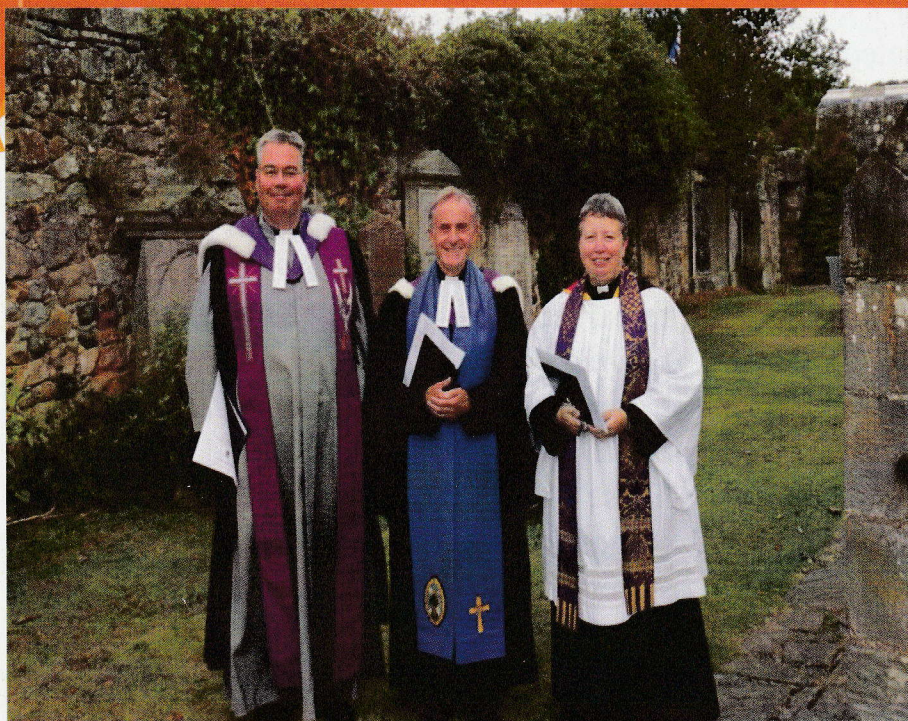
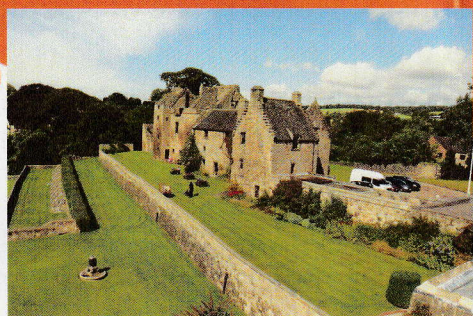
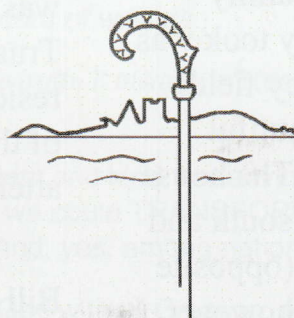


ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



Rededication of St Fillan's Church on Sunday August 3rd after its successful restoration was conducted in the presence of Revd Maureen Stirzacker from St Columba's Episcopal Church in Aberdour, our Minister Revd Peter Gerbrandy-Baird, and the preacher Revd Victor Laidlaw, moderator of Dunfermline Presbytery (middle)



An unusual castle view and view point!! This photo was taken in the middle of July from the top of the Church cros steps when the bell rope was being replaced as part of the Church refurbishment



The successful Annual Pilgrimage to Inchcolm took place on a lovely warm late summer's afternoon with the 'Maid of the Forth' leaving the Aberdour jetty at 16.30 on Sunday 7th September. This colourful photo shows the short service being held in the Abbey garden with a backdrop of the Edinburgh skyline. Thanks to Simon Fraser for making all the arrangements once again.

