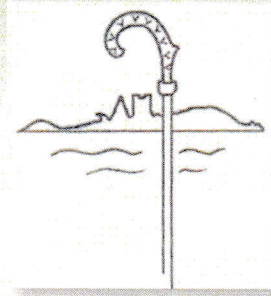


ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



After the fire!

"On 15th December 2013 a fire occurred in the North Transept of St Fillan's Church. All indications would suggest that the cause of the fire was a lightning strike to the main electricity cable serving the Church building. This cable runs to the Church from Hawkcraig Road and some properties there were also affected. The mains cable and electrical distribution boards in the Transept were totally destroyed and combustible material, mainly stored organ and choir music and curtains located nearby was set alight. This in turn ignited the electrical cables and some floor boards.

Although the fire had smoldered for several hours, the actual physical damage was minimal in that, apart from the items consumed, only about ten square meters of flooring was lost although the Church wiring was severely damaged and will have to be replaced. The main damage has been caused by the acrid smoke which permeated the building coating much of the surface area in an oily soot.

Restoration is in the hands of the insurers and is now under way. All moveable items have been taken from the building for cleaning including the organ, organ pipes and all other elements of the instrument. The next stage of the works will be to erect extensive scaffolding to provide a floor at high level following which the building will be thoroughly cleaned to remove all traces of the soot and its unpleasant odour. Rewiring and replacement of the furnishings and fittings will complete the process. It is hoped to complete the restoration by the summer months."



Also inside

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(and its connection with St Fillan's)

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THE HOSPITAL OF ST MARTHA

And its connection with St Fillan's Church

The stained glass window on the north wall of the chancel in St Fillan's Church depicts "Grey Sister" receiving a pilgrim at the Hospital of St Martha. During the 14th century it has been said that Aberdour "was much resorted to by pilgrims and poor persons. The great source of the attraction being a holy well".

John Scot, the vicar of Aberdour, was moved at the thought of the little accommodation afforded to these pilgrims; and he earnestly besought the Earl of Morton to provide some shelter for them, hinting that it was a good opportunity for doing something towards the expiation of his own sins and those of his progenitors. The vicar's suggestion was warmly accepted at the time and due preparations were made to build a hostel (hospital) on the grounds around or about where now stands "Wellside" today on the north side of Main Street near the Purple shop.

One point of interest that emerges from the detailed negotiations that took place in those far off days between the various authorities, is that it was no less than 12 years later in 1474, the Earl of Morton complained that the work was still incomplete! Since John Scot's proposal, The Earl of Morton had already donated 12 acres of land which later were called the "Sister Lands". His complaint coincided with a resolution being submitted and approved that four nuns, the sisters of penitence of the order of St Francis, should have charge of this hospice and so it remained for the relatively short time of seventy three years until 1560 when the hospital closed.

It seems that it was following this closure that the 'pilgrim's well' which can be seen depicted in the bottom pane of the stained glass window nearest the pulpit, became more popular attracting those seeking treatment for their eyes during the latter half of the 15th century. This superstitious visiting of wells was frowned upon by the church authorities and was officially disapproved by the Synod of Fife in 1649. The well in question was said to be situated in the south east corner (or thereabouts) of the St Fillan's graveyard.

The window was gifted by the Sommerville family, in memory of John Livingstone and his wife Helen.

Bill Cochrane

Acknowledgments/Bibliography: 'Aberdour and Inchcolme' Wm Ross LL.D
St Fillan's Church' Revd David W Rutherford (Minister at St Fillan's 1949-1975)



Letter from the Manse

2014 is not a year that will be forgotten easily. Of course the Referendum in September is the most eye-catching event, but there are also the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup, and the many celebrations around the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn of 1314.

For my family, my Father's 100th birthday in July will be a great source of thanksgiving & celebration.

This year's other anniversary is the one of the outbreak of the First World War, the Great War, in August. Cheering crowds all over Europe gave young soldiers rousing send-offs, only for early optimism to turn into dull despair as trench warfare swallowed up a generation.

The Church-seasons of Lent and Easter confront us with the reality of God's creation, in which violence, caused by fear, envy and a thirst for power and wealth, brings death and destruction, trying to crush the healing love of God.

The Prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures wrote of the coming of God's Anointed, a Messiah, to re-create the relationship between God and His creation. Yet when this Messiah came, and revealed the full extent of God's love, the world appeared unable to cope.

Folk could not accept that touching the ritually unclean, healing on the Sabbath, and reaching out beyond the man-made barriers of race, culture and Faith was part of the expression of God's all-embracing love.

