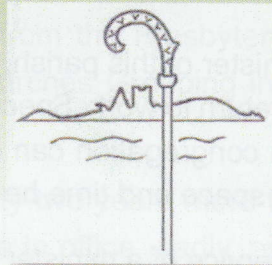


ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



Fillan, son of Feriach and St. Kentigerna, was also known as Foelan. He became a monk in his youth and accompanied his mother from Ireland to Scotland where he lived as a hermit near St. Andrew's monastery for many years, and then was elected abbot. He later resigned and resumed his eremitical life at Glendochart, Perthshire, where he built a church and was renowned for his miracles. Various legends attribute the most extravagant miracles to him, such as the one in which his prayers caused a wolf that had killed the ox he was using to drag materials to the church he was building, to take the ox's place. Fillan died on January 19. His feast day is January 19.

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Letter from The Moderator

Because of the continuing absence through illness of the Rev Peter Gerbrandy-Baird the Presbytery of Dunfermline has appointed me to be the Interim Moderator and I am happy to be able to help out during this time. I have been appointed because once a minister has been off sick for a prolonged period such appointments are automatic to ensure the smooth running of the parish and the provision of continuing pastoral care.

The situation remains that Peter is the minister of this parish, that no decisions on his or your future will be or can be taken until he is ready to return to work. Speculation is neither helpful nor likely to be accurate and the best thing that you as a congregation can do is pray for the speedy return to full health of the minister, and to give him the space and time he needs to effect that recovery.

In the meantime if you yourself need the service of a minister either contact me through your elder or directly. My contact information is available on the service sheet. I wish you and your minister God's richest blessing and you can be sure that you and he are being supported by the prayers of Presbytery.

My first job as Interim Moderator of your church was to chair a Kirk Session meeting. We began, rather to their surprise I think, by singing the 100th Psalm. Even if it is not something the Kirk Session customarily do they threw themselves into it. I think I even heard some harmonies!

The 100th Psalm is a great favourite, and if the Church of Scotland has an "our tune" then I suspect that might be it. Despite the fact that we sometimes sing the lines "with cheerful voice" and "him praise with mirth" as though we were suffering from a heavy cold and at a funeral in a church with no heating in the middle of winter.

Its abiding popularity though is found in the final stanza:

*For why? The Lord our God is good
His mercy is for ever sure
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure*

God is good and merciful. The truth of our faith is something upon which we can depend, and has been so for countless generations before us and still to come.

As members of Aberdour St Fillan's you may find the times unsure and unsettling. But we live our lives as pilgrims, and pilgrims need to be ready to be unsure and unsettled. Pilgrimage is about movement. These circumstances are not confined to this parish or these times.

But know that the Lord is God indeed. We are his folk for whom he cares greatly.

As I write this I have no idea whether my time with you will be short or long. But I do know that God has us all in hand and that we can sing the hundredth Psalm together with absolute confidence.

With every Blessing

Rev Alec Shuttleworth

Minister of Tulliallan and Kincardine Church

Letter from The Session Clerk

(At this time of writing, while appreciating the timing is absolutely awful with our Minister signed off work and my feeling very like a traitor or 'crew jumping ship in the Captain's absence' I perhaps should say that the wheels were set in motion last year.....!)

I am sorry but Family and others' comments and several 'happenings' during last year, plus the added probability of change arising from the Presbytery Parish Mission Committee proposals to come at the demise of the Forth Churches Grouping in June, encouraged me to re-appraise my position as Session Clerk.

Having held the post for almost twenty-two years more than four times the term recommended by Church of Scotland as a suitable time in office sadly, as you will by now know, I felt the time had come for me to step down to allow for someone younger, with fresher ideas, to be appointed to the office. That someone (received at our recent Annual Stated Meeting) is of course John Gordon, whom I hope will be as blessed with the same support, happy and fulfilling time in office as I have been.

