
ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER

St. Fillan's Church News

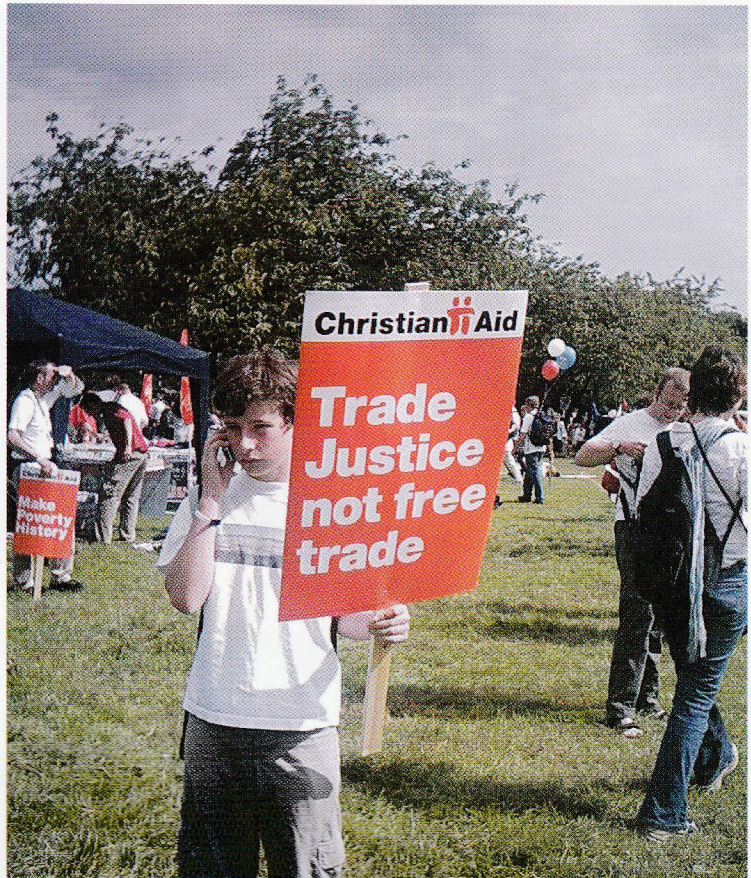
Spring 2006 Edition

The New Church Roof



Work progressing to complete the south side of the Church roof as the contractors enjoyed the February Sunshine. The work is scheduled for completion during March after which normal service will be resumed.

Eric Williamson and his son Andrew attended the Make Poverty History march last July. A full report appears on page 6.



Before and after at the Lunch Club held during the Aberdour Festival. Some 137 people attended on this occasion.

Lunches are held on the first Thursday of each month.



New Title - St. Fillan's Crosier

The new title has been chosen because of the link with St. Fillan. St. Fillan was the Abbot of Glen Dochart and carried a crosier (crook) and bell. Both the crosier and the bell are still in existence and can be seen in the Scottish Museum.

Letter from the Manse

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS are a pain. If you make them quietly behind closed doors you may be alright, but if you share them with others, you can paint yourself into a corner.

If you read this you are a survivor! One of my New Year resolutions (in fact, my only one) was to learn to drive. You must have been able to jump aside as I turned a corner and hit the kerb, swerved to avoid a pot-hole and went over the white line in the middle of the road, or pulled out into the High Street though the 'Pearly Gates', only to be reminded by the instructor that it was not obligatory to drive at 40 miles an hour.

As I said, if you read this, you're a survivor! Luckily for the Parish, my driving instructor took me to Rosyth to learn three-point turns. And so it came to pass that not a local householder, but one in Rosyth saw a car drive backwards up to his garden gates at speed...

Learning new skills is part of our human experience. We have to continue to update our knowledge and training to be able to function in a fast-changing world. This goes for our religious life, as well as for our work-life.

Theology is not a static subject, but changes from generation, and swifter still. The "Church without Walls" idea encourages Congregations to be more outward-looking in their thinking and action, and the "I am not worthy" theology of the past is replaced with teaching regarding acceptance of God's forgiveness, and then acting as redeemed people as a result of that forgiveness.

These changes are not always easy in the Church. For some they wipe away centuries of tradition, for others they undermine comfortable securities. But

theology moves on, seeking new ways in which to relate the Inspired Word of God to the life and work of the Church of Christ in every new age.

