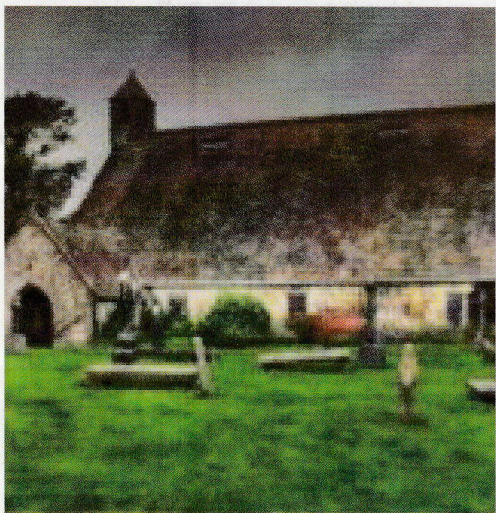
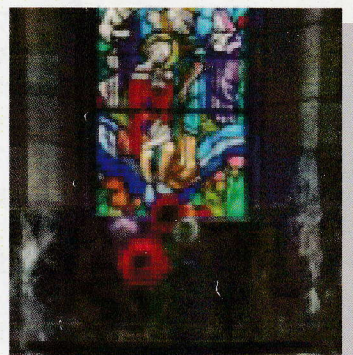
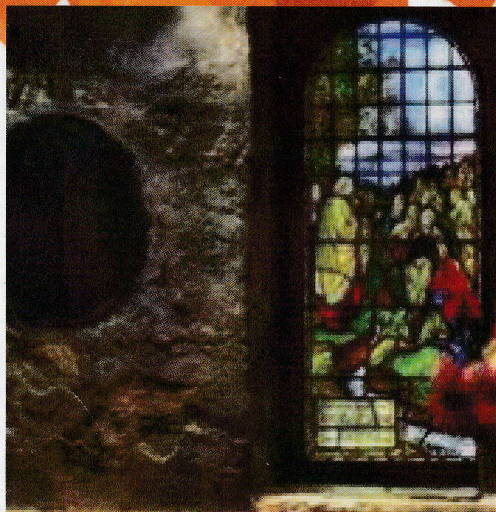
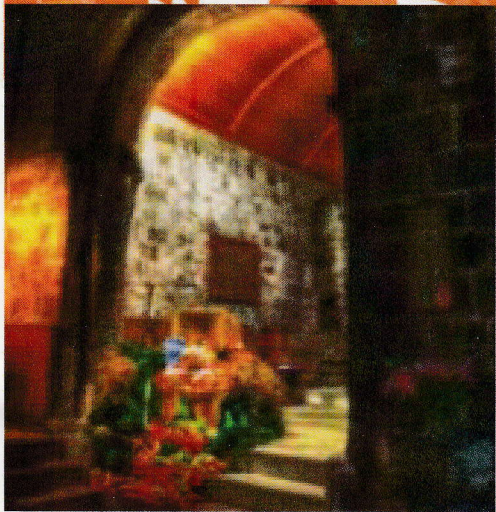


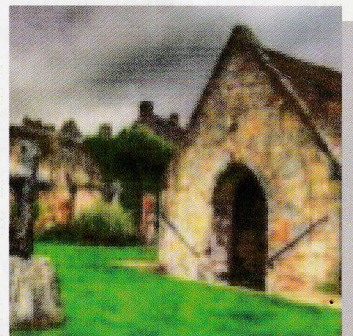
# ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



St Fillan's at Harvest time.

[Genesis 8:22](#)

While the earth remains,  
seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat,  
summer and winter,  
day and night,  
shall not cease.



## Also inside

### Page 2:

First of 5 articles from Bill Cochrane on places & their connection to St. Fillan's

