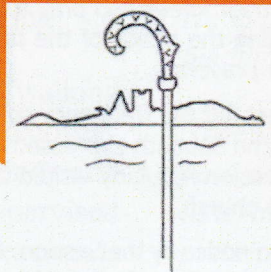


ST. FILLAN'S CROSIER



Christian Aid Ethiopia

In September Peter GB and Maureen Stirzaker donned their surpluses to do a sponsored walk over the Forth Bridge. It was a lovely day with unusually little breeze. Poor Maureen nearly boiled over in her pure wool robes!

Well Maureen, it was worth the effort as the walk raised nearly £600! There have been further generous donations and some standing orders to the project, which mean that the fund is now approaching £3,500, a great total thus far.

Further update inside page 7.

Inside

PAGE 2:

Bill Cochranes' peek into the literature and early minutes of St. Fillan's kirk session

PAGE 3:

Letter from the Manse

PAGE 4:

Sale Of Work

PAGE 5:

Open Door

PAGES 6 & 9:

Presbytery news

PAGE 10:

Aberdour Community
Sponsorship of a Refugee
Family



PAGE 12:

Christmas Services at
St. Fillan's & St. Columbus

Just a Minute

One man's peek into the literature and the early minutes of St Fillan's Kirk Session*
(DISCIPLINE)

From 1649 until 1662 meetings of the Kirk Session were held weekly in Aberdour. On the occasion of almost every meeting the minister asked the elders, one by one, whether they knew any one who swore, or are given to drink; and whether they (the elders) are doing what they can to encourage family worship in their quarters (districts). These instructions are found in the Session Minute of 16th April 1650 *'The quhilk day (on this day) the Session are ordained to go through their quarter, and try who uses family exercise, and who uses to sit down their knees and pray to God; and they are lykwise ordained to hear the form of their prayers'*. Later the elders report regarding the heads of the families in their respective districts that *'they see them use familie exercise, and hear the form of their prayers'*.

In respect of the Session meetings several parishioners felt the frequency somewhat overbearing. John Young who had been summoned several times for having his mill going on the Sabbath expressed the opinion *'that it was never a good world since there was so many Sessions'*. Two members of the Session regularly visited the town during Divine service on Sabbaths, and Tuesdays as well, to see that the people came out to church.

Profane swearing and drunkenness were offences taken notice by the Session. Drunkenness seems to have been the commoner; both as it was seen that some of the elders were not free from fault in this respect, and the presence of the military in the Castle appeared to encourage these and other vices. Such notices as the following were not infrequent: *'The Session ordains Walter Flooker's wife and Christian Ritchie's mother to be summoned for drinking during the time of Devine service'*. At another time it was ordained that Mr Andrew Donaldson, of Dalgety, is to be *'told about Sandy Anderson's mother drinking and flyting'*.

The Session did their best to prevent visiting beggars from being supplied with drink. "Isobel Johnston had to appear before the pulpit, in July 1654, and crave pardon for her offence *'in selling drink to beggars'*. And she was told that in the event of the offence being repeated a fine of £10, and *'the jogges'*(explained and described in a previous article), will be the consequence. Some time later Isobel was once more summoned before the Session and charged with *'sell ail to beggars till they were beastly drunk, which is a means of drawing them all to towne'*.

Sabbath breaking was a rather common offence in the parish of Aberdour. Time and again James Taylor in the West Mill, and Robert Young, in the Nether Mill were dealt with for keeping their grain mills going on the Lord's Day. It was also an offence to take to the boats on the Sabbath. The session enacted *'that no seaman, master or servant, in this parish presume to cross the water to Leith, as hath been their habit and custom upon the Lord's day, with coals or any other goods, on pain of being rebuked before the congregation, and a penalty to the box of £4'*.

In January 1653, a minute of the Kirk Session stated that *'it is reported by some of the elders that 'there is ain great abuse at brydalls (marriages), with pypers and the like'*. And the Session called *'for restraint thereof'* and *'ordained that in the future those who were about to be married must consign two dollars into the treasurer's hands, which should be restored after the marriage, provided there had been no abuse by pipers; but, in the event of such abuse, the said two dollars were to be confiscated for the use of the poor'*.

