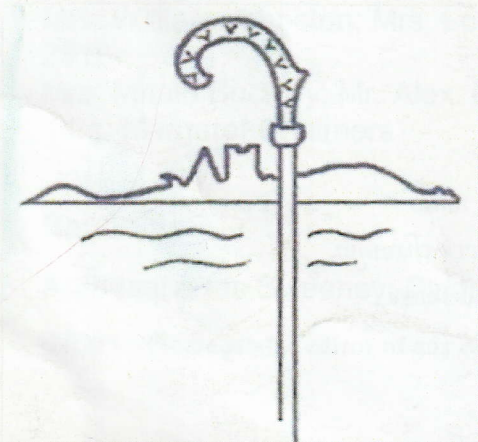


ST FILLAN'S CHURCH NEWS SPRING 2018

# ST FILLAN'S CROSIER



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## SLEEP IN THE PARK

Despite sub-zero temperatures, around 1,500 people connected to the Church of Scotland took part in the world's biggest sleepout in Edinburgh's Princes Street gardens to raise awareness of homelessness last December ninth. We were quite cosy in our Four Seasons sleeping bags augmented by the orange survival bags provided by Social Bite. It was quite a shock to find ice outside and inside the sleeping bags when we were woken up just after 5am.

The moderator of The Church of Scotland, Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly, joined Scottish Government ministers including Deputy First Minister John Swinney, under the stars. Dr Browning said: "Social Bite hopes that by raising funds and working together, the people of Scotland will create such an impetus that homelessness will be eradicated over a five-year period. The aim is not only to find provision for housing, but also to provide rehabilitation, job opportunities and support that will help people get back on their feet and find their place within society. The hope is that the many charities who work in these areas might also link up to provide ongoing support and care."



On Christmas Eve Social Bite announced that the TOTAL funds raised by our Sleep in the Park event, as well as our annual ITISON, Christmas Fundraiser is just over £4 MILLION.



"Thank you so much to every single person that slept out or donated a Christmas Dinner and raised so much money for Scotland's homeless people. The job over the next 12 months is to use this money to get a minimum of 500 people off the streets and temporary shelters into a proper home with a funded support resource - and in doing so help to restructure our response to homelessness for the long term."

Social Bite added: "We look forward to working with lots of homelessness charities, housing associations and the Scottish Government to this end.

The Congregation of St Fillan's was one of those involved in sponsoring some of those who took part. Our thanks to you all for your support.

Susan Morton & Sue Farrar.

*Prayer from an anonymous parishioner:*

*Give me eyes that see, Lord, the work there is to do  
And give me willing hands and feet to carry that work through.  
Give me a caring heart, Lord, and love and joy to share  
And where there is a need, Lord,  
May I be there.*

### Letter from the Manse

For my Family, the last few months have been challenging, following Mama's death just before Christmas, & Fa's death just before Easter. They were 93 & 103 respectively, so lived to a ripe old age. Nonetheless their deaths brought sadness to those who knew & loved them. My Brother, Alexander, & I are most grateful to the many people who sent us cards & messages offering prayers, condolences & support at this difficult time.

-o0o-

World news is hardly cheerful at the moment. At the time of writing, the chemical attack on ....., attributed to the Syrian Government led by President Assad, is causing much commotion, and talk of air strikes and other military actions. Pictures of fleets sailing in the Mediterranean and in the China Sea; and of politicians making frightening claims about missiles to be fired, and those missiles getting a warm response, it looks as if the world is drawing ever closer to a large military conflict.

It is easy to forget that events in distant places can have profound effects on our own lives. Not many in Scotland would have heard of a place called 'Sarajevo' in 1914, till an Archduke was gunned down there, ultimatums started flying forwards & backwards between the great capital cities of Europe, and within weeks the continent would be plunged into the horrors we now call the First World War.

At my Father's funeral in March, we read the words of Jesus, when he was asked what was the greatest Commandment:

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.\*"*

If we want to be blessed by God, with peace, health and prosperity, we are to seek the same blessings for our neighbours. In Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan, we see a man, and a despised Samaritan at that, helping someone he had never met, but who was wounded, and in need of care. Our Lord's meaning is clear: our neighbours are not simply the people who live along side us, are of our nationality, race, or gender, but our neighbours are all people on God's good earth, irrespective of human-created differences.

At this time of threatened conflict, our love for God should encourage us to pray for peace and reconciliation, despite the sabre-rattling in the halls of power across the globe. In Christ we find the Prince of Peace, through whose Death & Resurrection we are all freed from the bonds of sin and death. We are called to live as Easter People in a Good Friday World of violence & conflict.

