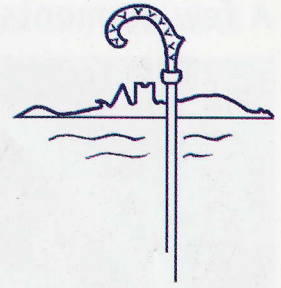

ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



St. Fillan's Church News

Spring 2007 Edition

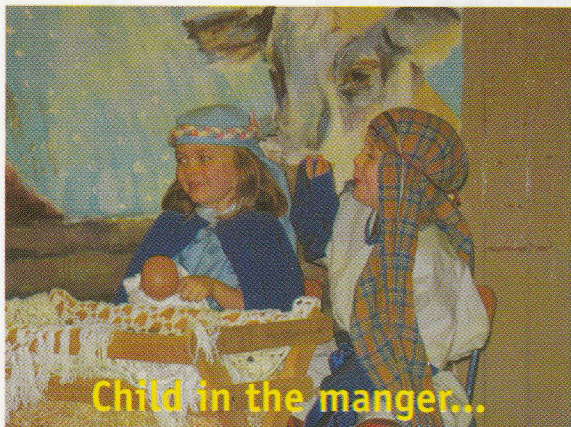
Mercy Ships appeal



The bed push from Dovecot Park to Dalgety Bay, one of a series of fund raising events held over the past 6 months for the Mercy Ships appeal. It was supported by many people of all ages from within Aberdour.

Competition crossword – see page 6 for further details

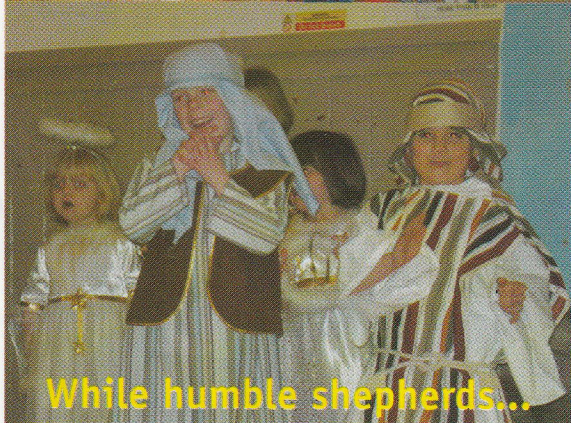
A few moments from the Christmas nativity play held in the Church Hall



Child in the manger...



Hark the Herald angels...



While humble shepherds...



O come all ye faithful...

...and the supporting act



...whilst others got Christmas off to an early start at the monthly lunch at the beginning of December



Letter from the Manse

JESUS SAID: "Let the children come to me, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven". Yet, young people get a bad press in our country. They get undignified nick-names like Hoodies or Neds; many are written off as problems rather than as possibilities.

In January I was invited to take part in a panel-discussion at Inverkeithing High School. The event was part of "Anne Frank Remembered", organised to coincide with Holocaust Memorial day.

The main speaker was Professor Heinz Wolff, a German-born Jew who escaped from Germany in 1933, and has done much research on war and technology. The panel included some politicians like Helen Eadie MSP and Willie Rennie MP, an academic, a NATO representative, and me.

The whole evening, including sponsorship, catering, publicity and the programme had been organised by pupils at the High School. They were in charge of the technology, and opened and ended the evening. We discussed war, weapons technology, defence and other matters in an open, honest manner. There was audience participation, and time for discussion afterwards.

The evening demonstrated that there are many young people who are willing to engage in important issues facing our world such as war and peace, social justice and world poverty. Theirs is the future, and our responsibility is to support them in developing their minds and values, so they will be able to play their part in the affairs of their communities, the Church, their country and the wider world.

This is an important year for Scotland. There will be elections to the Holyrood Parliament in May, and later that same

month the Church of Scotland's General Assembly will meet to discuss reports on human sexuality and on same-sex partnerships.

