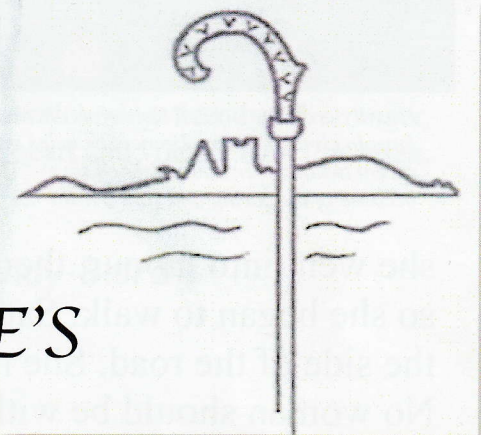


ST FILLAN'S CROSIER



THE PIRATE'S CUP!



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One of the stranger items belonging to St Fillan's is a gilt goblet bequeathed to the church in 1815 by one of Aberdour's exiled sons, William Morgan. Records show that Morgan was born in Aberdour on November 1st 1762, and baptised on 10th of the same month. His father, also William, is described as a shipmaster. His mother was Betty Martin, and two years later he gained a sister, baptised Robina.

It seems that the younger William followed his father to sea, but little or nothing is known of him until 1796, when his name (with others) appears on two official documents that taken together made him either a licensed pirate or a patriotic venturer, depending on your point of view: "... Letters of Marque and Reprisals to William Morgan Commander of the private Ship of War called the Jane to take the Ships, Vessels, and Goods, belonging to France, or to any Persons being Subjects of France, or inhabiting within any of the Territories of France".

The partners in this venture, Alexander Donaldson, Alexander Forbes, and William Morgan, are all described as resident in Jamaica.

So by his mid-thirties, William Morgan was an expatriate ship's captain who had amassed enough money to be the part-owner of a ship fitted out for war against the French in the Caribbean.

(Continued on page 10.)

Christian Aid Week 2019

Join thousands of others taking part in the UK's longest-running fundraising week!



Heavily pregnant Jebbeh Konneh is checked by Nurse Judith at the Suwala clinic in Sierra Leone. She helps give Jebbeh confidence after the recent death of her sister. Jebbeh says: "The nurse is like our mother because of the caring and concern she has for all of us".

There will be two events happening in Aberdour to raise funds this year, a coffee morning on Saturday May 11th and a concert on Friday May 17th.

The theme this year is "More happy birth days". In Sierra Leone Jebbeh is heavily pregnant. As her

baby grows there is fear in her heart, not joy. Recently her sister was pregnant in a village nearby. When

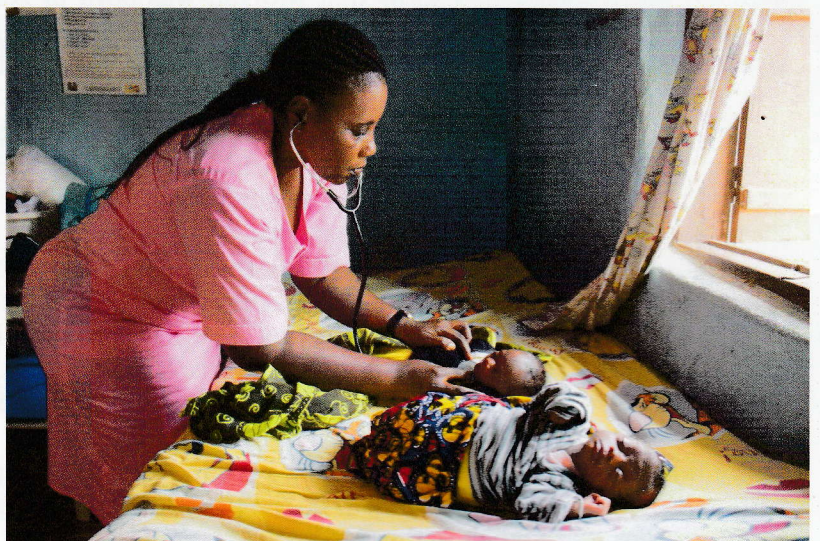
she went into labour, there was no ambulance available to take her to the hospital so she began to walk. Sadly due to hunger and heat exhaustion, her sister died at the side of the road. She never gave birth.

