

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

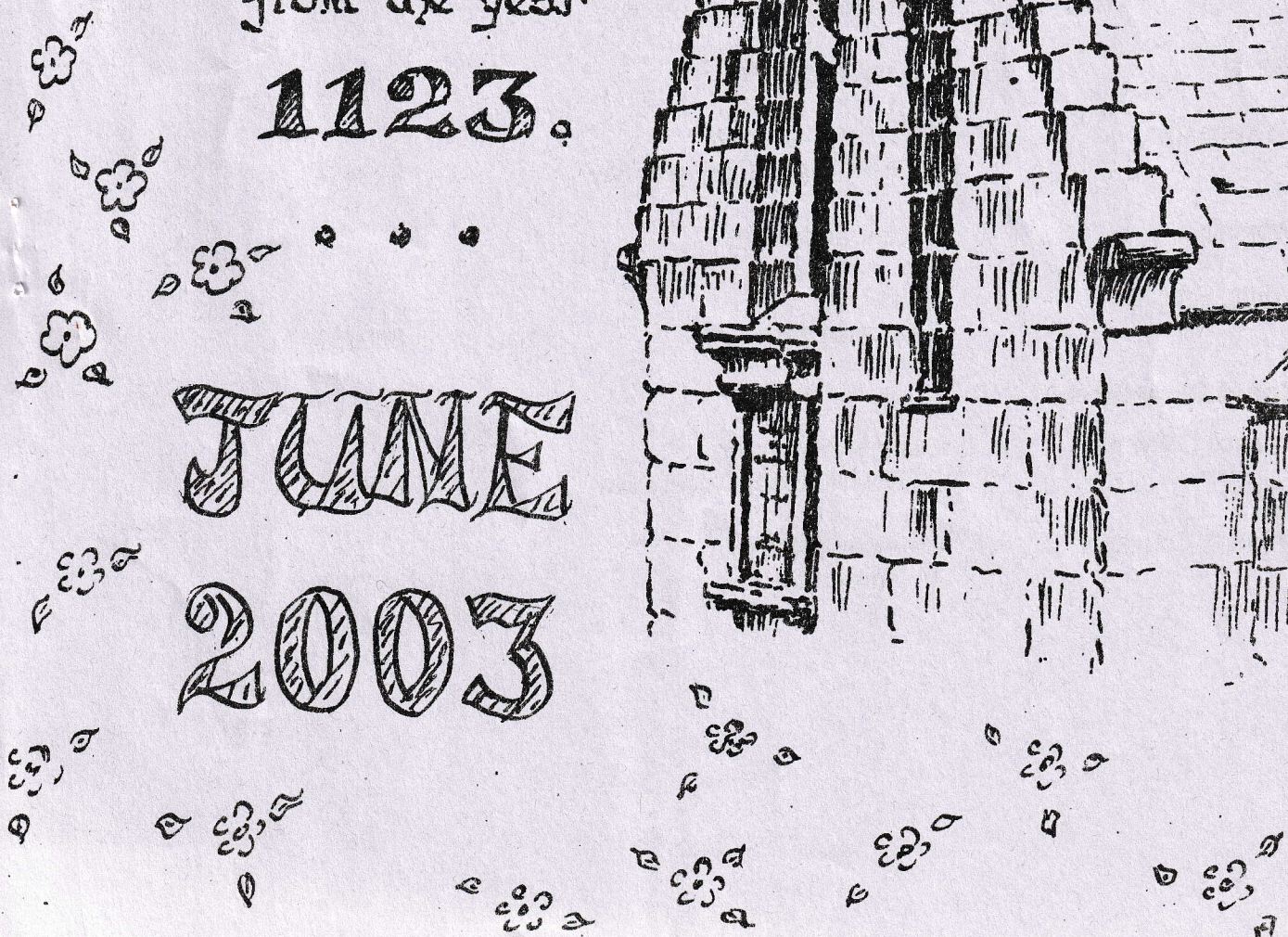
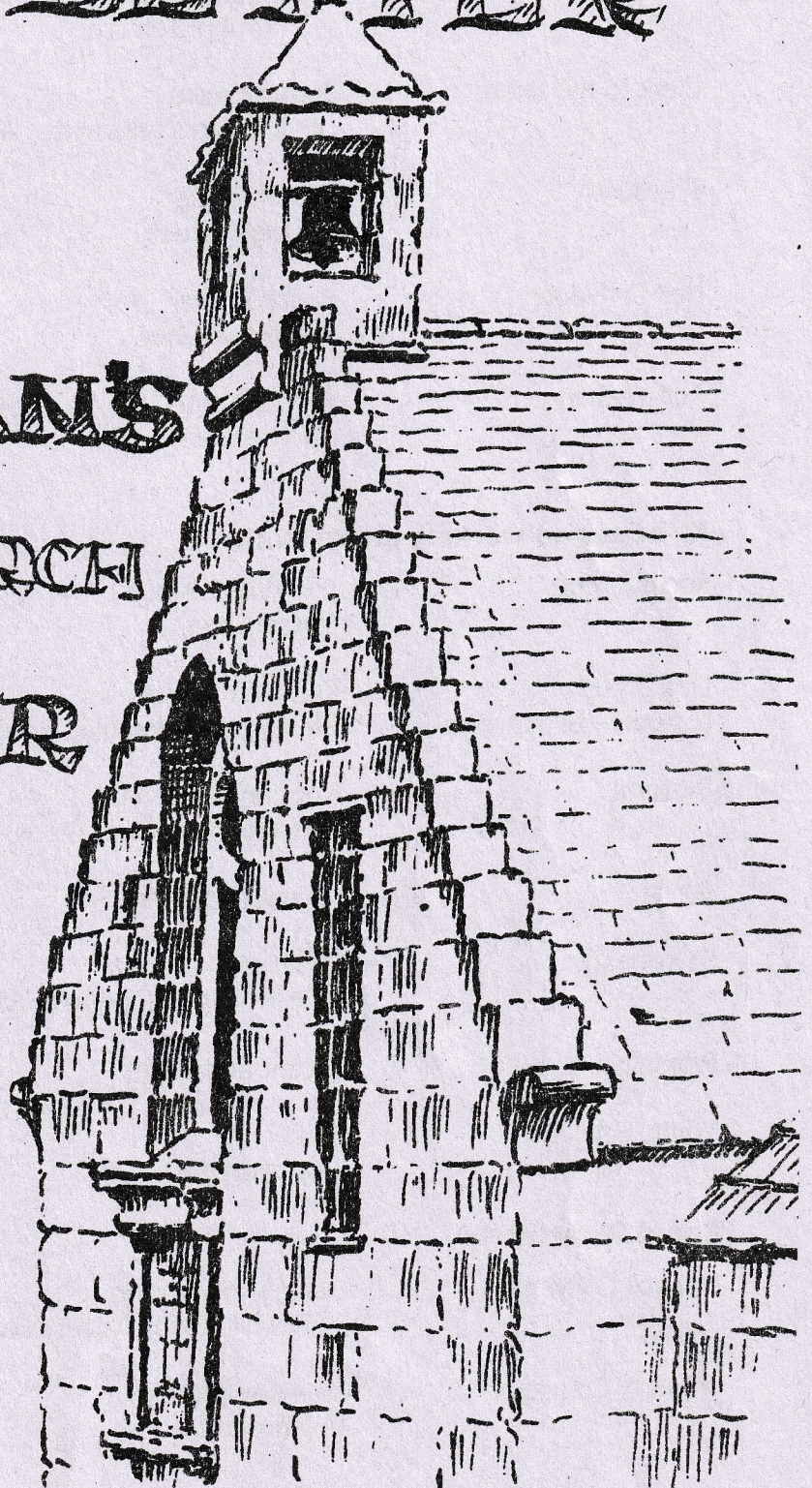
ABERDOUR

