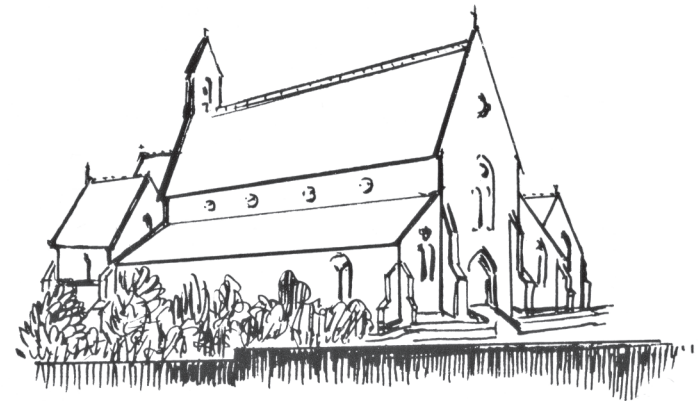


**ST. DAVID'S CHURCH,
DALKEITH**



**SOLEMN
DEDICATION**

7th May 1977

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Souvenir Brochure



His Holiness Pope Paul VI.



His Eminence Gordon J. Cardinal Gray, D.D.

The Growth and Development of St David's Parish

MAY 1854 - MAY 1977

THE CHURCH of St. David's, Dalkeith, will this summer celebrate its 123rd birthday, having been formally opened on Sunday, 21st May 1854. But one has to go much further back to discover the beginnings of Catholicism in the area. The missionary work of the early saints — Ninian, Columba, Aidan, Mungo and Cuthbert — did much to spread the gospel in Scotland, but their efforts were often hampered by the continual outbreaks of strife between warring chiefs and nobles as they strove to gain ascendancy. This made a settled way of life very difficult and it was not until the time of St. Margaret, wife of Malcolm Canmore, in the 11th Century that some order was introduced into the organisation of the Church. The foundations which she laid were a solid base on which her son, David I, could build further when he succeeded to the throne in 1124. Before his accession, he had been Earl of the Lothians and Borders. Among the many religious institutions which he founded was the Abbey at Newbattle, dedicated to Our Lady, and in the care of Cistercian monks brought from Melrose. These good monks did much for not only the spiritual welfare of the people in the area, but also in a practical manner by developing agriculture, milling and even coal-mining — an industry in which they could be regarded as the pioneers in the Lothians and Lanarkshire.

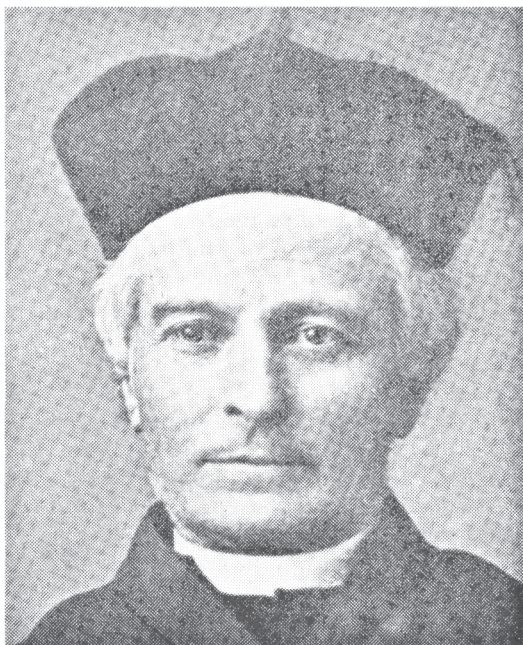
As a result of all this activity, the Church prospered in the area, and it is one of those ironies of life that this very prosperity was to be contributory to the ultimate downfall of the Church in the country. As the years went by, and the Church acquired more and more wealth, abuses crept in as the real spiritual objectives were often subordinated to the acquisition of material gain. And so, in time, came the Reformation — with retribution coming from a double source. There were some men, genuinely disturbed at the abuses which had arisen and wished to correct them; and there were jealous and self-seeking nobles who saw an opportunity of acquiring for themselves the property and wealth of the Church and used the general dissatisfaction with the way some churchmen were behaving as an excuse to appropriate it.