Also inside

Page 2:

Hillside House:
And its connection
with St. Fillan's

Page 3:

Letter from the Manse

Page 5:

Parish &
Congregational
Register

Page 7:

We Need Your Stamps

Page 10:

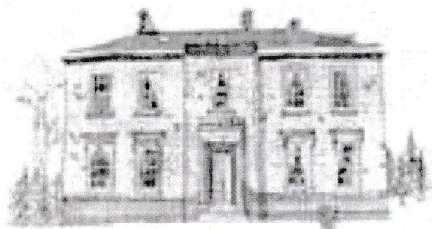
Chernobyl
Children's
Life Line

Page 11:

Ben Nevis



The Church was back in use just in time for the Flower Festival to be held for five days from Saturday 2nd August as part of the Aberdour Festival.



Hillside House

And its connection with St Fillan's

Hillside House is one of Aberdour's largest and grandest mansions and is situated in a very prominent position on a raised embankment to the north of the village. The house was built on the site of a 17th century house: a lookout tower was created from the remains of the original house and to the SE of the tower stood a late 16th century dovecot, but both these structures were demolished in 1960. The grounds were well landscaped, maps from the mid 19th century show tree lined avenues, a well planted park land and a large walled garden to the north of the house that is now being put to use by those good "community minded" people who strive so hard each year for our village to do well in the "Britain In bloom" and associated competitions.

In 1856 Mary White describes a family outing and notes that the road they took was "over-arched with fine trees, barley fields and sheep on one side and the beautiful grounds of Hillside on the other" The house was served by a gate lodge to the south and one to the north. The north lodge (opposite Croftgary farm) no longer exists, however the remnants of a tree line avenue stretches towards Hillside. It is possible that the gateway to the new cemetery (which came into being in the early 20th century) and a set of pedestrian gates facing each other across the Mill Farm Road were re-sited from the north lodge.

It is recorded that in 1822 the owner was a James Stuart, clerk to the signet. Stuart had a town residence in Charlotte Square Edinburgh, whilst Hillside was used as his country residence. He is remembered particularly as he fought the second last duel in Fife in the village of Auchtertool. His opponent Alexander Boswell, a son of Samuel Johnson's biographer, was fatally wounded. At his trial however, James Stuart was acquitted of murder "having proved himself to be a man of honour"

In the early 1830s Stuart sold Hillside to William Fraser, the house was subsequently sold in 1856 to the *Wotherspoon family* who remained there till 1934. *The largest of the stained glass windows in St Fillan's Church (above the organ) is dedicated to them.* During the second World War the house was used by armed forces, and graffiti carved into the doors of a series of vaulted storerooms in the basement testify to where errant soldiers were held. In the 1960s the house was taken over by the Salesian Fathers of ST John Bosco and used as a List D school. It was at this time that modern extensions were added. In 1982 the school was purchased by the "Hillside School Trust" and from this time onwards became a residential school. The house is used as one of the accommodation blocks for children attending school.

Bill Cochrane

Bibliography/Acknowledgments:
Information extracted from internet websites.
"St Fillan's Church" by Revd David Rutherford
(Minister at St Fillan's 1949-1975)
"Aberdour" by Nial MacDonald

Letter from the Manse

My Father's one-hundredth birthday in July was a brilliant occasion, with lots of Family, flowers and fun, (& cake for 275 people –never again!). It was great to see so many people, old & young, enjoying themselves.

As a Congregation we have much for which to be thankful. After the awful shock of the fire last December, and seven months of work, St Fillan's was re-dedicated during a Service on the 3rd of August, by the Moderator of Dunfermline Presbytery, the Rev'd Victor Laidlaw.

It was a moving and cheerful service, attended by over 200 people. With new lighting & heating, cleaned walls, and a restored organ, St Fillan's looks ready for an other 900 years.

We owe a great debt of thanks to the Fabric Convenor, Bill Paterson, who drove most of the work forward. Helped by others in the Congregation, and by a number of dedicated professionals, Bill put his skills and experience in managing Scotland's lighthouses to excellent use.

.....

