

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

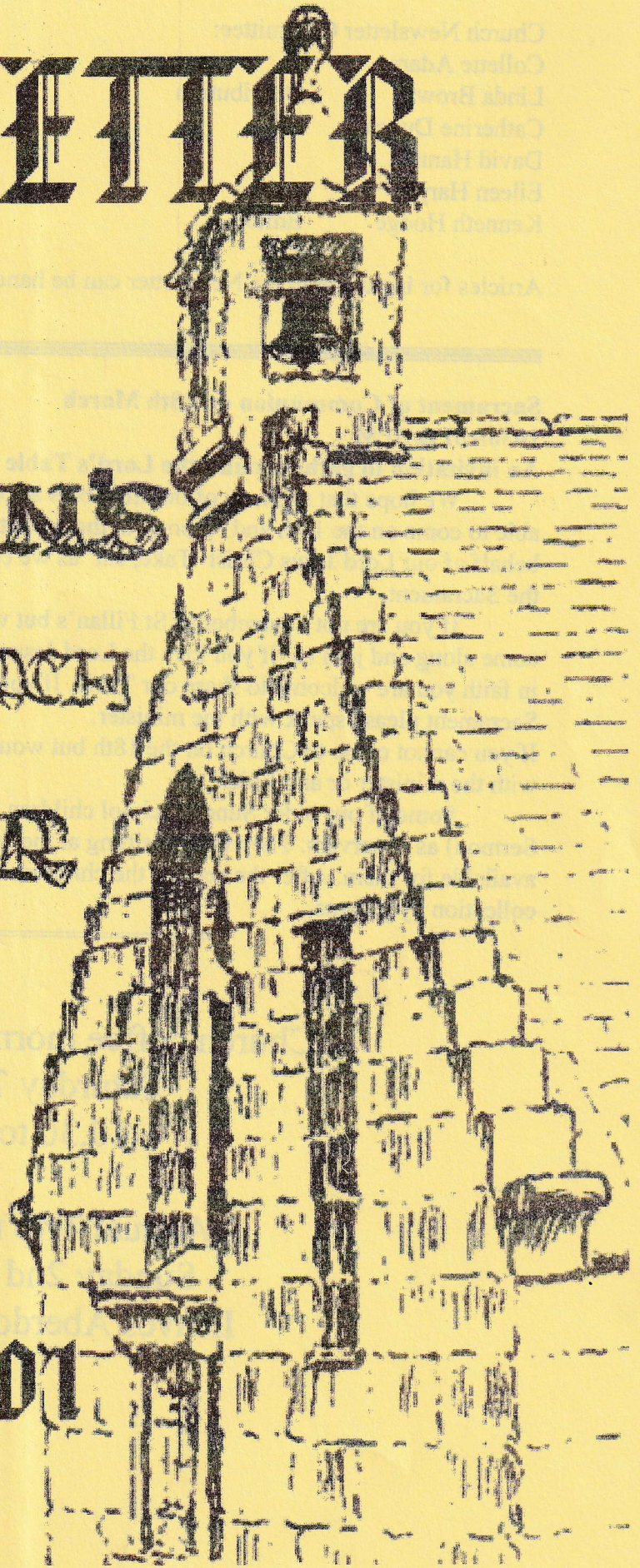
ABERDOUR

from the year

1123.

• • •

MARCH 2001



Church Newsletter Committee:

Collette Adam

Linda Brown Distribution

Catherine Duncan

David Hannah

Eileen Harper

Kenneth Hodge Editor

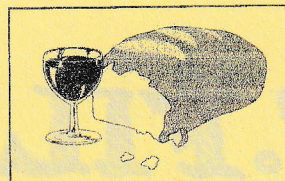
Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter can be handed to any member of the committee.

Sacrament of Communion on 18th March

1030AM & 3PM

An invitation to gather round the Lord's Table

We hope that as many of our members as possible will be able to come on the 18th and respond to the invitation given on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ 'Take, eat' as we celebrate the Sacrament.



If you are not a member of St Fillan's but would like to receive the Sacrament please come along and join us. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ and feel able to receive the Sacrament in faith you are welcome to share our Table. If you would like any more information about the Sacrament please speak with the minister.

