

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

ABERDOUR

from the year

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St Fillan's Church, Aberdour

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, and at Christmas and Easter.

HOLY BAPTISM: By arrangement with the minister.

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Minister: Rev. John Scott, The Manse, Manse Street . . . 860349
Session Clerk: Mrs. Catherine Duncan, 43 Humble Terrace. 860611
Clerk to Board: Mrs. Karyn Crowe, 13 St. Fillan's Cresc. 860721
Treasurer: Mr. Fred Jeffs, 3 Inch Avenue 860820
Organist/Choirmaster: Mr. Alan Wark, 1 Bellhouse Road . 860816
Church Officer: VACANT

March 1996

No. 117

The Manse
Aberdour

Dear Friends,

How the years pass! It is over 20 years ago since we Scotts came to Aberdour, though it seems like only yesterday. By contrast it seems as though we have spent all our lives here, so much have we felt at home. These have been very happy years for us and now the time has come to move on - into retirement on 30th June. We shall be moving to a new home, provided by the Church of Scotland for our use, in the St. David's area of Dalgety Bay (32 White's Quay), and I must confess to feeling quite excited at the prospect - as well as sad at leaving Aberdour. One of the problems with which we are faced is trying to fit a quart into a pint pot! How do you squeeze the contents of a 12-large-roomed house into a modern 5-apartment house with little storage space? You can't - so the clear-out has started. The trouble is that I am a natural hoarder, and clearing out a drawer becomes a walk down memory lane as every item is carefully examined and every scrap of paper read. Fortunately Cath is more sensible. Happy days! My hope and prayer is that the days ahead will be just as happy.

I am tempted to devote this entire letter to looking back over the years I have been privileged to be your parish minister, but it's not good to dwell on the past alone. What about the future? The vacancy procedure will start at the Presbytery meeting on 7th March when my demission will be dealt with and Presbytery will appoint an Interim Moderator, a minister who will work with me until I retire and thereafter will take charge until the new minister arrives, which could be as soon as October. A Vacancy Committee will be formed, and it will be their task to find my successor. The work and witness of a church does not depend on the minister but on the folk in the

pews, and I am confident that will continue during the vacancy.

One item that will be going with us to our new home is an old framed motto that belonged to my grandparents: "Let us remember! We cannot always fail in life any more than we can always succeed!" Imagine how dreary life would be if we always succeeded in everything we did - no challenge to meet, no excitement, nothing to work for; it would be even worse if we failed in everything we did. As we approach the season of Easter we are reminded again of the apparent failure of Jesus, when all seemed to end on Calvary. But God turned that into a resounding victory by the Resurrection as the last enemy, death, was conquered. At the crucial moment Jesus was let down by his disciples when they ran away and left him on his own. But God turned that failure also into success, they were forgiven and went out in the name of their risen Lord to set the world alight - it has never been the same since.

Your friend and minister

John Scott

SOME WORDS FROM CATH

It is with a sense of sadness that, after 20 years of the Aberdour Manse being our home, we have to say Farewell. There are so many people I have to thank for support and encouragement over that time. To mention but a few: the Woman's Guild, helpers at White Elephant and Bric-a-brac Sales, World Day of Prayer Committee, National Children's Homes collectors, Festival of Flowers teams, and the Cub Scouts. I have been involved in other activities in the church and community where I have met and worked with many fine folk and have been blessed with the warmth of fellowship and friendship from all concerned. On an even more personal note, there are those who baby-sat John, Murray and Aileen in earlier days, those who remembered us each Christmas, and those who, when we went on holiday, lovingly looked after our dog Judy, known as "the minister's dog" though she was really my dear charge and joy.

Leaving Aberdour is going to be difficult for we have enjoyed every minute of our stay, but I leave my sincere thanks to all our church family, friends, and neighbours for making our time here such a happy, interesting and blessed experience.

Cath Scott.

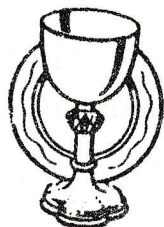
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FAREWELL SOIREE

A musical evening with supper and presentation to the Rev. John Scott to mark his retirement is planned to be held in Aberdour Primary School on the evening of Tuesday 18th June at 7.15 p.m.

