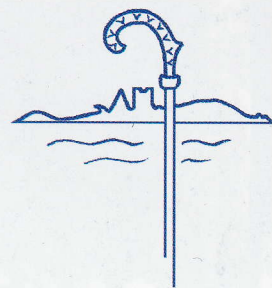


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# ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



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St. Fillan's Church News

Autumn 2007 Edition

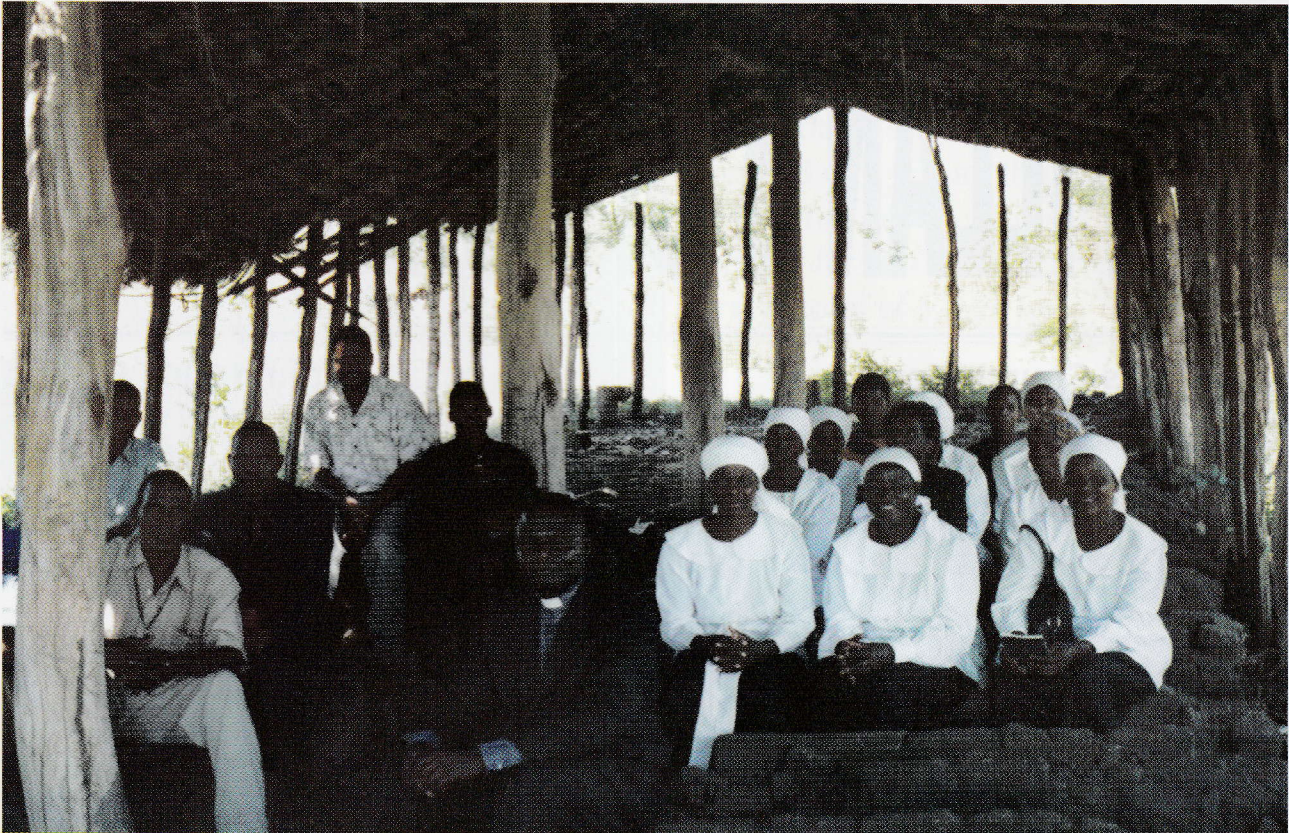
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## Children of Chernobyl



Some of the children who visited Scotland helped by the collections of 1p and 2p coins for the Chernobyl Life Line.

