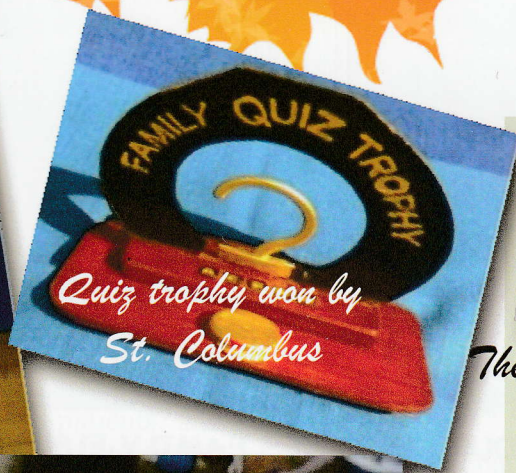


ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



Ben the mascot



The Children



Snail racing



The Team



A great time was had at this years family Fun Week, attended by over 50 children.

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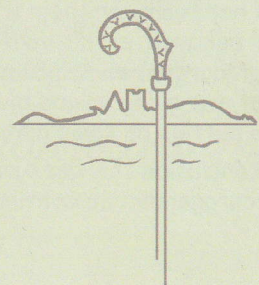
Word Search

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Chernobyl Children

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Open Door



Queen Margaret Hospital Escort Duty.

For a number of years, St. Fillan's Church has taken its turn with other churches to escort patients to the Sunday service in the chapel within the hospital. Since reorganization of the Department of Spiritual Care and with the alteration of the hospital to almost entirely day cases, this service no longer takes place. Thanks go out to all volunteers who have helped with this most worthwhile activity, for their enthusiasm and cheerful support to the patients.

After the final service had taken place in March a thanksgiving service was held for representatives of all the churches involved when Mark Evans the senior chaplain told of the difference our attendance had made to patients as they appreciated chatting with people from outside the hospital who had no connection with their treatment. We are glad to have been able to give some comfort in this way.

Below is a photo of a few of the team of helpers from St. Fillan's



ABERDOUR CHURCHES FAMILY FUN WEEK

Aberdour Churches Family Fun Week ran from Monday 16th July to Thursday 19th July, 9.30 - 12 noon in the church hall, for children of P1 - P7 ages.

The week got off to a fantastic start and we had a maximum of 49 children attending throughout the week.

The theme for the week was "On your marks" to tie in with the Olympic theme. Each day there was a different story and message from St. Mark's gospel, which related to famous Christian sports people and how God had influenced their lives. In addition every day there were arts and crafts, singing, games, discussion times and a snack. The favourite activity of the week was the snail race; this was extremely competitive and loud with very excitable children raising the roof on the church hall. A great time was had by all throughout the week.

This year saw the running of an additional group which was held in the institute for the under 5's. This saw 16 children attending along with a parent or carer. The children did age related activities, crafts and songs, and was considered a great new addition to the Family Fun Week, now catering for all children up to P7 age.

Our now hotly contested Family Quiz night was held on Tuesday 17th July with a St. Columba's Church team regaining the trophy.

Thursday 19th July was the B-B-Q held in the evening at silver sands and run by Alan Thornton and the Rotary club, the weather started off better than last year and lots of adults and children turned up. A good chance for everyone to get together and chat about the week, after the children played on the beach.

Donations were made throughout the week and these were distributed between Aberdour Playgroup and Aberdour Toddlers group who both lent us various toys to use in the institute for the under 5's group, grateful thanks go to them.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of the Family Fun Week team for their continued commitment to the week and all their hard work they put into it throughout the year and the actual week, without each and every member of that team the week would not be the success that it is, with special thanks to Janette Kerr and her team for their tremendous work throughout the week and for the children attending, they were all so well behaved, enthusiastic and great fun. Also for the parents, church members from both churches and Peter and Maureen, who all came along to see what was happening over the course of the week, showing an interest in what was going on and giving us such positive comments encouraging us to carry on next year and even looking into putting on some additional events throughout the year.

In conclusion the week was viewed a great success with record amount of children attending, giving us the encouragement to continue next year. Christine Waddell

Letter from the Manse

The Church serves wherever people find themselves, from the beauty and comfort of rural Fife to inner city Urban Priority Areas, in hospitals, prisons, and in more dangerous circumstances, like Afghanistan.