The period following the Reformation saw the virtual extinction of the Church in Scotland as penal laws were enacted which crippled Catholic activity to such an extent that Catholics could not openly practise their faith without fear of death. Churches and abbeys were burned down, of which some notable ruins remain in our own Arch-diocese —

St. Andrew's, Melrose, Dryburgh and Jedburgh. Some small pockets of Catholicism managed to survive mainly in remote parts of the North West and North East, and in the Outer Hebrides. A few brave men continued to minister to those of the faithful who remained steadfast, and some paid for it with their lives, one of the best known of these being the recently canonised St. John Ogilvie. More than three hundred years were to pass before the penal laws against Catholics were relaxed and it became possible for Catholics once again to practise their religion without fear of reprisal. This does not mean that overnight things became easier, for attitudes die very slowly, and the early days of resurgence were fraught with much difficulty and obstruction. It was about this time, in the middle of the 19th Century, that Providence took a hand in events. The Great Famine in Ireland caused many of the poor in that land to seek new pastures in Scotland and England. It is estimated that about 1851 there were some fifteen thousand Irish-born emigrants in Edinburgh and the surrounding areas and the vast majority of these were Catholics. The existence of such numbers necessitated the provision of Churches which they could attend, and stations were opened at a number of places — among them Dalkeith.

It was around this time that a notable event took place which was to have a far reaching effect on the situation in Dalkeith. This was the reception into the Church of the Dowager Marchioness of Lothian, Lady Cecil. After her reception, which took place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London, her first care on her return to Scotland to take up residence at Newbattle, was to build a Church in the area which would be dedicated to St. David, in reparation for the destruction by the Reformers of the many foundations in the land of which he had been the author.

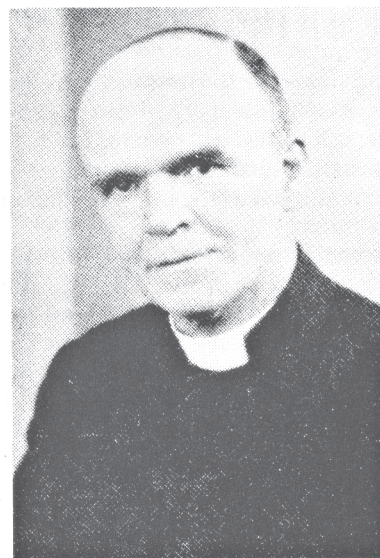
After some difficulty in procuring a suitable location, the site on which the present church is built was eventually successfully negotiated, and in 1853 the foundation stone was laid by Bishop James Gillis, Vicar-Apostolic of the Eastern district. On the Feast of the Annunciation, 25th March 1854, the parish of St. David's, Dalkeith was established, the first parish priest being Fr. William Mackay, who had been serving as a curate in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. Two months later, on the 21st May 1854, the Sunday nearest the ancient feast-day of St. David — the date of the Saint's death being 24th May 1153 — the Church was formally opened with a Solemn High Mass at which Bishop John Murdoch, Vicar-Apostolic of the Western District presided. The Mass was sung by Fr. P. McManus of St. Mary's, Edinburgh; Fr. F. McKerral being Deacon and Fr. F. Cooke, Sub-Deacon. The first sermon was preached by Fr. J. S. McCorry of St. John's, Perth, who was destined to succeed Fr. Mackay as the next parish priest. At a Vesper Service in the evening, Bishop Murdoch preached a sermon on our Blessed Lady to a crowded congregation.