There will be a full programme of entertainment provided by John Scrimger, pianist, Linda Ormiston, mezzo-soprano, and James Nicol, tenor, from Perth Theatre. Tickets for what promises to be a memorable congregational event will be priced at £10 per head. These will be sold on a "first come, first served" basis and church members may register their interest with Bill Cochrane (tel. 860786) in the first instance.

CHURCH SERVICES



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on Sunday 17th March at 11.15 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. The retiring offering at both these services will be for the Dunfermline branch of The Samaritans. To enable the parents of young children attend the morning service there will be a creche in the vestry at the church.

Sunday 17th March: 11.15 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
3.00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 24th March: 11.15 a.m. Rev. Sheila Munro (Q.V.)

Sunday 31st March: 11.15 a.m. PALM SUNDAY - Sunday School
in church for whole service

Friday 5th April: 7.30 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY Service - Offering
will be for the Fife Hospice

Sunday 7th April: 11.15 a.m. EASTER DAY - Morning Service -
Short communion after service.
6.30 p.m. EVENING SERVICE - Easter Praise

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Please note there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class on Sundays 7th and 14th April because of the school holidays. They will resume on Sunday 21st April at usual times.

WELCOME TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School is open to all the children in the village from the age of three to Primary 7 age. It meets in the Church Hall on Sunday mornings at 10.00 a.m. (except the last Sunday of the month when it is in church at 11.15). Children will enjoy the singing, the activity, the fun and the learning. An experienced and capable staff is always pleased to welcome children coming along for the first time.

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REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES - ABERDOUR

Registration for those residing within the parishes of Aberdour and Dalgety is available at:

The Registrar's Office,
6 Heriot Street,
Inverkeithing.

(Telephone: Inverkeithing 417742)

Opening Hours: Monday and Tuesday - 9.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.
Thursday and Friday - 1.45 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
(There is no opening on Wednesday or Saturday)

In emergency, the Registrar at Cowdenbeath can be contacted:

Mrs. Margaret Clark - Telephone: Cowdenbeath 510855

PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

- Nov. 12 - Callum Roderick, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Doig, 20 Inch Avenue
- Dec. 3 - Euan Falconer, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Bowden, 20 The Heathery, Dunfermline
- Jan. 28 - Andrew Edward, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Travers, 26 Dovecot Park

Marriage

- Oct. 14 - Richard Holmes to Elaine Lawson, Lindisfarne, The Shore
- Dec. 16 - James Simerka to Sarah Cooper, 2 St. Colme House

Deaths

- Oct. 22 - Jenny Affleck, 29 Main Street, Hillend
- Nov. 16 - Eric Wallington, 95 High Street
- 24 - Mrs. Marjorie McQueen, 11 Park Lane
- Dec. 30 - Mrs. Annie Griffin, 14 Humble Terrace
- Jan. 9 - Mrs. Edith Moyes, 22 St. Colme Crescent
- Feb. 2 - William Gardiner, 21 St. Colme Crescent
- 2 - Mrs. Molly McIntyre, formerly No. 2 Aberdour House
- 12 - Arthur Burt, "Labadi", 8 Seaside Place
- 12 - Mrs. Margaret Blake, 9 St. Fillan's Grove
- 16 - Dawson Macfarlane, 10 Park Lane
- 21 - George Reekie, 1 Manse Place
- 28 - Mrs. Muriel (Joyce) Doidge, 24 Morayvale

Members Joining

By Transference Certificate

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bowden, 20 The Heathery, Dunfermline

Members Leaving

Mrs. Jane Simpson, 14 Telny Place

Members of the Church moving into the area and wishing to join St. Fillan's should obtain a Certificate of Transference from their previous congregation and hand it in at the church door at any service. Members moving away from the district should obtain a Transference Certificate from the minister. **The minister or Session Clerk should be notified of any change of address so that the congregational roll can be kept up to date.**

You are reminded that you cannot take part in the election a new minister unless your name is on the congregational roll.