When a teenager and in the Youth Fellowship I often used to ponder, what then seemed a 'mystery', of what being a Session Clerk was. There was this person, always a man, who seemed to be a little 'different' from all the other Elders (for a time, only men!). The late Robert Walker (later known to me as fellow choir member and beautiful singer, Bob), Bill Chalmers, and the late Ian Foster are those whom I best remember. Also one of my former friends held such office at a church not too far from here and yet I was still none the wiser what the job entailed. Little did I know that I would very soon find the answer that day in 1993 when the Reverend John Scott called at the house to say my name had been proposed to succeed the said Ian Foster and to ask if I would be prepared to accept the office.

(He also said to my husband that I wouldn't be 'missing' from home so much in attending meetings, visiting, etc.! Ahem.....????)

Despite my curiosity it took me several weeks of careful thought and prayer before I agreed to have my name put forward to the Kirk Session and on 28th June that year I took the Oath de fideli and the position of Clerk to the Kirk Session. And the rest they say is history.....

During my years in office I have very much enjoyed carrying out the duties and functions required as Session Clerk, and in giving (I hope) sufficient and appropriate support to the Elders and the three Moderators with whom I have had the great honour and privilege to serve; and I should like to put on record my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the encouragement, help and goodwill afforded to me by the said Clergy, all the office-bearers past and present, and the members of the congregation, without which and whom I could not have even begun to function. Thank you all!

May God continue to richly bless our future journey here in St. Fillan's.

Catherine E. Duncan

Join us for our Open Door 2015/16 season **Kate Wheaton (chair)**



Find out more about the world within reach of Aberdour on land on sea and in Ryanair, at Open Door

Our final speaker rounded off the 2014/15 season with a talk on The Great Camino. We enjoyed a huge variety of topics from, The Swans and Sand Martins of Puddledub to a life in the Citizens Advice Bureau, a biography of Admiral Cochrane, the construction of HMS Queen Elizabeth II Aircraft Carrier and the history of Defending the Forth 1914-1945.

Supported by a Fairtrade Stall each week, some Open Door presentations were light in tone others plumbed the depths of our ingenuity and challenged us to embrace new ways of thinking about significant enterprises, people and places. All took place in the Church Hall on the second Thursday of the month October through March.

We are beginning to pull together ideas for our next session of Open Door 2015/16 and would greatly value thoughts that you might have of an interesting speaker or intriguing topic that you think would capture the imaginations of people from the Aberdour area and its environs. Please do speak to one of the Open Door Team who are; Lynn Bastow, Lesley Gordon, John Gordon, Jean Hutton, Helen Jameson, Ruth Rippin and Mairi and Alex Waugh.

Our £2 entry charge allows us to raise money for the church and support different charities. I do hope we will see you at the next season of Open Door Thursday mornings. Pin your ears back for further information.....

LUNCHES

Thanks to all who contributed to another successful year in 2014 when we raised the "fabdabydozy" sum of £2530 for church funds in the course of which we served 1101 folk who over the space of twelve months enjoyed 91 different soups!

Lunches started off a good number of years ago and over the last twelve years we have seen monthly attendances grow considerably. Our best month was August 2013, 153 people joined us for lunch and even on a cold December day in 2011, 110 brave souls ventured out to enjoy a plate of hot soup, a filled roll, as much tea/coffee as they could drink and a good old natter!

If you haven't yet tried our monthly fare, make a diary date for the first Thursday of every month and come along between 12 noon and 1.30 and sit back and be served a plate of hot soup (usually at least 6 to choose from), a filled roll (egg mayonnaise, ham, cheese, tuna) and lashings of tea and coffee and above all friendly chat, all for the princely sum of £3.

We couldn't do this without the help of a dedicated team who provide an assortment of soups, who butter and fill an assortment of rolls, serve umpteen cups of tea and coffee, and who happily (?) then wash up afterwards. In addition to this we are eternally grateful to so many who donate tea, coffee, biscuits, tuna, paper plates, napkins and other bits and pieces in order that we may keep down costs and thus donate more to church funds.

Thank you for your support and if you haven't yet tried our offering come along on the first Thursday of any month and experience it first-hand.

