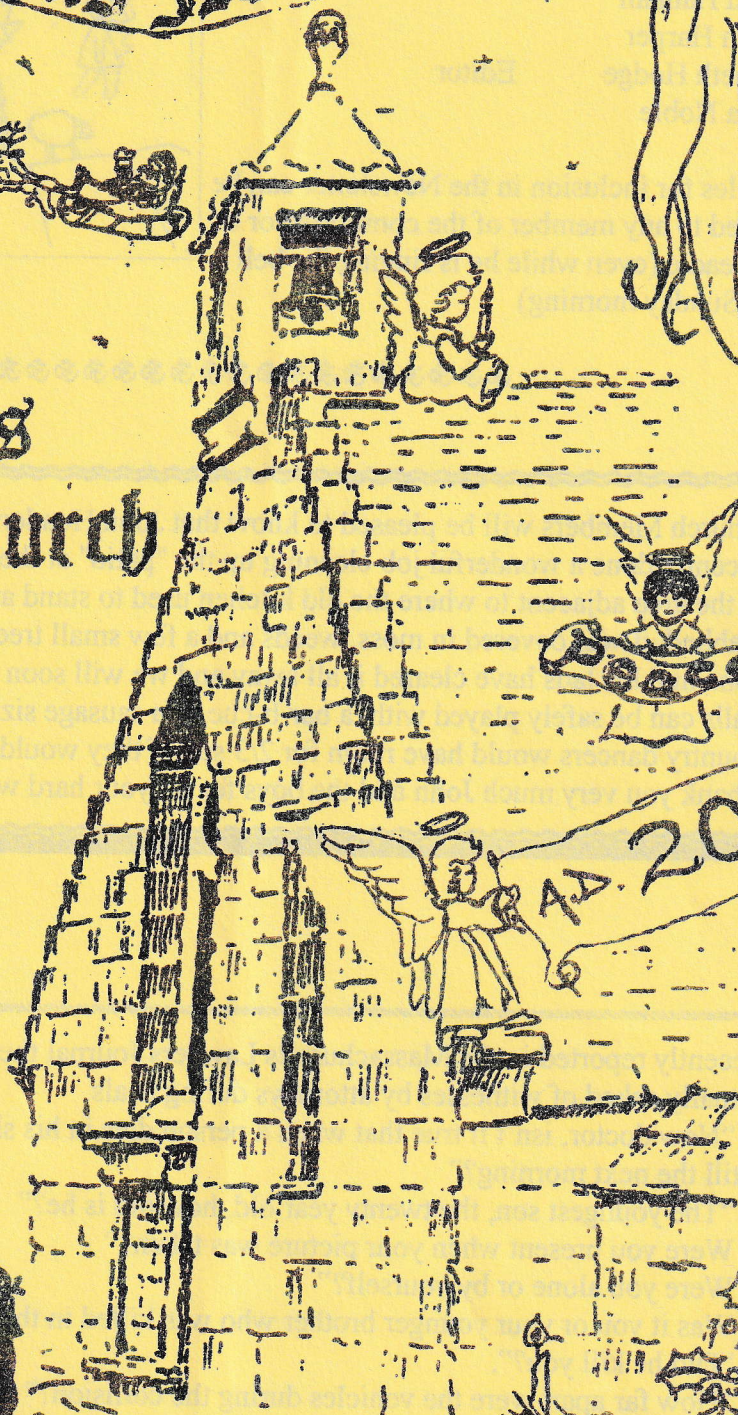
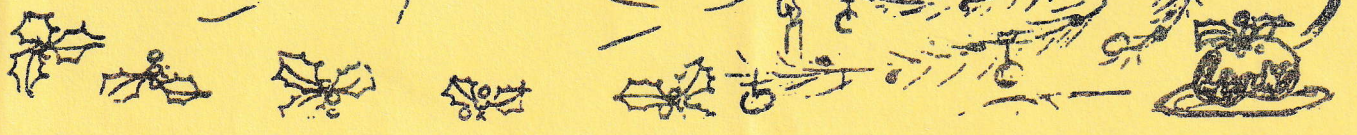
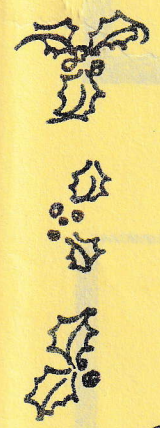




