

ST FILLAN'S CROSIER

THREAT TO ST.FILLAN'S.....How you might help

On my visits to homes in both Aberdour and Dalgety Bay the most frequently question I am asked is what is happening now? Where are we as a result of the visit of the Commissioners on 6th June and to be frank I have to tell people I do not know and I am not sure if even the Commissioners know the next step of the process.

As we were told at the meeting, the Commissioners were to visit every church in the Presbytery of Dunfermline and were then to report back to Presbytery with their findings by February 2020. Their task was to be completed by mid-2019 and I understand that this has been done.

The next procedure will be for Presbytery to consider their submissions and move to the next step in the process and that is where I am not sure if anyone knows what happens next.

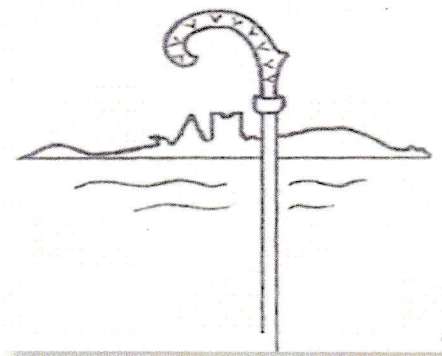
There is no doubt that within the Church of Scotland changes are afoot and we should not be afraid of change if it is for the right reason. In May 2019 General Assembly decided that the number of Presbyteries in Scotland should be reduced from 43 to around 12 so we might find ourselves within a new Presbytery of Fife encompassing St. Andrews, Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline. How that will affect St.Fillan's we do not know.

From our point of view the continuance of St.Fillan's as an independent charge with its own minister and Kirk Session is our priority. We continue to be financially sound and have a relatively healthy congregation at worship on a Sunday morning but is that enough?

I would respectfully suggest it is not. At our meeting with the Commissioners there was not a seat to be had in the church and folk were occupying every available standing space yet our numbers attending church and joining the church as either adherents or members has not risen. This is the crux of the matter in as much as we have to be seen as a church that is growing in membership, a church that can demonstrate its essential place in the village, a church without which many organisations within village life could not exist. So what are we to do? Support the church in whatever way you can and that is not just supporting activities in relation to the hall. We need more people to be seen and visible on a Sunday morning rather than passive and unseen, we need to show that the spirit of God is alive and well in Aberdour, we need to show that anyone looking at our situation will say here is a church that is doing OK. It's been around for many years, shortly to be celebrating 900 years of worship in this place and God willing will continue to do so for many years to come.

The future is in our hands.....let's make it work.

Ewart McSkimming, Stewardship Convenor



Inside:-

PAGE 3: Letter from the Manse.

PAGE 5: Parish and congregational register.

PAGE 5: Kathleen Ferguson award.

PAGE 6: Dementia friendly Aberdour.

PAGE 7: Open Door schedule.

PAGE 8: Advent services.



OUR CHURCH HALL

Bridge Too Far?



75 years since operation 'Market Garden' we plan to bridge (well provide a ramp) into the Church Hall. It is planned to be a permanent feature in stone and paving, in keeping with the stone steps and frontage, of the Church Hall.

Use of the Hall has grown and continues to grow but better access must be provided. It has been talked about for many years, but the time has come for action!

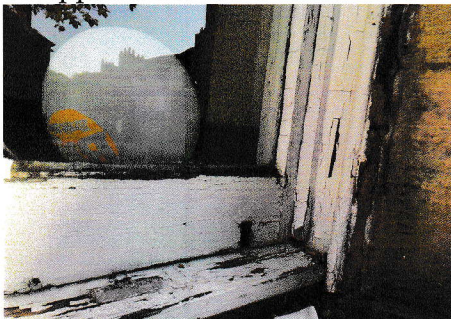
Groups such as: Babies and Toddlers, Mucky Pups, Festival, St Fillan's Lunches etc would benefit from the provision of a ramp for buggies, wheelchairs etc and for us to provide accessibility for all.

The difficulty St Fillan's Church faces now is that we are only permitted to keep our buildings wind and watertight as there is a moratorium on capital expenditure. We do feel it is a project that will be in the hearts of many who use the hall. Costs have been obtained of circa £15,000 for a permanent stone ramp.

Once all statutory approvals have been granted and accurate pricing can be made, we hope to make an appeal to the village and the hall users for assistance in raising the required funds to build the ramp.