Throughout His earthly Ministry, Jesus treated all whom He met with openness, honesty and love, without making strident judgements on the ways they lived their lives. My prayer for the General Assembly is that, as a Church, we may not speak or act in judgemental or hurtful ways, but discuss these important reports in an inclusive, caring and Christ-like manner.

Holy Scripture encourages us to pray for those in authority. So as we approach the time of campaigning and of voting, let us pray for all who will put themselves forward for election this Spring, and for all who bear the heavy responsibility of government. May all who will be elected in May live up to the motto inscribed on the Mace, which The Queen presented to the Scottish Parliament at its first session: "Wisdom, Justice, Compassion, Integrity".

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 September, please contact the editor Colin Campbell or any of the editorial team of Linda Brown, Wallace Cowan, Shiona Doig, David Graham and Alec Waugh.

St. Fillan's Lunches



LUNCH IS SERVED between 12 noon and 1.30pm in the Church Hall on the first Thursday of every month. Come along to sit amongst friends for a chat and enjoy a choice of soups, a choice of filled rolls and tea or coffee all for £2.00. Everyone is welcome.

A very big "Thank you" to all who give of their time to help with food preparation, serving and washing dishes.

Sandra (and Ewart) 823454 and Catherine 860611

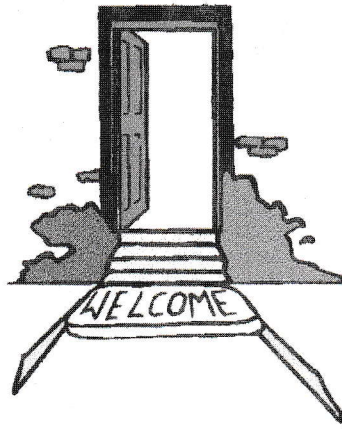
LOST PROPERTY!!!!!!

THERE ARE SOME ITEMS of property - ladies jackets, cardigans etc. and other items, which have been left, for some time now, in the Church Hall.

Sharon is loath to dispose of them without **ONE LAST APPEAL** to the owners to come forward to claim them.

Please contact Sharon on 01383 860966 to arrange a suitable time for a look/to uplift of your property.

Failing removal soon, we shall have no alternative but to dispose of these items to alleviate the appearance of clutter in the premises.



OPEN DOOR 2006/2007

AS ANOTHER SEASON of OPEN DOOR draws to a close, we gratefully recall the fun of those Thursday mornings, when villagers and visitors alike were able to meet together in the Church Hall for friendship and fellowship.

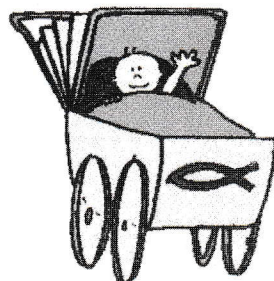
Remember hearing about the intricacies of water-colour painting; thoroughly enjoying a quiz about Aberdour village on the same morning that the planned speaker awoke with laryngitis!; having a musical morning and finding ourselves singing together; hearing fascinating details, new and old, about our worthy national poet Robbie Burns; revelling in journeying by steam train with amazement and enthusiasm... and closing by hearing about and seeing the wonderful work done by Mercy Ships, our chosen charity for this year.

It was our privilege and pleasure to welcome each of our visiting speakers - Martin Jackson, Rev Frank Tollick, Ronnie and Jannette Kerr, Gordon and Kenneth McCrae and Rev Tom Finlay.

You will be glad to hear that the planning group is well ahead with the programme for this coming autumn. Our first Open Door meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11th at 10:30 am - a date for your diaries!

Each of us in the planning group wishes you good health and enjoyable days during the spring and summer. We look forward to having your company again at Open Door in the autumn.

Kathleen Fergus with Maggie Christie, Sally Curtis, Alex Harper, Helen Jamieson, Richard Lloyd, Trish Niven and Alex Waugh.



