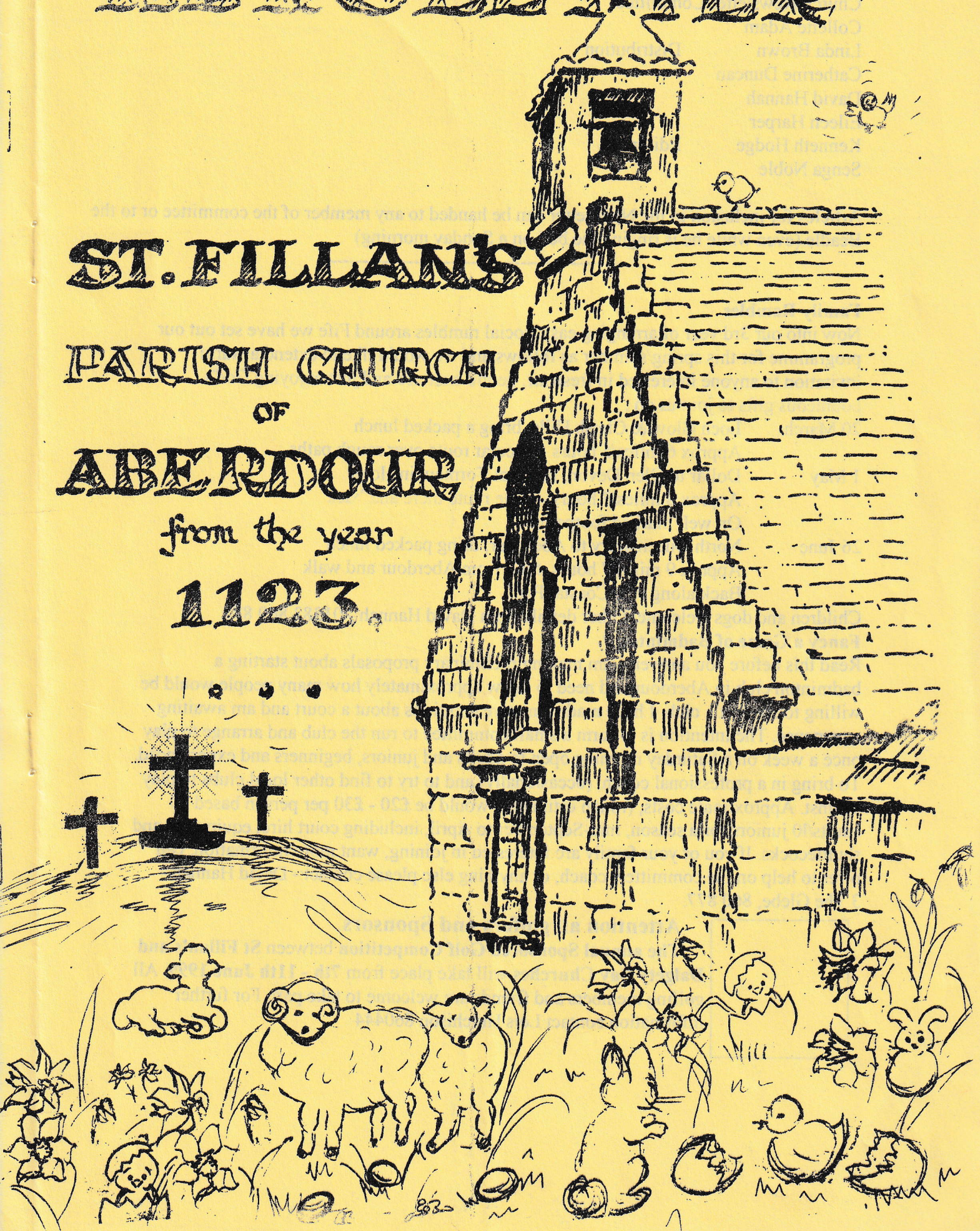


SPRING NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S
PARISH CHURCH
OF
ABERDOUR
from the year
1123.



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)

Family Rambles

Now into our 3rd year of arranging easy, social rambles around Fife we have set out our programme for this spring/summer as follows and we would like to extend a warm invitation to anyone interested in fresh air, gentle exercise and just enjoying God's bounteous gifts to join us on :

- 20 March Loch Glow & Cleish Hills, bring a packed lunch
 Approx 6 miles/5 hours - circular route over rough paths
- 1 May Dollar to Glen Devon, lunch at Tormaukin Hotel
 Approx 8 miles/7 hours - same route there and back
 On well marked footpaths.
- 26 June North Queensferry to Aberdour, bring packed lunch
 Approx 9 miles/7 hours, train from Aberdour and walk
 Back along Fife Coastal Path.