No woman should be without help during childbirth. Christian Aid is working with partner organisations in Sierra Leone to ensure that the health of mothers during pregnancy is monitored and that every baby is delivered in safe surroundings.

This year the CA Coffee Morning will be held on the morning of May 11th from 10 to 12. This will also incorporate a sale of good quality books for adults and children so any donations will be gratefully received. As usual there will also be a plant and produce stall, home baking, a quality raffle, a bottle stall and a Fairtrade stall, all for £2 entry. There won't be a bric-a-brac stall this year. If you would like to contribute any items to the Coffee Morning, please bring them to the Church Hall on Friday evening or hand them to Lesley Gordon(860030) prior to the event.

There will also be a concert on the evening of May 17th featuring various local artists for CA and Dunfermline Junior Chorus.

Watch out for posters going up with further information. **Please come along to support CA Aberdour at either or both of these events.**



Nurse Judith checks 12-day old twins in the temporary clinic.

Letter from the Manse

At the time of writing, no-one knows what is going to happen next... "*Shall we stay, or shall we go*"... might be an appropriate song to hum, as our politicians in every corner of these islands wrestle with political realities, and try to balance these with long-held dreams of different futures, within this political union, or outwith that one.

In amongst the frequently heard criticism of those whom we have elected to govern us, perhaps we should remember the enormity of the tasks our politicians face. The need to keep the country free from terrorism and attack, to provide education, healthcare, street lighting, farming subsidies, housing, policing, and transport, all of these things, and many more.

And all this at a time of falling tax revenues, political and economic uncertainty, and international instability. There is not an easy task, and prayerful support or common human encouragement are appropriate at this difficult time. As Goethe wrote: "*Correction does much, but encouragement does more.*"

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Elsewhere in The Crosier is information about how the Church of Scotland is trying to deal with some of the problems besetting our Denomination. In common with others, there is a drop in Church attendance, income, and in the number of Ministers. Far-reaching changes are proposed, including the closure of Church buildings, and a sharp reduction in the number of Ministers in the Dunfermline area.

The unforgettable Corporal Jones in "Dad's Army" jumped up and down shouting: "*Don't panic, don't panic*", as he himself was panicking like mad.

Panic is never a good response, certainly not for people of Faith. Trust in God, confidence in, and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance, and belief in the all-embracing & forgiving Love of Jesus should spur Christians on to cheerful worship and faithful action.

Yes, the tasks facing our Congregation can be daunting, But we are a strong, confident, welcoming, and active bunch of folk, part of the community in which we live.

And St Fillan's is nearly 900 years old. It has seen hundreds of years of faithful worship, by people facing many problems, invasions, war, Church conflicts, collapsing roofs and organ loft fires ... And yet through all these trials and tribulations Worship continued, in different ways, in different settings.

This Lent & Easter, let us not panic or worry, but remember Our Lord's Sacrifice upon the Cross, AND His glorious Resurrection on the first Easter, and live out Christ's mercy and love at this time and at this place, welcoming friend and stranger, and proclaim with heart and voice: "*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*"

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird
Parish Minister.

A Special Place

I know a place where bluebells bloom in
profusion in the Spring,
Where a gentle river passes by and birds in
breeding frenzy sing.
Beyond the trees a small church stands, as
it has for year on year,
And down the ages folk have come to praise
and worship here.
Around the church memorial stones mark
where the faithful rest
And flowers are laid and prayers are said by
those who loved them best.
Away from the noise and rush of life here
is a special place,
A place to pause, to think, give thanks and
ponder God's great grace.

Flora J Aitchinson

NEW!!!