A friend of mine changed jobs recently. After some time in a Parish, he applied to the Royal Air Force, to become a Chaplain.

His tales about the training were hilarious, and he appears to enjoy the change in his life. The Rev'd Craig Lancaster was posted to RAF Leuchars, but within days heard he would be taking up a posting at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan.

My prayers are with him and with his wife Katherine, as Craig begins this dangerous deployment.

A report to Presbytery from the Chaplain's Department at the Victoria Hospital showed how many visits Chaplains make to patients, and I know their work is much appreciated.

The Presbytery Clerk, the Rev'd Elizabeth Kenny, spoke about her work at Glenochil, where she is one of the Chaplains. Working with sex offenders and murderers offers her an opportunity to share the love of Christ in very different circumstances from Parish life.

The work that goes on in Parishes and in the Forces, hospitals and prisons reminds us that the love and grace of God are for everyone, not for some only.

-o0o-

We all have pet-hates, and the quoting of Bible-texts wrongly is of my pet-dislikes.

"Money is the root of all evil", someone will say. No, the Bible says: "The love of money is the root of all evil", and that is something completely different.

And on a sunny day, someone will claim cheerfully: "The sun shines on the righteous."

No, the Bible says: "The sun shines on the

righteous and the unrighteous", and so states the complete opposite.

The Prophet Micah lived somewhere between 750 and 686BC, at a time of war, invasion and religious decline. He opposed empty ritualism and injustice, and spoke about the ultimate Divine deliverance in the person of the Messiah.

Micah wrote: "*And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" (Micah 6, v 8).

It is these qualities Jesus epitomized as he ministered in the Holy Land. Through His healing, His teaching and His reaching out beyond the limits of society, Jesus affirmed the worth of every individual in the sight of God, who made human beings in His own image, male and female.

God's sun shines for all, not for the righteous only. And money is not bad in itself, it is the amassing of it for its own sake that is wrong.

If, as individuals, as communities and as nations, we loved mercy, acted justly, and walked humbly before God, the world would be a different place, in which everyone was valued, respected and, yes, loved, as God loves each of us.

Living in such a way is not easy, for mercy and justice are demanding concepts if we apply them honestly. And humility before God demands an honesty about our own words and actions that can be quite uncomfortable at times.

As we draw closer to Advent, let us remember Micah's prophetic words, and the life of Jesus, and prepare in our hearts for the joy we all receive at the coming of God's Messiah.

As Chritina Rosetti writes in the great Christmas Hymn:

*"Love shall be our token
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all men,
love for pleas and gift and sign".*

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird

Parish Minister

World Mission Stamp Appeal 2012

Our congregation collects stamps towards the Church of Scotland's World Mission Stamp Appeal. This year's project is to renovate an existing structure so that chicken rearing can be taught as part of the agricultural syllabus !

The ancient city of Tyre in Southern Lebanon is surrounded by three camps which are home to around 45,000 Palestinian refugees. Many of these Palestinian families who were expelled in 1948 came from farming communities. On the edge of the city the Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon (JCC) has set up a small farm. The refugees are learning agricultural skills thanks to a project which began more than a decade ago; this also allows them to maintain their cultural heritage. Since the year 2000 the JCC has organised courses for males and females aged between 14 and 35. The majority of people in Southern Lebanon live off the land around them and the JCC has been using its 4,000 sq. m plot of land there to improve the lives of Palestinian refugees, who are excluded from 70 professions due to their status.

The courses run for four months twice a year, with between 12 and 15 participants. They have generally focused on tasks such as planting vegetables and caring for fruit trees. Occasionally flower arranging, soap making, bee keeping and health lectures have been added to the curriculum, however the JCC would like to extend the scope of the farm project by offering the refugees the chance to learn to care for chickens. They are now developing a building which was formerly used as a chicken coop.

It has been cleaned and structurally strengthened but the JCC now needs further financial support in order to make the building functional and buy the chickens.

The objectives of the project are:

- Include poultry care in the agricultural syllabus.
- Provide students with a new skill they can pursue as a vocation.
- Overhaul and utilise an existing structure.
- Make the farm more attractive to young visitors through the presence of livestock.
- Sustain the farm through additional income.