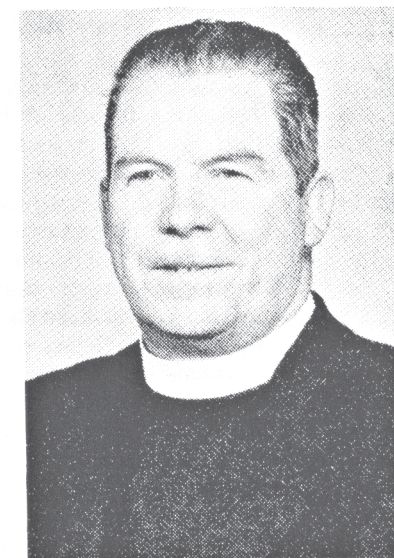
Rev. Joseph Head, S.J.



Fathers Evans, Thomson, Hobart and Field, S.J., the last Jesuit Fathers to serve Dalkeith.



Very Rev. J. Canon Ward, D.D.



Rev. Anthony Kelly.



Very Rev. Edward Canon Mohan.

The Development of the Parish

FR. MACKAY remained in charge at St. David's for four years. When he left in 1858, he left behind him a steadily increasing Catholic congregation. In his first year as parish priest there had been 43 baptisms, and this had increased to nearly 90 before he left. His successor was Fr. J. S. McCorry, already mentioned as the priest invited to preach at the official opening of the Church.

In 1860, the Jesuit Fathers opened their new Church at Lauriston Street in Edinburgh. Lady Lothian, who had been received into the Church by the Jesuits, was keen that they should be given charge of the Dalkeith Mission. It was at her request that Bishop Gillis approached the Father Provincial to ask if he could spare a priest to take over at St. David's. In the event, the Provincial replied by sending two, the first Jesuit superior being a Fr. Robert Whitty, who because he had jurisdiction over the religious houses in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Galashiels and Selkirk, was assigned an assistant. These first few years of the church being administered by the Jesuits saw quite a succession of assistant priests. Their names were Frs. Docherty, Corry, Leslie, McLeod, Selby and Foxwell. By the time Fr. Whitty was succeeded in 1867 by Fr. Joseph McQuoin, the parish had extended considerably. Fr. McQuoin and his assistant Fr. John Pope had to serve an area which included Penicuik, Glencorse, Roslin, Rosewell, Loanhead, Bonnyrigg, Gorebridge, Pathhead and Gilmerton. In 1869, Fr. Francis Jarrett came to replace Fr. Pope and he seems to have been given complete charge of the Pathhead and Gorebridge areas. A new church was built at Pathhead, thanks to the generosity of Lady Lothian, and was solemnly opened on 2nd June 1872.

Soon afterwards, Fr. McQuoin was replaced as Rector by Fr. Wm. Thomson and Fr. Jarrett by Fr. Law. It was these two priests who introduced a Catechist Plan whereby they set up a number of centres to be attended by the youth of the area and schoolchildren for instruction in the faith. As the number of the congregation increased and the church was rapidly becoming unable to accommodate all who attended, it was decided to build new churches at Penicuik and Loanhead, these being the parts of the parish furthest from the base at Dalkeith. About this time, 1873, Fr. Law was replaced by Fr. Joseph Head, who was destined to be associated with St. David's for the next fifty-one years.

In 1876, work started on a new church at Loanhead, the bulk of the money for which was provided by Lady Lothian and her sons. Unfortunately, she did not live to see the church completed. While on a pilgrimage to Rome in 1877 — one hundred years ago now — she died peacefully. Her body was brought back to Dalkeith, and there, by a special privilege, this great benefactress of Catholicism in the area, was laid to rest beneath the Sanctuary in St. David's. The Solemn Requiem

Mass was sung by Bishop Strain. The Sacred Heart shrine was erected by the congregation in memory of this deeply religious woman who had done so much for the parish both by her boundless generosity and the simplicity of her life.

In 1878 the new church of St. Margaret's, Loanhead, was solemnly opened by Archbishop Strain, although it continued to be served from Dalkeith until 1881 when it was made a separate parish under Fr. Jos. Hannan. The new parish also served Penicuik until 1882 when Penicuik itself was made a separate parish under Fr. McAna, and was in addition responsible for the areas of Rosewell, Roslin and Hawthornden. With St. David's relieved of its commitments to all these areas to the West, there was more time to concentrate on what was left. Mass was said every week at Pathhead, and the number of baptisms was approaching the hundred mark per annum. In 1885 Fr. Thomson had to leave on account of ill-health and his place was taken by Fr. Wm. Lee. Under the guidance of Fr. Lee and Fr. Head, various guilds were formed in the parish — women's and men's sodalities and a branch of the Children of Mary. Work was also undertaken to extend the school and to provide a coach-house and stable, these being very necessary in an age when the only way to get around was either on foot or on horseback.

