

# *St. David's Dalkeith*

*Parish magazine  
Autumn 2006*



## *Contents :-*

- *Fr Allan's page*
- *Schools news*
- *Parish groups*
- *Recent events*
- *Looking forward*
- *Competitions*

*Highlight of the year  
- Frank to be honoured*



## Fr Allan's page

Time as they say marches on, and the older you get the quicker it marches. I find it hard to believe I am now well into my second year as parish priest of Saint David's and Saint Anne and Saint Luke's; to say nothing of Saint David's High School and Shotts Prison !

I am surprised how quickly I have settled in and settled down. As you know I had serious reservations about coming back into an area I grew up in and was educated in. Reservations completely unfounded because of the very warm welcome from both parish communities. It was that, without doubt, that made such a difference.

As my granny used to say, 'You're a big feartie !'.

New times, challenging times.

We are in the middle of the Cardinal's consultation process, and the road ahead still a bit uncertain for all of us.

However my experience from both communities has been to go forward confidently and that is what we intend to do.

It seems to me any parish is made up of two main areas: Spiritual and Social.

In terms of Spiritual:

Our week day Masses, our gathering on Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning to keep faithful to the command of Christ: to gather, to listen to the Word, to be nourished by the Eucharist.

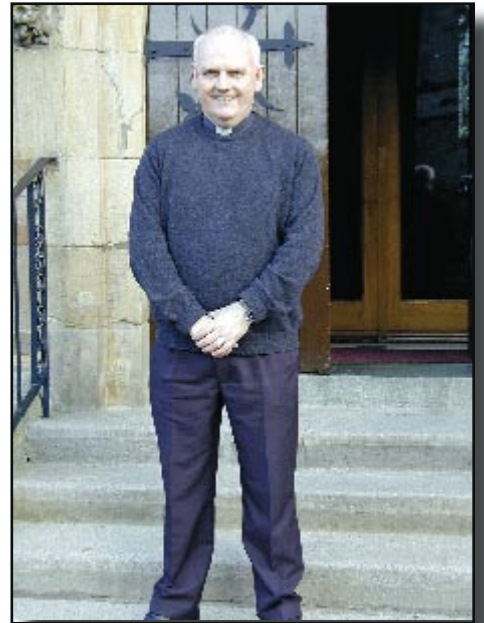
In addition, our celebration of all the other Sacraments remind us of who we are and who we identify with.

Add to that the opportunity of involving parents of children engaged in Sacramental preparation, the possibility of having a half day retreat for all involved in ministry in our parish, then it seems to me Spiritually we are moving in the right direction.

In terms of Social:

Happily we have a large group of committed and willing parishioners. Building on the very successful

Youth Mass, we plan on holding something similar in Advent. We are, with our Youth, actively looking to Lourdes 2008, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the apparitions and we would like our Youth represented.



In addition, plans are in hand for a joint Bowling night with youth from Our Lady and Saint Bridget's, West Calder and their adult helpers,

Preparation is well under way for our Nativity Play.

More generally we looking to holding a seventies disco night for those of that vintage ! I am keen also to begin a Men's Club, which I believe we already have in emerging form.

The highlight for the parish this year will be the formal visit of Cardinal O'Brien to present to our long serving Organist, Mr. Frank Nicholson, the Bene Merenti Medal in recognition of years of outstanding service to the parish family.

In addition, the Cardinal will also bless our newest Stained Glass window to commemorate the Parish celebrating 150 years in 2005.

Following the Mass that evening there will be the opportunity for the parish to gather socially in our hall and continue our celebrations.

So we thank God for all that has happened in the past and whatever lies ahead we embrace together in hope, joy and confidence.

May God Bless Saint David's Parish.

Father Allan T. Chambers. Parish Priest.

## **News from the Schools**



### ***St. David's High School***

#### **A NEW SESSION IN ST. DAVID'S HIGH SCHOOL**

St. David's High School enjoyed a very positive start to the new session in August. Our new S1 have settled very well into school and have been helped by their S6 'buddies' to get used to high school life. We also welcomed 10 new members to our teaching staff in August and hope they enjoy their career in St. David's.

At the end of June, a group of senior pupils and staff visited the SCIAF Project St. David's supports in Bangalore, India – The Association of People with Disabilities. We raised £20,000 for this project last year, a sum which was matched by Sir Tom Farmer. Our school party visited the education and training programmes which our funds have helped to support. We will be welcoming a return visit of staff from Bangalore to St. David's at the end of October.