Attention of Young People in Aberdour

Kathleen Fergus Youth Awards (2019)

St Fillan's Church has determined to establish an annual travel and subsistence award to a young person in the village. It is hoped that this will help a successful applicant 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 the summer holidays, away from home. We are able to fund this award because we have combined unused resources with a recent generous donation for use 'with the youth of Aberdour' from the family of the late Kathleen Fergus.

Qualifications needed by applicants:-

- must be between 16-21 years of age,
- must live in the parish of Aberdour, or have parents who are members of St Fillan's Church if living locally but not in Aberdour,
- must have a placement work offer from a registered charity or overseas equivalent during the summer vacation period in 2019
- must have parental or guardian approval/agreement to travel.

Applicants should submit a brief outline of why an award is needed or beneficial, how it will help their chosen summer objectives and participation in a voluntary or low paid summer work experience, and a description of the sort of work to be undertaken. Each application must be accompanied by some valid form of identification, giving evidence of age and address, and with some evidence of qualification and support. Importantly a form of validation of a work placement for the voluntary work to be undertaken will be needed.

All applications should be sent in written form to the St Fillan's Church Session Clerk, by the end of May 2019: to John Gordon, 26 Inverkeithing Road, Aberdour, KY3 0RS, or by email to john.gordon11@btinternet.com . Late applications will not normally be accepted.

The award will be a maximum of £500, and will normally be an individual award. However, applications for a joint award will be considered, and in the event that it is appropriate two or more separate awards of lower value might be awarded. Payment will be by cheque, by mid June. The decision of the adjudication committee advising on the successful application(s) will be final.

If for any reason the grantee is unable to take up the voluntary placement, he/she should inform the Session Clerk immediately and return the award in full.

Those granted an award will be invited to make a short presentation about their experience to the Congregation of St Fillan's at a convenient Sunday service in the Aberdour Church Hall.

Feedback on this scheme is very welcome, and if this year's award programme is a success it is hoped to make similar awards again in 2020 and then annually while funds allow.

In Memory of Kathleen Fergus

When speaking of Kathleen Fergus recently we became aware that there are now many 'villagers' who would not have had the privilege and pleasure of meeting her. I hope I may be able to bring you a little of the essence of such a remarkable lady.

When first I met Kathleen I thought her a rather shy, quiet, reserved person, never realising she was a teacher (I always used to find it so difficult to speak with teachers!) As our friendship began to grow, more so around the time she was ordained as **an Elder** and seemed to 'blossom', I discovered just how calm, caring, practical and inspiring she was. Always there to offer friendship, encouragement and support to everyone whilst quietly showing and sharing her deep faith and genuine interest in children and adults alike. She was also very reliable and a good confidant. One knew what was confided in her would not be divulged to a living soul.

Kathleen lived across the road from St. Columba's Church (where John Gordon, our Session Clerk now lives) and she initiated the forming of **the Link Group** with our Christian 'friends up the hill'. She was the one who so much wanted to **do** something for the youngsters in the village that, with the help of a team from Scripture Union, she was the creator of our very successful **Family Fun Week**, which is still going strong. She was an amazing organiser and so skilled at delegating to others - to 'spread the load' far and wide, involving as many folk as she could and thus avoiding 'the same few' doing everything!

'**Open Door**' founded in 2002 was another of Kathleen's projects. She thought it would be good to have 'something'...a social gathering linked to the church....which would be open to everyone to attend during the six winter months.....with a guest speaker and some refreshments afterwards, when folk could mingle and have a time of fellowship. We can still enjoy this on the second Thursday of October - March.

Involved in **Advent, Lent and other Bible Study Groups** she once organised a **Retreat** for some of us to attend in Falkland. It was cold and a bit bleak that day and often the sound of the wind at times, even now, reminds me so much of that outing and special time we all experienced there.

As one of our regular **Bell Ringers** Kathleen was always such fun. With such an infectious giggle she would set the rest of us off too resulting in our practise foundering until we were able to 'sober up' as the Conductor demanded.

I am sure there are many other occasions today which were inspired by Kathleen quietly in the background making suggestions and acting upon or encouraging others to do so.

