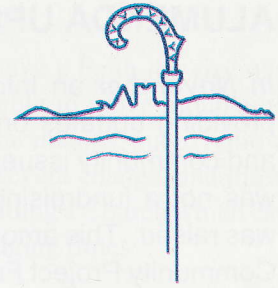
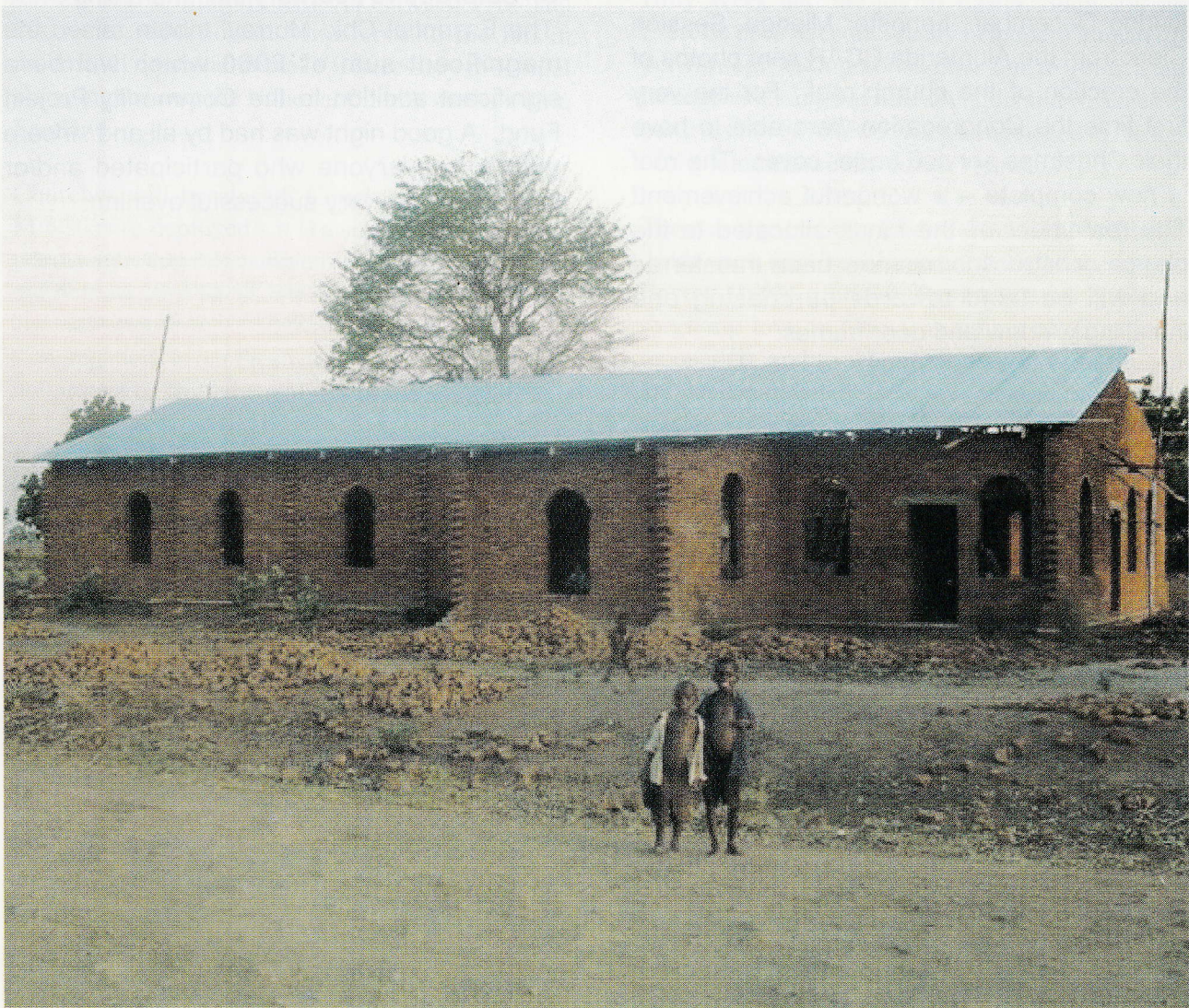

ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



St. Fillan's Church News

Spring 2010 Edition



A NEW ROOF FOR ALUMENDA

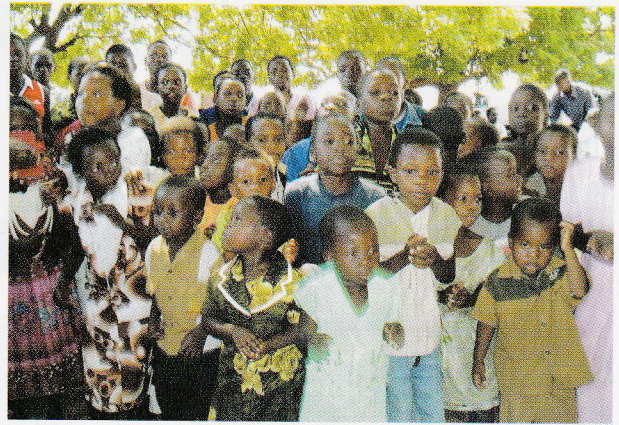
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ALUMENDA UPDATE

In November an Information Coffee Morning providing updates on the church construction and community issues was held. Although this was not a fundraising event the sum of £178 was raised. This amount was deposited into the Community Project Fund. The aim of this Fund is to finance a fruit and vegetable garden within the church grounds, a kindergarten and sports goods for the children. Thanks to all who attended.

During December Lengster Mlenga, Session Clerk from the Alumenda CCAP, sent photos of the erection of the church roof. For the very first time the Congregation were able to have their Christmas service under cover. The roof is now complete – a wonderful achievement! The remainder of the funds allocated to the church construction has now been transferred and will be used towards purchasing and installing window and door frames.



On Saturday 13 February the fundraising event 'The Essential Chic Murray' tribute raised the magnificent sum of £960 which will be a significant addition to the Community Project Fund. A good night was had by all and sincere thanks to everyone who participated and/or donated to this very successful evening.

Anyone wishing to contribute to future editions of the Crosier please contact Shiona Doig on 01383 860791 or send an email to allan@hame.org.uk



New church members who joined on 29 November 09 are - (left to right) Louise Campbell, Leona Weatherup, Pamela Collison and Andrew Griffiths.



Working hard at the Sale of Work in November which raised over £3000.

Letter from the Manse.

The economic downturn is having its effect on the Churches. The Church of Scotland's finances are so dire that a programme of redundancies is in progress, and in May the General Assembly will be discussing a report seeking approval to instruct Presbyteries to reduce the number of Ministers across the country.

The truth of the matter is that the Church of Scotland can no longer do what it used to do. The loss of over a million members between 1968 and 2008, the reduction in Ministers and the fall in income all combine to make it necessary to look at changing the way the National Church works within Scotland.

Churches will be closed; Congregations split up; Ministers re-deployed – it is a sign of the times, and not a very cheerful prospect. Aberdour is lucky in many ways, in that St Fillan's is a thriving, lively and self-supporting Congregation, unlike 18 other Congregations in our Presbytery. But these things will not protect us from the realities of the situation.

As a Congregation, we will have to adapt and adjust to new realities. The Kirk Session and the Congregational Board are hoping to move from the present Constitution to the Unitary Constitution, which will allow more flexibility in involving non-Elders in the governing and management of the Congregation.

This is an exciting opportunity for more folk to be engaged with the wider work of our Church, enabling talents to be used where they are needed most.

This is not a time to be down-hearted; it is a time to review our commitment to Christ and to His Church, and to take on new responsibilities to ensure that the Congregation can fulfil its mission to serve Christ in this Parish. It is a time also of joining the Church! A small Congregation is much more vulnerable than larger ones, so, if you have been thinking of getting involved with the Church, *this* is the time to do so. Speak to me, or to friends who are Church Members – you will find a warm welcome at St Fillan's!