Our friends at St Columba's have seen change, too, with the arrival of the Rev'd Dean Norby as the new Priest-in-Charge in the ABI Group. We welcome Father Norby and his family, and wish him well in his ministry among us.

At the same time we should express our thanks to the Rev'd Maureen Stirzaker for her ecumenical cooperation and friendship while she worked so hard at St Columba's. She and Sally have become firm friends of many at St Fillan's.

-o0o-

Soon we will be in the season of Remembrance, especially poignant this year, the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

And while our Armed Forces are in the process of withdrawing from Afghanistan after brave and costly service, new conflicts are rising, in which they might be involved. World peace appears a long way off.

At a recent wedding, we read the words St Paul wrote to the Christian community in Corinth, his famous ode to love. He writes:

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.

If we could live in such a way, that we were patient and kind, not envious, boastful, proud, rude or selfish, not get annoyed, nor remember perceived slights, we could TRANSFORM our own lives, and the lives of those around us, in our families, among our friends, and, yes, among nations.

Jesus came in to the world to share the love of God with all Creation, and even the cruelty of Crucifixion could not extinguish that Divine love. God grant that all who seek to follow Jesus may try to live out God's love, and so transform the world!

May the peace of God, which exceeds all human understanding, keep your heart and your mind in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird
Parish Minister

Aberdour Churches Family Fun Week - summer event

This summer Aberdour Churches Family Fun week hosted another successful 4 day event. This took place from Monday 28th July – Thursday 31st July in the church hall from 9.30 - 12 noon each morning.

Each morning we had between 55 - 63 children with a total of 79 children registering. We also had the additional help of several primary 7 pupils who put on a daily drama production. There was a great team of helpers each morning that worked really hard and helped to make the mornings activities run really smoothly.

The week in the church hall took on the same format as the previous 3 years. There were arts and crafts relating to the theme of the week which was Mega builds relating to the building of God's love for us all. The primary 7 children told the story through excellent drama performances each day.

There were imaginative, creative snacks served each day by the catering team also along the theme of the week.

Puzzles and discussions took place in individual groups, a daily story and DVD were shown in accordance with the message of the day.

There was a theme song of the week along with actions which were sung at least once a day, which everyone joined in with enthusiastically.

In conjunction with the church hall event which was for primary 1 - 7 children, we also ran an under 5's event in the Institute from 10 - 12 noon each morning. Age related stories, arts and crafts, and songs were done throughout the week, cake and coffee were available for the parents/carers of the children attending. This was well attended and a good way of involving the younger children in the Family Fun Week.

The Quiz night was held on the Tuesday evening in the church hall and St. Columba's Church fought well to have the trophy returned to them after a St. Fillan's team win last year.

The sun shone for us on the Thursday evening which allowed us to put on the BBQ at silver sands. The burgers sold out and the children had a great time playing on the beach and in the water.

Because of the popularity and rising numbers of these events we are having to ask more and more people to help, and this summer we had many new helpers from a variety of churches which was great to see everyone working together for the same cause.

Also because of the ever increasing numbers we found ourselves at full capacity on certain days and were unable to take any more children, meaning that we had to turn away a couple of disappointed children, which we were loathe to do, however we had to consider the safety of the children in the hall.

It is recommended for future events that parents pre register their children on the allocated dates which will be advertised in the form of flyers going into school bags and posters around the village. By pre registering the children will have a guaranteed place, as our numbers will be capped at 60.

Our next event will be the Advent event held in the church hall on **Saturday 29th November 9.30 – 12 noon**, and pre registration for that event will take place on **Sunday 23rd November between 2 – 4pm** in the church hall.

If anyone would like to help at this event they would be very welcome and your help would be very much appreciated. Please contact me Christine Waddell 01383 860802 for further information.

