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St. David's Dalkeith

*Parish Magazine
Spring 2014*



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Parish Priest :
Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Mgr. Allan.

May I first thank, once again, the editorial group who oversee the publication of our first class parish magazine for once again doing such a good job.

May I also thank again our sponsors who are so kind and generous in their support of the magazine and encourage you, where possible, to support them. Thanks.

I am aware that this edition contains some very good articles from a variety of sources. I am also aware it carries a 'scoop' for the Deanery in the form of an interview given by Archbishop Cushley to Brian Nimmo, one of the editorial team. I am very grateful to the Archbishop for giving up some of his time to meet up with Brian at his office in Gillis Centre.

Given all that and the other material I find myself a bit uncertain as to what to contribute myself..... however I will give it a (brief) go!

I recall this time last year, in the previous edition, reflecting on the events that had happened to us, both locally and nationally, as a church and parish family community.

At that time our new Holy Father had only been elected from among his brother Cardinals a few short weeks. Even then I recall thinking, ***"here is a Pope who might just be a bit different from his predecessors."***

There is always a danger of comparing and contrasting anything be it butter, bread, shoes or whatever. I have therefore no intention of making such a comparison here. Each Pope is unique to his time and to the circumstances of his time and in that I believe in the Providence of the Holy Spirit who has given to the church our current Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Returning then to my initial thought on the night of his election, what struck me very strongly was his first action from the Loggia of St. Peter's, and that was his request for us to ***'Pray for him'***, as he began his ministry, as he himself described it, ***"as Bishop of Rome."***

If you recall that night, or want to see it again (YouTube has an extensive coverage of it: 'Election of Pope Francis'). What was remarkable, I thought, from that vast crowd of people gathered in the square, was the silence that descended on them all



at this invitation to pray for our new Holy Father at the inauguration of his ministry. I thought it not only moving, which it was, but really incredible to get such a large group of people to be quiet!

From that moment until the present Pope Francis has given us a refreshed vision of what it is to be a disciple of Jesus. Nothing has changed in the fundamental teaching and doctrine of the church, I emphasise nothing.

What is different however, and what I find stimulating, is he is offering us a different way of being Catholic Christians.

In his pastoral letter to the church, the first written by him alone, he entitled it, ***'The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium'***.

If you don't have it, buy it, borrow it, but above all read it! It is remarkably easy to read and is perhaps the first ever papal document to be written in a style that is accessible.

The title, of course, sums up what he not only teaches but also believes and, above all, lives. The Good News of Jesus, the Gospel, is just that, good news for all. A message of hope, joy and redemption that is for all humanity.

It comes across in that document. It also comes across just watching him being in and around people. Here is a man who is our Holy Father, who, from reading other things about his early life, knows what it is to have made mistakes and got things wrong.

Above all here is a man, our Holy Father, who when asked recently by a journalist, ***'Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?'*** gave the following answer, ***'I am a sinner in need of God's mercy.'***

Has there ever been a more encouraging thing to hear for us fellow Catholic Christians? Does that not offer hope to all?



Monsignor Allan.

Stella is a Star.

Stella Maris McErlain was born in Musselburgh on the 9th March 1933.

She came to Dalkeith with her mother and father when she was 6 months. Her father, Peter, had a job in Dalkeith as a grocer. Stella first attended St. David's Church when she was only 6 months old.

She went to St. David's Primary School which was at that time located in the church grounds. Her Primary 1 teacher was Miss Kenalty, followed by Miss Morris and then Miss Grant. The qualifying class was Annie Morgan, Mrs. McLaughlin was also there at that time. Stella went to High School in Musselburgh and was in a literary class from 1st to 3rd year. Her academic prowess led to a bursary for Holy Cross but, unfortunately, she left school at the end of 4th year after contracting jaundice.

All of this happened against the backdrop of the Second World War. At the age of 7, Stella saw her father join the army and leave the family home. He was part of the Fourteenth Army known as "the Forgotten Army" and was stationed in Burma. Stella was 13 when her father returned home and he returned to his job as grocer in Dalkeith.

Stella's first job was an apprenticeship in Boots on the South Bridge, Edinburgh. She loved the role and worked in the shop for 5 years. She was responsible for making up the medicines and was called an indentured apprentice. It was a job Stella found



interesting and rewarding and she went on to work in various Boots shops for a further 5 years, including Musselburgh, Dalkeith and also in the day and night shop at Shandwick Place.

Stella met George Allan at the Cavendish. George was from Musselburgh. Stella and George were married in St. David's Church on 9th August 1958 and the couple had 3 sons. Stella enjoys her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren!

Stella has always been a keen singer and, as a child, sang in the choir run by Sister Mary Columba.

She then sang in the Church Folk Group and the Dalkeith Singers and is a

long standing member of our present church choir.

She and George enjoyed many years dancing together, and at 65 (birthday photo below) George was fit and healthy and still working on the roads. Unfortunately he became unwell and he was diagnosed with cancer when he was 68. Sadly George died in 2002.

Stella and George celebrated their Ruby Wedding (photo above) in 1998. Stella continues to go dancing in Bonnyrigg and also continues to sing in the church choir.

It was a delight to talk to Stella!

Stella Maris McErlain was the name her father gave her. It means "Star of the Sea" and she is!

Thank you Stella.

Patricia Barclay.



Peter's Persistent Perennial Perambulations.

Well, at the end of my last article I mentioned that I had completed the St. Andrew's Way. Eighty odd miles from "ma-bit" to St. Andrews in Fife and that I was now on the hunt for my next Scottish pilgrimage. I had decided that this was to be set in the Scottish Borders and it's called the St. Cuthbert's Way.

