

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

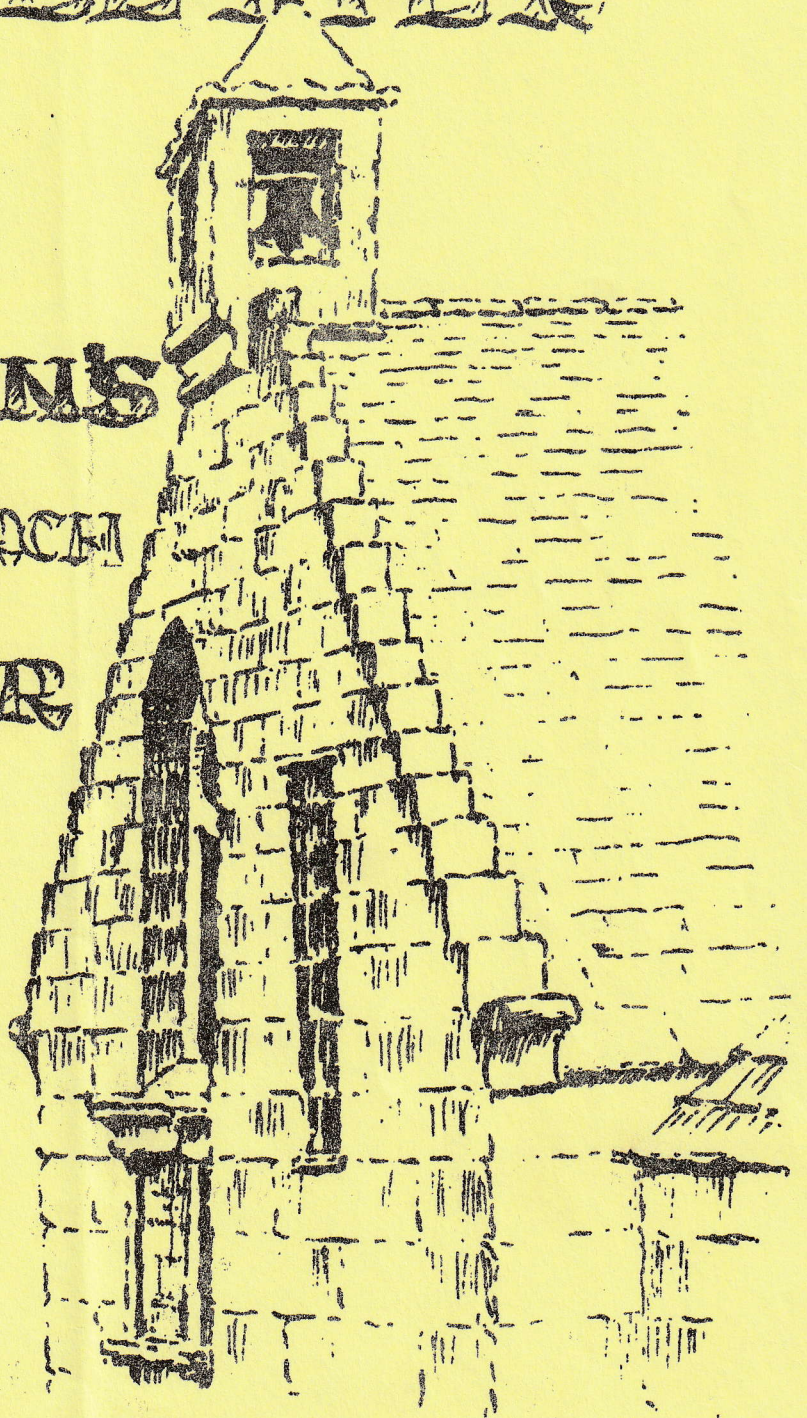
OF

ABERDOUR

from the year

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St Fillans Church, Aberdour

PUBLIC WORSHIP: Sunday at 10.30 a.m. October to May.
10.00 a.m. June to 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 Fillan's 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
Hall Keeper: Mr B Drever: 15, Inch Avenue 860353

March 1998

No 122

Dear friends and members,

Curling, luge or snowboarding? I was dozing in my armchair watching the winter Olympics, dreaming I had been chosen to participate in one of these three. Snowboarding was unlikely. I cannot remain upright on two skis, what chance on a single plank? The luge perhaps? Pleasant childhood memories of sledging on kitchen trays mingled with the fearful prospect of careering feet first down sheet ice at 130 kph. Curling seemed a good choice, after all I already play, and could visualise myself playing the winning shot for the gold medal. Then I woke up! My flu induced hallucinatory dream giving way to a TV report telling the fascinating story of Chris Moon, the athlete who carried the Olympic flame into the stadium at the opening ceremony.