If, by now, you are down-cast: Don't be! The Christian Church has faced many challenges over the past 20 centuries, but the light of the Gospel has always led to new beginnings and new ways of being the Church.

Our Lord says that if we have a Faith the size of a mustard-seed, we will be able to move mountains. We are not called to move mountains, but to remove the barriers we put up to prevent change, and move forward into the future, building a Church which can respond to new and challenging times.

-o0o-

Lent is a period of reflection and self-examination to prepare our minds and our souls for the suffering of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. Such spiritual exercise does not come easily in modern human life; yet through taking some time out to reflect, and through assessing our own strengths and weaknesses, our lives can be renewed and strengthened in the light of the honest conclusions we come to.

The message of Good Friday, dominated by Christ's death upon the Cross, together with the message of Easter Day's glorious Resurrection, is one of forgiving love in Christ, in whom all Creation is reconciled, and to whom all may turn, in the sure knowledge of healing and acceptance.

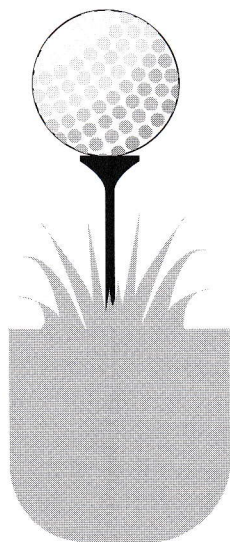
In their book *Praying the Good News* Desmond O'Donnell and Maureen Mohan wrote this prayer:

*God, heal the dullness of our hearts,
that we may listen and hear;
look and indeed perceive.
Use your power to restore our world.
Let all people know your healing touch.
May the least and the greatest experience your
healing.
Bless us always with someone to care.
Send us anew to proclaim your kingdom
with authority and power to heal.
Even when the moment of death draws near,
your healing touch can save.
Open our eyes and soften our hearts,
that understanding and healing will be ours.
Take away, God, our hardness of hearing,
our blindness that cannot see.
Gift us with listening, understanding hearts.
Let us to you and be healed.*

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird

Parish Minister

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK SPONSORED GOLF – 2010



The Christian Aid annual golf week raises money for two worthy causes through sponsor form or by donation. Over the years Christian Aid and Macmillan Fife Appeal have benefited from this fun event between St Fillan's Church and Dalgety Parish Church. The ultimate prize is the David Rutherford Cup but there are several other prizes including a daily best score prize. St Fillan's is the current holder of the

Rutherford Cup. This year's competition will be held from 31 May to 04 June with the prizegiving later on the Friday evening 04 June in the Clubhouse.

To take part you do not need to be a member of St Fillan's or Aberdour Golf Club. The Golf Club has made the course available and will take tee bookings before and during this period for the event. Enjoy a game of golf with your friends and relations and also raise money for two very deserving causes. Please participate.

Contact Jim Wyse on 860732 if you should require further information.

CHRISTIAN AID

All of us have been horrified by the earthquake in Haiti and the dreadful aftermath. Christian Aid had an office in Haiti which was destroyed but fortunately all the workers escaped. Immediately after the disaster Christian Aid released £100,000 and organised that Christian Aid workers in nearby regions went to assist. They also started bringing supplies in from nearby countries.

Thankfully, and as is usual, the people of our nation responded superbly to the appeals for money and more than £70 million has so far been

donated. Of course, all the folk who run the organisations who make up the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) are relieved and delighted when the money pours in. However, even without disasters such as Haiti thousands die every day in the third world for lack of resources. They need our regular assistance.

For a good number of years now – more than 30 in my memory – Aberdour has contributed to Christian Aid by holding an annual coffee morning in Christian Aid Week in May and through the sponsored golf match between Aberdour and Dalgety Bay. Over the last few years our annual contribution has been around £2000 per annum. Christian Aid responds to disasters, but it also works on many projects throughout the third world. Its aim has always been to help people to help themselves.

Just before the Haiti disaster in early January Christian Aid contacted their regular supporters to say that the management were having to consider cutting back on some of their projects due to lack of resources. The recession has hit them too. We are all considering where we can cut back, and for some, charity is one of the first items to be cut from the budget. Yet, when there is a real need people do reach deep into their pockets – witness Haiti.