And so, despised and tortured, God's Messiah was nailed to a Cross. Yet that was not the end, for God's love could not be destroyed by death, or confined to a tomb, but flickered back into life in the joyful mystery of the Resurrection.

It is in Christ's death and Resurrection that all Creation finds salvation, and the dead, of battles long past and in our families today, find eternal rest and life everlasting.

Christians are asked to live out the all-encompassing love of God in their daily lives, and in word and action proclaim God's love for all.

Sebastian Temple set to music the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi, part of which goes:

*"Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul."*

In a world still marred by fear, envy and a thirst for power and wealth, these words should cause us to reflect on the way we live our lives. If we were willing, truly willing, to console, to understand, and to love with all our soul, we could transform the lives of those around us, and our own lives as well.

Then petty differences, condemnation of the life-styles of others, and the constant need to do better at acquiring material comforts will become irrelevant. Their place will be taken by love, compassion, and care towards those around us, near and far away, and we will begin to live the life God means us to live, free from all that holds us back.

When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus answered:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"***

Let us try and live our lives fulfilling those words.

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird

Parish Minister

(*Hymn 528, CH4; **St Matthew 22: 37-38)

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2013 Ms Cindy Clegg, Mr. Louis Rennie, Mrs. Rita Chorley, Mrs. Isobel McFarlane, Mrs. Helen Hannay, Miss Jean Liddle, Mr. William Allan.

2014 Mrs. Margaret Brodie, Mrs. Joan Pearson.

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 Ben Day and Diana Prior; Marilyn Hynd and Eric Nicoll.

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder

Baptisms

2013 Rowan Constance Reekie; Sophie Isabella Taylor; Dylon Alexander Turner Duff; Lilli Louise Turner Duff.

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

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

Aberdour Churches Family Fun Week

2013 saw the growth of The Aberdour Churches Family Fun week from one event in previous years to 3 events in 2013. The year started off with the Good Friday morning event, followed by the annual week event in July followed by the Advent morning event held on the 21st November.

This year's programme kicks off with the Good Friday morning event (18th April) 9.30-12.00 in the Church Hall. Full of great art and craft activities, a snack, a bit of singing and some story telling.

The annual week event will be held starting on Monday 28th July each morning from 9.30-12.00, finishing on Thursday 31st July. In addition there will be the Family Quiz night on Tuesday 29th July which is held in the church hall at 7.30, and on Thursday 31st July at 6.30 we hope to hold the BBQ, weather permitting at silver sands. All the morning events are held in the church hall for primary 1 - primary 7 children.

In addition to this event there will also be a preschool age childrens event held on the same week in the Institute in Aberdour between 10-12. A chance for younger children to get involved in age related activities and for parents /carers to get together for companionship, coffee and cake.

Our final event of the year will be the advent one, which will be held on Saturday 29th November in the Church Hall 9.30-12. For Primary 1 - primary 7 children.

There will be a coffee morning held on Saturday 3rd May in the church hall from 10-12 noon. This is to help raise funds for the family Fun week events. We would be grateful for anyone who could come along and help that morning and / or do some baking, or simply come along and have a coffee and support us, it would be great to see the children come along as well.

All our events have been great fun in the past and each year our numbers have been rising significantly, all offers of help for any of these events would be most welcome, we have a great team of helpers and the more people we have helping the better.

Look out for the posters that will be put up around the village at various locations giving details nearer the times of the up and coming events.

Please contact Christine Waddell 860802 for further details about any of the events and any offers of help.

St. Fillan's and St. Columba's working together.

ARE YOU?

Are you an active member

The kind that would be missed

Or are you just contented

That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meeting

And mingle with the flock

Or do you stay at home

And criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part

To help the work along

Or are you satisfied to be

The kind that just belong

Do you ever voluntarily

Help at the guiding stick

Or leave the work to just a few

And talk about the "Clique"?

Come to meetings often

And help with hand and heart

Don't be just a member

But take an active part!

Open Door

During the cold winter months Open Door's monthly meetings have continued to provide a warm welcome and friendship for all in the local community. Once again our excellent speakers both local and from further afield have entertained, enthused and informed us. Personal accounts of travel adventures have taken us from the Southern States of America to the Archeological sites on the Orkney Isles. We have been presented with the inner most workings of the Royal Yacht Britannia, and the latest spectacular stages of construction of the New Queensferry Bridge. On matters closer to the heart members from the Children's Panel provided us with a sensitive and moving account of the work they undertake with troubled young people. In this year of the Referendum we also had the pleasure of reflecting on the remarkable life story of Scotland's national hero Robert Burns.