Key facts about the JCC:

The JCC is the Lebanese area committee of the Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), an integral part of the Middle East Council of Churches.

The JCC aims to empower people to enable them to help themselves through education and vocational training.

The JCC runs two vocational centres for women, one electronics and computer centre for young men and women, and an agricultural centre. It recently opened a library and community centre.

How to contribute

- place used postage stamps in the plastic box under the table to the left as you enter St. Fillan's
- pop your stamps through my letter box, 4 Manse Street, Aberdour
- hand them in to Gordon at the Post Office who very kindly passes them to me
- post your stamps to:
World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB

In 2011 the appeal raised just over £3700. This year they would like to raise £4000. Please help.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported the various stamp appeal for many years. Susan Morton

More information on the Church of Scotland's web-site – www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Anne Stuart's word search

Anne has been busy again, this time all the hidden words relate to Church, Inchcolm and Stewardship!

S	T	F	I	L	L	A	N	S	F	Q	M	T	I	P	L	U	P	T
E	E	P	A	S	T	O	R	A	L	O	W	E	H	E	L	P	R	W
I	N	P	U	T	S	O	T	M	O	N	E	Y	E	I	P	A	A	O
S	T	T	X	E	T	R	Y	N	W	H	E	R	E	L	N	O	Y	D
K	R	H	R	W	R	E	H	C	E	R	C	C	I	S	B	K	E	N
N	A	E	F	A	O	A	N	T	R	L	H	N	S	O	S	I	B	I
O	N	Y	L	R	N	E	E	D	S	A	A	E	U	R	H	C	B	W
M	C	O	E	D	G	C	A	M	P	I	P	T	E	L	L	C	A	S
L	E	U	S	S	O	T	E	T	O	T	N	Y	T	E	L	S	L	S
E	O	N	R	H	L	O	E	K	U	N	A	D	A	N	N	E	E	A
P	R	G	U	I	V	R	G	A	R	R	E	N	G	O	O	O	C	L
E	R	U	O	P	H	N	L	B	P	A	E	Y	N	R	R	F	T	G
R	E	M	Y	O	I	A	H	E	A	R	M	A	P	G	O	N	U	D
S	D	V	U	R	I	N	I	E	M	O	C	S	A	U	O	Y	R	E
Q	L	S	A	S	L	E	C	N	A	H	C	N	N	M	L	R	N	N
U	E	C	L	O	I	S	T	E	R	D	A	E	R	O	E	P	A	I
I	L	E	M	I	T	C	R	T	I	M	R	E	H	W	S	V	I	A
N	I	N	C	H	C	O	L	M	O	G	S	T	O	N	E	A	A	T
T	B	E	L	L	X	E	L	S	I	A	H	T	U	O	S	U	M	S

ABBEY, ATTEND, BELL, BIBLE, CANONS, CARING CHANCEL, CHAPTER HOUSE, CHOIR, CLEANER, CLOISTER, COME IN, COURSE, CRECHE, ELDER, ENTRANCE(X2), FLOWERS, FONT, GOOD, HEAR, HERMIT, HOLY, INCHCOLM, INPUT, LECTERN, LEPER SQUINT, LUNCH, MASONS MARK, ME, MONEY, MONKS, MUSIC, NAVE, NEED, ORGAN, ORANIST, ON HAND, PASTORAL, PLAY, PRAY, PRAYERS (X2), PULPIT, READ,SAVE,SERMON, SOUTH AISLE, ST FILLANS, STAINED GLASS WINDOW, STEWARDSHIP, STONE, STRONG, SUMS, TALENT, THE YOUNG, THINK, TIME, TOWER, TRANSEPTUAL AISLE, TRY, WHERE.

Now we have your brain cells working spend a little time pondering these two quizzes, one easy, one a little bit harder!!

Quiz 1

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world
2. Name the last five 'Sports Personality of the Year' winners.
3. Name the last five winners of X Factor.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel prize.
5. Name the last five Oscar winners for the best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of SPL winners.

Quiz 2

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Taken from the Worth, Pound Hill & Maidenbower Parish Magazine.

