

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

ABERDOUR

from the year

1123.

• • •



Church Newsletter committee:

Collette Adam
Linda Brown
Catherine Duncan
David Hannah
Eileen Harper
Kenneth Hodge

Distribution

Editor

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter can be handed to any member of the committee or to the Beadle (while he is ringing the bell on a Sunday morning)

**ABERDOUR SCOTTISH
DANCING ASSOCIATION (ASDA)**

**New season, new teachers,
new hall - come and join us
for Scottish Country Dancing
in the refurbished St Fillans
Church Hall, High Street,
Aberdour on Wednesday
evenings from 7.45 to 9.30pm.
Dance to live music from Bill
the accordionist and
prepared tapes with lessons
from our new teachers Lind
Cullen and John Phillip. For
only £2 per evening this
enthusiastic group learn
dances, old and new enjoying
companionship and gentle
exercise. Beginners
welcomed, as are those who
haven't had a pair of dancing
shoes on since school and the
more experienced, even those
winding down.**



St Fillans Church, Aberdour

PUBLIC WORSHIP: Sunday at 10.00 a.m. June, July, August.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

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

Minister: Rev. Peter Park, The Manse, 36, Bellhouse Road. 860349
Session Clerk: Mrs C. Duncan, 43, Humble Terrace. 860611
Clerk to Board: Mrs K Crowe: 13, St Fillans Crescent. 860721
Treasurer: Mr S Fraser: 55, High Street. 860361
Organist/Choirmaster: Mr J Fairlie, 3, Cullaloe Court, D/Bay. 822392
Church Officer: Mr K Hodge: Hillcrest, West End. 860537

June 1997

No 120

Dear friends,

In my short time here I have already come to realise how many of you share an interest and pleasure in gardening. Where ever I go people talk about gardens and it's a privilege to be privy to their thoughts. The details vary; for example some talk about their own gardens, others on shared areas such as the war memorial or station; some reminisce on past glories, others contemplate changes and enhancements; some talk of pruning, others of planting new seeds or transplanting what's already there. Common to all discussions however is the fact that if we are to continue to enjoy our gardens and maximise our pleasure, regular maintenance is required, and on occasions changes implemented.

In many ways the Church is like a garden a garden full of many good things which we have inherited from our Christian predecessors, a garden which has given so much pleasure to the people of Christ in the past, a garden which contains many momentos of the past. There are many things in a Church garden which we want to retain and cherish and with Gods help will do so; but if the Church is to meet the needs of today it requires ongoing maintenance and review. In some cases the review of our needs results in change..... a word which so many church people dislike but if we are honest with ourselves and with God change is sometimes essential to allow us more effectively to carry out Christ's work in today's world.

St Fillan's is a church which is prepared to review, and where necessary make decisions to change. For example after many years of planning and fund raising our church hall is presently in the throes of major refurbishment and we look forward with great anticipation to its completion. Other reviews are less dramatic but the results still far reaching and you will read later in the Newsletter of proposals to change the time of morning Sunday worship which would enable our Sunday School to join us for the first part of worship every week. In both cases most of our elders and members are supportive and appreciate that change will be beneficial but I know that some are concerned as to how change might affect others. This concern is a good thing and reflects Christian teaching that we be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others. That concern however should not prevent us from looking at the bigger picture of what is best for St Fillan's and our parish.

In our own gardens we know that there are occasions when well loved plants need pruned back or discarded and/or new strains better suited to today's climatic and other conditions introduced. This in no way detracts from the pleasure old plants have given in the past but simply reflects a need to adapt to changing needs. The Church is no different. There are times in the life of the church when decisions have to be made as to how we do things, hard decisions which will not please everyone, but decisions which we honestly believe will make the Gospel more available to all, and provide an environment for spreading the Gospel suited to our current needs. On occasions this means change but can I suggest that we as a Kirk need not fear review and change..... provided we satisfy ourselves that what we are contemplating will advance Christ's Kingdom and be to Gods glory. Please be assured that if we make changes we are not being critical of what happened in the past, neither are we discarding traditions willy nilly. Far from it, we are identifying what is best suited to the needs of today.

Your Minister

Peter B Park

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on Sunday 15th June at 10.00 am and 3.00pm.
To enable parents of young children attend the morning service there will be a crèche in the Vestry at the Church.

JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

<u>Sunday 1st June</u>	10.00 am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	Evening Service
<u>Sunday 8th June</u>	10.00am	Morning Service and Baptism
<u>Sunday 15th June</u>	10.00am	Service of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Service of Holy Communion
<u>Sunday 22nd June</u>	10.00am	Morning Service
	3.30pm	Leave Aberdour Harbour for Service on Inchcolm
<u>Sunday 29th June</u>	10.00am	Morning Service

An open invitation is extended to everyone to all Services.

The Perfect Church

If you should find the perfect Church,
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake don't join that Church,
You'd spoil; the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect Church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by lest by joining it, you
Spoil the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect Church then
don't you ever dare,
To tread upon such Holy ground,
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect Church exists,
Made of perfect men.
Let's cease looking for that Church,
And love the Church we're in.

Of course it's not the perfect Church,
That's simple to discern,
But you and I and all of us, could
Cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee out past,
In that unfruitful search,
To find, at last, where problems loom,
God proudly builds HIS Church.

PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

Apr 20 - Calum Tomas, son of Mr. & Mrs Templeton, 24 Moubray Road, Dalgety Bay.

May 11 - Lewis William, son of Mr. & Dr Farrar, 3 Dovecot Park
- Neil Forbes, son of Mr & Mrs Bowden, 18 The Heathery, Dunfermline

Marriage

Apr 12 - Brian Douglas, Kinross to Margaret Simpson, 25 Parkland Crescent, Dalgety Bay

Deaths

Mar 7 - Mrs Williamina McFadyen, 56 Main Street
12 - Christopher Laing, 11 Dovecot Park

Apr 23 - Mrs Mary Ruse, 47 Humbie Terrace
- James Mcfadyen, formerly 56 Main Street

May 12 - Alisdair Fergus, Glenelg, Inverkeithing Road

Members Joining

By Confession of Faith Douglas Anderson, 6 Bellhouse Road

By Transference Mr A Templeton, 24 Moubray Road, Dalgety Bay
Mrs J Joyce, 4 Murray Place
Mrs M Tills, 15 Humbie Terrace
Mrs G Clarke, 9 Hopeward Mews, Dalgety Bay

By Resolution of Kirk Session

Mr & Mrs e Kent, 7 Manse Street
Mrs M Templeton, 24 Moubray Road, Dalgety Bay

If you know of anyone interested in joining the Church please ask them to speak to the minister.

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.

Missionary Partner

Catherine Nicol has been our "adopted" missionary partner since David Rutherford was our minister and has from time to time written a news sheet to all the congregations who help to lighten her financial burdens. She has been waging a quiet Christian war with a Government who not only hijacked the school but forbade all Christian teaching. Here is her latest letter from Sialkot, Pakistan:

Dear Friends,

It is to my horror that I realise how long it is since I wrote to you. It is not that I have not thought of you, or had things to tell you. At least one partial letter is still on the computer - but it never got sent. I am sincerely sorry, not only for that, but also because I know that many of you had expected to see me before this and are no doubt wondering where on earth I am. I had agreed to try to come on leave in February, but it could not be worked out here, largely because of things beyond my control; like the illness of a senior colleagues mother which meant she could not be here just when I would have been leaving her in charge; the non completion of the hostel building and all that entails in the way of negotiations and the forth coming visits of the reps of the Church of Holland to see it; the offer of the Government to give us back our schools, at a price!; and the piles of accounts with which I am always struggling to keep up with. I am very grateful just now to have a young volunteer who is teaching me quite a bit about keeping them on the computer. I am also working with auditors just now and that is a time-consuming business, as the basic work is done by students who have no understanding of what the Church, its committees and its expenses are. I still hope to see you but it will have to be in the hot weather.

Today is Sunday. It is the second Sunday now, after twenty years, when everyone in P has a day off. Sunday is again the recognised weekly holiday. One of the reasons for returning to this and making Friday a working day was that since Friday became a holiday, the places of worship have increasingly become empty, because people had weddings and other functions on Friday because it was a holiday, and did not keep time for prayers. The worship in our Church on both these Sundays has been a joyful experience in a packed and overflowing Church. We must be careful that this continues and that we do not slide back into using the Holy day for all purposes, Holy and otherwise, to the neglect of our worship. A week ago 72 young people were admitted to the full communicant membership of our Church and today received their first communion.