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2014

Richard Aikman; Bill Watson; *Mrs Blossom Taddei; Mrs. Helen McAdam Clark*; George Simpson, Ms. Elizabeth Lennox; *Steven Shedlock*; Mrs Jessie Shaw; *Donald Hamilton*

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

2014

Sally Boyd and Sandy Sheail; Eve McArthy and Matthew Hanks; *Pamela Collison and Andrew Griffiths*; Lisa Norman and Roddy McCall

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder

Baptisms

2014

Amalie Wardrop Jones; Henry James Arthur Sweeney; Hanna Maria Taylor; Orla Elizabeth Brown
Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

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

Philippians 4, verse 13

I wonder if you can remember where you have seen this verse in St Fillan's? I expect most people who come to church regularly will know the answer to this question. It is written on the blue banner on the wall beside the Hewitt boys' memorial. Do you know the text? Or did you, like me, have to look it up? These powerful words of St Paul can be found in the fourth chapter of his letter to the Philippians. (It is worth reading the whole chapter to understand the context of these words.)

I can do everything through him who gives me strength (NIV)

I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me (St James)

Do you know where the banner was while the church was being refurbished after the fire? Many people will recall it appeared in the Church Hall. How was it not damaged in the

fire? It had been removed to make way for the Christmas decorations which were put up on Saturday 14 December, the day before the fire.

It seems appropriate that we had that blue banner hanging in the Church Hall.

through all those long months of repair. The words too seem apt, particularly for the small team of members who worked so hard to organise the insurance claims and the substantial work that needed to be done.

Now the banner is back in its former place, and we can be grateful that it was unharmed and it is still as beautiful as it was when it was first placed in the church.

But above all, those words, 'I can do all things through him (Christ) who gives me strength' remind us we have a faith which, if we just cling on, will sustain us through good and bad times.

"Be on time or be **MAROONED!**"

- - - Many a time and oft this year were we told this before our Annual Pilgrimage to Inchcolm. A simple statement which fuelled a couple of memories.....(1) Of 'Dads Army Private Frazers phrase "Were doomed" , and (2) of the time my friend Liz and I very nearly did suffer such a fate!

It was way back in the Fifties, when Jack Graham (Jennifer McCraes Dad) ran his motor boat "Lady Dour" on trips over to Inchcolm, leaving from the Black Sands - more than once per dayand incidentally, there were no mobile phones, I pods, or other means of communication like we have to-day.

Anyway, on this particular Church pilgrimage, on an exceptionally sunny, warm summers day, after the Act of Worship, Liz and I set out together, exploring the island, and, as young folk do, (or did then before I pods etc.) letting our imaginations run riot with many different scenarios.....we were famous film stars acting in a blockbuster film; we were back in the days of the monks having taken vows of silence; we were explorers discovering unknown territory; we were.....???.... The ideas were seemingly endless like the beautiful evening sunshine. But wait a mo.....we thought "perhaps we should make our way back to the landing stageit must be getting on for tea-time by now and time to get on board to go home again." Oh dear !! We soon became aware that there were not many people to be seen.....no... in fact there were **no** other people to be seen. Where was everyone? Yes, you have guessed it - we had missed the boat !!! **We were all alone on the island !!!**

It was a very strange feeling, but surprisingly we were not panicky nor particularly anxious, even if the café was locked and no-one lived in the little cottage in those days, and so to seek shelter there would have been out of the question. If the worst came to the worst (we decided) we could perhaps shelter in the hermits cell. (Perhaps I should say here that neither of us are/were afraid of the dark or spiders!)

We wandered about near the landing stage, still enjoying the beautiful evening but now pondering what we should do. (As already mentioned there were no mobiles to allow us to 'phone home!) But wait a minute, what was that speeding across Mortimers Deep, heading in our direction? " Yes - it is, it is the 'Lady Dour ! " and she was being steered by one of our Youth Fellowship pals, Ian Duncan (no relation) who often worked with Mr. Graham.

What a relief and joy to see him! What a debt of gratitude we expressed..... (AND what a [deserved] telling off we received from him!!) It transpired that, when the folk from the last sailing were disembarking, Ian, Bless him, could not recall seeing us on **any** of the return trips and very kindly came back over to save us from being **MAROONED** and/or **DOOMED !!!**

(I dont know if they had those little passenger number 'clicker/recorders then, BUT it just goes to show the strength of friendships generated in our Youth Fellowship at that time).