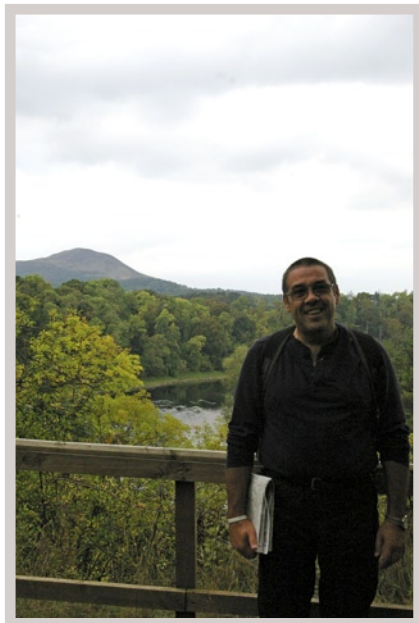
For those of you with a set of Butler's "Lives of the Saints" to hand, you will find St. Cuthbert's feast day celebrated on the 20th of March. Although hailing from "Melrois" or as we now spell it, Melrose, it does not appear in the Ordo for Scotland as he is seen as one of the Patron Saints of North East England.

Way back in the day (7th Century), the Kingdom of Northumbria then stretched from the Ouse to the Forth, from the old Roman city of Eboracum (York) to a windswept fortress on a dead volcanic plug called "Dun Eydin" or "Eoidwn's burgh", what we now call the "toun".

Blackmail is a terrible, but surprisingly effective, tool. After reading my last article, Daughter Number One, Lindsey, said, "**Well I'll go with you on your next one Dad,**" and promptly disappeared back to her comfort zone of Work, Gym and living the high life from her flat in Broughton. Having settled on the St. Cuthbert's Way as my next "project", I got the maps, planned the route stages and THEN called her up. Here was her big chance to get some "QFT" (Quality Family Time) with the old man before he gets too old and infirm!

"Eh, aye, well, okay then". We were off.

We travelled down to "Melrois" in my car, missed the turn and ended up on an unguided tour of many



of the lesser known C class and indeed some of the unclassified roads of the Borders. For those of you who know the area, the Eildon Hills overlook the town and you can see them for about 30 miles in most directions and indeed sometimes more. However the

roads seem to run perpendicular to, rather than towards and over, and from missing the turn with an, "**Of course I know where I'm going, we'll be there in a minute,**" we arrived and parked next to the Abbey site about 40 minutes later than intended and "suited up".

The climb out of Melrose, and that's exactly what it is, is glorious. After missing the wee vennel (it's not very well signed) on the left as you head up from the High Street, we soon re-traced our steps and within minutes we were out of the town and up into the Eildons.



The first 45 minutes sees the hardest and indeed the last real ascent of the stage because after going up and through the "saddle", you then descend onto a well marked trail and follow the majestic River Tweed.

The weather in the late Autumn of 2013 was fantastic and we marched on along the Tweed until we came to a hamlet which would have been known to St. Cuthbert, as it was named after the prior of the Abbey of Melrois when Cuthbert arrived as a novice, St. Boisil's, or as we now render it, St. Boswells.

After a spot of lunch on a bench at the bus stop/public park in the village, we embarked on the second stage of our journey and it was back to the path by the Tweed. From St. Boswells the river takes a great loop eastwards before heading south towards Dere Street, The Great North Road.

The story goes that as St. Cuthbert and one of the young novices from the Abbey at Melrose were walking along this stretch of the Tweed, on one of their missionary journeys to a nearby village, they were hungry and, as the sunlight failed, the novice asked where they would find food for the evening meal. As a Saint, of course, Cuthbert replied serenely, "**Trust in the Lord,**" and at that point a sea eagle, probably an osprey which are known even now to frequent that part of the Tweed, swooped down and, plucking a salmon from the water, dropped it at the feet of the Saint. Cuthbert famously knelt and,



part of the road has been robbed out of stone, and has been variously ploughed up, planted and fenced over but it's definitely straight and took us on the last 5 km. leg of the way down to Harestanes, just outside of Jedburgh.

When we got off the bus in Melrose to walk back to the car, Lindsey was limping a bit so I bought her an ice cream (it's what Dads do!) and asked how she had enjoyed her QFT on our 16 mile walk and when would she

like to do the next part? She said she'd really enjoyed it but I'm still waiting for a date for the next stage! I think I may need to let her feet heal a bit or start practising my blackmailing skills on my other daughters!! I will let you know how I get on.

Peter.



cutting the salmon in half, bade the novice give back to God's creation (the eagle) half of God's bounty and they tucked into the rest!

Cuthbert was of the Celtic Church, far more attuned to the rhythm of the natural world than the Roman Church which was to eventually supersede them, but their influence on Christianity in these isles, particularly in Scotland and the North of England, was massive as we emerged from the Dark Ages following the collapse of the Roman empire.

Having left the Tweed we walked past the old medieval church at Maxton and headed towards the A68, but just short of the main road we then turned left onto Dere Street and the old Roman road. This

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

Celebrating Success at St. David's Primary School.

Sacramental Preparations.

Congratulations to our wonderful Primary 3 class who were extremely well prepared for their Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Easter break.



A lovely service in the school, led by the pupils and supported by Fr. Allan. A big thank you to Miss Stewart for helping to prepare the children so thoroughly for this special day.



P3 teacher Miss Stewart writes - Primary Three worked extremely hard to create, practise and present their first class assembly to the school on Friday 21st February. We decided to share the learning we have been doing about our school theme, 'Our Natural World', with our teachers, peers and parents. We discussed how our learning began, what skills we have been learning and applying, as well as sharing our animal survival kits we created for different creatures living in the temperate climate. Afterwards, we invited our parents into our classroom to show them what learning we have been doing in other areas of the curriculum. All in all the whole morning was a great success, and we would like to give a big thank you to everyone who came and supported our first assembly as Primary Three.

Primary 4 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist with our parish in the church on Sunday 11th May. As ever they are very excited and have been learning all about what this means on their faith journey with Miss Murray and supported by their families at home. Well done Miss Murray and the children for a lovely enrolment service in the school during Lent and to Fr. Allan for his continued support of the children in their spiritual development.