On the Communion Sabbath a collection was made at the table and also one at the doors for the poor of the parish. However, there seems to have been no marked disposition by the people of Aberdour then to wrong themselves by giving too much of their means away, as it appears that the Session urged the Minister to reprove the people about the smallness of the collections. This the minister did by assuring those that gave nothing *"that if they did not amend, their names would be publicly read out"*

The chancel, or 'queir' of the Church, was used as a burying place as late as the year 1652, when Mr. James Stewart was summoned before the Session for burying his father there contrary to an Act of the General Assembly passed in 1643, discharging *'all persons, of whatsoever qualitie, to burie and deceased person within the body of the Kirk, where the people meet for hearing of the Word, and administration of the Sacraments'*. Mr James pleaded in excuse *'his ignorance of the Act'* and said he thought *'the queir was an isle belonging to the Earl of Morton, and not belonging to the Church'*.

Now-a-days we would probably consider that members of the Session acted well beyond the province of reasonable duty, and their mode of action far too inquisitorial, but in the times in which they lived they were probably considered appropriate.

Bill Cochrane

Acknowledgments/Bibliography

'A Short History of Scotland' by P Hume Brown, M.A., LL.D.
'Aberdour and Inchcolm' (unpublished) by The Revd. Dr R Johnstone, D.D.
St Fillan's Recorded Session Minutes, Register House, 2 Princes Edinburgh
'Aberdour and Inchcolme' by Wm. Ross, LL.D.
St Fillan's Church' by David W Rutherford

To those unfamiliar with the Presbyterian Church, a Kirk Session could be described as the committee in each Church of Scotland parish which attends to the local business of its church. Members of the congregation who serve on these Kirk Sessions are called "elders".

Letter from the Manse

Part of my September holidays was spent in a Monastery in the north-west of England. The retreat was mainly silent, save for mealtimes & Chapel. It was wonderful to be away from the noises of the world, and to immerse oneself in the pattern of daily worship in a very faithful and tranquil setting.

Being asked to do readings during the Mass; walking in the gardens and sharing accounts about recovery from long-term illness with a new friend; and helping a wee bit with the apple harvest supervised by Sister Julia – all great experiences to treasure. It was time well-spent, and truly balm for the soul.

After that, some time with my Parents – at 91 & 102 things move slowly there. My Brother joined us, and we had good fun. The weather was super; my Father was up for a 50 minute walk; my Mother in her chair, and off we went, to enjoy our time together – it was a blessing to us all.

.....

In its report '*Bairns come first*', **Fife Gingerbread** publishes some scary statistics. The total of unpaid Child Maintenance in the UK is £1.4 billion, of which £140 million is in Scotland, and £17.6 million in Fife alone. 25% of families in Fife are single parent families, & 1 in 5 children in Fife lives in poverty.

And in another report, to the Presbytery of Dunfermline, it was stated that the Dunfermline Foodbank is the 3rd busiest in Scotland, and that in the period between March 2015 to April 2016, it fed 2, 697 adults and 1, 495 children.

I do not believe that a child going hungry is a political issue – it is something that should galvanise all society into finding ways of "*being community*", in which no child has to go to bed hungry, thirsty, and wondering where the next meal comes from.

St Matthew's Gospel records an interesting story about sheep and goats. It is told by Jesus just before the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, leading up to the Crucifixion.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Politicians, economist, journalists and other opinion-formers may come up with great slogans to promote this policy or that, but few if any could come up with so pithy a statement on the necessity to care for the vulnerable, as Jesus did in this parable of the sheep & the goats.

His words should concentrate our minds on the need to provide food for all children, in Fife, in Aleppo, and across the world; - a world blessed with **so many** resources, and saved through Jesus Christ, our Crucified and Risen Lord.

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird

Parish Minister.
October 2016

St Fillans Annual Sale of Work on Saturday 19th November

Doors open 2pm; £2 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 jewelry, a Christmas table, bric a brac with all sorts, a toy department, music and DVDs. There is also a bottle stall to try your luck, and a superb Christmas Hamper and Christmas Cake with a bottle of Champagne, to be won in the raffle.

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, until 8pm on Friday 18th or the morning of Saturday 19th November.

Please remember to save your Christmas stamps for the Church of Scotland's World Mission Appeal.

This year (2016-17) the Stamp Appeal is for the Church of South India's Othara Eco-Spirituality Centre. The World Mission Stamp Project will support some of the Centre's ecological innovations including the harvesting and re-use of rain water, the establishment of a biogas plant to power the kitchens and the development of a small dairy and chicken farm for native breeds.

