

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

ABERDOUR

from the year

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PUBLIC WORSHIP: Sunday at 11.15 a.m. and on the first Sunday of every month except January at 6.30 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME

HOLY COMMUNION: Celebrated on the third Sunday of March, June and October.

HOLY BAPTISM: By arrangement with the minister.

- Minister: Rev. John Scott, The Manse, Manse Street . . . 860349
 Session Clerk: Mr. Ian Foster, 38 Main Street 860737
 Clerk to Board: Miss C. Simmers, 11 Inch Avenue. 860386
 Treasurer: Mr. Fred Jeffs, 3 Inch Avenue 860820
 Organist/Choirmaster: Mr. Alan Wark, 1 Bellhouse Road . 860816
 Church Officer: Mr. Michael Cook, Whitehill Cottage. . . 860739

March 1992

No. 109

The Manse
Aberdour

Dear Friends,

During the war years an old church in Germany was bombed. Everything was destroyed except for a life-sized statue of Jesus which stood against the east wall; it survived, except for its hands which had been completely shattered. The people who worshipped in the church very carefully removed the statue, wrapped it in straw, placed it in a large wooden box and hid it in a deep cellar.

When the war was over, the church was rebuilt and the statue of Jesus was restored to its original position. Some years later a famous sculptor happened to visit the church and was extremely interested to notice that the figure of Jesus had no hands. He went in search of the minister and after a short conversation offered to carve new hands for the statue, free of charge. The minister thanked the man for his offer and said that he would call a meeting of the members of the church to discuss his offer. A meeting was duly held and the matter was discussed at great length. Finally a vote was taken whether or not to accept the sculptor's generous offer to carve new hands for the statue of Jesus.

The church members decided not to accept the offer, "Because," they said, "the statue reminds us, each time we go to pray in church, that Jesus has no hands in the world except our hands."

I do not know if the statue is still there, though I rather



think it will be. But that story reminds us just what the Church is meant to be and do in the world. One of the great Christians of old said the same sort of thing as that story says to us:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands but your,
No feet but yours;
Yours are the eyes through which is to look out
Christ's compassion to the world,
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing
good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

Your minister and friend,



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on Sunday 15th March at 11.15 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. The retiring offering at both these services will be for the work of the National Bible Society of Scotland. So that the parents of young children can attend the morning service there will be a creche in the vestry at the church.

Easter is late this year, and still some time away, but you are asked to note the following services:

Sunday 12th April: 11.15 a.m. Palm Sunday Service.

Friday 17th April: 7.30 p.m. Good Friday Service - Offering for St. Columba's Hospice.

Sunday 19th April: 11.15 a.m. Family Service for Easter Day. Short service of Holy Communion at end of service.

PLEASE NOTE that because of the Easter Holidays there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class on Sundays 29th March, 5th and 12th April.

JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR

Once again a touring American College Choir has asked to have St. Fillan's Church included in its itinerary. This choir comes from the state of Mississippi and after touring England and France in 1990 has decided this year to come to Scotland. It will give a performance in the church on Tuesday 10th March at 7.30 p.m. and those of us who were so thrilled by the performance of the Macalester College Choir last year will certainly not want to miss out on a similar experience. There are some 50 members on tour, with ages ranging from 18 to 21.

There is no charge for admission, but there will be a retiring offering for the work of our Missionary Partner, Catherine Nicol, St. Columba's Girls' College, Sialkot, Pakistan.

Make a date in your diary - St. Fillan's Church, Tuesday 10th March, 7.30 p.m.

COMMUNICANTS' CLASS

The minister will be starting a series of classes for intending First Communicants (those wishing to "join" the Church) on Sunday 26th April in the vestry at the church at 12.20 p.m. i.e. immediately after the morning service. Anyone considering full communicant membership of the Church is cordially invited. Perhaps it should be mentioned that these classes are for people of all ages and not just young folks.

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PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

- Dec. 1 - Fraser Iain, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doig, 20 Inch Avenue
- Dec. 22 - Moira Catriona, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McHattie, 24 Afflek Gardens, Monikie

Deaths

- Oct. 31 - Mrs. Davidina Hutton, 20 Humble Terrace
- Nov. 9 - Mrs. Janet Guzniczak (Edek), Rockcliffe, Shore Road
- 22 - Mrs. Mary Small, Lindisfarne, The Shore
- 23 - Andrew Lochtie, 7 Dovecot Park
- 26 - Graham Hart, formerly 1 Hawkcraig Road
- Jan. 16 - Isabella Horne, 11 Bellhouse Road
- 29 - Dorothy Bell, 13 Humble Terrace
- Feb. 4 - Gerald Doidge, 30 Dovecot Park
- 17 - Laurence Moir, 4 Sands Place

Members Joining

By Certificate

Mr. and Mrs. James Lakie, 15 Bellhouse Road

Please inform the minister or Session Clerk of any change of address. Members leaving the district should obtain a Transference Certificate from the minister and anyone coming into the parish and wishing to join St. Fillan's should obtain a certificate from their previous congregation.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Registration is available for Aberdour District (including Dalgety Bay) at 87 Main Street, Aberdour. The Registrar is Mrs. Lesley Thomas and the telephone number 860498.