Some years ago he became concerned at the plight of people living in war ravaged countries sown with land mines. The "locals" found themselves in a situation not of their doing or choice, selves and/or loved ones being indiscriminately killed or maimed and unable to escape from the horrors. Chris believed someone should help, and offered himself as a volunteer to clear mines. He fell victim to an explosion, losing a leg and part of an arm. Fitted with an artificial limb, he continued helping by running marathons to raise funds ... and recognition of his efforts resulted in him carrying the torch. My dream of Olympian glory was replaced by the humbling reality of someone focusing on helping others in a meaningful tangible way.

Chris's story was refreshing and encouraging. We hear so much of a western society leaning towards the self-centred and it is good to be told of people caring for and helping others, especially when this good news is broadcast to a nation wide, if not world wide, audience. We cannot all be like Chris and take a stance over the issue of land mines, but we can still demonstrate our concern for others in a meaningful way. I can think of and give thanks for the many in our parish and congregation who uphold traditional values, who wear their Christian faith on their sleeves and follow Christ's example and instruction to help others in a practical and self-giving way. Christ encourages those of who have God given gifts, skills and money to share our talents with those who have little or nothing and it is good to know that many follow the Master's command. I pray that those who demonstrate a practical sharing faith be given the strength to continue and encourage those who are hesitant in working out their practical Christianity to seek ways of doing so.

May God bless you all

Peter B Park

Too Big - Too Loud - Too Empty

*We build churches in our world, that is easy for us,
They should prove that God lives with us,
But to know how near we are to God is difficult for us,
Therefor we build churches in our world, sometimes too big.*

*We ring the bells in our world, that is easy for us.
They should sound as a reminder for us,
But as humans we have difficulty in remembering God,
Therefor we ring the bells in our world, sometimes too loud.*

*We have speeches in our world, that is easy for us,
They should give us insight into the belief, that is difficult for us,
Therefor we talk in our world, sometimes too empty.*

Lothar Zenetti

Do not seek God in outer space - your heart is the only place
in which you meet him face to face.

Angelus Silesius

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on
 Sunday 15th March at 10.30 am and 3.00pm.
 Sunday School will meet in the school at 10.30am.
 There will be a Crèche in the Vestry during morning service.

MARCH & APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

<u>Sunday 1st March</u>	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	Evening Service
<u>Sunday 8th March</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 15th March</u>	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Service of Holy Communion
<u>Sunday 22th March</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 29th March</u>	10,30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 5th April</u>	10.30am	Palm Sunday
	3.00pm	Evening Service
<u>Thursday 9th April</u>	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday with Communion
<u>Friday 10th April</u>	7.30pm	Good Friday
<u>In addition St Columba's have a Good Friday service at 2pm to which we are invited.</u>		
<u>Sunday 12th April</u>	10.30am	Easter Day Family Service followed by Communion.
<u>Sunday 19th April</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 26th April</u>	10.30am	Morning Service

An open invitation is extended to everyone to all Services

PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism

- Oct 26 - Ashleigh Jane Hynd Devine, daughter of Mr & Mrs P Noble, 25 Bellhouse Road
- Nov 30 - James Alexander, son of Mr & Mrs N Kerr, Bankhead Farm
- Dec 14 - Finlay James, son of Mr & Mrs G Gunn, Edinburgh
- 25 - Robert McClelland and Alasdair Ross, sons of Mr & Mrs R Cavaye, 99 Main Street

Deaths

- Oct 10 - Jean McCrae, Seabank House
- 28 - Margaret Dignan, 108 Main Street
- 30 - Anna Kent, 7 Manse Street
- Jan 18 - David Colman, Henderson House
- 25 - Marrion Purslow, 49 The Glebe
- Feb 15 - John Low, 1 Crowhill Road, Dalgety Bay
- 17 - Jean Blair, 27 Dovecot Park

Members Joining

By Confession of Faith

Graham Campbell, 42 Bellhouse Road

By Transference Certificate

Mrs Norma Pajek, Craighall, The Shore

Note. Colin and Heather Campbell have moved to 16 Bellhouse Road

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.