The money raised this year at Open Door has been divided between the Charity 'Scottish Love in Action' and St Fillan's. Thank you for your support. Our Autumn programme starts again on Thursday 9th October 2014. Wishing you all a very good summer

From the team: Lynn Bastow, Kate Wheaton, John Gordon, Helen Jamison, Jean Hutton, Alec & Mairi Waugh & Leslie Gordon.

Thank you from the Chernobyl Children

The West Fife Group of the Chernobyl Children's Life Line continue to receive 10-12 children from the area affected by the Chernobyl disaster for a month's holiday each July. This is a huge commitment, air fares being one of the biggest items they have to fund. I am delighted to say that last year we donated £430 to this charity all this from small, and large, collections of small change which are passed to me throughout the year.

If you would like to know more about this charity please visit their website:

www.cclldunfermlinewestfife.org.uk

It is most encouraging for those who run the West Fife Group that we are supporting them with our regular donations. A most sincere thank you to all those who collect and pass their money on to me.

If you would like to donate at any time, then please bring your money to church, or to my house (10 Home Park) or contact me for collection. Thank you!

(Eileen Harper, 860151, sophieharp@googlemail.com)



INCHOLM PILGRIMAGE

31 AUGUST 2014

Depart Aberdour 4.30pm

Return from Inchcolm 6.45pm

Summary of the Annual Report and Accounts 2013 - 'The Accounts'

The annual accounts were received by the congregation during Morning Service on 30th March. Here is a very brief Summary. The single document contains the Trustees Report over the pages 1-10, and the information on the accounts in pages 11-15. The report contain a description of the Church's Organisation and Governance, together with descriptions of all the main activities carried out in the year from Young St Fillan's to Pastoral Care.

In the accounts there are more details of the sources of Income and Expenditure but the main numbers are shown in the table beneath with 2012 figures shown for comparison:

		2013	2012			2013	2012
In	Donations and Offerings	£53,049	£57,639	Out	Net Ministry and Mission to '121'	£43,074	£45,175
	Gift Aid Tax refunded	£10,362	£10,969		Parish Assnt and Presbytery	£4,571	£3,961
	Weddings and Funerals	£2,797	£3,023		Insurance	£3,874	£4,682
	Use of Church Hall	£5,685	£5,681		Local Salaries (incl Organ Supplies)	£6,298	£6,703
	Fundraising	£4,770	£3,842		Heat and Light	£4,429	£4,196
	Associated Orgs (St Fillans Lunches, etc)	£2,935	£2,411		Fabric Mtce and Vestry Roof repairs etc.	£12,705	£4,045
	Investment Income and other	£3,152	£4,341		Other (incl Council Tax, Expenses, Office costs, etc)	£8,878	£10,874
	Legacies	£0	£2,000		External Donations from past income	£2,298	£0
	Totals	£82,750	£89,906		Totals	£86,127	£79,636

As can be seen from these figures, in 2013 there was a deficit of £3692 compared with a surplus of £9879 in 2012 - a big turnaround, despite good control of underlying costs.

There were main reasons for this:

- High level of expenditure on the Vestry Roof and other maintenance works in 2013
- The one-off donation in 2013 to Alumenda which was held in a Restricted Fund for this purpose,
- The decline in Donations and Offerings, partly due to the fall in the Parish membership.

This deficit was funded from Reserves, but in 2014 a further deficit is expected because of higher costs which cannot be avoided. While there are sufficient Reserves to manage this expected shortfall again this year, this situation cannot be sustained for long. The success of the upcoming Stewardship campaign throughout the Parish membership, and an emphasis on new Fundraising ideas will be important in coming months.

Finally it should be noted that the unfortunate Fire last December has so far had a minimal impact on our Finances, but some unplanned expenditure on its refurbishment cannot be ruled out.

STEWARDSHIP IN 2014

We initially launched our Stewardship campaign in July 2012 when we concentrated our efforts on Time and Talents and were heartened by the response which resulted in various different tasks being carried out including church cleaning and removal of ivy from the hall surrounds being just two of the principal tasks completed. More importantly it brought different people together with different talents and it is fair to say lots of folk got to know one another better. This success has continued with new people appearing on door duty and in reading the lessons on a Sunday morning.

In 2014 we move to the third of our promises involving "treasures" which of course involves money. Our minister touched on this in his sermon on 30th March at the Annual Stated Meeting and indicated how an additional small amount per person could make such a difference to our finances. Your Stewardship Committee wish to continue in this vein but, rather than appeal to the folk who attend faithfully every Sunday and contribute so generously, we want to look beyond this to the many already on our roll whom we have not seen for some time.

There are many on our roll who are unable to attend for a variety of reasons and I know for many of them this is a great sadness. My own father in law at the grand old age of almost 93 enjoys his weekly tape from his church in Petty (just outside Inverness) but misses the physical involvement in worship and I know many of our own folk feel the same way. However, like him, these people still contribute either by WFO or standing order in many cases.