If you cannot come to Church on the 18th but would like Communion in your home please speak with the minister or any Elder.

Some of our older Sunday school children will come into the morning service (after the Sermon) as observers. They will be sitting at the front of the church and we will keep seats available for them. After the service the children will be taken over to the primary school for collection by parents.

Church coffee morning and book sale

Saturday 7th April

10.30 to 12.00

Annual Trip to Inchcolm

Sunday 2nd September

Leaves Aberdour pier 12.45

Dear friends,

As you may know there is considerable ongoing discussion and speculation about the future of the Church of Scotland — we even made front- page news on Sunday 18th February in at least one national newspaper. The debate focuses on how we as a national Church should meet the spiritual needs of the Scottish people as we embark into the third millennium. Like many of you I await the outcome with interest but recognise that it may be some time before

the way ahead for the national Church is made clear.

For the time being however it is business as usual for St Fillan's. We are the parish church and as such have a spiritual responsibility for our members, and indeed anyone in the parish who calls on us for help.

I think it essential that we remind ourselves at regular intervals what we are about.

Our statement of purpose is as follows:

Our church has an important place in the life of the community. We exist, as a Church of Scotland congregation to reflect the love of God to all people, to be a place where any and all may experience God's presence, and to be a fellowship, which seeks to nourish and sustain its faith through worship, friendship, care and education.

In response to the Love of God, we seek to serve the community in every aspect of its life and to promote the Christian values of concern for others, forgiveness, reconciliation, truth and integrity, whilst acknowledging that we ourselves do not always live up to these values.

Our statement of purpose is all encompassing; it concerns people who do the Lord's work and people whose needs are served in the name of Christ (and sometimes you might find yourself with a foot in both camps). Our statement addresses those already working hard for the Lord and others who might want to form a closer relationship with the Church so let me say something to each group.

If you are already one of our members or friends who actively witnesses for Christ and are carrying the flame of Christianity around our community I pray the Lord continues to strengthen you in your Christian work. If you feel that there are some areas of community life where we as a Church should be more active I would be pleased to hear from you. If you do not have a Church connection and would like to know more about how you can serve the Lord in our community please let me know.

Peter Park
Parish Minister

Working in Me Mightly - St Paul

There is a fable about a man who bought a mill. It was soon evident that he would not make a living, could not keep up with the farmers' needs, and was ruining his health from the strain. His doctor visited him one day and discovered that the man was turning the large mill wheel by hand. All the power of the water was available, but the man had never made use of it. Do we worry ourselves sick doing things in our own power when the resources of God could be "working in me mightly"?



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will be celebrated on Sunday 18th 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 & APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th	Mar	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 11th	Mar	10.30am	Morning Service
Sunday 18th	Mar	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion
		3.00pm	Service of Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	Mar	10.30am	Morning Service
Sunday 1st	Apr	10.30am	Morning Service
Sunday 8th	Apr	10.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Service
Thursday 12th	Apr	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 13th	Apr	7.30pm	Good Friday Service
Sunday 15th	Apr	10.30am	Easter Day Service
Sunday 22nd	Apr	10.30am	Morning Service
Sunday 29th	Apr	10.30am	Morning Service

An open invitation is extended to everyone to all Services

Maundy Thursday evening service

Some 2000 years ago, on the night before he was crucified. Our Lord Jesus Christ sat around the table with his disciples. On that night he broke bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "take, eat, this is my body broken for you". In doing so our Lord established the Sacrament of Communion, which the church has celebrated ever since.

On Maundy Thursday we remember that meal and share Communion sitting round the Lord's Table. Please accept the invitation to come and share in the Bread and Wine.

PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

Oct 1 Sharon Black
Oct 14 Iona St Joseph Rennie
Feb 17 Jacques Colin Talbot-Heigh

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

Marriages

Oct 14 Steven Allenby and Monica Burke
God is Love, and those who live in Love live in God, and God lives in them.