St Fillan's
Parish Church
Aberdour



AD. 2000



Church Newsletter Committee:

Collette Adam

Linda Brown

Distribution

Catherine Duncan

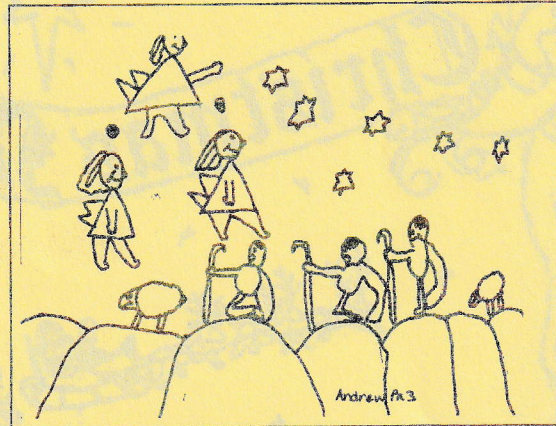
David Hannah

Eileen Harper

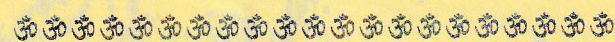
Kenneth Hodge

Editor

Senga Noble



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



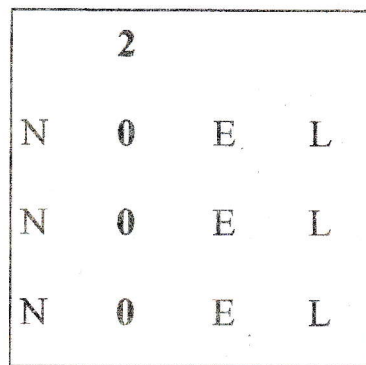
Church Members will be pleased to know that John Henderson and his team of Cubs have recently done a wonderful job cleaning up the "patio" at the rear of the Church Hall. This is the area adjacent to where the old kitchen used to stand and, although the area is slabbed, it was covered in moss, weeds and a few small trees were beginning to take root. John and his lads have cleared it all away and we will soon have a pleasant area where balls can be safely played with, a bar-b-cue or a sausage sizzle can take place and even the country dancers would have room for 2/3 sets if they would like to get out in the fresh air. Thank you very much John and the boys for all your hard work. Bruce Drever

Recently reported in the Massachusetts Lawyers Journal the following are questions actually asked of witnesses by attorneys during trials.

1. "Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it till the next morning?"
2. "The youngest son, the twenty year old, how old is he?"
3. "Were you present when your picture was taken?"
4. "Were you alone or by yourself?"
5. "Was it you or your younger brother who was killed in the war?"
6. "Did he kill you?"
7. "How far apart were the vehicles during the collision?"
8. "You were there till the time you left, is that true?"
9. "How many times have you committed suicide?"



Dear friends and members



This year we celebrate 2000 years of Christianity and give thanks for the wonderful gift that God gave the world in the form of His Son Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John (John 3:16) we are told that the gift is for everyone for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. God's gift is unrestricted and universal, and knows no human bounds such as time and place. It is a gift of grace that was made to those who have gone before us in the faith, is available today for all of us, and will continue to be offered by God to those who follow in our footsteps. At this Millennium time those of us who share the Christian faith look back over the past and give thanks for God's providence. We also however have an eye to the future knowing that one day, when God considers the time to be right, all his promises will be fulfilled and the Lord will come again and claim for good and all what is rightly His.

