus next term is in developing the school grounds, health and wellbeing and, of course, litter. All pupils are involved through their class activities and they are supported by class representatives on 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 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. Each class 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 day where pupils will lead their parents/carers and peers through some of the activities and experiences they have successfully achieved. Initial plans from pupils and staff are for a 'Garden Party' celebrating our beautiful school grounds at the end of June – you are very welcome to attend – keep an eye on the parish bulletin for further information nearer the time.

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



Parish Outreach.

Teddies for Tragedies.

Since its inception in 1986 hundreds of thousands of teddies have been delivered to deserving children all over the world. It was a fabulous idea that has grown into a global movement. There is no charity, there is no central organisation, but that doesn't imply disorganisation.

The vision of the founder of the movement was for knitters to find their own outlets for teddies and it is still true that everyone who knits teddies should be on the lookout for likely homes for teddies. The basic idea is just a knitting pattern but to keep the expansion going, we need help from everyone in identifying places to send them. So, please talk to everyone you can think of in your local area and beyond and let us know about your successes so that we can pass on your ideas, so others can try them in their locality. If you can identify homes for your teddies locally, it saves on everyone's time, administration and postage costs but remember, if you find a need for more teddies than you can produce, extras will be available, not everyone can find somewhere local.

However, we also know that charities and volunteers appreciate getting the exact number of teddies they require, when they require them, which is where the website comes in - coordinating, balancing supply and demand, ensuring that teddies are where they are needed when they are needed.

The website is also a place where charities and volunteers can request teddies. For knitters there are guidelines so that everyone is aiming for a teddy which

comes up to EU standards and, most importantly, it is a place any knitter can direct potential teddy takers to pictures of smiling children with teddies - worth a thousand words.



Finding Homes for your Teddies.

As you will know, Teddies for Tragedies does not have a central organisation distributing teddies. The founder of the movement always said it was up to knitters to find their own outlets for teddies, so here are some hints on how to do it.

First contact the website saying where you live (postal town is enough) and how many teddies you have or are likely to have. Tell me about bags too, if you are unable to make bags, I can find someone to help. If there is a local collector, I can put you in contact but collectors need outlets for their teddies so even if you are put in contact with someone, you can help by considering some of these points.

Overseas:

- Do you know of anyone going overseas to work with children?
- When you read your local paper, take a note of stories of people helping children overseas.
- If you have teenage children or are otherwise in contact with secondary schools/universities, remember young people often volunteer abroad and if they knew about them would love teddies to take. Some of the first teddies I sent abroad were via a VSO who said they were wonderful ice-breakers with the children when she knew little of the language - play needs no language ☺
- Make contact, offer teddies and remember to ask how many they'd like rather than offer what you have. If necessary a local collector or the website will be able to supply those you can't produce, you only need to ask.

At home:

- Women's refuges all love teddies to give to their new arrivals, they are a comfort to small children at a time of great stress.
- The emergency services, police, ambulance & fire take teddies, but usually by local recommendation/persuasion - it's not something that could come from the Home Office ☺. If you have friends in these services they may well say thank-you for teddies and again remember, you do not have to recruit all the knitters, there are plenty of knitters who don't have local outlets and are willing and able to post teddies who will help you.

If you have any ideas outside these, do let me know and I'll add them to the list to help future teddy knitters/distributors.

(tricia Smith).

Email: info@teddiesfortragedies.org.uk
Website: www.teddiesfortragedies.org.uk

The Knitting Club.

The knitting club in Rosehill continues to thrive.



We have already sent a lot of baby garments etc. and now there are 4 big boxes and 4 big bags awaiting

collection for Malawi, Africa.

They go to the hospitals and orphanages where there is a great need, especially for premature babies.



We also knit teddies for 'Teddies for Tragedies' and details of that good cause are given on the previous page.

We have a very happy hour and a half (knitting and talking!!) ending with a cup of tea and home made baking!! We have plenty of room for more members!!



Some say it is the best cup of tea of the week!!



Would you like to join us? The meeting takes place from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Please contact Isa Duff or Sister Betty for more

information - there is no age limit!

Thank you from the Knitting Club.

p.s. Thanks also for those who have been donating wool to help with this very good cause, much appreciated.

Alzheimer Scotland.

Many thanks to all the parishioners who came to the fund raising event after Mass for Alzheimer Scotland/ young classical musicians.