S-O-S- Save Old Stamps

Helen Hannay

To all of you who have handed in stamps recently, I would like to say "Thank You", and for those who wish to know what happens to them read on.

When I have a very large "poly" bag, full I take it over to 121 George Street where the stamps are gathered, sorted and sold to collectors. Administration costs are negligible as the skilled work of preparing and selling is done by volunteers. The overall success of the stamp centre depends on the support given to it by congregations, organisations and individuals throughout Scotland and further afield.

All used stamps from Britain and overseas have value but I would ask you not to remove stamps from the backing paper in case the stamp is damaged and it loses its value. When cutting a stamp from an envelope do leave about a quarter of an inch of paper all round as this would be a great help.

The money raised through the stamp sales goes towards helping overseas mission work and you may be interested to know that the 1995 total was £2569.95 and 1996 £3366.05

Thank You again. Please continue to post stamps to 10, Telny Place.



The following was handed in by Catherine Duncan who has been the Playgroup leader for 21 years and has decided to "hang up the apron strings".

Lest We Missed You

A Very Sincere Thank You to All who so kindly contributed towards the beautiful gifts, album, flowers, cards etc. Your thoughtfulness and good wishes are very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

Catherine Duncan and Elaine Nicoll

13th July 1804.....

".....several members of the Session in going and returning from the church on Thursday the fifth day of July current, saw several ploughs at work on the farm of Croftgarie in a field, within view of the church, presently farmed by John Inglis and that whereas the Session have been credibly informed that the farm servants of William Inglis of Templehill, father of the said John Inglis, and, also those of Mr Young, tenant of South Balmould, were engaged with their horses on their respective farms on the said fifth day of July being the Fast Day. The Session considering themselves bound in duty not to allow this outrage on the decency and good order hitherto observed by all the inhabitants within the bounds of the Parish to pass unnoticed, and also, with the view of having this cause of offence removed in the future, unanimously agreed after ascertaining the particular circumstances in the cases before mentioned that Mr Bryce their moderator lay the whole before the Sheriff of Fife that he may do therein as the law decides."

28th June 1805

".....Mr Bryce also produced a letter from the Sheriff of Fife in answer to the one he had written to him at the desire of the Session regarding Mr William Inglis and his son ploughing and harrowing on the Fast Day preceding the dispensing of the Sacrament in the Parish. The Session agreed according to the opinion of the Sheriff that the minister should inform them "That their offence has not passed unnoticed and that a repetition of it will most assuredly occasion the interference of the civil power."

(It is with interest that the editor read this item because, as a seventeen year old, he had the audacity to question the tennis club chairman (Capt. Hughes) on why the courts could not be used on a Sunday morning. The answer was "In deference to those going to and returning from morning worship, play will not be permitted till after lunch.")

CHURCH HALL

at 9th May

ENTRY 60p CHRISTIAN ART STALLS

SAT 9th MAY 10.30 AM MORNING

Cake & Candy Plants Books
Gifts Bric a Brac

10.30 TILL NOON

I am not sure how it happened but one was added to our family. This particular "one" was a wee boy of four and living in a village in Sierra Leone. My daughter, Gabrielle, having heard that it is possible to sponsor a child for £15 a month in some of the worlds less savoury places had opened this option and had become a part of the Christian Children's Fund (CCF). This is Gabrielle's story of Wusman Sesay.

The first letters I received from the CCF Sierra Leone project were written on Wusman's behalf by the project officer, who was a local man, and they contained much information about the family and soon I felt I was becoming part of that family by understanding the problems they had just to live in a country beset by political upsets, never mind trying to grow crops without decent means. Wusman's father is a crop farmer and young Wusman was the scarecrow. All day long he would run over the field shouting at the birds. I thought this was funny when I read about it but on reflection it is a serious matter when it means the difference between eating and not eating. For Wusman's sixth birthday I sent an extra sum of money and was amazed to learn that "my" wee boy had been able to get his first shoes. Since he was walking six miles to school each day this would be a real bonus for him. It was at this point that I realised that these people have nothing and if it was not for CCF they would not even have medical facilities or the chance of an education. Meanwhile the government were having their own problems with breakaway factions that were driving the country into turmoil. Wusman's village was in a firing line and evacuation was talked of.