In 1893 Fr. Lee left for Galashiels and Fr. Head became parish Priest — a post he was to occupy for the next thirty years and so complete an association with St. David's extending over fifty years. In 1895, the Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch died and was buried in the new vault in the church. She, like Lady Lothian, had also been a convert to Catholicism.

In 1904, the Golden Jubilee of St. David's, another milestone was reached with the opening of the new church of St Margaret's, Gorebridge. A free site for a church had been given some time before by Captain Dewar of Vogrie and the building had now been completed. Archbishop Smith blessed the church and presided at the Mass that followed. Fr. Head sang the Mass, and the choir was that of St. Mary's, Pathhead. The Jubilee of St. David's was duly celebrated on June 5th 1904 with a Solemn High Mass at which the special preacher was Fr. Ignatius Gartlon, S.J., Rector of St. Aloysius, Garnethill, Glasgow. In the same year, Fr. Head was elected a member of the Dalkeith School Board — no mean achievement in those days when ecumenism was still far away, but a fitting recognition of the regard in which he was held in the community.

By 1923, Fr. Head had been fifty years at St. David's, and there was great rejoicing among the people that he had lived to celebrate the event. In a quiet and unobtrusive way he had devoted himself to the service of his parishioners, visiting them regularly and being particularly attentive in visiting the sick and elderly. He was now advanced in years, and the following year — on 26th May 1924 — two days after the feast day of St.

David — he died peacefully at the age of ninety and in the fifty-fifth year of his priesthood.

After Fr. Head's death, Fr. Michael Cullen was appointed parish priest while Fr. Minealis continued to serve Pathhead and Gorebridge. In 1931, the Sisters of Nazareth came to Lasswade, and this necessitated the appointment of a chaplain to say Mass in the convent and minister to their spiritual needs. The Provincial duly obliged by sending Fr. Cosgrove who, though resident in Dalkeith, said Mass daily in the convent, and the people in Bonnyrigg benefited by having the opportunity to attend the public Mass in the convent every Sunday. Fr. Cosgrove, however, did not stay for very long, and both he and Fr. Minealis left to make way for Fr. Hobart and Fr. Thomson.

The year 1935 witnessed an event which was destined to be of historic interest. On the 15th June 1935, Fr. Gordon Joseph Gray, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gray, parishioners of St. David's, was ordained to the priesthood in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. The following day he said his first Mass in St. David's, Dalkeith, and it is unlikely that many, if indeed any, of the congregation present that day imagined that nineteen years later the same Fr. Gray would be gracing their centenary celebrations by his presence as Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Today he conducts the dedication service as His Eminence Gordon Joseph Cardinal Gray, a Prince of the Church, revered not only in Dalkeith and the Arch-diocese but throughout this land of Scotland of which he is truly a noble product.

Fr. Hobart continued the improvements in the church which had been begun by Fr. Cullen by putting in new seats and flooring. Fr. Murphy came for a short time, but on the outbreak of war in 1939 left to join the services as an Army Chaplain. He was succeeded by Fr. Leeming, who had just returned from Rome where he was teaching theology. He was soon recalled to England, and Fr. Field and Fr. Evans came to serve in St. David's. These two priests with Fr. Hobart and Fr. Thomson were the last four Jesuit priests in Dalkeith when the Jesuit fathers left St. David's in 1944 after nearly eighty-three years of continuous connection with the parish. There are still many parishioners who remember them with affection and with admiration for the sterling work they accomplished over that long period of years.