The children look forward to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from Archbishop Cushley on Sunday 22nd June in St. David's Church. Please continue to remember the children and their families in your prayers.

Pope Francis Faith Award.

I am delighted to inform you that our school has been invited by the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) to enrol pupils for this prestigious new award. We are one of the first schools in Scotland to be involved in this first year of the Award.

Speaking to young people in April 2013, Pope Francis said:
"How beautiful it would be if each of you, every evening, could say: 'Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love towards one of my friends, my parents, an older person!'"

In summary, the FAITH AWARD will recognise young people who show "signs of love" in their faith-inspired actions. During their P7 year, when they have gathered sufficient evidence, this will be assessed and SCES will award them with a certificate and a badge to mark their achievement.

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 Gilmore and P6, children were involved in a series of fundraising activities planned and organised by P6. Activities included competitions, share an egg with a friend, chase the egg, egg designs and a bunnyhop race! **Phew!**

Egg-citing times at St. David's!



All classes used their 'Wee Box' for spare change and also from anything they had given up during Lent, which 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 – our children should be very proud of themselves and the example they set as global citizens.



P6 teacher Miss Gilmore writes - This week P6 from St. David's Primary received a certificate from Mary's Meals to say thank you for gathering, packing, and donating 112 fully packed backpacks, as well as extra materials!

We would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to everyone for their help and support with the Backpack Project! Without the hard work, good ideas and support of our local parish we would never have been able to reach our target! We hope you like the card we have made for you showing the journey we have been on over the last few months with all the collecting and organising! It's great to know that everybody's efforts have helped to improve the quality of lives of school children the same age as us over in Africa.

Thank you again for your support - we couldn't have done it without you!



Our School Theme – Health and Wellbeing Commonwealth Games – Glasgow 2014.

This term and as part of our preparations for Glasgow 2014, our children will be developing their Health and Wellbeing and Citizenship skills, knowledge and understanding through 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.

(UNICEF website <http://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa>)



Our P1-7 UNICEF Ambassadors, supported by Miss Kelly and Miss Chidgey, 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 <http://stdavidsp.smgfl.net/> 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 Scotland's Commonwealth Games presents a great platform to enhance this understanding further.

Eco Committee.

We are also working in partnership with Eco Schools Scotland in recognition of our school's efforts towards improving the local and global environment 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 as necessary. Recently, the whole school community were involved in a successful school grounds development where we used the talents and expertise of our school community with support of Taylor Wimpey Homes.



We have organised a litter pick in the local and wider community as part of the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' campaign.

P4-7 continue 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 and Keeping Myself Safe.



This term Primary 5-7 pupils have been learning further skills in cycling and safety.



Bikeability Scotland is like the modern day cycling proficiency, with a few differences. Bikeability Scotland is designed to give children the skills and confidence they need to cycle safely on today's roads.

The training is split into three levels:

- Level 1 is taught in a traffic free environment, like a playground, and teaches essential bike handling skills;
- Level 2 is taught on-road and teaches children the skills necessary to be able to negotiate most on-road situations;
- Level 3 is taught on-road and teaches children how to journey plan, how to deal with complex road junctions and how to become an independent cyclist.

Residential Experiences.

Our growing programme of residential experiences this year involves all children from P2-P7, with opportunities offered at Vogrie, Lockerbie and London.

P2-3 head off to Vogrie Country Park in mid-June for an overnight stay and to enhance their Forest Schools skills as well as enjoying some marshmallows over fire after their hard day's work!

P4-6 will spend the weekend with the team at Lockerbie Manor in their outstanding grounds.

The children will enhance their teamwork skills through various challenges such as ropes courses, problem solving and the infamous crate-stack – how high will they climb. The old favourite, the night walk, is undertaken over an extreme course in the nearby forest that any 'Tough Mudder' competitors would be proud of!!!

P.S. and the food is superb – just as well as the energy levels need to be at their maximum for this fun-filled experience.

Don't forget your cuddly toy for bedtime!





And then there's London...

P7 will explore the UK's capital city looking for excitement, energy and inspiration. Learning to navigate the Tube and the busy streets of London-town, P7 will have time to take in the sights and attractions such as the London Eye, Westminster, Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament before sampling some of the city's finest cuisine and entertainment via West End shows, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Billy Elliot!

Educational outings to the National Museum of Science and the Natural History Museum before rounding off the visit with a tour of Warner Bros. Film Studios – action packed and inspirational ... what's the chances of a quiet train journey home? No chance, if last year was anything to go by.

On behalf of all pupils attending residential experiences this year ... thank you to your parents and the school staff team for making it possible for you.

Outstanding opportunities for our outstanding children.

Moscars.

The Moscars is an interdisciplinary project aimed at Midlothian pupils and the challenge has been taken up by P5 and P6 at our school.

The Moscars challenges pupils to produce a short

film of no more than 10 minutes duration. The film can take any form, for example, drama, documentary, animation, music video, but it must be conceived, written, directed and produced by pupils.

The completed films will form part of a Midlothian primary school film festival in May 2014.

This will be followed by an 'Oscar' style evening event at the end of May with awards being made for a variety of categories.



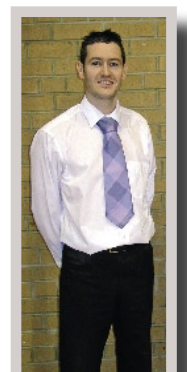
Our children have been learning to:

- Research film genres
- Write a screenplay or narrative
- Audition for parts, performers and production team
- Create a production plan
- Storyboarding
- Film and produce
- Create a score or soundtrack
- Edit
- Create a

website to promote the film.

Wish them well for a first St. David's 'Moscars'.

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





His Grace holding the welcome card from P6

Thirty Minutes with His Grace Archbishop Leo Cushley.

1. *What is your favourite food, holiday destination, Church Season?*

My favourite food is pasta made by myself. Rome would be my favourite holiday destination as my second

home starting my studies there in 1979.