### Page 3:

Letter from the Manse

### Page 5:

Word Search

### Page 6:

St. Fillan's

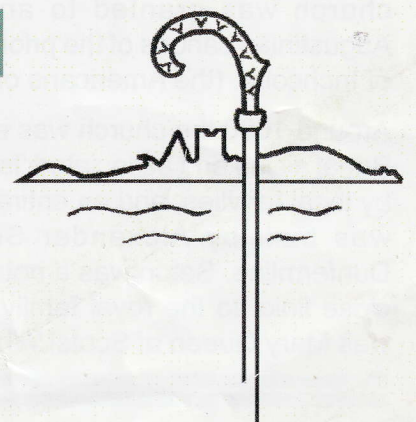
Annual Sale of Work

### Page 7:

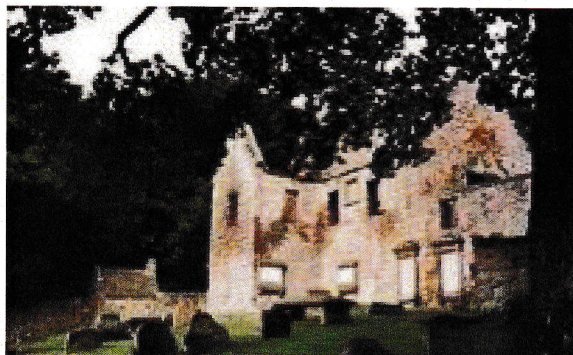
Parish & Congregational Register

### Page 9:

Open Door



## St. Bridget's Kirk



### and its connection with St. Fillan's Church

A road "route" in the United States equates to a "motorway" in the UK, so I should not have been surprised when a couple of American tourists drew up alongside me to ask if route 76 would lead tilnchcolm as it indicated on their satellite navigation system in their car. Benny, my dog and I were just approaching St. Bridget's Kirk at the time on a path which the only cars that passed were water board vehicles going to the water works adjoining the east end of Dalgety Bay. The only "routes" here generally are for the benefit of cyclists, so the expression that immediately came to mind was "Do you think I came up the Clyde on a bicycle?" and I laughed. Having explained that to travel tilnchcolm in a car was impossible, I suggested that a suitable alternative would be to visit St. Bridget's Kirk, conveniently situated only 50 yards away, instead of trying to reach an Abbey on a island during a public holiday.

They were delighted with this idea and I left them taking photographs and reading the information board at the entrance.

This chance encounter provoked my curiosity as I knew little of the history of this now rather unassuming ruin and graveyard. With a very little research I discovered that a church has stood on this site for over 800 years. There may well have been a church here before then, but no traces of it remain today. It had been named "St. Bridget" in 1244 after a 12th century Ulster born Abbess Bridget. From 1170 the church was granted to and serviced by, the Augustinian canons of the priory on the nearby island of Inchcolm, (the Americans original destination).

Around 1600 the church was extended significantly. Burial aisles and associated 'laird's lofts' were added by local families, and an entire new two storey aisle was built by Alexander Serton, first Earl of Dunfermline. Seton was a notable public figure with close links to the royal family and his God mother was Mary Queen of Scots! When her son James VI,

became King of England too in 1603, it was Seton who negotiated the legalities of this arrangement. He became Chancellor of Scotland in 1604, and died in 1622 and was buried in the family vault at St Bridget's.

Throughout the middle ages the kirk was the focal point for the local community of Dalgety Bay village. In the late 1600s additional wooden galleries were built inside the church to accommodate the expanding congregation. This addition also accommodated the new Protestant form of worship, which centered not on the altar but on the pulpit and the word of God.

By 1755 a community of about 750 had grown up around the kirk in the old village of Dalgety but by the 1830s the village was deserted in favour of Fordel, the center of the new coal mining industry.

In 1831 the kirk was acquired by the Earl of Moray.

The church bell was taken to St. Fillan's kirk in Aberdour at the time of the restoration in 1926 where it still rings every Sunday morning. The bell is of pre-reformation origin and bears the inscription in gothic characters "O mater Dei momentomei" (o mother of God, remember me).

Though no longer in use as a parish kirk, the graveyard at St. Bridget's continued to be used throughout the 1800s. there are lots of interesting gravestones, some of which date to the seventeenth century. A watch house was built in the early 19th century to discourage the practice of body snatching for medical research.

In 1936 the kirk was 'scheduled' and today it is cared for by Historic Scotland- Hence the nice information board that the "lost" American tourists found so interesting.

Bill Cochrane

Bibliography/acknowledgement: The above information was obtained from various Internet websites. St. Fillan's Aberdour By Revd. David Rutherford (Minister at St Fillan's 1949-1975).

## Letter from the Manse

The summer was fantastic! Weeks of glorious sunshine, a great Aberdour Festival, and a brilliant & lively "Family Fun Week" in August.

Over 100 youngsters attended the four-day event in the Church Hall, organised jointly by St. Columba's & St. Fillan's Churches, with the help of many volunteers.