With the going away of the Jesuit fathers, the Rev. John Ward, D.D., was appointed parish priest with three assistants Frs. Gerard Lynch, Kenneth Cox and John Ryan. Fr. Cox was appointed to Stirling the following year, and Frs. Jas. O'Hanlon and Bernard O'Donnell came to St. David's. The Catholic population had increased considerably, largely as a consequence of emigration from Lanarkshire and the West of Scotland, where unemployment in those areas had driven men to seek employment elsewhere and many had come to work in the Lothian coal-fields. Mass was said in a little hall in Newtongrange in addition to the

other places being served and as many as eleven masses were celebrated on a Sunday in the various centres by the five priests available.

Fr. O'Hanlon left to go to Blairs College, to be followed by Fr. Anthony Kiernan, who was a year later replaced by Fr. John Breen, who had served a term as Headmaster at St. Mary's College, Blairs. Soon afterwards with the growth of the congregation at Newtongrange, Newtongrange and Gorebridge were formally made into a separate parish with Fr. Michael O'Connor as parish priest.

Relieved of that responsibility, St. David's no longer required five priests. Fr. Breen was appointed Vicar General and Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral and was made a Domestic Prelate. Fr. Lynch was transferred to St. Ninian's, and for the next four years the parish was served by Fr. Ward and his two curates, Fr. O'Donnell and Fr. Ryan. In 1952 Fr. Ward was appointed administrator of St. John's, Portobello and he was succeeded by Fr. Anthony Kelly who had been in Rosewell. Bonnyrigg was now separated from Dalkeith and made a separate parish under Fr. Joseph McArdle. Fr. O'Donnell was moved to Edinburgh, Fr. Day, who had come from Rosewell with Fr. Kelly, went to America, Fr. Ryan was recalled to Ireland, and his place was taken by Fr. Daniel Foley. In 1958 Fr. Foley left to do his bit in the mission field in Nigeria and his place was taken by Fr. Martin Cassidy. In 1960 Fr. Cassidy emigrated to America and he was succeeded for a short period by Fr. Wm. Anderson, who is now a director of Religious Programmes with the BBC. When Fr. Anderson left St. David's to take up a post as a professor at Blairs College, he was succeeded by Fr. Alex Murphy. In February 1965, Fr. Kelly died in St. Raphael's Hospital, following a relatively short illness, having been a parish priest for thirteen years. He is remembered with affection by all who knew him as a considerate and caring priest who did much in his time to promote the well-being of his flock.

In March 1965, Fr. Edward Mohan, now the Very Rev. Canon Mohan, was appointed parish priest, and when Fr. Murphy left Dalkeith, Fr. Kevin Rafferty was appointed as curate in 1967. Since coming to St. David's, Canon Mohan has been responsible for a number of improvements to the church, notably the complete transformation of the sanctuary to accord with the requirements of the liturgy following Vatican Council II, and extensive repairs to the roof which had been showing signs of the ravages of time and weather. At the time of writing, Canon Mohan and Fr. Rafferty are still with us, and we pray that they both be yet long spared to carry on the excellent work which they have done, and are doing, in St. David's over the past number of years.

No account of the church in the area would be complete without a mention of the presence of the women's religious orders. When the Sisters of Mercy came to the parish one hundred years ago to take over the teaching in the school, some members of the Order engaged in

visitation of the parish, visiting the aged and infirm and those in need of assistance either on account of illness or penury. One of the best remembered and best loved of these was Sister Mary Columba, who was well-known throughout the length and breadth of the district for her indefatigable work in the parish over a long period of years. Her unceasing efforts finally took toll of her health and in her later years she was immobilised by illness and died in January 1963.

Also worthy of mention is Sister Mary Visitation who came to reside in St. Andrew's Convent after retiring as Headmistress of St. Thomas of Aquin's School, Edinburgh. She did a lot of good work unobtrusively in visiting and in the instruction of young people in the faith. Sister Visitation died in October 1966.

When the Sisters of Mercy left Dalkeith to return to the parent house at Lauriston, Sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart came from Craiglockhart to take up residence at Eskbank and are now engaged in the corporal works of mercy in the parish which the Sisters of Mercy had previously performed.

