

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

ABERDOUR

from the year

1123.

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St Fillans Church, Aberdour

PUBLIC WORSHIP: Sunday at 11.15 a.m. 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

March 1997

No 119

Dear friends and members,

We moved into Aberdour in early January and since then have been overwhelmed by the kindness and friendliness of everyone we have met. A smiling face, a pleasant word, a wave of the hand and such like mean so much to us as a family and we would like to thank everyone for making our transition into the parish such a pleasurable experience.

As newcomers we are discovering all sorts of things about Aberdour and its people and find this time one of great excitement. I was absolutely delighted to learn that this magazine goes to every home, not just those of the members of St. Fillans, as this allows me to say something to everyone about ourselves. We are originally from Glasgow but have lived in various places such as London, Renfrew and Helensburgh. Mari (my wife) and I have 2 sons, Graham 20 and Barry 18. The boys are both studying in Glasgow and will be living there most of the time. Our dog Lucy and budgie Bobby have moved through with us. No doubt other snippets about us will emerge over the coming months!

In any new ministry questions are invariably asked about the new minister along the lines of; What sort of person is he?, will he be the same or different from his predecessor?, what sort of ministry will he have? but in addition to these many of you will have specific questions which are unique to and very important to you as an individual. As your new parish minister I look forward to each of you finding out about me as a minister and it is my hope and prayer that as we get to know each other I can help you tackle faith issues and assist you in your personal journey of faith.

Your new minister

Peter B Park.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on Sunday 16th March at 11.15 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.

MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

<u>Sunday 9h March</u>	11.15am	Admission of First Communicants.
<u>Sunday 16th March</u>	11.15am	Service of Holy Communion.
	3.00pm	Service of Holy Communion.
<u>Sunday 23rd March</u>	11.15am	Palm Sunday.
<u>Thursday 27th March</u>	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service. Informal Communion.
<u>Friday 28th March</u>	10.00am	Primary School End of Term Service.
<u>Sunday 30st March</u>	11.15am	Easter Service family service.

An open invitation is extended to everyone to all Services.

Sunday School

The Sunday School year is well under way. We started the year with no pianist but now we have two - Eric Williamson and Alice Hall - so we can have music every week and what a difference it makes.

Every year, after the celebration of harvest, we concentrate our thoughts on the Nativity Play and, as time is short in Sunday School, this takes several weeks. This year the Nativity Play was held on Sunday 22nd December in the Church and the children brought alive once again the Spirit of Christmas.

The day before our Christmas Service we had our Christmas party in the Church Hall. In recent years we have reverted to a traditional party with well known games and a few new ones for added interest! The food is provided by the teachers and for a number of years now crackers have been provided by a member of the congregation. Santa is welcomed at the end of the party and all the children receive gifts from him.

Each week in Sunday School we worship, play and learn. We want the children to learn about Christianity but we also want them to experience the joy of Christian fellowship. As part of our worship we have an offering each Sunday and at the end of each year the proceeds are sent to various charities. This year Scripture Union, Save the Children, YMCA (for homeless youngsters) and the Nazareth Hospital each received £100.

We were delighted when our new minister visited us at the restart of Sunday School after our Christmas break. We are always pleased to have adult visitors and from time to time John Anderson and Ronnie Kerr visit us and are always made welcome. If any adults would like to come along and join in we would be delighted to welcome them.

At present we have approximately 40 children attending Sunday School; children between 3 and 12 can join us at any time during the Sunday School year and it is always especially good when some who have been away for a while return to us.

Eileen Harper

(From the sounds coming from the Hall the other Sunday-seems a good place to be. Ed)

PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

1996

Oct 6 Emma Eunice Orr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Gourdie, 94 Main Street.
27 Euan Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Povey, 3 Forbes Terrace, Kirkcaldy.

1997

Jan 26 Sarah-Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Hampson, 43 Hampson Place, Rosyth
Feb 16 Daniel Alexander and Tarryn Paton, Twin son and daughter of Mr. and
Mrs. Charles Neilson, 87 High Street.
23 Scott Douglas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Struthers, 2 Murrell Road.