Our Canongate Kirk concert 'Autumn Notes' raised £310 along with £127 that was gathered in the Alzheimer Scotland collecting cans.

This raised a total of £437 for Alzheimer Scotland. Once again many thanks for your support!

(Nora Holden).

The Sacred Heart Convent and School in the Philippines.

Sister Yuka Arita who is the Principal of the school has been ill for sometime, but she seems to be making a good recovery now.

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners from St. Luke's & St. Anne's, and St. David's parishes,



several boxes of story books, text books, pencils, pens, crayons, paper, children's clothing, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, games, sweets and donations have been sent to the school, and parishioners have been very faithful in supporting the "Sponsor a Teacher" programme. Sister Yuka, is of course, delighted with all of this support.

She e-mailed "Thanks to all the kind hearts and generosity of the people of Dalkeith". All of this support makes a huge difference in the lives of nearly 100

children, the majority of whom live in shacks, and with this kindness



they can be assured of eating at least once per day.

Thank you to everyone. (Iris Lawrie).

Late news: Katharine (Weatherhead) and myself will be going to the Philippines for 4 weeks in August to work in the Sacred Heart school.

(Editors' note, we look forward to a full Philippines' report, with photos, for the next magazine!!!)

Parish Groups and News.

Lourdes 2011.

This year we are sending three sick people and two youth helpers to Lourdes. The youth helpers are

- Liam de Haan from St. David's
- John Pye from St. Luke & St. Anne's.

Fundraising is underway to cover the costs involved in sending these 5 people.

Adult helpers and pilgrims will also be going from the Parish, all paying their own costs which will be in the region of £800 to £900 for the week's trip.

QuizNight fundraiser.

The hall was filled by those who attended the February 26th fundraising quiz night. A good time was had by all, young and old, and around £350 was raised towards the Lourdes trip.

Some photos below.....

(Julian Kettle).

Rosehill - Beetledrive fundraiser.

The Sisters hosted a beetledrive on the last day of February to raise funds towards the Lourdes trip.

An enthusiastic group of 'beetledrivers' attended and, notably, the male attendance was up by 50% over the previous drive!



After a great evening, the funds raised totalled around £180 - well done Sister Ethel and everyone else involved.
(Julian Kettle).



St. David's Deanery Station Mass.

St. David's parishioners enjoyed an outing to Musselburgh for the recent Deanery Station Mass held in Our Lady of Loretto & St. Michael's.

It was a beautiful Mass with his Eminence present. Our 4 elect were presented with a copy of the creed.



Parish Fun Cycle Ride.

We are planning a parish fun cycle ride for the afternoon of Sunday 15th May starting at 2.00 p.m..

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

We will be riding along the Sustrans Regional Route 73 cycle path which starts just opposite the church, follows the old railway line and goes gently uphill through Bonnyrigg towards Penicuik.

There are likely to be 2 groups, one for the fit cyclists and one for the not so fit or very young riders. Each group will have a leader and a sweeper upper who tails the group and can fix bike problems.

It is important that any youngster who is cycling is accompanied by a cycling parent or guardian.

We will meet at the hall and form one or two groups, agree route and distance to be covered and set off. The return trip is back the way you set out.

We meet again at the hall after the ride for a chat, home baking and drinks to refresh our exercised bodies. Look for posters in the porch.

Any questions, just ask Julian.

Mark
Beaumont
has NOT
been invited
- to give us a
chance!
(Julian Kettle).



Pro Life.

This year Dalkeith Pro-Life group lost a much valued and respected Chairman when John McIver died in February.

John and Chris were among the founder members of our group nearly twenty four years ago.



During that period he contributed greatly to the enthusiasm and activity of the group displaying a constant awareness of the reason for us starting up in the first place, namely to protect the rights of vulnerable members of our society such as the unborn, the disabled and the terminally ill.

The extent of his contribution to the project was enormous. He helped organise the trip to London to lobby our local MP, suffering the discomfort of overnight travel on the bus but still managing to turn up at Westminster with a pertinent question or two to put to our representative in Parliament. He also participated in the silent vigils outside the old Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, the annual Pro-Life chains in Princes Street and the annual torchlight processions in Glasgow.

He was a tireless inspiration in our various fundraising efforts, the Italian Night, the Irish Dances etc. Perhaps his most enduring achievement for the Pro-Life community was initiating and organising the yearly Innocents Mass concelebrated by the Cardinal and clergy of the Archdiocese.