In June we ran another successful Community Festival for all of the associated primaries and parishes attached to St. David's. This event is part of our programme to develop links with our communities across Midlothian and East Lothian. In December, we will be having another Christmas Celebration for senior citizens in school. Our pupils will prepare and serve lunch and provide entertainment for about 70 senior citizens invited from our wide community. Last December, we were delighted to welcome a group from St. David's Parish for this happy school event.

As you can see, we have had a busy start to the new session. We hope to see you at some of the events detailed in our newsletter, which is also sent to every parish.

Our School Chaplaincy Programme has now been agreed and includes pupil and staff retreats, liturgies, Masses, a trip

to Carfin and Lenten and Advent programmes. We also celebrate St. Andrew's Day and St. Patrick's Day in St. David's with all of the proceeds going to SCIAF. This year we are delighted to have been asked to host a visit from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland to St. David's in November. As ever, we are grateful for the excellent support we receive from our Deanery priests and our Chaplain, Fr Chambers.

### ***St. David's Primary School*** **CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

Coming together as a whole school community is important for our primary school and celebrating the achievements and successes of all children within and outwith the school both refreshing and informative. We do this at the weekly Assembly when we award 'Pupil of the Week' certificates for each stage as well as congratulating children on their achievements outwith school e.g. gymnastics, swimming etc.. Houses are awarded the Headteacher Trophy at the end of each month for accumulation of points gained in class. Tokens are awarded throughout the school and playground for good behaviour, kindness, helpfulness etc.. The House with the most tokens is rewarded with a 'Fruit Fest' and extra playtime twice in the year.

The talent at St. David's is endless and varied and we will continue to develop and enhance our academic, sporting, creative and enterprising successes at our whole school assembly by sharing our individual or group awards.

We particularly congratulate Luke Thomson Primary 7 on achieving a gold medal in Finland during the summer break. He is now British and European champion in his age group in Archery. Well done!! We wish Luke continued success (Olympic champion of the future!).



## **News from Parish Groups**

### **Piety Stall**

The Book Stall at the back of the church was started about 5 years ago. The Late Canon Healy asked us to sell some Christmas Cards for the Sisters at Humbie. This later resulted in us getting C.T.S. Booklets for sale. Some men of the Parish partitioned this area off so we are able to put up pictures from the primary school and also posters of interest. We have now started to sell Confirmation and 1st Communion Cards, Books & Rosaries.

Shortly we hope to have some new C.T.S. Booklets and the new Catechism for sale. It is now time to order our Christmas Cards once again. We get them from the Carmelite Sisters, Fife and from C.B.S., Ireland. We hope for continuing support from the Parish.

### **Youth Group**

The Youth of St. David's have always played a vital role in our community, from serving on the Altar to reading at Holy Mass or attending the Children's Liturgy. Our young people are seen not only as youngsters who serve our Parish but are the future of our Parish.

A committee was set up which comprised a cross section of the youth together with adult helpers lead by Father Allan. The aim of this group is to look after not only the religious but also the social aspects of our Parish youth. During our first year we have achieved the following :-

1. Nativity Play for Primary school children
2. Bowling night for Secondary school children
3. Youth Mass for all ages
4. Games night to end our school year

All these events were a huge success, thanks mainly to the hard work and enthusiasm of the youth themselves. For this new session we have a variety of events in mind; the annual Nativity Play, a visit to the theatre, a number of fund raising events which will hopefully raise the necessary funds to enable the trip to Lourdes in 2008 become a reality.

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

The St. David's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues its visiting activities and program of events. This currently includes the St. Vincent de Paul Anniversary Day at Carfin, a festal occasion celebrated with Rosary Procession and Holy Mass. Other events include the senior citizens Dobbies outing, a possible sale of work in the St. David's Church hall, and the senior citizens

Christmas party, again in the Church hall.

Following the recent events in Lebanon and the devastating conflict in that region the St. David's Conference has been able to help St. Vincent de Paul Society work in Lebanon and the Holy Land through the St. Vincent de Paul National Council of Scotland.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Scotland now has its own website. This is [www.ssvpscotland.com](http://www.ssvpscotland.com) Visitors to the site can view the text of Pope Benedict's first encyclical "God is Charity", as well as other items specific to the Society.

### **Pro Life**

The Pro-Life group are delighted to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting us in many different ways over the years.