The Aberdour Christian Aid Coffee Morning is on Sat 15th May. There are stalls you might like to contribute to – bric-a-brac, (we all have some!), homebaking (to eat and to buy), plants (if you are green-fingered), the raffle, bottle stall (of all varieties). Then having contributed to one or two stalls, come along and enjoy the coffee morning and maybe even win a prize in the raffle!

If you are in Edinburgh you might like to visit the fantastic book sale which is held annually by St Andrew's and St George's Church in George Street during Christian Aid Week. This year the sale commences on Saturday 8th May and finishes on Friday 14th May.

E Harper.

OPEN DOOR 2009/2010

Remit of Open Door: The aim is that the Church conveys to the community, during the week, in the heart of the village, that we welcome each person and are there for each one.

Each meeting is to help nurture congregational fellowship for all in St Fillan's and in St Columba's Churches, and to be there with a friendly welcome to anyone in the community, that they too will be drawn in by the warmth of Christian fellowship.

As the season of Open Door draws to a close, I thought it would be good to bring to mind the original remit. We can add 'layers' to an initiative and although everyone brings something a little different, we can sometimes stray away from the core objectives.

We certainly began with plenty of fellowship as John Taylor took us through Aberdour Part 2. The planning meeting for 2010/2011 is coming up in March, and we shall ask John if he is willing to do a part 3!

In November Shirley Sim gave a heartfelt talk on counselling. This touched many people. Lots of questions were asked and lots of positive comments were made.

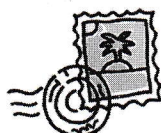
We are privileged to have such an accomplished speaker as Chris Short in our community, in December we heard all about Dr Wilfred Grenfell and his work in Newfoundland. – Chris can always be relied upon to give interesting, amusing and accurate talks on varying subjects.

Despite the snow and ice in January, forty people ventured out to go on a grand tour of Barra with Arthur Lloyd as our guide. We were shown the highlights of this Hebridean Island, with its beautiful empty beaches and rugged landscape, to the accompaniment of haunting music and sound effects of the sea and wildlife.

As I write this we have two more events to look forward to: Mike Small on 11th February to speak about the Fife Diet and Richard Lloyd on 11th March to relate his experiences in Turkmenistan. Both promise to be unusual and intriguing, so we hope to welcome many of you to these occasions.

Finally, as Open Door is for all the community, please let us know if you have an idea for a speaker or for suggestions on a particular topic that would be of interest.

Sue Lloyd with Lynn Bastow, Alex Harper, Helen Jamieson, Richard Lloyd, Margaret Paterson, Jay Whimster and Alex Waugh.



A wee reminder.

I collect postage stamps for the Church of Scotland's Mission and Aid fund. Stamps can be left at my home - 4 Manse Street, Aberdour or in the Church in a box under the table near the front entrance and with Gordon in the Post Office who very kindly takes them for us too. there is no need to sort the stamps out.

Thank you, Susan Morton.

Churches in Las Vegas accept gambling chips

THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE, BUT THERE ARE MORE CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN VEGAS THAN CASINOS.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, SOME WORSHIPPERS AT SUNDAY SERVICES WILL GIVE CASINO CHIPS RATHER THAN CASH WHEN THE BASKET IS PASSED.

SINCE THEY GET CHIPS FROM MANY DIFFERENT CASINOS, THE CHURCHES HAVE COMBINED TO DEVISE A WAY TO COLLECT THE OFFERINGS.

THE DIFFERENT CHURCHES SEND ALL THEIR COLLECTED CHIPS TO A NEARBY FRANCISCAN MONASTERY FOR SORTING AND THEN THE CHIPS ARE TAKEN TO THE CASINOS OF ORIGIN AND CASHED IN. THIS IS DONE BY THE CHIP MONKS!



Every old building carries a voice from the past.

In castles there are hidden dungeons, where a casual visitor might hear the cries of past victims.

In churches there are uncertain graves of notorious parishioners, or cryptic messages in the ornate carving on a pillar top or chancel arch.