All these years later that lovely day just feels such a magical, carefree bygone,

but I know it was really our Special **Someone** caring for us - as **He** always does!

Catherine E. Duncan



WE NEED YOUR STAMPS



The Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal for 2014 aims to raise money to cover the running costs of Dorcas, a refuge house for Women victims of domestic violence and their children in Milotopos in northern Greece. This house was bought in 2012 by The Greek Evangelical Church and was fully renovated by February 2014. The women will never be asked for any rent or money as they are in financial difficulties so the Church of Scotland hopes to cover all the running costs of the house by collecting and selling used postage stamps.

You can leave your used stamps

- in the basket in St Fillan's Church as you enter the Church or
- in the wooden box on the window ledge to the right of the door as you enter into the Church Hall or
- by handing them into Gordon at the Post Office or
- to me, Susan Morton, 4 Manse Street, Aberdour.

You can post your stamps to World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire ML2 0YB should you wish to do so.

The stamps we collect are very kindly taken to Presbytery by Catherine Duncan where they are added to other neighbourhood churches' stamps and these are collected by free courier uplift once there are between 10 and 19kg of stamps.

Thank you all for supporting World Mission through the collection of used postage stamps.

Are YOU the person we are looking for?

Do YOU enjoy playing music? You do? GREAT!!!



Then would YOU be able/willing to spare say around 45 minutes on a Tuesday afternoon, six times per year, to accompany 'the singers' during the small Act of Worship in Henderson House?



Please contact the Minister (861522) or Session Clerk (860611)

We look forward to hearing from you !!

During the Harvest service Brian Weatherup (jnr) read this passage by Paul Harvey we thought you may like to hear it again.

So God Made a Farmer

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said "I need a caretaker!", so God made a farmer.

God said "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board", so God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to wrestle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon.... and mean it, so God made a farmer.

God said "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a new-born colt... and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say "maybe next year.""

"I need somebody who can shape an axe handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of hay wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps, who planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty hour week by Tuesday noon and then pain'n from "tractor back", put in another seventy two hours", so God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbours place, so God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, yet gentle enough to yeap lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadow lark, so God made a farmer.

It had to be somebody who'd plough deep and straight...and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed...and rake and disc and plough and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard weeks work with a five mile drive to church. Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh...and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does", so God made a farmer.



STEWARDSHIP

Sunday 5th October saw our Harvest Festival service in the church followed by a Lunch in the Church Hall attended by about 70 folk. Stewardship and Social committees joined forces to organise this and we are extremely grateful to all who so kindly baked and made sandwiches and to Jim Thomson who donated a wonderful selection of flowers and vegetables to decorate both hall and church.

Our next service in the hall is on Sunday 30th November and as this is St. Andrew's Day our minister has agreed to a service with a Scottish format and we invite you to join with us for tea/coffee and shortbread after the service. Continuing the Scottish theme we hope some may well feel emboldened to wear tartan!

On the weekend of 13th/14th December we will join with the village to organise a Christmas event when we will open the hall to invite people of any faith (or no faith) to join with us to celebrate the season of Advent.

Our efforts to encourage members to be more involved with the running of the church have not met with a lot of success and it is worrying that those at the sharp end tend to be the older generation. Perhaps we are at fault in some way for making it appear that those of us who have been around for some time "know it all" but believe me we do not and we need more young folk to get involved. Don't be afraid to stick your head above the parapet if you think something should be done differently or if you know a better way of doing things, your views and active participation will be most welcome.

Ewart McSkimming
Stewardship Convenor

LUNCHESES



Lunches in the Church Hall on the first Thursday of every month continue to be enjoyed and well received by all who attend. We are as ever grateful not just for the soups which are all provided but also to so many of you who so kindly buy biscuits, paper plates and other miscellaneous items to help keep the costs down and enable us to raise funds for our Church.

To date at the end of October this year we have donated £2100 to church funds and we would hope by the end of the year to make this £2500.