Until now we have participated in several different Pro-Life campaigns as well as collecting clothes and equipment and giving financial help to groups such as :-

- Fr. Tenase a Rumanian Orthodox priest who runs a home for children and pregnant mothers;
- "Mary's Meals" providing one square meal a day for children in third world countries;
- "Zoe's Place" a Hospice for seriously ill children and their parents, run by Jack and Nuala Scarisbrick, two very prominent Pro-Lifers;
- as well as nearer to home, SPUC, "Lifeline", "Life" West of Scotland, and the "Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative", these four to be our main beneficiaries this year.

We hope, once more to begin praying the White Flower rosary once a month from November and would welcome anyone wishing to join us. On December 28th the Mass of the Holy Innocents takes place concelebrated by the Cardinal, venue yet to be arranged.

### **Children's Liturgy**

The Children's Liturgy is enjoyed by between 15 – 35 of our young people each week. The age range is 4 to 12 years. The children seem to enjoy their weekly gatherings and are disappointed when the liturgy does not take place during the school summer vacation. They certainly look forward to and enjoy their Christmas party.

The adult leaders are made up of volunteers from the parish. At present there are 14 leaders, which means they are not on duty too often throughout the year. New leaders are always welcome. Guidance is given by Sister Monica before new leaders are asked to take up their duties.

## **Finance Committee**

This group look after the Finances of the Parish. We will be directing income and expenditure to enhance our community both spiritually and socially. We have made great strides already on the income side, by trebling the number of people taking part in Gift Aid, which gives us a further income stream from the tax we can reclaim on parish contributions. We are currently planning expenditure to ensure we direct our funds in the most effective way for the parish - eg Buildings and Garden maintenance, funding for parish activities and events.

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

There are a group of 21 Eucharistic Ministers at present in the parish. Ministers are trained and commissioned by the Parish Priest. Communion under both kinds is distributed in St. David's at the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Mass. Ministers are on duty at both masses on a rotational basis.

Eucharistic Ministers also visit the sick and housebound in their homes, in care homes and hospitals to distribute the Blessed Sacrament at the request and under the supervision of the Parish Priest.

## **How clean is Your Church**

Wednesday is cleaning day! How often do your friends hear that, whenever they ask how about going wherever on Wednesday morning. No Can't! However nothing is written in stone. Our cleaning team consists of six people, but we are not always able to be there together for various reasons. The cleaning is actually fun, we clean, dust, polish, mop do brasses and we chat a lot. At the end we have a cup of tea and chat some more and we often have some of Margaret's wonderful shortbread! We need more volunteers, it need not always have to be a regular commitment, come when you can. If you do have some time to offer see the gaffer, Margaret. She will keep you right, she keeps me right. How about a big effort in the autumn coming up to Christmas, to have a blitz perhaps in preparation for the Cardinal's visit. At the moment we have no time for extras, we start and finish at the same point every week. As a group we have a common bond and that is our commitment to the job and our pride in seeing the church looking nice. We may not pass an Aggie and Kim inspection but we do our best with limited resources and an average age of 68. Wouldn't you like to be part of our team?

## **Other Recent News**

**Bene Merenti Medal** has been awarded to Frank Nicholson for devoted services to the Parish. The presentation to Frank will take place during the 7.00 p.m. Mass on Friday November 17th.

**Stained Glass Window** to celebrate our 150th anniversary was installed in early Summer and will be blessed by the Cardinal during Mass on November 17th.

After 150 years standing, as a place of worship and spiritual nourishment, St. David's parish commemorated in this artistic medium what the Universal church was passing through at the same time. And with this in mind there were three subjects to depict: St. David's 150 years; The year of the Eucharist; and the remembrance of Pope John Paul II. Three subjects that are infiltrated in one main subject - The Eucharist/Service.



## **Our Web Site is up and running**

Try it at [www.stdavidsdalkeith.co.uk](http://www.stdavidsdalkeith.co.uk)

**Youth Mass** held in Summer was memorable - it will be repeated.

**Gift Aid** drive in Summer was a great success :-

- New donors signed up
- An appreciable sum of money (£2,800) was claimed back from the Inland Revenue thanks to the Finance Committee.

**Visiting priest** in Summer holiday period raised over £7,000 for Kids for Africa appeal - well done for your generosity.

**Fr Allan** is reputed to have had a narrow escape from a foreign flume whilst on summer holiday!

## **'Now is the Favourable Time'**

Parish consultations were held on the response to the Cardinal's paper which proposes to reorganise the parishes in the light of a reduction in the number of available priests. Our response was sent in September. Watch this space for the next steps.

## **Hot News**

St. David's had a great time and took third place at the recent Deanery quiz night.