Although she did keep in touch, it was a sad day for us all when Kathleen went away from the village to live in New Mexico, to be nearer to her family, but even sadder in 2015 when we received word of her demise. It is always good however to receive visits from her family occasionally and to have the memories, the honour and privilege of having known such a lovely person.

Catherine Duncan.

Catherine E. Duncan.

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2018 Mr. Mike Taddei. Mrs. Margaret Tollick. Mr. Jim Thomson. Rev. Andrew Morton.
Mrs. Doreen Brodie.

2019 Mrs. Helen Malcolm. Mrs. Margaret Rhodes. Mrs. Eliza Anderson. Mrs. Jane Duncan.

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

Joining as Adherents

Ewan and Paulette Calder

We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here.

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

Why Bother with Minority Languages?

The Open Door address on 14th Feb by Prof Matthew MacIver CBE.(in brief).

In a country like the United Kingdom, Gaelic suffers from the global influence of English. We live in a country which is dominated by the English juggernaut. In fact, we live in a world which is dominated by English. Because of that parents are fearful that without English Medium instruction their children will not progress.

In an increasingly diverse and multi-cultural modern Scotland, we will, I am certain, have to face some of these issues. I have no doubt that the future of minority and community languages is one of the great challenges facing the education system. Linguistic diversity will inevitably become part of a 21st century Scotland. People will want a world which reflects their different backgrounds, cultures and thinking. Parents want that for their children. That is illustrated here in Scotland in what has happened with the growth of Gaelic Medium Education in Primary Schools. It has been one of the success stories of the past 40 years in Scottish Education. We now have Gaelic schools in Glasgow, Inverness, Edinburgh, Fort William and Portree.

What, then, are we going to do with those parents who want Polish, Chinese/Mandarin, Urdu and other languages taught to their children? They will soon undoubtedly argue for their own linguistic rights within our modern Scotland? My language was almost extinguished by the official education system in Scotland. Are we going to let it happen again with other minorities? There is now the danger that other minority languages will be overwhelmed by the blandness of a global culture.

I want to resist uniformity of language which by definition results in the death of Minority Languages. Many of us who come from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds very often feel isolated. We feel, despite our pride, that we are on the periphery. I do not want that feeling to continue. I take pride in being different. I have a different language; a different culture; a different history. I want people to respect that difference and to value the diversity that it creates in any society. Never has the need to be unique been more urgently needed than today. Being different helps you to be independent, to be original, to think for yourself and to think competitively and strategically.

A Minority Language is not subversive. Far from it - we need a global language and a local language. I believe that the cultural awakening that comes with a second language gives young people a different and original perspective which will uniquely equip them the world of tomorrow which will be increasingly multicultural.

That was the gist of what I told my audience in Aberdour.

At the end, I left them with two thoughts.

First, if you speak more than one language, rejoice.

Secondly, if you are monolingual, relax.

Why?

Because monolingualism is curable.

Open Door starts again on the 10th October - see you then.

Aberdour Scottish Country Dancing Club

Aberdour Scottish Country Dancing Club celebrated their 40th Anniversary on the 13th February with a meal in the Woodside Hotel. Liz and her staff rose to the occasion and made it a most enjoyable event.

31 Dancers (plus teachers and Accordionist) attended.

Country Dancing has been held in St. Fillan's hall for the past 40 years. George and Betty MacKay started the class in 1979. They ran it for 14 years. Barbara Cuthbertson took over in 1993 and Linda Cullen & John Philip have been running it since 1997.

Bill O'Donnell has been playing the accordion for us since 1994.

Members come from Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline, Crossgates, Kirkcaldy, Limekilns and the good news is that we now have 3 members from Aberdour!

New members are always welcome.

Here's to the 50th (although someone might have to devise dances using zimmer frames!)

For more information contact Sandra McSkimming 823454



CHURCH FLOWERS



Whether growing in pots, tubs, or gardens, in vases of water or as arrangements in Church, flowers bring us so much pleasure. The more so when received as Celebratory or "Thinking of You" tokens, and so....