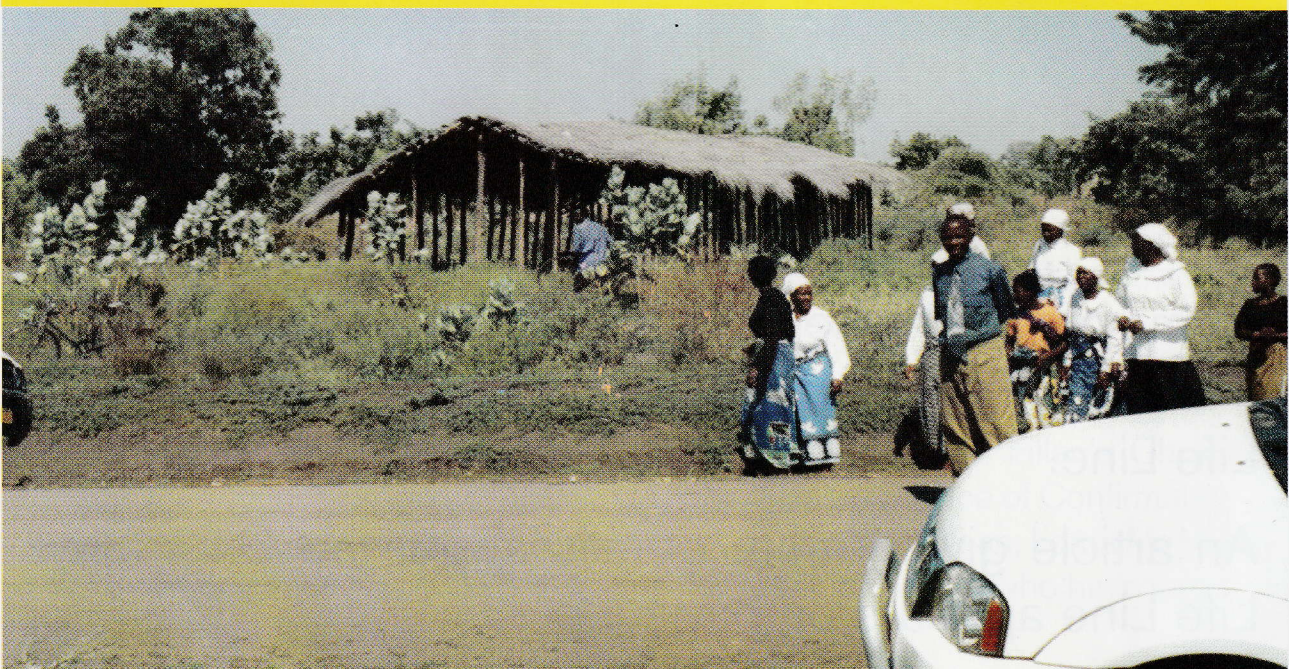
An article giving more details about the Chernobyl Life Line appears on page 11.



St. Fillan's is currently one year into its link with the parish of Alumenda in Southern Malawi. We are still exploring the possibility of making a significant contribution to building a more permanent church building at a cost of £6,000. This recognises that we were fortunate in the donations we received during the re roofing project at St. Fillan's.

What we have learnt is the severe poverty and poor health that exists in Malawi at present. Further information about our plans to develop this link will be made in a number of ways in the coming months.

The photos show some of the congregation at their existing temporary church which badly leaks when it rains.



## Letter from the Manse

How do you relax? Reading detective novels is one of my ways of relaxing. It's great to follow the twists and turns in the story, and find out whodunit. I never get it right!

The Irish author Peter Tremayne has written a series of detective stories set in 7<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. The main characters are an Irish nun, Sister Fidelma, and a Saxon monk, Brother Eadulf. Together they face common enemies, unravel mysteries, and, along the road, they fall in love and get married.