So, as the world appears even more unstable and threatening than before, let us pray and act for peace, seeking reconciliation over conflict, thus honouring God, and celebrating our common humanity.

**Peter Gerbrandy-Baird**  
Parish Minister.

\*The Gospel according to St Matthew, 22: 37-39

### Parish and congregational register

#### **Bereavements**

**2017**

Mrs. Margaret Dickinson, Mrs. Janet Moore; Mr. Tony Thomson; Mrs Anne Arneil;  
Mrs. William Johnston; Mrs. Lois Hutchison;

**2018**

Mrs. Mhairi Buckley; Mr. Alex. Liddle; Mr. William Cochrane; Mr. Dick Coates;  
Mrs. Margaret Chalmers

#### **Baptisms**

Arabesque Iris Sweeney; Dylan Connolly; Skye Connolly

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

## Summary of the '2017 Accounts'

The congregation received the Annual Accounts for 2017 during Morning Service on 25<sup>th</sup> February - here is a brief Summary. The full Annual Report that also contains the Accounts, covers the Church's Organisation, Governance, and all the main activities carried out in the year, from Young St Fillan's to Pastoral and Property care. Also included are the main objectives for 2018, and a summary of the end year financial position.

The detailed accounts themselves show all the sources of Income and Expenditure in 2017. A summary of the overall numbers covering all Funds is shown in the table beneath with 2016 figures given for comparison:

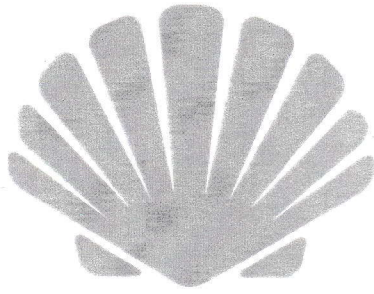
	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>			<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>	
<b>Income</b>	Donations and Offerings	£53,134	£52,569		<b>Spend</b>	Net allocation to '121'	£42,797	£41,669	
	Gift Aid Tax refund	£14,806	£11,386			Presbytery Dues (net)	-£14,103	£888	
	Weddings and Funerals	£1,067	£3,652			Property Insurance and Licenses	£3,946	£3,958	
	Use of Church/Hall	£5,356	£6,338			Local Salaries and Fees	£8,752	£8,309	
	Regular Fundraising	£4,256	£4,039			Heat and Light	£2,877	£3,379	
	Project Fundraising (Hall Roof and Ethiopia)	£29,966	£5,058			Pulpit and Organ supply	£505	£487	
	Associated Orgs (St Fillans Lunches, etc)	£2,661	£2,929			Normal Fabric Maintenance	£2,456	£3,327	
	Investment Income and Interest	£2,660	£2,964			Ministers Expenses, Printing and Manse Council Tax	£7,329	£7,443	
	Other Miscellaneous Income	£1,848	£1,562			Hall Roof Restoration and Ethiopia Project	£81,689	£450	
	Legacies	£40,915	£0			Other (incl betterment)	£2,008	£6,725	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>£156,669</b>	<b>£90,497</b>			<b>Totals</b>	<b>£138,256</b>	<b>£76,635</b>	

A closer look at these figures quickly shows that in 2017 there was a very significant overall surplus of £18413 - a large, very welcome but extremely unexpected outcome for the year.

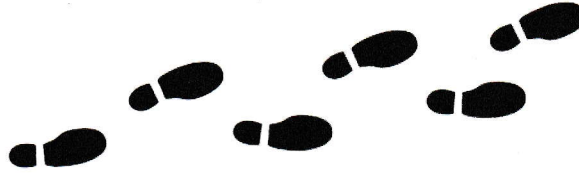
At the beginning of 2017 St Fillan's was facing the cost of the Church Hall Roof Restoration without external funding, (grant applications had been unsuccessful). The restoration work was finished just before the Aberdour Festival started at a total cost of £75448. By then we had had a spectacular response to a community fundraising appeal, and together with a one-off reduction in our Allocation charge agreed with Presbytery, the net outlay was reduced to just £32950, which was mainly paid for from Fabric Reserves. Earlier the initiative to raise at least £5000 for Christian Aid's Ethiopia Women's project that was match-funded by the EU fivefold, had also raised £6749 from the Aberdour community and the congregation over a 12-month period from May 2016. Undoubtedly, successful fundraising was both enjoyable and a real highlight of our activities in 2017.

