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St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Autumn 2009



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Parish Priest :

Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Valid during December 2009 and January 2010

Monsignor Allan

I am delighted to offer a short paragraph or two for the autumn edition of our parish magazine 2009. Before I do however, I wish to thank all members of the editorial team who faithfully pull together the many articles and where necessary bring gentle pressure to bear on those who promise but sometimes take a while to deliver. I write of course of your parish priest!

I thank also, our sponsors who through their continued generosity, allow us to defray costs in producing the magazine and would encourage you to support them where possible.

Finally to those who will receive this and read the many articles included, I hope it brings a further sense of our shared identity as a parish family and reminds us that it is together with our strengths that we create and recreate the Kingdom of God here in our community. **To one and all thank you.**

A phrase that has been running around in my head recently is, ***"The sum of all parts"***.

For the life of me I can't remember the context I first heard it in, and indeed I suspect I have got it mixed up with the title of a film I saw on TV recently. In any case it matters not where I first heard it or the context.

What resonates with me is I think it to be a good description of a parish!

The sum of all parts is what a vibrant healthy, alive parish is. The mission of us as baptised Catholics is to proclaim the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, and to build up that area of His kingdom entrusted into our care.

That is best achieved when all the different and varied parts of a parish come together to enable that to happen.

Looking back over the past Liturgical Year since Advent 2008 and as we approach Advent 2009, I think as the parish family of St. David's Dalkeith we can be proud of our efforts individually and collectively.

From our primary school celebrations of the sacraments of reconciliation, first holy communion, and confirmation, to the many baptisms celebrated in the church, we are reminded that we are a growing community in faith, and that we share a common responsibility with parents to provide the best possible example in our Christian way of living.

Our parish missionary outreach where we not only

identify the needs of those much worse off than ourselves, but as far as we can, offer practical help, is highlighted the past two years in the monies raised to help the school in the Philippines and of course the ongoing work for the Street Child Africa project.

In terms of our youth we have been in the very privileged position over the past two years of being able to send eight of our youth on the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes where their own contribution was immense. They too I know, derived much from those who shared their lives in that busy but enjoyable week, especially their close contact and care for the sick pilgrims, as well as making new friends with other youth from the Archdiocese.

Sadly of course as with every parish family we have suffered our share of bereavement. The Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus have been particularly affected the past two months with the deaths of **Sister Agnes Bolan** (August), **Sister Maureen McCormack** (September), and **Sister Catherine Bogue** (October).

In the parish family two men who gave so much of their lives to the service of God on the altar also died, **Jim McQue** and **John Mills**, both very much missed. As I type this we are on the threshold of the month of November, the month of praying in faith for those gone before us marked with that sign of faith.

Please do so for those named above.

Finally, on a practical note and because of your continued generosity we have been in a position to effect fairly substantial repairs to the Church and house. Removal of asbestos from the boiler house, repairs to substantial sections of the roof of the church and to the house, allow the ongoing maintenance of the fabric of the building to be addressed.

Help and advice from the men of the parish skilled in their own trade has always been offered to me for which I am truly grateful. In all since last year we have spent just under £28,000.00 on these works. That said we still are in a very healthy financial position, thanks to your own kindness and generosity.

As I said at the beginning; ***"The sum of all parts"***. Happily for me as parish priest of St. David's, it is a very accurate description of our parish family.

With every Blessing for you and those you love as we prepare for the great season of Advent.

Monsignor Allan Chambers.



Children's Page

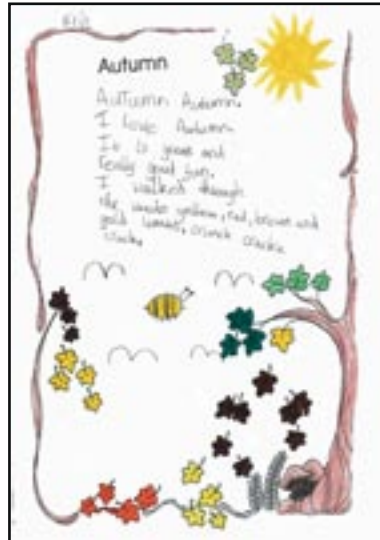
A delightful display of work from some of our Primary School children :-



Carla

Leaves are falling all around
mainly landing on the ground.
red, yellow, orange and green
what a beautiful beautiful scene.

Autumn is great Autumn is fun
Autumn is great for everyone
kids splashing through the
leaves getting really muddy sleeves.