In a letter to Wusman I described a kite and was rewarded in my next letter from Wusman himself that the class had built one with the help of the teacher and had had fun flying it. You have no idea the pleasure I got from that first letter in his own hand describing part of his growing up. On another occasion I sent him a packet of balloons and he had become the centre of attraction as no one had seen balloons before.

At the time when Wusman was 10, the rebels in Sierra Leone got out of hand and were known to be causing trouble in communities and schools, so Wusman's village was evacuated to Freetown for safety. Unfortunately law and order broke down. The banks were looted and had to shut. The government collapsed and it was everyone for himself. At this point I received a letter from CCF asking not to send letters as they (CCF) could no longer operate and there was no postal service anyway, but wait further news. Wusman, his two younger brothers and sister and other family members and villagers were trying to cross the border to the Red Cross camp.

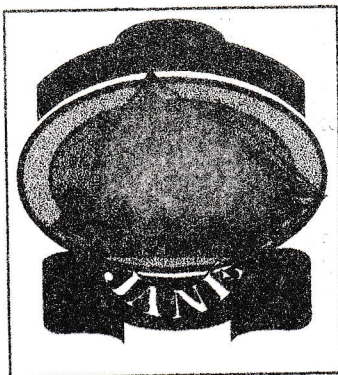
For six months I waited for news and finally it came. Rebels had come across the group, selected some of the children and shot them. Wusman was one.

Wusman's life had been short but I know that through sponsorship and contact by letters his quality of life had been made a little better. It is my resolve to continue.

Pastoral

The Pastoral committee wish to remind members that arrangements can be made for those without their own transport who would not be able to visit family and friends in hospital without assistance that the Kirks chauffeuring service which is operated by a number of volunteers, is available to help. Also the church operates a pension and prescription collection service for the housebound. **If YOU** require help in this regard please contact Bill Cochrane in the first instance on 860786.

Captain William Morgan - The Sea Saga Continues.....



Michael Dun, the historian for the Maritime Fife Project at the Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies, St Andrews, has established further fascinating information on Capt. William Morgan, who left his silver gilt cup to St. Fillan's.

In the eighteenth century it was the practice in maritime warfare to issue "letters of marque" to private individuals licensing them to operate against enemy shipping. Known as privateers these vessels lived by what they could capture, and providing they possessed a letter of marque, if captured themselves, they could not be treated as pirates.

Issued on the 19th December 1796 "A business of granting a letter of Marque" to William Morgan, Commander of the private Ship of War called the Jane to take the ships, vessels, and goods belonging to France, or to any persons being subject to France, or inhabiting within the territories of France William Morgan and others who submit themselves to the jurisdiction to the high court of Admiralty of England, obliged themselves unto our sovereign lord the king in the sum of £1500 of lawful money is duly authorised by letters of Marque and reprizals(sic) with the ship called the Jane of the burthen of about 159 tons whereof he, the said William Morgan, goeth matter by force of arms to attack, surprise seize and take all ships and vessels, goods, and merchandise, chattels and effects, belonging to France.....Accepting only within the harbours or roads, within shot of the cannon, of Princes and States in Amity with his Majesty.

In a further declaration to the high court of the Admiralty dated December 1796, That the said William Morgans ship, is called the Jane, is belonging to the Port of Jamaica, is of the burthan of 159 tons, is plantation built square rigged, has three masts, that the said Wm. Morgan doeth Commander of her, that she is mounted with 16 carriage guns, carrying shot of 6 & 4 pounds weight...with 80 men of whom one third are landsmen, has 40 small arms, 40 cut laces, 40 barrels of powder, 20 rounds of great shot, and is victualled for 4 months, has two suits of sails, 4 weight of spare cordage. That TH Jones goes as mate or Lieutenant, John Smith gunner, Wm. Stow Boatswain, John Cook Carpenter, Ian Roberts Cook and ----(none) Surgeon of the said ship and that Alexander Donaldson (who gave the cup to William Morgan), Alex Forbes and Wm. Morgan, all of Jamaica, Owner and setter out of the said ship.