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN LIFE LINE DUNFERMLINE & WEST FIFE VISIT 2012

On 25th July this year, Alex and I were guests at the "Thank you Do" for hosts, helpers, churches and other bodies who donate to sponsor the Chernobyl children's travel expenses to Scotland.

Some may ask why, when we are at a time of recession in our own country, should we send this money for travel and ask families here to host the children? Well, many of you will remember the Chernobyl Disaster of 1986. In fact, in the Soviet Union was still in place and it took some weeks for countries in the West to be notified. Secrecy in the Soviet Union also meant that the people of Belarus and the Ukraine were not told the full extent of the explosion at the nuclear plant near Kiev either. The radioactive fallout was 90 times greater than Hiroshima. I am sure that younger readers will have heard of the bombs dropped on Japan at the end of WW2 in studies at school.

It is estimated that today more than 2 million people in Belarus still live in contaminated areas. They still till their fields, herd cattle and eat the contaminated produce of their labours. The same is true of large parts of the Ukraine.

Why, then should we help the children of these countries? Firstly, the rise in childhood cancers; leukaemia, tumours and thyroid cancers are rife, from the contamination today. Secondly, heavy metal poisoning has resulted from the tons of lead which was poured onto the Chernobyl reactor.

The Dunfermline and West Fife Link was formed in June 2001 and their aim is to help the children of these areas by boosting their immune systems and offering them respite from the constant bombardment of radiation.

Amazingly, it is estimated that a month staying with a family here, eating nourishing food, resting from the relentless radiation, breathing clean air can add up to TWO years to their life expectancy.

This year Alex's brother, Stuart and his wife, Lee were hosts. They had two 10 year old boys, Maks and Sasha to stay for two weeks in their house with their own three boys. Lee says that the physical change in the children by the time of the Ceilidh at the end of two weeks, amazed her. All the children had their eyes tested. Companies donated shoes, day wear, night wear etc. A Hairdresser donated salon haircuts. (Maks and Sasha did not take up this offer, since they wanted to keep their "mullet" haircuts.)

How could you help?

- * You could consider being a host family.
- * You could make a Donation. St. Fillan's helps by collecting copper coins. That does not sound much, but we all know that "if you look after the pennies....."

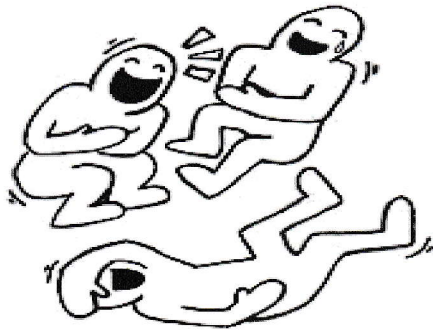
If you decide to help in this way, please pass any coins to Eileen Harper, who is our link person.

To find out more?

Visit the website: www.cclldunfermlinewestfife.org.uk

Mairi Waugh.

The All Seeing Eye?...



A middle aged woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?". God answered, "No you have another 40 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and had a face lift, liposuction, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour. Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it.

A few weeks after her release from hospital she was crossing the street on her way home and was hit by a car; death was instantaneous. When she arrived at the gates of heaven "God" she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 40 years, why didn't you pull me from the path of the car?"

God replied, "I didn't recognise you."

ATTENTION GARDENERS

There are a great many gardening canes stacked in a corner behind the Church Hall. Unless they are removed soon, they will be taken to the tip. Please feel free to take as many as you want!!

'Note For Your Diary'



A Musical

Supper has been organised for Friday 8th March 2013, with members of the Fife Operatic Society providing the entertainment.

Congregational Lunch

Over 70 members enjoyed the Congregational Lunch held in the Church Hall after the morning service on Sunday 9th September.

Yet again we are indebted to all those who donated the delicious food and helped on the day with the various tasks. Also a special 'thank you' to my right hand women, June Weatherup and Christine Waddell, for their organisation of the event and work on the day.