Children and dogs welcome. Other details from David Hannah - 01383 860 877

Fancy a Game of Badminton ?

Read this before you answer. I am making preliminary proposals about starting a badminton club in Aberdour and need to know approximately how many people would be willing to support a club. I have made tentative enquiries about a court and am awaiting a response. The intention is to form a small committee to run the club and arrange to play once a week on a Saturday morning open to adults and juniors, beginners and experienced. To bring in a professional coach, (occasionally) and to try to find other local clubs to play against. Approximate costs, (rough estimates) would be £20 - £30 per person based 20 adults/10 juniors for a season, mid-September to April, including court hire, equipment and shuttlecocks. If you or your family are interested in joining, want more information, can offer to help on the committee, coach, or anything else please contact:- David Hannah - 3 The Glebe, 860 877.



Attention all golfers and Sponsors.

The annual Sponsored Golf Competition between St Fillan's and Dalgety Bay Churches will take place from 7th - 11th June 1999. All golfing members and friends are welcome to take part. For further information contact Lois Hutchison 860444

St Fillans Church, Aberdour

PUBLIC WORSHIP: Sunday at 10.00 a.m. June, July and August.
10.30 a.m. September till May
1st Sunday in the month 6.30 p.m. In Church Hall.

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, 4, Spinaker Way, D/Bay. 822392
Church Officer: Mr K Hodge: Hillcrest, West End. 860537
Hall Convenor: Mr B Drever: 15, Inch Avenue. 860353

March 1999

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Dear friends and members,

What does the parish minister do?

If you posed that question about my ministry I suspect you would evoke a wide and varied range of responses depending on individual perception. Some might say "not a lot! - other than an hour on Sundays;" or "I don't know - but he's never in when I want him". Others might cite specific examples such as "he takes Bible Studies" or "he does weddings and funerals". You might even hear mention of delivering lengthy sermons! or particular pastoral situations in which I have been involved. Differing perspectives of the one ministry.

If the question were put to me I would have difficulty in providing a concise reply because ministers do not have a definitive job description and our duties are very much influenced and directed by the needs of the community. However, a central plank to the concept of parish ministry in the Church of Scotland, is the call of a minister by God to serve the people of God in a specific place at a particular time. This calling to minister to God's people permeates our life and activities at both congregational and parish level. For example, in becoming minister to St Fillan's I was ordained by our local Presbytery and authorised to "minister the Word and Sacraments and bear rule in the flock of God". This charge carries with it a wonderful opportunity and awesome responsibility to nurture and develop those who want to be associated with St Fillan's. To encourage and foster this Christian growth I am involved in leading worship,

Bible studies, prayer groups and such like and if you would like to join with us in these activities you will be made most welcome.

Alongside this congregational activity, and equally important to our calling, is a wider responsibility to the entire parish. This comes about because the Church of Scotland, as the National Church, is charged with "bringing the ordinances of religion" to the people of Scotland. This means that I am available to everyone within the parish and congregation who wants to be associated with the Christian faith and wants to know more about matters of religion such as Church membership, baptisms, marriages, funerals, and such like.

I know that many who read this will be part of another branch of the Christian Church and will have their own Christian minister. Others will have other religious beliefs, or may be atheists, and do not require the services of a Christian minister. . If however you do not have an active church connection elsewhere and want to speak to me about religious matters please feel free to contact me. Unlike the corner shop in Ronnie Barker's TV comedy I can't guarantee being "open all hours" but will certainly make arrangements to see anyone and everyone who wishes to see me.

Peter Park
Parish Minister

You know me but do I know you?