We are not finding it so easy to adjust to having ONLY SUNDAY as a holiday. When do we wash clothes? When do we all staff and students alike, have the chance of a long lie? We have been having it on Friday now but no longer! School starts at 8.30am six days a week. On Friday we were in fellowship with you all in the WORLD DAY of PRAYER. We decided to have it out on the lawn the girls carried out all the mats and arranged chairs for the staff who each had a part in the programme. It was lovely to be out in the grass, surrounded by trees and flowers, and accompanied by birds galore. Some local women joined us and we must have been about 250 altogether. We were led by Mrs Octavia Johnston from Glasgow, who many of you know. Three of the young became Korean women and the others read the lessons and took the other parts. We enjoyed thinking about the seed and its growth, and our part in sowing the seed.

Today began at 6am when I heard the phone ring and went to receive a call from one of our Pastors telling me of the death of his young cousin, the father of a young family. He had died away down in Sind province and the body was to be brought to his village,

Youngsonbad, for burial. This evening I heard will reach Lahore at 5am Monday and be taken from there to the village. I had just put the phone down when my cook, Sadiq, called me to the kitchen door where Barkat Masih was, a simple villager who had come in tears two days ago with his daughter who seemed to have lost the power of her legs. He had admitted her to the hospital and here he was with his wife and daughter and his son and the pastor of his village. He had a letter from the psychiatrist at the mission hospital for a neuro surgeon in one of the big hospitals in Lahore asking them to admit the girl as an emergency as she needed to have decompression of her spine because her condition was rapidly deteriorating due to pressure. The family was in great distress and it was very good of the pastor to be going with them. It took about two hours to find a car that would take her to Lahore which would take about 3 hours travelling. We gave them breakfast in the meantime and sent them off with a prayer and what money we could muster, as the amount required in Lahore was completely unknown to us. The driver of the taxi agreed to wait for his payment until we could get money from the bank tomorrow. Barkat had got a letter from the doctor yesterday evening, had gone home to the village, leaving Savias mother at the hospital with her. He must have left the village with pastor at about 3am to come to the hospital, collect his wife and daughter and bring them out here for help to Lahore. Even the very ill here have to find their own transport. Pray for Safia that she will have healing.

It is now Monday morning and I must close and send this letter by the "magic" method of e mail.

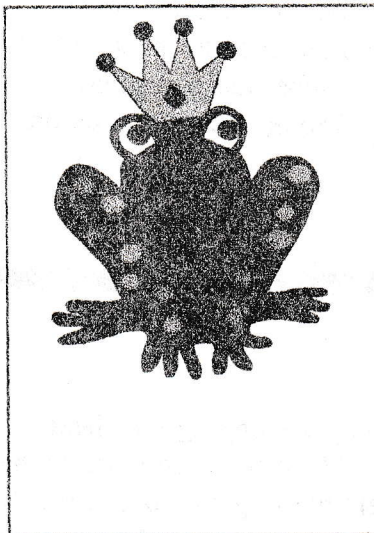
Thank you for all your remembrances at Christmas and New Year, and for your constant prayers which we always need.

With Love yours sincerely,

Catherine Nicole

Of Pond Life and (Electoral)Politicians.

Once more on bended knee, straining the eyeballs at an ecosystem to be admired. The pond, with its natural cover of Fairy Moss guarding the inhabitants against nasty sun rays, was all a quiver with life. What had been a blob of sago produced by the most raucous frogs known was now a mass of flailing tails, tails and more tails. The battle was on for survival. Who ever got to the porridge first got the best bit. I know tadpoles like porridge because there is never any left. In life the porridge can be likened to the "media". A great lump of grey media saying "Over hear" and all the politicians swim like mad in a melee of stiff upper lips with smiles designed to scare the children. Having homed in on the media they cast about searching for a group whose questions they haven't had a chance not to answer, but as the election gets closer it is more difficult to find media who have not been privileged to experience the non answer with the penetrating glare and the fixed smile.



The survivors in this game (for that is what it is) are the ones who can say the most, mean the least and say it differently every time until the media disappears. Meanwhile the tadpoles are getting fatter, less inclined to move about. Eventually they sit on their haunches on green Lilly leaves waiting for something to pass by. In a microcosm of time the evidence is swallowed and he sits there looking to see if anyone saw.