While all this was going on, the day-to-day work by Church Members in the parish continued and normal income and spending in 2017 was managed at slightly better than budget expectations, too. Then finally, in November we received an extremely generous legacy for use only in maintaining the fabric of the Church building, from a former resident of Aberdour who had emigrated to Australia several years ago. This rare gift will be invaluable in helping to fund works on the four properties in our care, as defined in the Presbytery's 2017 Quinquennial inspection.

Andrew Bastow (Treasurer)



## The Road to Santiago – BBC2



### CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

We've had 'celebrities' dancing, baking and living in the jungle – this was different, seven celebrities going on a pilgrimage. The seven celebrities included Neil Morrissey, Debbie McGee, Rev Kate Bottley of Googlebox and JJ Chalmers Paralympian and son of a Dunfermline minister. They had 15 days complete the 780km pilgrimage across northern Spain to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and the shrine of St James. They didn't walk it all but they did walk the last 100km to get their certificate. It was shown as three one hour episodes on the run up Easter – which is a lot for religious broadcasting.

Of the seven, some had a faith, some had a little faith and the others had no faith. There were no great changes in belief but it made them all think about their faith. They all found it worthwhile being part of a community and especially meeting other doing the pilgrimage for a whole variety of reasons. One of the constant themes was of Kate Bottley complaining about walking and in the end she was looking forward to getting home and having a cup of tea and a good sleep.

In conclusion it was refreshing to hear 'normal' people discuss their beliefs in religion, Christianity and God, this rarely happens these days.

You can still watch it on the BBC iPlayer.  
David Graham

### CHERNOBYL CHILDREN - WEST FIFE GROUP

Amazingly, I am pleased to say we are still sending regular amounts (£400 last year) to enable the visit of approximately 10 children from the Chernobyl area to visit Fife in July. Thank you so much to all the kind folk who continue to collect their small change – mainly one, two and five pences - for this cause. Please continue to support our local group by passing your money on to me, or a church officer. If you need any further information, please contact me, Eileen Harper, at [sophieharp@googlemail.com](mailto:sophieharp@googlemail.com) or on 860151. Thank you.

### St Fillans Lunches

The Soup Dragons, as we are fondly called, would like to thank all for their continuing support of St Fillans lunches. On the first Thursday of each month we offer a range of delicious soups, and an opportunity to catch up with friends and make some new ones. For £3 you can enjoy a bowl of homemade soup, a filled roll, and tea or coffee with biscuits. We are more than happy for families and children to join us for lunch. Our thanks to the Aberdour Playgroup for attending each month.

Most of our lunches are themed around celebrations such as Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter, St Andrews Day and, of course, the Aberdour Festival when the Royal Party attend. It was a joy at our Christmas lunch to see the children distributing musical instruments to diners in preparation for the Carol singing. Congratulations to Margaret Kerr of Dalgety Bay for winning the Dragons' Christmas Hamper.

The Soup Dragons also welcome new volunteers. Most of our current volunteers offer their services twice a year but if you can do more, that's even better! Becoming a volunteer is a great way to show off your cooking skills, meet fellow villagers, make some lasting friendships, and contribute to village life.

For further information please contact Liz ([pececky@gmail.com](mailto:pececky@gmail.com)) or Janette ([janettecsmith46@gmail.com](mailto:janettecsmith46@gmail.com)).

## **The Church of Scotland is changing: Part 1.**

Some of you may recall talk of the ever-reducing number of Ministers across the Church of Scotland and the resulting need for change within the Kirk. In preparation for these changes, the Elders of St Fillan's are exploring how to take on further responsibility to ensure that members of the Church and the people of Aberdour have a say in how the future may look.

We want St Fillan's to continue as a thriving and active community as these changes occur.

As part of the evolving leadership patterns in the Kirk, the Church of Scotland is moving ahead with the creation of Hub-Ministries. Ministers will remain responsible for the spiritual and pastoral oversight of the Church, including, among their many responsibilities, providing spiritual direction, and presiding at weddings, Baptisms and Holy Communion.

Regarding St Fillan's, the Elders are looking at ways to prepare for the 50% Ministry envisaged for St Fillan's Church in the current Presbytery Plan for some time in the future, and for the other changes the Kirk is planning to implement over the next few years, by taking a greater lead on some aspects of Ministry and inviting members of the St Fillan's to help.

This is an exciting time to take a greater part in the life of the Church. As a member of the Church there will be a number of different opportunities for you to become involved. For example you may feel that you could join a team of Church Visitors and visit members of the Church or wider local community offering support and compassion at times of need.

Alternatively, there may be the possibility of helping with leading Services of Worship in Church or conducting funeral services as part of a Worship Team. Needless to say, anyone wishing to explore taking on such a role would be provided with full training.