And then there are the present mysteries, ancient messages struggling to release their story for today.

Of the latter, none has had such a following as the Da Vinci Code, set in famous buildings like the Louvre and the unique Roslyn Chapel, just south of Edinburgh; and yet there is every suspicion that a greater mystery lies in the humble setting of St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour.

Consider; every now and then there appears of the hymn board a single letter in red.

It was there last week, when we recalled St. Valentine; it was not there the week before, nor the week after.

There is an immediate and obvious connection through the colour of the number and the saint of the pierced heart.

But why a five? Perhaps it is one of those numerical allusions so beloved by some biblical interpreters. Half the number of the Commandments?... but which half, first or second? An eighth of the well-documented forty years of the desert, the wilderness, the temptations and the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus? ..this seems likely, considering the content of the sermon on the 21st. February 2010

And why the last number of the last hymn? This certainly suggests a possible apocalyptic approach; perhaps the end of the world in five minutes. or days... or years?

The good folk of St. Fillan's will be rightly concerned at the possible implications of the 'red five' and even more so when it can be revealed soon that no less an authority than MI5 have interested themselves in the matter! There's more later...!

Frank Tollick

ARE YOU GIVING EFFICIENTLY ?

During the year 2009 the sums donated to St Fillan's in the Open Collection totalled £7165. This generosity is of course essential to our continuing as a congregation but it has to be noted that if all these contributions had been by Gift Aid, St Fillans would have benefited by a further £2020. Two points arise from this:

- If you possibly can, arrange to make regular giving, either by standing order or by Weekly Freewill Envelope.
- If you are a taxpayer do arrange to make your giving by Gift Aid. The procedure is simple, it will cost you no more and the benefit to St Fillan's is SIGNIFICANT.

For further advice do talk to the Treasurer (Simon Fraser) or any Church Office Bearer.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

SATURDAY JULY 17th
TO
SUNDAY JULY 25th
ANOTHER ACTION PACKED
FAMILY FUN WEEK.

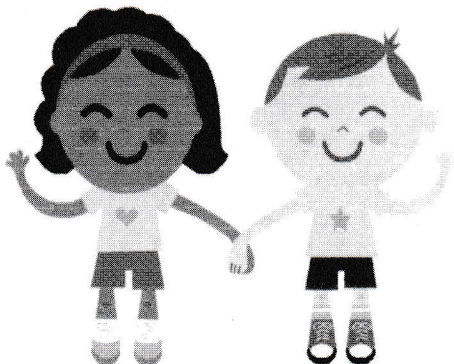
Primary school aged fun every morning.

Toddler time

Youth events

BBQ

And the family favourite quiz night



Faillte !

St. Fillan's Lunches

First Thursday of
each month in Church Hall

From 12 noon
until 1.30p.m.

Flavoured Soups
Filled Rolls
Followed by
tea/coffee/juice and biscuits

Friendly

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2009

Sept. 28 – Mrs. Una Riddell; Oct. Dr. Lorraine Inglis; Nov. 16 – David Webster; 19 – Ben Durkin; 26 – Mrs. Isobel Low; Dec. 6 – Mrs. Patricia Yaun

2010

Jan. 9 – William McRae; 15 – Mrs. Helen Smart; 16 – Mrs. Katherine Sinclair; 18 – Mrs. Mary Thomson; Feb. 7 – Mrs. Audrey Spence and Mrs. Elsie Shedlock; 13 – Neil Muir and Douglas Taylor; 15 – Hugh Rodger

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

2009

Oct 29 *Marion Young and Andrew Bayne*

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Baptisms

2009

Nov. 22 – *Erin Elizabeth McGregor and Matthew Robert Armitage Burns*

Dec. 27 – *Thomas David Hutton Donaldson and Trudy Margaret Reiter*

2010

Jan. 17 – *Hazel Margaret Paterson*

31 – *Cameron William Paterson and Eilidh Fiona Paterson*

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Joining by Profession of Faith

Ms Pamela Collison; Andrew Griffiths; Mrs. Louise Campbell and Mrs. Leona Weatherup

Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

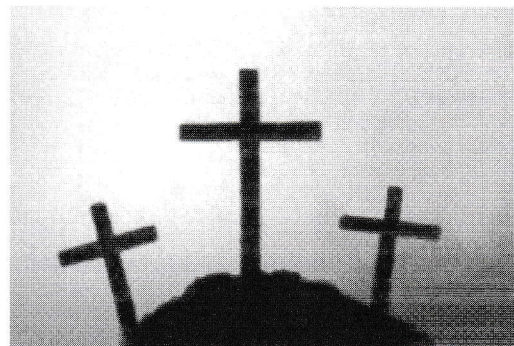
Miss Jean Liddle; Mrs. Linda Forret

We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here

(NOTE: Please advise editor of any omissions from above – these will be included next time)

Holy Week services:

Monday 29 March	St Fillan's, 7pm
Tuesday 30 March	Inverkeithing St John's, 7pm
Wednesday 31 March	Dalgety Church, 7pm
Maundy Thursday	St Fillan's, 7pm Institution of the Eucharist
Good Friday	St Fillan's, 7pm The Passion of Our Lord
Holy Saturday	St Fillan's, 12 noon Vigil
Easter Day	Communion Service, 6am in the Church Yard + Egg Rolling (down the hill!) Family Easter Eucharist 10.30, including Egg Hunt



This article was intended for our autumn edition of the Crosier, but got to me just a little too late so I have included it now.

Back-to-Church Sunday

Or BtCS as the ecclesiastical anoraks would call it; but more of that another time.

This effort is probably being read by those who do go regularly to church, and it is your attention I need. If those who come only on occasion are invited to think again, how much more should those who are there every Sunday have another thought as to the worship of the Church?

And so the regulars at St. Fillans' were invited to mark their regular attendance by choosing a seat other than the one in which they usually sit. Would it offer a new perspective to worship?

It certainly worked for me. From a central position eight rows back I chose to sit in the Lyon's corner, and in the front row!

Not least amongst the advantages of the new position was the sight of the Minister's left profile, which many consider to be far superior

to the full-face to which we had become accustomed; and as a bonus the fact that we were directly removed from his gaze as he looked for volunteers.

But there were two views of the inside of the building that had escaped notice previously. One was of the many spaces in the formation of the arch to the Chancel, of which more some other time; the other was the stained glass window to the left of the pulpit from where I sat, hidden from my previous seat.

We could do more with the windows in the church. How about a group of us organizing the photography of all the glass, preparing notes on the content, making them available in some form or another to display in our homes and provide information to those who visit and to the Custodian of the Castle who has been interested enough to direct the attention of his visitors to the building?

That may give others a new point of view when they look at the building that has endured in our midst for so long.

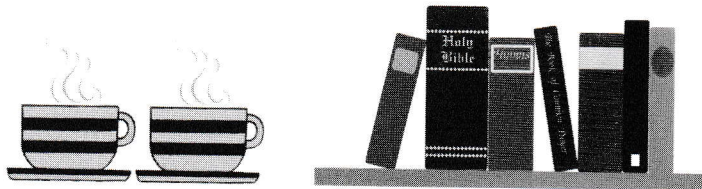
Frank Tollick

ST. FILLAN'S CHURCH

(Scottish Charity No.SC005851)

COFFEE MORNING **& BOOK SALE**

On
SATURDAY, 20th March



in the CHURCH HALL.
(High street, Aberdour)
10.00am – 12 noon

Fair Trade, Books, Baking stalls etc.

(Entry donation £1)

*(Donations of books, bottles, raffle items and baking
will be much appreciated and gratefully received)*

If you would like to help on the day please

Contact: Catherine Duncan (860611)

The concluding 2nd part to David Grahams' interesting study of the Hewitt family.

Here is an account from the history of the Royal Scots for the 13th & 14th, when William died.