The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Bishop David Chillingworth, recently hailed it as a great example of ecumenical youth-work – encouraging words. We hope to have a follow-up event later this year – details elsewhere in the Crosier.

St. Paul is one of the Bible's more complex characters. A Roman citizen from Tarsus, a trained Pharisee, once persecutor of the Early Church, later a great Apostle.

His many Letters to Christian communities across the known world are among the oldest Christian writings, predating the Gospel versions of Sts Matthew, Luke & John. They contain much on doctrine and rules of Faith, and his –at times – stern form of writing has St. Paul written off by some as inflexible and dogmatic.

His influence on the development of the Christian Church cannot be underestimated. The words the Church of Scotland and many other denominations use as part of their services of Holy Communion quote St. Paul regarding the Institution of the Eucharist by the Lord Himself.

In his First Letter to the Christian community in Corinth, St. Paul devotes a whole chapter to 'love'. 1 Corinthians 13 is very popular at weddings,

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*Love never fails."*

You can see why this Bible-passage is popular at weddings!

But these words can have a much wider meaning, if we apply them to the way we share life with other people. For if we were to live in the way outlined by St. Paul, all our relationships would be transformed by this deep, all-embracing love.

If we were to apply this way of living to how we deal with family & friends, colleagues & neighbours, or live as communities & nations, human life would be transformed beyond recognition.

The hymn written by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) begins:

*"Children of God, reach out to one another!*

*Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there:*

*to worship rightly is to love each other, each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer"*.

As we draw near to Remembrance Sunday, and look beyond it to the beginning of Advent, recalling the promise of the Messiah, may the transforming love of Jesus bring reconciliation to our lives, and to the life of our country and of the world, so the words of the Prophet Micah may become a living reality:

*"They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.*

*Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."*

(Micah 4: 3b)

*Peter Gerbrandy-Baird*

**Parish Minister**

## ABERDOUR CHURCHES FAMILY FUN WEEK

Aberdour Churches Family Fun Week ran from Monday 22nd July to Thursday 25th 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 113 children attending throughout the course of the week.

The theme for the week was “Space Academy” to tie in with the bible story of Daniel. Each day there was a different story and message which related to the story of Daniel. In addition every day there were arts and crafts, singing, games, discussion times and fantastic snacks.

One of the favourite activities of the week was the group games. These were extremely competitive and loud with very excitable children raising the roof of the church hall. A great time was had by all throughout the week.

The under 5's group was held in the Institute. Throughout the course of the week there were 44 children and 30 parent/helpers. The children did age related activities, crafts and songs, whilst parents/carers enjoyed home baking, a cuppa and a chat. This is now considered a great addition to the Family Fun Week.

Our now hotly contested Family Quiz night was held on Tuesday 23rd July with the reigning champions, a team from St. Columba's Church losing their title to a St. Fillan's team.

Thursday 25th July was supposed to be the BBQ held in the evening at the Silver Sands and run by Alan Thornton and the Rotary club. However the weather was not kind and a decision was taken to cancel.

£143.52 donations were made throughout the week and these were given to the Clic Sargent (Scotland) appeal.

I would like to say once again a huge thank you to all of the Family Fun Week team and helpers for their continued commitment to the week and for all their hard work they put into it throughout the course of the year as well as during the actual week itself. Without each and every member of that team the week would not be the success it was. In particular, special thanks go to Janette Kerr and her team for their tremendous work throughout the week and to the children who attended. They were all so well behaved, enthusiastic and great fun. Thanks

St. Fillan's Church News Autumn 2013 also go to the parents and church members from both churches and the ministers, Peter and Maureen, who all came along to see what was happening throughout the week, showing an interest in what was going on and giving us such positive comments encouraging us to carry on with future events.

We had an additional morning event on Good Friday this year which was a great success with over 50 children attending. The children did different arts and crafts relating to the Easter story, finishing with letting off balloons to which the children had attached their own personal message. It was a great start to the Easter holidays.

There is to be an event held for advent on **Saturday 23rd November** in the church hall beginning at 9.30 and finishing at 12 noon for primary aged children. The event will be called **Countdown to Christmas**. Look out for posters around the village as well as the flyers which will be distributed nearer the date. We expect this to be a popular event so if anyone could help out that morning, we would be very grateful. Please contact me.

There will be two dates when parents can pre register their children to save time on the day.