Stamps can be left

- with me, Susan Morton, 4 Manse Street, Aberdour
- **or** in the basket to the right of the door as you enter St. Fillan's
- **or** in the wooden box on the first windowsill as you enter into the Church Hall.
- **or** with to Gordon in the Post Office.

Thank you.

Open Door Speakers confirmed for 2016 -17

13th Oct 2016 Speaker Mary Mulligan, Churches Development Officer, topic **The Ethiopia Project**. Mary's address will focus on the health and welfare of families, particularly mothers and babies, in South Eastern Ethiopia and how Christian Aid will benefit and support them.



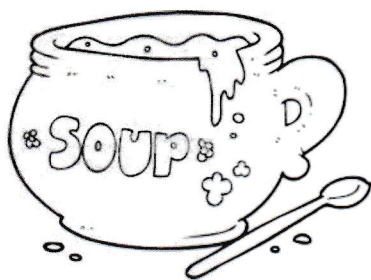
10th Nov 2016 Speaker Helen Mabon, topic, **Mary Somerville**. She was brought up at the family home in what is now Somerville Square, Burntisland. Somerville College, Oxford University, is named after her. She was dubbed "Queen of Nineteenth Century Science".

8th Dec 2016 Speaker Derek Larkman, topic **Jute, Jack, Journeying**. The fascinating life of a 3-masted, steel hulled barque, the "Lawhill" that was built in Dundee in 1892 to carry jute from Bengal to Dundee where factories produced jute.

12th Jan 2017 Speaker Colin MacConnachie, Designer and Photographer, topic **Who's Carrying that Lens?** Raised in Aberdour, Colin's work is published worldwide. This illustrated talk will focus on birdlife in The Galapagos, Costa Rica and Romania.

9th Feb 2017 Speaker Carolyn Scott, Film Maker from The Cupar Arts Festival 2016/17, topic **East, West Hame's Best**, a heart-warming and uplifting celebration of life in Fife today as seen through the eyes of settlers from far beyond our shores.

9th Mar 2017 Speaker Angus Maclean, Chief Examiner of Art, topic **Caravaggio**. In his own lifetime he was considered enigmatic, rebellious and dangerous. His paintings were hugely influential on succeeding generations of painters all over Europe.



THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Do you do anything special on the above date?

No? then why not come along to St.Fillan's Church Hall and enjoy some home made soup, a filled roll tea or coffee and a chat for the princely sum of £3.

Do you want a soup that is a bit different from normal then this is the place. We generally have at least eight or nine different soups on offer. For example October's offering included Spicy Moroccan chicken, Broccoli and Stilton, Carrot and Ginger, Parsnip and Apple, Cream of Courgette, Leek and Potato, Tomato, Harvest melange (you don't get that one in many places!).

A lot of folk think the lunch is either for church folk only or for OAP's but it's not. It is for everyone and anyone although some of us who make the soup might be falling into the latter category!!

Why not give it a try, put a note in your diary/calendar or probably in this day and age on your mobile phone and come and see and taste for yourself.

November 3rd, December 1st (and although it is early, this is our Christmas Lunch, not only soup but Christmas crackers, mince pies and shortbread!) and if you are fed up with turkey now that you have roasted it, had it cold, curried it, and made soup with it, come and have something refreshingly different on January 5th.....promise, no turkey broth!

PRESBYTERY SNIPPETS

At the meeting of Presbytery on 5th May our Minister, Peter, was installed as the Moderator of Dunfermline Presbytery for the coming year. It therefore occurred to me that it may be of interest to give some idea of things taking place during his time in office.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland commenced on Saturday, 21st May, to which a number of Ministers and Elders from Presbytery went, and we were asked to remember them (as well as all Commissioners) in Prayer as they listened to the very many Reports and became involved in the discussions, debates and decisions regarding the Church's business. Our Moderator (Peter) attended The Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood House. He also officiated at a Service at Dunfermline Memorial Garden when he dedicated a Bench commemorating The Very Rev. John Chalmers' year in office as Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and at the Sacrament of Holy Communion here in St. Fillan's Church, before the October meeting of Presbytery. In addition to his other duties he attended/helped 'man' the Church stall at the Festival of Dunfermline.