from the year

1123.

JUNE

2003



SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Interim Moderator	Violet Mackay	412776
Session Clerk	Catherine Duncan 43 Humbie Terrace	860611
Clerk to the Board	Karyn Crowe 13 St Fillan's Crescent	860721
Treasurer	Simon Fraser 55 High Street	860361
Hall Convener	Bruce Drever 15 Inch Avenue	860353
Roll Keeper	Bill Cochrane 43 The Glebe	860786

Kirk Session working group leaders

Focus Group	Eric Williamson 9 Main Street	860201
Link group (Ecumenical activities)	Kathleen Fergus Glenelg, Inverkeithing Road	860804
Pastoral	Norman Macdonald Watchhouse, Lower Glebe	860585
Social	Vacant at present	
Stewardship	Ewart McSkimming 6 Crowhill Road, Dalgety Bay	823454
Worship	Vacant at present	
Youth/Education	Sue Farrar 3 Dovecot Park	860851

Board Committees

Finance Convener	Ewart McSkimming 6 Crowhill Road, Dalgety Bay	823454
Property Convener	Graeme Stevens 16 Manse St	860238

A LETTER FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

42 Woodside Avenue
Rosyth
KY11 2LA

Tel. 412776

Dear Friends

As Interim Moderator I am here to help and support you throughout the vacancy process and I thought it might be helpful to tell you a little about myself.