Mention should also be made of the Sisters of Nazareth who came to set up house in Lasswade in 1931. At that time, Bonnyrigg was served from Dalkeith so that their house came within the ambit of the parish. The Sisters still continue to carry on their good work tending the orphaned and homeless children committed to their care.

In 1924 the Sisters of Charity came to Rosewell to open a hospital for the care of the mentally and physically handicapped. For over fifty years the Sisters and nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital, Rosewell have engaged in this exacting task, and have earned the admiration, not only of those who have visited the place but also of a country-wide public who recognise the value of the splendid work they do to ameliorate the lot of the less fortunate of this world.

St. David's Church

PROBABLY not everyone knows that St. David's Church is one of the outstanding buildings of its kind in the country, and as such is indeed listed to be conserved for posterity. It was designed by the architect Joseph Hansom of Edinburgh and is regarded as a fine example of the early English style. The roofwork was carried out by Mr. John McGowan, a local Catholic, who cut the slates in three different forms so as to harmonise gracefully with the ridgings. The renovated sanctuary, designed to conform to the requirements of post-Vatican II liturgy, is in Italian marble, and was completed in 1972. At the same time the Baptistry, formerly located at the back of the church, was moved and is now situated in front of the Lady altar. The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were given by the congregation and portray Our Lady, St. John and St. Paul.

The body of the martyr, St. Vitalis, which had lain beneath the Lady Altar, is now enshrined beneath the altar in the sanctuary. This major relic was a gift from the late Pope Pius IX. It was taken from the catacombs of St. Callistus and permission was given for its public veneration in St. David's. In token of the connection between Pope Pius IX and St. David's on this account, His Eminence Cardinal Gray has presented a painting of the late Pope to St. David's to be displayed in the church. The possibility that one day the venerable Pius IX may be canonised gives this added importance.

Other features of the church are the Stations of the Cross, specially designed and made in Paris at the request of Lady Lothian. The organ, reckoned to be one of the finest examples of its kind, was assembled by a famous firm of organ-builders, Hamilton of Edinburgh. It was designed by Dr. Monk, organist of York Minster, and when built in 1860 cost £200. There are also a number of precious relics, some thirty-six in all, located in the Lady Chapel. The Holy Souls altar in the south transept of the church also houses the burial vault built in 1877 by Lords Ralph and Walter Kerr, and is where a number of the Kerr families are laid to rest.

In the late sixties, the chapel house was found to have fallen into a dangerous state of disrepair because of the ravages of damp. The only cure was to demolish it completely and the handsome new presbytery, which now houses the present incumbents, was completed in 1969.

Education in St. David's

EDUCATION has always been of prime importance in the eyes of the Church, particularly the provision of an atmosphere in which Catholic principles are observed and inculcated, so that pupils may be instructed not only in the elements and subjects likely to be of use to them in whatever walk of life they enter, but also in the spiritual values necessary for salvation. Within a few months of the official opening of the church in May 1854, a school was opened in the autumn of that year. It was not a palatial building, a room some 50 feet by 22 feet, but it served its purpose admirably as a beginning. The teacher and priest who conducted the teaching did not have much spare time as they ran evening classes as well as day classes to suit the convenience of the pupils.

This arrangement continued for a number of years until in 1876, the Sisters of Mercy came from St. Catherine's Convent in Edinburgh to take charge of the school. Thus began a long association of the school with the Order, lasting over sixty years. A new infant school was added by Lady Lothian as the first of a series of alterations and improvements. In her will, she left money for the provision of Catholic education in the Eastern District of Scotland, £1000 of which was to be earmarked for the school in Dalkeith. It was at this time that the nuns took over a house in Eskbank which they called St. Andrew's Convent, to be a branch establishment of St. Catherine's. The Sisters of the Order of Mercy continued to live there for many years, even long after their connection with the school had ended in 1940, and it is only a few years ago since they left the parish to return to the parent house in Edinburgh. Probably one of the best remembered is Sister Winefride, who presided over the fortunes of the school as headmistress for some thirty years until her retirement in 1940. She and all those others of her Order who taught the Catholic children of Dalkeith and its environs in the days before the community could provide its own teachers, earned the undying gratitude of the Catholic community for their selfless and devoted service in conditions which were not always easy and certainly far short of the amenities provided today.