Marriage

1997

Feb 15 Michael William Tredgett to Ann Shona Young, Dalgety Bay.

Deaths

1996

Dec 18 Mrs. Brown, Dalnacraig, Inverkeithing Road.
26 Mr. Peter Cruickshank, 37 Bellhouse Road.

1997

Jan 20 Mrs Mary Petrie, 39 St. Fillans Crescent.
27 Mrs Sarah Smith, formerly Victoria Cottage, Livingston Lane.
28 Mrs. Barbara Anderson, formerly 45 High Street.
Feb 15 Miss Rita Dryburgh, 9 St. Colme Crescent.
18 Mrs Laura Nicol, Rosebank, 7 main street.

Members Joining

By Transference

Reverend Peter Park, St. Fillans Manse, 36 Bellhouse Road.
Mrs. Mari Park, St. Fillans Manse, 36 Bellhouse Road.

Members Leaving

Mrs. Aileen Johnson, 16 Edinburgh Road, to Tranent.

Choir Notes

The minister has informed me that offers have been received from prospective choir members, but that the present "choir night" being a Thursday is unsuitable.

This particular night was decided on by the current loyal choristers, but under the circumstances-and I'll do just about anything to increase the number of singers in the choir loft-I have decided to hold a half hour practice prior to the Sunday forenoon services until the end of March and will continue same if found to be required.

So here is your chance to keep up to date with what is happening in the "Choir Loft" and join us for the Easter music and to join in on all the new Church music that is appearing regularly.

Jim Fairlie

CH4

CH4 might be a new form of software to enable the surfer to browse the Internet but in reality it is sufficient to cause palpitations in many a ministers vocal chords-and the choirmasters for that matter. CH4 is the update to the present Church Hymnary disliked when it first hit the shop shelves but now roundly defended as CH4 begins to take shape.

Why all the fuss? Well it seems that the world is gradually adhering to the politically correct tense and the CH3 is way behind. Many of the best loved hymns have to go because "the face doesn't fit". 'God rest ye merry gentlemen' is sexist, and it is not alone.

The Dunfermline Presbytery had a debate to end all debates on this subject in defence of CH3 and a resolution was despatched to the Assembly committee but nothing will stop the new book from being printed next year. But, all is not lost, as one Presbytery minister said "What's all the fuss, we don't have to buy the book."

In a nutshell that is where we are with CH4. Take care of the pew hymn books and we can continue singing our favourite hymns for a long time to come yet.

OF DOGS and their MASTERS

Dog owners abound in our village and we can only admire their diligence as they walk their dogs on the Avenue or the beach every day regardless of the weather. A very special breed of people who will, I am sure, endorse this prayer by Piero Scanziaha:-

A Dogs Prayer

O Lord of all creatures,

Make man, as faithful to other men as I am to him,
Make him as loving to his family and friends as I am to him.

Give him, O lord, an easy and spontaneous smile,
Easy and spontaneous as when I wag my tail,
May he be as readily grateful as I am quick to lick his hand.

Grant him patience equal to mine,
When I await his return without complaining.

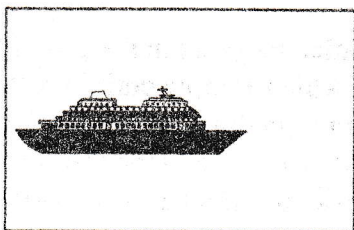
Give him my courage,
My readiness to sacrifice all for him,
Even life itself.

Keep for him the youthfulness of my heart,
The cheerfulness of my thoughts.

O Lord of all creatures,

As I am truly a dog,
Grant that he may always be truly a man

Annual Pilgrimage to Inchcolm



St Fillans annual pilgrimage to Inchcolm is being arranged for Sunday 22nd June 1997. The Maid of the Forth will leave the Aberdour pier at 3.45pm prompt for Inchcolm and depart from the Island at 5.45 for Aberdour. Further details and tickets will be available in May.