Crèche facilities at Church Services

A CRÈCHE FACILITY is provided in the Primary School each Sunday during Service time, and parents attending worship are welcome to leave children under 5 there.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2007

April

Monday 2 at 7.30pm	Inverkeithing Parish Church (St. Peter's)
Tuesday 3 at 7.30pm	North Queensferry
Wednesday 4 at 7.30pm	Dalgty Church
Maundy Thursday at 7.30 pm	St. Fillan's Church
Good Friday at 12 noon	St. Fillan's Church
Holy Saturday Vigil at 12 noon	St. Fillan's Church

Easter Day

Dawn Service in the Churchyard at 6.00am

Family Service of Holy Communion at 10.00am

Aberdour Scottish Country Dance Club

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING in St. Fillan's Church Hall is nearing the end of its 31st year (4th April). However, there are still a few weeks left to try it out before the pumps are put away for the summer!

The new season will start again on the **12th September**. Come and give it a try. We have approximately 40 people on the roll with an average of 28 per night (only 1 person resident in Aberdour!!) All proceeds go to St. Fillan's Church. It's 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 -you will be made most welcome.

For further information call Sandra McSkimming (823454)

A short history of Easter

THE CENTRAL EVENTS of the Christian Faith span one week in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, which we now call Holy Week. On Palm Sunday Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, on Maundy Thursday He shared the Last Supper with His Disciples, on Good Friday Jesus died for the sins of the world, a gruesome death on the Cross.

On Easter Day we may celebrate the deliverance from sin and the promise of eternal life obtained by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

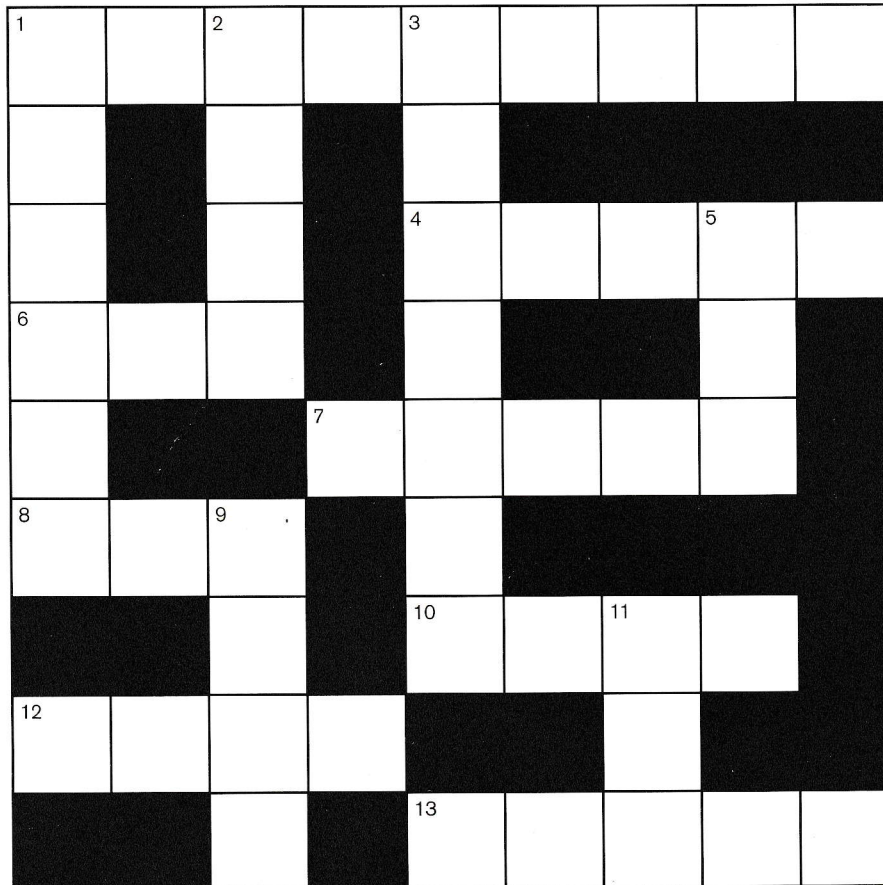
Yet Easter as we celebrate it today is not as old as it seems. The Early Church celebrated 'The Passover of the Lord', based on the ancient Hebrew Passover festival marking the end of slavery in Egypt. The emphasis was very much on remembering the death of Jesus on the Cross. This changed over the years, and by the fourth century AD the Christian Church's Passover celebrated both the death and the Resurrection of Jesus.