Changes to our membership

Members joining

By Resolution of the Session

Ian Bald 7 Murrell Road

Members leaving

Bereavements

Sept 22	Miss Mary Short, Morayvale
Nov 17	Mrs Isa Bald, late of Home Park
Dec 24	Mr Ian Miller, Dovecot Park
Dec 31	Mrs Barbara Bargeton, Murrell Road
Jan 16	Mr George Thomson, Humbie Terrace
Jan 29	Mr Frank Lines, Leven
Feb 8	Mr Harry Homes, Crossgates
Feb 17	(Baby) Jacques Talbot-Heigh, Beechwood Cottage, Cullalo

Things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining have all been prepared by God for those who Love him.
Corinthians 2:9

Removal by Certificate

Mike Cook To St Leonard's

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.

////////////////////////////////////

The editor apologises for the fact that half the following article vanished into cyberspace and was not printed in the last copy of the Newsletter. It is hereby printed in full.

A visit to the Church of Scotland in Tarbert, Harris.

Eric Williamson

All hats and starched collars

Having enjoyed holidays to the beautiful isle of Harris in the Western Isles for a number of years, Barbara and I decided during our visit this past summer that it was high time we worshipped at a local Church. We had always been a little concerned that without the Gaelic our participation in a service would be distinctly limited. It was also a cause for apprehension that we were completely unaccustomed to the traditions of the Free Church, The Reformed Free Church or indeed any of the now numerous forms of Free Presbyterianism represented on the Island.

"Never fear" said Catherine, the owner of our delightful holiday cottage, "come along to the Church of Scotland in Tarbert". She was able to assure me that the service would be conducted in English and that we would of course be most welcome. This year we were joined on holiday by Barbara's Brother, his wife and family and



so another potential problem - what to do with the boys - was solved. It was explained that the usual Minister was on holiday and that worship would be led by a visiting preacher from Northern Ireland.

The full significance of Catherine's comment that "he's a wee bit like that Ian Paisley" escaped me during our conversation. It was to become all too apparent the following morning.

Leaving our pair, their Uncle and Cousins to an idyllic morning of glorious sunshine and innumerable sand castles, Barbara and I together with Sister-in-law Julie set off for the 11 am service at Tarbert, the "capital" of Harris. On arrival it was immediately obvious that we were all somewhat underdressed for the occasion by comparison with the large throng of worshippers heading for the church. We'd neither a stiff collar nor hat amongst us! What were we to do?

Well the perfect and blindingly clear excuse was of course that we were tourists and so we were presumably forgiven this minor indiscretion. They let us in. By the time we took our seats the church was pleasingly full. The congregation spanned the generations with a fair sprinkling of children. Regulation dress for men was of course a dark suit while for the majority of ladies hats were the norm.

The atmosphere was hushed. Greetings were by a nod of the head, a whisper for the bold. I was certain that the organist would at any moment provide me with the cover I needed to ask the keeper of the pan drops for supplies. But try as I might I couldn't see Jim's counterpart. "He's got it easy here" I thought, surmising that pre service music was not the tradition. I had been aware of course that tuning forks were preferred in some quarters to pipe organs but surely this was the 21st century and this was after all the Church of Scotland!

The preacher duly entered. He was youngish and didn't look at all like Mr Paisley. Appearances are often misleading however. In the early stages of the service the chap didn't even sound like Mr Paisley. He just didn't fit the pattern. The opening praise was to be a Psalm. Presumably in the interests of brevity we would not sing all seventeen verses, merely the first eleven. (A point of interest for those who are attentive to hymn tunes is that the tune to the Psalm was The Bays of Harris, one of our Jim's favourites). The singing, which was really very good, was, as you may by now have guessed led by a Precentor. No organ. No keyboard of any sort. Not even a tuning fork.

The sermon was on the theme of redemption and it was here that our preacher hit full throttle. I began to be terribly worried that the pulpit towering high over us would suffer structural distress, such was the punishment that it was taking. I learnt afterwards that the chap was a Faith Mission evangelist. Well his sermon, of a little short of 50 increasingly uncomfortable minutes, had much to do with the fires of hell, lemmings and precipices (I'm sure that the lemmings bit had some deep meaning at the time) but sadly very little, if anything, to suggest that we were gathered to worship and celebrate a loving, caring and forgiving God.