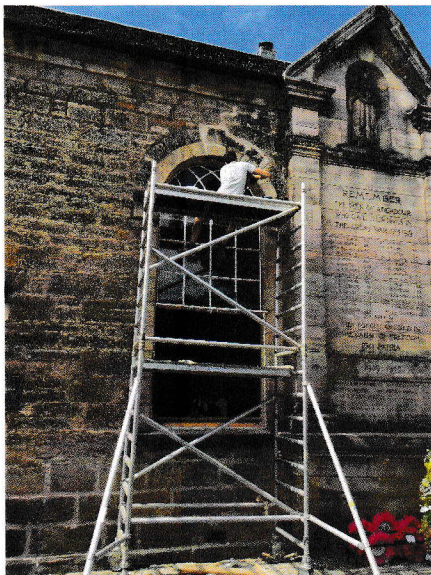
FIVE WEEKS WORK TO RESTORE THE CHURCH HALL WINDOWS!

Few living in the village can remember the Church Hall windows being painted or refurbished but it happened this summer!



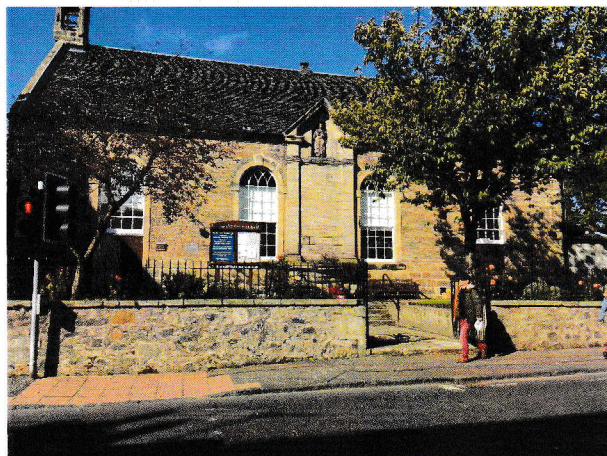
Before work began

St Fillan's Church commissioned Edinburgh Sash and Case Company to restore and refurbish the windows. It was a major project costing £9910. The repair and improvements to the windows started on 8th July 2019. Rotten timbers were replaced, windows re-rope and counter balanced, three coats of paint were applied and finally the frames were sealed back into the stone jambs with sand and linseed oil mastic. Our Church Hall is a Grade B listed and all works were in keeping with the original construction.



Work in progress

The windows on either side of the war memorial are now openable to provide natural ventilation – a breath of fresh air! The hall is now back in full use by all the village organisations.



The finished result

Letter from the Manse

As I write this in early October, no predictions about political solutions, breakthroughs, third referendums, or the closure of Churches... Time will tell...☺. But the good news is that Agata & I got married yesterday ☺ ☺

-o0o-

One of my favourite stories in the Bible is referred to usually as '*The woman caught in adultery*'.

The title alone should be a warning to us all – without wanting to be too unkind, the woman dragged out and thrown into the sand in front of Jesus can't have committed adultery on her own – and this begs the question: "*What happened to the man involved?*"

But those ready to condemn, then, and now, forget this inconvenient truth.

Instead, the hypocritical tormenters in the story, and many bullies today, go in for a cowardly act of public shaming. They were NOT interested in punishing adultery – they were trying to kick up a fuss, and were trying to ensnare Jesus

They were the 'Holier-than-thou' brigade, picking on the defenceless, and trying to trap Jesus.

Some people on Social Media engage in much the same practices, when they scream about the misdemeanours of politicians, celebrities, and others.

These cyber bullies are not interested in preserving marriage, or upholding standards in public office; instead they appear to take delight in trying to shame people publicly, as a form of self-righteous entertainment.

Their own lives probably would not stand up to much scrutiny at all, as no-one is perfect.

Jesus challenges the men who dragged the woman in to His presence, saying that the one without sin should cast the first stone. Well, that would have been the oldest or most senior man, then. And confronted by Jesus' challenge, these bullies realise suddenly they are in no position to cast any stone – first or last – and they leave, silently.

At least these men had to accuse the unnamed woman, and attack Jesus, face to face. So many tormenters now hide behind computer screens, and accuse, bluster, and bully from the safety of anonymity or fictional names.

Some of the folk who have come to speak to me recently had sad accounts of them and even their young children, being accused, bullied, and harassed from a distance.

In a recent Sermon, a colleague raged against the sin of adultery, and ended by declaiming censoriously that the woman in the story was a sinner, and that Jesus told her to sin no more adding "*And you should all remember that!*"...