Lochgelly & Benarty St. Serf's has now been Vacant – seeking a new Minister for the Charge - for a number of years and it has therefore been agreed to change the details of the structure of Staffing required in the Presbytery Plan from 'Minister and Associate Minister or Deacon, and Parish Outreach Worker (50%)' to 'Minister and Parish Assistant, and Parish Outreach Worker (50%)' and to permit them to actively seek a Parish Assistant and Outreach Worker before a Minister is in place. It is hoped that this will facilitate a quicker result in gaining suitable staff. The latest of the numerous Vacancies within Presbytery is the newly Vacant Dunfermline - St. Ninian's, brought about by the retiring of the Rev. Liz. Fisk.

A decision has been taken to have Dunfermline Presbytery recognised as a Fairtrade Presbytery. To that end churches within its bounds are encouraged to ensure the use of and/or sell Fairtrade goods, e.g. tea, coffee etc. and raise awareness of the FAIRTRADE mark. St. Fillan's is already recognised as a Fairtrade Church, but we were reminded that *everyone* should engage in the process of continuing to buy/use Fairtrade products and to alert the supermarkets of their wish to do so.

Presbytery has approached the Scottish Government and Fife Council offering to give support to a Syrian family, but no development has yet been made. There is, however, progress on the project of building houses for Lubah in Nepal. The latest total donated by the churches in our Presbytery (including St. Fillan's) is £22031.00, and all are thanked for the generous support.

Reciprocating their kindness and invited to speak to us at Presbytery, the chairman of the Islamic Centre, "Charlie" was invited to speak. Mr Mohammed Ajaz was warmly received by Presbytery as he spoke about common concerns and aims shared between our two faiths and it is hoped that there might be further opportunities for us to meet and work together.

Following on the success of the last Songs of Praise Service another will be held on Sunday 27th November in Dunfermline St. Leonard's Parish Church at 3.00p.m. to which all are invited. All are welcome to come along-sing some favourite hymns and listen to advent readings.

Some of the other topics under review are Funeral Poverty, Protection of Vulnerable People registration requirements, Data protection, Health and Safety and support for Dunfermline Food Bank to name but a few.

So all in all it is going to be another very busy and interesting year, and with your support and prayers the work should prove that little bit easier to accomplish.

Catherine E. Duncan (Presbytery Elder)

For a different slant on presbytery read Bill Hendersons article on page 9.

Christian Aid Ethiopia update

The project "Healthier futures for women and girls in Ethiopia" has now been running for 10 months. The aim is to raise £5000 before the end of October 2017 which will be match funded by the EU 1:5, resulting in a total of £30,000. This funding is secure despite the Brexit vote.

Here is an update of the fund raising so far and the changes on the ground in Ethiopia that have occurred because of the project. During CA Week back in May there was a well attended coffee morning and a door to door collection that raised over £1000 for our project and money was also sent to help the CA appeal for Bangladesh. That week there was also a concert show casing some of the many talents in the village including Aberdour Flutes, St. Fillan's hand bell ringers, singers and instrumentalists and Sing it ladies choir. The concert got great feed back so another similar event is planned for the future. The concert raised over £1200 split equally between CA Ethiopia and Cancer Research UK.

So how is the funding affecting women and girls in Ethiopia? Mary Mulligan, the Churches Development Officer with CA visited Open Door in October to tell us what impact the project is having. She described how women are learning to use contraception not only to control the number of children they have, but also to increase the time between pregnancies which reduces the physical toll on their bodies. The agencies on the ground are also working to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies in teenage girls which is also reducing the number of unsupervised abortions. The project does not only look to educate the women and work with young people, but there are sessions where the men also discuss the issues that affect their wives and daughters. Also already the number of midwife attended births is increasing. The plan is to raise the percentage from 18% to over 60% which is bound to have an impact on the death rate of women during difficult labours.

Please look out for our future events – a clothes swishing event in March and an Ethiopia information evening in September. Sadly the gin tasting has been postponed for now. We would like to thank you for your support and hope it will continue in 2017 to help to achieve our total.

Sponsored Golf 2016



The St. Fillan's team retained the David Rutherford Trophy this year and £692 was raised for Christian Aid and Macmillan Cancer Support with the assurance from Macmillan that our donation would go to nurses in Fife.


Walter Heggie won the St. Fillan's Cup for the best gents score and Maggie Christie won the Dovecot Trophy for the best ladies score. Thanks to all those who contributed in any way.