My favourite seasons are Lent and Advent - "Joyful times for Renewal."

2. *Favourite book?*

"The Lord of the Rings".... first finished reading it at age 18 as a 50p bet with a friend but liked it ever since.

3. *A guest at my fantasy dinner party?*

St. Ignatius Loyola.

4. *Boyhood ambitions?*

To be part of the Space exploration.

5. *Current ambition?*

To do the task the Pope has asked.

6. *Favourite sport?*

Hill climbing e.g Munros, Ben Cruachan, Arthur's Seat, West Highland Way. But Ben Nevis only once in torrential rain!

7. *Biggest influence on you?*

My Mum and Dad, also two fellow priests from Paisley and Glasgow.

8. *Favourite Saints?*

St. Benedict, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Anthony, St. Michael, St. Francis Xavier.

9. *Hardest part of being Archbishop?*

Not enough hours in the day.

10. *What makes you laugh?*

Fawlty Towers, Blackadder.

11. *Person you most admire?*

His Holiness Pope Francis.

12. *Best time of the day and why?*

Both the start and the finish of the day. A good start with Mass and Prayers and a good ending reflecting on "something useful done".

13. *Highlights as Archbishop so far?*

Ordination Day, plus meeting so many people,

especially younger ones who are "so impressive in their Faith and action."

14. *Favourite music?*

I love all kinds of music from Mozart and Puccini to Mahler and Rhythm and Blues, bit of Jazz and Rolling Stones and Beatles.

15. *TV favourite?*

Don't watch much TV, collect episode sets rather than watch weekly but I do enjoy Jeremy Clarkson and Top Gear.

16. *Places you would love to visit?*

China and Japan and Down Under: Australia and New Zealand.

17. *Any fear of flying?*

Absolutely none.

18. *If not an Archbishop, what would you like to have been?*

Something to do with flying or long distance driving.

Brian.

Parish Groups and News.

St. Vincent de Paul (SVP).

Once again the SVP Senior Citizens' Christmas party was a great success. Our grateful thanks go to Liz Flynn and the team for the excellent 3-course Christmas dinner. And thanks also go to Liz for personally donating that huge number of raffle prizes.

SVP also thanks the parish for its never-failing generosity with the collection boxes. Some of this donation is used to fund the outings and the Christmas party. St. David's SVP also regularly helps SVP conferences in other parishes where resources are more scarce, and other deserving causes.

SVP is undoubtedly a mixture of the "old" and the "new". As with many organisations there is soul-searching in the issue of recruitment (or being "roped in" as some members recall). It is fair to say that this is resulting in a gradual change from "closed and traditional" to "open and contemporary". John.

Deanery Stations Mass.

His Grace Archbishop Leo Cushley concelebrated the Deanery Lenten Stations Mass for the St. David's (Midlothian) and



St. Cuthbert's (Borders) Joint Deaneries on 18th March at Our Lady of Loretto & St. Michael's Church, Musselburgh.

It was attended by a good number of parishioners from St. David's who also enjoyed an excellent reception afterwards in the Church Hall. Brian.

News from the Philippines.

St. Madeleine Sophie Foundation, Inc. (SMSF) is a 39-year old foundation run by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was founded on July 1st 1975. Its mission is to provide education to under-privileged youth and children in the area of Rodriguez, Rizal in the Philippines.

It started as a scholarship program for poor but deserving students. After a few years, it became a community-based program in order to reach out to more people in the community.

SMSF had explored different programs until 2004. With the conviction that education is the basic foundation of every person, it started its Early Childhood Education Program called Tahanan ng Mahal na Puso ni Hesus. It is a program which caters for 3 1/2 to 5 years old kids and provides a formal education for young children.

Apart from Early Childhood Education Programs, SMSF also has the following programs:

- Tofu and Soya Milk Production
- Income Generating Program for Women
- Youth Formation
- Elementary Tutorial
- Feeding Program
- Library Program
- Parents Formation
- Health Program

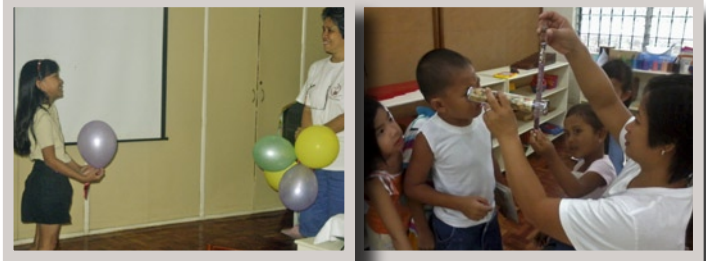
We are very happy with the continuous progress of SMSF.

It can now reach out, not

only to certain groups of people in the community, but almost everybody- from children to parents.

This progress will not be possible without the help of kind-hearted people not only in the Philippines but also from other parts of the world such as Japan, France, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland and New Zealand to name a few. Assistance and help either in cash or in kind, as well as volunteers, have been helping SMSF to be able to run its programs, to fulfill its mission and to continuously reach out to the people of the community.

One of the attractions in the institution now is the SMSF library. The library collection of books is continuously growing which makes it very attractive



for the children. Our kids are now learning that it is not only joyful and educative to read books, it is also fun! We are so grateful to all the people who are continuously donating books.

Also, every Christmas Season SMSF is able to make the children smile bigger through the gifts like clothes, toys, and foot wears etc. which are also kind donations of people from different places.

Children, parents and even staff members are also



happy to meet different people from around the globe who come to SMSF to do volunteer service. Some of them stay long and some stay for a few days, but every encounter with them is indeed treasured not only in our mind but most especially in our hearts.

We are truly blessed here in SMSF because there are many loving and thoughtful persons from different countries who are continuously helping us to be able to run the programs of SMSF. Your financial support, kind donations and volunteer services are indeed useful for all of us here in SMSF.



Our deepest gratitude to all of you. May God Bless you more.