You'll remember that I said there were children there. Those in our vicinity were impeccably behaved. Just along from us sat a little boy, perhaps six years old. Just as the preacher was winding himself up for his closing tirade, the quiet soul glanced up to his kindly looking father and asked, "when will this be finished Dad?" The ice was broken. Adults smiled and fidgeted and maybe remembered their own childhood's.

It was a relief to step into the warm July sunshine, to drive back to the children and to return to what we laughingly call normality. Our visit to the Church of Scotland in Tarbert did however remind me that our Kirk is broad enough to encompass wide variety in worship. What works for some may not for others. The ways of those who favour an intensely traditional form of worship are every bit as valid as those of a more modern approach.

On balance we decided not to stay for afternoon tea.

Come to the Ecumenical Bible Studies for Lent 2001

Each year at this time we join with local folk of different denominations for Bible Study and fellowship. All are warmly welcome to attend this series of five studies, based this year on the material by ACTS . . . the Action of Churches Together in Scotland... called "Breaking New Ground" Dates and venues:

March 5th	Glenelg, Inverkeithing Rd	K Fergus. 860804
March 12th..	11, High Street	R&J Kerr 860848
March 19th..	1, Bellhouse Road	A&E Lloyd 860044
March 26th..	10, Home Park	A&E Harper 860151
April 2nd	Banks Farm	N&T Niven 860355

Times: Each Monday from 8 -9.30pm.

After The Winter God Sends The Spring.

by Helen Steiner Rice.

Spring is God's way of speaking to men,
Saying, through Me you will live again
For death is a season that man must pass through
And, just like the flowers, God awakens him, too.

Easter is a season Of Hope and Joy and Cheer,
There's beauty all around us To see and touch and hear...
So, no matter how downhearted and discouraged we may be,
New Hope is born when we behold Leaves budding on a tree...

Or when we see a timid flower Push through the frozen sod
And open wide in glad surprise Its petaled eyes to God...
For this is just God saying - "Lift up your eyes to Me,
And the bleakness of your sprint, Like the budding springtime tree,
Will lose its wintry darkness And your heavy heart will sing" -

For God never sends The Winter Without the Joy of Spring.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

In September 2000, the five main Boards of the Church of Scotland ran a joint Enquirers' Conference in Glasgow. It was a hugely successful event, with more than 100 people attending. The aim was to allow a wide range of people to begin exploring what it means to be 'called' to service in the Church of Scotland. Some folks came simply to see what is on offer in the broad range of activities which the Church sponsors. Others had a specific 'calling' in mind, for example training as a Reader, or as an ordained Minister. Yet others wanted to talk further about what kind of training they would need, for example, to work with the Board of Social Responsibility in one of their projects, or to go abroad to serve with World Mission.

So many people expressed interest that more than 30 had to be placed on a waiting list. We are glad to say that the next Enquirers' Conference has just been announced. It will take

place at the Kelvin Conference Centre, Glasgow, from 23-24 March 2001. Around 75 places will be available, so do book early to avoid disappointment.

Further details can be obtained from the Church of Scotland offices, so why not call Liz Chalmers or Martin Scott on 0131 225 5722, or e-mail them (lchalmers@cofscotland.org.uk; mscott@cofscotland.org.uk)? They will be glad to send you more information and to help you decide if this event is the way forward for you.

From the man who should be at the Kist o' Whustles!

Jim Fairlie

Fortunate or unfortunate the good people of St Fillan's Church were spared this year (how inconsiderate of my illness) my usual input of some Burn's music at one of the morning services.

Some of the Scottish melodies saved for posterity are well suited to hymn singing metres, although the original words are still recalled, and of course at this year's remembrance of the holocaust his text "mans inhumanity to man" keeps being repeated over and over. I also think the words on the cairn on the opposite side of the forth goes some way to express the mans sentiments.

"That I for poor auld Scotland's sake, some usefu' plan or book could make or sing a sang at least."

Letters of thanks for donations from St Fillan's have been received from; Home Start Central Fife, Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, Age concern, Scottish Bible Society and Rachel House, Kinross.

~~~~~  
If St Fillan's had a web site what would you expect to see on it?  
Responses to the Editor Please  
~~~~~

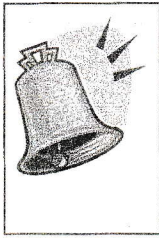
Comment from the Editor

I have heard so often the excuse that church is boring and therefor people do not come.