The hymns the Church sings in worship express her Faith; hymns are the musical theology of the Church. This, too, needs updating at times, and St Fillan's will begin using the new Church Hymnary, CH4 in the next few months. This is an exciting development in the sung witness of the Church.

Musicians and poets have developed many new hymns, with fresh theological insights. At the same time, many old favourites have been retained. CH4 will take the singing of a joyful song to the Lord into the twenty-first century.

The St Fillan's Church Family is growing. New people are joining in worship and in the other Church activities. The Office Bearers are working on new plans for the Sunday School, Youth Work, Stewardship and Education. This is an exciting time for St Fillan's, and for the community we seek to serve in Aberdour and beyond.

The Spirit is moving in our midst. Let us listen to God's voice, and serve Christ in all we say and do.

Yours in Christ

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird

WEEKLY TAPE MINISTRY



IF YOU ARE UNABLE to come to our services and would like to receive a tape either on a regular basis or as a "one off" please speak with Norman Macdonald 860585.

Local LINK St Fillan's with St Columba's

THE LOCAL LINKS we have with St Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church in the village continue to deepen in friendship and fellowship.

One of the special January events is the joint annual service for Christian Unity, held this year in St Fillan's, when the Rev Peter Gerbrandy-Baird conducted the service and Rev Canon Val Nellist preached.

Last autumn a very special occasion for the Scottish Episcopal churches in this area was the appointment of their new Bishop. Our minister and two Elders felt honoured to be asked to attend his initial visit to this part of Fife at a service in Burntisland.

On Sunday Feb 5th, Bishop David Chillingworth made a personal visit to preach in St Columba's. St Fillan's was represented by three St. Fillan's members who so enjoyed sharing in that very special and happy occasion for our fellow Christians in St Columba's.

The months ahead afford several times when there are good opportunities to share activities, such as the Lent Bible Studies (open to all - see the notice on page 9); Coffee mornings for each church in St Fillan's Hall; World Day of Prayer services (held in St Fillan's this year); Easter services and meditation; being venues for the village Festival Art exhibition; sail to Inchcolm island.

As always, there is an open and warm invitation to everyone to worship in either of these churches at any time.

LUNCH CLUB



A VERY BIG "Thank You" to all who gave up their time, this past year, to make soup or egg mayonnaise, served and washed dishes all to create a hall of fellowship and friendship for an hour or so on the first Thursday of every month. It just wouldn't be possible without the help of all who volunteer. An even bigger "thank you" to all who support us by coming for lunch.

Although not a money making exercise, the "Lunches" gave £970.00 to church funds in 2005.

More volunteers are always appreciated (3 times per year for 2 hours - aprons provided!!)

See the photos on page 2 taken at the "Lunches" during Festival Week when 137 attended!

Sandra (823454)
Catherine (860611)

Aberdour Scottish Country Dance Club

THE 30TH YEAR of Scottish Country Dancing in the Church Hall finishes at the end of March. It was, yet again, another successful year as a result of which we donated £720.00 to church funds.

It re-starts on Wednesday 13th September at 7.45pm. This is essentially a fun class for adults to the age of 80 and beyond!! We have live music and the price of £2.00 includes tea and biscuits.

Look out your dancing pumps and come along and give it a try - you will be made most welcome. For further information call Sandra McSkimming (823454).

PASTORAL VISITING

MINISTERS/VISITING TEAMS no longer have access to hospital lists. It is therefore very important to let the Minister, Session Clerk or Pastoral Group know of anyone in hospital so that pastoral visits can be maintained.

ST FILLAN'S OPEN DOOR

SECOND THURSDAYS of October '05 until March '06 have been splendidly enjoyable mornings thanks to the six excellent speakers who have kindly given their time to share with us their interests and gifts. Our warm thanks go to each one of them... James McInnes, Alastair Gibson, The Rev Peter Gerbrandy-Baird, John H Minhinick, Simon Fraser and Mrs Phyliss Cachia. From them many a new thing has been learned, appetite for a new interest whetted, gasps of appreciation given and humour shared.

It was so good to see friends and neighbours, regulars and visitors coming along and enjoying this friendly time and each varied topic and of course munching homemade pancakes and scones at tea or coffee chat time! A warm welcome awaits every person who comes.