Teacher Lizette/Iris.

Deacon-Elect Peter.

The Road Goes on - an update from Peter.

Ecclesial methods, Spirituality and Prayer, the Sacraments, the Liturgy and Mariology.

All of these along with an introduction to Moral Theology have been and are the recurring themes of my studies this year. As I begin the last term, before my end of year exams in June, I have been looking back and reflecting on just how much I have been putting into practice all that I have learned this year.

I have a large and growing set of course books provided by the Bishops of Scotland (and supplemented by some of Mgr. Allan's!) which cover all of my subjects, but the "core" books which I use daily are the Bible (of course!), the Divine Office, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the RCIA Catechists manual.

The first two are indispensable to my studies. The Bible gives us the Word of God and as the great dogmatic constitution on Divine Revelation from the Second Vatican Council, *Dei Verbum*, tells us:

"The study of the sacred page should be, as it were, the very soul of theology."

The second book I mentioned, the Divine Office, provides us through the course of each day, with the wealth of tradition held and celebrated by the Church in its Liturgy, for, while it offers to us the psalms, canticles and scriptural extracts from sacred scripture for each of the "hours", it also gives us, through the magisterium of the Church, the teachings of the Church fathers in the office of readings.

The third book I mentioned is the Catechism of the Catholic Church and this work brings forth the second and complementary strand of Tradition needed for true exegesis, as the authors of *Dei Verbum* go on to explain:

"For both of them (Scripture and Tradition), flowing from the same divine wellspring, in a certain way merge into a unity and tend toward the same end. For Sacred Scripture is the word of God inasmuch as it is consigned to writing under the inspiration of the divine Spirit. To the successors of the apostles, sacred Tradition hands on in its full purity God's word, which was entrusted to the Apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit."

The Catechism for me is essential reading for in it the teachings of the Church are beautifully laid out as the four great interconnected pillars upon

which our faith is built. This book is my constant companion for it allows me to put each of the course topics into practical and organic catechesis.

This year has seen me become even more involved in sacramental preparation with both children and adults and the 4th book I mentioned is the RCIA Catechists manual which gives me my road map for teaching. It sets out a framework for passing on the faith organically and I've been using it almost constantly since it arrived in my "bundle" last year at Summer School.

As part of my pastoral formation, Mgr. Allan asked me to get involved with both Adult and Child faith formation in both parishes and so I've been

heavily involved with the children's baptismal programme, where we have seen a number of children, this year, in family groups who are all of school age. After discussing this situation with Mgr. Allan we decided to run a short catechetical programme for each family group aimed specifically at the children, rather than their parents and Godparents, because the children were all of an age where they all wanted to know more about the faith so they can both fully understand and then actively participate in the liturgy of the

Sacrament.

In this regard I was greatly assisted by Mrs. Susan Hunter, an experienced Children's Liturgist from St. Luke & St. Anne's, who generously gave of her time and expertise with, not one, but two family groups of children for our sessions in the parish house at St. Luke & St. Anne's on the Sunday afternoons in question.

Last autumn, I graduated onto the grown-ups!

During the course of the summer, Mgr. Allan was approached separately by two ladies, one from each parish, who had spoken to him enquiring about the Faith. Where it's only one person at a time, most parishes will not convene or run a formal RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) but as we now had two it seemed like a good idea and so I picked up on the individual catechesis which they had already received individually and began our wee group.

I have to say that I have been amazed at the outright enthusiasm that both Mandy and Lorraine have shown since we began our meetings last year. My Catechist manual allows me to faithfully echo the teachings of the Church, the very meaning of catechesis, and it's been a hugely satisfying



endeavour to see them both develop and grow towards and then through the Sacrament of Baptism.

All of our preparations came to fruition in the final stages of their catechumenate, when they both enrolled as candidates for completion of acceptance into the Church at the Cathedral Mass. Their names really are in the book!!

At the 2014 Deanery Stations Mass in Our Lady of Loretto & St. Michael's in Musselburgh, Mandy and Lorraine met the Archbishop and received from him a copy of the Nicene Creed. Another great milestone on their journey. Full acceptance for both will take place here in St. David's at the Easter Vigil Mass and it's a great thing that we are welcoming Lorraine and Mandy fully into the faith.

I ask you to keep them both in your prayers as they continue into their neophyte year following the Vigil.



Protecting Vulnerable Groups.

Child and Adult Protection is no joke, I've been involved in it constantly for the last 9 years. The main aim of the current PVG scheme is to ensure that those who have regular contact with children and adults at risk, through paid and unpaid work, do not have a known history of harmful behaviour. The PVG scheme was designed with two central principles in mind, it had to:

- Be quicker and easier to use, reducing the need for PVG Scheme members to complete a detailed application form every time a disclosure check is required.
- Strike a balance between proportionate protection and robust regulation and make it easier for organisations to determine who they should check to protect their client group.

You will have seen the posters and the handbooks at the back of the Church and the regular updates in the bulletin. The archdiocese in particular and indeed the Church in general, take this issue very seriously and ask in turn that you do too.

Those of us who work regularly with children or special groups such as Liturgists, or those who visit the elderly or infirm at home as Ministers of Holy Communion, or who fulfil other special roles must comply with the archdiocesan regulations for keeping our parishes safe.

Therefore each volunteer or appointed person's "role" within the parish is subject to regular review by the Parish Safeguarding Team who meet regularly in both parish communities and who decide, in conjunction with the archdiocesan Safeguarding offices, guidance and interpretation of the law, on which roles require a PVG check.

We held a refresher peer-group session for volunteers before Christmas which was well attended and where updates on the scheme and support for volunteers was discussed and this is something which will be repeated after Easter. Watch out in the bulletin for session dates in the near future and please remember, if you have any questions about which roles need a disclosure process, the forms or any other connected issue come and see Mgr. Allan, Brian, Ginny, Karen or Me!