Words In The Wrong Place?

The following item has winged its way half way round the globe from a former St Fillans member. It appeared on this distant Churches' bulletin board one Sunday morning:-

Most people don't realise how much editing goes into producing a church bulletin or newsletter. Some announcements have to be completely rewritten because if they appeared the way they were submitted, it would lead to total confusion. Below are some examples:

Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery down stairs.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Martin to come forward and lay an egg on the alter.

Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet may come forward and do so.

A "Bean Supper" will be held next Sunday evening in the fellowship hall. Special music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the topic will be "What Is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The flower on the alter this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Hunter, the son of Rev. and Mrs Hunter.

The Women's Guild

The Women's Guild stamp collecting over the years has been a continual income and the figure just received for 1995 is £2569.95. Contributors are asked though, would you please trim the paper round the stamps to roughly a 1/4" border. This makes the sorting task a lot easier. The Guild wishes to thank all who have saved stamps and hopes more will do so. Please hand your used stamps to Mrs Helen Hannay (secretary), 10, Telny Place.

The changes to the Women's Guild that were intimated during the 1995 General Assembly are now being rethought. The new title for the Guild was not popular countrywide, so much so that following reports and surveys the Guild leaders are being asked to rethink where the Guild is and what the way ahead is.

FRED JEFFS STANDS DOWN AS TREASURER

Fred Jeffs has stood down as Church Treasurer after six years in the post. During that time he has created a computerised system of accounts, which comply entirely with the requirements of the Church of Scotland. The accuracy and timeliness of his work has frequently been commended, whilst his negotiating skills with BT and the utilities have saved the Church significant sums. Thank you Fred and Marjorie too who has made many trips to the bank on our behalf.

A Mystery of Life

A recent survey, carried out in Aberdour, has not cast any illumination on the subject. Further more the shadow that was there before is bigger than ever, cast by an ever burgeoning volume of umbrellas. The survey, which took place in the Church vestry, did show a ferocious independent streak on behalf of the brollys as not one wished to be identified with a previous owner.

The umbrella could never be classed as humble or quiescent, exactly the opposite is the case. Consider its ability to control the elements no sooner has it been opened. What was an object looking for a chance to get lost now turns into a raging lunatic that not even Arnold Schwar...whats his name has a hope of handling. Once this thing has whipped up the wind into an utter frenzy it turns itself inside out and back before you can say "lottery win". Its next trick is to wallop round and round your head making you look like a boy scout semaphoring on top of an ants nest. No wonder so many umbrellas finish up in the bucket or



the vestry.

Please, dear readers, collect your lost brollys from the vestry. The Church Officer has threatened them with being sold of at the next Church Sale.

Wanted--Scottish Country Dance Instructor

The dance sessions on a Monday night in the Church hall between 7-9.30pm are doomed to end when the current season finishes. The present instructor is moving out of the district and travelling would be a problem. The dancers are desperate to find somebody to keep the classes going as, apart from being a good way to exercise, it is a great social occasion and fun.

If there is someone who knows a thing or two about country dance steps please contact Sandra Mckimming on 823454.

Of Fish, Frogs and Pond Life

While Studying the garden pond, which had in times past harboured fish, I found that although they were no more, the fascination of this liquid ecosystem had never diminished. It is indeed an area of surprises. Not the least of which is the smell when a plant is removed for trimming. And yet frogs must spend their lives in an environment that must be akin to a sewage farm. But to a frog it is heaven.

I thought of my own version of heaven - tramping the hills, listening to buzzards calling, the smell of pine trees, reflections on still water, the roaring of a waterfall in full spate. All these things add up to a feeling of contentment that one relates to "being in heaven".

Earthly heavens have earthly smells though. Such as the agony of cramp at the end of an arduous walk or rain down the back of the neck to mention two, but this type of stress is accepted as part of the bad that goes with the good.