I know nothing about you
But you know all about me.
You know my problems
And their answers.
I do not Love you with all my heart
But you love me so much that I feel your presence all the time.
Sometimes I don't know how to trust you
And yet you trust me to care for your flock.
I have a small faith
And your grace is endless,
Lord Jesus, I thank you that you know me so well
And that you have made yourself known to me.
I thank you because I feel your presence everywhere.
Take me as your humble servant

Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on Sunday 21st March at 10.30 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 7th Mar</u>	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	Evening Service
<u>Sunday 14th Mar</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 21st Mar</u>	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Service of Holy Communion
<u>Sunday 28th Mar</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Thursday 1st Apr</u>	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday
<u>Friday 2nd Apr</u>	7.00pm	Good Friday
<u>Sunday 4th Apr</u>	10.30am	Easter Service Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Service Sacrament of Communion
<u>Sunday 11th Apr</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 18th Apr</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 25th Apr</u>	10.30am	Morning Service

An open invitation is extended to everyone to all Services

PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

- Sept 27 - Jordan Alexander James, son of Gary and Christine Waddell
- Nov 1 - Morven Juliet, daughter of David Seamen and Linda Rae
- Dec 27 - Hannah Eleanor Ann, daughter of Stuart and Fiona Johnson
- Feb 14 - Eilidh Lisa, daughter of Stewart and Joanne Hughes

Marriage

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sept 26 - | Peter Hall to Michelle McShane | Now residing in
Dalgety Bay |
| Nov 26 - | Robert McCulloch to Frances Grieve | Inverkeithing |
| Jan 23 - | John Pentony to Alison Kidd | Edinburgh |
| Feb 20 - | Simon Wills to Fiona McDonald | Lower Largo |

Funeral Services

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Oct 16 - | Margaret Jean Milne | ex Murrell |
| Oct 17 - | Phyllis Gibb | Seaways, St Colme Road, Dalgety Bay |
| Oct 22 - | Thomas Nicol | Main Street |

Nov	5	-	Mary Cameron	Manse Street/Henderson House
Dec	1	-	Mary Fisher	Main Street/Bandrum
Dec	22	-	May Smith	Caerketton, Home Park
Jan	12	-	Mary Thomson	12, Cullalo Crescent
Jan	15	-	Ellen Marrian	Inverkeithing Road
Jan	21	-	Elsbeth McLean	9, Lumsdaine Drive, Dalgety Bay
Jan	22	-	Bessie Fulton	Harbour House/Henderson House

Members Joining

By Transference

Mrs Frances McCulloch	12 Hope Street, Inverkeithing
Ian and Fiona Donaldson	34 Wayfarers Drive, Dalgety Bay
Mrs Isobel Clegg	Pentland View, Aberdour

By Resolution of Kirk Session

Wallace and Beth Cowan	3 Mortimer Court, Dalgety Bay
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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.

Influence of the Church in Burns Time

Jim Fairlie (Ex Ayrshire Church Organist)

When Burns was alive Scotland was a very religious country. Most lowland Scots were Protestants who attended the Church of Scotland regularly. Infact, in some places people were fined if they did not attend all three church services on Sunday. People were also expected to hold religious services in their houses every day.

Pupils in school were taught to read the bible. They were also taught the Catechism, which was a long list of questions and answers about the belief of the Church of Scotland. Every one was expected to know the answers to these questions by heart. Ministers used to visit peoples houses to make sure that everyone knew the Catechism and to explain its meaning.

Ministers were helped in these duties by elders who were religious men elected by church goers to help them. Each elder regularly visited a group of families to discuss the Catechism and the ministers sermon. The elders also kept an eye on people. They made sure they attended church regularly and that they lived religious lives and did not break any of the ten commandments. They were particularly keen to find out why people missed church services and to catch anyone who worked on Sundays.

The church, at that time, was very strict, but there were arguments as to how strict it should be. One group called the "Auld Lights" was much stricter than the "New Lights" and there were terrible arguments between the two groups. The Auld Lights for example, did not approve of dancing and dance music and they wanted people to sing only religious music. Robert Burns was aware of these arguments and although he liked some people who were Auld Lights,

he usually supported the New Lights. He had especial dislike for people who claimed to be very religious but who, in fact, were not as good as they said. Burns maintained that these people were hypocrites, and in doing so got himself into considerable trouble, and more than once had to appear before the minister and session for a rebuke. The session clerk of Mauchline Church, came in for particular attention, with his devastating "Holy Willie's Prayer".

“Yet I am here a chosen sample,
To show thy Grace is great and ample,
I am here a pillar in thy temple,
Strong as a rock,
A guide, a buckler, an example
To a' thy flock.
O Lord, thou kens what zeal I bear,
When drinkers drink, and swearer's swear,
And singin' there and dancin' here,
Wi' reat an' sma',
For I am keepit by thy fear free frae them a'”.