From all our £1 donations each month, as in previous years, we will be gifting the money remaining after expenses have been paid. This year the money will be given to the Bethany Trust to support the work at the Toastie Club in Dunfermline, explained by our October speaker. We also thank everyone for buying items from the Fair Trade stall month by month and supporting this worthy cause.

Already the OPEN DOOR Planning Group's thoughts are gathering for the next season, so here is a date for your diaries! Thursday 12th October will be the first meeting of the new programme and we look forward to seeing you there. Meantime, we wish you a healthy and happy spring and summer!

Members of the Planning Group are Davina and Dick Aikman, Maggie Christie, Kathleen Fergus, Alex Harper, Richard Lloyd, Trish Niven, Alex Waugh.

The Telephone Call

AN AMERICAN DECIDED to write a book about famous churches around the world. So he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from South to North.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read "\$10,000 per call".

The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for.

The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Orlando and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was.

She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. "O.K., thank you," said the American.

He then travelled to Indianapolis, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Boston and New York. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same "\$10,000 per call" sign under it.

The American, upon leaving Vermont decided to travel to SCOTLAND to see if SCOTS had the same phone. He arrived in SCOTLAND, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read "40 pence per call."

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign.

"Father, I've travelled all over America and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in the US the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "You're in SCOTLAND now, son it's a local call".

KEEP SMILING

If you are proud to be a SCOT pass this on!

Stewardship

HOPEFULLY BY THE TIME you read this article our parish church will have a new roof. We have been able to pay for this from generous legacies, grants from Historic Scotland and some careful investment of funds by our treasurer. However our ability to do this has severely affected our giving to charitable causes.

The Stewardship Committee has been charged with exploring how this matter may be addressed and its March meeting the Kirk Session will be asked to approve various suggestions put forward by the committee including such ideas as a gift day, contacting local and national businesses for donations, a stewardship campaign and a concert.

When we commissioned the new stained glass windows for the Millennium we matched the cost with a similar donation to charities. Whilst we cannot hope to raise an amount equivalent to the cost of the new roof, the Committee has set itself a target of raising £25,000 in 2006 and we ask for your prayerful support to enable us to do this. When events do come up please support us and help us to achieve our objective.

Throughout the year when these events do take place please come along and join in the activity and help us to help those charities make lives a bit easier and a bit richer for those less fortunate than ourselves

Ewart McSkimming

Finance and Stewardship Convenor

Forth Churches Group Event

Kathleen Fergus

ALTHOUGH DECEMBER 2005 seems a distant memory now, it is good to remember with thanksgiving, the series of 'Forth Churches Group' Advent services held during the weeks of preparation for the joy of celebrating Jesus' birth.

Each of the four evening services was held at a different church in the group - North Queensferry, St Peter's, St Fillan's and Dalgety Bay. At these services folk gathered together from each of the churches and joined in joyful worship and in thinking about the coming life-changing event that is Jesus' birth.

One fascinating aspect was to find that each church had its own style of presentation for their service. North Queensferry for instance had a Christmas cafe set-up, where the 'customers' relaxed at tables with coffee as they shared the service of good news. At St Fillan's, each member of our Worship group took part, introducing a reading or chosen carol with a personal word. These differing styles offered thought-provoking approaches and we all felt deeply grateful to those who took part.

December 2006 is a long way off ... but come and join in next time!

Make Poverty History

Eric Williamson

On 2nd July last year Andrew and I attended the Make Poverty History Rally in Edinburgh. I think it's the first time that I have taken part in what can fairly be called a mass protest! As is now well recorded the numbers involved were vast - heading towards a quarter of a million people. Predominantly dressed in white, we marched through the capital and took part in the protest rally on the Meadows, the prelude to the G8 summit at Gleneagles that was to commence the following week.

The marchers converged on the city from all corners of the country. There were people there representing churches, Aid organisations and many, many more diverse and concerned groups. Everyone wanted to send a loud and clear message to world leaders. "Do something about world poverty!!" Everyone there had one thing in common - they were united in demanding trade **justice**, that there should be more and better aid and that more should be done to work towards alleviating the crippling poverty that affects so many people across the globe.

The rally and march took place in a highly charged, infectious atmosphere of electrifying excitement and expectation. Significantly, both the rally and the march took place in good humour. I was struck by the fact that those taking part seemed, like Andrew and me, to be ordinary people hugely concerned at the plight of the worlds' neglected millions.