Catherine, Sandra and Ewart

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2014 *Davie Jamieson; John Murray; William Paterson; Mrs Dot Wotherspoon; Fred Jeffs; Ian Thompson*

2015 Mrs Margaret Cunningham

*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 Marcella McAndie and Nicholas Clelland

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder

Baptisms

2014 Abbie Ann Gordon Hay; (twins) Grace Diane Robertson and Millie Claire Robertson

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Joining by Transference Certificate

Michael Bannerman, ⁴⁰ 5 Grange Road, Burntisland

Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

The Revd. Maureen Ann Stirzaker, 4 Morayvale

Ms Moraig Helen Watt, 4 Morayvale (*known as Sally*)

We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here

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

Holy Week Services

Monday 30th March FCG joint service at Dalgety Parish Church 7:00pm

Tuesday 31st March FCG Joint Service at Inverkeithing Parish Church 7:00pm

Wednesday 1st April FCG Joint Service at St Fillan's Parish Church 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Sacrament of Holy Communion at St Fillan's 7:00pm

Good Friday Service at St Fillan's 7:00pm

Easter Day Worship at Sunrise in the Churchyard 6:00am

Family Service with Holy Communion 10:30am

TRIBUTE TO BILL PATERSON

Elders were upstanding as this Tribute was given at a meeting of the Kirk Session.

Shortly after moving into Dovecot Park a certain 'newcomer' to Aberdour and his wife Margaret, were in 2005 welcomed into full membership in St. Fillan's. The 'newcomer' was of course William Paterson, better known to us all as Bill.

Bill had served for many years with Lighthouses and how we all enjoyed his presentations of his time doing that the photos, information and stories, including his mischievous little smile when reminiscing about the time he had to climb up a ladder behind the Princess Royal on one of her visits.

It was not long before Bill became involved with the Property Committee, eventually taking over from Graeme Stevens as Convener.

Bill met many challenges from the start of his term in office in addition to the regular maintenance work - solving the problem of water ingress in the Vestry, the installation of the much needed fire alarm system and appropriate Fire Assessment Risk documentation in the Hall. He was involved in the working parties deep cleaning the Church and removing the undergrowth around the back of the Church Hall, dealing with the many problems with the recording system for our Tape Ministry, to name but a few, and all of which he approached with enthusiastic determination.

On 29th August, 2010, Bill was ordained as an Elder, and it was considered he had enough to contend with as Property Convener without the added duty of being assigned to a District. Little did we know that morning in December 2013 just how true this was to be with all the demands to be placed on Billhis expertise, his inspiration, his patience, a great deal of his time coming to the fore....dealing with firemen, the insurance assessors, surveyors, electricians and other contractors.

At some point of every day I would receive a 'phone call from Bill, from 'down in the Church' just to ask something. So much so I began to feel he had 'taken up residence' there in his pursuit of getting everything done just right for the aesthetic enhancement and restoration of the building to the Glory of God.

I doubt any one of us will enter St. Fillan's without remembering Bill's achievement.

It is so sad that having given so much time in the restoration work his family were latterly being deprived of his company, and that Bill, who had done such dedicated and valiant work in God's service, should have had to suffer so much in the short time he had left.

So in paying respect and giving thanks for Bill's life, witness and service and for the privilege we had of knowing and serving alongside him, let us take comfort in the knowledge that he is no longer in pain and is now with his Master, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, where he can rest in His company and no doubt hear the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

The Moderator then led Prayers of Thanksgiving for Bill's life and witness and for God's Peace and Comfort for his family at this sad time.

Catherine E. Duncan

Aberdour Post office and its connection with St Fillan's Church

In 1973 the Post Office issued special hand cancel and cover with our Church.

Whilst recognizing this memorable event the Aberdour Post Office could not itself boast of such an ancient history. Our Post Office in Aberdour was established just six months after the start of the Seven Year War on the 1st February 1757 at a time of "scarcity and death" in our village, and continued to operate with its own sorting office and postmen until 1967, a period of over two hundred years.