A very big THANK YOU to the number of folk who very kindly bring and arrange the lovely flowers in our Sanctuary each week or who give a donation to St. Fillan's Flower Fund (which is used to supply flowers on the "un-adopted" dates on the flower roster and for other special occasions).

In the past year we have had a goodly number of these 'special occasions'big birthdays, special anniversaries and other celebratory occasions, when we have handed out flower arrangements in baskets or bowls. Most of the said baskets have been kindly donated for re-use and as the number available is quickly becoming depleted, it would be greatly appreciated if YOU have any small baskets to hand and would be willing to hand it/them in to us for re-use.

Anyone wishing to become involved with putting flowers into Church (or regarding baskets) please contact Catherine Duncan (860611) or Eleanor Morrison (860241) regarding distribution.

The Future of our Church. Eileen Harper

On Sunday 27th January our Minister, Peter, preached a powerful sermon on the future of the church here in Aberdour. Those of us who are in the Kirk Session have known for some time that things are not going well in the Church of Scotland. Indeed let's face it all of us in the congregation know that the church's numbers are declining. We have a great congregation and a core number of people who work extremely hard to keep everything going, but we are an ageing congregation. Peter talks and listens to people at all kinds of events, and supports people both inside and outside the church. I would say everyone in the community knows who he is and what he stands for. There is an excellent team looking after finances and property, others learning how to lead prayers and services, and those who work in pastoral care. Finances are reasonably strong and when required the community has been generous with our special appeals, both for the church buildings and for Christian charities. So we can see positive things, but we have to look beyond ourselves, beyond Aberdour.

There will be people who ask what all the fuss is about. St Fillan's has been here since the 12th century. It's not going to disappear overnight. But we have to face facts, and it is not beyond the realms of possibility, that our church could be closed within the next decade. Throughout Scotland there are fewer ministers and many churches are half empty on a Sunday morning. It doesn't need a team of consultants or economists to see that change must come sometime and that the change will be close to home.

Yes, our community supports and appreciates our church. A good number come to Christmas and Easter services and many families bring their youngsters to Family Fun events at Christmas, Easter and in the summer. All that is brilliant! But it's not enough. If the church is to have a physical presence here in Aberdour, we need young families coming to church on a Sunday. But – and I have been told this for about the last 20 years – times have changed and families have so many pressures, so much to do and you can't expect them to come to church. Well, is that right? Many of us remember when working on a Saturday was the norm and holidays were far, far less. They weren't exactly pressure-less days. There is a lot going on and sport and other activities on a Sunday, but often we do have choice, and we can prioritise. Some people say that if the church was open on a different day, more people might come. I doubt this very much, although I am not saying God shouldn't get a look in during the week as well as on a Sunday.

Of course, as Christians, we believe that 'six days thou shalt labour and on the seventh day thou shalt rest'. Actually, what a good idea! Would that not help us all? If we just stopped and rested and gave our bodies, our minds and our souls a chance to be still and came to church for an hour on a Sunday morning with no phones or computers to distract. But it's not just about sitting still and being quiet; it's more than that. We go to church to join with God's children, to praise God, to thank him for all our blessings, to ask for his guidance and forgiveness in our lives and in the lives of those we love and care for, as well as for the wider community, our country and the world. We remind ourselves of the gospel story and of the true hope that can be ours if we read the Bible and follow in the ways of Jesus. From this we can draw inner strength to live our lives to the full. We are very fortunate to have a minister who teaches us and guides us well and, as we still ourselves and take a step away from our worldly concerns, we may just hear the still small voice of God.

Goodness, perhaps I have slipped into lecturing when what I really want to do is to encourage. When you realise what Christianity is about - forgiveness, hope, a new way of looking at life - God is a great power to have on your side.

What God wants us to do is to serve him TODAY. He's not much interested in what we did yesterday, or what we think we might do tomorrow when we have more time, more money, more energy, more ability.

