

SPRING
NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S
PARISH CHURCH
OF
ABERDOUR

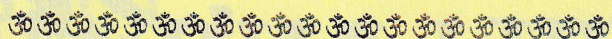
from the year
1123.



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 Kenneth Hodge at Hillcrest, West End. Email: Hillcrest@ukonline.co.uk



Lent Bible Studies Aberdour Churches Together...2000

All are warmly welcome to attend these ecumenical studies.

The five studies by John Stott are based on the Beatitudes.

<i>The venues:</i>	13th March	Glenelg, Inverkeithung Rd, K. Fergus	860804
	20th March	1, Bellhouse Road	E. Lloyd 860044
	27th March	25, Upper Glebe	D&J Sked 860554
	3rd April	3, Bellhouse Road	F&M Tollick 860559
	10th April	36, Bellhouse Road	P&M Park 860349

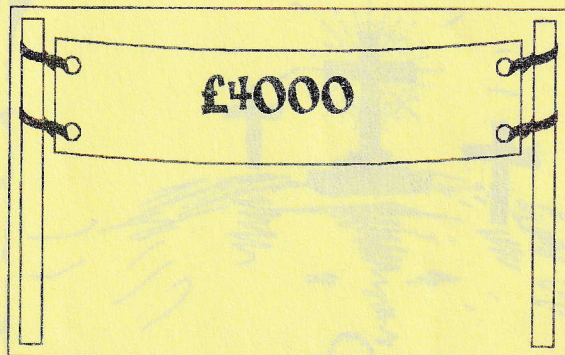
Thank You

We would like to thank the Cedar Inn for a most generous donation of £200 towards the funds of St Fillan's. A special thanks as well to Dalgety Parish who have very kindly made a donation of £250 towards our Millennium Promise Fund.

The Millennium Promise Fund

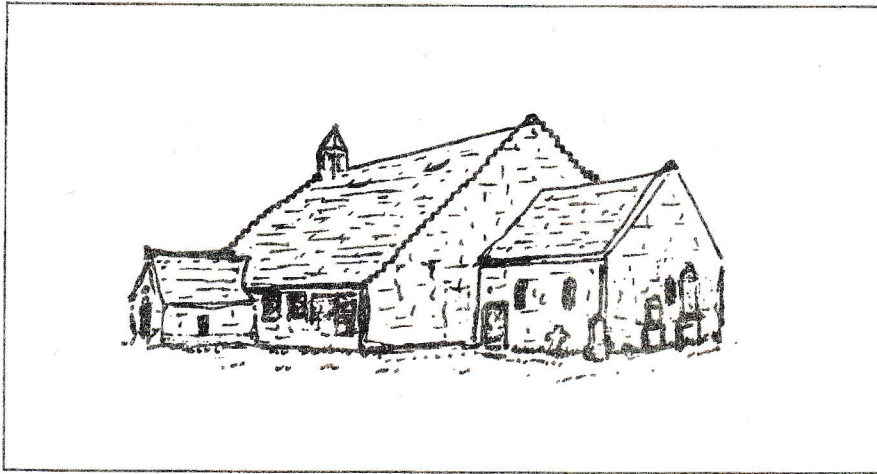
On 7 February the Millennium Promise Fund stood at £690

Donations can be given to Simon Fraser, the Minister or to any Church Office Bearer. Our target is £4000, to be split between our Missionary Partner and the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).



World Day of Prayer

7pm - March 3rd - in St Columba's Church



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

March 2000

No 130

Dear Friends

The current debate about Section 28 (or Clause 2A) has certainly aroused public interest and focused minds on what is best for our children. The decision to repeal, amend or retain current legislation will be made by our MP's but I encourage everyone to pray that, during all the deliberations, the best interests of children and young people are kept to the fore. Whatever else, the response to the debate indicates a wider interest in all matters affecting children and confirms that 'doing the right thing' for children is a matter close to many hearts. Many contributors to the current debate argue for the teaching and upholding of Christian values and this, I suggest, is an appropriate time for Christians to reflect on the wider issues as to how we can encourage and help our children grow up in the Christian faith.