Chernobyl Children

Once again children from the Chernobyl area visited West Fife this summer. Only 8 children came with their leader. It is becoming more difficult to find host families, hence the lower number. As usual, the children were taken out and about on various trips, and generous businesses and organisations helped enormously by freely giving of their time and resources. For example: Dalgety Bay Sailing Club took them sailing; retired teachers in Dunfermline held a ceilidh for them; they had free haircuts; they even had free professional photos taken which they took home with them.

I am pleased to report that, thanks to some generous donations, we have already sent the West Fife Link over £300 this year. It costs £600 to bring one child here so the fundraising has to be continuous. It is now 30 years since the disaster but the effects are still evident in the children of today. These trips help to improve the children's health as well as giving them some happy memories. I hope we can continue to help by collecting our small change and perhaps there are families in our community who might consider hosting a couple of children next year? Have a look on Facebook for more info – Chernobyl Children's Lifeline – Fife Link.

E Harper

Giving Hope  To Live



National Prayer Weekend

St Fillan's took part in the National Prayer Weekend which took place at the end of September. This involved churches throughout the UK, and beyond, praying for their local communities. This year more than 1200 churches took part. Various resources were available to help organise the event, but the format was entirely up to the individual church. It was decided that St Fillan's would invite people to come to the church for silent prayer. Of course, you can pray on your own anytime and anywhere, but coming together to pray for a particular need, is something that some of us may feel we want to do from time to time.

Anyone could come along between 2 and 4 pm on the Saturday and Sunday and pray for 15 minutes, or longer. Earlier in the month prayer requests were given to shops and businesses within the community; the idea was to make people aware that they were being prayed for and if they had a specific request this would be included. A few requests were returned and included in our prayers over the two days.

We made sure that visitors to the church knew they were welcome to come in and look around and indeed join in the prayers, if they so desired. Among the folk visiting the church that weekend were a French girl who is a stained glass window conservationist and a young Canadian couple on honeymoon! Our church is open to ALL through the week but we are planning to have a regular time for group prayer and we hope that more people will consider joining us next year for National Prayer Weekend.

In these confusing days prayer can be a comfort but, more importantly, a powerful tool in the life of society as a whole.

In the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby: "When we have a Church that prays and is reconciled and reconciling, and that tells people confidently about Jesus, then the dawn will break, hope will rise, our countries will be transformed and the empty threats of economics and terrorists will be utterly and finally overthrown. To God be the glory."

News about the Presbytery of Dunfermline

In May this year, our Minister, Peter, was elected Moderator of the Presbytery. This involves a number of duties, such as presiding at Presbytery functions and Church Services, and to chair the meetings of the Presbytery. In October, the Presbytery met at St Fillan's Church, and shared in a Communion Service, before moving on to ordinary business.

Catherine Duncan and I serve as Elders on the Presbytery. Catherine is a member of the Oversight Committee, and I am Vice-Convenor of the Finance Committee. Both of us get a good overview of what is happening in the wider Church. And things, they are a-changing.

The Budgeted Income for 2016 for '121' George Street totals £02, 961, 00. I thought it might interest you to know the total contribution of the Dunfermline Presbytery to this figure is £939,773. Our contribution to this amounts to £49,152. This is the sixth largest contribution out of a total of 23 Churches. The figure is based on the average income in 2013-15.

At recent meetings, the Presbytery has made some adjustments to local Congregations. Saline & Blairingone has been linked with Kincardine and Tulliallen, with one *full-time Minister*. Carnock & Oakley has been given a *50% Ministry*, and the same goes for Culross & Torryburn. The Congregation at Gillespie Memorial Church (next to the bus station in Dunfermline), has been given the right to call a full-time Minister.

I voted against the Gillespie Memorial decision, as I fail to understand why a small Congregation with a very small town-Parish warrants a *full-time Ministry*. In fact, the question is bigger than this: Why is it alright to link Parishes in the countryside, which are miles apart, while at the same time it appears impossible to do something about the eight Churches in Dunfermline, some of which are in very close proximity of each other. Gillespie Memorial is almost next to Dunfermline Abbey, and a quarter of a mile from St Leonard's Church. I believe it is high time for the Presbytery to have a serious look at the Churches in Dunfermline, before more decisions are made about readjustments outside the Town.