“On October 13th the 8th Brigade started, at 6.30, the Middlesex being on the right, the Royal Scots in the centre, and the 1st Gordon Highlanders on the left. Their advance over flat country was made difficult by innumerable dykes, which could only be crossed by means of planks or ladders taken from neighbouring houses. Still by mid-day the Middlesex had captured the village of Croix Barbée, and the Royal Scots Pont de Hem. Then their advance was checked by a strong body of the enemy well entrenched, and a fierce fight ensued. In the course of a determined counter-attack by the Germans, Captain Passy's company, on the left of the Middlesex line, suffered very severely and was reduced almost to the strength of a platoon. Never-the-less, they maintained their ground with the utmost determination and repulsed the enemy with heavy loss.”

“On October 14 the 8th Brigade entrenched itself in the position taken on the previous day, whilst the 9th Brigade, which had made less progress, pushed forward on the left. That day Sir Hubert Hamilton, the gallant general of the Division, was killed by a shell whilst visiting the trenches of the 8th Brigade.”

I have been unable to find exactly how James died but here is an account of actions by the regiment on the day in question.

“The 26 October 1914 was not a good day for the 2nd battalion of the Cameronians' rifle regiment. Two months' bivouacking backwards and forwards in a state of chronic under-equipment around the Ypres hinterland had already caused them to sustain heavy losses, and it can never be easy to have a good day while wearing tartan trousers. They were bedding in around a little hamlet called Le Cateau, and in so doing they were sowing the nightmarish seeds of four years' entrenchment. One officer and thirteen men

were picked off by snipers.” This was also the day James died.

Incidentally, on 22nd October Private Henry May of the Cameronians was also at La Boutillerie, there he was awarded the VC for dragging the wounded Lt D Graham to safety while under fire, two other men died in this rescue.

James's name is on the Ploegsteert Memorial, it commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen who died in this sector during WWI and have no known grave. Those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

William was initially buried at a point just north of Croix Barbée. As this was just a small grave in March 1915 his body was exhumed and reburied at the Vielle-Chapelle New Military Cemetery, Lacoutures.

In 1914 St Fillan's church was a ruin and people worshipped at St Colme's, now the church hall. It was probably in 1926 when St Fillan's was restored when the plaque for the two brothers was erected. In 1940 Dr Johnstone retired and in 1940 Rev Stalker was appointed as minister of the triple charge of Aberdour Parish Church (St Fillan's), Dalgety Bay Parish Church (Cornerstone) and St Colme's Church. In 1948 he was appointed Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Edinburgh University. Later he was responsible for the planning and arranging of the memorials to the Hon. & Mrs Hewitt.

James and William are among 27 other people in Aberdour honoured on the village memorial and whose mothers received telegrams. They are special, that because of their privileged background it has been easy to trace part of their tragic story and every Sunday we can remember them. It would be interesting to discover the stories behind the other names.

A Very Unusual Congregation!

Some years ago a local historian, Andrew Barton, from Dursley, Gloucestershire came upon the neglected grave of a Captain Graham, and was intrigued enough to find out more about the life of this man. He fairly quickly discovered that he had strong associations with the Irish Wolfhound breed of dog, and contacting the breed organisations in the UK was able to find out a wealth of information about this aspect of his life.

Many years ago the 'Irish Wolfhound' was in danger of dying out, the numbers were so few. Captain George Augustus Graham made it his life's work to restore the breed by finding what few animals remained, and breeding them carefully, to ensure that the breed lived on. There are no Irish Wolfhounds alive today who cannot trace their ancestry back to one of Captain Graham's dogs. As you might imagine, as a result of his dedication, he is still very well known and respected throughout the modern Irish wolfhound world.

As a result of Andrew contacting the various Irish wolfhound organisations, one man in particular, Dr Nicholas Wilkes, felt it was a great pity that the final resting place of the man so important to the breed was in such disrepair. He felt he must take action. He decided to try and raise enough funds from within the wolfhound community to restore the grave, and his aim was for this to happen in time to re-dedicate the grave on the anniversary of Captain Graham's death.

The culmination of these efforts was a service held in the little church of St Marks, Dursley, where Captain Graham was buried.