Before you throw up your hands in horror, let me explain. The author is brilliant at describing the social and religious background to all his stories. In the Celtic Church of 7<sup>th</sup> century Ireland there were many mixed convents, where monks and nuns lived together; some were married and had children, who were brought up in the Faith. Celibacy, though around as a theological concept, was not enforced by the Church until the second Lateran Council of 1139 under Pope Leo IX.

The Church is always changing, adapting, re-forming, to be able to serve Christ in changing circumstances. St Fillan's has been a Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and now a Presbyterian Church. It has been linked with Inchcolm Abbey, and with Dalgety; it has been independent, and it is now part of a Parish Grouping involving the Parish Churches of Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing and North Queensferry.

Working together has many advantages, the main one being the ability to pool resources, human and financial, to provide worship, pastoral care and outreach. At the same time, it is important to appreciate the real differences in setting between the Parishes. While Dalgety Bay and Inverkeithing are urban Parishes, Aberdour is a rural one, where expectations of both Church and Minister are very different.

Through working together and getting to know each other, and through honouring different backgrounds and histories, the four Parishes will be able to create real and

lasting bonds of friendship and cooperation over the months and years to come.

It is important to ensure that within each Parish there are living Congregations, willing and able to share the love of Christ with all in the Parish. A Church in the community, for the community, is a Church that can serve the needs of the community, in the service of Christ.

St Fillan's motto is "Encouraging people to follow Christ". Let us try and live up to that motto, and through prayer and outreach serve our community, and serve our Lord and saviour, Jesus 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.

## THE EDITORIAL TEAM

If you have any articles, reports, pictures etc which you would like included in the next edition of the St. Fillan's Crosier in March, please contact the editor Colin Campbell or any of the editorial team of Linda Brown, Wallace Cowan, Shiona Doig, David Graham and Alec Waugh.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

*"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."*

The annual Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 11 November at the War Memorial at the Church Hall in the High Street, at 10.50am. Preceding that Service, there will be a Church Service in the Church Hall at 10am. All are invited to attend both events.

**Contact details**

Moderator	Reverend Peter Gerbrandy-Baird	861 522
Session Clerk	Mrs Catherine Duncan	860 611
Clerk to the Board	Mrs Karyn Crowe	860 721
Treasurer	Simon Fraser	860 361
Hall Convener	Bruce Drever	860 353
Roll Keeper	Bill Cochrane	860 786
Magazine Editor	Colin Campbell	860 085

**Kirk Session Working Group Leaders**

Focus Group	Ewart McSkimming	823 454
Link Group (Ecumenical Activities)	Mrs Eileen Harper	860 151
Pastoral	Norman MacDonald	860 585
Social	David Robertson	860 297
Stewardship	Ewart McSkimming	823 454
Youth Education Group	Mrs Kathleen Fergus	860 804

**Board Committees**

Finance Convener	Ewart McSkimming	823 454
Property Convener	Graeme Stevens	860 238

**CHRISTIAN AID**

Our two annual events – Coffee Morning and Sponsored Golf – raised over £2000. Thank you to everyone who helped us to achieve this excellent result. Susan Lister also raised over £2000 sponsorship by competing in the London Marathon – well done Susan! If you are looking to buy an unusual Christmas present, and to help the world's poor, then have a look at the Christian Aid catalogue, Present Aid.

You can find this online at [www.presentaid.org](http://www.presentaid.org), or you can pick up a catalogue from St Fillan's Church (welcome table at the back of the church).

**ST. FILLAN'S LUNCHESES**

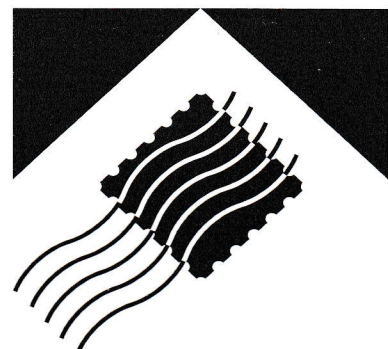


September marked our Tenth Anniversary and it is amazing just how popular our Lunches have become over the years. We used to think 35 – 40 was a very good number of diners each month – now 60-70 is the norm, rising to around 160 during Festival week. Our range of soups has also changed from the plainer every-day type, when we started, to more adventurous recipes now.....And - Yes. We still hope to produce our Recipe Book.....WHEN we have a little free time to actually sit and prepare the recipes for the Printer. If YOU are still holding on to 1 or 2 recipes you'd like to see included, now is the time to let us have a copy.