No tribute to John McIver would be complete without mentioning the famous McIver scones baked by Chris (with only Irish flour of course) and delivered by her personal chauffeur who was invariably dispatched to pick up some item she'd forgotten! A favourite memory is the annual baking of mince pies in the church hall for pro-life funds, superintended by Chris. These would finish up in a lengthy talk session amongst the womenfolk whilst the pies cooled. This would have tested the endurance of a lesser man, but having taken refuge in a nap John would wake up as cheerful as ever!

He will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace.

(Helen Holden).

Pilgrimage to El Salvador.

To coincide with the 21st anniversary of the martyrdom of the six Jesuits and their two women helpers, the Romero Trust organised a pilgrimage to El Salvador for a group of thirty people from different parts of Britain. The group consisted of Julian Filochowski, Clare Dixon and Anthony Coles, who were the leaders, a group representing CAFOD, two people who had Carmelite connections, and the rest had connections with the Romero trust.

It is not possible to tell you all we did and the places that we visited as it would fill a book, so I have picked on some of the more memorable moments.



On the first morning, we visited the Carmelite chapel where Archbishop Romero was killed. He knew that his homily the previous Sunday spelt his own death as he had encouraged the army conscripts to disobey orders if they were ordered to kill civilians. He had just finished his homily in the Carmelite Chapel and was beginning to get the bread and wine when he saw a car pull up outside. He did not dare to move away as it could have resulted in a bloodbath so he carried on and was shot and died. The whole had been caught on tape as the press were there. The end of the homily and the shooting was played back to us.

We then visited the Hospitalito where the Carmelite nuns care for the terminally ill.

While we were there, a man was dying so one of

the priests with us was asked to minister to the man and his family as there was no other priest in the vicinity.



‘At the hour of our death...’

From there we went back into the Chapel for Mass. As it was 11th November, at the offertory, we each placed a poppy on the edge of the altar and we stayed by the altar until after the Communion. It was very moving to be standing there where Archbishop Romero had died and to be looking down the chapel to where the gunman had been.

After Romero was made Archbishop, he had nowhere to live as he rejected the plush accommodation offered. For about a year, he lived in a store room at the back of the chapel, about 12 feet by 12. The nuns took pity on him and built a small house for him in the grounds, again very modest.

In the afternoon we visited El Despertar parish centre where the army shot Fr. Octavio Ortiz and four young catechists. The tank that broke into the centre drove back and forth over the dying body of the priest. The centre offers a variety of activities for the surrounding area including a basic health centre.





The next day we went to the monument to Memory and Truth. The first part was a mural depicting the violent history of the country, ending with a yucca plant, the flower petals turning into doves of peace. The rest of the wall held the 25,000 names of all who were known to have been killed or disappeared during the recent troubles, 1980 – 1992. It is expected that the final total may be nearer 80,000. It is a national monument, but the local council are obstructive as they are right wing.

In spite of all the horror that we were immersed in, the words that spring to mind are ‘hope’ and ‘resurrection.’ There is no doubt that the spirit of Romero is alive among his people as he predicted that it would be.

We went to the Centro Monsignor Romero at the Universidad Centro Americana and discussed the events that led to the killing of the six Jesuits and their housekeeper and her daughter. The brutality of these killings leaves one wondering how one human could do this to another, and further, what it has done to the perpetrators. Later, I spoke to an English nun who is working in El Salvador and asked about rehabilitation. She said that little was being done. It is a very brutal society.

On another day we visited Aguilares where Rutillo Grande SJ, a great friend of Romero was ambushed and killed together with two others. They are now buried in the simple church in El Paisnal where Rutillo was born. There is no memorial to Rutillo in Aguilares where Rutillo served. It was after the death of Rutillo that Romero became much more vocal in his condemnation of the rich for exploiting the poor. Hearing about the poor and their

needs, shed new meaning on ‘give us this day our daily bread.’

Each year for the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Jesuits, a candle lit procession is led round the university grounds ending in the car park for an open-air Mass. In spite of the occasion that was being commemorated, there was an atmosphere of ‘joy.’ During the service, a nearby loudspeaker from a supermarket was deliberately blaring out music in an effort to disrupt the commemoration.

On the Sunday we went to the Cathedral for the public Mass in the crypt. We arrived at about 9.15 for the 10.00 Mass as we wanted to get seats! The homily lasted 30 minutes and the Mass did not finish till 11.30.