I wondered what stress a frog has when I realised I was the subject of a frog thesis. A pair of stalky eyes contemplating life, the universe and me. The theory that frogs study their victims before giving them a tongue lashing was ridiculous in this situation, so, I concluded that they spend their time in the study of humans for relaxation - a frog version of X-Files.

"Better not clean out the pond this year" I thought, "could be dangerous" and went indoors to watch Incredible Journeys.

KH

Disco Dance For Your Health

disco dance keep fit
In the Church Hall *Have fun.*
Shape up! Thursday evenings
7:30 - 9pm

The Church Hall on Thursday evenings has plenty of varied routines to ensure that ladies and girls enjoy staying fit, exercising to a disco beat with an update of the tunes, when available, to ring the changes.

The youth club commissioned the activity in January 1980 with many friendships formed over the years by those regularly attending. To have lasted so long we must be doing something right-one founder member is still going strong.

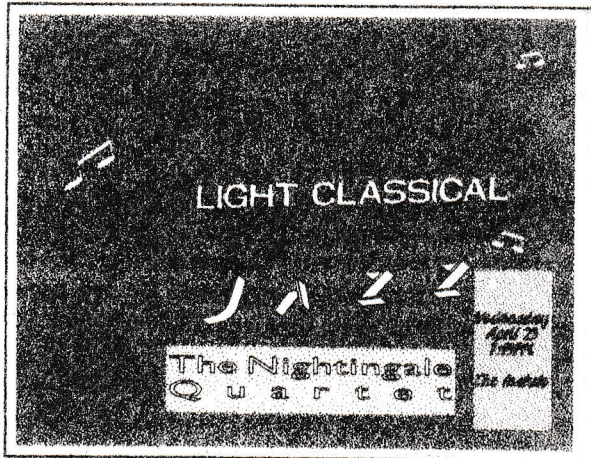
Vacancies exist for youngsters, mums and grans with a special welcome always for those who find that movement to music has the great effect of negating impairments.

It is a pleasure to lead the St Fillans Disco Dance Keep Fit sessions on Thursday evenings from 7-30 to 9-00 and hope to see more like minded enthusiasts.

Janice Dallas

God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone. but on the trees, and flowers and clouds, and stars.

Martin Luther



The Nightingale Quartet from the BBC Orchestra will be accompanied by Jo Nicholson on clarinet in a concert at the Institute, Shore Road on Wednesday 23rd April at 7.45pm.

They will be playing light classical and jazz music, including Smetana's Quintet.

Tea and Coffee will be served during the interval.

Tickets £5 from JustU, Grindalls and Mary Sutcliff.

I NEVER REALISED THERE WAS SO MUCH IN IT

Having been an Ordained Elder for only a few months and the only one from Aberdour to have attended a Residential Training Course at St Ninian's Centre in Crieff, I felt that it may be appropriate to attempt to share some of the feelings and ideas which I came home with.

It was a strange weekend in that I drove up slowly and with some trepidation about the people I would be meeting and whether the training would conflict with my own beliefs and feelings. The weather was lovely, a beautiful late autumn day with pale sun and sharp frost silvering the fields. I arrived at Crieff too early for the course and had time to wander about the town. It was the first time I had been in Crieff and I was a pleased to wander around a traditional country town with small individual shops on both sides of the street and no chain stores.

On booking in at the Centre I was surprised to meet the Reverend Peter Neilson the Director of Training, who grew up in the next village to where I come from and we shared an enjoyable half hour reminiscing on people we had known before sitting down to a meal and meeting the others on the course. After the introductions, experience sharing and discussing why we had come, we went to Evening Prayers and social gathering until bedtime.

During the meal I was surprised to find that I was the only 'new' Elder on the New Elder Training Weekend, the others being two experienced elders from Dumfries, (with over 20 years service each), another two from Appin, one of whom had been Session Clerk for 12 years and the other three from Lhanbryde, who were thinking about becoming elders, the unusual aspect of this was that there are normally 50 on a course and we were only 8. /

/ The accommodation was modern and comfortable with the meals prepared by staff and served on a work share basis.