Hours of opening are: Monday & Wednesday - 9.30-11.30 a.m.
Saturday - 10.00-12.00 noon

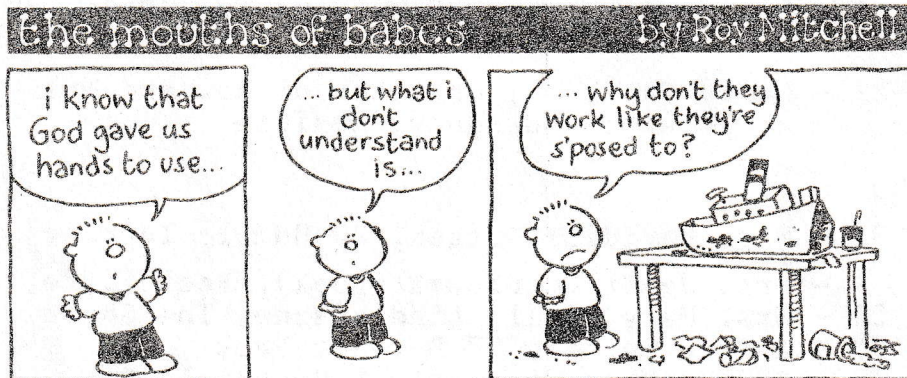
The service is available to all those intending to marry in Aberdour or Dalgety Bay or those wishing to register a birth or death provided that either the event took place in the District or the permanent address lies within the District or both.

ABERDOUR DAY CENTRE

The Day Centre which is held in the Institute every Tuesday is still flourishing though we have had to revert to car transport as changes in the bus company would have meant uncertainty and curtailed hours. There are a limited number of regular volunteer drivers, but we would be very pleased to have a few more names who could be called on when occasional extra help is needed.

The folk who attend the Centre would be very appreciative of friends who could drop in for coffee on a Tuesday morning or after lunch when we usually have some form of entertainment. The opportunity to see new faces and have a chat is always welcomed.

Telephone contacts: Mrs. E. Ribchester 860135
Mrs. M. Sutcliffe 860516



SOME CHURCH HALL ACTIVITIES

Keep-Fit to Music - "Disco Dancing": Something that was started as a "filler" on Thursday evenings in January 1980 and still going strong with a regular attendance of 20+. Could there be a demand to have a session during the day? If you think so, phone George Connell 860304 or better still pop into the church hall any Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. to discuss it.

Old Time Dancing: As a result of interest expressed at the Festival Tea Dance, old time dancing was "put in motion" on Wednesday evenings with first-class tuition provided by Jean and Joe Maltman. So far the response has been limited - why not "saunter" along and "(Mississippi) Dip you tapping feet any Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. - the tea and biscuits are free. Again phone 860340 for details.

Community Use of Equipment: Although the Youth Club has been in abeyance since October 1990 through lack of interest there is still plenty of equipment which continues to be available for community use, e.g. 40" TV, Video Recorder, Disco Equipment, Team Sport Equipment, etc. Enquiries to George Connell 860304.

DON'T KEEP THE FAITH - SPREAD IT!

Whenever a request for contributions for the church magazine is made in pulpit intimation, I think of the minister's astonishment if he were to be inundated with articles from the congregation! Having been an amateur editor myself, I know how difficult it is to persuade people to put pen to paper. Our natural reserve convinces us that we have nothing interesting/useful to say and even if we did, we are nervous at how to go

about converting our thoughts on to paper. But as Christians should we not, as the Rev. R. Trotter said in the last Parish Newsletter, "Say a word for Jesus".

Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

Now I have to admit that I feel slightly uncomfortable with the "Bible-bashing brigade". Some of it does not ring true. Yet, is my silence helping the Lord to find more converts? Well, yes, it is, we are told. We are only catalysts and we never know when we have touched someone's innermost being and shown them another dimension to life of which they had previously been unaware.

Without other people I would never have become a Christian. Firstly, my family, and then the minister, some of my school teachers, and some of my friends. The greatest influence was my father, who was prepared to discuss life in all its dimensions and to explain, and more importantly to show me, his faith. He did not pretend to know all the answers, but he persuaded me that a Christian does not have to be afraid that he or she is not a learned scholar. Jesus chose his disciples, not from the ranks of the intelligentsia but from the ranks of the ordinary people. Maybe because He felt they would be more believable?

It is difficult to tell others of our faith. Yet, if we all belong to one family should we not have the confidence to speak up? Occasionally someone will speak to me of their faith but more often than not the subject is never raised, even after church on Sunday. We all need somehow to project that wonderful confidence Peter and the other disciples displayed after receiving the Holy Spirit.

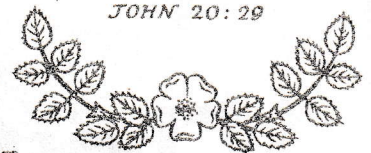
Perhaps it is easier to write down our thoughts, than it is to speak them, and here in this newsletter we have the opportunity. We are God's instruments and we need to shine more brightly.