Such a transition in the Church of Scotland is not going to happen overnight, but it is better to prepare for different ways of doing things, than suddenly being confronted with a need to adapt the way things work.

If you are interested in supporting the Church family and wish to take part in the functions of the Church within our local community, or you would like to know more about what might be involved, please do come and join us.

Any of the Elders will be able to answer your questions, or guide you in how to become a part of this transition.

Sally Sheail  
Isobel Clegg  
Eric Williamson



## Flower Ministry



Very sincere thanks to all who, in the past, have responded to the request to "Adopt a date" to supply and/or arrange flowers in time for Sunday Worship, or to make a contribution for some flowers to be put in on a chosen date. Sadly a few of our faithful folk have now had to 'step down' from arranging - leaving a number of dates available for 'adoption' by you. If YOU would like to become involved, please don't be put off by thinking floral art standard is needed.....suffice just to put some flowers in water in vases which are kept in the Session House/designated cupboard in Hall kitchen (for last Sunday in month).

Our sincere thanks are due also to all who so generously contribute to the St. Fillan's Flower Fund itself throughout the year, enabling provision of blooms for the Flower Festival, special events, Christmas decorations and small "in our thoughts" arrangements, etc. Any donations for, or enquiries about Church Flowers should be addressed to the convener, Catherine Duncan - Tel. 860611.

### ABERDOUR DAY CARE 30th ANNIVERSARY

On Tuesday 27th of February Aberdour Day Care celebrated its 30th birthday. It was agreed by everyone who attended that Day Care in Aberdour has gone from strength to strength by "standing on the shoulders of others". Our members have enjoyed the opportunity to meet each other every week in safe, accessible surroundings. None of this would be possible of course, without the support of our volunteers plus many organisations and individuals in Aberdour including St Fillan's church. Our Anniversary was a very happy occasion and we look forward to the next 30 years with confidence.

If you know of any individual or family who might be interested in what we have to offer please get in touch with Jane Allen, our organiser.

Contact details [janeallen67@icloud.com](mailto:janeallen67@icloud.com)

Mobile :07733 306406

*Volunteers past and present.*



## World Mission Used Stamp Appeal 2018 - 19

This year the Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal will support Centres for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in the Ukraine. The following information comes from the Church of Scotland's website.

These Centres are supported by the Church of Scotland's partners, the Ukrainian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, and provide valuable support to children and young people who are living with disabilities. Thanks to the Centres, young people are given the opportunity to thrive, to make friends, and to take part in a range of activities. Therapists who work at the Centres offer either individual or group therapies, which include educational activities (writing and reading), massages, games, music, crafts, walks and games. The families of the young people are also given support, and an opportunity to meet other parents who are caring for a child or young person with a disability.

There are three Centres in total, with approximately 50 children and young people receiving support. The Centres are open five days a week, although the fifth day is set aside for programme planning and support for parents. A special programme for teenagers is held once a week, providing opportunities to socialise and enjoy a range of activities.

## Christian Aid "Royal Wedding" Coffee Morning

This year's Coffee Morning will be in the Church Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May. A certain young couple have rather inconsiderately decided to hold their wedding in Windsor this year on the day of the Christian Aid coffee morning in Aberdour! Not to be outdone, we will rise to the occasion by adding a royal wedding theme to proceedings. Watch out for fascinators and tiaras at the event. Also to accommodate those who want to watch the royal proceedings, we will run from 9.30 to 11.30 to allow you to get back in time.

This year's theme is "God's kingdom is stronger than storms" and plans to help the people of Haiti who are still struggling to recover from the damage caused by the earthquake in 2010 and hurricane Matthew that struck last year.

There will be the usual excellent baking on sale in addition to stalls including plants and home produce, Fair Trade, books, bottles and of course, the raffle. In fact something for everyone! Please come out to support the work of Christian Aid to raise funds to help the poorest people around the globe, because CA believes in **life before death**.

Sadly, there is little support for people living with disabilities in the Ukraine. This means that many children and young people with disabilities do not have the facilities they need to reach their full potential. The Ukrainian Reformed Church is convinced that each of these children can participate fully in society, if they are given the care and education they need. Having access to these Centres means that these young people are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The money raised from selling the used stamps will go towards this project which helps children and young people with disabilities live life to the full. Details of how to send your stamps are found below.

### 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.

Post your stamps to World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB

- Hand-deliver to Keith Scott, 143 Netherton Road, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0AR, or contact by email - [keithscott143@gmail.com](mailto:keithscott143@gmail.com)
- If you believe your stamp collection is valuable please arrange for Keith Scott to collect it personally by telephone - 01698 351323