As always, a very big "THANK YOU!" to all our diners and volunteers. We do appreciate each and everyone's support, and are always keen to welcome more volunteers (3 times per year for 2 hours – an apron is even provided!) to serve our valued customers.

Sandra (and Ewart) 823454 and Catherine (860611)

**STAMPS**



A reminder that St Fillan's collects stamps for Mission and Aid and that they can leave them at Susan Morton's house, 4 Manse Street or at the Post office OR in the red box in the Church OR Susan will come and collect them, telephone 860051.

No excuses for helping out with this very worthy cause.

\*\*\*\*\* **OPEN DOOR 2007 / 2008** \*\*\*\*\*

## **OPEN DOOR**

*begins again on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am*

**!!! St Fillan's Church Hall !!!    !!! Everyone welcome !!!**

*... enjoy each month's event ... bring friends ... make new ones ...*

*... enjoy tea, coffee and home baking ...*

- 11 October**        *... "Don't Panic ! "*  
*The Witch Craze in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland*  
*... with Chris Short*
- 8 November**        *... Aden 40 Years ago*  
*... with Richard Lloyd*
- 13 December**        *... Wildlife and Environmental Crime*  
*... with Mike King of Fife Police*
- 17 January**        *... Scripture Union's work for Street Kids in Peru*  
*... with Christine Hodge*
- 14 February**        *... The Northern Lights of Old Edinburgh*  
*- a brief history of Scotland's lighthouses*  
*... with Bill Paterson*
- 13 March**        *... A Land without Evil*  
*- refugees on the Thai / Burma border*  
*... with Carol Latimer*

*... there will be a FAIRTRADE stall each month ...*

## PARISH PROFILE

### Catherine Duncan, Session Clerk

Q. Are you a morning person or a night person?

A. *In keeping with the Jamieson nature in my family, I'm definitely a night owl, to the extent I can sometimes meet the lark getting up !*

Q. What was the happiest moment in your life?

A. *I 'd say our wedding day, but the births of our 3 boys and the safe arrivals of their offspring are way up there too.*

Q. What is your favourite book?

A. *I must admit I'm not an avid reader, being more inclined to use books as reference points. One biography, which I **did** enjoy is "Take my Hands" – the remarkable story of Dr. Mary Verghese of Vellore by Dorothy Clarke Wilson.*

Q. What is your favourite film?

A. *It's hard to choose between "The Nun's Story" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (for different reasons).*

Q. Which four guests (past or present) would you like to invite to dinner?

A. *Sir David Attenborough, George Alleguya, Gladys Aylward, the above-named Doctor .....but I think I'd be happier and more comfortable with friends, never met Grand-dads, someone in need of a meal.*

Q. Where did you spend your childhood?

A. *I was born here and have always lived in our beautiful little village (just like my father before me).*

Q. What makes you angry?

A. *How many pages do we have? Man's inhumanity to his fellow man and creatures; folk who criticise others' efforts which they themselves would not even attempt, too much "red tape" and dare I add the waste of resources and time with junk mail, spam and unsolicited 'phone calls! And.....*

Q. Where in the world would you like to visit where you've never been before?

A. *Egypt (the valley of the kings), Ireland, Holland, Norway.*

Q. Any Phobias?

A. *A very, very silly one started in childhood (which I try my best to overcome).... blowing up balloons! I'm not too keen about using, or watching others climbing, ladders either.*

Q. Any hobbies?

A. *Anything arty.... painting, drawing, calligraphy, cross-stitch, flower arranging, gardening, singing, hand-bell-ringing, baking, etc. ....so many, but not as much time as I'd like to do them.*