Michael Dun is continuing his research,

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH

This year, to meet our planned budget the congregation of StFillan's need to raise £55,055. This figure reflects a number of significant increases, some decided by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, others resulting from increased activity within our congregation. Our allocation to the central funds of the Church of Scotland has been increased by over £1,500, largely to finance an increase in the Service Supplement Fund This supports the Ministry in Aid Receiving Parishes. We have to provide an additional £600 to meet the costs of our excellent new arrangements for having the children in church every Sunday. Finally the Congregational Board has decided to place the maintenance of our fabric on a sounder basis This involves the setting up of a Fabric Maintenance Account, together with the discipline of allocating £3,000 a year from our General Fund to that account

To meet this increased expenditure we have made savings in other areas, but we still need an increase in giving by all of us of 3%. Individually this may not mean a significant increase, but it does require us all to review not only how much we give, but also our method of giving.

In 1997 our Deeds of Covenant and donations by Weekly Freewill Offering were broadly as expected. There was a most welcome increase in offerings to the Open Collection. Here, I would ask those of you who give your support through the Open Collection and pay Income Tax to seriously consider making a Deed of Covenant. It will cost you no more and we will be able to reclaim the tax. In 1997 we reclaimed £7,449; 15% of our total income. We need to increase this sum.

For those of you who already support St Fillan's through a Deed of Covenant or by WFO I would ask you to review your giving and see if you can manage the 3% increase that we need to achieve.

As a guide to giving, the table below shows the spread of donations by our present Deeds of Covenant:

Annual Total	Number of Deeds	% of all the Deeds
£250 +	31	24.5
£150-£250	31	24.6
£100-£149	33	26.2
£0-£99	31	24.6
	126	99.9

Should you be interested in speaking to a member regarding finance the office bearers listed below will be happy to advise you:

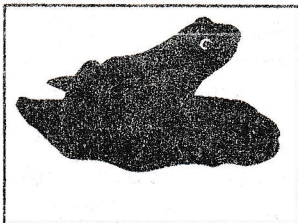
Ewart McSkimming Finance Convenor. Tel 823454

Simon Fraser: Treasurer. Tel 860361

Derek Anderson: Deeds of Covenant Tel. 860458

George Brown: WFO. Tel 860247

Of Frogs and Life



It was last October time, one Sunday morning that a last careful study of the pond was undertaken to see if the ecosystem, and the frogs in particular, had responded to the cooler days and nights. It appeared that global warming was affecting not only the very agile frogs, but also the grass which was stretching skywards long after the cutter had been cleaned and put to bed. "When do they settle down?" I wondered. "Good question" came the response from the thought conveying frog. "Where are you going?" he asked. "To church." I said. "Why?" "To praise the Lord and say thank you for all this." I said with a benevolent wave of the hand. "How does that help you?" he asked with genuine interest while I felt genuine embarrassment. "Well, ones thoughts are prised onto a more responsible level over the years and one reacts to people and situations differently." "And what is your aim?" "To have everyone understand that life can be very tolerable and beautiful under such circumstances." I replied wondering how a frog could be so penetrating. "Then what?" "We shall probably live in harmony." I said with a feeling of dejection realising we had many millennia to go.

KH

Inchcolm service. The date is 6th September.

Time at the harbour 3.30pm.

Return time from Inchcolm is 6.00pm

Choir News: "What a Stramash"

When I was appointed Church Organist I looked at ways of improving the musical side of the worship, and as you are aware was given approval for the resiting of the organ console, which gives a greater viewing control to the organist in regard to the ongoing activities during the Service. I also had a look at the Choir placement and obtained the ministers agreement to move the Choir to the front of the Church for an experimental period of two weeks. My reason for this was as follows:

a) To consider the effect on the Congregational singing, (we are after all going through a phase of not sticking entirely to the Church Hymnary CH3, but adding new Hymns from Songs of Gods People, Mission Praise etc.,) and it appeared to me that the front of the Church, and to some extent the rear of the Church, were not benefiting from the Choir lead.