All I can say is: "*Hey, pal, you're missing the point a bit: long before Jesus addresses the poor defenceless woman on her behaviour, He confronts her cowardly accusers with their own failings.*"

To those who today try and accuse, condemn, and bully, Jesus says much the same thing as to the men in the story: "*Look at your own lives, and don't accuse, condemn, or bully the defenceless.*"

As the Evangelist St John writes" "*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*"

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird
Parish Minister

Family Fun Week

'The Creation', 'David and Goliath', 'Daniel in the Lion's Den'.....just some of the events we visited under the banner **SHOWSTOPPERS** "" during our Fun Week this Summer.

Over the four days (22nd -25th July) the children, through stories, crafts, video, games, songs and themed snacks, learned more about these and other really amazing events in an enjoyable and fun way.

We were very pleased to welcome over the four days a total of 69 children, 40 of school age in the Hall and 29 pre-school at The Institute. It was great to also have five teenagers (previous attenders + a friend) coming along to help with the group work and also, helped by Max and Zoe, to perform some drama each day, and we sincerely hope they will continue to be willing and able to come along. The youngsters so enjoy their input and involvement with them.

The very successful week finished with our usual Barbeque held at the Silver Sands on the Thursday evening in beautiful weather, when, in addition to enjoying savoring the burgers and sausages, the race of the chariots (built up during the week) took place, along with many games on the beach, and a great time was had by all.

Our upcoming events are **Advent Fun Day in the Church Hall on the afternoon of Saturday, 7th December** (*see notices for details nearer the time*) and looking forward to 2020!!.....the date for your diary is **Saturday, 4th April**.

We looking forward to welcoming you then.

Catherine E. Duncan (Group Secretary)

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN

Children from the Chernobyl area came to Fife again this summer supported by the local West Fife Chernobyl Children's Lifeline. The numbers are down because it has become harder to find host families for the 4 weeks the children are here. I am grateful to those who continue to save their small change for this group. Our collectors have decreased too, but we have managed to send £200 this year. **Please consider saving some of your small change for this worthy cause.** It's up to you what you want to save - 'coppers', 5ps, 20ps, or a bit of everything! For further info, please contact Eileen Harper, sophieharp@googlemail.com, 860151. Thank you.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Vestry. This is an opportunity to pray together as a group. Please join us when you can for a short period of silent prayer for our community. For more information, please contact Eileen Harper.



Update - Kathleen Fergus Youth Awards (2019) – First award made

St Fillan's Church announced new annual travel and subsistence awards to young persons in the village in the Spring edition of the Crosier. It is intended that these awards will be made to help successful applicants with travel and/or living expenses while taking part in a placement with a recognised/registered charity in support of voluntary (or similar) work during travel away from home.

We had one applicant this year, and a travel support award of £300 was made to Daisy Winskill in August. Daisy travelled to India in September to work with the **Project Trust Charity** in Tamil Nadu in Southern India, where she will be teaching English for a year. We wish her well, and hope she enjoys her experience.

We hope to be awarding another grant to a young Aberdourian in 2020, so if you live in the parish and are starting to think about volunteer work next year please be in touch to see if we can assist (John Gordon, Session Clerk 01383-861553).

World Mission Stamp Appeal 2019

Last year the Church of Scotland's World Mission Stamp Appeal raised £2433 for the Hungarian Reformed Church of Transcarpathia. Thank you for all the stamps you have contributed to this magnificent amount.

This year the Stamp Appeal is supporting the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi. This centre aims to provide training in tailoring, fashion design and chicken farming thus improving the women's skills in marketing and entrepreneurship. The aim is that as the women's socio-economic status is improved their chances of future employment increase.

When the Appeal was launched earlier this year we were challenged to collect 50 used stamps to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stamp Appeal. A paper post van template to collect these stamps can be downloaded at the Church of Scotland website -

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps.

Or stamps can be left in the basket to the right of the entrance door of St Fillan's Church or in the wooden box on the first window sill as you enter the Church Hall. You can post your stamps directly to the World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire. ML2 0YB. I am happy to collect stamps and/or stamp albums from you. 01383 860051. Susan Morton

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2019

Mrs. Ann Hanlon; Mr. Harry Cunningham; Mrs. Dorothy Johnston; Mr. Wallace Cowan; *Mrs. Jean Nisbet*; *Mrs. Margaret Black*; Mr. John Anderson; Mrs. Margaret Thompson; Mrs. Isabella Robertson; Mrs. Margaret Gilmour

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

Nicola Trossell and Chris Connolly; Susan Holt and Allan Morris; Colin Thomas Inglis and Laura Alice Templeton; Alan Andrew Petrie and Magdalena Piech;

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder

Baptisms

Alexander Antoni Charles Petrie Kate Hanna Allison

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs. Margaret Morris, Mrs. Jane Allen, Mrs. Alison Lawson; Mrs. Gillian Piper

Joining as Adherents

Mr. Martin Bailey; Mrs. Carol Bailey; Mr. Callum M. Crowe, Mrs. Ailsa L. Williams, Mr. Andrew J. M. Williams; Mr. Steve Coit; Mr. Bruce Borrows; Mrs. Brenda Borrows; Mr. Stuart E. McGlynn; Mrs. Marianne McGlynn

We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here.