Q. Can you cook?

A. *I think so, but, since Andy retired, my use of the kitchen has become shared and I'm restricted slightly to making soup and baking. Perhaps he's trying to tell me something!*

Q. If I were Prime Minister for a day I would...

A. *(At the risk of offending men everywhere) - In the interests of sharing money/resources more fairly amongst the poor/caring population I'd put a cap on the obscene, disgustingly exorbitant wages paid to footballers just for kicking a ball around, when so many other folk like doctors, nurses, carers of all kinds, etc., working so hard day and night to cure and otherwise help people, receive so little. The Lottery is supposed to be for "good causes" so I'd try to ensure more of its income did go to real good causes, and I'd cut the over-the-top pay-outs to so few participants so more could have a share.*

Q. What is your most annoying habit?

A. *Doing things myself - which, I'm told, makes others feel I think I know/can do it better than them! Not the case! I am just hopeless at asking for help (which I really **do** appreciate).*

Q. What is your favourite holiday destination?

A. *Touring the Highlands, I guess, where I've mostly gone since childhood!*

Q. Which word do you over-use?

A. *Currently (for some unknown reason) it's "absolutely!"*

Q. What would you do if you won the lottery?

A. *Probably drop dead with shock and amazement! I have never ever bought a ticket!*

Q. Any great ambitions?

A. *Nothing major. I would like to see the Grouping and other Church projects working well, but mainly I'd just like to be able to support and help our family, friends and others in whatever way I can.*

Q. Confession is good for the soul. One to end with?

A. *I'm a compulsive hoarder and very badly need to take time-out to have a massive clear-out of paperwork and other unnecessary items I've accumulated. But, that would create more space to fill up with other things! Perhaps minds also could do with such a clear-out at times to allow space for 'better' things!*

### HARVEST POEM

*Written by Claire McVay, Junior Church*

While shoppers traipse around the town,  
Eyes averted from looking down,  
Beggars huddle on the ground,  
Too depressed to make a sound.

Glowing ads that make us buy  
Distract us from their plea-full cry.  
Stilettos, golf clubs, diamond rings  
Aren't there more pressing things-  
Outside the warmth of every store  
Are people we should not ignore?

Return that top which made you fat  
The cash, give to the beggar's hat.  
For as the winter nights grow longer,  
The homeless' health will not get stronger.

So resist that pair of Prada shoes,  
For though you think you've got the blues,  
Money can go to better use,  
For those who could have more to lose...



### REMEMBRANCE DAY

*Written by Craig Grant*

The dead, so many, piled up high,  
In the earth and in the sky.  
The graves of sandstone, row on row,  
Wreaths of poppies lain down low.

They kept on going, guns in hand,  
Through the mud, the trees and sand.  
The mighty kingdom, day and hour,  
Fought against the German power.

The death, the pain, and the turmoil,  
But all the soldiers stood so loyal.  
Marching forwards, heads held high,  
They went to battle, fought and died.

A day of weeping, a day of sorrow,  
A day of blood spill, but not tomorrow.  
No more death, no despair,  
It's over now, a day of prayer.

### Advent and Christmas in St. Fillan's 2007

#### Sunday 16 December

- 10.30am Festival of Lessons and Carols
- 2.30pm Sunday School and Junior Church nativity plays and community Carol singing followed by refreshments in the Church Hall

#### Sunday 23 December

- 10.30am Fourth Sunday in Advent Service
- 6.30pm Children's Service, readings, story, carols and a visit from Santa

#### Christmas Eve

- 11.00pm Carol Singing followed by Watch night Service by candle light at 11.30pm

#### Christmas Day

- 10.00am Christmas Family Service of Holy Communion

## Sale of Work

### Church Hall

Saturday 17 November  
at 2.00pm

### JIM FAIRLIE, MAN AT THE "KIST O' WHUSTLES"



Three items of musical note

- Musical composer Grieg Edvard Hagerup. (1843-1907)
- Pavarotti's death, September 07
- Diana's 10 year anniversary service august 07

All surely had music of some sort to suit everybody's musical taste

Grieg: In spite of the popularity of his concerto, he revealed his musical skills to best effect as a miniaturist in his piano pieces and songs. He had a wide range of compositions i.e., orchestra, chamber music, piano sonata, folk songs and dances, choral works and incidental music. Probably most widely known is "Peer Gynt" with "Morning" that we all hum and whistle to.