In the meantime, all these changes may have serious repercussions for St Fillan's. We're a Congregation, with around 2, 000 people living in our Parish. If Congregations with much larger Parishes are now allocated 50% Ministries (Carnock & Oakley, around 8, 000), we face a more uncertain future than before.

I want to encourage all our Members and Adherents to become more involved in the life, worship and work of our Congregation. We have a small but active Sunday School – "Young St Fillan's", the St Fillan's Lunches, Coffee Mornings, Sale of Work, Family Fun Week, Welcoming at Sunday Worship, Reading, and all of these can always do with more volunteers – the more folk are involved, the lighter the burden becomes.

It will be far more difficult for the Presbytery to try and link or close St Fillan's Church, if we can prove we are a small but active Congregation, at the heart of its Parish.

Bill Henderson

First Visit to Inchcolm

For as many years as I remember
 Inchcolm island has been a member
 Of my mind and my memory
 It has been used for many a century
 In the water the island lies
 Silent as the moonlit skies
 Quiet waves massage the rocks
 Causing many a silent drop
 The island's abbey up it rises
 Holding secrets it well disguises
 Far across the water I ponder
 What is hidden within this wonder
 Many truths and many lies
 Silent as the moonlit skies.

Against the current and under a bridge
 Around one last jutting ridge
 I'm on a ship heading right
 Towards this wonderful eerie sight
 Suddenly we are very near
 As the boat drifts towards the pier
 On this island I will spend my day
 Touring around where monks did pray
 Survivor of world war two and one
 The abbey rarely sees a monk or nun
 But inside the massive old monastery
 Home of monks and later the military
 For centuries there still shall lie
 Silence deep as the moonlit sky.

Lewis Ward (Aged 14)

ABERDOUR COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP OF A REFUGEE FAMILY

As you may be aware, Fife Council are committed to welcoming Syrian Refugees and expect to support approximately 140 refugees in Fife over the coming four years. This is encouraging news although, rehoming on a regional scale takes time. As we have seen from world media in the past weeks, time may be the difference between life and death for many who are suffering the dire effects of this crisis.

In an effort to make a real difference to one family, I would like to gather support and commitment from the residents of Aberdour to provide community sponsorship to house a family of refugees in Aberdour as soon as is practicably possible.

The Home Office has recently announced a new programme to support communities to sponsor a family of refugees for a period of two years or more. They will manage the immigration process and documentation, and transport the family to Scotland. The sponsoring community will provide:

- Welcome and cultural orientation
- Housing, furnished and suitable for the family's requirements
- Support to integrate the family into the community
- Support to provide language tuition and any medical services required
- Support toward employment and self sufficiency
- Financial resources to support interpretation / language tuition / rent exceeding local housing allowance – a minimum of £9000 start-up capital is required initially

I would be very grateful if you would get in touch if you would like to support this community initiative. Experience in the following areas is particularly sought:

- Arabic language skills
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Working with refugees
- Working with vulnerable people

The next step is to fully engage with Fife Council, to understand if there are particular local requirements for this programme. Once we have a number of interested people in the village, we will arrange a meeting to agree how best to establish as either a Charity or Community Interest Company, and will work to develop a resettlement plan to submit to the Home Office, as well as running a fundraising campaign to support the community sponsorship.

I look forward to hearing from you if you are able to assist, or would like more information.

Susan D'aish

susandaish@hotmail.co.uk ; 07795 237082

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2015 John Thomson; Charles Alexander;

2016 Mrs. Jean Fraser; Maurice McKee; Mrs. May Cowan; *Donald Cameron; Thomas Nisbet; Mrs. Avril Charlton; Edward Travers; Mrs. Elinor Liddle; Mrs. Euphemia Robertson; David Robertson*

Things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining
have all been prepared by God for those who love Him. 1 Corinthians 2: 9

Marriages

2016 *Morag Livingstone & Graham Turzynski; Emily Todd @ Gavin Archibald; Laura Shepherd & Barry Kinnell; Stuart Bishop & Victoria Jennings; Ariane Timm & Robin Worrall; Ailsa Crowe & Andrew Williams.*