The Churches in Asia Minor and those in Europe developed different traditions in setting the date of Easter. To try and come to a common date for Easter throughout the Church the Council of Nicea (325 AD) fixed the date of Easter as "*the Sunday immediately following the so-called paschal moon, which happens on or first after the vernal equinox (March 21)*". This makes Easter a movable feast, as early as 21st March or as late as 25th April.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Compiled by Nigela Crob

The answers have a biblical or Christian connection
(although sometimes the connection might be a bit obscure!)



ACROSS

- 1. I use chart mysteriously in the Sacrament (9)
- 4. I am with time a reflection (5)
- 6. The Doubter has shrunk! (3)
- 7. This King is eager after five hundred (5)
- 8. Boaters do this when they argue (3)
- 10. Heaven is in the sealed envelope (4)
- 12. I hear you temporarily gave me something during this season (4)
- 13. She made a leap (5)

DOWN

- 1. Point towards US casualty department for Church celebration (6)
- 2. Peace can be found in tropical Malibu (4)
- 3. Endless animal and friend bring to life (7)
- 5. Hound goes up to deity (3)
- 9. Sounds like a moan about the drink (4)
- 11. My God, He cried – one can be found behind a Spaniard (3)

**There will be a prize for the first completed crossword pulled out of the Minister's hat.
To be in with a chance, send your answers to the Manse by Saturday 28th April.**

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 Coffee Morning

Church Hall

Saturday 19 May
10.00am to 12 noon

**Man at the
"Kist O' Whustles"****EASTER SERVICES:**

interested singers please remain after church for rehearsals 4-11-18-25th March for approx half an hour.

Easter of course is a renowned music occasion for religious church music. My favourite is the Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana, and make no apologies for playing at the Easter Service.

How are the mighty fallen, Pietro Mascagni son of a baker wrote the famous composition at the age of 26 which won him a first prize in a competition and made him his fortune.

However, having written several other operas, none equalled his success with Cavalleria.

As a convinced fascist trying to curry favour with Mussolini, he lost friendship with Toscanini and other musicians, and three months after the end of World War two, he died, dishonoured, in a Rome hotel.

Chernobyl Children Life Line

THANK YOU TO ALL those who responded to my piece in the autumn edition of the Crosier re Chernobyl Children Life Line. Between September and December I received £100 which I have now passed on. Any amount from a handful of coppers to a sack full is most welcome! Eileen Harper 860151)

PARISH PROFILE

The Minister, the Reverend Peter Gillbrandy-Baird

Q: Are you a morning person or a night person?
A Morning person. Evening meetings are a disaster for me.

Q: What was the happiest moment in your life?
Mrs G-B tells me it was my wedding-day!! The day of my Ordination runs a close second.

Q: What is your favourite book?
"Love in a Cold Climate", by Nancy Mitford. The 'Uncle Matthew' character reminds me of my Father. (He knows I make this comparison!).

Q: What is your favourite film?
"The American President" with Michael Douglas & Annette Benning. Very funny, with a serious message about the importance of honesty in politics.

Q: Which four guests (past or present) would you like to invite to dinner?
Dame Judi Dench, Pope John-Paul II, Graff Claus von Stauffenberg and Dorothy Sayers.

Q: Where did you spend your childhood?
Amsterdam & Edinburgh.

Q: What makes you angry?
Religious zealots making life difficult for others. The other thing I can't stand is the inability of politicians to give straight answers to straight questions.

Q: Where in the world would like to visit where you've never been before?
New Zealand, Canada and Liechtenstein.