The passing of Pavarotti of course will be a great miss on stage, but fortunately with modern technology his great voice will just go on and on. Surely he will be the first classical singer to reach no 1 in the selling charts.! We will wait and see.

I took the occasion to play Puccini's "Nessun Donna" (no not for the football fans), during the offering the other Sunday, as a commemorative piece (also, li like it) but he came back to haunt me. I paused before opening up as usual for the final bars, and out of the corner of my eye saw the congregation rising to their feet. It was like the Mexican wave, a curious incident.

I hadn't the chance to speak to the minister as there was a meeting after the service, but the following day met up with Wallace Cowan and mentioned it. He came to the conclusion that the congregation thought I had finished the piece, and really got to their feet for the singing of the 100th.

So much for my expertise, although one of the

congregation told me that he and his wife had enjoyed the Italian offering.

Princess Diana's service of commemoration with it's mixture of music, chorale, instrumental and congregational singing was excellent, Mozart, Faure in particular. Did I hear the Londonderry air and was it really 10 years ago?

It proves music plays a large part in our memories and we all have our favourites.

P. S. The big smile on your organist's face these Sunday mornings is really due to two recent happenings. His new viewing compliments of the N.H.S and to the purpose built back rest on the organ seat, kindly constructed by Andy and Catherine Duncan. Catherine did the padding and the needle work - a great couple. Thank you from the current organist and all future organists.



### THE YOUNG FOLK OF ST. FILLAN'S

*An update from Kathleen Fergus for the Youth Education Group.*

Three groups of Sunday School children and two groups of Junior Church young folk have settled happily into this season's Sunday morning programme and it has been a pleasure to welcome new members who have come to join us all.

A sincere thank you goes to each one of the adults who contributes to the teaching programme each week.



### \*\*WHAT'S SPECIAL THIS TERM\*\*

During the autumn, the planned programme of teaching is punctuated by special Sundays such as the **Family Harvest Service** on September 30<sup>th</sup> when we sorted into bags the gifts of soaps, toothbrushes etc. for those in need and cared for by Frontline Fife. Thank you to all who contributed ... and to those who supplied tasty sandwiches and drinks to keep everyone going until the job of packing was done! Well done everyone!

May the gifts we have given bring hope and encouragement to those who receive them.



Our **Remembrance Service** in the Hall on November 11<sup>th</sup> is a very special service for us all, both young and older. Several of the young folk will be taking part in this service and feel that to be a great honour.

During the afternoon of 16th December, Sunday School and Junior Church look forward to welcoming you all to their **Christmas Presentation** to be held in the Church Hall. Many of you will recall the joy of that afternoon last December. Do come along with family and friends to share in this year's important and happy occasion.

**\*\*WHAT'S SPECIAL NEXT SUMMER\*\***

Plans are beginning to shape up for a special week during the summer holidays in 2008!

St Fillan's Church, partnered with Scripture Union, is going to run a **Holiday Club** full of fun, games, music, craft, Bible teaching, singing and new friends for the young folk of our village.

Keep the last week of summer holiday free for this fun time ... w/b August 11<sup>th</sup> 2008!

Sunday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> - come to morning service at 10.30am in St Fillan's Church for the launch of this exciting venture.

Details will also be in the next Crosier! Posters will appear nearer the time!

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**

**THE WEDDING AT CANA**

CAN YOU SPOT THE 20 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO PICTURES?