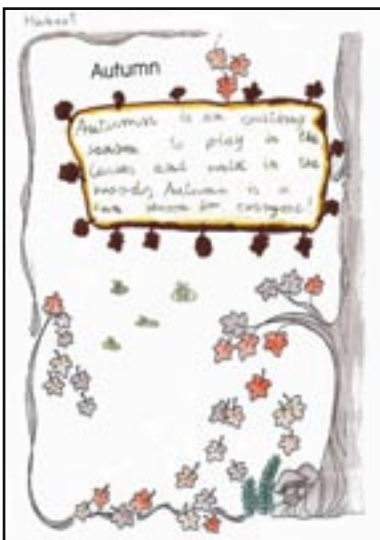
Erin

Autumn Autumn.
I love Autumn.
It is great and really good fun.
I walked through the woods
yellow, red, brown and gold leaves,
crunch crackle crack.



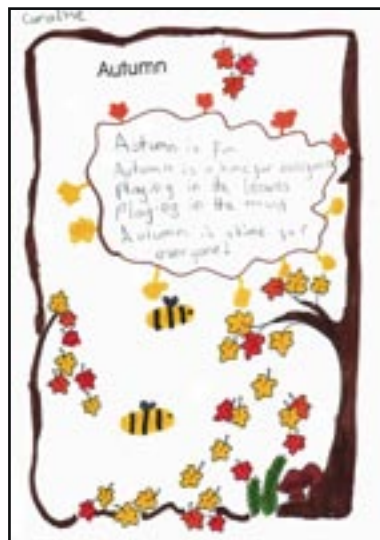
Rebecca

I looked out my window
and there were leaves in my
garden. They were falling
from the trees and there
was green and brown leaves.
What a pretty site to see.
By
Rebecca Wilson



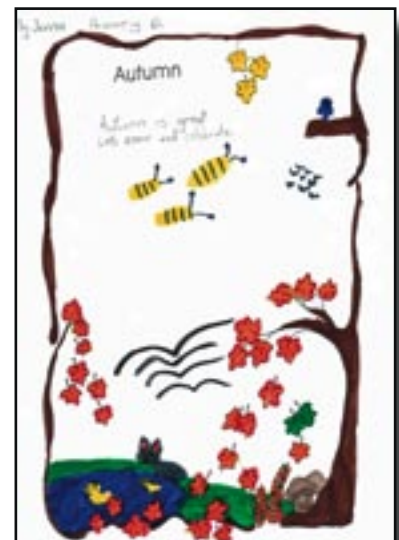
Hubert

Autumn is an exciting
season to play in the
leaves and walk in the
woods. Autumn is a
fun season for everyone



Caroline

Autumn is fun
Autumn is a time for everyone
Playing in the leaves
Playing in the mud
Autumn is a time for everyone!



Jenna

Autumn is great
Let's come and celebrate.

Parish Outreach

Sr. Yuka - Montalban, Philippines.

As reported in the Spring 2009 Parish Magazine, Iris Lawrie spent some time working in an early childhood education centre in Montalban, the suburbs of Metro Manila. The conditions for the people living there are pretty bad, some funds were raised here and sent to Sister Yuka Arita, the centre's founder. The following was received at the end of September from Sister Yuka Arita RSCJ -

"Thank you so much for the donation from St. David's Church. US\$2,110.45 was credited to our account on September 11. I will write my thank you letter to the parish soon. I am so happy to be connected to the kind hearts of your people there."

Since receiving that e-mail from Sister Yuka my connection has been temporarily cut off because of the severe storms in September/October. Some parishioners have been asking me what the situation is in Montalban where I worked earlier this year.

I received the following information from Sister Deirdre O'Brien RSCJ, who lives and works in Manila. She states that Montalban has been flooded, leaving people with virtually nothing but the clothes they stand in. Their homes, clothes and food have all been swept away. Many families are taking temporary shelter in the school. The fear was that there was another storm on the way.



One of the mums is very sick and cannot be moved to hospital for an operation because she is so undernourished. At the moment the local government authority is providing rice and eggs, which are being cooked and distributed from the small kitchen in the school. Sister Yuka is trying to beg clothes from surrounding areas for the families.

Life was hard enough for these people, so at the moment it must be unbearable.

Iris Lawrie.

The photo above shows the flood damage to a teacher's house

and right, the flood damage to the children's housing.