Burns of course had the gift of using words in an amusing way and the ladies were usually very pleased with their poems. On one Sunday as he sat beside a lady while the minister preached a frightening sermon about how God punished wicked people, he took her bible and wrote this verse on it:

Fair maid, you need not take the hint
Nor idle texts pursue:
Twas guilty sinners that he meant,
Not Angels such as you.

It was a time of great "devides" for the mass of the population particularly in Burns country, Ayrshire, and most of the churches had a gallery for the local gentry. I recollect some of the churches I played the organ in, still referred to "The Sundrum Gallery", "The Dalrymple Gallery", "The Ballochmyle Gallery" etc. and are rarely used by the congregations to this day. They even, in some cases, had separate outside staircases in order not to mix with the masses.

Distances from the churches must have been a chore for the congregation with the thought of walking twice or three times a day (and not forgetting the ministers tonsils).

Scotland was changing during Burns lifetime, new ideas about religion and using the English language in every day life became important. His opinion on how it was changing is well reflected in his writings of the events in his time. English translations of the bible were used in most lowland Scottish homes and churches. The most famous one was the King James authorised version, 1611. In Scotland the Scots learned to write English as a foreign language and gradually important Scots began to speak English instead of Scots or Gaelic.

All in all it is generally agreed that Burns took his religion seriously along with the Scottish population at this time and proved it with his "epistle" to a young friend:

But when one life we're tempest-driv'n,
A conscience but a canker,
A correspondence fix'd wi' heav'n
Is sure a noble anchor



Aberdour
Lenten Studies 1999

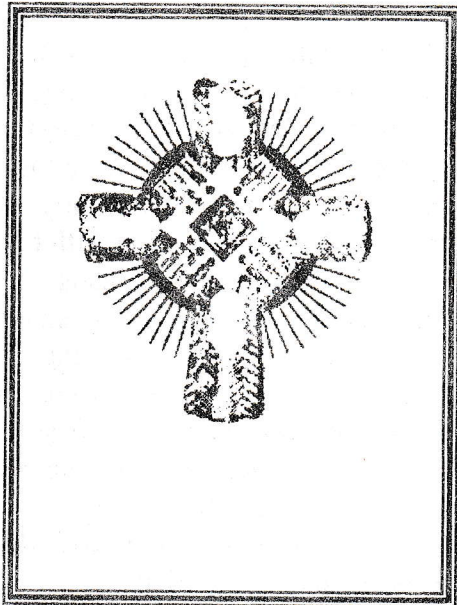
*All are warmly welcome to attend these ecumenical studies
on each of the five Monday evenings during March*

**The five studies are based on the work of Henri J M Nouwen,
from his book, "The Return of the Prodigal Son".**

<i>The venues:</i>	1st March	Glenelg, Inverkeithing Road.	K Fergus, 860804
	8th March	25 upper Glebe.	Isobel/David Sked, 860554
	15th March	1 Bellhouse Road.	Elizabeth Lloyd, 860044
	22nd March	24 Bellhouse Road	Vivienne Hutchison, 860667
	29th March	36 Bellhouse Road.	Mari/Peter Park, 860349

The Times: Each Monday evening from 8.00pm till 9.30pm

Contact numbers: Rev Dr J Cook, 825222., Father Patrick Burke, 01592872207., K Fergus, 860804



World Unites in Prayer

Millions of people will attend services throughout Scotland and the world on March 5th, to mark, "World Day of Prayer". The theme running through the services is "God's tender touch" and for children, "God cares for everyone". These services remind us that the tender touch of God should awaken consciences and Christians are called, through prayers on March 5th, to open their hearts and minds so that the message of the Gospel can be reborn, says Margaret Broster, World Day of Prayer Scottish Secretary.

Christian Aid Forth Bridge Walk. 24th April. Walk times 2.00pm till 6.00pm. Help required:- Sponsors - Walkers - Stewards. Contact Carol Kelly 860165 and Graham Campbell 860593.

Boxing for Barnardo's !?

No, Carleen Simmers, Inch Avenue and Linda Brown, Dovecot Park have never entered the boxing ring to challenge the likes of Muhammed Ali - but they have both over a long number of years, and at different times, been 'champions' in Aberdour for Barnardo's.