They are;

**Sunday 17th November 2pm – 4pm**

And

**Friday 22nd November 7pm – 9pm.** (They will both be held in the church hall.)

Christine Waddell - 860802

### Anne Stuart's word search

Anne has been busy again, this time all the hidden words are names from the Bible, most are not well known! ( how many do you know?!)

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

ABADDON  
 AGABUS  
 AHINOAM  
 BAASHA  
 BENAIAH  
 BILD  
 CHLOE  
 CLEMENT  
 COZBI  
 DATHAN  
 DEMAS

DOEG  
 EHUD  
 FELIX  
 FESTUS  
 FORTUNATUS  
 GAIAM  
 GEHAZI  
 GOG  
 HADAD  
 HAM  
 HARIM

INCHABOD  
 ITTAI  
 ISHMAEL  
 JOAB  
 KEDAR  
 KISH  
 KORAH  
 LEAH  
 LEVI  
 LOIS  
 MAASEIAH

MADAI  
 MANOAH  
 NAHUM  
 NAHOR  
 NAOMI  
 OG  
 PADON  
 PAUL  
 PUT  
 REBA  
 SEBA

*(On leaving Church one Sunday morning Anne stooped down to pick up a feather..... lying below the hedge on the inside of the pavement .....the feather reminded her of another occasion, in a graveyard, which had prompted her to compose the following poem, which she readily recited. We thought it may be of interest..... Catherine E. Duncan)*

I am alone now  
 Cast off  
 Berthed amid the residue  
 Of other past lives! –  
 I am waiting for the  
 darkness to fall,

Tears to flow,  
 And suddenly -  
 In a moment of time -  
 I will exist no longer!  
 What's that Lord?  
 You - want – ME?

You – will hold me?  
 For ever In the hollow of  
 Your hand?  
 No longer alone -  
 You hold me in Your  
 love

And I am no longer  
 discarded  
 But held – wanted  
 - Forever in Your love.  
  
 Anne Stuart.

**Young St. Fillan's  
(aka Sunday School/Sunday Club)**

**Term time Sundays 10:30 to 11:30**

Young St. Fillan's is blessed with enthusiastic, and enhanced disclosed, volunteers dedicated to serving God, and a growing base of children eager to learn. We have fun every Sunday from 10:30 to 11:30 during term time to discuss a story from the Bible, do some arts and crafts, sing some songs and generally let the children come to know God in a relaxed and fun way; and frequently in a very messy and noisy way.

Young St. Fillan's mission is to reach the youth of Aberdour, and to guide them along the path towards a faith that they can learn to lean on and trust as they grow older.

I considered writing a lengthy article on the relationship between the church, it's congregation and our children, but it all boils down to a simple passage from the Bible:

Mark 10:13-16 – The Message version

The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: "Don't push these children away.

Don't ever get between them and me. The children are at the centre of life in the kingdom. Mark this: Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in." Then gathering the children up in his arms, he laid the hands of blessing on them.

We can be part of our community, our church, our school, our family, our circle of friends, but without faith we cannot be a part of God.

Children have a simple faith, and they accept it with joy and openness. It is amazing to be a part of St. Fillan's children's ministry and I look forward to watching it grow over the years with God's grace.

We welcome all children of all ages, and would love to see any newcomers join us for some Sunday fun and teaching in the way of the Lord.

Bronwyn Christie-Scott  
Young St. Fillan's leader

**St. Fillan's Annual Sale of Work  
on Saturday 16th November**

**Doors open 2pm; £1.50 entry to the sale includes tea/coffee,  
with homemade scone, pancake and fancy cake.**

**The stalls include; delicious baking and tablet, plants and home produce,  
new and nearly new gifts and jewellery, a Christmas table, and Art table,  
bric a brac with all sorts, a toy department, books, music and DVDs.**

**There is also a bottle stall to try your luck and a superb Christmas hamper to be won.**

**Do please join us on the day to take advantage of the splendid fare and unrivalled bargains.**

**You might want to donate; unwanted gifts, items once loved but now forgotten, goodies for the hamper or bottle stall, baking for treats, to be sold, or served up on the day.**

**Liberate your castoffs; make space on your shelves, start potting up your cuttings!**

**All your contributions will be most gratefully received.**

**Hand in to the Church Hall late afternoon/early evening on**

**Friday 15th or the morning of Saturday 16th November.**

## HANDBELL RINGING

The handbell ringers of St. Fillan's Aberdour were formed in 1998.