In early years I worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland as a bank officer. After some time I left the bank for a short period to have my family. It was during this break that I experienced the call to the Ministry. I tried to ignore the call for a time but it grew stronger and stronger till I felt compelled to do something about it and the rest as they say is history.

I am married to Tom and we celebrate our 30th Wedding Anniversary this summer. We have two daughters Catherine and Dawn. The girls are a great delight to us and we feel truly blessed with such wonderful daughters. Catherine is getting married in August this year to Jim her fiancé and Dawn is moving into her own flat in September. A busy and exciting time ahead but it will mean a time of readjustment for us all.

Life is never static and we have to adjust to change constantly. For us as a family my call to Ministry brought radical change to our lives, various changes of home and change of lifestyle.

Throughout the years we all have to cope with bereavements, with changes in employment, with the moving of family and friends to different areas, with all kinds of change both good and bad.

The same is true of the Church. From the day of Pentecost up to the present day the Church has had to adjust to the changing culture and communities in which the Church is called to minister. The Gospel does not change but the way it is presented has to be flexible in order that it can relate to people's lives. The cry of the Reformation was 'the Church reformed and always reforming!'

Our society has changed radically in the past thirty years and everything is in a state of flux. It is tempting when we feel all at sea to look for one institution that remains unchanging but that institution should not be the Church. We are called to be the Pilgrim People of God always on a journey, never static.

The Church has no choice but to change. Church membership is declining and in most Churches there is an ever increasing shortage of people from the mid fifties age range and below, there is a shortage of Ministers of Word & Sacrament, two hundred short at the present moment and three hundred short by 2006. We have to find new ways forward not only to ensure the Church survives but grows.

A vacancy provides a short window of opportunity when a congregation can reflect on the possible changes required to enable the Good News of Jesus Christ to reach more lives. A time too to reflect on the kind of ministry needed for the Congregation and Parish in this new millennium.

Change is not always negative. When we are open to God's Spirit, the change can be like a breath of fresh air bringing power and new life. The story of the first Pentecost testifies to that.

During this vacancy period let's be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and remember in our prayer not only the vacancy here but remember also the situation in the whole Church in Scotland.

The one constant in all of this is Jesus our Lord and Master. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Trusting in that sure promise we have nothing to fear from all the changes we have to face. Let us step out in faith, accepting the Great Commission to leave behind the safe and familiar and **go out to all peoples everywhere and make disciples for Christ!**

Yours in Christ's Love

Violet

Rev Violet McKay

Index

Notes from the Congregational Board	3
Church Finances during the Vacancy	4
Renovation of the Church	4
Report from the Pastoral Committee	5
Christian Outreach in St. Fillan's	6
It's Your Funeral	8
Children's activities	9
Parish and Congregation Register	11
Dates for the Diary	12

Thanks to all contributed to this newsletter.

If you have an article you would like included or any suggestions for the newsletter please contact
Colin Campbell, 860085,
c.n.campbell@btinternet.com

Contributions for the October 2003 newsletter are required by
30 September 2003

NOTES FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

The Board met on 6 May and dealt with the following business: -

General

- ◆ David Graham has agreed to be the St. Fillan's World Mission representative
- ◆ Susan Morton has taken on the task of collecting used stamps for World Mission

Finance Committee

- ◆ Agreed the revised budget submitted by the Finance Committee to reflect the changed financial position arising from the vacancy. See article on **page 4**.
- ◆ Agreed that the Retiring Offering at the June communion would be for the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association (Kirkcaldy)

Property Committee

- ◆ Noted progress on application for grant towards the reslating and restoration work at the Church. The costs are now approaching £150,000. Further details are given in the article on **page 4**.
- ◆ Noted that the additional electric heating in the vestry to prevent damp appears to have been successful
- ◆ Agreed that the potential cost of providing disabled toilet and access at the vestry was unreasonable given other financial priorities at present. However ways will be looked at of improving the current toilet and washing facilities.
- ◆ Noted that lighting has been installed in the Church Hall roof space
- ◆ Noted that Scottish Water had repaired a choked sewer from the Church Hall after considerable pressure from the Property Convener, Graeme Stevens
- ◆ Agreed the supply and installation of a "J" rail round 2 sides of the Church Hall to allow artwork to be displayed during the Aberdour Festival. This will be a permanent facility available for use by other organisations throughout the year. The Aberdour Festival Committee will pay for the work.