All these photos and the report below have been taken from the RSCJ site which you can access at :-

<http://www.rscjinternational.org/en/home.html>

"We are all safe after the recent heavy flooding. The property at Montalban, situated close to the river, had flood waters come into some of the buildings and the fence was badly destroyed. Neighbours, families of students and staff members, came running to shelter in our Sacred Heart Home which is more solidly constructed and on higher ground. At least half of these people have lost their homes and most of their possessions.

Some of our family members, like many people in Manila, also lost everything in the fast rising flood waters.

In the worst hit areas people have been waiting without food until the waters recede and they are able to escape from their roof top.

Please keep all these people in your prayers as they begin to rebuild their lives."



Fr. Ignatio - St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Zomba, Malawi.

Fr. Ignatio visited our parish this Summer, just prior to the Lourdes Pilgrimage in July and gave us a taste of his life as Parish Priest in an African parish.

We have since raised some funds for Fr. Ignatio's parish and successfully sent them to him in Malawi.

This article is mainly composed of his words taken from conversations and e-mails.

"I am very happy to inform you that I had a nice and safe trip from Edinburgh to Cheltenham on Monday, 29th June. It was quite an adventure for me to travel by train since I had a lot to see on the way.

I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to you for the warm welcome you accorded to me in the Parish Hall. I was very happy to meet you. I have observed that your country is very green and beautiful with the sea.

I will return to Malawi, my home country, on 8th August and I will definitely send you a letter at that time. However, my postal address is the one that is below.

It is good for me to be away from home so as to give myself time to rest. I work in a parish of 11,000 parishioners and it is quite a very busy parish. I celebrate Mass every morning at 6.00 a.m. Every Sunday there are 3 Masses at the parish church : 6.30 a.m. Mass which is the English Service, 8.00 a.m. Mass and 10.00 a.m. Mass. Then there is one Mass at an Outstation and we have two Outstations.

I am kept busy almost everyday because there are so many sick calls and funerals because of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. So I usually find myself going out into the villages to give sacraments to the sick and also to celebrate funeral Masses.

There is a Government Hospital very close to my parish and I usually go there to give sacraments to the sick. Because there are a lot of people dying of HIV/AIDS we have a lot of

orphans in my parish.

All in all I think by the end of my visit to Europe I will get refreshed and will be able to return to my busy work in my parish full of vigour and enthusiasm.

By the way I was born on 1st March, 1968 in a family of 6 boys and 2 girls. One of my brothers, John, passed away in 1998. My father passed away in 1998 and my mother passed away in 2007. I was ordained a priest in 1994. I am currently working as Parish Priest at St. Charles Lwanga Parish in Zomba, Malawi, Central Africa.

I am now in Cheltenham in England. On 3rd July I will leave England and go to Belgium and I will be in Lourdes from 9th – 15th July. I will say special prayers for you there.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that I will come back to Europe and that we shall meet again.

God bless".

Father Ignatio Bokosi, Parish Priest
St. Charles Lwanga Parish
P.O. Box 205,
ZOMBA
MALAWI – CENTRAL AFRICA

A German charity gifted Fr. Ignatio the new pickup below. Importing a new vehicle into Malawi was problematic with the Excise wanting a 10,000 Euros fee to pass the pickup through Customs.

Luckily, Fr. Ignatio was able to get the support of a government minister and the import fee was waived for a charity.

The photo shows Fr. Ignatio driving the new pickup with parishioners filling all the spaces.



Fr. Pat Shanahan, StreetInvest.



'StreetInvest exists to offer a solution to the world's most excluded street children.

'These are the children who are on the street and have no significant adult in their lives.'

'Street Children are generally viewed as vagrants, criminals, a nuisance.'

More info at <http://www.streetinvest.org/>

Fr. Pat's right hand man Eric Creaney writes, 'After a decade working with his charity 'Street Child Africa' and more years before that among street children in Africa Fr. Patrick sees the best way to tackle the rapidly expanding challenge is the expert training of street workers, improving the quality and quantity of work on the street.

To that effect he has formed a new charity, 'StreetInvest' to concentrate on the training of indigenous street workers.

Its objective is to promote a process that extends the chance of a better life to all street children.



I was being shown a 'drop-in centre' for street children by Street Workers in Accra when a small street boy wandered in and sat down on a bench.