I believe that the most valuable gift Christians can give their children is an introduction to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Children will decide for themselves whether to follow or reject His ways but it is our duty to ensure they are able to make an informed choice. There are many ways in which we lead our children to Christ; including having them baptised and living lives that clearly demonstrate Christian values and practises. At Baptism it is the Church of Scotland tradition to ask parents (Church members or

adherents) to make promises during public worship. Parents confess their personal faith in Christ and promise to teach their children His ways. Christians believe that Baptism is a sign of unity with Christ and through the Sacrament we become part of the Christian Community. The commitments which parents and congregation make however go well beyond the bouncing baby stage as illustrated by the last verse of one of my favourite Baptismal hymns (CH3 549):

*Dependant on Thy bounteous breath,
We seek Thy grace alone
In childhood, manhood, age and death,
To keep us still Thine own*

Setting our children's feet firmly on the bedrock of Christian faith is one thing, building on that foundation during a child's formative years another. Parents continue to have the lead role in this and we see evidence of many different approaches to this subject. To illustrate this I suspect most of us can think of some families where there is little external evidence that parental baptismal vows are implemented. We can also however identify many families where parents lead by example and work hard at giving their children a Christian upbringing. I commend their efforts and pray that with God's help the seeds of faith now sown will blossom into Christian adulthood. However despite best endeavours parents today often struggle to maintain what an older generation would consider a traditional Christian upbringing. For example Sunday morning television, Home Computers, Sunday activities (often parent organised and supported), and peer pressure from friends often combine to provide a range of alternatives to 'traditional Sundays'. As we move into the 21st Century I know how difficult it is to maintain children and young people's interest in organised religion but want to assure you that we in St Fillan's will continue to provide a supporting role as our part of the Baptism promise.

If you feel there is anything further we can do to help you bring your children to Christ will you please speak with Susan Farrar of our Youth committee, any of our Elders, or myself

Yours in Christ
Peter B Park

The Gift of Friendship

Friendship is a priceless gift
that cannot be bought or sold,
But its value is far greater
than a mountain made of gold,
For gold is cold and lifeless,
it can neither see nor hear,
And in the time of trouble,
it is powerless to cheer.
It has no ears to listen,
no heart to understand,
It cannot bring you comfort
or reach out a helping hand.
So when you ask God for a gift,
be thankful if He sends
Not diamonds, pearls or riches
but the love of real, true friends.



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on Sunday 19th Mar. 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 and APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

<u>Sunday 5th Mar</u>	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30pm	Evening Service
<u>Sunday 12th Mar</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 19th Mar</u>	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Service of Holy Communion
<u>Friday 24th Mar</u>	10.00am	Primary School End of Term Service
<u>Sunday 26th Mar</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 2nd Apr</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 9th Apr</u>	10.30am	Morning Service
<u>Sunday 16th Apr</u>	10.30am	Palm Sunday
<u>Thursday 20th Apr</u>	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday
<u>Friday 21st Apr</u>	7.00pm	Good Friday
<u>Sunday 23rd Apr</u>	10.30am	Easter Service
<u>Monday 24th Apr</u>	10.00am	Primary School Easter Service
<u>Sunday 30th Apr</u>	10.30am	Morning Service

An open invitation is extended to everyone to all Services

PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

Dec 26 Juliette Michele Cavaye
 Dec 26 Megan Jayne Kerr

Jesus said "baptise them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Marriage

Nov 6 James Robertson and Angela Johnston
 Nov 13 Andrew Tebb and Karen Leslie

God is Love, and those who live in Love live in God, and God lives in them.

Changes to our membership

Members Joining

We bid welcome to new members

By Certificate of Transfer

Neil and Eleanor Muir 7 Doune Park, Dalgety Bay
and hope they enjoy their time in St Fillan's

Members Leaving

By Certificate of Transference

We bid farewell to

Suzanne Macdonald to England
 Captain and Mrs Turnbull to Rosyth
 Gordon and Lynda Bowden

and wish them well in their new spiritual home

Bereavements

Nov 12	Ernst Ege	Woodside Hotel
Dec 6	Mrs Joan Lines	Leven (mother of Patricia Hannah)
Dec 26	James Nesmith	Main Street
Jan 10	Stephen Jobs	Dovecot Park
Jan 23	Willie Nicol	Main Street
Jan 31	Stan Burrill	Burntisland

Things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining have all been prepared by God for those who love Him. *1 Corinthians 2:9*

If you know of anyone interested in joining the Church please ask them to speak to the minister.