The location of the Post Office in Aberdour has changed from one place to another in the village, it is hardly surprising to find that in 1855 the Post Office was just across the road from the Blacksmith's in the building which is now at the corner of where Park Lane (formerly "Coal Wynd") joins the High Street. In those times before railway trains, stage horses required re shoeing and stabling overnight in the yard beside the Aberdour Hotel so this made good sense. The Blacksmiths forge was located behind what is now known as Anvil House and operated there as such until the late forties. By 1896 the Post Office had moved to the building on the north side of the High Street (next to where a new house is now located opposite our new delicatessen). It may be of interest to mention that when the late Harry Liston ran his grocery business from that shop, evidence of a Post Office was found. a hotel in a house that was called Ashlea (owned later by Wattie Collyer who ran the Woodside Garage in the late forties and whose eldest son was killed in the Second World War, a fact recorded on our War Memorial) before being incorporated into the hotel itself as it is now. In 1914, just prior to the Great War, the Post Office was situated in the shop next to, and on the east of, the church hall. This particular place was a bank amongst other things before becoming the antique shop of today. These locations can be noted on various maps made of the area at various times since 1855.

From 1935 until 1962 the present premises were rented by various postmasters operating the Post Office. David Watson bought the shop in 1962 inadvertently I assume, becoming the first postmaster to own the premises probably since the innkeeper in the Aberdour hotel all those years beforehand, and the last postmaster to run the office with letter sorting facilities which were transferred to Burntisland in 1967. Rosie Jeffs, his daughter now lives in Dovecot estate.

In its heyday the Aberdour Post Office employed three postmen. During the early fifties they were Andrew Wotherspoon, Bert Jamieson and Freddie Macdonald. After leaving the service Fred opened a newsagents business for a short time in Caulfield adjoining the bowling green; Andrews daughter in-law, Dorothy, now lives in Castle View; and Berts daughter Catherine Duncan is clerk to the St Fillan's Church kirk session, lives in Humble Terrace, and is very active in village affairs.

Thus for two hundred and ten years Aberdour sorted its own mail and ran its postal service. Times are changing and with the development of electronic means of communication the post may well become part of a romantic past that was full of discipline, incident and human endeavor for it was not without good reason that the expression "The Royal Mail must get through" was well known and understood.

Bill Cochrane

Acknowledgments/Bibliography:

The Postal Services of Aberdour Post Office

W T Cochrane

The Statistical account of Scotland Vol X, Fife 1791-1799



INCHOLM PILGRIMAGE

13th September 2015

Depart Aberdour 2.30pm

Return from Inchcolm 4.45pm

AN EARLIER TRIP TO INCHCOM

Extract from "Aberdour and Inchcolme" by Rev Wm Ross 1885

... in the year 1421, the Abbot of Inchcolme, with the whole Convent, passed the summer and autumn on the mainland, for fear of the English rovers. But when the harvest was secured, and winter was approaching, when they had less fear from their Southern foes, the brethren resolved on returning to Inchcolme. To the island accordingly they went, on Saturday, the 8th day of November, taking with them their servants and baggage. On the following day Sunday, to wit-the Abbot sent the cellarer, with some of the servants, to bring from the mainland some provisions, and certain barrels of beer, which were lying in the brewery at Barnhill- near the site of the present St Colme's House. About three o'clock in the afternoon the sailors put off from the shore; and, under the exhilarating influence of the beer, the quality of which they had tested before removing it, they deftly plied their oars, and skimmed the quiet waters with conscious easy. But, not content with the rate of progress they were making, the servants proposed to hoist the sail; and, in spite of the remonstrances of the Cannons, who seemed to have foreboded evil, they carried their point. No sooner, however, was the canvas spread, than the boat was assailed by angry gusts of wind, and shaken by waves that had suddenly been raised. The sail was torn to rags by the strength of the blast, and the steersman having let go the rudder, the boat filled and went down. 'What need is there of many words to tell the issue?' the chronicler pathetically asks. Of the six persons in the boat, three were drowned; Alexander Made, the cellarer, and the two sailors. But Sir Peter, the Cannon, and two others were miraculously snatched from the jaws of death. Sir Peter was supported for a whole hour and a half by a rope's end conveniently extended to him, and held, by St Columba, whose aid he implored; his saintship appearing in bodily form, as the Canon himself afterwards stoutly affirmed. The other two clung to a wisp of straw, till some men from Aberdour put off in a boat from Portvin, and came to their rescue. The fact the chronicler wishes chiefly to be noticed, in the connection with this miracle, is that they who were saved from a watery grave had all of them, that day, been present at the celebration of the Mass; the chaplain having taken part in it, in the parish church of Dalgety....