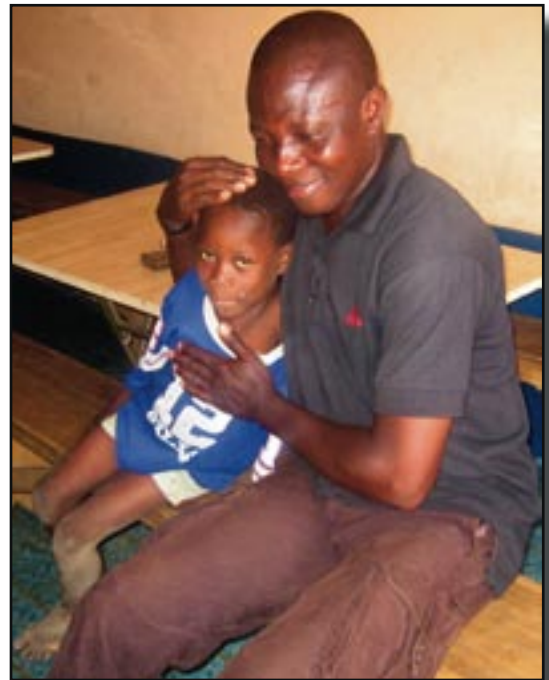
The photo speaks for itself.

Street children are distrustful of adults, having been abused, neglected, persecuted, removed or

arrested so much.

But this little mite saw that room in the midst of the market as a refuge and despite his downtrodden looks trusted the workers.

One of the Workers turned and went over and sat down beside the boy who turned into him, said something, and the worker gave him a comforting cuddle.



Again the photo speaks for itself with the changed expression in the boy's face'.

'The street worker is the significant, safe adult in the life of a street child.'

Fr. Pat visited our parish recently to receive the funds which we had raised for him over the last year.

Presentations were made by representatives of the Parish Groups at the end of Sunday Mass on October 25th.

Julian Kettle.



News from the Schools

St. David's High School

St. David's High School recently said goodbye to **Marian Docherty**, the Head for the last six years.

Marian took charge of the school as it relocated from Abbey Road to the new campus at Thornybank.



St. David's Parish also adds its thanks to Marian for her hard work as the Head of our High School and wishes her well in her new post as Depute Principal at Newbattle Abbey College.

St. David's Parish now welcomes the new Head Teacher, **Wendy Sutherland**, who writes :-

I am delighted to have been appointed Head Teacher of St. David's and am looking forward to getting to know the school community over the next few months. It is a real privilege to have been given this opportunity to build on the achievements of my predecessor Marian Docherty.

My first priority will be to learn how the school works currently – the policies and procedures.



I will also be shadowing classes to see what a typical day is for a St. David's pupil and the learning they experience before I think of making any changes.

I am very excited and optimistic about the future and thank everyone for the warm welcome since I started.

Wendy Sutherland.

Pupils' First Impressions.

My first impressions of the High School was how big the school was in comparison to the Primary School, and how busy it was. It also takes a bit of getting used to reading and using the timetable and moving about the school from department to department and from class to class. We also get asked to do a lot more homework.

It is good having a variety of subjects, and the P.E. department and fitness room is not exactly what we were used to, and they are fun to use. I like all of the subjects offered in the High School and it will be hard to choose between them when we reach S3. It is also good to meet with pupils in your year group from other primary schools.

I enjoy the High School very much, and I look forward to being there for the next few years.

Stephen Weatherhead.

On my first day at St. David's High School I was very excited. I had been looking forward to all of the new subjects and meeting new people.

My first thought when I saw the school was that it was so much bigger than my primary school. I came from St. David's Primary school and it looked nothing like this school. I also noticed that it was very colourful with each block coloured differently.

My first month at the school has been great! I have now adjusted to walking around the school and accepted how much taller the other children are than me. All of my teachers have been really nice and I've liked learning new subjects. My favourite subject is definitely Music.

A couple of weeks ago the school organised a trip for first years to the Carfin Grotto. I went on the trip and it was really fun. We went round all of the exhibits and filled in some worksheets. I learned a lot about relics and saints. It was a lot of fun.

Overall my first impression of St. David's High School is a good one!

Niall McCann.



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

Celebrating Success and Achievements.

Primary 1 pupils are now well into their full-time education and continue to surprise and delight with their confidence, enthusiasm, politeness and excellent presentation – they are a real credit to their families and the school. What a great photograph in the local newspaper recently also!

We also welcome Mrs. Young as Principal Teacher, Miss Nixon as class teacher. Mrs. Young's key role is in challenging and supporting the learning and teaching process in the school. Additionally, Mrs. Young and I make up the school's management team and she is therefore next in seniority in the school. I know you will make both Mrs. Young and Miss Nixon very welcome in St. David's School and Parish Community.