KH

CMSBGA

Something as difficult as this to pronounce must have something going for it. It is infact a charm to be worn round the neck at all times while driving. Motorists will of course have recognised the letters as the six commandments for safer driving but not normally enforced till the advanced driving test is undertaken.

Being behind the wheel of a car puts one in charge of a potentially lethal weapon, so, CMSBGA was designed to cut the risks and save lives.

- C** Change of direction required. Your decision.
- M** Mirror check. Is it safe to alter course?
- S** Signal the intention to alter course. **S** also means **S**afe, safely, safety.
- B** Brake to a safe speed.
- G** Gear, is it correct? Now alter course if it is safe to do so.
- A** Accelerate when it is safe.

The watch word is "safe. Where ever you are going - go safely.

Being able to "waggle" the steering wheel does not make one a good driver, it's the wish to be a "safe" driver that prepares the way.

Remember the "two second" rule. The vehicle in front of you passing a stationary object must have at least a 2 seconds gap before you pass the object. Mutter under your breath "only a fool forgets the two second rule" for a 2 second count. For motorways say it twice.

Drive safely and be kind to your car.

Ian Foster - former Fife Safety Advisor.

The Pastoral Committee would be grateful to hear from or be informed of any member who may require assistance to do shopping, collect medical prescriptions, or would appreciate an occasional visit from another member just for a chat. In the first instance please phone Bill Cochrane on 860786 or Collette Adam on 860515.

Choir Visit

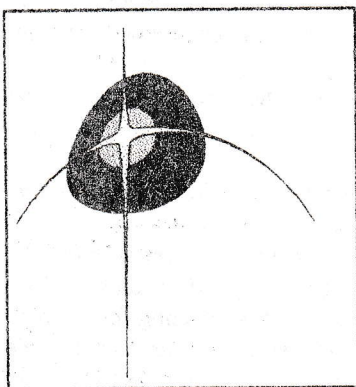
In times past many of you will have been enthralled by the singing and sheer enthusiasm of visiting American youth choirs. On the 25th of June St Fillan's will be host once more to such a choir. The Chancel Choir of the University Congregational Church, Seattle will be giving a concert consisting of music by Bach, Durufle, Liszt, Mendelsshon, Mozart and Rutter.

If you don't touch the rope, you won't ring the bell.

Proverb

Targeting

Now that Hale Bopp has decided that planet Earth is of no more interest than a trip to the local supermarket one can take stock of the near miss of a few million miles and the wonder that the phenomenon created both now and 4000 years ago. Perhaps one should reflect on the sheer empty existence of the thing. Causing a flurry of excitement once every 4000 years is not a lot to exist for.



Unlike the travellers who home in on St Fillan's Kirk from all over the globe, Hale Bopp has no means of recording his visit or that he liked what he saw. Our visitors have come from Germany, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, South Africa, Holland, New Zealand, England and Scotland and this is just the latest three pages of the visitors book. Messages such as "inspiring", "peaceful", "tranquil", "beautiful" abound.

Hale-Bopp has been around for as long as the Earth, and will continue to be a 4000 year wonder for a long time to come, but St Fillans is a day to day wonder for all our visitors through Jesus Christ who is our inspiration, who has taught us the peaceful way, who has pointed out tranquillity and through whom we can appreciate the beauties of the Lords creation.

One Step Forward

"One step Forward is one of the first line dances usually taught and the full title "One step forward, two steps back" sums up our Church Club Wednesday afternoon activity during its first year which was celebrated on 22nd April! Every time it looked as though we had a good class of regular attendars numbers fell off only to increase again. The impending hall renovations, now completed, made it difficult to plan ahead efficiently but once the class is back at St Fillans' it is proposed;

1 That the hours will be from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. This would give young mums, in term time, an opportunity to come along for a complete 1 hour session before collecting the youngsters from Primary.

2 I would be happy to provide a crèche for the subsequent 2nd hour if there is sufficient interest

3 It is appreciated how difficult it is to start an activity which has been ongoing for some considerable time - a beginners class for adults will start in September on Thursdays from 6pm to 7.30 making use of the big 40" TV screen & video.

4 Do not expect to get in the groove without at least 6 weeks honest endeavour - it's amazing the difference after this period.