If you enjoyed the music of Handbell Ringing, they are now looking for new recruits. Anyone is welcome, the basic ability to read music would help but is not essential. The group mainly rings for pleasure and has previously performed for charity and community events.

The Handbell ringers would like to reform and need a person with enough musical knowledge to be able to conduct and direct the ringers.

Practice time to be decided.

Contact telephone number 01383 860611 anytime, or mobile number 07845247718 (evenings only)

## Parish and congregational register

### Bereavements

2013

Mrs. Rachel Adams, Mrs. Margaret Richardson, Mrs. Mary Dymond, Mrs. Winifred Schumaker, Mrs. Cath Stokes, Mrs. Betty Crawford, Christopher Coutts, Mrs. May Murray, Mrs. Grizel Menzies

*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

2013

Michael Thompson and Beth Wild; Susan d'Aish and Kenneth Miller; Shona McGowan and Mark Richardson; Catriona Preston and Tam Whistler; Anna Campbell and Arklay Purdie; Michelle Welding and Anton Putka

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

### Baptisms

2013

Ruth Mary Allison, Lucas Felix Mallon, Molly Grace Walker, Michael David Schoeman

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

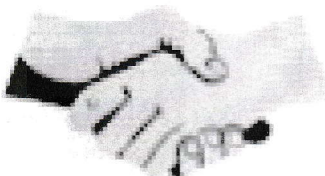
### Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Donald Cormack, Ms. Sally Boyd

*We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here*

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

### New Elder



During Morning Worship, on 28th April, our Kirk Session was delighted to Ordain William (Bill) Alexander Henderson to the Eldership. Bill (a native of Aberdour) and his wife Mary, after many years away, moved back to Scotland and, now living in Dunfermline, they have both become very involved in St. Fillan's life. Bill brings with him much administration knowledge and experience gained at their former spiritual home(s) within the Methodist Church in England.

He has for some time been a Pastoral Visitor to District 22 – homes in Dunfermline and part of Inverkeithing, and since Ordination has been appointed to serve in District 3 – Dalgety Bay East and Country west of Aberdour. In welcoming Bill to office, we wish him (and Mary) a long, fulfilling and happy time here with us.

*It is perhaps fitting to note that it is exactly 50 years since Bill's father, the late, much loved, Dr. William Henderson ('Dr. Billy') was Ordained into the Eldership in St. Fillan's, followed by his daughter Eileen Harper (Bill's sister) some thirty years later in 1993.*

*(How's that for keeping up dedication in the family?)*

Catherine E. Duncan.

## Medal for telling jokes?

I was intrigued to find the Rev David Rutherford who was the minister at St Fillans from 1949 to 1975 had been awarded the Military Cross.

I asked several church members and the only information I got was from Anne Stuart. He had told the young people at Church that he won the medal for telling jokes.

Looking on the internet, and the London Gazette, I found he joined the army on the 7th July 1939 and was a Captain in the 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders.

He served in North Africa and then in Sicily. The following is a letter to the mother of Rod Tallack.

20/4/43

Dear Mrs Tallack

I am just writing a short note giving an account of you husbands burial. I was down from the line at the battle of Aleaith to bury some of my own lads, when I was asked to bury your husband along with two of his comrades. The cemetery stood by the roadside, about twenty miles from Gabes on the main Sfax road. There before the open graves we held a simple service, reading Psalm 23 and Chapter 7 from the Book of Revelations, and then committed their bodies to the graves, we marked the graves with small wooden crosses, inscribed with name, number and unit.

I have not heard the details of your husbands death, but you will hear in due course from his own battalion, who are also attending to the forwarding of his private belongings.

May I express my own sympathy with you in your loss. This is one of many deaths which have been the necessary price of the victory in North Africa. They are all heroes - everyone of them and their comrades won't forget.

Yours sincerely

David W Rutherford

It was in National Archives that the recommendation for his award is recorded.

"Through all the actions which followed the landings in Sicily, this officer showed the greatest bravery under fire and in the most trying situations.

In the SFERRO bridgehead when movement by day was almost impossible owing to enemy fire, he found his way daily from one slit trench to another in the most forward posts bringing comfort to men who were greatly in need of it.

Whether by anecdote, a handful of cigarettes, or other comfort he brought new life into men who were physically and mentally exhausted.