At the offertory, gifts were brought, a hammer, a paint roller, some corn, some symbols of ethnic art and finally a very tiny baby.



The church in El Salvador is unfortunately divided, the rich and the poor. As is so easy to do, the rich cannot see the plight of the poor as their concern and many clergy support their stance. On the other hand, those working with the poor are condemned as they are seen as encouraging the poor to create trouble. There is a lot of good work being done to help the poor through education and general pastoral care.



As Fr. Rogelio Ponsele, a Belgian priest who had worked behind guerrilla lines put it, the people now need consolation. In the village areas, priests are thin on the ground, and it is not unusual for Mass to be said only once a month on a weekday, the parish councils run the parishes and organise Eucharistic services.

There are so many people who were, and still are, prepared to stand up for the poor and to give up their lives if necessary. The



four American women who were ambushed at the airport and raped and murdered, their crime was that of bringing children out from behind guerrilla lines and into the safety of an orphanage. The Franciscan priest, Cosmo Spessotto, who was murdered as he prepared for Mass.

We went to El Mozote, the scene of one of the worst massacres in the war, about 1000 died. El Mozote was considered as fairly safe as the majority of the inhabitants were evangelical and therefore non-aligned. The crack Atlacatl brigade descended on the small town, rounded up the inhabitants, divided them up into groups, men, older women, young women and children under 10 years. They killed the men and the older women, raped and murdered the younger women, herded the children, as young as one day old, into the sacristy where they were shot and then threw in a grenade. While we were there, we were invited by a young man to see where he and his father had been digging the foundations for a new house. Three days before we came, they came across some human remains which were identified as those of the young man's grandparents and other close relatives.



The family had always believed that these older family members had escaped across the border into Honduras. 'Deliver us from evil.'



There were moments of fun.

We knew that when we travelled to Perquin for an overnight stay we would have to share accommodation. At the last minute we discovered that there was a shortage of rooms so that instead of twos and maybe threes, we were in huts accommodating threes, fours and even seven. This caused a lot of hilarity. I was in the seven hut. One of our group fell asleep immediately but snored and talked in her sleep non-stop. Others added to the cacophony by coughing throughout. A number of us had picked up a Salvadorian sore throat and cough. In spite of this some of us were up and ready to go on a nature walk at 6.30 the next morning. This turned out to be less of a nature walk, although we did see some very beautiful flowers, but more of a walk through what had been guerrilla defences. The hill had been wooded but the army had torched it and then sprayed the whole area with something resembling paraquat. Crops, such as mangoes, still grow deformed. On another occasion, some of us went on a boat ride on a lake to see the birds mainly egrets and cormorants, the latter have a call that sounds just like a pig snorting.

This was the first time that I have been on any pilgrimage and it has left me with much to think about. It



was harrowing at times, but we were able to offer each other support and will continue to do so. In many ways, it was like having the gospels laid out before us.

(Winifred Keeves).

El Salvador - Stop Press.

On Tuesday 22nd March 2011
U.S. President Barak Obama visited the tomb of
Oscar Romero in San Salvador Cathedral during a
state visit to El Salvador.

The United Nations has declared the anniversary of
Romero's death, 24th March, as
***"International Day for the Right to the Truth
Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for
the Dignity of Victims"***.

Humour.

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he
had a pet.
So he went to the pet store and told the owner that
he wanted to buy an unusual pet.
After some discussion, he finally bought a talking
centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little
white box to use for its house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for
the box, and decided he would start off by taking his
new pet to church with him.
So he asked the centipede in the box,
***"Would you like to go to church with me today?
We will have a good time."***

But there was no answer from his new pet.
This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few
minutes and then asked again,
***"How about going to church with me and receive
blessings?"***

But again, there was no answer from his new
friend and pet.
So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about
the situation.
The guy decided to invite the centipede one last
time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's
house and shouted,
***"Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with
me and learn about God?"***

This time, a little voice came out of the box,
***"I heard you the first time!
I'm putting my shoes on!"***

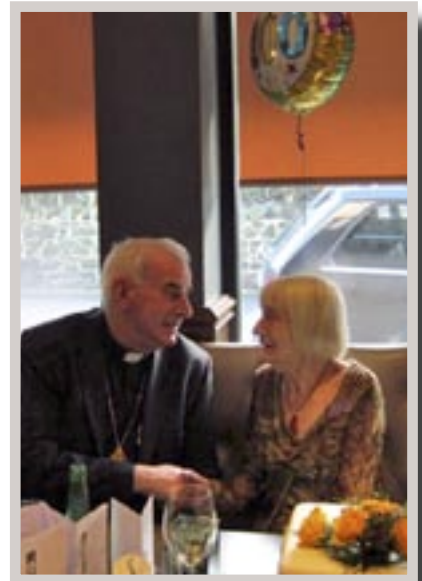
Great Granny Tassie is a 100!