3rd place team in Midlothian's Cross Country Championship. On Tuesday 6th October P5, P6 and P7 pupils represented the school at Midlothian's cross-country championships and performed exceptionally well in achieving 3rd place in the team event overall – congratulations to everyone!

To Improve Health and Well-being.

P1-3 pupils are enjoying their hip-hop dance instruction every Friday afternoon. P2/3 pupils have been very healthy in undertaking their morning fitness club each Thursday. P4/5 are mid-way through their swimming instruction and P4/5 and 5/6 have recently completed their programme at Midlothian Ski Centre – their progress has been excellent!

Walk to School Week – Walking Bus.

Also, we had the pleasure of a lovely autumnal morning in our Walk to School week 'Walking Bus'. Well done to everyone who was able to participate. We appreciate that due to our wide catchment area and the demands on your time each morning that this is not always possible or practical. Thank you.



Extra-curricular activities for pupils.

P5-7 pupils have resumed after-school activities in basketball and football and some P7 pupils have progressed to the next stages of their cycling proficiency training and have been in and around the local streets of the Dalkeith area. Gardening will resume following the October break.

The school had a Charity Fun Run when pupils dressed as characters from their favourite book, enjoy the photos.





Breakfast Club.

Following a successful pilot programme in term one, the school are now offering an alternative start to the morning for pupils through a Breakfast Club on a Thursday and Friday.

Parent Council AGM.

We had a great turnout for the recent AGM with progress reports from Mr. Currie on school improvement and Mrs. Quinn, Chairperson, on the strengths and areas for development of the Parent Council. Thank you to everyone who has given their time to support our Parent Council in its fundraising efforts and in its contribution to improving the school for our pupils. Also thank you to all of our new members also who will join a well established and supportive team of parents/carers and school staff in taking forward improvements this session.



New Office Bearers:

Chairperson: Mrs. Maria Glen (Liam P7)
Secretary: Mrs. Paula Frame (Robert P1)
Treasurer: Mrs. Lynne Quinn (Nathan P7
and Erin P5)

Parish Representative: tbc

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place on 19th January at 7 00 p.m.. All welcome!

The school also extends an open welcome to all children and their families. St. David's provides an excellent foundation for children's learning and development in life through high expectations, very good attainment results and wider opportunities for achievement and an excellent ethos based on Gospel values.

If you have a child/children of nursery or school age and would like to find out more information about our parish school please do not hesitate to contact us:

Tel. 0131-663-2002

Email st-davids.ps@midlothian.gov.uk
or in person at Lauder Road, Dalkeith.

The school is open to all.

Parents wishing to enrol their child for Primary 1 in August 2010 should contact the school at their earliest convenience. The enrolment week starts on Monday November 30th 2009.

Thank you and Farewell!

Since our return in August we have had to say farewell to Mr. Nimmo after 4 years committed service to St. David's School Community. We look forward to working with Mr. Nimmo in his capacity as Parish Council chair and lay member of the parish and wish both him and his family all the very best. Thank you very much for the hard work and your commitment to improving the children's health and wellbeing, as well as the dry sense of humour!!!

Mr. Anthony Currie
Head Teacher.



St. David's Brass Band **Scottish Charity No. SC028401**

St. David's Brass began life as a high school band in 1981, competing in the Youth Championships, then progressing to compete against adult Bands in the Scottish fourth section. By the time the band won their section, they had a committee, a constitution and Scottish Charity recognition. Founder John Dickson has been conductor, trainer and mentor to the band throughout.

A lottery grant in 1999 bought a new set of instruments, both brass and percussion. No longer was the tuba player using an instrument held together with sticking plaster! Uniforms followed, not just school shirt and tie, but smart band jackets. The band was, by this time, responsible for its own financing for music, instruments, insurance for same and transport to contests, relieving the high school of the burden.

As well as contests, the band played at a variety of events: contests, galas, weddings, funerals, concerts, fundraising by playing Christmas carols, birthday parties, church Fun Days and Mining Museum events, to name just a few.

Then came 2003, a very testing year for the Band. By this time, there were two bands: the Senior Band which contested, and the Junior band which formed the backbone of the school band. Little did we know what was coming - the new campus was opening, but there was no room for us! Where were we going to go? Where could we store all our equipment, tubas, timpani, drum kit, other percussion, other instruments, filing cabinets full of music, uniforms, music stands.....

