

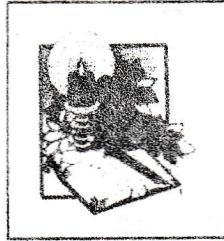


St Fillan's  
Parish Church  
Aberdour



# St Fillans Church, Aberdour

The Christmas Edition



St Fillans Newsletter

December 1998

No 125

Dear Friends and members,

Love came down at Christmas, a gift of love sent from God in the form of the baby Jesus Christ. That is the message we hear each Christmas but this year it is even more special and announces that 1999 has been designated by the Christian church as the year of Love. Our Christmas card to everyone this year tells of how God's love for people was manifested in Jesus and I hope and pray that you find the Christian message in the card both meaningful and helpful.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus and give thanks to God for the wonderful gift he gave the world almost 2000 years ago. Jesus is however given to us as a gift for life, not just for Christmas and, as I said at last year's Christmas Eve service, He is a gift that we cannot return. As we prepare for Christmas let us give thanks to God for giving us Jesus.

Over the next few weeks we have a number of Services, during which we will anticipate, then celebrate the birth of Jesus in song, prayer and readings. Details of times etc. are in the card and I hope you will be able to join with us for all or some of these.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the compliments of the season

Your parish minister

Peter Park

*Joy<sup>to</sup><sub>the</sub>  
World*

**This expression of the  
Love of Christmas comes  
to you with best wishes  
and greetings from the  
Minister and Kirk Session  
of St. Fillan's Parish  
Church**



There is a prize for the best coloured in picture. Entries should be with the editor by Christmas.

### Mhairi's Sang

#### They Wir Awfy Braw

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 They wir awfy braw and awfy grand<br/>Three strangers frae afar<br/>Spierin at my faither<br/>Fir a baby an a star</p> <p>2 Faither couldna understaun<br/>I kent fine by his face.<br/>"I canna think that royalty<br/>Wid bide in sic a place.</p> <p>3 Folk cryin oot for wine an bread<br/>Folk dossin on the floor<br/>I canna stop tae listen!"<br/>Then he showed them ower the door.</p> <p>4 I wis runnin for my mither<br/>Fetchin blankets, servin wine<br/>When o a sudden sic a thocht<br/>Cam bleezin tae my min!</p> | <p>5 For I minded o the lassie<br/>An her man, in oor oot-bye<br/>An the bairmie in the barrie-coat<br/>That times deeved us wi his cry.</p> <p>6 My mither thocht I'd gone clean daft<br/>When I drappit a, an ran<br/>Tae try an find thae strangers<br/>'Fore they moved their caravan.</p> <p>7 They must hae thocht me daft an a<br/>As they sat about their fire<br/>A wee lassie, runnin, screechin<br/>"It's thon laddie in oor byre!"<br/>*****</p> |
|--|--|

The Pastoral Committee wish to remind members that arrangements can be made for those without their own transport who are not normally able to visit family and friends in hospital that the Kirk's chauffeuring service which is operated by a number of volunteers, is still available. Also the church operates a shopping and pension/prescription collection service for the housebound, temporarily or otherwise.

If you require help please contact any one of the following: Bill Cochrane - 860786

Collette Adam - 860515

Catherine Duncan - 860611

Kathleen Fergus - 860804

Eleanor Morrison - 860241

Marnie Rennie - 860711

Douglas Crow - 860291

Kenneth Hodge - 860537

Norman McDonald - 860585

## Christmas

John Betjamen

The holly in the windy hedge  
And around the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The alter, font and arch and pew  
So that the villagers can say  
"The church looks nice" on Christmas Day

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue  
A baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?



And is it true? For if it is.  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissue'd fripperies  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant.

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine



Splinter Group?

Sign outside a church in Glasgow: "The carpenter of Nazareth needs joiners."

"Dear God, I like Christmas because it's your birthday. Most people like Christmas because of the presents." Dennis. From "Children's letters to God"

## The Question of the Angels

An old Christian legend tells us that when Jesus went up to Heaven he was accompanied by angels. They asked, "What is going to happen to your work that you started on Earth when you are in Heaven? Will your words and deeds, your living and your suffering be forgotten?"

Jesus showed them his disciples as they walked down from the ascension mountain and said

"I have my disciples. I have sent them throughout the world."

The angels asked further, "But Lord, if they fail what plan do you have then?"

Nearing Heaven Jesus answered, "I have no other plan."