People will celebrate the Millennium in different ways and I know that as you make your own arrangements for Christmas and Millennium many of you will be ensuring the centrality of Christ in your plans, after all isn't Jesus Christ what both Christmas and the Millennium are about?. You may however know of some people who do not share your sense of wonder at the incarnation. Instead they adopt an attitude that all this religion spoils Christmas. We who share the faith know how much people miss when they do not have Christ in their lives. Perhaps this year we could help remedy this and all make a special effort to invite the sceptics and the doubters to come to Church with us and let them experience the joyful and varied way in which we celebrate the Lord's Incarnation.

In this newsletter you will find details of our Christmas and Millennium services and I hope that you will be able to join with us in St Fillan's (or which ever Christian church you are associated with) at this very special time of year.

May God continue to bless you all.

Peter Park
Parish Minister

Tribute to Reverend David W Rutherford M.C. M.A. B.D. 1909-1999

Born in Stirling 3rd August 1909

Died in Perth 17th September 1999

This tribute is made on behalf of the Kirk Session of St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour and particularly in the name of those members of Session who served alongside David Rutherford during his ministry here.

David Rutherford was inducted as minister of the united charges of Aberdour and Dalgety in 1949. He came with the warmest of commendations from his charge in Alexandria and with a distinguished academic and war record.

He was born in Stirling, educated at Perth Academy and St. Andrews University where he was an outstanding scholar and sportsman. He graduated with distinction and was awarded Blues in both cricket and rugby. He captained the University 1st XV.

In 1935 he was ordained to the ministry of the Church of Scotland. His first appointment was a chaplaincy in Assam. Returning to Scotland in 1937, he acted as an assistant chaplain at the Empire Exhibition Church. The following year he was inducted as minister of Bridge Street Church, Alexandria.

At the outbreak of war he volunteered as a chaplain to the forces, serving with the First Gordons. He was seriously wounded at the Sferro Bridgehead in Sicily as the eighth Army drove for Alamein, to Tunis and on to Sicily. He was awarded the M.C. " for his selflessness and devotion to duty in the Sicilian campaign." The citation goes on to say that the men of the Battalion found inspiration in everything he said and did.

At the end of the war David returned to Alexandria where he and Jean met and they married there in 1939. It was to be the happiest of marriages with love and care being in abundance. In that same year he responded to a call from the united charge of Aberdour and Dalgety.

The hallmarks of his ministry in Aberdour over a period of 26 years were the excellence of his preaching, the regular visitation of his two parishes, whereby he knew all members, not only from seeing them in the pews but also from visiting them in their own homes, his welcome to every newcomer to the village within days of their arrival, and his work with the youth of the district in Youth Fellowship and Bible Class. In everything he undertook he had the active support of his wife.

He was known throughout the Church as a gifted preacher, and over the years he received approaches from other and larger congregations seeking a new minister, but he loved St. Fillan's Church, he loved the village of Aberdour and the people of the two parishes and derived satisfaction, happiness, and a continuing challenge from his ministry here. He was honoured by an invitation to preach at Crathie Church in the presence of the Queen.

He led us by personal example, responding to every need and always ready to encourage others showing less vigour than the minister, and to provide help and counsel. He had an acute sense of duty which some people saw as over seriousness but underneath that exterior lay a lively sense of humour and fun.

He would not countenance resources being spent on local situations without due consideration being given to wider needs, and it was through his leadership and encouragement that the 850th Anniversary of St. Fillan's took the form of an Act of Thanksgiving and that 50% of the funds raised were donated to National Church Extension.

In 1974 he retired to Perth. Always a keen and knowledgeable gardener, his small garden at Perth was a continuous joy to him and to his family and friends. In retirement he continued to serve the Church acting as locum and providing supply for a number of churches in and around the city.

His entire life was one of devoted service - to his country in time of war, to Church and Community at home and abroad, and always as a faithful and loving servant of his Lord

and Master.

He is survived by his wife Jean, their daughter, Jan, and her husband and two sons all of whom he cherished deeply.

We were privileged to have David Rutherford as our minister.