Equipment committee

- ◆ Heard a report from Irene Wyse and agreed the installation of blinds in the Church Hall. This will improve privacy and provide black out facilities if required.

Desperately required



Assistance with clearing the rear paths and retaining walls at the Church Hall.

**Is any one willing to arrange a working party?
If so please contact Graeme Stevens, 860238.**

CHURCH FINANCES DURING THE VACANCY

Contributed by Simon Fraser



DURING THE VACANCY there are significant changes in our expenditure. At the same time we have to make provision for the special costs associated with the arrival of a new Minister.

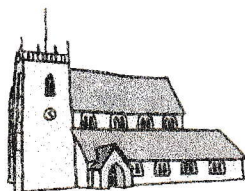
There will be savings against the provision for a Minister's stipend and the associated costs of travel and administration. However, we still have to contribute to the Main Pension Fund of the Church of Scotland. We also have to contribute to funds for the Support of Housing, the Provision of Graduated Increases in Stipend for Experienced Ministers and the Mission and Aid Fund. The latter fund supports the work of the Church that is extra to that of individual congregations and aids less well-off congregations.

On the expenditure side we will have to pay a Pulpit Supply each Sunday for our preacher (£47 plus mileage); meet the expenses of our Interim Moderator and make provision for the arrival of a new Minister. Here the individual will be entitled to a Disturbance Allowance (currently £1600), removal costs (depending on distance etc, but could be £3000) and perhaps other sums needed to achieve a smooth induction.

Meanwhile our normal congregational expenses, such as salaries, electricity, Sunday School, stationery, JAM Club and fabric maintenance costs continue.

RENOVATION OF THE CHURCH

Contributed by Simon Fraser



IN PHASE 1 OF THE SCHEME for Renovation of St Fillan's Church we repointed the belfry, West gable, porch and North outshot, together with a re-slatting of the porch. The project cost £23,800 of which £11,900 was provided by a grant from the Fife Environmental Trust and provided valuable experience for the more major Phase 2 project.

Phase 2 aims to address a widespread problem of roof slates splitting, which causes layers of slate to fall off to the extent that the roof leaks in heavy rain. These are heavy old slates fully bedded in mortar. We have been advised that much of the roof needs to be stripped and reslated and the rest needs to be patched. Roof timbers may require to be cut out and replaced where affected by dampness.

There are external walling open joints and cracks in the masonry and we have been advised that a scheme of repointing is required and where deemed necessary on further examination structural ties will have to be installed.

Memorials attached to the walls are poorly supported and their fastenings are rusting. Iron fastenings need to be removed and replaced with bronze and footings rebuilt where necessary.

In addition a number of minor ancillary works to windows, rhones and other areas are required.

The estimated cost of the Phase 2 works is now £150,000. Application has been made for a grant from Historic Scotland, with a decision expected in Spring 2004.

We have also submitted through the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland an application for a grant from the joint Historic Scotland/Heritage Lottery Fund scheme; a decision on this may be expected in October.

Until the results of our application for grants are known it is difficult to estimate how much we will need to raise ourselves. We have created a Church Renovation Fund; thanks to some generous individual donations and a legacy the fund now stands at £58,902. Pending the formal fundraising campaign, we will continue to build on this sum as the opportunity offers.

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

NORMAN MACDONALD REPORTED at the last Kirk Session on the ongoing work of the pastoral committee.

House Communion

House communion was held in March and 9 persons attended. It is hoped to make similar arrangements in June through the interim moderator.

Queen Margaret Hospital

Volunteers attended a communion service on 27 April and plan to visit again on 6 July.

Hospital Visitors

Consideration is being given to how hospital visiting can be continued during the vacancy. If this can proceed a small group of volunteers will be required for this work.