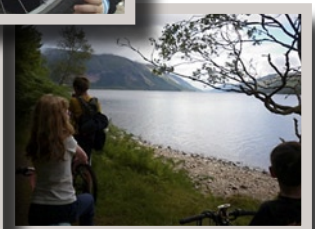
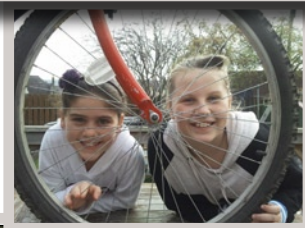
PVG isn't something to be concerned about as a volunteer, it's there to ensure we keep everybody safe, especially you.

Peter.

Cycle Club. 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲 🚲

Our St. David's Cycling Club Fun Rides are popular. Last year we added to the fun by running a photo competition. The club members voted for the winners who are pictured below with their photos.

Julian.



St. David's Church.

As, this year, it will be 160 years since St. David's Church was formally opened, it might be a good time to look around it and appreciate some of its features.

The foundation stone was laid in 1853 by Bishop James Gillies, Vicar-Apostolic of the Eastern district. On the Feast of the Annunciation, 25th March 1854 the parish of St. David's was established. Two months later, on the 21st May 1854, the Sunday nearest the ancient feast day of St. David (St. David died 24th May 1153), the church was formally opened with a Solemn High Mass. The following day, the High Altar was solemnly consecrated, this having been deferred as 'up to Saturday the altar was not yet finished.'

The style of the church is Early English Gothic. It is a listed building as it is of special architectural interest. Before you go in, take a moment to look up at **the roof**.

It was done by John McGowan, a local Catholic for whom it was a real labour of love. He sacrificed a lot of his spare time to cut the slates into three different forms and thus was able to throw all the roofs into a distinct variety of bands which harmonise gracefully with the ridgings.

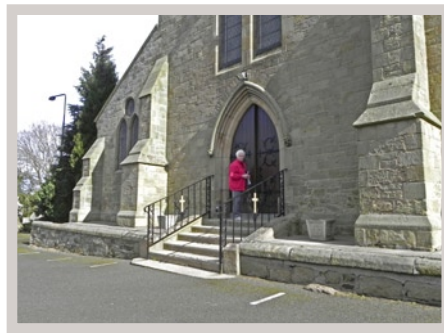
The Bell, which has not been heard for a number of years, was blessed and named Gabriel by Bishop Gillies in 1855.

It used to be rung for the Angelus, and more recently, at the Consecration.



Over the years, the church has been changed and altered.

As you approach **the front steps**, look at **the hand rails**.



These were originally part of the altar rails but were taken down in about 1970 when changes were made following Vatican II. Notice how they depict scenes from St. David's life, the stag he was said to have chased in Holyrood Park when he saw the saltire in the sky.

At the top of the steps is now **the main door** into the church. Originally, this was only used by the gentry. Take a little walk round to the north side of the church and peep through the trees. There you can see **the door that the hoi polloi** (that is you and me) had to use. Take a walk past this door to the end of the building and you will come across three head stones marking where Jesuit priests were buried.



Go into the church and as you stand looking up towards the altar, do you notice something strange? There is **a distinct slope** up towards the altar.

Turn towards the north wall (your left) and now you can see **the outline of the other door** which the rest of the congregation, particularly the Irish navvies and their families had to use.

Staying on the North side of the church you will see **the**

picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.

This was specially painted in Rome from an original



in the Redemptorist Church. It was brought to St. David's in 1868, perhaps the first copy to reach Scotland. Mayer of Munich was commissioned to provide a suitable shrine which was hand carved and finished in 1870.

Along both the north and south walls, you will see **the Stations of the Cross**. These were specially designed and made in Paris, commissioned by Lady Lothian in time for the opening of St. David's Church. Notice how the figures stand out in bold relief from their background.

Further along the north side of the church, you will come to **the Pieta Shrine**. This was made by Mayer of Munich, and is a copy of the famous Achtermann Group in Munster Cathedral. When it was



brought to the church, in 1900, Fr. Head, the then parish priest, recounted how the old non-Catholic workman who unpacked it was moved to tears at the sight of what our sins had done to Our Lord.

In front of the Pieta Shrine stands **The Baptismal Font**. It used to be at the back of the church on the right as you came in with railings round it. Many of the older parishioners will remember this.

At the north east corner of the church you will come to **the Lady Altar**. The altar was designed by E. Goldie. The statue of Our Lady was given by



Lady Alice Kerr. The other four statues, St. Joseph, St. Joachim, St. John and St. Anne were donated by the Duchess of Buccleuch in thanksgiving for the recovery of her daughter, Lady Mary Scott, from a severe illness.

The Chancel Arch leading into the High Altar



has a mural depicting the coronation of the Virgin as Queen of Heaven designed by Miss Gibson. Notice the saints that are depicted there. How many of them can you name?

The Sanctuary, at the east end of the church, has



undergone a number of transformations to meet the needs of the times. The altar was modelled out of Tranent stone by John Drummond, the front panels being carved from designs by Mr. Henderson of Edinburgh. The tabernacle was presented by Lady Cecil Kerr, daughter of the Marchioness of Lothian.

There is no doubt that Pope Pius IX had a soft spot for Dalkeith and gave the church many special favours, the chief being that he deemed **the High Altar** a Privileged one which means that every Mass which has ever been said on it carries with it a plenary indulgence for the person for whom it is offered. He also granted a plenary indulgence to anyone who received Holy Communion in St.

David's, no matter how often that would be, with the usual conditions. In later years, he had second thoughts and only granted the indulgence once a month.

Pope Pius IX added a special condition to the usual ones for receiving a plenary indulgence, and that was that the person should pray to "Our Blessed Lady in Scotland". The following year, the then parish priest was deputed to form the Confraternity of the Rosary in Dalkeith to ensure that the devotion to Our Lady should grow stronger.