## Parish and congregational register

### Bereavements

March	14	Lorraine Struthers
	19	Hugh Hanlon
April	23	Nan McNulty
May	8	John Inglis
	22	Stanley Marrian
	23	Vera Clyde
June	12	Sally Bremner
	27	Jennifer McCrae
July	23	Squadron Leader M R S Cunningham
	24	Jean Sinclair
August	24	Sadie Younger

*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

March	17	Hilary Munro and Clive Loble
April	28	Natalie Falkner and Campbell McClean
June	9	Lesley Paton and James Watson
	29	Louise Parker and Chris Campbell
July		Johanna Holmes and Colin Bruce
August	3	Sara Gordon and Gavin Hay
	25	Cheryl Stobbart and Peter Taylor
September	1	Sarah Downton and John Nicol

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

### Baptisms

July	1	Marcie Wardrop Jones
August	26	Alfie Joshua Bennett

*Jesus said "Let the children come to me"*

### Joining by Transference Certificate

Mrs. Ann Davis  
Miss Elizabeth Lennox  
The Reverend William and Dr. Janette Clinkenbeard  
Mrs. Maureen Wilson

### Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs. Victoria Stewart  
Mr. Peter Bennett  
Mrs. Caroline Gerbrandy-Baird  
Mr. Alan and Mrs. Pauline Thomson  
Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Marjorie Creek

*We welcome and hope you enjoy your  
fellowship here*

**Please advise editor of any omissions from  
above – these will be  
included next time**

## BILL CHALMERS

At its September meeting the Kirk Session learned that Bill Chalmers would resign from the active Eldership. Bill's service to the Church has been outstanding. He was ordained an Elder in the Church of Scotland over 50 years ago in St John's, Inverkeithing, and has served on the Session at St Fillan's since 1961.

Bill served as Session Clerk for many years, and as a member of Presbytery, and has been a source of strength and stability throughout his long service to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.

At the meeting Bill reflected on the many changes that had taken place during his period of Eldership. These included attendances kept by elders, ordination of women elders, nomination of female moderators to the General Assembly and children receiving communion. It had been a time of huge change with readjustments of churches, dealing with human sexuality issues and recognition of ecumenical issues.

He concluded by asking referring to the quote "It was important that the Church remained a significant force. We are called upon to be a confident church."

As a Congregation, and as a community, we owe Bill a great debt. In saying farewell to him, we thank him for all he has done, and wish him and his supportive wife, Margaret, many happy years together in good health.

## THE CHERNOBYL CHILDREN

### Who are the Chernobyl children?

In 1986 there was an explosion at the nuclear plant at Chernobyl, then in the USSR. The reactor fallout blew towards the country now known as Belarus where families have been affected ever since. Children are born with abnormalities and cancer kills many before they grow up.

### What does the charity do?

The charity was started by Victor Mizzi MBE in 1992 and there are branches all over the UK. The Dunfermline and West Fife Link has been running for 8 years. Each year for a period of 4 weeks the children come here for a holiday. The better diet and clean air improve the children's health considerably.

### Where do the children stay?

The children, preferably in pairs, stay with local families. This year the children stayed in Comrie, Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Gowkhall, Kinross and Rosyth. Most of the host families have children or young adults who can help to entertain, but this is not essential.

### What do the children do when they stay here?

They go on outings every second day. This year these included Fordell Firs, Leith Waterworld, Dunfermline Fire Station, Deep Sea World, Stirling Castle, Blair Drummond Safari Park, Inchcolm, Dunfermline Glen, local swimming baths and a ceildh! Each year the Dunfermline Rotary Club organise a day of treats for the children.

### And what about their health problems?

Some of the children are on medication. When they are here they have free dental checks provided by local dentists in Kinross, Oakley, Inverkeithing, Dunfermline and also free eye tests (and spectacles if needed) at Specsavers, Dunfermline.

### Are there language problems?

The children all learn English at school. There is a Russian phrase book for the host families. The Belarussian adult leader who accompanies the children is always available if there is a problem, but usually communication problems are overcome with acting and sign language!