The answer was - all over Midlothian. The Mining Museum helped with short term storage, one of the parents gave us space in a storage room, players stored uniforms, but the star of the show was Fr. Healy and the parish. Without hesitation, Fr. Healy let us store the timpani (parishioners may remember them outside the confessionals) and other equipment. The hall committee let the senior band rehearse in the Church hall twice a week. The junior band was put on hold, much to their frustration.

By the end of November we heard that the Council were offering us space in Dalkeith Leisure Centre, later re-named Dalkeith Community Centre.

In 2004 the band won the third section and had a short spell in the second. We obviously were not ready and the band needed to mature - a year or two later it was back to the third section.

This year, 2009, most players are now adults, with a handful still at school. Some of the younger adults have recently taken responsibility for band management, advancing the players' relationship with John Dickson from teacher-pupil to that of conductor-player. The Band aspires to winning the third section and trying their hand again in the second section. There is a new generation of players in the junior band who recently did well at Brass in the Park and will contest at the Scottish Youth Championships in Perth at the end of November. But....

They say what goes around, comes around. 2009, the circle has turned and once more, at the time of writing, we are again looking for a home. Dalkeith Community Centre is to close. That apart, all we hear are rumours. We wait to receive the letter going out to all user groups. The understanding is alternative accommodation will be offered. How suitable it will be remains to be seen. The Band's needs are a room big enough in which to rehearse at suitable times, storage space for equipment, ideally access at weekends for rehearsal before contests and storing instruments after concerts and contests. Ideally, it should be in the Dalkeith area, close to a main bus route and with parking facilities. Not a lot to ask!

So if anyone out there knows of a suitable place, we are open to offers.

Next concert: Christmas Charity Concert, is on Friday 11th December, 7.30 p.m. St. David's Church, followed by refreshments in the church hall.



Parish Groups and News

Choir Perspectives.

Musing on the development of hymn-singing over the generations, I recall how the old St. Andrew Hymnbooks were worn out and Father Mohan and a team compiled a home-made booklet of essential trad hymns along with "Morning has broken" and St. Francis' Prayer which were then quite adventurous.

Then from music publishers came a spate of new hymnaries, and our New Celebration Hymnal is the third version of one of those in the constant endeavour to cater for all tastes and occasions. In their music editions the best hymnaries on the market recently became so unwieldy that they had to be made into two volumes.

Irreplaceable Golden Oldies survive alongside much more recent but equally worthy "Dear Lord and Father of mankind" and "For the beauty of the earth"; the rousing "Give me joy in my heart" and "Walk with me, O my Lord" offset the gentler but equally weighty "Lord, you have come to the lakeside" and "I met you at the Cross". The flowing plainsong of "Godhead here in hiding" and "O come, O come Emmanuel" contrast with modern hymnwords set to traditional Scottish melodies.

All of these hymns feature in our plans for Sunday worship along with hymns specific to the major feasts.

I am sometimes asked for the name of a lovely hymn which I often play as an organ voluntary. It is no. 713, "The seed is Christ's and the harvest His".

It is a difficult hymn for congregational singing and it really needs a conductor because of its free rhythms. Canon Healy could sing it in the original Gaelic, of course!

Frank Nicholson (Organist)

200 Club Prizegiving.



George accepting 1st prize on behalf of his sister Mary.

200 Club Sep. 2009 Grand Draw Prizewinners :-

1st £200 Mary Shanley,

2nd £100 Kathleen King,

3rd £20 Cathie McGauley.

New session started recently - numbers still available in Hall after Sunday Mass.

Our Trip to New York.



At the beginning of the year Claire's Mum and Dad, Diane and Michael, asked me if I would take Claire to New York for her 18th birthday. All expenses paid, who wouldn't?

We set off on 13th August for 10 days in the "Big Apple". What excitement! On our arrival we went straight to Times Square and dinner at the Hard Rock Café.

The next ten days were a whirlwind of sightseeing and shopping. A visit to Ellis Island was so interesting we spent hours there. Then there was Central Park, the Seaport, Empire State Building (at midnight), shopping in Macy's, museums, Broadway, Staten Island Ferry, Grand Central Station, NBC Studios, not forgetting Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday and the tragedy of the World Trade Centre site.

In all Claire took 500 photos. All too soon it was time to come home. Tired, skint but happy.



Claire Czajka/Doreen Hughes.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

Our parish Conference of 5 members continues its routine activities. Over the summer we again took a hand in keeping the Edinburgh St. Vincent de Paul Caravan Project going at Seton Sands.

As the Conference members were all away at various different times since Easter we did not manage to organise a Mass for the Sick at the usual sort of time this year. Hopefully this will be rectified next year.