Q: Any Phobias?
Heights and republicanism.

Q: Any hobbies?
Heraldry and reading detective stories. I have some brilliant books describing the science of heraldry, and lots of pictures of coats of arms. The whodunits with Sister Fidelma,

Judge Dee, Lord Peter Wimsey, Brother Cadfael and Falco are all brilliant.

Q: Can you cook?
"Is the Moderator Presbyterian?" It's a great way to relax. Poached salmon and fillet of pork à la Dorothy are my favourites.

Q: If I were Prime Minister for a day I would ...
... introduce legislation to dis-establish the Church of England and the Church of Scotland.

Q: What is your most annoying habit?
Being right all the time... No, it's probably forgetting to do a whole host of things, and then blaming my diary, my Wife, the cat, but never me!

Q: What is your favourite holiday destination?
Paris.

Q: Which word do you over-use?
"Hello, St Fillan's Manse..." as I pick up the phone.

Q: What would you do if you won the lottery?
Buy another ticket!

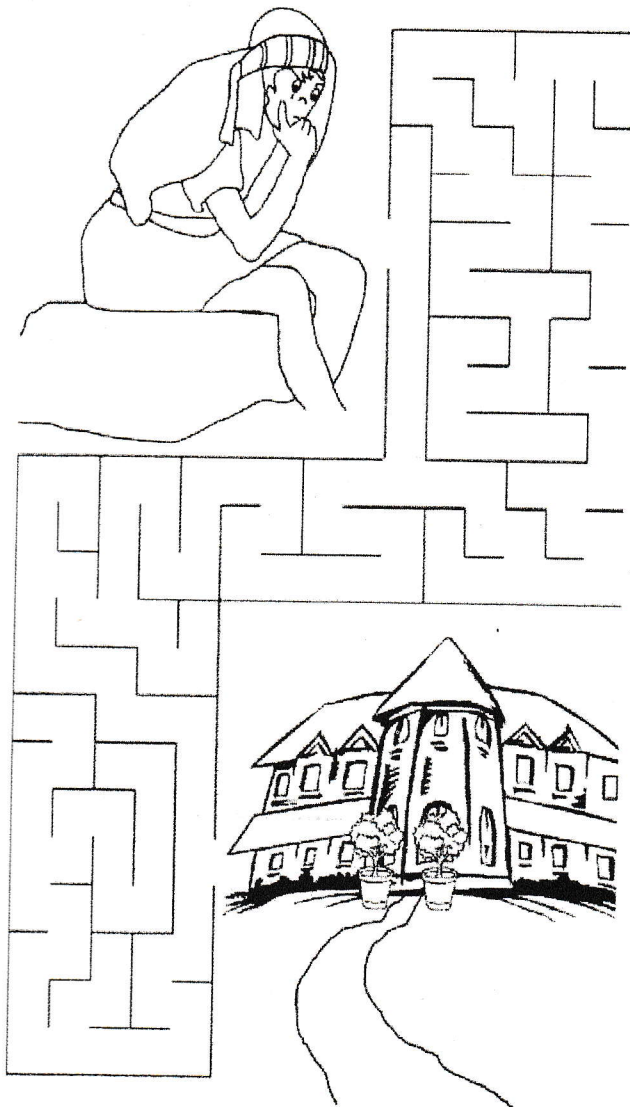
Q: Any great ambitions?
Reorganising the cumbersome way the Church of Scotland administers its affairs. The system developed in the 17th and 18th centuries, and does not meet the needs of the Church anymore.

Q: Confession is good for the soul. One to end with?
I don't always take rules and regulations very seriously, and I know that can annoy other people.

But ... Rules, regulations, time-tables, these do not really matter. What matters is treating others with love and respect. Living God's gift of life with Faith, joy and generosity is much more important.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Help the prodigal son find the way home.



BED TIME STORY

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story.

From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused, "grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma? You must have been a very very bad girl. Grandma's hairs are ALL white?"