Euan, Lorna and Gregor's great granny Tassie
reached
the grand
age of
100 on
February
12th 2011.



One of
her sons
organized
a meal at
Dante's
in Colinton where four generations of the family
gathered to celebrate. Gabrielle Dunn was born
12th February 1911 at 243, Morningside Road,
Edinburgh. She has lived in Edinburgh all her life
but travelled extensively when she was younger.
Three of her four children live in Edinburgh with
her other daughter living in Australia. She was
represented by her daughter Jane at the party.

The surprise of
the celebrations
was a visit from
Cardinal O'Brien
who came with
good wishes for
Gabrielle. He
presented her
with a Rosary
blessed by the
Pope when he
visited Edinburgh
in September.
We all felt very
privileged to share
in this special
day especially as Gabrielle enjoyed it all so much.
I caught her singing along to a song from My Fair
Lady that was part of the after lunch entertainment.
She left the party in a chauffeur driven car with
flowers, balloons and a beautiful cake to share with
her many visitors. Lorna had helped her great
granny blow out the candles but was quite relieved
that there were not 100! It is quite remarkable to
take a moment to think of all the things Gabrielle
has witnessed and all the changes she has seen. She
remains a gracious, independent and unique person.
And yes, the Queen does send a personal card!
(Bridget Mackay).



Giving Blood this Easter.

When I first moved to Dalkeith and to St. David's Parish in 2001, I was immediately struck by the image of the pelican on the altar and its personal significance for me. I am the National Donor Services Manager for the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, which is a very long-winded way of saying "*professional vampire*".

The reason that the pelican is significant for me is that blood services across the world have used the Pelican as a powerful symbol for blood donors. The blood services in both the North and Republic of Ireland continue to use this as the service logo.



The legend goes that at a time of famine, the mother pelican rent her breast with her beak and fed her chicks with her blood to save their lives and the church uses this image to symbolize the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross

(because He gave His Blood for others) as well as the Eucharist (you can see where I am going here!). In Christian faith the pelican is an allegorical figure representing charity and perhaps the greatest gift you can give another person is their life by giving blood.

As I write this, we are approaching Lent, and like you, I am considering what to give up or start doing for Lent. During Lent the presence of the pelican often makes me think of the analogy between Christ's gift of eternal life to us and the gift of life given by Scotland's altruistic blood donors. There are too few wonders in this life and I am extremely fortunate to have a job that I love and to get to witness the miraculous benefits of the blood donors' gift. Every single donation makes a difference and can help save or improve the life of up to three people.

Ironically, the periods when we find it most difficult to maintain supplies coincide with our major religious festivals of Christmas and Easter. At these times and during public holidays, people are busy and hopefully having a great time and it is really easy to forget to give blood. This Easter will be even more challenging than normal, as Easter is late. We have an extra public holiday for the Royal Wedding and the May Day Bank Holiday, all of which means fewer donors able to give.

As you read this, I hope that you are looking forward to a great Easter holiday spent with family and friends, secure in the knowledge that you have come through Lent and offered up your own personal sacrifice in preparation. By giving blood you not only give the patient back their future you also give them back to their friends and family to celebrate all the birthdays, Christmases and Easters for the rest of their lives. One donation touches many lives.

So this Easter and whenever you next think of Lent, look at the pelican, consider the sacrifice that Jesus made in giving us His Body and Blood to give us eternal life and think how you too can save a life by giving blood.

To find out where to Give Blood, call 0845 9090 999 or click on <http://www.scotblood.co.uk>

We visit Dalkeith three times a year and Bonnyrigg six times. Additionally, the Edinburgh Blood Donor Centre at 41 Lauriston Place, EH3 9HB is open six days every week :-



Monday and Friday: 10:00-16:00,
Tuesday to Thursday: 12:00-19:30,
Saturday 10:00-13:00.

Just 3 Tablespoons of blood can save the life of a premature baby. It is painless and easy and the only thing you should feel is good about yourself. We cannot offer gifts of bread and wine but we will have a nice cuppa and some great biscuits ready to say thanks!