Hope to see you all soon, George Connell.



How hard it is to be a 'Christian'

While reading through some old files at work I came across a reference to Christian Fellowship meetings which gave me the inspiration to try and start something similar in an attempt to help cope with the stresses and strains of everyday life.

Beginning with a Department wide broadcast to 719 staff to determine the level of support for an Ecumenical group, using Cross Eyed Bears as an attention getting title.

Responses were slow to trickle in, mostly asking for an explanation of the title, (I thought most people knew what Cross Eyed Bears meant) and some who were actually interested in joining together. One of those explained that the Christian Fellowship had met regularly with 6 to 10 people but had stopped when most retired, (*are there no young Christians ?*)

Encouraged by any response I sent another message asking those interested parties to contact me with time and place preferences. Following a dozen positive replies, when I thought things were going well, the complaints began: Why are you using an official communications network for these messages ? *I am an atheist and I object to having to read about this. I'm a Christian but I don't want to have it rammed down my throat at work. Religion is a personal thing and shouldn't be made public like this.*

Despite my strong feelings to these remarks I took the precaution of discussing the matter with the Director who gave his consent, on condition that he received no complaints about our group. (*good progress so far.*)

With the positive responses, I made direct contact and arranged our first meeting for 15 minutes during the lunch break. Six of us met for a 'picnic' and discussed the old Christian Fellowship and our plans for the future. We read the prayer, 'Your Tolerance' by J. Barrie Shepherd together and set the date for another 'picnic'. (*a successful venture.*)

Statistically: I had reached 719 people, received 16 people replies, 6 of whom met to share Ecumenical worship, almost as many people complained as met.

I've started so I'll finish, or at least try to keep the group going but isn't it hard to be a Christian with less than 1 percent representation.

David Hannah

Tales of the Kirk Session - 1800. The Beadle.

Aberdour 4th February 1800. The Session having taken into consideration the reported illconduct of William Thomson hitherto acting as Parish Beadle, agreed unanimously to discharge him from said office.

.....The Session ordered William Thomson to deliver to Alexander Flockhart the objects of his profession belonging to the office of Beadle.

The Session also considered that the hand bell for calling advertisements through the village has hitherto been always kept by the Parish Beadle and that improper advertisements had been called, agreed to report this also to the heritors at their first meeting.

Aberdour 3rd April 1800. Mr Bryce (Moderator) reported to the Session that he had laid before the heritors the resolution of the Kirk Session ascertained in the former minute of date 4th Feb 1800 regarding the Parish Beadle - that the heritors had considered the representation and ordered as in the following;

Extract of a minute of a meeting of the heritors of Aberdour held the 2nd day of April 1800. "Mr Bryce having represented to the meeting that improper use had been made lately by the Crier of the Advertisement Bell, the heritors request Mr Bryce to have a bell for that purpose in the hands of Alexander Flockhart; and they recommend it to the Earls of Morton and Moray, as superiors of the village to confirm his appointment as Bellman. They also direct the Bell in the possession of William Thomson to be delivered to the Kirk Session, unless he produce evidence that it was purchased at his expense....."

On 16th may 1800 "A bell calling for Advertisements with the names Earls of Morton and Muray, engraved in brass round the handle, as superiors of the village, was put into the hands of Alexander Flockhart - also a spade and 2 shovels, and a pewter plate, used at Baptisms with promise to restore the same when ordered by the Session."

VISITING CHURCHES

Usually when on holiday we visit Churches, either as worshipers or sightseers. It is fascinating and often uplifting. A few years ago while visiting our daughter in Paris we went to the Scottish Kirk which is in the centre

of that beautiful city. Our taxi driver was amazed that after 25 years driving round Paris we directed him to a place he had never been to before! The Church does not have much to commend itself as a building, but it is a good feeling when far from home to touch the familiar and to be surrounded by people of like mind. If you are visiting Churches this summer and have comments to make or experiences to share let the Newsletter know. Let's see how many Churches we can "collect".

(Editorial committee is printed inside front cover)

Eileen Harper.