Letter from Bill Ashcroft

Living in Burntisland as we do my wife and I get a passing impression of Inchcolm island and the abbey ruins as we take the coast road to St Fillan's each Sunday morning. Inchcolm has been called the Iona of the East, and Easter fast approaching my thoughts go back to the Easter holidays of my youth. These usually entailed a few days on the Island of Arran, where they say it can rain solidly for a week, and as I recall it once did just that. Notwithstanding this the enthusiasm for the West and its islands my parents instilled in me has remained with me all my life, and exploring them I've discovered many unexpected facts. One is that taking-off from the beach at Barra was so much smoother and stress-free than any modern airport. Another concerns snow. I used to be a keen hillwalker and as with many my knees began to act up as the years passed. I always wondered how I would fare if I was caught out on the high places in a snowstorm but on the only occasion this came anywhere near happening, I found that the snow cushioned my downward passage so effectively that far from impeding my descent I arrived back at the car in record time.

The point of these somewhat banal canters down Memory Lane is that we're continually taken unawares by the World in which we live, sometimes blissfully; sometimes brutally. We are now in the Season of Lent, culminating in Holy Week,

and Easter Sunday which is as joyous an occasion as Christmas, although it's quite a leap from Friday to Sunday, as is to be expected when we reflect on the most significant event in the history of the human race. However, we very often forget what a surprise the Resurrection was for the disciples. It shows they weren't listening, but there was nothing particularly unusual about that, and how much less blameworthy this than a smug I-told-you-so would have been. As it was they were Surprised by Joy as CS Lewis puts it.

General duties apart, the clergy tend to look upon Holy Week as an opportunity for reflection and meditation. The word meditation conjures images of Buddhist monks sitting cross-legged, eyes shut, fingers interlocked, by the light of temple candles, but it's what most of us would have engaged in as we sat by our firesides gazing into the embers as the evening drew on a hundred years ago. And it's in such silences, however rarely we encounter them these days, that we hear a still small voice.

Lent is the season when we're encouraged to practice self-denial - in theory at least - and to be sure it's no bad thing to cut back on excessive self-indulgence, but there would be no harm in taking a breather, letting our minds drift idly - yes, idly - and who knows, some of us may find an angel knocking at our door.

Young St Fillan's - Sunday Club

The leaders of our Young St Fillan's Sunday Club have a mission 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.

Our children's Sunday Club have fun every Sunday 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.

In the past month we have learned about the Tower of Babel via Stomp Rockets, baked very yummy brownies (and even managed to sell some and raise money for Fairtrade), made some excellent crafts for stories about Jesus and learned a lot about the Bible. In Aberdour we can be part of our community, our church, our school, our family, and 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 meet every Sunday at St Fillan's church from 10:30 to 11:30 - children are collected by the YSF leaders from the church after the children's address and go to Aberdour Primary School for club time. On the last Sunday of every month we meet at the Church hall in the High Street and club time is the full hour as this is when we bake.

We welcome 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.

God bless, Bronwyn Christie-Scott

Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish Country Dancing has been enjoyed in the Church Hall for the last 35 years but it seems very few residents in Aberdour are either aware of this or just not interested. At present we have only 1 Aberdour resident who comes faithfully!!