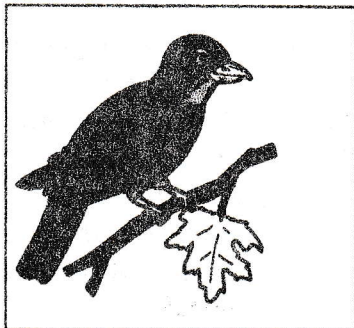
b) My second consideration was that the Choir should be seen and heard by the whole congregation, also this could aid the possible recruitment to the loyal eight members of the choir, who could now see and participate more in the Church Service.

Deep Breath! That was until a request was made from the pulpit for the Congregation to inform me of their feelings on the resiting experiment.

To date I have had at least twenty five or more phone calls, four confrontations, and three letters. (I hope my wife will soon resume the making of my meals!) All of which have requested me to return the Choir to the Organ Gallery, and not one request for the choir to stay at the front. The result of this 'survey' has been passed to the minister.

One thing bothers me though, the 'silent majority'.

I would like to thank, however, all who got in touch with me, it was pleasant to speak to and hear from St. Fillans folk who were previously just names or faces in the congregation. At least I am aware the Congregation know there is a Church Choir even though recruitment was 'nil'. Please may I have some interested singers? There are a lot of you out there.



I'm still chuckling at one letter where the writer thought that church choirs were an endangered species and shouldn't they be allowed to choose their own "perch"?

The experiment completed the choir has now returned to their original perch in the organ loft but on certain occasions will be seen to flutter down to the front of the church.

Jim Fairlie, choirmaster.

Letter from New Zealand

Jennifer McCrae

The following is an extract from a letter sent to Reg Butler from a gentleman living in New Zealand. Reg Butler is the man whose paintings of Aberdour can be seen in the Antique shop and have proved to be very popular.

"On Friday 2nd August while staying briefly in Edinburgh, I visited Aberdour with the specific task to go to St Fillan's church. This was happily accomplished - but helped by the fact that both my sister and my son in law had come too. I was able to identify the grave

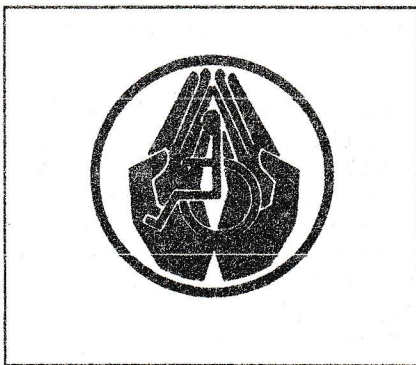
of my great, great grandfather and mother. I took photographs and felt satisfied as I wandered around by myself.

Coming away, I wandered down to the south end of the town and saw an Antique shop. I enquired there about something I could take away as a souvenir. The result was your original painting of St Fillans (1140). I purchased it with alacrity. It stands before me as I write this."



CROSSROADS CHARITY SHOP

CROSSROADS was set up in Dunfermline in 1981 to provide home-based respite care for carers of the elderly, the chronic sick or terminally ill, and the physically and mentally disabled of all ages. Crossroads currently helps 120 cares around Dunfermline, providing about 550 hours of care per month. However there is a lengthy waiting list because funding cutbacks by the main supporters - Fife Council and Health Board - mean that resources are no longer adequate to meet the needs of the growing number of carers in the community.



One way the churches of Aberdour can help provide extra funds for Crossroads is through the CROSSROADS CHARITY SHOP, being organised jointly by St Columba's and St Fillan's. The shop, thanks to the kind offer of Stewart and Donna, will be in the function suit of the Forresters Arms, and will be open during the week

18th to 25th April.

In the meantime, please put aside anything that might have sale value. Good quality clothing, books, bric-a-brac, crafts and toys will all be very acceptable, but please no electrical goods. Nearer the time, plants will be welcome. If you are unable to store items, they can be uplifted by contacting: Malcolm & Gill Knight 860094, Mary Greenwood 860408, Sally Clifford 860521, Joy Kinna 860413 and Margaret Tollick 860559.

If you would like to donate goods to sell, or volunteer to be on the rota to man the shop, or display a poster in your window or help in any other way, please contact one of the above or Kay Parry 822503.