Beneath the altar that is now used for Mass, within the central arch, lie **the remains of St. Vitalis**, a

major relic sent from Rome as a personal gift to Lady Lothian from Pope Pius IX. It was taken from the Catacomb of St. Callistus. It is one of many relics that have been presented to St. David's.

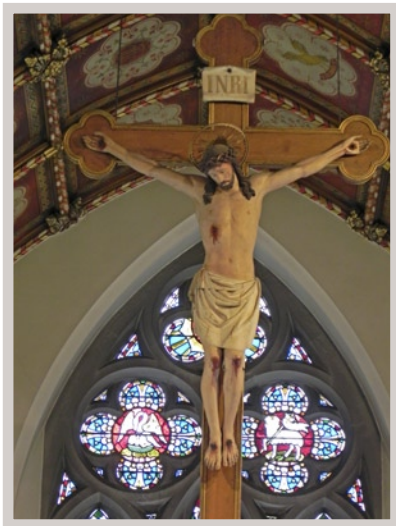


The Sanctuary Lamp is of silver and originally presented to Lady Cecil Kerr by J. Hope Scott. She gave it to the church.

The stained glass windows behind the altar were given by Lady Lothian in memory of her son and daughter who had died. They portray St. John, Our Lady and St. Paul.

The whole of the Sanctuary is covered by a **gorgeously stencilled coffered ceiling** containing monograms and coats of arms designed by A. McPherson in 1894.

Over the Sanctuary hangs **a crucifix**. Do look at it carefully. As with all works of art, the artist is trying to say something. What does it say to you? It is always worth looking at crucifixes as they are all different and so convey different messages. This one has been in St. David's some time but there is no reference to where it came from.



The **small cross** carved in the marble floor to the

left of the altar shows where Lady Cecil Lothian was buried. This was a very special privilege that she was given for all she had done for the church.

On the south side of the church is the confessional and **a small altar to St. Aloysius**, which is important in the history of St. David's as it was, for the first hundred years, a Jesuit church. Nearby is a statue of St. Stanislaus Koska SJ which was given later by Lord Ralph Kerr.

Beyond this is **the Holy Souls Chapel** which contains the vault in which the members of the Kerr family are buried. The oak altar was carved by Mayer of Munich and completed in 1883. That year, Pope Leo XIII made it a Privileged altar. On each side of the altar, you can see plaques with the names of the members of the Kerr family that have been interred in the vault up to 1980. The stained glass windows represent St. Francis of Assisi and St. Elizabeth of Hungary. The other set is of Saints Margaret and David and St. Philip Neri.



As you prepare to leave the church, glance up at **the organ**. This was assembled by a famous firm of organ builders, Hamilton of Edinburgh. It was designed by Dr. Monk, organist from York Minster, in 1860 at the cost of £200.

When you come out of the church, look across at **the war memorial**. It was erected in 1920 by Lady Ann Kerr whose brother was killed in the 1914-18 war. Then walk round to the south side where you will find a rose bed with **an oak cross**. This was erected after the death of Antonella, Marchioness of Lothian in 2007.

I hope you have enjoyed your tour of the church. If anyone, or some of the older parishioners have stories about the church or the parish, perhaps they could let me have them for inclusion in the next magazine.

Winifred.



Eilidh's Expedition.

Last October my school partnered up with Outlook Expeditions to allow two small groups of children to visit Malawi. I immediately signed up and was sorted into a group with 10 other people. I was really excited as it is my dream to move to Africa and work as a doctor there when I am older.

My group of 10 met up every week and I slowly got to know them all. We met our team leader, Alex and he answered all of our questions. We sorted out our itinerary and decided to go for the one month trip instead of the two week trip.

Our itinerary begins with 2 days of travelling from Edinburgh via London and Ethiopia to Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. We will spend a day there before moving on to Lilongwe Wildlife centre (LWC) where we will help with construction and caring for injured animals. We will then visit Kuit, the site where LWC releases their animals once they have healed. Next we spend a day at the Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery which provides temporary care for babies with HIV/Aids before travelling to the Fisherman's Rest near the Great Rift Valley to help with the local after school club and renovation of many community facilities. Next is our 5 day trek across Mount Mulanje, the highest mountain in Malawi, carrying all our equipment (gulp). After the trek we will visit Liwonde National park to have a 2 day safari. Finally we will spend 4 days at Lake Malawi resting from all the month's excitement before heading home. Throughout the trip we will be arranging our own travel, food, budget and accommodation (tents).

As the overall cost of the trip was £4000 (excluding the price of injections, kit and essentials) I became very involved in fundraising. As a group we visited many craft fairs, had a quiz night and ran many baking stalls. Individually I sold items on eBay and did a 10 km. sponsored swim. I received an excellent response to my fundraising efforts and managed to raise a grand total of £240 from the church alone.

Although I can't wait to go on the expedition, I do have some worries: What happens if I get ill? What happens if I lose my passport? And most of all, how will I cope without my friends and family for a whole month? However I trust my group and



expedition leader and know that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity which can't be missed.

The trip is taking place from the 22nd of June to the 19th of July.

Eilidh.

El Salvador.

I went back to El Salvador last November, with the Romero Trust. Rather than tell you all that we did there, I will just mention three incidents that stand out in my mind.

As I had been there before, I spent quite a bit of time chatting to locals. On the day we visited the long wall with all the names of the dead, I got talking to our driver. He was looking rather sad and he told me his story. When he was eight, his father disappeared and has never been found so his name does not appear on the wall and they are not able to mourn his loss. He had two older brothers and two older sisters. His oldest brother was conscripted into the army and his younger brother joined the guerrillas, thus they were fighting each other. His mother could not stand the tension and so removed the whole family to Honduras, a neighbouring country. His family have never been able to return to the village where they came from and are all scattered.