David Robertson

Christian Aid Golf Week

The Aberdour Golf Club hosted the annual golf week for Christian Aid from Monday 04 to Friday 08 June 2012. The Golf Week is open to Aberdour Golf Club members, residents and guests of the Aberdour and Dalgety Bay Parishes and has been a very popular event in previous years, however this year entries were down, perhaps it was the weather? The event is a Stableford competition between the two parishes mainly for the David Rutherford Cup. Other prizes are also awarded to individuals for best scores for each of the 5 days and for best lady or gent in each parish over the entire 5 days' period.

Trophy or Cups and daily winners with scores are given below. For the second year running the prestigious Rutherford Cup was won by Dalgety Bay. Next year with careful planning and a strategy, and with proactive support, Aberdour will seize back the Cup.

Winners Score

David Rutherford Cup	Dalgety Parish	243 (best 6 individual scores over the 5 days)
Best Daily Scores		
Monday	Ann Matheson	41
Tuesday	Trish Bradshaw	40
Wednesday	Sheila Page	33
Thursday	David Richie	33
Friday	Sandy Laing	38
Hugh Martin Cup	Steven Morton	43 (Best Dalgety Gent)
Jessie Pearston Trophy	Pat Ritchie	44 (Best Dalgety Lady)
St Fillan's Cup	Bill Rennie	44 (Best St Fillan's Lady or Gent)
Voucher	Maggie Christie	41 (Best St Fillan's Lady)



Organisers of the event would like to thank the Aberdour Golf Club for hosting the event and those who participated for their valued support and donations.

Aberdour Parish raised £749 which will be a shared donation between Christian Aid and Fife MacMillan Cancer Support.

Jim Wyse, 8607321

OPEN DOOR 2012/2013

Open Door begins again on Thursday 11th October at 10:30am St.Fillan's Church Hall.

Everyone welcome

...each month's events...bring friends...make new ones...enjoy tea, coffee and home baking...

- 11th OCT A FAIR FIELD AND NO FAVOURS THE THREE EDINBURGH SURGEONS WHO BROKE THE MOULD WITH *CHRIS SHORT*
- 8th NOV THE SECOND GRAND TOUR WITH *JOHN BURRELL*
- 13th DEC FURNITURE PLUS INITIATIVE *GAIL JACKSON*
- 17th JAN VICTORIAN ABERDOUR WHAT THE 1851 CENUS TELLS US WITH *ANDREW COOK*
- 14th FEB SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION WITH *EDITH ARMIT*
- 14th MAR THE STATION MASTER'S STORY *TREVOR FRANCIS*

There will be a Fair Trade stall each month

TALENT AND TIME SURVEY

If you have already completed one of these thank you!

We are exploring ways of establishing talents not just within the congregation of St. Fillan's but within the wider concept of the village.

Buildings as old as ours always need work done to them, they need cleaned, they need looking after, they need people to see that they remain as a testimony to the existence of Christianity in this place for many years to come.

We are engaging in a Stewardship Campaign, an element of which is, to clean our church, to clean our hall, to have the buildings ship-shape before our Christmas services and most importantly to be a welcoming place for **you** and for the many visitors who come to St. Fillan's in the course of a year.

In this edition of the Crosier you will find a Talent

and Time Survey form. Whether or not you are a member of St. Fillan's or if you are just someone who cares that we have a spiritual presence here in Aberdour and if you feel you can do something to further this then please complete the form and place it in the box at the back of the church. If you are not a regular church-goer there is a box in the Post Office to receive completed forms.

The Stewardship campaign "banner" is Philippians Chapter 4 Verse 13.. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength".....join us in this effort.

If you want to know more about our plans speak with Ewart McSkimming (823454), Norman MacDonald (860585), Linda Brown (800247), Marnie Rennie (860711) or Catherine Duncan (860611).

Ewart McSkimming, *Stewardship Convenor*

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2012

Mrs. Jeanette Maclauchlan; James Jackson; Robert Cochrane; Mrs. Pamela Macbeth; Mrs. Margaret Smith; Boyd Brodie; Mrs. Margaret Paterson; William Miller; Mrs. Joan Anderson; Mrs. Patricia Warren; Alf Mowat; Mrs. Carole Cruikshank; Mrs. Eileen Daly

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

2012

David John Woodall and Grace Helen Lamond; Steven Alexander Parker and Stacey Mowatt; Brian William Miller and Sarah Louise Dunn; Kevin Paul Flett and Claire Rennie; David Michael Cole and Louise Elizabeth McKillop; Ian Donal Dryden and Charlotte Naomi Merriman; Paul Robertson and Moira Miller