For many years there has been a tradition of children at Aberdour Primary choosing to have a cottage shaped collecting box at home in which to save their odd pennies, or even five pence pieces for Barnardo's; and when I first came to Aberdour, Carleen was the Barnardo's lady who supervised the giving out of boxes and the counting and banking each year of the monies collected. Some time after retiring Carleen handed over this task to Linda Brown, who has 'defended the Barnardo's corner' for the past ten years. And now I have 'stepped into the ring' to replace Linda, and would like to take this opportunity of thanking both Carleen and Linda for their hard-working commitment in keeping this tradition going.

I have recently enlisted several new children as collectors for Barnardo's, while some families are continuing this involvement through their second or third child; and there are several adults within the village who also support Barnardo's in this way. If you would like to know more about how Barnardo's nowadays uses the monies collected - or would yourself like to have a Barnardo's box don't hesitate to get in touch.

Margaret Tollick

ALPHA COURSE

The Hype - It all started with a brightly coloured leaflet which dropped through the letterbox, 'Alpha is coming soon'. There wasn't all that much other information, just the name of a local co-ordinator, someone else in the village I didn't know, and who wasn't a recognisable Christian, at least from my own church year book. All a bit suspicious, is this another one of those foreign cult things like The Moonies ?

The Crack of Dawn - One Sunday in church the Minister mentioned that the Alpha Course would be starting soon and would those interested in finding out more details come along to a meeting and decide if they would like to become group leaders and get some more information about Alpha, seems a bit less suspect if the Minister is involved but still not too sure of what it is about and how much of a commitment will be required from me.

Stage Two - Went along to the meeting and prayers for Alpha, seemed to be all right, I knew most of the people there, many of them were from my own church and the rest from other known Christian groups in the village, with one or two strangers. A round of prayers for Alpha and for all of us participating asking for guidance and support, followed by introductions and the course handbooks were handed round for reading and study at home.

Going Well - No trapdoors so far - First night, still a bit nervous but lots of friends around me, known group leaders, our church hall and the Minister leading us through the course, what can possibly be wrong with this? Started off with tea/coffee, delectable treats of home baking and an easy relaxed chat before setting off on our voyage of discovery with a prayer and into the first video presentation by Nicky Gumbel.

Glimmers - What a dynamic personality, such enthusiasm and he was speaking from a packed church and using the Bible to quote examples from. Spilt up into our own smaller groups and discussed our feelings and reactions to the presentation, using our own experiences and

Garden of Remembrance

Aberdour Community Council is pleased to say that Fife Council have agreed to consider providing a Garden of Remembrance within the village cemetery. The proposed setting and layout will provide a very suitable and tranquil setting within the village for those who would like the opportunity to purchase a memorial plaque to commemorate their departed loved ones. The Garden will enhance the existing cemetery and those who prefer to purchase lairs and/or headstones will still be able to do so in the future.

The Council will provide one, or more, planters near the existing white shelter. Each planter will have 48 small memorial plaques (approximate size 9" x 3") each of which will be engraved with an appropriate message chosen by individual subscribers. We still await final details but the estimated cost of plaques will be £150/£200 (depending on amount of engraving), this cost equates favourably with similar Gardens of Remembrance at Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy.

Fife Council has agreed to proceed once we can demonstrate sufficient interest for this Garden and our own Community Council is collating requests from the village. We hope to proceed once we have say 24 requests for plaques and anyone interested in purchasing a plaque should speak with Peter Park, parish minister, or Bunny Gray, CC chairman, in the first instance.

Anyone can purchase a plaque and we ask that everyone makes the availability of this new village amenity as widely known as possible.

"Share prayer"

First Sunday monthly after morning worship - starting 2nd May 1999.

An opportunity for shared prayer for anyone who wants to share their prayers with others, or ask others to pray for them or someone else.

As Christians we know the joy and benefits of the power of prayer and each of us has our own time for personal prayer. In addition to this there are times when people benefit from and enjoy praying with others and share prayer will provide an opportunity for this.

If you would like to take part then join us in church after worship on the first Sunday each month. Nearer the time we will provide a box for written prayer requests.

stalls, cake & candy traidcraft, plants, bric-a-brac
books.
christian
sat 8th may
10.30 - noon
church hall
offoo morning
gifts
enquiries to Dorothy Drever, 860353
donations for stalls will be gratefully received and can be handed in on the morning