Our dancers (aged 16 - 80+) come, in the main, from Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and even one from Edinburgh.

Scottish Country Dancing is "set dancing" (which is different to Ceilidh dancing) and is a fun way to keep fit during the winter months. It is also a good way to keep the memory alert!

We are a non-profit making club so excess funds go to local groups
In the past we have donated to Aberdour and Dalgety Day Care Groups and Aberdour and Dalgety Playgroups.

Classes are on a Wednesday evening from 7.45pm to 9.45pm.

For £2.50 you get live music, tea and biscuits!

The current session finishes on the 22nd April.

We start again on the 16th September. Mark it in your diary!

Beginners would be made most welcome.

For further information contact Sandra McSkimming on Tel: 01383 823454

Anne Stuarts word search

(you may notice a recurring theme to this page)

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

Find the following words:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ACCESS | HEARING |
| ACTIVITY | HELPER |
| ADVICE | INDEPENDENCE |
| AID | KEEPMOBILE |
| ALARM | MEDICINE |
| ARTHRITIS | MINDER |
| BACK | NEED |
| BACKACHE | NHSAIDS |
| BALANCE | PAIN |
| BLUEBADGE | REACT |
| CALM | READING |
| CARER | RESTING |
| CHAIR | RISKFATORS |
| CHIROPODY | ROLLATOR |
| CHOICE | STABILITY |
| DAYCENTRE | SLIP |
| DEPENDING | SMILE |
| DIET | SPACE |
| EXERCISE | SPINE |
| EYECARE | STOOL |
| EYESIGHT | STRONGBONES |
| FEAR | THEREPY |
| FLUJAB | THINK |
| FOOTCARE | TOOL |
| FRACTURES | VITAMINS |
| HANDLE | WEIGHT |
| HANDRAIL | |

Julie Andrews sang this song on her seventy ninth birthday
in Manhattan's City Hall to the tune of the song
"My Favourite Things" from the movie 'Sound of Music'

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy food nor food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixadent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinning
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinning,
Our short shrunken frames as ageing begins,
Then we remember our favourite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And I don't feel so bad.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,
With my eyes growing dim,
Then I simply remember the great life I've had,
And I don't feel so bad.

Summary of the Annual Report and Accounts 2014 - 'The Accounts'

The annual accounts were received by the congregation during Morning Service on 22nd March: here is a brief Summary. The report describes the Church's Organisation, Governance, Worship highlights and of all the main activities carried out in the year, from Young St Fillan's to Pastoral Care and to Property care. Also included are the main objectives for 2015, and a summary of the end year financial position.

The detailed accounts themselves show all the sources of Income and Expenditure in 2014, and a statement of the assets held by St Fillan's at the end of the year. A summary of the overall numbers is shown in the table beneath with 2013 figures given for comparison:

		2014	2013			2014	2013
In	Donations and Offerings	£73,999	£53,049	Out	Net allocation to '121'	£42,274	£43,074
	Gift Aid Tax refund	£11,929	£10,362		Parish Assntant and Presbytery	£7,419	£4,571
	Weddings and Funerals	£1,597	£2,797		Property Insurance	£3,920	£3,874
	Use of Church Hall	£6,481	£5,685		Local Salaries (plus Organ Supplies)	£7,721	£6,298
	Fundraising Events	£4,734	£4,770		Heat and Light	£3,068	£4,429
	Associated Orgs (St Fillans Lunches, etc)	£2,930	£2,935		Normal Fabric Maintenance	£5,783	£12,705
	Investment Income	£2,535	£2,686		Ministers Expenses Printing and Manse	£6,735	£5,164
	Other Misc. Income	£2,721	£465		External Donations	£0	£2,497
	Legacies	£5,600	£0		Other (incl betterment)	£9,657	£3,830
	Totals	£112,526	£82,749		Totals	£86,577	£86,442

A closer look at these figures quickly shows that in 2014 there was a very significant overall surplus of £25949 compared to an overall deficit of £3693 in 2013 - a large, welcome and unexpected turnaround. At the beginning of 2014 after the church fire in December 2013 we were really very uncertain about the future, and this result really demonstrates the fantastic support of the congregation and community to St Fillan's in challenging times.