We can all play a part in our church. We can pray for the future of our church, not just on Sundays, but every day. As we pray, we may need to ask God to help us to remember the future may look very different, and to prepare us for that. We may not even like how things look – at first. But we have to trust that God does not want to leave us in the mire. He will always be present here in some way or other. He cares very much and he wants there to be a strong Christian presence here in our village of Aberdour.

These are my own personal ideas of what we can do NOW. Here are some suggestions you might like to mull over.

If you don't come to church on a Sunday, try coming. It doesn't have to be every week. Every Sunday at 10.30am we are in the church for approximately an hour, except the last Sunday of the month, when we are in the Church Hall. On the first evening of the month we have an evening service in the church at 6.30pm (except January and August).

If you do come to church, keep coming! Is there someone who doesn't come, you could encourage to come along with you?

If you don't have an active role in the church is there something you could do to help in the church? If you are not sure what is needed, ask.

Pray every day for our church – our Minister and others in their church tasks.

If you think that more can be done to encourage people to come to church, speak to Peter. He wants to hear people's ideas, and we all want to ensure there is a church for future generations here in Aberdour.

In 2023 St Fillan's Church is 900 years old. My prayer is that there will be a vibrant growing church here to celebrate that milestone.

The World Mission Stamp Appeal 2019-20 50 Stamp Challenge.

This year - 2019 – 2020 - The Church of Scotland's World Mission is celebrating fifty years of Congregations collecting stamps and so fifty years of raising money for many charities from the sale of these stamps.

The Stamp Appeal of 2019 will support the **Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi**. This organization is also celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The Chigodi Women Centre is delivering a broad range of skills training to address the challenges faced by women in Malawi. Through providing training in tailoring, fashion design and chicken farming the Centre will improve the women's skills in marketing and entrepreneurship. The aim is that the women's socio-economic status is improved and their chances of future employment increase. By selling the produce made at the Centre the plan is that when the funding finishes the project will be self-sustainable – able to continue to improve the lives of women in Malawi.

It is thanks to your dedication that The World Mission Stamp Appeal is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. Why not join in celebrating 50 years and take part in the 50 stamp challenge? Can you collect 50 stamps (or more) in a year? We have designed a post van which you can create out of paper and use as a donation box.

The donation box template can be downloaded at the Church of Scotland.org.uk website. Look for World Mission Stamp Appeal 2019 post van donation box.

Or you can just donate your stamps as always in envelopes, bags or loose

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

If you wish you can post your stamps directly to

- 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

St. Fillan's Lunches

We so called "Soup Dragons" wish to sincerely thank you all for coming and we hope you continue to enjoy our variety of soups, filled rolls, etc., and good fellowship.

Regrettably, due to rising costs, we feel , from 1st April, we need to increase the price of Lunch to £3.50 . However the cost of a child's lunch will remain the same at £1.50.

Would YOU be able to help once or twice during the year ? (Serving; stirring soup or washing up - apron is provided!) We have recently attracted two new volunteers but more help is always very welcome and very much appreciated. PLEASE,.... don't be shy..... If you'd like to join us please speak with Liz (pececky@gmail.com) or Janette(janettecsmith46@gmail.com) . It's a great way for getting to know folk!!

The Rice Challenge



St. Fillan's has decided to take on a Rice Challenge in support of Fairtrade. The scheme involves buying 90kg of Kilombero rice from northern Malawi which is then sold for £3/kilogram thus generating £270 for the co-operative farmers of the area. Young St Fillan's launched the scheme at the end of February during Fairtrade Fortnight.

To promote the Rice Challenge, a suggestion was made that a Curry Night should be held in the Church Hall using Kilombero rice. A small planning team quickly swung into action and 3 weeks later on Friday 22nd March, the Curry Night duly went ahead. Tickets cost £5 per head and those attending were invited to bring their own bottle of wine, beer or non alcoholic drink. The guests were served a delicious vegetable thali with sides of dhal, tomato onion salad, mango chutney and chapattis. The meal was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and raised the remarkable sum of **£405** for Fairtrade. Thank you to all those who helped to bring about such a lovely, convivial evening and to all those who supported the event.