When Sister Winefride retired in 1940, her successor was Mr. Mark McLaughlin, who had been teaching in Addiewell. At this period St. David's was still a Primary School with a small number of secondary pupils at the top called the Advanced Division. These were pupils who did not intend to continue at school beyond the statutory leaving age. Those pupils who completed the primary course, i.e. passed the qualifying examination, and who intended to continue their studies in the certificate course at secondary level, went to Our Lady of Loreto School at Musselburgh where there was provision for the first three years of the secondary course. Loreto School at that time catered for all Catholic secondary pupils in the whole eastern part of Midlothian. Due to its

geographical position and the consequent difficulty of pupils having to travel from as far distant places as Penicuik, Loanhead and Rosewell, the Education Authority in 1948 decided to locate the secondary school in a more central situation and St. David's, Dalkeith was designated as the venue.

So it was, that in that year, all the secondary pupils from Loreto were transferred to St. David's, a circumstance which greatly increased the number of pupils at the school and necessitated more accommodation being made available to house them. A building at Mitchell Street which had been the old Burgh School at one time was put at their disposal, and Horsa huts were erected on the adjacent low-lying ground at Ironmills. The primary pupils continued to attend the school adjacent to the church in Eskbank Road and the secondary pupils were accommodated in the new buildings mentioned above.

This arrangement continued till 1958, when the building in Eskbank Road was abandoned as a school, and the primary pupils were accommodated at Kippielaw and Whitehill. In March 1959, Mr. McLaughlin died, sadly on the eve of his retirement. During his nineteen years as headmaster he had seen the school grow considerably in numbers and established a sound foundation for the education of the Catholic children in the county.

Mr McLaughlin's successor was Mr. John Macmillan, who took up his appointment at the beginning of June 1959. Several changes were about to take place at this time. With mounting pressure on accommodation at Holy Cross Academy, Midlothian were constrained to upgrade St. David's to full senior secondary status, and the last pupils to go to Holy Cross were the batch of third year pupils who went there in the autumn of 1959. In anticipation of the increased numbers on the rolls which this decision would necessitate, further accommodation was imperative. With the opening of the new Dalkeith High School in Ne-mills Road that autumn, part of the premises previously occupied by them at Croft Street and Kippielaw was made available. Whitehill was evacuated and the whole of the primary department housed at Kippielaw and under their own headmaster, Mr. James Ward, who took up his appointment on October 1st 1959. The secondary pupils were accommodated at Croft Street and Mitchell Street. At this time, also, the Education Committee, largely on the advice of Mr. Thos. Henderson, Director of Education, and Fr. Kelly, had taken a decision to build a new school. The existing buildings were considered unsuitable for modern requirements, and the expense of bringing them up to standard too costly. A disastrous fire early in 1960, which completely destroyed the building at Mitchell Street now put a severe strain on accommodation and the Committee set about finding a site for the new school. A site was finally procured at Abbey Road, and work on clearing the site and building the school began late in 1963. The fine building which now

stands in Abbey Road, with its surrounding playing fields fringed with trees, was ready for occupancy in August 1966. Mr Macmillan retired in December 1974 and was succeeded by the present incumbent, Mr. Thos. J. O'Malley. The roll of St. David's High School now numbers close on 1000 pupils with a staff of some seventy teachers. In its seventeen years to date as a full senior secondary school it has produced a number of pupils who have distinguished themselves in various professional fields ranging over medicine, veterinary surgery, dentistry, law, teaching and social services, as well as many other fields such as nursing and the Civil Service. The magnificent edifice in Abbey Road is a far cry from the modest classroom where it all began away back in 1854. Long may it continue to serve the area in producing young men and women who will be a credit not only to themselves but to the community in which they live.