"Church" is made up from two elements - buildings and people. The building we have is a unique one as can be verified by the number of positive comments in the visitors book and would appear to be far from boring. The people who attend St Fillan's are a fascinating and most interesting group of people in their own right. So what is it that is boring about church? The hymns? Every time some one says that certain hymns will be dropped from the book there is a cry of "No way!" The prayers? They are fundamental to the Christian belief and variable. The sermon? You disagree with what is said? Good, talk about it, that's what it is for. You agree with what is said? Good, then you know your faith is charged. Perhaps some weeks one does wrestle with a computer problem or work out the weeks menu or relive the round of golf, so what? We are only human, but why church should be boring beats me. Church is a place to come for a little bit of quiet normality. A refuge from the outside world where the soul can have a shot at living too. Outside the church building, the strike rate from outside influences is so high we have little time for the inner person. Church is only what you make it but in this highly pressurised life you need the calming influence of Christ to get by. I know this from experience as do countless thousands of others and one thing Christ's influence is not and that is "boring".

The Aberdour Handbell Group

This happy go lucky group of apparently panic struck people continue to enjoy the effort of making music and actually ringing the last note in unison.



The Winter season has been a good one with "gigs" at Henderson House, the Queen Margaret hospital, the Victoria Hospice, Grayforth, not forgetting St Fillan's and our own home based organisations. The Friendship Club, for whom we did a Christmas concert, handed over a donation in memory of Chris Whyte who was one of our group. Still invitations come in. In the pipe line, a concert in Cowdenbeath and Rachel House, Kinross. Recently we held our first "come and see what it's all about" afternoon and were surprised at the number of intrigued people who turned up.

Because we are such a friendly group, we invite anyone wishing to satisfy their curiosity, to come to the Manse on Thursdays' between 3 and 5pm. Whether it is to look, listen or ring you would be made most welcome with a cup of tea as a bonus.

To meet people from overseas, stay at home

There are many thousands of international students at universities and colleges in the UK, who come here hoping to get to know British people, and to explore the local culture and customs. Unfortunately, the majority find it almost impossible to make contact with the real life of the country, away from the campus and the cosmopolitan cities.

Addressing this situation is a voluntary scheme known as HOST, which has been operating for 13 years with the backing of the British Council and the Foreign Office. HOST arranges for students to have a short visit, usually at a weekend, or at Christmas, to a welcoming private home.

Conversation, meals, outings and meetings with other members of the family or local community, are the main features of most visits. The openness and friendliness of their hosts are impressions which remain in the memory. A visit can radically alter students' preconceptions of Britain, and help them feel more at home while they are here.

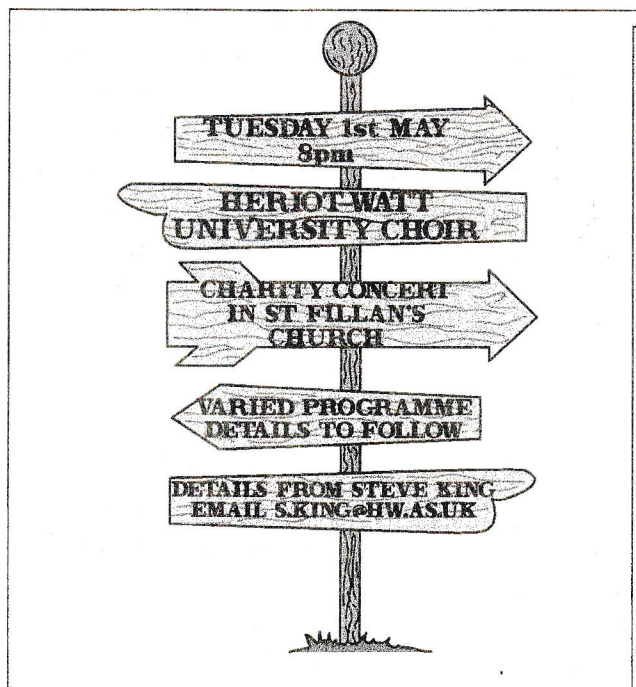
For the hosts, the rewards are the pleasure of meeting lively and intelligent young people and well-informed mature students, from parts of the world which they may already know, or may never have the chance of knowing in any other way. *'Hosting students, as well as being great fun, has widened our horizons, 'wrote one host, 'and we hope, enabled us to make a small contribution to international understanding.'*