If you are interested in helping this initiative to succeed, you can buy a kilogram of Kilombero rice, either white or brown. It arrived in Aberdour on April 2nd. Please contact Lesley Gordon on 860030 to order a bag.

Continued from page 1...

At this point a note about privateers is called for. Since the late middle ages, maritime nations had augmented their naval power by granting licences to private persons to conduct warfare against enemy shipping. These licensees, privateers, made their money by plundering and seizing enemy vessels, and selling the booty. In theory there was a clear legal distinction between lawless pirates and government-licensed privateers, but in practice the distinction could be very blurred. Governments liked the system: it was far cheaper to let privateers do the fighting at no detriment to the coffers, than to have the expense of building warships and paying for sailors and upkeep. It is perhaps surprising that in these austere times no cash-strapped Chancellor has, so far, sought to revive the practice. At the time of the Napoleonic wars the system was still in full swing, with French, American, and British privateers swarming in the Caribbean where the pickings could be very worthwhile indeed.

Here is where the cup comes in. It is hallmarked London 1799, and inscribed "From William Donaldson [Morgan's partner] to Capt'n William Morgan As a mark of his Esteem & regard for his good & spirited conduct during the time he commanded His Armed Ships JANE & LION In the West Indies in the years 1796 & 1797." This raises interesting questions. So far, no record at all has been found of Lion although there is quite a detailed record of Jane (159 tons, 3 masts, 16 guns, plenty of small arms, and carrying 80 men though apparently no ship's Doctor). What was Morgan's "good and spirited conduct"? Was he simply fighting the French in the West Indies? Or was he perhaps also engaged in the immensely profitable slave trade, which was still flourishing in the 1790s?

It isn't clear when Donaldson presented the cup to Morgan, but Morgan left instructions in his will (dated 15 April 1815):

"I desire the Gold Cup sent me as a present, be sent to the parish where I was borne, Aberdour in Fifeshire, to be presented to the Minister as a sacramental cup for the use of the Parish".

Morgan was probably on his death-bed when he made his will, because it was proved on May 6th 1815, only 3 weeks later.

The terms of the bequest are clear enough. But the cup didn't reach St Fillan's until November 1842. For whatever reason, Morgan's executor retained the cup, and it was HIS executor who finally passed it on to the Church in November 1842.

So the cup, a rather large and ornate object in a sturdy black box, has come down to us for sacramental purposes. We know virtually nothing about William Morgan, except that he was a privateer in the West Indies for a while during the Napoleonic wars. We don't know how he amassed the money to set up a warship, nor what his "good and spirited conduct" amounted to. Did he cut French throats, or deal in slaves? If so, can that be said to taint the cup he bequeathed for sacred purposes?

Summary of the '2018 Accounts'

The congregation received the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018 during Morning Service on 31st March - here is a brief summary. The full Trustees Report covers the Church's Organisation, Governance, and all the main activities carried out in the year, from Young St Fillan's to Pastoral care, Property maintenance, and various aspects of community interaction. Also included is a summary of the end year financial position and the main objectives for 2019