Recent/upcoming events are the Senior Citizens Dobbies visit on Tuesday 3rd November, and the Christmas Party rather earlier than usual on Saturday 28th November. Again many thanks to all who have helped with SSVP activities!

John Holden.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2009.

Once again a group of our youth went to Lourdes as helpers to the sick, accompanied by Molly & Babs.

The youth presented their memories of the trip in pictures and words one evening in the church hall. These words are taken from that YFL presentation.

Kevin - Exhaustion, awful food, the blistering heat, spending a week with Father Chambers..... doesn't sound like fun does it? Well fun doesn't even cover it. Lourdes simply is incredible. Personally I think you have to see it and live it in order to understand it fully. I'm very thankful that I've had that experience not only once but twice. Upon arriving in Lourdes the whole place seemed familiar to me, which really showed me the impact it had on me first time round, that sense of comfort and safety that stays with you when you leave, all year round until you return.



Liam - At first, I was a bit nervous about going to Lourdes, meeting new people, and the early mornings. But once arriving there, I saw that it was such an amazing place and I'm really looking forward to going back there.

Berni - Seeing the St. Frai pilgrims so happy everyday makes you think differently about your own life and has made me a better person.

Emma - For me it was a complete shock and I was shattered by the end of it. But I had a brilliant time and I have made lots of friends and discovered what an amazing place Lourdes is.





Parish Fun Day.

The Parish Fun Day was held on the Bank Holiday Sunday in August and the weather was good this year.

There was a variety of entertainment for the children in the garden and stalls with food, drink and raffles etc. available in the hall. Everyone enjoyed themselves and **over £1300** was raised towards Sister Yuka's school in Montalban, Manila, the Philippines.



Brian Nimmo.

Amy - Revisiting Lourdes was something that I had been looking forward to from the moment I left in 2008, to the day we travelled in 2009. A second visit was the strangest experience for me during the first few days, being back in the hospital, seeing all the familiar faces made it seem like I'd never been away. To me, Lourdes is a place of comfort, somewhere that I can have fun and relive one of the most uplifting and fruitful experiences of my years. Summarising my week cannot be done in a short paragraph, but sharing it with others is something that I will do continuously until my next pilgrimage because every little thing seems to remind me of something from Lourdes. I cherish every moment when I am there as I know that I will miss it all year round when I return home. It is an experience I would recommend to anyone who has never been.

Beetle Drive



Sr. Ethel ran a very enjoyable and successful Parish Beetle Drive recently in Rosehill Convent.

Notably 2 fellas attended as well as lots of ladies and over £170 was raised towards the next Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Julian Kettle.

Children's Halloween Party.

The Halloween Party was held recently and lots of our youngsters (and parents?) came in fancy dress.



Archdiocesan Choir.

St. David's Church again hosted the Archdiocesan Choir singing an evening service (Vespers) on Tuesday 10th November at 7.30 p.m.

As before this comprised a number of hymns, psalms, and readings reflecting on the month of November (Holy Souls).

John Holden.

Ukraine Satin Season

I was invited by the Dnepropetrovsk club to join an international group who would be visiting the Ukraine. The purpose of the visit was two fold. It was to be a visit full of fun but, by organising the trip for us, the Dnepropetrovsk club would be able to do it more cheaply than a travel agent. The club hoped to make a profit which would be ploughed back into their major project which is the support of an orphanage for handicapped children.

The visiting group consisted of four women from Denmark, two from Luxembourg, two from Germany, one from Switzerland, one from England and myself from Scotland. Five men, husbands or brothers also accompanied us.

Most of the group spent the first day in Kyiv, visiting various places of interest including the famous monastery of Lavra with its catacombs. I joined them in time for dinner prior to catching the night train to Dnepropetrovsk as I know Kyiv quite well and I preferred to spend time with my friends there. For a number of years I have had links with the Kyiv club and, one reason for my going to the Ukraine, was to deliver some money to them for their work with a blind school. They are often asked to provide basic goods such as potatoes or bedding for the children.

The journey from Kyiv to Dnepropetrovsk on an overnight train, was the first of three spent in discomfort. The access to the top bunks was via a short ladder which only a trained athlete could scale. On one train there was a little rail to stop the occupant from tumbling out, while on the other two there was nothing. We all soon realised that washing would be minimal but we could get a shower as soon as we reached our destination. We arrived in Dnepropetrovsk at 7.00 a.m. and were taken to our hotel which was attached to the police training college. After a wash and breakfast, we set out for the orphanage for physically handicapped children

The Danish club had raised the money to refurbish one of the bathrooms and they also had brought with them several large cases full of toys, books, pencils etc. to distribute to the children. It was a joy to see the children's faces as they received their gifts. The orphanage is doing very good work with very limited resources and I was impressed by the enthusiasm of the staff.