Henderson House

St. Fillan's continues to attend services. Anne Stuart led the service in April. Anne has volunteered to continue to assist during the vacancy and other ways of providing support are being looked at.

Stamps

Susan Morton has taken on the responsibility for processing and delivering stamps for the board of world mission. The Friendship Club will assist Susan in cutting and segregating the stamps.

TUESDAY 10 JUNE AT 8.00 PM IN THE CHURCH

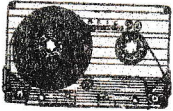
CHORALE EXCELSIOR

The Choirs of Heriot-Watt University

www.hw.ac.uk/music

Christian Outreach in St. Fillan's

Weekly Tape Ministry



WE RECORD our Sunday services and distribute tapes to a number of our members.

If you are unable to come to our services and would like to receive a tape either on a regular basis or as a 'one off' again please speak with Norman Macdonald 860585

Church Flowers



A BIG THANK YOU to all who arrange and/or donate money for the Church flowers. These are admired and enjoyed in the church week by week and are greatly appreciated by those who receive them after services.

Some of our arrangers have recently "set aside their scissors" after many years service and we are seeking some additional help (male or female) to put the flowers in Church. They don't need to be especially arranged – just put them in a vase with some water!

If **YOU** would like to join the flower rota for putting the flowers in the Church once or twice a year please contact the flower organizer, Mrs. Catherine Duncan at 860611.

St Fillan's Handbell Ringers



TWO MEMBERS (Mari and Peter) have left the handbell ringers but we welcome two new recruits, Ann Davis and Irene Rainey. We are still meeting weekly to practice with Marie Smith as Conductor and Elspeth Miller as Leader/Contact person.

The handbell ringers hope to continue performing in Church and other venues as part of St. Fillan's Christian outreach.

Junior Handbell Ringers



OUR **JUNIOR TEAM** of handbell ringers (primary 5 and upwards) is eagerly awaiting resuming practices with their new conductor. This will happen once clearance is received from the Church of Scotland Child Protection scheme.

New members both adult and children are always welcome. Anyone interested in trying their hand should contact Elspeth Miller at 860522 or Catherine Duncan at 860611.

Give it a try – it is fun

ST FILLAN'S LUNCH CLUB

First Thursday each month 12 noon – 1.30 PM
In the Church Hall Soup and filled rolls £1.50
Everyone welcome to join us

***** "August" Lunch Club will be on 31 July *****

And a request for help



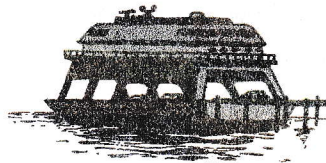
COULD YOU spare two hours on the first Thursday of a month to help serve soup and rolls to people attending the Lunch Club?

We are trying to increase the numbers willing to serve. We have a number of willing volunteers to make the soup and rolls but we need more people happy to wait on tables. The friendship and chat are all part and package of the deal and you even get to eat the leftover soup and rolls at the end!

On average you would probably only be asked two/three times per year if we can get enough people to offer their services.

If you can help, telephone Sandra McSkimming on 823454 to find out more about what is involved.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO INCHCOLM



THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to Inchcolm will take place on Sunday 31 August 2003. The Maid of the Forth will depart from Aberdour pier at 3.30pm and return from Inchcolm at 6pm. Tickets will be on sale in August.

This year we will be sharing the trip with Kinghorn Parish Church, who have been allocated 80 places.

IT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Contributed by Frank Tollick

IT WAS REPORTED RECENTLY that the Church of Scotland has been training elders to conduct funerals; indeed some of our own Kirk Session has expressed an interest in being trained.

But it has to be emphasised that anyone can conduct a funeral; you don't need to be a minister or an elder or even a Christian!

If we ask the question "Whose funeral is it?" the answer has to be that it is the family of the deceased who have first claim. They should conduct the funeral.

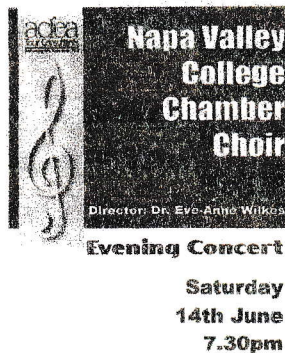
Within the family of the congregation they would have the support of their district elder; then of any other elders known to the family; then of any other members of the congregation with a particular knowledge of the family; and then the resources of the professional ministry.