W H Chalmers
Session Clerk
St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour. (1967-1976)

Jubilee 2000

If you were on holiday at the time, the 12th of June will not have any great significance but for the 10,000 people who ringed Edinburgh castle it was a memorable event. Reporting the occasion, Claire Duncanson of Jubilee 2000 Scottish Coalition, said that despite the miserable Edinburgh weather an amazing 10000- at least, stoically stood their ground, each forming a crucial link in a chain which snaked 3.75 miles through the city centre. The chain was an inspiration to the delegation of international, religious and political leaders, some directly affected by debt, as they marched through the rain up to New College. There a symbolic petition was handed over to a group of 11 cyclists who carried it all the way to Cologne in just 7 days, to present to the G8 representative sat the summit.

Christmas Stamps

Helen Hannay



I have received a note from the Board of World Mission informing me that the amount raised from old stamps last year was £3544.72 - not bad for old stamps - so would everyone please continue to drop them in to **10, Telny Place** or **The Newsagent** in the High Street. (Do not throw away your Christmas mail stamps but hand them in - thank you. Ed)

Registration plate seen on a trailer being pulled along the A9: L2 LOO. The trailer was carrying 6 porta loo's.

The registration seen outside a kilt supplier in Edinburgh's High Street: "K 1 LTS".
The editor would like to hear of other odd registrations seen running about.



A Prayer for Children of the 90's

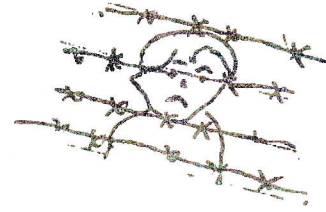
We pray for children

Who put chocolate fingers everywhere,
Who like to be tickled,
Who splash in puddles and ruin their new trousers,
Who sneak biscuits before supper,
Who rub out holes in maths workbooks,
Who can never find their shoes.



And we pray for those

Who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
Who can't bounce down the street in a new pair of trainers,
Who never played "one potatoe, two potatoe, three potatoe four"
Who are born in places we wouldn't be caught in,
Who never go to the circus,
Who live in an X-rated world.

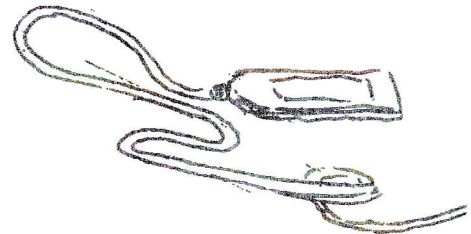


We pray for children

Who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
Who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish,
Who hug us in a hurry and forget lunch money,
Who cover themselves with Band-Aids and sing off-key,
Who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink,
Who slurp their soup.



And we pray for those who never get dessert,
Who have no security blanket to drag behind them,
Who watch their parents watch them die,
Who can't find any bread to steal,
Who don't have any rooms to clean up,
Whose pictures aren't on any dresser,
Whose monsters are real.



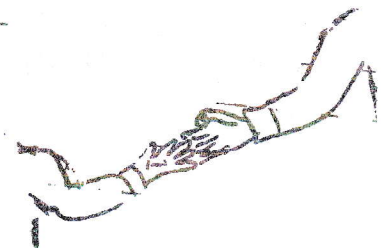
We pray for children

Who spend all their pocket money before Tuesday,
Who throw tantrums in the green grocer's and pick at their food,
Who shove their dirty clothes under the bed and never clean the bath,
Who squirm in church and scream on the phone,
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at
And whose smiles can make us cry.



And we pray for those

Whose nightmares come in the daytime
Who will eat anything,
Who have never seen a dentist,
Who aren't spoiled by anybody,
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep.
Who live and move, but have no being.



We pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must.

For those we never give up on
And for those who don't have a second chance,
For those we smother. . .
And those who will grab the hand of anybody
Kind enough to offer it.