It was on one such mission on 20 July 43 that the Rev. Rutherford was badly wounded in the foot and lost a toe. He was not the only one wounded and although his own wound was a serious one he refused to allow himself to be attended to until the wounds of the others had been treated.

By his devotion to duty and his selflessness, Rev. Rutherford was a shining example of what a Padre should be. The men of the battalion found inspiration in everything he did."

David Crawford

## ABERDOUR FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On Wednesday afternoons, from October to June, the club meets in the community center for tea and chat. New committee members are needed to keep the club alive. Can you help?

Contact Mrs Margaret Black (retiring chairperson) 01383 860916 for more information.

**CROSSREACH The social Care Council of The Church of Scotland offer a Directory Enquiries number, this is 75% cheaper than most 118 services, each call costs 40p (bt landline) 9p per call goes to Crossreach. So next time you are looking for a number use 118 599**



## OPEN DOOR

The season of Open Door monthly talks recommences on Thursday 10th October @ 10.30am St. Fillan's Church Hall.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come and join us. We are sure this season's programme will have something to interest one and all.

Come along and enjoy the fellowship and refreshment and be entertained, engaged and informed by our speakers some local from the village and others from further afield.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase a selection of Fairtrade goods at each meeting.

- 10th October            The Big Country .... More travels in the USA... with Arthur Lloyd*
- 14th November        Royal Yacht Britannia... with Derek Miller*
- 12th December        The Children's Panel...with Fiona Towns & Jim Anderson*
- 16th January           Life of Robert Burns ...with Ian Scott*
- 13th February         The Station Master's Story continued...with Trevor Francis*
- 13th March             Progress on the New Forth Bridge... with Alistair Chisholm*

### **More tales of Aberdour & Inchcolm – Mortimers Deep & a violent Vacancy**

(Extracted from "Aberdour&Inchcolme by Rev Wm Ross 1885)

In the days of William the Lion (1165-1214) the king's brother, David being probably resident at Dunfermline, heard of a Vacancy at St Fillan's and desiring the charge for his clerk Robert, made application on his behalf to Sir William de Mortimer the possessor of the barony and castle of Aberdour. The Abbot and Canons of Inchcolme Abbey were the undoubted patrons of the benefice but Sir William, who was not a man to stick at such trifles, and anxious to please the King's brother, overrode the rights of the Abbey and presented the charge to Robert in a handsome manner. However, as even today, some legal forms had to be gone through to make Robert's position impregnable. He had to be inducted. This involved messages between the baron some clerks and the King. The Abbot got wind of these plans and early on the day members of the Abbey were seen making their way across the waters and straight for the church. The Abbot and Canons took their positions before the door of the church, holding a cross aloft and various precious relics and thus shielded by these symbols of sanctity, the reverend fathers lifted up their voices when the clerks and messengers appeared declaring that the deed done that day was a foul wrong. They then put the church under the formal protection of the Pope. All this was of course very imposing but not to Sir William and his retainers. The canons were shamefully beaten, dragged about and put to flight and Robert was intruded into his charge. He did not long enjoy his hard-won honours. The Abbot found ways and means to induce Sir William and Robert to see the error of their ways. A deed exists in which Sir William makes a humble confession of his wrong doing and acknowledges that St Fillan's belongs to the Abbot and Canons of Inchcolme. Legend has it that years later Sir William died and willed that he be buried in the Abbey. However on the way to the island, in the stretch still known as Mortimers Deep, the monks dropped his coffin into the sea – perhaps in remembrance to the shameful way they had been treated in the churchyard of Aberdour.

## **WORLD MISSION STAMP APPEAL FOR 2013**

The stamps you so thoughtfully collect and pass on to me are going in 2013 to help support "the Living Water" project in the Czech-Moravian Highlands.

This year the focus of The Church of Scotland's stamp appeal is The Living Water project run by a congregation from ECCB (Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren) in HorniKrupa in the Czech-Moravian Highlands.

The project is part of a wider ecological programme started in 2008 to build an environmental centre and provide services and education for the local community, congregation and schools. Its purpose is to help share practical teaching on water life and improve understanding on the impact of water on biodiversity while engaging with the community. The centre has already received international recognition.