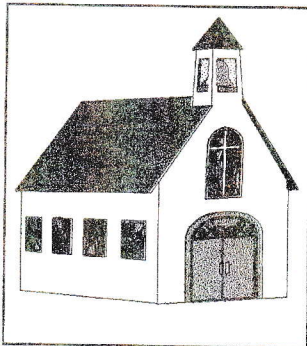
Members of the Church moving into the area and wishing to join St Fillan's should obtain a Certificate of Transference from their previous congregation and hand it in at the Church door at any service.

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.

Visiting churches

Willie Nelson



My visit to a faraway church was indeed quite thought provoking. I was brought up in St Kentigern's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh and found that the physical layout of St Fillan's is almost identical except that a communion table takes the place of an altar.

My late wife and I had a holiday in Elunda, Crete in 1988 and at the end of the main street stood a Greek Orthodox Church. A look inside showed few seats, many sand trays with burning candles, very elaborate furnishings and Icons but there in the middle of the main wall the same wooden carving of the last supper which I had known in St Kentigern's.

I had already been quite ecumenically minded - the tradition in B.B. services at Battalion parades had been C of S and after marriage I decided that although a confirmed Episcopalian, since my wife was C of S I would attend C of S to avoid confusing our children. This visit in Elunda confirmed my belief that there is more uniting Christian sects than divides them and I look forward to ever more increasing co-operation.

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The following letter has been received from the Aberdour Day Care Association:
Dear Mr Fraser,

On behalf of the Day Care Association I should like to thank you for the very generous donation of £250 from the Church which you can be assured will be put to good use and is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely, M.R. Connell (Secretary)

A Visitor Comments

All through the year St Fillan's receives global visitors. Often comments are left in the visitors book to the effect that they find it unusual that the church is left open for anyone to walk in. The following comment was found in the prayer request box on the 15th Jan.

"Not a prayer request, but a thank you for the church being open and welcoming. It was good to be able to have a time of peace and prayer. The sun dappled the window colours onto the pillars and the flowers are beautiful. Such loving care and attention to the church honours our Lord.

Thank you again for being such a caring community of Christ."

An extract from a letter received from Alzheimer Scotland

I am writing on behalf of Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia to thank you for your kind donation of £248.14 towards the work of our organisation from the collection which was held at the Christmas Eve service in St Fillan's Church, Aberdour.

Without this support we would be unable to do as much to meet the needs of people with dementia and their carers throughout Scotland. With an estimate of 61000 people currently with dementia the pressures and expectations on our organisation are growing continuously. This is highlighted by the increase in demands on our information service and telephone calls to our national 24 hour helpline.

Please convey our thanks to everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer J Anderson



St Fillan's Transport Service

The Pastoral Group have a number of volunteer drivers who will respond to requests for transport. The service covers transport to church and for other needs such as where, through disability or other special reasons, members have a day appointment with the hospital, dentist or wish to visit friends in hospital but would find public transport unsuited to their needs. The group can also provide transport for shopping and other requirements.



How do you make contact? There are a number of ways of doing this either

through your Elder or go direct to any one of the following members of the pastoral group:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Norman Macdonald 860585 - | Collette Adam 860515 |
| Bill Cochrane 860786 - | Douglas Crow 860291 |
| Kathleen Fergus 860804 - | Eleanor Morrison 860241 |
| Marnie Rennie 860711 - | Margaret Tollick 860559 |

We look forward to being of assistance to any member in need of transport.

2000 Years of Christianity?

The oft talked about question as to whether we are celebrating 1,999 or 2,000 years of Christianity was raised in the form of a letter to the Editor. The editor is happy to advise that we are celebrating some where between 1999 and 2004 years of Christianity - what's in a

number? I feel every one had fun celebrating the rollover to the 2000's and it is the editor's happy duty to inform those who wish to know that we will be celebrating the real millennium this coming New Year. No doubt the media and retail trade will already have grasped this fact and, dare it be mentioned, the hype starts here. A happy millennium when it comes,



He is here right now

I hesitate to say that I have met my God, but I have met and read about people who claim they have. In all cases it is described as a satisfying, calming and fulfilling experience, and some also have felt a need to "do something about it", and indeed have changed their lives as a result. I am not aware that at any time this perception has led to actions which have caused regret to the person involved (although sometimes no doubt to those who were close to them), and I imagine, in most cases quite the opposite, in spite of the often self-inflicted hardship such post-experience actions have sometimes brought.