In ten months we have served 893 plates of soup, offered in excess of 70 different soups and lost count of the number of cups of tea or coffee!

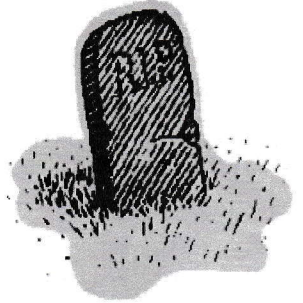
If you haven't already sampled our wares come along on the first Thursday of each month between 12 and 1.30 and for £3 enjoy a plate of soup, filled roll, tea/coffee and biscuits and equally importantly a good natter with like-minded folk.

Make a diary date for 6th November and 4th December.....you won't be disappointed!

Sandra, Ewart and Catherine

Although it may not be everyone's 'cup of tea/idea of enjoyment'

.....If, like me, some find strolling around grave-yards peaceful, pondering of those departed, and even very interesting to take a little time to read some of the verses, comments and trade signs engraved on the tomb stones, you may like to know of the inscription, long ago worn off, on one of the large grave-stones on the East gable of St. Fillan's (outside of Chancel) which is mentioned in the Reverend Robert Johnstone's little book "Guide to Aberdour". In it the Minister records



"The inscription is now illegible, but the Church Officer, Mr. R. Cunningham, heard it as a boy, from his father. It runs thus: -

Here lies interred below this stone
A man of virtues rare,
Of justice, probity and truth
Few with him could compare.

Your virtues all in him combind.
Ech one outweighed ye other.
Y in ye place qr he did live,
You'd scarce find such another.

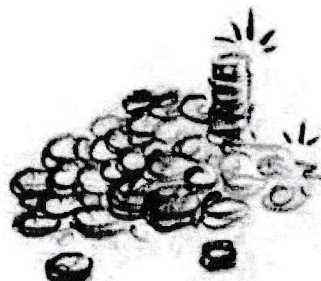
Yet death yt strikes at all alike,
Has vanquished him at last.
His body to ye dust has sent,
His soul's to glory past."

*(I had thought to include a photo of the actual stone, but realising there are **two** large stones, both of which are now illegible, thought it better not to, lest I should choose the wrong one!!!)*

Catherine E. Duncan.

Chernobyl Children's Life Line - West Fife Group

Again, a big thank you to all those who have so kindly contributed throughout the year to the Chernobyl Children's annual visit by saving their small change and passing it on to me. This year we have donated over £300. The cost of bringing each child to the UK is over £600 so the charity has to work hard to fund raise each year. To this end there is to be a **Coffee Morning in St Fillan's Church Hall on Saturday 17 January 2015, from 10am until 12. Please put this date in your diary.** There will be the usual stalls - Books, Baking, Bottles, Raffle - and help of all kinds will be needed - selling tickets, donating items, setting up, serving, tidying up. If you can help in any way, please contact Cath Scott, Catherine Duncan or myself (Eileen Harper).



BEN NEVIS Harry Cunningham

Twenty years ago, on the longest day of the year, 21st June 1994, four members of St Fillan's Church, Helen Jamison, Derek Anderson, Harry Cunningham and Alasdair Raffan (and his dog) completed a sponsored climb of Ben Nevis 4,406 ft., to raise money for the Church Hall modernisation fund. This is one precipitants recollection of that day!

We were all moderately experienced hill walkers and shall we say, slightly passed middle age. I had recently celebrated my 65th birthday so was the old man of the party and worried that I might lack the stamina to get to the top of Ben Nevis. We had made adequate preparations, use the tourist route to the top, and obtained numerous weather forecasts, all excellent and set out from Aberdour at 5:30 am arriving at Fort William as the first clouds appeared on the horizon. It was to be a long hard slog and ultimately a very wet one!

The first photograph shows two of us setting off in brilliant sunshine, the second the unexpected snow we encountered near the top, and the third the party in very thick cloud on the summit.