The second incident happened when we visited a "Fe y Alegria" (Faith and Joy) school which the Trust helps financially. We arrived late because we were caught up in road works and were greeted by all the mothers and grandmothers of the children in the school band. After several speeches explaining how the band had come together and how proud the children were, as this was the first time that they were wearing their band uniforms, a grandmother stood up. She thanked us for making this possible with our donations and added, "***I know that what you give us is not your leftovers, but you go without to help us.***"

The third incident concerned a religious sister who came from Rosewell and has been working in El Salvador for a number of years. People had been coming to her, rather worried, as they were being told that all Catholics would go to hell. This is the message from the evangelical preacher. She said that she would investigate. A few days later, from her flat she could hear the message from a loudspeaker that indeed all Catholics were destined for hell, so she went to confront the preacher only to be told, "***Yes, it is true, but you don't have to worry because you are English!!!***"

Winifred.

Happy Memories.

This year is the 90th anniversary of St. Joseph's Hospital, Rosewell.

Out of all the very happy memories of the years involved with St. Joseph's, the visit in 1982 of Pope John Paul is by far the best. It was a fantastic day, we were all at the hospital very early getting ready for the visit - everybody was very excited.

I was very privileged to be a steward that day and doubly privileged to get so close to Pope John Paul.

This is a picture of me getting a handful of medals blessed, little did I know that day that these medals were being blessed by a future saint.

How lucky was I.

Mick Kennedy.



Pro-Life.

Once again the Pro-Life group would like to thank the people of the parish for patronising our tea, coffee and scones after Mass and making them such homely occasions. The funds raised have been used to support organisations such as Life, SPUC and the Cardinal Winning Initiative.

As mentioned in a previous article, we continue to support Glasgow midwives, Connie Wood and Mary Doogan, in their legal battle not to be involved in abortions. In a recent letter to us SPUC wrote

“Without your support it simply wouldn't be possible for the Society to take a stand on behalf of the Glasgow midwives and our unborn children.”

The familiar seasonal events took place this year. Advent candles were sold to raise funds for Lifeline, and the Innocents Mass (28th December) took place in our own parish and was concelebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley and clergy from the Archdiocese. It was a happy and reflective occasion.

As always, we are aware of vulnerable groups in our society who might be under threat so it was reassuring to note the stand taken by a significant number of doctors' groups opposed to Margo MacDonald's new Assisted Suicide Bill which is currently before the Scottish Parliament. In a letter to the Edinburgh Evening News, 14th March 2014, they state:

“We are senior clinicians who are part of the overwhelming majority of doctors who are opposed to assisted suicide because it is unethical and unsafe.”

We ask everyone to pray that the Scottish Parliament will reflect the beliefs of these doctors and reject any attempt to pass a bill of this sort in the future.

It would be good to see new faces in our small Pro-Life Group. Anyone who is interested in being involved in any way would be most welcome and should get in touch with a member of the group for details.

Helen Holden.

St. David's Church Choir.

A very warm welcome to recent newcomers Peter and Margaret.

The Choir manages a fairly regular practice in the Church on Tuesday evenings. These are useful and fun. What we do is have a look at the hymns and the psalm for the upcoming Sunday. The hymns are almost always very familiar but it is nevertheless instructive to go over these melodies and notice details here and there. It's often interesting to notice the difference between the original intention of the composer and the way the hymn has come to be sung. For instance “I watch the sunrise” was not originally composed as a waltz rhythm (one two three one two three...) but had more of a 4-in-a-bar flow to it.

It's obviously important to practise the psalm setting. Otherwise unfamiliarity tends to produce a rather cautious tempo. In that situation the accompanist must wait for the voices and cannot influence the speed. Now and again there's the option of using a Joseph Gelineau setting. This type of setting has more “bounce” to it.

In St. David's we are fortunate to have those impressive drapes to the sides of the altar, a different one for each of the Church's seasons. In terms of music there is also an antiphon to the Mother of God, again corresponding to these seasons. You may have caught strains of the Ave Regina Coelorum. Later in the year it will be the season for the familiar Salve Regina.

John Holden.

St. David's Brass Band - Success.

(Scottish Charity SC028401)

Competing in the Second section of the Scottish Brass Band Championships in Perth recently, the Band was delighted to be placed 2nd, with promotion to the Scottish First section next year.

The adjudicators were impressed with the way our conductor, John A. Dickson, had interpreted the complex problems posed by the test piece, 'Chaucer's Tales' by Michael Ball, and had challenged the Band to cope with them.

The Band's solo cornet player, Stuart Dickson, was also awarded the medal for Best Instrumentalist.

A great day all round!



Just three years since the Band last went to Cheltenham after winning the Scottish Third Section, the Band now goes on to represent Scotland at the National Finals again, in September.

Fundraising for the Cheltenham trip will include a senior band concert in Gorebridge Parish Church, on Friday 23rd May; playing at local supermarkets in the summer months and various sponsored events. Band members are grateful for any support you choose to give.

Deirdre.

Baptism.



We congratulate the Primrose Family girls on their recent baptism and welcome them to our Parish Family.

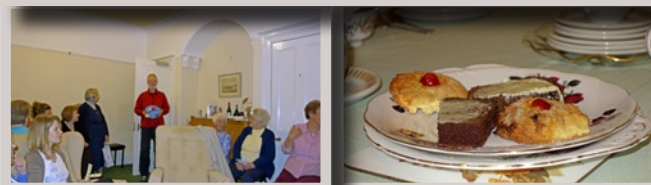
Beetle Drive.



BEWARE! Beetles on the increase in Dalkeith.

A sighting, by no less than 28 people, caused quite a stir in the Eskbank area on Monday 31st March. What a noise, as 28 merciless people demeaned these beautiful little creatures on paper. Never-the-less, a really good evening was had by all and £278.50 raised for the Philippines. Iris was delighted and joins with the Sisters, Rosehill in thanking the Parish for their support and for the great generosity with which raffle prizes were provided and money donations given. God bless you all.

Sr. Ethel.



This is our 16th 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.

Nativity Play.



Primary 5 - some Easter artwork, Stations I-IX.