The main reasons for the surplus was the significant number and size of lump-sum donations and legacies, both to the General Fund, and to the Church Fund, which also helped increase the Gift Aid tax refund. All other income sectors were robust too, despite a small fall in membership.

Overall costs were contained as well - despite planned increases the employment costs. The amount spent on electricity and on fabric maintenance was significantly lower, and there were no external donations in 2014.

The other main feature of the year was, of course, the restoration of the Church which was carried out at minimal cost to St Fillan's, although we chose to spend some extra money from some specific donations and from the Church Fund to make improvements, which included a much needed upgrade to the church lighting.

Andrew Bastow (Treasurer)

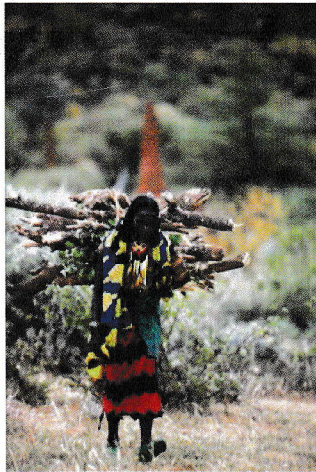
Christian Aid appeal for 2015

Christian Aid: Believing in life before death

This year's Christian Aid Week considers one of the greatest injustices of our times: discrimination against women. Women do 2/3 of the world's work, earn 1/10th of the world's income, but own only 1% of the world's property.



CA is featuring the story of Loko, a woman living in Ethiopia. With an absent husband and no livestock, she is shunned by her community. To make money to prevent her children starving, she sells firewood that she collects by going on a dangerous, back-breaking eight hour walk four times each week. Loko's dream is to own her own cow. The milk will nourish her children and she can sell the excess. This will give her recognition and a voice in her community. One day she hopes to open a shop.



Jesus challenges us to love our neighbour. This Christian Aid week we hope to answer that call by transforming lives like Loko's and providing lasting hope for the future for women like her.

Last year you helped our local churches to raise over £1600 towards the work of Christian Aid. We joined 20,000 other churches in Britain to raise the staggering total of £12 million during Christian Aid Week. This year CA hope to raise even more. Please help our effort by coming to the **CA Coffee Morning on 16th May in St Fillan's Church Hall from 10.00 to 12.00.** There will be the usual stalls home baking, bric-a-brac, plants, books, bottles and the raffle. If you have any donations for the stalls, please bring them along on the evening of 15th May between 18.00 and 20.00 when they will be gratefully received!

Please contact Lesley Gordon (860030) or Eileen Harper (860151) if you would like to help out or have any queries.

Hope to see you on the 16th of May.

And

Fair Trade

A big thank you to all who helped raise £60:50 during Fair Trade fortnight in February and March at church, soup lunches and Open Door. The YSF brownies were much appreciated. This money will be sent to help farmers in Malawi where torrential rains have come early this year, washing away the newly planted crop seeds and drowning livestock. The farmers do not have the money to replace the animals or seeds, so rely on our contributions to get started again.



Celebrating 900 Years of Worship

In 2023, St Fillan's Church will celebrate 900 years of worship in its building. We hope to celebrate this significant milestone with a lasting legacy for the church, the village and the wider community.

On Friday 30 January we held a fund raising event in the Church Hall. The evening comprised the performance of Songs and Poems of Robert Burns by St Fillan's singers, with musical accompaniment by our organist, Sarah Davis. The evening was enjoyed by all, with the various hidden talents of our singing group a revelation to many of those who attended! The programme included solo performances, duets and audience participation, culminating in a resounding community rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

The evening raised the respectable sum of £382, bringing the total raised to date to almost £1,000.

Grateful thanks go to all those participating, the catering team and the audience for making the evening such a success.

Watch out for the next fund raising event, details of which will be published in due course.

John Gordon