PARTY TIME

We at St Fillan's Church Club have all the facilities you could want to have a successful primary children's after school birthday/class party.

- plenty of space
- 🎮 organised games
- 📺 giant screen videos
- 🎵 disco lights & music
- ❖ separate small hall for catering
- Thursdays 3.30 to 6pm regularly available (other days by arrangement)
- ☎ Telephone George Connell 860304 for further details

Parental supervision is a requirement.

"Lets do something beautiful for God"

Mother Teresa

What are YOU giving up for LENT?!

Chocolate? Watching the telly? Nagging the wife (or husband)?

How about something completely different - how about giving up some of your time and sharing it with a group of explorers from Aberdour who will be coming together during Lent to listen to the words of the Bible and to respond to what they find there as they follow the theme "**Hope in the midst of Change**".

At this point you may be thinking, to coin John McInroe's famous phrase, "You cannot be serious!" Which I suppose is how Peter and James and John must have felt when Jesus told them to give up what they knew best - their fishing - and tackle something where they felt they had no special qualifications and were completely out of their depth. They took the plunge though (pun!) and found themselves sharing in a listening and learning fellowship with others from 'a' the airt's' which grew from that first meeting by the Sea of Galilee into the world-wide community of Christians in the world today.

Carol or Steve or Stuart or Jenny - whatever your name is - the Aberdour Lenten Study Group invites you to take the plunge each Monday in March, starting on the 2nd March at 3 Bellhouse Road. If you want to find out more or want to come, contacts for St. Fillan's Church are Ronnie Kerr 860848 and Frank Tollick 860559

Something to think about

- *The Bible lies open in front of the congregation each time it gathers for worship
- *The Bible lies open for the congregation and for the community it serves
- *The Bible lies open to speak to us, as it is read and preached
- *The Bible lies open for us to make our considered response
- *The Bible is for the communities of both the Church and the World
- *The Bible is central to what we call public worship
- *That is why we start our public worship with the opening of the Bible
- *That is why we finish public worship with the closing of the Bible
- *To find out what the Bible says we can listen to it being read
- *But to find out what it says for us and for our communities we have to sit round it as communities



.....

The Aberdour Flower Show committee is looking for village folk with a passing interest or even a fanatical interest in bringing this long established event through the millennium. Any one of the following will commit you to serve a fun sentence on the committee or as a helper:

Gardener. Not a gardener. Can cut grass. Can't cut grass.

Whatever you can or can't do we would like to hear from you.

The Flower Show could run itself but we tend to have four meetings a year anyway. We run an apprenticeship scheme for new entrants to the committee so that no one should feel left out or doesn't know what is happening.

Do give this some serious thought and remember we need you to help bring this very worthwhile venture through the millennium and on into the next century.

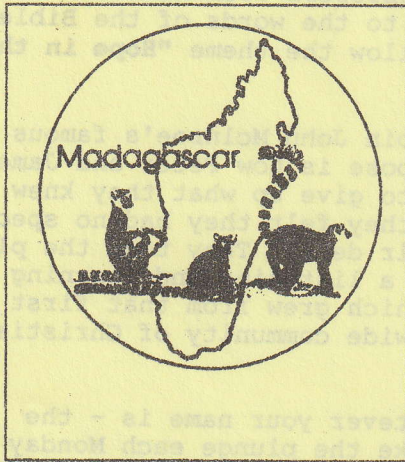
**When you see the big "YES" sign floating in front of your eyes, contact :
C/M Carol Boulton, Vice C/M Kenneth Hodge 860537, Sec. Catherine Duncan 860611,
Man of Letters Bill Cochrane 860786 or any of the committee.**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER "WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?"

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 1998 7.00PM

ST COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ABERDOUR

ALL ARE WELCOME



**PREPARED BY
THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
COMMITTEE OF MADAGASCAR**

Christian Aid

**Wanted:
Walkers
Sponsors
Stewards**

**Forth
Bridge
Cross**

**Saturday
2nd May
2pm to
6pm**

The background of the poster is a black and white photograph of a bridge structure, likely the Forth Bridge, with its characteristic lattice towers and cables.

Contact Frank Tollick on 860559