One of my sales managers resigned his elevated position in our company to take up charity work somewhere in London. Later I heard that things "had not worked out" and he was selling encyclopaedias door to door, but he had no regrets. On the other hand, some people seem to prosper -in human terms- after they "change" their lives and are apparently far happier in their role than before. It all seems a matter of chance, or is it ?

My own family certainly had no particular interest in religion of any type, and so remote from me were my parents that anyone who called with that sort of message at our door were immediately referred to me! I was allocated a seat at the kitchen table with any such Jehovah's witness or seventh day Adventist "to ask questions". And I did.

One such visitor, just towards the end of the war, was an American soldier from an anti aircraft gun emplacement they had set up on a piece of spare ground next to our house, who did indeed answer the one question I can remember asking; the answer to which puzzled me at the time but which I have never, ever, forgotten. I remember him looking at me in a kindly, earnest way across that little table and saying:

"Where is God? Well I tell you, little buddy, God is everywhere.

He is in the trees, He's in every living thing. He is here right now".

I can't claim my question had been inspired by any suffering or bereavement I had undergone. Indeed, other than shortages of food in that part of England, we had a "reasonable" war. But what a consolation and consideration such a belief would be for those who were convinced!

Later in my life, when first I lived in London alone, I lived in a "mixed" hostel in Hampstead. It was great fun for a young man with some money in his pocket. Plenty of girls, parties, things to do, visits to the pubs. Great! Then came Christmas time; all the shops, pubs, cafes etc. were closed; the staff of the hostel were on holiday. Nothing to eat, nowhere to go, the only places that may have been open were the churches for all I knew and I didn't even think of going to one of those! I was lonely in my room with no food and the prospect of spending the next three days just like that.

A knock at my door turned out to be the caretaker, an Irishman called Mr Blake, who lived in the basement with his wife and young son. He asked me if I would like to share Christmas with his family and he had also invited an old friend of mine who was by that time living elsewhere. That Christmas in 1959 I shared a chicken with them and I remembered the American soldier's words:

"He's here right now". Things generally perked up for me after that.

I suppose it is all a matter of individual perception, but I have come to feel that "God is in every living thing", whoever or whatever one believes He is. Whether He presents Himself as a kindly but poor caretaker of a hostel, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, or in the word or action of an anonymous passer-by, is a matter for each of us to determine for ourselves, and of course, we must have our "eyes open" at the time to "see" Him, and not like me after the event to be left in a state of virtual wonder.

It recently came to my notice that the famous mathematician Einstein's brain was examined after his death in the 1950's. I thought it a rather macabre piece of investigation, but the resultant discovery that his brain was 15% larger than the normal in that part which concerns calculation, made me speculate whether by consideration of God we can develop

some greater capacity to understand Him, and in doing so develop a greater will to try to relate to Him, and perhaps gain in the consciousness of His preference and that "He is right here now".

Bill Cochrane

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Moderators Aberdour Visit

Our church and congregation had a memorable day, Sunday Jan 9th 2000 , when we all so enjoyed the visit of the Moderator, the Right Rev. John Cairns, his wife Dr Liz Cairns and his Senior Chaplain Prof. Bert Kerrigan.

During the service, in addition to preaching, the Moderator dedicated our two new stained glass windows depicting Jesus' birth and His baptism.

Installing these beautiful windows is one part of our millennium celebrations..... the other being our millennium promise, to raise during 2000, the equivalent amount of money to the cost of the windows, to give away to two chosen causes -- The Children's Hospice in Kinross and to the school in Pakistan where fire destroyed the sleeping quarters and where our missionary partner Catherine Nicol is working.

After the service, a thoroughly enjoyable buffet was held for guests and congregation in the school hall. During this time, the Moderator presented Long Service Certificates to members who have served the church in an official capacity for thirty years or more.



Pictured with the Moderator and Rev. P Park are

Back row: Mr R Halliday, Mr R Pearston , Mr O Nicol, all from Dalgety Bay Church.
Second row: Mr G Connell, Mr D Crow, Dr G Brown, Mr W Allan, Mr A Stirling.

Third row: Miss J Bald, Mrs C Duncan, Mr J Anderson, Mr W Nelson, Mr W Mc Rae,
Mrs L Hutchison Seated: Miss C Simmers.

Unable to be present: Mr W Armit, Mrs U Hodge, Mr W Miller.