(Moira Carter).

Maggie's Monster Bike & Hike on Saturday 30th April.

Graeme McGrath is taking part in the Monster Bike & Hike, raising funds for **Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres**. You can find details and sponsor Graeme at his page on Just Giving

<http://www.justgiving.com/Graeme-McGrath1>

Piety Stall.

Thank you for your support in our sale of Christmas Cards in 2010.

In April/May we will be selling 1st Communion and Confirmation Cards, Prayer Books and Rosary Beads in readiness for 1st Communion Day on 8th May.

Thank you again for your support.

(Tessa and Pat).

St. David's 200 Club.

This session some of the money raised has been used to purchase a Children's Liturgy book. There are always things to pay for, and be purchased, and our little club does make a difference. However, we are always looking for new members especially now!!!

Our club is known as the 200 Club but in fact we no longer have 200 members and would like to get back up to this number. You can help by coming along and joining us. Its simple just come to the hall after Mass on Sunday and speak to John or Veronica and we will sort it out, it only takes minutes and, you can enjoy a coffee and home baking or if your lucky a bacon roll (this helps other worthwhile causes and you can meet old friends or make new ones).

Cost is 50p per week or £20 for a 40 week session.

**Prizes are: 2 x £20 per month,
plus session Grand Prizes of £200, £100 and £40.**

After prizes, all 200 Club money raised goes back into helping the parish.

Come and join us, like our homes our Church always needs something doing, and we can offer better odds than the Lottery at half the price!!!.

Thank you to all who have and still do contribute.

(Veronica).

SVDP.

In this article we pay tribute to John McIver, our brother in St. Vincent de Paul and a member of the St. David's Conference. John died on 15th February 2011 after a protracted battle with cancer.

In a small group the loss of any one member is keenly felt, but especially so when one considers the enormous contribution John made. He and his wife Chris have been members for a number of years and have constituted a major part of the effort of the Conference.

John was outstanding in his ability to make the kind of total commitment that draws no attention to itself. Together with Chris he entirely initiated two of the Conference's main seasonal events, the Dobbie's outing and the Playhouse outing. In other events such as Carfin, Masses for the Sick, and the annual senior citizens' Christmas Party he was always a powerhouse of practicality and organisation.

He would not have been comfortable with adulation, but it must be said that he was from the start a particularly fine example of the contemporary spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Conference will always keep alive the memory of him. May he rest in peace.

(John Holden).

A very attractive painting of Preston Mill (near East Linton) by a parishioner.





St. David's Brass blow their trumpet!

Building on their success of being awarded the Scottish Brass Band Association's Third Section Band of the Year 2010, St. David's Brass were runners up in the Scottish Brass Band Championships in February 2011, gaining promotion into the second section next year. Both adjudicators, Stan Lippeatt and David Read, agreed that the piece, "A Little Light Music" by Philip Wilby, was a very well presented and rehearsed piece and also awarded the best instrumentalist to the band's Solo Cornet player, Stuart Dickson.

St. David's will now represent Scotland in the third section of the National Brass Band Championships to be held in Cheltenham on the 25th September. They are one of two bands from Midlothian, MacTaggart Scott Loanhead Band being the other, qualifying for this event and are extremely proud of their achievement.

With the sound of success still ringing in their ears the senior band were joined on the rugby pitch at Murrayfield by some of the junior players to perform the Irish National Anthem for the Six Nations Rugby Tournament in February, watched by a world wide audience of millions.

However closer to home the band's current storage and rehearsal facilities at Dalkeith Community Centre are now under threat with the announcement of the closure of the building in Spring. The band are actively seeking alternative accommodation,

including securing lottery funding and appeal to anyone who may be able to help them find a new home. All contacts can be made through their website: www.stdavidsbrass.co.uk

(Andrew Thomson)

Choir - Just another note . . . ♪

*Sing amid the winter's snow,
Deep and crisp, so slow to go!
"Adeste fideles"*

*In scarves, gloves and wellies,
"While shepherds watched" with cheeks aglow.
Still we kept smiling through, -
(No Old Joe though, that's true, -
But we knew we'd meet again some sunny day.)*

And so we did! Back in December, while we were still storming snowy barricades to reach the shops, veteran chairman Joe Millar, intrepid globetrotter, wished us all a merry time then jetted off halfway round the world to spend a happy Christmas with close family in Washington D.C.. Well done, Joe!