We pray for our children, and for other people's

Amen

— by Ina Hughes (adapted) Copyright Proprietor Unknown

Christmas and Millennium Services in St Fillan's

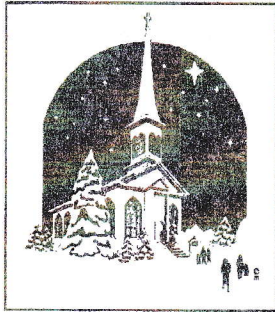
An invitation is extended to you to join with us for all or any of these

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 12 th | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| | 12-1 |  <p>Carols in the castle</p> <p>This year we are restricting the time to one hour and are not selling tickets. There will be a charity collection on the day and the castle café will be open for those who want to purchase refreshments</p> |
| Sun 19 th | 10.30 | <p>Morning worship</p> <p>A service of readings and carols</p> |
| | 3.00 |  <p>Sunday School Nativity</p> <p>Please note change of time to the afternoon service</p> |
| Mon 20 th | 7.00 |  <p>Rosyth District Scouts</p> <p>Christmas Campfire Carols in Church Hall</p> <p>This year Aberdour scouts are hosting this service. It is open to anyone with an interest in Scouting</p> |
| Tue 21 st | 10.00 |  <p>Primary School end of term service</p> |
| Fri 24 th | 11.15PM |  <p>Watch night Service</p> |
| Sat 25 th | 10.30 |  <p>Christmas Day Family Service</p> <p>Followed by Sacrament of Communion</p> |
| Sun 26 th | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| Fri 31 st | 6.30 | Millennium Service of Thanksgiving |
| Sun 2 nd | 10.30 |  <p>Morning Worship</p> <p>Service of recommitment</p> |
| | 6.30 |  <p>Sacrament of Communion in Church Hall</p> |
| Sun 9 th | 10.00 | <p>Morning worship led by Rt Rev J B Cairns</p> <p>Moderator of the Church of Scotland</p> <p>During which we dedicate our stained glass windows</p> <p>Buffet and presentation of Long Service Certificates afterwards in the school</p> |

CONTRASTING VISITS.

Margaret Smith

On Sunday, 25th August, I attended the modest country church where I had worshipped for over 30 years, was welcomed from the pulpit by Hazel and, after the service, had many enquiries regarding the health of my family. I also had the pleasure of congratulating a couple whose first grandchild had arrived the previous day. At just over 200 years old, this Church must be regarded as fairly new!



Then, on Tuesday, 2nd September, I visited Shrewsbury Abbey, Shropshire, to reach which I had crossed the English and Welsh Bridges over the River Severn, which, on that day, was quite a narrow, peaceful stream, and negotiated very busy streets via pedestrian crossings. This Abbey was founded in 1083 on the site of a Saxon Church and Benedictine Monks were brought to it from France. Immediately, inside the door, there was a Sales Table with Guide Books, Mementoes, £1.00 tickets for would be photographers, and books and literature relating to the late Ellis Peters' fictional Brother Cadfael. A large part of the floor near the knave was formed

by very old tombstones over graves. One which intrigued me was that of widow Elizabeth, daughter of a Lord Chief Justice. She was born in 1627 and lived until 1711, 84 was a great age at that time. Her father would have been most interested in the Union of the Crowns in 1603 and she would have known of the Union of Parliaments in 1707, both events which are still greatly discussed.

On Sunday, 12th September, after morning service in St. Fillan's Church, I joined the group which was visiting Inchcolm island. An open air Service was held beside the main Abbey building after which picnics on the beautifully kept grass and explorations of the buildings and Island were the order of the day. No trouble in September from nesting seabirds. The best preserved monastic remains in Scotland (the Abbey of St. Columba, founded 1123) have numerous, but discreet, notices and plaques explaining the purposes for which the buildings were used. The Historic Scotland building is some distance from the Abbey and not at all intrusive. There is a feeling of peace and tranquillity when on the Island.

A tired but cheerful band (from infants to octogenarians) returned to Aberdour.

1083 to 1999 - contrasting visits - contrasting memories - and yet all linked to the first Christmas.