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The Church of Scotland Fife Home Support Service

The Church Home Support Service aims to help people live comfortably and safely at home. The service has only recently been introduced to Fife and operates from a Church Day Care Centre in Auchtermuchty. It operates through a number of local Home Support workers whose skills are matched to the needs of those who want to use the service. All Home Support workers are required to have a Christian commitment and active church connection. The service is one of a number of services offered through the Church Board of Social Responsibility which is the largest care provider in the voluntary community.

Home Support provides an extensive range of services which includes personal care, housework, transport, meals, shopping, companionship, care of pets - in fact almost any help can be provided with the exception of specialised nursing care. The Service is designed to meet individual needs and costs £7.50 per hour with no extra charge for unsocial hours, weekend working or public holidays. Advice is available as to whether users of the service qualify for state benefits to assist with care.

If you are interested in finding out more about this service please telephone them on 01337 827242 and ask for Mrs Jane Penman or Mrs Nan Winton who will arrange to visit you in your own home to discuss your specific needs. Alternatively you may prefer to speak with the minister who can provide more information about what is on offer.

At present Helpers are being recruited and more information about this is on the opposite page. If you are interested in finding out more about being a paid helper please phone the unit or speak with the minister.

A series of articles will be appearing in the Newsletter relating to the varied aspects of the Parish in which we live. The first of these highlights an area just to the north of Aberdour more often visited by cars, that can't stay on the road, than by people.

Cullaloe Wildlife Reserve

It will soon be 6 years since the reserve was established and it is surprising how few people in Aberdour have been there.

Many villagers will remember the old reservoir. Its dam was built in the late 19th century and the reservoir, with its small north bay and larger south bay, was used for more than 100 years. In 1986 it was no longer needed and the south bay was drained and in 1990 part of the dam was removed.

The north bay had become a site of special scientific interest, however, so it could not be drained. The water level was lowered so that it did not have to be looked after as a reservoir.

Now it is leased by the Fife Council to the Scottish Wildlife Trust under a joint management agreement and one of the objectives is to encourage visits for education and recreation, particularly by children.

No buffalo or elephants to be seen of course, but if you sit quietly in the hide overlooking the loch you may see the uproar among the water birds as a fox patters along the shore, or a pair of buzzards circling overhead.

Most creatures are keeping their heads down in Winter, but in the Summer it can be a real pleasure to be among the rich variety of life especially by the loch or the reed pond at the

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

FIFE HOME SUPPORT SERVICE

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



The Church of Scotland are setting up a new care service in the community, offering

support at home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Are you available for slots of one or two hours at a time?

This could supplement your existing part-time work or start you on a new career.

- Do you have a caring nature?
- Let us match your talents and availability to meet the needs of others.
- Full training will be given.

Applicants must have a true sense of Christian commitment and be involved in any branch of the Christian Church.

- Could you be part of this enthusiastic new network of care?

If the answer is yes - please contact

Mrs Jane Penman : Mrs Nan Winton

Kinloch Day & Support Services

10A, Newburgh Road,

Auchtermuchty.

Fife.

KY147BS

Tel: 01337-827242 Fax: 01337-828515

Cullaloe Wildlife Reserve - continued

far end or down by the lower pools. Dipping a transparent plastic container in the pools and looking through a magnifying glass at the "minibeasts" can widen the eyes of adults just as much as those of little children.

People and animal life we are familiar with are only a tiny part of our existence. The vast majority - the really important stuff that keeps us alive - is too small for us to really grasp, but if you go to Cullaloe you can get little glimpses of the enormously, complex unknown world on top of which we ignorantly and arrogantly sit.

Try it on a nice day, and if you are lucky enough to know one, take a specialist in botany or minibeasts, but go anyway.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning



Sat 6th May
Church Hall
10.30 - Midday
Enquiries to
Elizabeth Lloyd on
860044

The 'What To Do With A Camcorder' Show is on hold till the Church Hall roof is repaired. Watch this screen.



Help Needed

The Guide Guider is moving from the area and therefore the guides need new guiders.

If anyone is interested in taking on this very worthwhile task please contact the District Commissioner. Training will be given.

Contact Rosemary Brewster, Tel. Dalgety Bay 824562.

Sponsored Golf Tournament

The annual battle between Aberdour and Dalgety will take place during the first week in June beginning Monday 5th. Weapons are restricted to clubs and proceeds go to Christian aid and The Macmillan Cancer Relief (Fife) Fund. Contact Lois Hutchison for details how to make this a 5th win for Aberdour.