To try to minimize erosion we used the tourist path, which zig-zags painfully slowly up the side of the mountain. It was a case of keep plodding on. In the middle of summer we were surprised to encounter a lot of snow and disappointed to encounter thick cloud, as we had been forecast bright sunshine. Nearing the top visibility became very poor and we had to be extremely careful with our navigation, as to stray off route could lead to serious falls and injuries.

The ruins of the old observatory and then the trig point at the summit, were exposed, cold and inhospitable, so we did not linger. A quick cup of soup from my thermos and we were on our way down.

It started to rain which became heavier and heavier, and despite good quality waterproofs we were all completely soaked and miserable. The water gushed down the mountain; at times we were not sure if we were walking on the path or in a burn! It was a relief to get to the bottom, spend five minutes in a nice hot shower, put on dry clothes and head for the nearest pub. We sampled the local malt whiskies, had an excellent meal, soon we were heading home, arriving at Aberdour at 11pm.

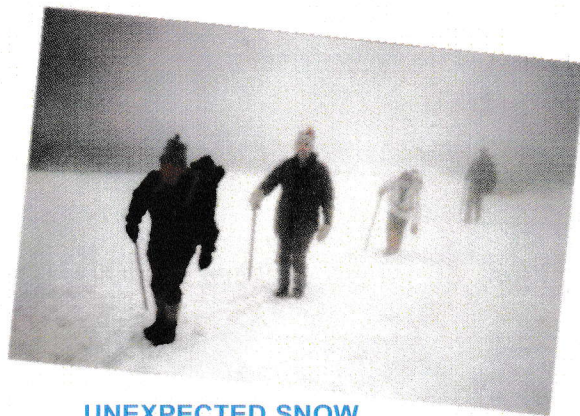
Our sponsors very generously paid up, and we raised over £2,400 for the Church Hall fund.

Twenty years later;

Despite being convinced on the way down that we would die of exposure, or even worse drown, we are all very much alive. The three younger ones can still probably manage a modest walk on the hills. The older one has to make do with puffing and panting his way up the Donkey Brae a couple of times a year.



A SUNNY START TO THE CLIMB



UNEXPECTED SNOW

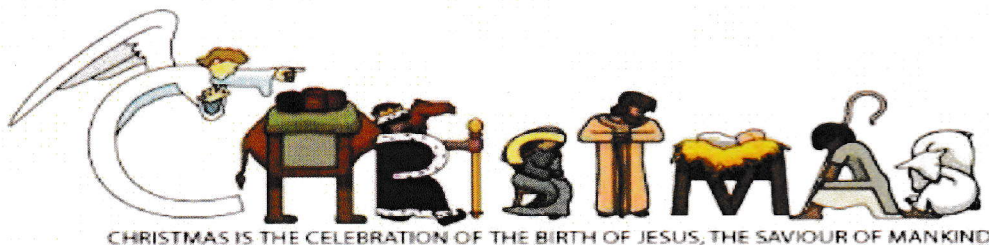


NICE VIEW!!!!

St Fillan's Advent and Christmas Services

- 30 November 10:30 St Andrews Day & Advent Service in Church Hall.
6:30 FCG Advent Evening Service, North Queensferry Church.
- 7 December 10:30 Advent Service St Fillan's Church.
6:30 FCG Advent Evening Service St Fillan's Church.
- 14 December 10:30 Family Advent Service with play & sketches & mulled wine, Church Hall.
6:30 FCG Advent Evening Service Dalgety Church.
- 21 December 10:30 St Fillan's Festival of lessons & Carols.
6:30 Contemplative Evening Service based on the Celtic tradition: St Fillan's.
- Christmas Eve 6:30 Family Service. Carols, short story & treats for the young, St Fillan's Church.
11:30 Watchnight Service Community Carol singing From 10:15, St Fillan's Church.
- Christmas Day 10:30 Christmas Eucharist Service, St Fillan's Church.
- 28 December 10:30 Music & Reading for the season

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2015



Anyone wishing to make contributions to further editions of St.Fillans Crosier, please contact Shiona Doig Tel: 01383 860791 or email: allan@hame.org.uk