### Do they like our food?

Yes. Hosts are flexible with the food they offer to accommodate individual preferences. They provide wholesome food to help recuperation. In some cases the children initially eat very large portions until they

realise that each day they will regularly be offered as much food as they can comfortably eat.

### What do the children enjoy most?

Having fun! Most love swimming.

### What do they find strange?

One child was frightened by the shower but when his friend accompanied him into the shower they had great fun! Another child remarked on the rabbits at the side of the road and couldn't believe we did not use them for our dinners!

### What do they go home with?

Better health, lots of memories and new clothes. Many of the children have only the clothes they stand up in when they arrive. Clothes are donated for them and they get to choose new outfits. Some have never had pyjamas and usually sleep in their underwear.

### What about the host families?

The families all say that they gain more from having the children, than they give. All those involved can see the children glowing with health after the four week holiday. After an initial shyness the children are enthusiastic and most gracious about the generosity they are shown.

### What does it all cost?

£400 for each air fare plus money for hiring transport, outings etc. Each host family is given some money to buy the children some basic clothing and the charity buys winter shoes for the children to take home.

### What can we do?

Aberdour has contributed a considerable amount to Chernobyl Children Life Line over the years. This year so far a donation of £270 was raised by a St Fillan's Musical Supper and £160 has been sent from the ongoing collection of coppers. The local committee very much appreciate our regular contributions.

### Can we do more?

Yes! Keep saving our coppers (leave these at church on Sundays or call me to collect on 860151) and support local fund raising events.

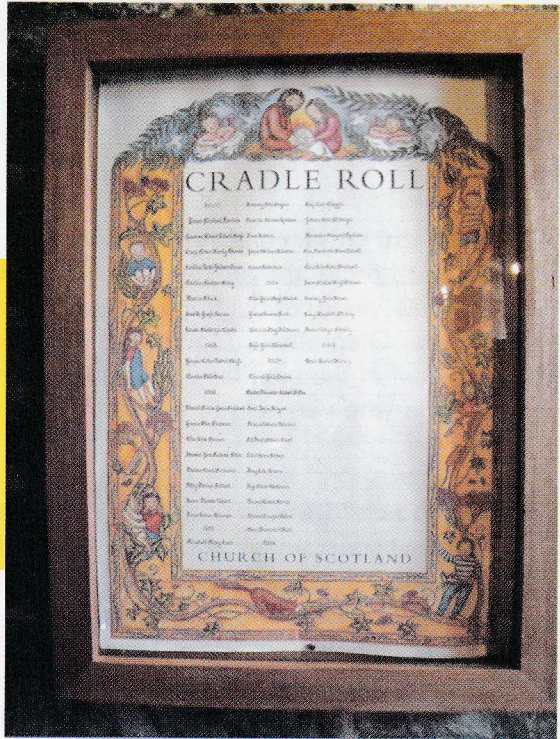
Be a host family. Without host families, there can be no holidays for the Chernobyl Children. If you would like to know more about being a host family, please contact Carol Dean at [carol@triple-f.co.uk](mailto:carol@triple-f.co.uk) or on 01383 418781.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PICTURES AT ST. FILLAN'S



On Friday 27 April Dollar Academy Pipe Band "Beat the Retreat" to mark the conclusion of the fund raising for the Mercy Ships with a grand total of £6,741.

On Sunday 29 April the new Cradle Roll and cabinet display case located in the "Lyon's Corner" of the church was blessed. The provision of the cabinet display was possible through a donation from former members David and Patricia Hannah.



On Sunday 27 May, four members of the Congregation were ordained into the Eldership of the Church of Scotland. We welcome Richard Lloyd, Kate Wheaton, Alex Waugh and Linda Brown to serve on the Kirk Session.

On Sunday 24 June, seven people became members of St. Fillan's Church through making their Public Confession of Faith during a Service of Confirmation. They were Sarah and Gavin Hay, Natalie and Campbell McClean, Lorna Mackay and Cheryl and Peter Taylor. We welcome them, and all others who have joined the St. Fillan's Church family over the past months.