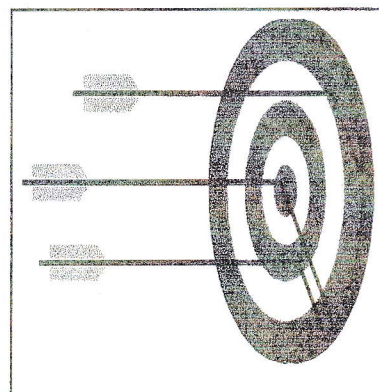
Raising £4000 for the Millennium Target.

The Millennium target is £4000. This is approximately the cost of the new windows that have been installed in St Fillan's and paid for through the legacy fund. The two charities to receive £2000 each are the Kinross Hospice, Rachel House and our missionary partner's school in Pakistan.

Catherine Nicol has received a gift from St Fillan's each Christmas to be used to help in the teaching of the girls in her care. In the past, her letters would indicate the problems experienced, even mentioning the word

"Christian" would have the authorities breathing down their necks. As this was a teaching establishment it was allowed to exist on condition that anything Christian was invisible.

Life has become easier of late. Even her letter heading shows the words St Columba Christian Girls RTC. Catherine's last letter to us told of a fire that destroyed the sleeping quarters and so much of the bedding. The rebuilding cannot be thought of just now due to lack of funding but churches in the area have given practical help to get them on their



feet. This school has given many girls a good start in life including a grounding in the Christian faith and the session felt that to assist them with the millennium gift would be the least we could do.

If more than £4000 is raised, the extra will be donated to local charities. The finance committee have said that "It is hoped to reach the target by April and donations are coming in already. There will be retiring collections for the Appeal after the services at Hogmany and after that on 9th January when the Moderator of the Church of Scotland will be present. We also plan a fund raising coffee morning sometime in April."

Why not hold a fund raising event of your own for the appeal?

The appeal will be open until 31st December 2000. You can donate cash, or by cheque (made out to St Fillan's Church, Aberdour and endorsed "Millennium Promise")

Details of Gift Aid Schemes may be obtained from the Treasurer, Simon Fraser 01383 860361. They are worth considering for donations of more than £100 as they can raise the value by about 23%.

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2000. DONATIONS CAN BE GIVEN TO THE MINISTER, THE TREASURER OR IN AN ENVELOPE TO ANY CHURCH OFFICER.

Christmas

from the poem by John Betjamen

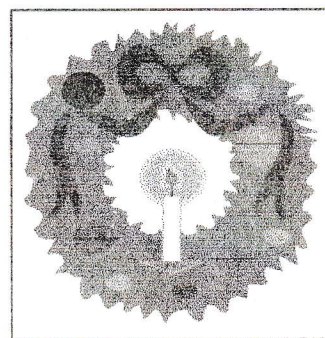
The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The tortoise stove is lit again
And oil-lamp light across the night
Has caught the streaks of Winter rain
In many a stained glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hooker's green.

The holly on the windy hedge
And round 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 girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad,
And Christmas-morning bells say "come!"
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

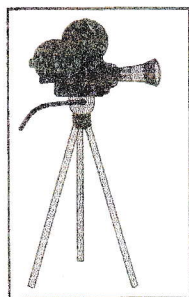
And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying the strings
Around those tissue'd fripperies,



Some Culture and Amusement come January

Might you be looking for something different after the New Year hassle? Here are two dates for your diary. Both designed to regenerate the soul following the New Year! First off is **Swing 2000**, a remarkably talented group of musicians making a return visit to the Dunfermline Arts Guild musical evenings. The venue is the **Carnegie Music Institute Annex**, next to the Carnegie Hall. The date - **16th Jan at 7.30pm**. You are guaranteed an excellent evening of light swing jazz in the Jango Rheinhardt/ Stephen Grapelli style. Other concerts in the Winter series include The Edinburgh Quartet and the Seldis-Pearson Duo. Details from Mary Sutcliff 860516



An evening with Kenneth Hodge is planned for **Monday 17th Jan at 7.30** in the **Church Hall**.

If you ever wondered what to do with a camcorder other than holiday films, come along for an hour and be amazed at what can be achieved with video recorder and computer. A cup of tea may revive you afterwards.