The course consisted of Six Sessions as follows:

- 1 Being An Elder Today (*Biblical roots, discussion of the application for today*)
- 2 Being a Leader Today (*Qualities of Leadership, Team Leadership, Discovering our gifts*)
- 3 Being a Pastor Today (*Guidelines on pastoral care*)
- 4 Being a Witness Today (*Case studies*)
- 5 Being a Disciple Today (*Reflecting alone and together on Jesus' word to us*)
- 6 Being an Elder Tomorrow (*Identify lessons and benefits. A 'take-away' strategy*)

Despite having to extract myself from the Centre to attend the Vacancy Committee party on the Saturday night I felt that it was all worth while and hope that you find that it was too.

There is too much information to relate in this Newsletter but if you would like to find out more about these and other courses for Elders and Congregations please contact me.

(David Hannah)

LENTEN GROUP STUDY

Despite the late advertising of this group Frank Tollick and David Hannah managed to set up an interesting ecumenical study group as follows:

THE PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS : NOT SERVANTS BUT FRIENDS

A study for Lent 1997 - Prepared by Kathy Galloway
for

ACTION of CHURCHES TOGETHER in SCOTLAND

(see Church handouts for details or call David Hannah on 860877)



Church Flowers

Sincere thanks to all who responded (by coaxing and otherwise) to the request to "Adopt a date" to contribute; or supply and/or arrange flowers in time for Sunday Worship. While numbers have more than doubled a few dates are still available for "adoption should you so desire.

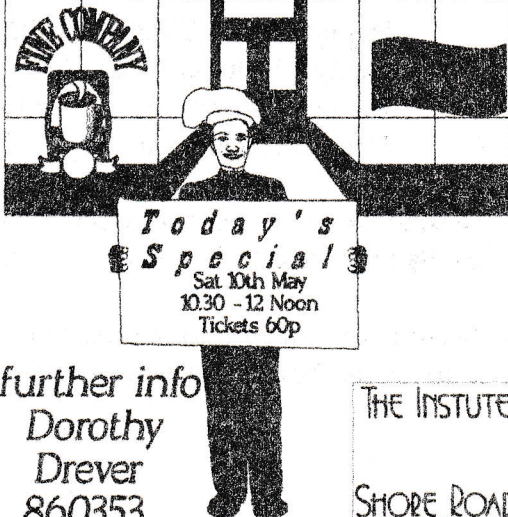
Our sincere thanks are due also to all who generously contribute to the Flower Fund itself throughout the year enabling provision of blooms for the Flower Festival, special events, Christmas Trees and small "in our thoughts" arrangements. Any donations for, or enquiries about Church Flowers should be addressed to the convenor, Catherine Duncan - Tel 860611.



First week in JUNE Lois Hutchison is looking for **YOU**

Whether you are a member or not whether a duffer or good This annual golf tourney **NEEDS YOU**
CONTACT LOIS ON 880444

Christian Aid




Today's Special
 Sat 10th May
 10.30 - 12 Noon
 Tickets 60p

further info
 Dorothy Drever
 860353

THE INSTITUTE
 SHORE ROAD

CHRISTIAN AID



SAI 3RD REQUIRED. WALKERS, MAY SPONSORS AND STEWARDS 2.00 - 6.00PM FOR DETAILS CONTACT FRANK TOLLYCK 860559

LATE NOTE

The Aberdour Players are rehearsing a challenging play by David Compton called "Smile" for the S.L.D.A. one act festival competition.

The first round will be in the Buckhaven Theatre on 27th Feb - 1 Mar.

The second round is to take place in Stirling with the Scottish final being held in the Adam Smith Centre, Kirkcaldy from Apr 24th - 26th.

We wish our Players all success in this venture.

It is hoped that Aberdour theatre goers will have a chance to see the play during the Aberdour Festival in August.

For details or if you would like to join the Aberdour Players contact Maureen Coates, 860740.