THE LATE DAWSON MACFARLANE

Usually I confine pulpit tributes only to members of the Kirk Session but I feel that the following is well justified; it was given on Sunday 18th February:

Dawson McFarlane, who died on Friday after a long illness, was never an elder in this congregation which he joined in 1949,

but he served it so well and so diligently that I cannot let the occasion pass without making mention of the work he did. Dawson was appointed Clerk to the Congregational Board in 1950 and in 1955 Congregational Treasurer, holding both posts for a year until a new Clerk was appointed. For 36 years then he served as Treasurer, receiving a long-service certificate from the Church of Scotland and gifts from the congregation in recognition of that service. He was meticulous in his keeping of the books, using the system which he had learned as a chartered accountant, which involved hand-written accounts, a very time-consuming task. But it was something he delighted in and you could seldom call on him of an evening without finding the church's account book sitting beside him. Dawson was not just however the congregational treasurer but also a faithful member of the Church, seldom missing a service here in St. Fillan's. Weekly worship was an essential part of his life and he particularly enjoyed the hymns and hymn-singing. He was the only person I know who listened every week to the Sunday Half-hour, the praise service on radio every Sunday evening. Any words of mine must be inadequate to describe not just Dawson's devoted service but the debt of gratitude that we as a congregation owe to him and folk like him for what they have done for us and for Him whom we seek to serve.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 1996

The Annual Christian Aid Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 11th May in St. Fillan's Church Hall between 10.30 a.m. and 12.00 noon. Tickets are available from Committee members or at the Hall door - 50p. Donations for bric-a-brac, books, baking, plants and gift stalls would be much appreciated.



CHURCHES IN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CHURCH?

Even if you are only thinking about it and simply want to know what's involved, the minister would like to hear from you. There will be a series of classes for such enquirers beginning on Sunday 28th April at 4.00 p.m. in the Manse. If you cannot attend on that date still get in touch and alternative arrangements can be made.

MALE VOICE CHOIR

The Westerton Male Voice Choir will give a concert of light music in Aberdour Primary School on Friday 8th March at 7.45 p.m. Tickets at £5, con. £4 from usual outlets and Mary Sutcliffe 860516. All proceeds to go to Christian Aid Week.

RECORDERS AND VOICES

On Saturday 16th March, St. Fillan's Church will be the venue for a concert of music for voices and recorders. The performers will be the "Solsequium Recorder Consort" and "Rudsambee" who are an a capella choir. Both groups will be performing a variety of short pieces dating from the Renaissance period to the 20th century, and will be combining forces for a few items.

The programme will appeal to anyone who enjoys listening to music, and the surroundings of St. Fillan's will be ideal for the unaccompanied voices and recorders. (If your idea of recorder music is based on memories of screeching descant recorders at school, you will be very pleasantly surprised by the lovely sound made by a consort of descant, treble, tenor and bass recorders!)

The concert starts at 7.30 p.m. and should finish at 9.00 p.m. approx. Entry is free but there will be a retiring offering taken in aid of the St. Fillan's Hall Fund and a charity working in Bosnia. Please do come!

"NEW LOOK" LIFE AND WORK

Under its new editor, Robin Hill, Life and Work, the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland, will take on a new look with its April edition. It promises a new, brighter look, with a smart, modern design and more colour. Its contents will include a major new series on practical faith, news of the latest developments in the Church, in Scotland and beyond, items by young people on the Church of today and tomorrow, and many other articles to keep us in touch with what is going on in the Church throughout the world. Have a look at the New Look Life and Work! For copies contact Lois Hutchison on 860444.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

Mrs. Rosie Jeffs has very kindly agreed to take on the responsibility of organising the Festival. The commitment of those already involved is greatly appreciated but new helpers are much needed for this most pleasant task. It is a very worthwhile event as over 400 people attend each year. Many who come leave greatly moved and uplifted, not just by the beauty of the flowers, but from the experience of God's peace in St. Fillan's Church.

QUINQUENNIAL VISITATION

This rather frightening term is used for the five-yearly visit from representatives of the Presbytery to meet with the minister, Kirk Session, and Congregational Board. This will take place on Tuesday 12th March; the Kirk Session at 7.30 and the Board at 8.15 p.m. One of the visiting team, the Rev. Sheila Munro, minister of St. John's, Inverkeithing, will conduct the service in St. Fillan's on Sunday 24th March.