## Looking forward

### **End October, St. David's Radio Station**

St. David's Radio Station will be launched in the High School at the end of October to broadcast the work of pupils throughout the school and in our associated primaries. Programme topics will include music, sport, local history and culture, the arts and school news. Our pupils hope to tap into the rich culture of our communities, interview local people and broadcast the results. This will help pupils improve their skills in many subject areas and give them a better understanding of the communities in which they live. More news of this later.

### **Wednesday 1st November**

- All Saints (Holyday of Obligation).

### **Sunday 12th November**

- Remembrance Sunday - war memorial ceremony in our churchyard at start of 11.00 a.m. Mass.

### **Friday 17th November**

- Frank's Presentation Mass 7.00 p.m.
- Cardinal O'Brien will be present.
- New stained glass window will be blessed.
- Frank will be presented with the Bene Merenti Medal.
- Cheese and wine in hall after Mass.

### **Wednesday 29th November**

- Annual Mass for the Faithful Departed - 7.30 p.m..

### **All November**

LIFELINE Advent Candles are, once more, available. With the closure of Carberry Candles they are now sourced from further afield. White Lifeline Advent Candles will be on sale throughout **November** at £1.50 each after weekend Masses and through the Primaries & High School.



## Details still to be confirmed

### **Prior to Advent**

- Plan to hold a day of retreat for everyone who is involved in any form of ministry within the parish, *now pencilled in for* Sunday 3rd December 2.00 - 4.00 p.m..
- Liturgy Committee to be formed.
- Social Committee to be formed.

### **During Advent**

- Informal catechesis to be held on 2 Sundays lasting no longer than 1 hour.
- Nativity Play scheduled for Sunday 17th December 3.00 p.m., followed by refreshments in the hall.

### **Christmas Programme**

- Christmas Vigil Mass at St Luke & St Anne's.
- Christmas Day Mass at St David's.
- Keep an eye out for the detailed Christmas programme being published.

### **Thursday 28th December**

- Mass of the Holy Innocents, concelebrated by the Cardinal, venue and time to be published.

### **Further ahead**

- A youth outing is being planned along the lines of climbing or karting.
- Next March, St. David's High School will be hosting a visit of Jean Vainer, who will be talking to the seniors about the work of the L'Arche Community.

### **Much further ahead**

- It is planned to take a group of youth to Lourdes as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage in 2008 (150th Anniversary year).
- Look out for fund raising events to support.

*This is our first parish magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it. Please pass your feedback and ideas for our next edition, in Spring 2007, to Isa, Winifred, Brian or Julian.*

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## Competitions

### **Primary School drawing competition winners**

Eilidh Blackley  
 Greg Gilhooley  
 Liam Glen  
 Kelsey Lambert  
 Lauren MacMurchie  
 Joanna Waddell  
 Rebecca Wilson

*See the winning entries displayed at the back of church in the reading corner*



### **Good with numbers - try Sudoku**

Very Easy Sudoku :-  
 Insert the missing numbers,  
 such that each row,  
 each column,  
 and each block of nine squares  
 contains the numbers 1 to 9  
 once and once only,  
 without any repeats.

*Answer to be published in the Spring 2007 issue magazine.*

### **Good with words - try translating this (is it really latin?)**

Enim iliquisi. Et, corpercipsum nos enim dolor inisit nullum ing eugait alisit num dit praesequipit adigna modolobore et, quat ea conse magnim amconullamet illam vero dolorem aut estrud tat velisciduisl utpatummy nim vullum duis nibh ea commy nonsectem dolent venim ex ea faccummod dolore ver sed dolore consecite facincin henim nit acilit aliquat. Heniam essenim quis alismodio doloreet acil inim volorem atie ming enim ad endre magniametum nostinit veniam eugiamcon utpat.

*Please give your 'translations' to Winifred Keeves or Julian Kettle by 31st January. The most imaginative solution will be published in the Spring 2007 issue of our magazine...*

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	9			1			2	
		1	9	2	5	7		
8		4				6		9
	7	2				3	5	
9		3				8		2
		6	2	5	9	1		
	2			3				9
			4		1			

### **Autumn (Darcy Moir Primary 7)**

Autumn comes once a year  
 Winter is getting so near  
 Leaves are crunching under my feet  
 All the animals are going to sleep.

The leaves are turning from green to red  
 As the animals prepare to go to bed  
 The trees start to look bare  
 Warmer clothes we'll have to wear.

The weather will get cold  
 The leaves that fall are old  
 Children play in the leaves  
 Because they're so happy they're easy to please.

***A grateful word of thanks to our sponsor - Toni F. Crolla of the Cavaliere***