Most hosts offer just one or two invitations a year, and new hosts are always needed. If you would like to know more, please call the Voluntary Regional Organiser, Bron Davies, on 01464 821200, or e-mail Bron@phi-ltd.demon.co.uk
HOST can also be visited at: www.hostuk.org

Sunday School Report

One of the reports presented at the recent St Fillan's AGM was that of the Sunday School by Christine Redhead. She called it "The Church of the Present and the Future". She said "We strive to underline the relevance of the Christian way of life in the new millennium. Our priority is to nurture and encourage the children to grow so that in their teenage and adult life - on their own volition - they desire to become part of the church". Christine continued the report by giving details of the past programme that had kept the children busy. The JAM Club had been very successful last year and would run again this June. Last year it had been instrumental in not only bringing new youngsters to Sunday school but parents to church.

Other reports were delivered by John Anderson - Property, Ewart McSkimming - Finance, Lois Hutchison - Social, Bill Chalmers - SCIFU (possible merging of Scottish Episcopal, Methodists, United Reformed and CofS), Susan Farrar - Youth and Education.



St Fillan's Lunches

Would you like lunch for only £1.50?
If so come along to the Church Hall
First Thursday of each month 12 - 1.30 PM

An open invitation to all
Young and older, villagers and tourists
(we will even heat your baby's bottle!)

Come and meet old friends, catch up on the local news,
and enjoy our home made soup, filled rolls and tea/ coffee

Christian Aid Golf

The Sponsored Golf Competition for Christian Aid comes of age this year.

It was in 1980 that the golfers of Dalgety Church invited those of St Fillan's to join them in the event they had been running since 1974.

To increase interest in the event a St Fillan's member donated a trophy for annual competition between the churches.

With the consent of the Rev. David W Rutherford, who had been minister of the joint charge of St Fillan's Parish Church and Dalgety Parish church from 1949-1965, the David Rutherford trophy came into play and has been regularly contested each year. Over the years honours have been fairly equally divided with Dalgety holding a slight advantage.

More importantly there has been a lot of fun and fellowship enjoyed, without losing sight of the main aim of the event and not only Christian Aid but a few other charities have benefited over the years.

This year the competition takes place between 4th and 8th June over Aberdour golf course. Entry is not confined to church members of Aberdour Golf Club members. If you are interested please contact Lois Hutchison - 860444.

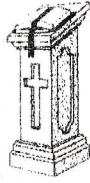


Odd? Adult - A person that has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

Committee - A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Dust - Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Gossip - Person who will never tell a lie if the truth will do more damage.



Sunday Morning Scripture Readings

The following are the lectionary passages for the next few weeks.
If you would like an exposition of the theological or historical issues
pertaining to any of the passages please speak me and I will try to help.

On Sundays where no readings are shown passages appropriate to the
special occasion will be used.

Mar 4	Guides thinking Day	Apr 22	Acts 5: 27-32 Revelation 1: 4 – 8 John 20: 19-31
Mar 11	Genesis 15: 1- 18 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Luke 13: 31-35	Apr 29	Acts 9: 1-20 Revelation 5: 11-14 John 21: 1-14
Mar 18	Isaiah 55: 1-9 1 Cor 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9	May 6	Acts 9: 36-43 Revelation 7: 9-17 John 10: 22-30
Mar 25	Songs of Praise	May 13	Acts 11: 1-18 Revelation 21: 1-6 John 13: 31-35
Apr 1	Isaiah 43: 16-21 Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8	May 20	Acts 16: 6-15 Revelation 21:10, 22 :5 John 14: 23-29
Apr 8	Passion Sunday	May 27	Acts 1: 1-11 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Luke 24: 44-53
Apr 15	Easter Day		

**Please let me know if you would like to come on to the
Scripture reading rota**

Peter Park – parish minister.



All children nursery to P7 welcome. Details to follow