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

Baptisms

2012

(twins) Cassia Lilly Gough and Poppy Teva Gough; Cameron Ross Maitland; Alexander Andrew Campbell; Thomas Robert Reiter; Calan Wilson; Ben Thomas Forisky; Anna Mary Lindsay Archibald

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Joining by Profession of Faith

John Thomson

Joining by Transference Certificate

Mrs. Helen Caldwell; Ms Susan D'aish

Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Douglas Christie-Scott

We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here

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

Church Hall Management

Bruce Drever retired from the post of Hall Convenor on May 31st after many years of faithful service, and despite lengthy efforts to find someone to take over from him, no-one came forward to fill the role.

As an interim measure, management of bookings were taken over by Bill Paterson, who established an on-line Hall bookings calendar on Google. This now allows on-line functional access to selected individuals through a security password procedure. At present Karen Crowe, Catherine Duncan, Sharon Johnston and Andy Bastow can access the calendar so bookings can be taken during Bill's absence when required. So far this on-line calendar has worked well and gives shared information, and no booking conflicts have arisen to date. Generally Hall users have been helpful in providing their forward booking requirements, but this will be even better when all user groups are fully aware of the need for timely information before the start of the school year.

As there is still no prospect of a new Hall Convenor being found, the establishment of a small Church Hall Management team has now been endorsed by Kirk Session. This will be trialled for a year initially, and comprises Bill Paterson, Andy Bastow, and Karyn Crowe.

It is planned that this team will manage and co-ordinate bookings, contracts and charging rates as well as overseeing cleaning, maintenance and minor development of the facilities. Others can be co-opted as needed.

Apart from ensuring continuity, three aspects are priorities for the team:

- i) to establish a more equitable charging regime, taking account of not just times of booking, but total usage including storage,
- ii) to seek volunteer groups to carry out re-decoration and some simple maintenance and improvements (ie stripping ivy) in some parts of the Hall which are easily accessible. It is hoped that this latter activity will have been aided by the information gleaned from the responses to the Stewardship Campaign.
- iii) to help our hardworking cleaner and address some of the 'cleanability' issues around the Hall.

Our Hall is a very significant asset and we should ensure we keep it attractive to as many users as possible while still covering increasing running costs.

STEWARDSHIP

On 8th July we launched our Stewardship campaign with the introduction of our Talents and Time survey. To date we have received 59 responses to our request for an insight into what people would be prepared to do for our church and thank you to all those who have responded.

The survey has produced hidden talents from which we have new people welcoming worshippers on a Sunday morning, five new people (different ones) will be heard as readers in the next few months and various offers have been made to distribute magazines, to help with a cleaning programme for the church and to be involved in gardening, painting and general maintenance.

Stewardship is to be considered as an on-going and continuing event in the life of our church and we will be in touch with all those who have offered their services in whatever capacity over the ensuing months.

Whilst encouraged by the initial response 59 is not a large percentage out of a congregation of 409 (14%) although in relation to an average Sunday attendance of say 120 (49%) it is not too bad. If you have not yet completed a form they are available at the rear of the church so please pick one up, complete it and pop it back into the box and let us know what you can do for your church.

We are already aware that at the next vacancy (and we pray that may be a long way off) the presbytery have decreed that St. Fillan's will become a 50% ministry meaning that many of the tasks currently carried out by our minister will require to be done by elders and members of the congregation. We must be prepared in advance for this.

We are currently considering how best to ensure we involve all of our members on the congregational roll. This will involve visits by your district elder or members of the Stewardship Committee over the next few months.

To meet the challenges of the future and to continue a vibrant and healthy church here in Aberdour we need **YOUR** support. Join with us in making this happen.

Ewart McSkimming, *Stewardship Convenor*

The Silence of St. Fillan's Douglas Christie-Scott

Through the churchyard, a thousand thoughts. In my life,
some mental knots.

Some accepted, some fought.

Discover the church in a cool, clear, early, morning.

A child dropped off for school, a little time I'm pawning.

Alone, I sit down in her ancient walls.