"living Water" is a set of 3 programmes currently offered to schoolchildren- all based on practical education about water life. The project is part of a larger scheme focused on setting up an educational garden for children, a new summerhouse, which will be the nature classroom, various education plots for growing herbs and vegetables and an insect house, as well as numerous other activities. As part of this they would like to restore the old well and build a small lake with an access jetty- this would improve their practical teaching on water cycles, water retention and about the impact water features have on biodiversity.

Money raised from stamp projects will go towards improving the education programme and offering more hands on exploration of plant and water life by restoring the old well at the centre and building a small lake.

You can help further this exciting endeavour by collecting your used stamps that are sold to make money.

### **HOW TO CONTRIBUTE**

- Post your stamps to World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 OYB
- Hand deliver to Susan Morton 4 Manse Street, Aberdour
- Leave in plastic box under the welcome table as you enter St Fillan's
- Give to Gordon in the Post Office

Catherine Duncan then very kindly takes the stamps to Presbytery where they are uplifted and taken to Wishaw.

### **ABOUT THE ECCB**

- Protestant church in Czech republic and part of the world
- Council Of Churches
- Congregation at HorniKrupa was established in 1864
- The Church of Scotland has an active partnership with the ECCB

Thank you again for making the effort to collect stamps. In 2012 the Church of Scotland made almost £3000 from used postage stamps. Each stamp helps.

If you have any further questions please contact me on 860051.

Susan Morton.

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*After serving a record 153 during the festival lunch attended by royalty  
helpers take a well deserved break!*



## LUNCHES

A big thank you once again for your continuing support for our monthly Lunches and a particular thank you to so many of you who kindly give donations of tea, coffee, biscuits, corned beef, tuna, paper plates, napkins etc to help defray the costs and enable us to give more to St. Fillan's.

The soups are all made and donated by the ladies (and the odd gent!) who serve, wash up, make up the rolls, help to set up and tidy up afterwards and without their generosity we could not do the job.

Our donation target for the year is £2000 and to date we have raised £1870 so thank you and please encourage anyone who has not yet sampled our "souper" soups to come along and give it a try.

Catherine, Sandra and Ewart

## GOD'S ROSEBUD

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day.  
Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to find out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry.

But because of his great respect for the older preacher he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact.

It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem....

"It is only a tiny rosebud, a flower of God's design  
But I cannot unfold the petals with these clumsy hands of mine".

"The secret of unfolding flowers is not known to such as I  
God opens this flower so easily, but in my hands they die"

"If I cannot unfold a rosebud, this flower of God's design,  
Then how can I have the wisdom to unfold this life of mine?"

"So I'll trust in God for leading each moment of my day  
I will look to God for guidance in each step along the way."

"The path that lies before me, only my Lord and Saviour knows.  
I'll trust to God to unfold the moments, just as He unfolds the rose."

## Aberdour Advent & Christmas Services

- |                    |        |   |                      |         |   |
|--------------------|--------|---|----------------------|---------|---|
| <b>1 December</b>  | 10.30  | Advent Service  | <b>Christmas Eve</b> | 3.00pm  | Crib Service for toddlers at St Columba's                                 |
|                    | 6.30pm | FCG Advent Evening Service  |                      | 6.30pm  | Family Service – Carols, short story & treats for the young, St. Fillan's |
| <b>8 December</b>  | 10.30  | Advent Service  |                      | 11.30pm | Watchnight Service<br>Community Carol singing from 10.15, St. Fillan's    |
|                    | 6.30pm | FCG Advent Evening Service, Dalgety Church                                |                      |         |   |
| <b>15 December</b> | 10.30  | Family Advent Service   | <b>Christmas Day</b> | 9.30    | Sung Eucharist, St Columba's  |
|                    | 6.30pm | FCG Advent Evening Service<br>Inverkeithing P/Church                      |                      | 10.30   | Christmas Eucharist Service, St. Fillan's                                 |
| <b>22 December</b> | 10.30  | St. Fillan's Festival of Lessons & Carols                                 | <b>29 December</b>   | 10.30   | Music and readings for the season   |
|                    | 5.00pm | Carol Service at St. Columba's  |                      |         |   |
|                    | 6.30pm | Contemplative Evening Service based on the Celtic tradition; St. Fillan's |                      |         |   |



*Wishing Everyone a Very Happy Christmas  
and Best Wishes for 2014*

Anyone wishing to make contributions to further editions of St. Fillan's Crosier, please contact Shiona Doig Tel: 01383 860791 or email: [allan@hame.org.uk](mailto:allan@hame.org.uk)