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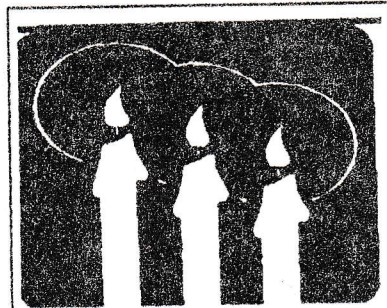
### Christmas Notes



**Sunday School Nativity**  
**St Fillan's Church**  
**Sunday 20th at 6.00pm**  
**All welcome especially children**

### Candlelit Watch-Night Service

Christmas Eve 11.15 pm



## Christmas Day Service

An informal  
service for the  
family



We invite children  
(and adults) to  
bring a present to  
show others

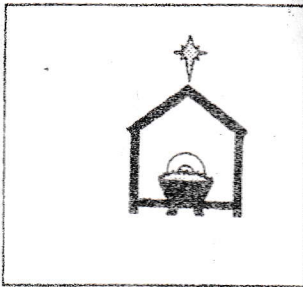
At the close of the service we will celebrate  
the Sacrament of Holy Communion for those  
who wish to stay

## A Scene Stealer?....

A Sunday School Teacher looks back...

Above their little heads THE STAR shone so brightly (admittedly assisted by the strong winter sunlight streaming through the window) that long gone day in December, as we witnessed "The Nativity"

"Once in Royal David's City" we sang - verse one only - thereby setting the scene. "Mary" and "Joseph" had been shown into the stable and were sitting behind the small wooden manger overflowing with hay. A host of little Angels all dressed in white looked oh so young and innocent beneath their twinkling tinsel haloes, and quite a few tears were brought to some of our eyes as they made their grand entrance to the scene, and "Mary" gently laid her newly arrived baby in the hay. "...the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head...." we chorused.



Not from far distant hillsides had they brought their sheep ...merely a few steps from the wings ... but even so one poor little shepherd had had quite a struggle coping with his lamb. It was not that it was a very unruly one, just rather stiff and almost as big as the wee lad himself! Although it had been suggested that he might just let it stand where it was and look from there, the wee soul had insisted his lamb should be allowed to come too to see the Baby Jesus close up!!! (Quite right too)

Then there were three kings, resplendent in their home-made curtain material robes and cardboard crowns with the stuck on "jewels" "...Gold I bring...": "...Myrrh is mine...." we sang as one by one they approached, knelt and placed their precious gifts beside the manger. ".....Frankincense to of!!!! All eyes had been transfixed on the scene and no-one (or perhaps just one or two) had seen or heard him tiptoe in, but.....just as the third wiseman/king approached the crib "Joseph" suddenly leapt to his feet (wearing such a happy smile) and shouted "Daddy! Daddy! There's my Daddy!" What comfort it was for him to know his Daddy was present in the crowd, and what a loving and wonderful welcome he gave his father as he ran to meet and hug him and all else faded into insignificance, No one dared to stop him - for - what many of the "extras" (audience) did not know at that time, was our "Joseph" really was looking forward to a special birth that day, and his father's (intended) quiet entrance heralded the happiness and celebration of the birth of his very own Christmastime baby... his wee brother! Needless to say we all felt so happy for having shared in his good news.



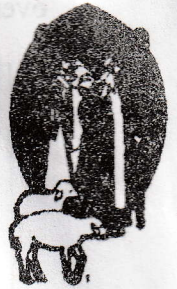
Now? One wonders what became of our "Joseph", while, also thinking of the warm glow of Joy and Comfort we feel when we welcome our Heavenly Father and share in His Good News brought to us through His Son.....the Special Baby, born that First Christmas long, so long ago.

"Dear God,

Christmas should be earlier because kids can only be good for so long." Beth

from "Children's Letters to God."

# Christmas Services at St Fillan's



Sunday 13th 10.30  
Sunday 13th 12.00

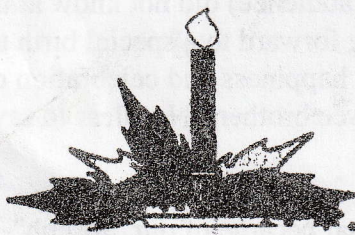
Morning Worship  
Carols in the Castle

For the village and friends  
See notices for details



Sunday 20th 10.30 Morning Worship  
Carol Service

Sunday 20th 6.00pm Sunday School Nativity



Thursday 24th 11.15pm Watch-night Service

**FRIDAY 25TH 10.30**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**