The event took place on 23 October 2009, the centenary of his death. A great number of wolfhound owners, some with their dogs, attended. It was fantastic sight to see so many of these great irish wolfhounds in church, a remarkable tribute to the dedication of one man.

A great deal of effort had been made to replicate the original service as far as possible, with the same hymns and even the timing of service.

Captain Graham's great grandson gave an address, which gave some insight to life of his great grandfather. Following the service there was a short re-dedication of the restored grave, by Janet Bromley, Rector of St Marks, before processing, with the clergy - and a police escort - along the main street to another church, St James. Here were two beautiful stained glass windows, one each dedicated to the memory of Captain Graham and his wife, and memorials to other members of the Graham family.

As you might imagine, all these very large dogs together with the congregation caused quite a little stir in the village! Many of the local residents had never seen such dogs before, and showed quite an interest in the purpose of the day.

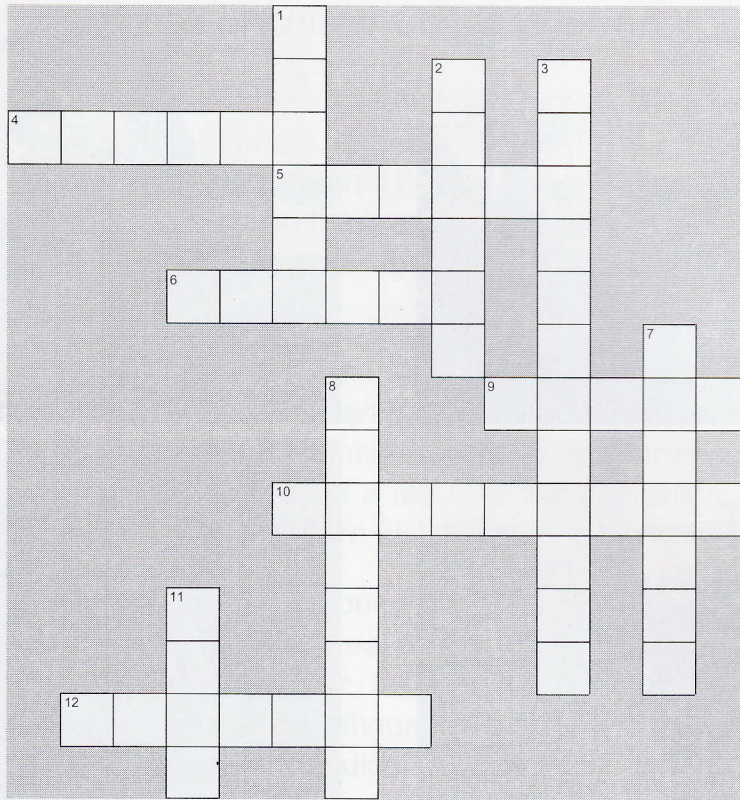
The site of Captain Graham's original Rednock estate has just seen the completion of a new school, which also carries the Rednock name, catering for all ages from P1 through to six form. In the afternoon several of us also attended the school, where Andrew explained to the children the history behind the school name. Nick Wilkes brought one of his own irish wolfhounds to let the children see at close hand what they looked like, and to explain his own involvement with the breed. The days events culminated in the unveiling of a plaque to the memory of Captain Graham, a very fitting memorial to a very dedicated man.



THE IRISH WOLFHOUNDS AT DURSLEY.



More happy Helpers at the sale of work.



Crossword based on Luke Chapter 23

Across

- 4** Who did the assembly take Jesus to?
- 5** What did the women from Galilee go home to prepare?
- 6** Simon from where carried the cross?
- 9** Whose jurisdiction was Jesus under, who was also in Jerusalem at that time?
- 10** Where did Joseph who asked for the body of Jesus come from?
- 12** What type of wine did the mocking soldiers offer Jesus?

Down

- 1** Who did they say Jesus opposed paying taxes to?
- 2** Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and what Jesus?
- 3** Barabbas did in our cistern in Jerusalem!
- 7** What will the daughters of Jerusalem ask the hills to do? (5,2)
- 8** Who did they ask Pilate to release?
- 11** How many hours was Jesus on the cross before he died?