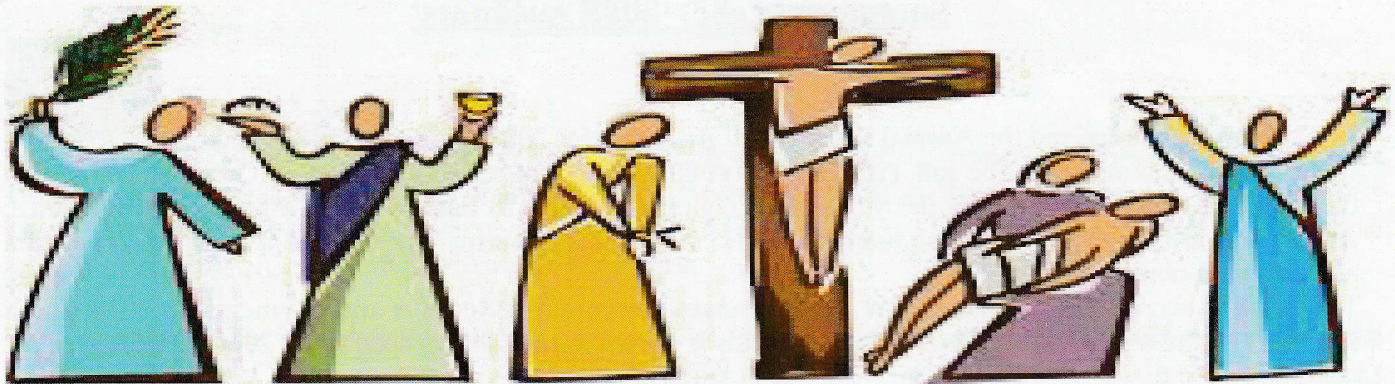
The detailed accounts themselves show all the sources categories of Receipts and Payments in 2018, and a summary of the overall numbers covering all Funds is shown in the table beneath with 2017 figures given for comparison:

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Donations and Offerings	£51,391	£53,134	Net allocation to '121'	£45,486	£42,797
Gift Aid Tax refund	£12,310	£14,806	Presbytery Dues (net)	£1,395	-£14,103
Weddings and Funerals	£2,261	£1,067	Property Insurance and Licenses	£3,974	£3,946
Use of Church/Hall	£6,331	£5,356	Local Salaries and Fees	£9,036	£8,752
Regular Fundraising	£3,899	£4,256	Heat and Light	£3,996	£2,877
Project Fundraising (Hall Roof and Ethiopia)	£0	£29,966	Pulpit and Organ supply	£664	£505
Associated Orgs (St Fillan's Lunches, etc)	£2,035	£2,661	Normal Fabric Maintenance	£1,381	£2,456
Investment Income and Interest	£2,899	£2,660	Ministers Expenses, Printing and Manse Council Tax	£6,092	£7,329
Other Miscellaneous Income	£4,643	£1,848	Church Repairs(2018) vs Hall Roof Restoration(2017)	£6,726	£81,689
Legacies	£13,106	£40,915	Other (incl betterment and Church repairs)	£3,252	£2,008
Totals	£98,875	£156,669	Totals	£82,002	£138,256

The years 2018 and 2017 were very different as the numbers show. In 2017 the Church Hall roof was restored with considerable financial assistance from community. In 2018 the final tranche of the Australian Legacy was received and these funds (designated the Evelyn Birnie Fund) are only being used to make repairs to the Church. So we are very fortunate to have been able to complete all the important repairs identified in the 2017 Quinquennial report, and all our buildings are in pretty good condition.

The figures above show that there was a substantial overall surplus again in 2018 - £16873 :- the day to day general activities contributing £4390 of this, investment income producing £2039, and a net increase in restricted funds from legacies of £10444. However this happy position will be difficult to replicate in coming years as running costs are set to increase considerably, and income streams are under pressure. Nevertheless, St Fillan's has excellent support from its members and from the wider community, and a great record of resilience.

Andy Bastow (Treasurer)



Holy Week

Holy Week & Easter Services 2019

15 April: Holy Week Evening Service, St Fillan's Church 6.30pm
16 April: Holy Week Service, Inverkeithing Parish Church, 7pm
17 April: Holy Week Service, Dalgety Parish Church 7pm

Maundy Thursday: Service of Holy Communion,
St Fillan's Church 6.30pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross –
*“A quiet space For meditation: Drop in and
follow the Lord's Passion in pictures.”*
Church Hall 12noon- 2.30pm

The Story of the Crucifixion in Scripture
Readings and music, St Fillan's Church 6.30pm

Holy Saturday: Vigil, St Fillan's Church 12noon

Easter Day

Dawn Service of Holy Communion (*in the Cemetery at
St Fillan's Church, weather permitting*) at **6am.**

10.30am: **Family Service** of Holy Communion, St Fillan's Church