A recent survey of choristers shows that a clear majority are convinced that the stairs up to the organ loft are getting steeper. Could this be some global warming thing, we wonder??

Frank Nicholson (Organist).

St. David's WebSite.

There is a heap of information available on our website - *go on try it* - it is there for you to use at www.stdavidsdalkeith.co.uk (Julian Kettle).



Grief.

Grief is like a dark forest, with no marked paths,
that you pass through alone.
You know that others have been there before you.
You have spoken to them in the life before loss,
but each one tells a different tale.

Some plough on through the forest,
pragmatic, determined to find
a seemingly unscathed way
through the trees.

Others tell of trudging in circles
never seeming able to move
from the dark place
in the centre of the forest.

All of us make small forays
out of the darkest place
'til the day we no longer return
to the shadows in the centre
but get closer to the forest's edge.

At some point, different for each one,
we make it through the trees
and into the light.
Not the bright light of the past
before the forest,
but the softer light of the future
we have learned to face alone.

Valmai Wyn Jones
January 2010.



Looking Forward.

- **Friday 8th July – Friday 15th July,
Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.**

If anyone is interested in travelling to Lourdes with
the pilgrimage, application forms can be obtained from,
Access Travel (Lancs.) Ltd.,
6 The Hillock,
Astley,
Manchester.
M29 7GW
Tel: 01942 888844;
email: office@access-travel.co.uk

- **Thursday 11th – Tuesday 23rd August,
World Youth Day - Madrid.**

A group of 50+ young people from the Archdiocese
will travel to this great event to celebrate their faith
with young people from all over the world in the
presence of Pope Benedict XVI.

NOTE: There are still a few spaces left for this
event but you need to get your name and details to
Anne McEvoy, the Youth Ministry Coordinator, at
Gillis Centre NOW.

- **September 2011 – 2014, a three year Youth
Ministry Training Course.**

Anne McEvoy the Youth Ministry Co-ordinator
will be meeting Deanery Councils and parish groups
over the next few weeks to present to them this
excellent course. If you would like an information
pack on the course, these are available from Anne or
Yvonne on anne.mcevoy@staned.org.uk
or yvonne.fleming@staned.org.uk
Or you can call 0131 623 8903 to request one.

- **Saturday 8th October.**

Mary's Meals Open Day in Scotland
- keep an eye out for more details nearer the day.

- **10th -15th October.**

Mary's Meals Pilgrimage to Medjugorje
- for more details contact

marysmeals.pilgrimage@gmail.com

- **In October.**

Mary's Meals World Porridge Day
- keep an eye out for more details nearer the day.

This is our 10th Parish Magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it.

All our Parish Magazines can be read on our website <http://www.stdavidsdalkeith.co.uk/>

If you have any ideas for the Magazine, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please pass your feedback and ideas for the next edition, to Patricia, Winifred, Brian or Julian.

*If you are interested in being a Sponsor for our next Parish Magazine,
please contact Brian on 663-0556.*

Children's Page.

St. David's Primary School Champions.



A team of twenty young athletes took part - here is a description from one on what it was like to win!

On Thursday the 13th January St. David's Primary went to the indoor athletics held in Mayfield Leisure Centre. 10 boys and 10 girls went from each school, there was six schools. Everyone took part in an event. There was eleven events. A boy and a girl took part in each.

When we went on the bus all the girls rushed to the back. The boys were made to sit in front of us. When we got there we all took our joggers and jumpers off and when all the schools came in we did a warm-up. One of my old football coaches was there, her name was Jenna.

After that we started the tournament with the vertical jump. Every event went by and then it was my turn. I was doing a running race with Rebecca, the whistle went and I was first to run. I zoomed

past the girl, did two laps and then passed the baton to Rebecca and she zoomed ahead and then we had won the race. It came to my second event and it was another race but there was Rebecca W., Cara, Rebecca M. and me. It was the 4 x 1 lap race. The whistle went and Rebecca went first, then it was me, then Cara and finally Rebecca, we all went ahead of the people as soon as we started.

It came to the result when the two men said stuff about their athletics team and then, they pronounced that St. Mathews were 3rd, Moorfoot had come 2nd and then

WE HAD COME FIRST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Everyone screamed aaAAHhh!

We got our photo taken and when we got back to the school we went down to Mr. Currie's office and showed him the certificate and trophy. He was really happy and said "*that's three times in a row.*"

(By Jenna P6/7).