BOOM BOOM.....!

Q: How do we know that Jesus raised vegetables?

A: Because he said. "Peas be upon you." (Peace be upon you).

Q: How do we know that Jesus used fertilizer?

A: Because he said, "Lettuce spray." (Let us pray).

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2006

October	4	Mrs. Helen Alexander
	7	Mrs. Elizabeth Coltart
November	2	Mrs. Christine Mackay
	30	Mr. William Nelson
December	20	Mr. Adam Shaw

2007

January	8	Mr. Angus Mackay
	13	Mr. Roland Hardie
	14	Mrs. Anna Coombes
February	10	Mr. Alexander Davis

*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

2006

October	7	Sam Gough and Nina Bastow
November	24	Alan Burt and Alison Leggitt
December	22	Ross Mitchell and Esther Westwood

2007

January	26	Graeme Lillywhite and Lorna Harley
February	17	Clive Loble and Hilary Munro

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

Baptisms

2006

June	11	Chloe Isla Kate Pritchard Kieran Michael Boyd Pritchard
October	29	Barnaby John Brown
November	29	Lucy Elizabeth McKay
December	3	Amber Wyse Hendry

2007

January	28	Esmé Louisa Stevenz
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Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Joining by Transference Certificate

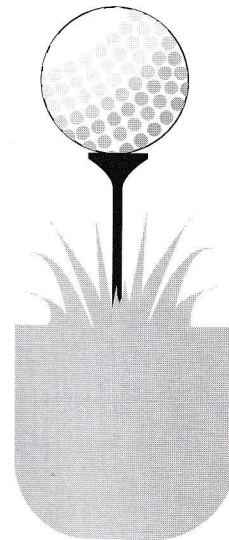
Miss Sarah Downton

Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

The Reverend Andrew and Mrs. Jean Morton

We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here

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



SPONSORED GOLF 2007

THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION will take place from 4 - 8 June over Aberdour golf course.

The main aim of the event is to raise money for Christian Aid and the Macmillan Fife Appeal either by sponsorship or

donations. The fun side, apart from the golf is the competition between St. Fillan's Church and Dalgety Parish Church for the David Rutherford Cup currently held by Aberdour.

You do not need to be a member of St. Fillan's or Aberdour Golf Club, just willing to help raise money for two very worthy causes and have a game of golf for Stableford Points.

For further information contact Jim Wyse on 860732.

St. Fillan's Reunited

Colin Campbell

WE WERE ON HOLIDAY recently with friends in Golspie. On the Saturday evening we joined them at one of the monthly Scottish country dances at Rogart. We assumed that the only people we would know would be our friends.

Not so. We were surprised to meet David and Patricia Hannah who are now "locals" from nearby Ardgay. David and Hannah are obviously still enjoying their country dancing and send all best wishes to their former friends in Aberdour.

PLEASE LET THE EDITOR, COLIN CAMPBELL, KNOW OF ANY FORMER MEMBERS WHO YOU HAVE MET UNEXPECTEDLY WHILE AWAY FROM ABERDOUR.

Geoffrey Keyes of the Rommel Raid

IN THE LAST EDITION we for further information regarding Geoffrey Keyes whose life is recalled on the plaque on the Church Hall. Peter Drumm came up with some extra information from page 3 of the record of Baptisms for St. Columba Episcopal Church in Aberdour:

26 July 1917:	Geoffrey Charles Taskar Keyes
Parents:	Roger John Brownlow and Eva Mary Salva Keyes
Abode:	Whitehills
Quality, Trade or Profession:	Rear Admiral
By whom ceremony performed:	G. T. Thow, Chaplin

At the time, the then Rear Admiral Keyes was 2nd in command of the 4th Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet.