This will be a chance to see the **Brownies** in action in their first movie and see what was done with the photo's taken by the **Amigos**.

How can your computer be used to edit films and pictures? How to edit using only your video recorder, all will be revealed.

A collection will be made for the **St Fillan's Millennium Target Appeal**.

Thank You St Fillan's

In the course of the year letters are recieved conveying thanks for various collections made at St Fillan's and they seem to get lost without anyone being able to read them. This one was handed to the Editor by Simon Fraser.

Dear Simon,

Once again it is a very great pleasure to ask you to convey a big "Thank you" from the families at Home Start, Central Fife to the generous members of St Fillan's Church for the donation of £173-32.

We have decided to use the money to help run our annual Christmas party for families which will be on Saturday 18th December. There will be refreshments for all and a childrens entertainer and Santa bringing a present for each child will have universal appeal. Something for everybody to look forward to.

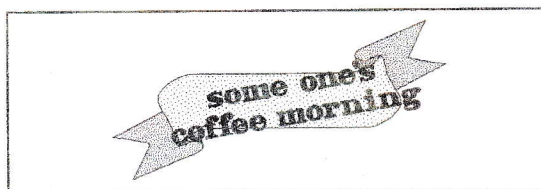
Thank you, yours sincerely

Clare Gibbon (Treasurer Home Start)

HELP, HELP, HELP

Several organisers have asked me, as Hall Convener if we have a Coffee Morning banner which could be draped across the railings to advertise a fund raising event. Sadly, we do not, so perhaps some one can tell me where I could obtain a long banner made from a rain resistant material with words COFFEE MORNING on it - or, better still, perhaps a kind person could donate one. Now don't all rush out and buy one - contact me first so we can agree the dimensions and how we will be able to hang it from the railings. Thanks for your help.

Bruce Drever (Phone 860353)



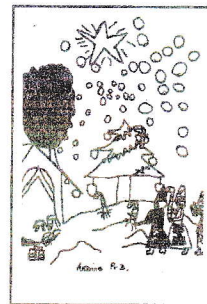
The Social Committee

The Social Committee are making tentative plans for a musical supper in the Spring dependant on the amount of interest shown. In the meantime they would be grateful to know of anyone who is prepared to give of their time and talent to contribute to the entertainment side of the evening. Please contact any of the committee: Lois Hutchison, Hugh Hanlon, David Robertson, Grahame Stevens.

True Story No2

Another roving reporter

A lady was seen to be screaming at her dog whose name should have been Tigger-Too. The reason for the agitation was the rabbit dangling uncerimoniously from the the dogs very pleased looking mouth. With a final "Drop it!" the dog knew instinctively its life was liable to end shortly if it didn't do something with the rabbit so it swallowed it whole. Hey Ho, all in a days dog walk.

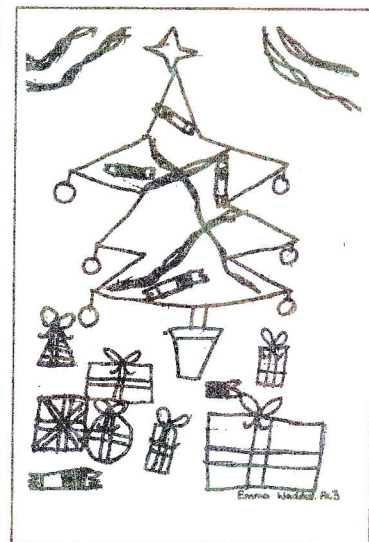


Activity for the Nativity.

Advent bible studies are being held on Sunday evenings in the **Church Hall** from 7-30 to 8-30pm starting 28th November. They will run until 19th December. We will be looking at lessons from the Nativity.

All are very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Susan Farrer 860851 Ronnie Kerr 860848



The editorial team wish to thank the youngsters of primary 3 for the wonderful pictures. We are sorry there was just not the space to print them all.

We also wish every one a very Happy Christmas.

The Lord be with you.