I don't think either of us will ever forget the day we helped, with thousands of others, to make the giant white band that demanded that world leaders **Make Poverty History**. What happened was a start.

Contact Details

Moderator	The Reverend Peter Gerbrandy-Baird, The Manse	861 522
Session Clerk	Mrs Catherine Duncan, 43 Humbie Terrace	860 611
Clerk to the Board	Mrs Karyn Crowe, 13 St Fillan's Crescent	860 721
Treasurer	Simon Fraser, 55 High Street	860 361
Hall Convener	Bruce Drever, 15 Inch Avenue	860 353
Roll Keeper	Bill Cochrane, 43 The Glebe	860 786
Magazine Editor	Colin Campbell, 16 Bellhouse Road	860 085

Kirk Session Working Group Leaders

Focus Group	Ewart McSkimming, 6 Crowhill Road, Dalgety Bay	823 454
Link Group (Ecumenical Activities)	Mrs Kathleen Fergus, Glenelg, Inverkeithing Road	860 804
Pastoral	Norman MacDonald, Watchhouse, Lower Glebe	860 585
Stewardship	Ewart McSkimming, 6 Crowhill Road, Dalgety Bay	823 454
Worship	David Hannah, 3 The Glebe	860 877

Board Committees

Finance Convener	Ewart McSkimming, 6 Crowhill Road, Dalgety Bay	823 454
Property Convener	Graeme Stevens, 16 Manse Street	860 238

An important date for your diary!!

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Church Hall

Saturday 27 May at 10am

Please support this event and help us to give generously to the poor throughout the world

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FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

THE BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS

When God created the universe

...did he have to sit down and plan it all out first? (and if he did, where did he sit down? He hadn't thought up chairs yet!).

Or did he just think it all up at once?

Did God get out a piece of paper and start drawing out ideas-and then scribbling them out when he didn't like them? Did he try different ideas for things? Did God think people might be good with six legs or, because he is perfect, were all God's ideas right from the very start?

And how long would it take to think up EVERYTHING in the universe?! Did it take a day? Or a week? Or maybe it took forever. But since forever has no beginning and no end, when he finally said, "That looks good!!" and then created everything, there still was forever left. Or maybe he thought it all up in an instant! Something to think about!

One thing for sure. If it weren't for God, we wouldn't be here!

Let's have a laugh

Timmy had been misbehaving and was sent to his room.

After a while he emerged and told his Mum that he had thought it over and then said a prayer.

"Fine", said the pleased Mum. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave, he will help you."

"Oh, I didn't ask him to help me not misbehave, I asked him to help you put up with me."

COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN

**ALL CHILDREN FROM 4 YEARS
AND UPWARDS ARE WELCOME
TO ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND JUNIOR CHURCH**

**EVERY TERM TIME SUNDAY IN THE
CHURCH AT 10.30 am
AND AFTERWARDS IN THE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

First cross out all words that are days of the week. Second cross out all words that are colours. Third cross out all words that are names of animals. Fourth cross out all words that are numbers.

What do the remaining words say? Write them in order on the lines below.

SUNDAY	BROWN	SEVEN	LET	PIG	WHITE	SIXTEEN
THREE	YOUR	TURTLE	GOLD	EIGHT	LIGHT	FRIDAY
SHINE	HORSE	FOUR	RED	BEFORE	TUESDAY	ORANGE
PURPLE	MEN	WEDNESDAY	ALLIGATOR	FIVE	THAT	FIFTY
RACCOON	THEY	FROG	BLUE	MAY	MONDAY	TWO
THIRTEEN	GREEN	SEE	THURSDAY	NINETEEN	SNAKE	YOUR
SATURDAY	GOOD	SQUIRREL	DEEDS	SUNDAY	TIGER	AND
PRAISE	YOUR	PINK	TUESDAY	YELLOW	FATHER	BLACK
BEAR	IN	FRIDAY	HEAVEN	GIRAFFE	FIVE	WEDNESDAY

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Parish and Congregational Register

Bereavements

19 September 05	Mrs Doris McNair
19 January 06	Mrs Mary Bradley, Humbie Terrace
10 February 06	Mrs Elizabeth Cox, The Glebe
15 February 06	Mr Harry Best (formerly of Aberdour)

Things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining have all been prepared by God for those who love Him Corinthians 2:9