Proposed change of time of Sunday worship

For many years St Fillan's has met for Sunday worship at 11.15am. In the past the Session have considered bringing the time forward but previous debate has been influenced by the fact that our Sunday School has traditionally met at 10am. in the church hall. As you will probably be aware we are an exception to the normal pattern in the Church of Scotland where children attend church each Sunday for 15/20 minutes then leave to go to Sunday School. Unfortunately the physical location of our church and hall have not permitted us to do this in the past and the norm has been that Sunday School only came to church once a month (and other special occasions).

Over the past few months however we have increased the number of services attended by Sunday School. The results have been very encouraging; the children have attended and participated regularly, we have seen an increase in the number of young parents joining us for worship, many of our members have commented on how nice it is to see well behaved youngsters in church and the Sunday School leaders have asked whether it is possible to involve the children on a more regular basis to Sunday worship. The Kirk Session are delighted at the response but are very conscious that there are occasions when we adults want to retain traditional elements of adult worship and although I love having children about would agree wholeheartedly that there are times when they are better suited to Sunday School than adult church.

Our Kirk Session have revisited the problems of the past and come up with a possible solution which would allow children to attend more regularly whilst retaining our adult traditions. The suggestion is that we change worship time (September to May) to 10.30am and at the same time change Sunday School time and venue also to 10.30 but meeting in the Primary School. This would allow children to attend church at the start of most services and also enable parents to come to church more easily. The children would leave after 15/20 minutes. allowing a more adult worship to continue. The time of 10.30 has been chosen as this enables those who use Sunday afternoons for visiting to have the opportunity of worshipping together in the mornings.

Session are, in the main, supportive of the change but are conscious that the time might adversely affect some of our members and before coming to a final decision as to whether to change or not felt it advisable to allow our members to voice their opinion one way or another. I would invite you all therefor to speak to your elder about this when he/she calls with communion cards or if you prefer to speak with myself about the proposals please let me know. If you are reading this Newsletter as a non member and would like to comment please speak to me or any of our elders.

Personally I consider the proposal very sensible. It allows us all to meet together as a church family whilst still providing a flexibility in worship which is so important. In addition if we encourage children to come regularly to church and make them feel welcome it might make it easier for them as they grow older to make the transition from Sunday School to adult church. At present national statistics show a decline in church membership, young people generally are not joining the church and Aberdour is no different from the rest of the country in this respect. If we can do something which might help address this I feel it is worthy of support.

Peter Park ; Parish Minister

Your Collection - The Mission and Aid Fund

An occasional series to explain some of the Church terms. Contributor - Simon Fraser.

Mission and Aid is an important part of our giving. Each year we as a congregation contribute to the Church of Scotland's central Mission and Aid fund. Our "allocation" for 1997 is £11,460. The fund is used to support the Ministry of the Church; This includes helping congregations who are not able fully to support their Minister and to provide training and support for Probationers. The fund also helps with education and training of children, office bearers and Ministers. It assists parishes in special need and through the board of Social Responsibility gives support to communities. Through the Board of World Mission and Unity of the Church the fund helps Churches overseas and gives support to doctors and teachers in these areas.

In 1996 for every £1 spent the fund was disbursed as follows:

Aid to the Ministry	13.3p	Social responsibility	4.3p
Probationers	12p	World Mission	17p
Education	7.5p	Ecumenical, Christian Aid &	
National Mission &		Communication	5.5p
Projects	19p	Central Fabric Fund	2.5p
General Purposes	18.4	Chaplain to HM Forces,	
		Doctrine, Artistic Matters &	
		Priority Areas	0.5p

In 1996 the Church suffered a shortfall of £284,641 to its core budget. In the past StFillans' has been able to make an additional voluntary contribution to our giving for Mission and Aid. With the help of everyone we hope to be able to repeat this in 1997.

CHANCEL CHOIR
UNIVERSAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
SEATTLE



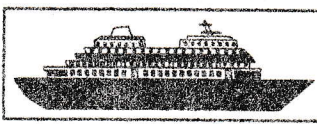
IN
STFILLAN'S
CHURCH

WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 7-30

Tickets from David Hannah (890877)
Grindalls & Montgomery's



Tuesday 17th June 7.30
Musical Evening
StFillan's Church
Followed by Nibbles &
Drinks
IN
Aberdour Castle



The service on Inchcolm is on Sunday 22nd June. The Maid of the Forth sails from the harbour at 3.30pm with the return at 5.45pm. Tickets are available from David Hannah, Grindalls and Montgomery's.