E. Harper



*Blessed
are those
who have not
seen but
believe.*

JOHN 20:29



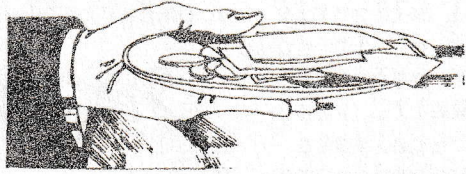
WHERE DOES YOUR OFFERING GO?

The work of St. Fillan's depends entirely on the offerings of the people. Our income for 1992 is budgeted at approximately £40,000. This may seem a lot of money, but our expenditure will be about £41,000.

The Expenditure is made up by £19,000 on provision for the Ministry, i.e. Stipend, pension payments, travel expenses, National Insurance, pulpit supply. In an addition to that there are congregational costs for heating and lighting, cleaning, insurance, telephones, salaries, stationary, maintenance of the buildings and so on. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, £11,400 is allocated to Mission and wider work. £9,800 is paid to the Mission and Aid Fund of the Church in accordance with an allocation decided by Presbytery. £400 is paid to the Presbytery in dues and the same amount to our Missionary Partner in Pakistan. This leaves £800 to be donated to outside charities as decided by the Congregational Board.

Our offerings are expected to comprise £20,040 for Deeds of

Covenant to which can be added an additional £6,000 in income tax reclaimed by the church on these Deeds. This is really the best way to help the church. Not only can we claim the tax back at no cost to the donor, but it also helps us to plan our finances with some degree of certainty. You can cancel a Deed of Covenant at any time. Why not think about it?



Weekly Freewill Offerings are estimated at £4,250, and while this method helps to ensure regular income, tax cannot be reclaimed on it. Finally, we hope to receive £5,000 in cash offerings, a figure that has not increased over the years.

This income from offerings amounts to about £36,000, so we would never balance our books without contributions from outside organisations and most importantly from the marvellous effort of the Sale of Work.

It is a salutary fact that since 1987 our costs have risen by £7,825 whereas despite all efforts our income has only risen by £5,297. The message to us all is obvious.....

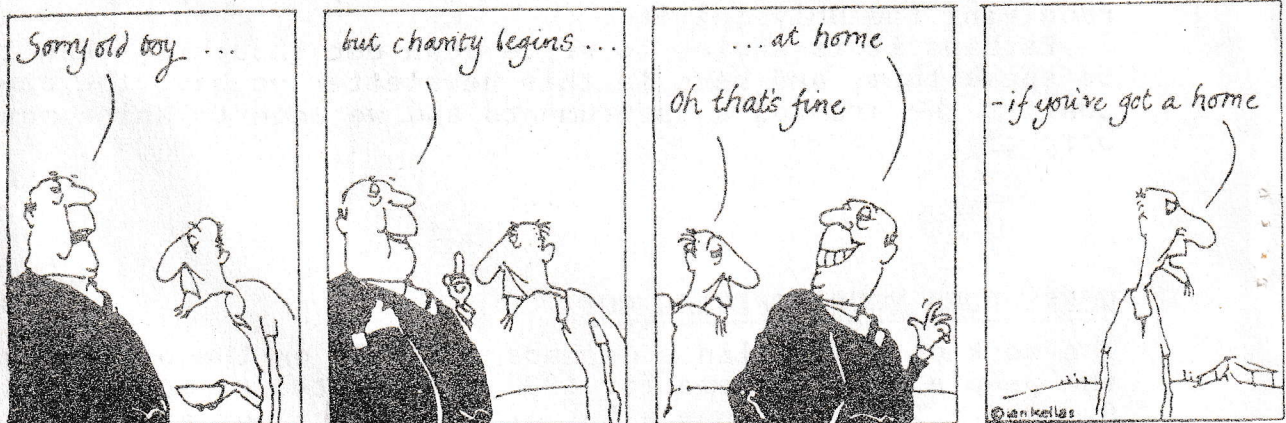
S.C.F.

Christian Aid



CHURCHES IN
ACTION WITH THE
WORLD'S POOR

The congregations of St. Columba's, St. Fillan's and St. Theresa's will be joining together for the Annual Christian Aid Coffee Morning in St. Fillan's Church Hall, High Street, on Saturday 9th May, from 10.00 a.m. till 12.00 noon. Admission is 50p. and donations for the cake, plant and gift stalls would be greatly appreciated.



From: 'Thin Black Lines', Development Education Centre, Birmingham.

ODDS AND ENDS

The visit to Inchcolm this year will be on the afternoon of Sunday 13th September, details of time etc. will be given once they are finalised. As usual there will be a service on the island and further time to wander about. Since last we visited a new Visitors' Centre has been opened.

Look out for the Sponsored Gold Competition for Christian Aid which will be held some time in May.

Remember that during July and August the morning service will be at 10.30 a.m.