In page 106 of volume 25 of the memoirs Admiral Keyes writes:

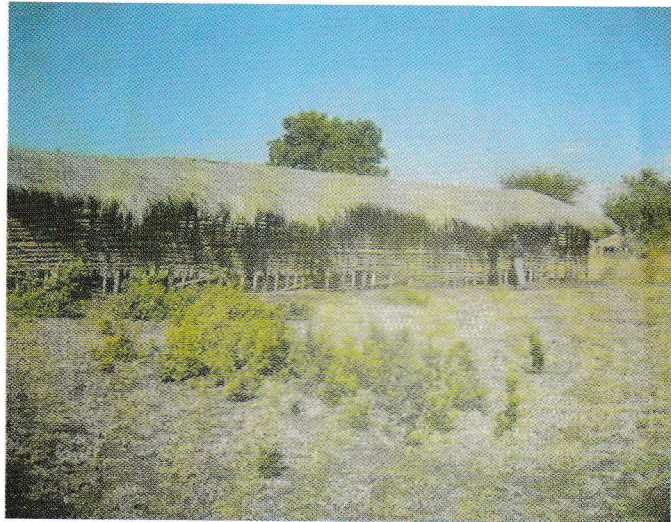
"He was christened in the little church of Aberdour. Sir David Beatty, then living in Aberdour House, and General Sir Hubert Gough were his godfathers. The two former and a good many Admirals and Captains and officers of HMS Centurion and Colussus were present, so he was well launched by the navy."

Quite an occasion for St. Columba's Episcopal Church.

ST FILLAN'S LINK WITH MALAWI

ST FILLAN'S HAS STARTED the process of forming a link with the parish of Alumenda in Southern Malawi, 60 km South-West of Blantyre. The village is a training centre for workers and for providing casual employment

The congregation comprises 155 people, trainees and peasant workers. The present church is a grass-thatched building that acts as a classroom for the local primary school. The congregation very much hopes to be able to build a more permanent building, which might cost around £6000.



With encouragement and advice from the World Mission department of the Church of Scotland and with guidance from the Presbytery in Blantyre, we have posted to Alumenda our 'Congregational Profile' together with other details and pictures of Aberdour. These have been acknowledged and in late December we received the following e-mail:

"On behalf of Alumenda Congregation, I write to register the receipt of Partnership forms and other materials included. I promise to send back the forms and other information in two or three weeks time after filling in them. We appreciate for choosing us a partner in Christ. God bless

Sinoya M.M.Manyamba (Rev)"

In addition to providing support in monetary or other means for the congregation in Alumenda, we hope to develop links between our children, to exchange information and to learn about each other's hopes and challenges.

We hope to have more details in the next issue.

MERCY SHIPS APPEAL

An update from Harry Cunningham



EARLY IN JANUARY, a donation of £100 from the Church Soup Day Committee, enabled us to reach the target of £6,000. The response, not just by the members of St Fillan's Church but by the community of Aberdour and further afield, has been magnificent. £6,000 raised for Mercy Ships in only six months is something we can all be proud of. Well done Aberdour.

One or two events, such as the Open Door talk by the Rev Tom Findlay are still ongoing, but no

new major events are planned. If you are still feeling generous, a collection box is on the counter of the village bakers. To round off our appeal please give us your loose change (the box also accepts paper money!).

It is planned to hand over our cheque to a representative of Mercy Ships at a "Beating of the Retreat" ceremony at the Dollar Academy Pipe Band in Aberdour Castle grounds commencing at 7pm on Friday 27th April 2007. Historic Scotland are very kindly letting us have the use of the grounds, free of charge. Dr George Brown will take the salute. Not only is he an ex-Dollar Academy pupil but he was also the Pipe Major of the band. In the event of heavy rain the performance will be cancelled. The pupils can stand the rain but the drums can't - they disintegrate!

Finally, a very special thank you to all who have organised events, and of course, to all of you who have given so generously. The money raised has been earmarked to pay for cataract operations. As a result of your giving, many young people, all very less well off than ourselves, will have their sight restored.

Thank you.



INCHCOLM 2007

The annual pilgrimage to Inchcolm will this year be on Sunday 26 August leaving from the harbour at 12.15pm.