Renewal of Vows

2016 *Terry & Candida Rom (nee Palmer).*

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

Baptisms

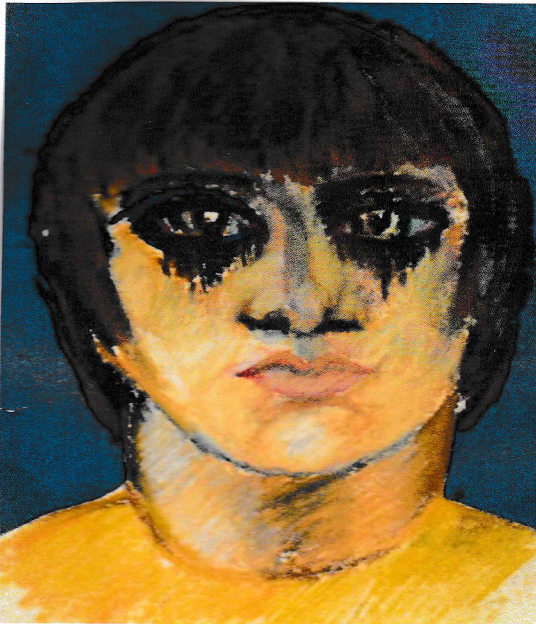
2016 *Flynn Wilson; Hamish William Shortt; Kelsi Marie Jamieson; Jocelyn Hayley Elizabeth Sweeney; Freya Laura Nicol*

Jesus said "Let the children come to me, for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

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

The Girl on the Last Train

On Saturday night, the last train from Waverley to Dundee takes all the merry revellers homeward on the Fife line. By the time that it pulls out of Haymarket its five carriages are full to capacity with standing in the passages. Smart phones, books, movies and music occupy some travellers, others are in conversation, the mood is good humoured albeit noisy at times. It's warm and some people are nodding off.



On pulling into Dalmeny a sudden uproar of alarming behaviour further up the carriage disturbs the peace. The scuffle is hostile in tone and the screaming and shouting sounds frantic. A young man places himself across the aisle to contain the fracas and prevent it from spreading.

Two sisters in their late teens escape the row by slipping past him into a seat across from me, they are hysterical, - let's not be coy, they are cursing loudly. When the trouble makers get off the train, tranquillity resumes and the young man who was doing his best to calm the commotion, sits down to try to pacify the girls.

By Dalgety Bay many of the passengers have alighted from the train including the young peace maker. He did not condone the appalling conduct of his friend towards the girls but neither was he going to condemn him outright for what he admitted was offensive behaviour, fuelled by too much drink. The girls nonetheless felt insulted and abused. Being called 'slags' and having a man grab and mishandle them, was demeaning and shameful.

They are now alone, and I can hear them discussing the doubtful business of reporting the incident. They feel hurt and are mortified by the whole episode. The man had got off scot free, - they are embarrassed, - it was all so public! Where are the CCTV cameras? They are both a little inebriated especially the younger sister, who seems the more fragile of the two. The older one finds something to make her sister laugh. Her face, streaming with mascara, breaks into a smile.

As the train pulls out of Aberdour the younger sister gets up to make for the exit, - I ask her if she is, like me, getting off at the next stop. I grab my handbag and go to the door with her. She looks cold, - in the fray, her jacket was taken by whom, she doesn't know. I give her a hug. The other sister leaps up to join us and we stand embracing each other in the doorway.

They are tear-stained and shaken. I tell them that they are beautiful girls and that the last train on a Saturday night is sometimes a dodgy place for beautiful girls, and to be more cautious next time. The carriage door opens, I step out and walk up to the road with my newfound companion.

Safe home I said, and you she said.



During the summer of 2015 Kelsi Jamieson attended our Family Fun Week, she then began to attend Church and decided she would like to be baptized.

She was baptized in St Fillan's on July 10th 2016.

Left to right: John Murray & Lorraine Brown (Godparents, Minister, Sid & Camille Jamieson (Parents), with Kelsi and her little sister Krista in the front row.

St. Fillan's Christmas Services

11th December: Family Christmas Service in the Church Hall

18th December: Sacrament of Holy Baptism & Christmas Carols (Church)

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm Children's Service

11.30pm Watchnight Service

- Community Carol Singing from 11.15pm

Christmas Day: 10.30 Family Christmas Service with Holy Communion

St Columba's Christmas Services

22nd December: Carol Service at 7pm

Christmas Eve: Crib Service at 3pm

Christmas Day: Christmas Day Service at 10.00am

All are welcome at all services.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2017



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