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

Lets Become A Dementia Friendly Village

St.Fillan's Church is looking at becoming a more dementia friendly church and it was recognised that this is a great opportunity to engage the whole of Aberdour in becoming a recognised dementia friendly community. Having canvassed opinions around the village there appears to be an appetite for this. To get the ball moving there will be a public meeting on Thursday 21st November in the church hall from 7.30 to 8.30. This meeting is to inform us of what would be involved in becoming a dementia friendly village. The key speaker will be Ruth McCabe who is employed by Fife Council to support communities and businesses in Fife to become more dementia friendly.

Dementia is increasing throughout our country and the numbers affected is estimated to double within our next generation. Most people have some sort of connection to this terminal condition. A better understanding of the different types of dementia and how it is possible to support someone affected directly or indirectly by dementia could make a significant difference to our community. Please join us for a tea and coffee on the 21st November and be part of this important development to making Aberdour a recognised dementia friendly community. Watch out for the posters and flyers around the village.

For further information contact Christine Waddell 860802 or christine@inchave.plus.com

CHURCH FLOWERS.

A very big THANK YOU to the anonymous 'Flower Fairies' who so kindly donated a lovely selection of baskets in response to my request in the last edition of 'St. Fillan's Crosier'. Be assured the baskets will be put to good use holding the flower arrangements given out to mark special occasions throughout the year(s) ahead.

Thank You very much too to all who have 'adopted a date' on which to put flowers into church and to those who donate funds to have that done for them. Sadly we have recently 'lost' a few of those valued members, so if YOU would like to take part in our Flower Ministry, please check the Flower Rota for available dates and let me know.



Catherine E. Duncan (860611)

St Fillan's Annual Sale of Work on Saturday 16th November in The St Fillan's Church Hall in Aberdour

Doors open 2pm; £2.50 entry to the sale includes tea/coffee, with homemade scone, pancake and fancy cake.

The stalls include; cakes and tablet, and home produce, new and nearly new gifts and jewellery, a Christmas table, white elephant and bric a brac, toys, books and DVDs. There is also a bottle stall to try your luck, and a superb Christmas Hamper and delicious home-made Christmas cake with a bottle of Champaign, to be won in the raffle.

Do please join us 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! All your contributions will be most gratefully received. Please hand in to the Church Hall late afternoon, until 7pm on Friday 15th or the morning of Saturday 16th November.

Open Door
Programme of speakers 2019 – 20

14thNOVEMBER. ‘**The Lewis Chessmen**’ David Caldwell spent 38 years working for the National Museum in Edinburgh. As a curator he had responsibility for the Lewis chessmen, arguably the most valuable treasure in Scotland. David's interests have been focussed on the archaeology of the Highlands and Islands and he has co-authored two books on the Lewis chessmen. He is President of the Society of Antiquaries, Chair of Fife Cultural Trust and a board member of the National Trust for Scotland.

12thDECEMBER. “**Scottish Oddities**” speaker Hamish Brown **M.B.E. FRSGS**, as a child he lived in **Singapore**, escaping in 1942 as it fell to the Japanese. Hamish spent his youth in Dollar exploring the nearby **Ochil Hills** which awakened his interest in the outdoors. He is a professional writer, lecturer and photographer specialising in mountain topics. Best known for his walking exploits in the Highlands, Hamish is the first person to walk all the Munros in a single trip with only ferries and a bicycle as means of transport.

16thJANUARY. “**The Town That Didn't Stare**”. **The Life and Work of Dr Archibald McIndoe in the Second World War.** Chris Short a former nurse/midwife who has lived 30 years in Aberdour discusses the work of Dr Archibald McIndoe, a surgeon with Scottish ancestry who performed pioneering plastic surgery on badly burnt RAF crew during WW2. This talk commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, July - October 1940, from which came so many of his patients.