We want to invite back to church those on our roll whom we have not seen for a long time. I am conscious of how easy it is to stop coming to church. There are many activities, not least supermarket shopping, which did not exist when many of us were young. There are activities like shinty practice which occur on Sunday at the same time as a Sunday service and there are similar calls upon a family's time. Often because of work commitments, weekends are the only time families have an opportunity to enjoy outings together and we are conscious of this. If you have not been to church for a long time try to slot in one Sunday and make it the last Sunday of the month when we have coffee after church. Come along and chat to folk, speak to Peter, speak to fellow worshippers, get involved.....you might just enjoy it!!!!!!!

NOW if you have read this far please read on!

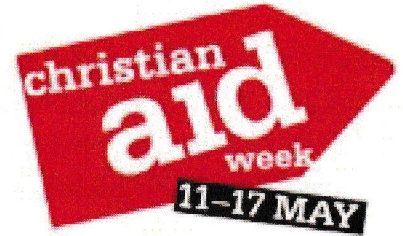
We were all devastated by the fire in our church just before Christmas last year and you will be aware that repairs etc. are on-going and in another part of this paper you will read an update from our Property Convenor, Bill Paterson, on work in progress. It would seem the majority of the costs of repair will be met by our insurers but at the same time we want to take this opportunity to update certain features like lighting and possibly tape recording which we shall require to fund ourselves.

Your Stewardship Committee is proposing to have a special fund raising event for this and we would ask for your support when this is announced shortly. We also propose to have a weekend of celebration when we know we can once again worship in our church (date not yet known), and this will involve an event on the Saturday, a special service on the Sunday possibly followed by a lunch and get-together in the church hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ewart McSkimming, Stewardship Convenor.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

In Aberdour, the main fund raising event for Christian Aid is the Coffee Morning in May, during Christian Aid Week. This year the Coffee Morning will be on 17th May from 10.00 till 12.00 in the Church Hall. Tickets priced £2 will be available from the event volunteers towards the end of April and of course, can be bought at the door on the actual day.



Why does St. Fillan's support the fund raising efforts during CA week?

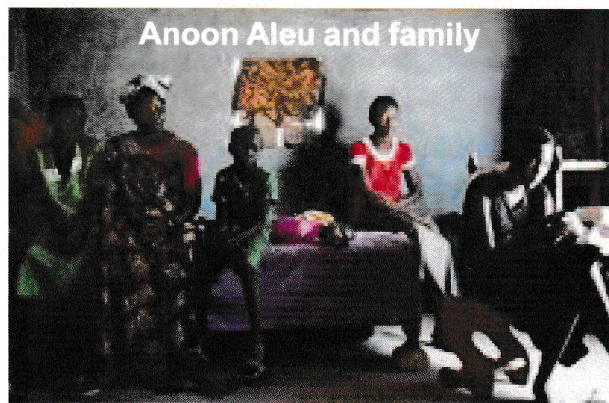
Each year CA focuses on some aspect that will improve the lives of people living in countries where the population face adversity. This year CA Week highlights the human cost of conflict in places like Syria, South Sudan, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. CA provides the basics; medical care, water, food and shelter. Their aim is to keep people safe, helping to heal their emotional scars and providing the expert support they need to deal with the traumatic experiences they have endured.

When the fighting at last stops, CA is there helping communities on the path to recovery, from building homes where families feel safe to making sure that those who've lost everything can earn enough to support themselves. CA also works to tackle the causes of conflict not just the consequences. CA aims to give people across the world a life free from fear and hence their campaign this year is entitled FEAR LESS - "Seek peace and pursue it" Psalm 34:14b

During the Coffee Morning, watch out for the short clips of people helped by CA such as Anoon Aleu from South Sudan who has lived through violence, war and personal tragedy, but is now rebuilding her life thanks to donations made to CA that have provided money to buy mud bricks to build a strong house.

So how much does a house in South Sudan cost?

1000 bricks	£34
Roof	£196
Bamboo poles for roof support	£27
Strong window	£7
Strong door	£14
Items for house	£11
Total	= £289



How can we help to raise the money for strong houses like Anoon's?

At the Coffee Morning there will be stalls selling books, baking, plants, jams/pickles, Fair Trade and bric-a-brac. If you have any items to donate, please contact Lesley Gordon on 01383 860030 for uplifting, or bring them to the Church Hall on Friday evening (16th) or early on Saturday morning. And of course please come along to enjoy a cuppa and home baking.

Hope to see you there on the 17th of May.