One of the main sadnesses for the staff is that, while they can care for the children while they are young, there is nowhere for them to go once they are of school leaving age. The only place that might take them is a home for the elderly.

While in Dnepropetrovsk we visited a school in the village of Petrykivka where the children learn to paint in the traditional way. After watching how they did it, we were each allotted to a child who would teach us. I sat beside a little ten year old girl who dipped my finger in the paint and guided my hand so that I would do it correctly, a unique experience.

We also visited a Cossack village, watched the horsemen display their skills and were then invited to participate in some of their 'easier' training exercises such as archery, balancing on a horse, throwing quoits etc. We were not very good.

From Dnepropetrovsk we went via another night train to Simferopol and then on by coach to Yalta. There is a trolley bus that runs from Simferopol to Yalta, the longest route in the world. It was built much more cheaply than the Edinburgh tramway and is very much longer.



From Yalta we visited a number of palaces including Lividia where Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt met in 1945 to work out the division of Europe at the end of the war. We spent a day in Sevastopol where it was interesting to hear about the Crimean war from the Russian perspective. We also swam in the Black Sea, very warm. We went up the mountain that overlooks the coast and found a white Peace Pole identical with the one outside the Jesuit Church in Edinburgh.



In the various places we visited, we went to churches and monasteries. Many have been rebuilt or refurbished since the downfall of communism.

It is customary to pop into any church as one passes and so all day a stream of people is seen just going in for a few minutes. The other thing of note was that these were mainly young people and their priests are also young.

Throughout our tour, we met up with or heard about other clubs in the Ukraine and the work they are doing. This is a country very badly hit by the recession. Its own currency is devalued daily and many people have incurred debts valued in dollars. Many have lost their jobs. In spite of this, they are still trying to help those who are worse off than themselves even though they really have nothing. It was touching to see how they were prepared to share their nothing with those who had even less.

Winifred Keeves.

Looking Forward

- **Saturday 28th Nov. - SVDP Christmas Dinner.**
12 noon to 5.00 p.m. in the church hall.
- **Monday 30th Nov. - St. David's Primary School**
enrolment week begins for August 2010 intake.
- **Tuesday 1st December 12 noon St. David's H.S.**
pre Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens from
Parishes of St. David's and St. Luke & St. Anne's.
- **Saturday 5th December - Christmas Hop**
from 7.30 p.m. in the church hall.
- **Sunday 6th December - Bacon rolls.**
Proceeds towards 2010 pilgrimage to Lourdes.
- **Sunday 6th December - King's Theatre Pantomime.**
Two buses leave St. David's at 3.45 p.m..
- **Friday 11th December, 7.30 p.m. St. David's Brass**
Band Christmas Charity Concert in St. David's
in aid of new local charity
'Friends of Saltersgate School'.
Refreshments in hall follow.
- **Sunday 13th December - Good Causes Ts & Cs.**
Proceeds towards Aid to the Church in Need.
- **Saturday 19th December - Christmas Dance**
with Guest Group, a three piece band with
singer from outwith the parish. A group who
come highly recommended for our younger folk!
Tickets including buffet £5.00 each available
from members of the Hall Committee.
- **Sunday 20th December - Nativity Play 2.00 p.m.**
in St. David's, then all are invited to the hall for
mulled wine and mince pies. Selection boxes
available for all Primary and young children.

Christmas Masses.

- **Thursday 24th December St. Luke & St. Anne's**
6.00 p.m. Service - Carols and Readings.
6.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib
and First Mass of the Nativity.
- **Thursday 24th December St. David's**
8.00 p.m. Service - Carols and Readings.
8.30 p.m. Blessing of the Crib
and First Mass of the Nativity.
- **Friday 25th December St. David's**
10.30 a.m.
Christmas Morning Mass of the Nativity
(No morning Mass St. Luke & St. Anne's).
- **Monday 28th December - Noon - Innocents Mass.**
St John Vianney, Gilmerton, Edinburgh.

*This is our 7th and longest 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 Isa, Winifred, Brian or Julian.
If you are interested in being a Sponsor for our next Parish Magazine,
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CAVALIERE



“Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year”



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