Empty my mind of so many function calls.

It is then..... that I notice.... the crisp silence.....

The ancient stone absorbs the complex world.

A flag of calm in my soul unfurled....

The Lord is everywhere, I know.....

But focused on Him, I can slay any mental foe.

A few little minutes and a thankful prayer, in the silence,
gives a peace so rare.

I notice the birdsong outside in the day, I know that I must depart from the sanctuary.

I leave and hear the distant startup of a diesel train easing the world back to my freshened brain.



A Cautionary Tale from the Summer Holidays

THE LEGEND OF THE BLACK MADONNA OF ROCAMADOUR

Rocamadour, in the Dordogne Region of France, became a site of pilgrimage when in 1166 it was said that the body of a follower of Jesus called Zaccheus had been found buried under the chapel of the Virgin. Until the reformation the pilgrimage of Rocamadour was one of the most famous in Christendom. Great crowds and many famous and important people came such that the interior was adorned with many valuable votive offerings, banners, swords and much else besides.

Above the altar was the statue of the Miraculous Virgin with the infant Jesus on her knee. The statue is in wood, blackened here and there by smoke from candles and may date from the 9c.

Suspended from the roof of the chapel hangs the miraculous bell, dating back to perhaps the 6c, which rings of its own accord to foretell miracles.

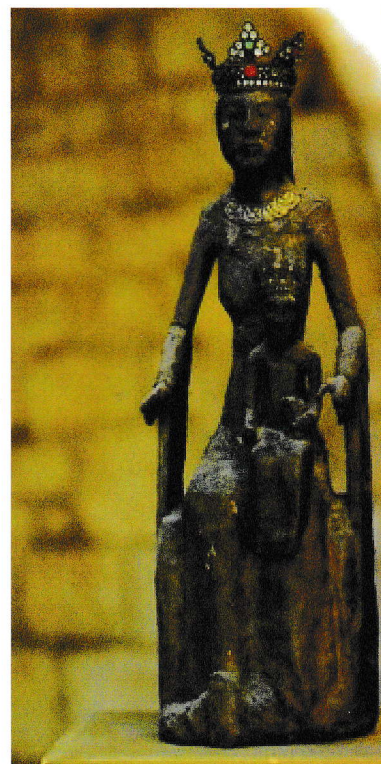
In 1173, when William the Lion was King of Scots and St Fillan's was a newly built church, Henry II of England fell out with his feisty queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and shut her up in a tower. The household was a royal hell and the four sons took up arms against their father. The eldest, Henri Court-Mantel, pillaged parts of the King's lands near Rocamadour and to punish him King Henry stopped his allowance and paid it to his third son, Richard the Lionheart. Henri Court-Mantel found himself unable to pay his soldiers

so he plundered the treasuries of the local abbeys and came to the shrine of Rocamadour where he dug up the body of the saint, sold the famous sword of the hero Roland and rode off with the statue of the Madonna hanging from his saddle. As he was leaving after this sacrilegious action, the bell miraculously began to toll. It was seen as a sign from God.

Henri fled to his castle at nearby Martel, where he arrived with a fever. He felt death was upon him and was stricken with remorse. He confessed his crimes,

whilst his father's pardon was sought. The King was busy with a siege elsewhere but sent a written message. However the messenger on arrival found Henri-Court-Mantel lying in agony on a bed of cinders, a cross on his breast. Soon afterwards he died.

The Black Madonna still hangs above the altar at Rocamadour.



Advent and Christmas Services:

2 December	10.30am	Advent Sunday Service.
	6.30pm	FCG Advent Evening Service in St Fillan's.
9 December	10.30am	Festival of Lessons & Carols.
	6.30pm	FCG Advent Service, in Dalgety Church.
16 December	10.30am	Music & words for Advent.
	6.30pm	FCG Advent Service in Inverkeithing Church.
23 December	10.30am	Meditative Advent Service.
Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Family Service.
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service.
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Holy Communion Service, with show of presents!
30 December	10.30am	Sacrament of Holy Baptism.



WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2013

Anyone wishing to make contributions to further editions of St. Fillan's Crosier,
please contact Shiona Doig Tel:01383 860791 or e-mail allan@hame.org.uk