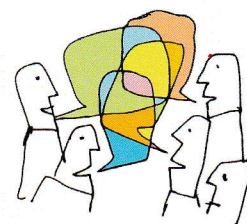
13thFEBRUARY ‘**A Safari to Botswana and Zimbabwe featuring Wildlife, Culture & a bit of Politics**’. Lesley Gordon has been a long-term resident of Aberdour and was, until recently, a teacher of Biology at Inverkeithing High School. Her father was born in South Africa where she was taken as a girl to live. The smells and sounds of Africa are deeply ingrained in her, such that she has revisited Africa, on several occasions. Her last excursion was to Botswana & Zimbabwe in the autumn of 2018.

12thMARCH. “**Cowden Japanese Garden**” Kate White, Head Gardener at Cowden Japanese Garden, studied crop and soil science at University of Wales, Bangor, and started out working in large scale organic agriculture on the Moray Coast. She retrained at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, (RBGE). Since then, she has worked in historic and botanic gardens at Dunedin Botanic Garden (New Zealand), Cruickshank Botanic Garden (Aberdeen) and NTS Leith Hall (Huntly), before gaining a permanent post in the Rock & Woodland Garden team at RBGE. She took up her present post in 2016.

Acknowledgement

We are immensely grateful to those people who step in and lend a hand at Open Door when, on occasion, we need to ‘man the pumps’.

A Fairtrade stall will be held; November, December and March



Open Door is for everyone.

It entertains and informs, and has aided numerous charities over the years. Invited speakers give a talk on a subject of interest on the second Thursday of every month from October to March at 10.30 am in St Fillan's church hall.

Entry is £2.50, which includes tea/coffee and home baking.

The Open Door Committee;

Tricia Allan, Lynn Bastow, John Gordon,
Lesley Gordon, Ruth Murray, Alex Waugh,
Mairi Waugh (treasurer), Kate Wheaton (chair)

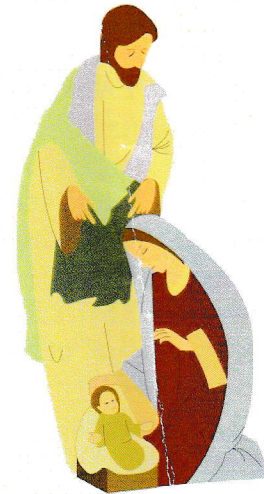
The Wider Team

Andy Bastow, Catherine Duncan, David
Graham,

Sharon Johnston, Ewart McSkimming

St. Fillan's Advent & Christmas Services 2019

1 st December	10.30a.m. Advent Service, St. Fillan's Church 6.30p.m. Evening Service, St. Fillan's Church
15 th December	10.30a.m. Informal Family Service with sketch & mulled wine- Church Hall
22 nd December	10.30a.m. St. Fillan's Festival of Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve	6.30p.m. Family Service, Carols, short story, treats for the young.. St Fillan's Church 11.30p.m. Watchnight Service, Community Carol Singing from 11.15pm
Christmas Day	10.30a.m. Christmas Family Eucharist, St Fillan's Church <i>Bring a gift to show.</i>
29 th December	10.30a.m. Music & Reading for the season, St. Fillan's Church.



PILGRIMAGE TO INCHCOLM - 2019

Last year our Pilgrimage took place on 8th Sept after a suspense laden week or two of meteorological uncertainty and apprehension. So this year, it was decided to advance the date to suit the tides rather than put it back by a week. Perhaps unsurprisingly for Scottish weather, once again as the date approached, your organiser resorted to close scrutiny of the forecast backed up by not a few prayers as the uncertainty was as great as ever. But prayers won through and 1st Sept proved a very welcome gap between weather systems battering Scotland. I can only thank Minister Peter and our Congregation for that extra prayerful 'push' that helped us win through - plus I hope a bit of help from Anglicans and Catholic's, who came along too.



So, 170 hardy souls boarded the Maid of the Forth and our thanks go to those who bought tickets even if they didn't come along on the day; because if we don't cover our costs our Pilgrimage might not be able to take place.

It was, therefore, a joyful group of Pilgrims that thronged Aberdour Pier and boarded the boat. With a very short exception during the Minister's short, but uplifting sermon, the weather remained fine: there were prayers, singing, picnicing, exploring and even shopping. In fact activities to interest all the family, with the Abbey Island presenting its best face to its visitors. There is no doubt it is a hallowed place of peace and tranquility and, I hope, all of us felt uplifted by our visit.

Thank you to all those of whichever Faith, or none who joined us on our Pilgrimage."