Marriages

08 October 05	Ruth Crampton & Jack Fasham (Edinburgh)
22 October 05	Dawn Weatherup & Thomas Allison (Aberdour)
29 December 05	Raija Kivimaki & Jouko Tanninen (Halliko, Finland)

God is love and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them

Baptisms

23 October 05	Thomas Abbott and Alastair Abbott
18 December 05	Max Alexander Ward (Maastrich, The Netherlands, Great-grandson of Mrs Enid Henderson)

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Joining by Transference Certificate

Mr Hugh and Mrs Mary (Myra) Rodger, 1 Chapel Villas, Dalgety Bay

Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mr William Stewart, 99 Main Street

We welcome you and hope that you enjoy your fellowship here

St Fillan's Aberdour trip to Inchcolm

Sunday 10 September 06

Pick-up from Aberdour pier - 15.30

Returning - 17.35

Cost details to follow

The Jam Jar and the Coffee.

WHEN THINGS IN YOUR LIFE seem almost too much to handle. When 24 hours day are not enough, remember the Jam Jar, and the Coffee...

A professor stood before his philosophy class, and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty jar and proceeded to fill it with Golf Balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor then picked up a box of tiny pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the Golf Balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of dry sand and poured this into the jar. Of Course, the sand filled up everything else.

He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes".

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now" said the professor as the laughter subsided. "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The Golf Balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

"The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car."

The sand is everything else - the small things.

"If you put the sand into the jar first", he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life, if you spend all your time and energy on the small things, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to those things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children, take time to go to the doctor, take your partner out to dinner."

There will always be time to clean the house and mow the lawn. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and enquired what the coffee represented

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

DID YOU KNOW? (contributed by Elizabeth Lloyd)

WHEN DRIVING in and out of Aberdour along the A921 take note! Litter is being collected between Dalgety Bay and Burntisland on parts of the road where the Council remit does not run. Who is your benefactor?

He moved to Aberdour 7 years ago from Manchester and was shocked by the litter he saw on the roads leading to Aberdour. Aberdour itself was clearly well cared for but why the mess outside.

A phone call from Fife Council revealed that for health and safety reasons litter was not collected outside the 30 mph limit. However the Council would pick up at a designated point any litter removed and bagged. Gloves and bags would also be supplied. So that's what Glyn Chad has been doing for 3 hours a week for the last 7 years. An example I think of doing the "extra mile". **THANK YOU GLYN.**



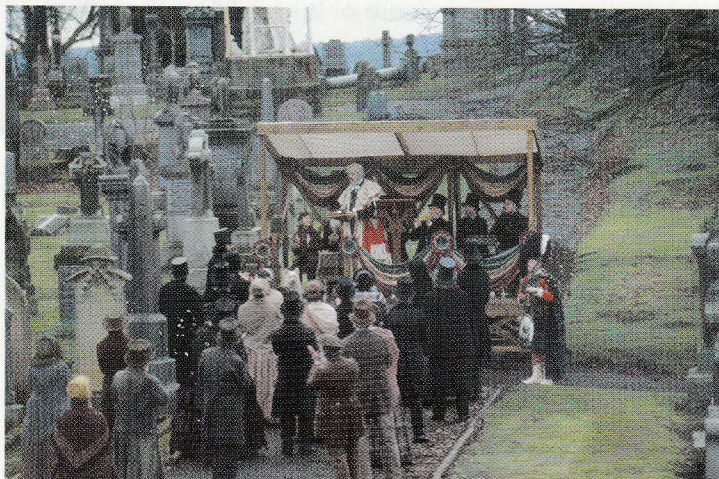
Simon Fraser relating his hill walking experiences at one of the Open Door meetings held over the winter period.

These are held on the second Thursday of each month.

A fuller report appears on page 5.

Aberdour Scottish Country Dance Club helping Lena celebrate her 80th birthday in January.

The Club meets every Wednesday in the Church Hall at 7.45 starting again on the 13th September.



Some of the interior scenes for the film Greyfriars Bobby were filmed in St. Fillan's Church.

The Minister and the Session Clerk attended a pre-release screening of the film.

This photo shows an external scene of filming in the west of Scotland.

If you enjoyed reading this magazine and would like to send a contribution for publication please forward articles to Colin Campbell, 16 Bellhouse Road.

The next edition will be issued in autumn. Photos in any form welcome.