In other words the exact opposite of what happens at the moment!

A minister colleague of mine recently wrote about the satisfaction he gets from taking funerals within the parish, of both members and non-members. He felt that there were valuable connections made, and that would be the traditional point of view. Every parish minister would make himself available for people at that time.

But is it the best way? the best way to use a minister's time? to make real the Christian community within a parish? to help people to ask questions and discover answers? to involve the whole congregation in a ministry which has become the territory of the professional, who are themselves under pressure from many sources?

Whose funeral is it?



The Choir is a group of approximately 30 people ranging in age from 14 to 70. They have performed through the USA and Europe with a repertoire of Medieval Madrigals, Folk Songs and Contemporary and Popular Music. Their website is www.campus.nvc.cc.ca.us/vocal.

Hosts are needed to take 2 or more home for tea between 6.00 and 7.00 pm. If you are able to help, please contact David Hannah, 860877.

Voluntary collection for CHAS's Rachael House, Kinross

Join the dots to find out where
Zacchaeus
is
sitting



(LUKE 19:
1-6)

•56

•59

57•

•58

OUT OF THE FIRE

Why did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to worship Nebuchadnezzar, the king?

Cross out each 'FIRE' and read the message:

Daniel
3:8-18

THEFIREY WFIREERE JEFIREWS, AFIREND
JEFIREWS WIFIRELL ONFIRELY
WOFIRERSHIP THFIREE OFIRENE TRUFIREE
GOFIRED.

I'M FINE, THANK YOU
(Contributed by a bus - pass holder)

There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as can be,
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the
street,
Sleep is denied me night after night,
My memory is failing, my head's in a
spin

The moral of this as my tale I unfold –
That for you and me who are growing
old,
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we are
in,
How do I know my youth is all
spent?
Well my "get up and go" has got up
and went,
But I really don't mind when I think
with a grin,
Of all the grand places my "get up"
has bin.

Old age is golden I've heard it said
But, sometimes I wonder as I get into
bed,
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in
a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up,
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I could lay on the
shelf?"

When I was young my slippers were
red,
I could kick my heels over my head.
When I was older my slippers were
blue,
But I could still dance the whole
night through,
Now I am old my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and puff my way
back.

I get up each morning and dust off my
wits,
And pick up the paper and read the
"Obits",
If my name is missing I know I'm not
dead,
So I have a good breakfast and go back
to bed.

- Author unknown

Thank you Thank you Thank you

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP resumes on Sunday 28 September in the School Hall. A big thank you to everybody who helps make the Coffee Fellowship possible. If you would like to join the team, please contact Patricia Hannah, 860877, before the end of August.

THE CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING raised over £1,000. Well done to Elana Gray and her team of helpers.

PARISH AND CONGREGATION REGISTER
(Includes omissions from last magazine)

Baptisms

12 January Elizabeth Mary Kerr

Marriages

30 November Martin Rae and Sasha Heath
1 February Lesley Hogg and Stewart Bingham
29 March John F. Briffitt and Christine Redhead

Bereavements

Bob Holmes 25 Humble Terr
Mrs. Ella Ward 1 Murrell Terrace
Mrs. Mabel Henderson 86 Main St
Miss Agnes Lovett 1e Countess of Moray's Houses
Mrs. Rosemary Alexander
Mrs. Helen Rae Henderson House, Dalgety Bay
Mrs. Hermine Smith 14 Dovecot Park

Members going to other churches

Judith Matheson to Glasgow
Wendy Henderson to St Columba's

Removal by Transference Certificate

Peter and Mari Park

New Members

Ron and Rosemary Scott 24 Seaside Place

Change of Address

Mrs. Maureen Reid now 1 Murrell Terrace
Mrs. Judith Pritchard now 9 McLauchlan Rise
Mrs. Mary Hagart now Grayforth House, Burntisland
Mrs. Lesley Gordon now 21 Hawkcraft Rd
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Templeton now at 48 Braemar Gardens, Dunfermline
Mrs. Christine Briffitt now at 7 Castle Street, Warwick, CU34 4Bp
Mrs. Jean Hutton now at 30 Inchmickery Road, Dalgety Bay
Mrs. Rena Lochtie Levenson Nursing Home, Wester Balgedie

Current number on Roll 410

**Please assist in keeping the Church Roll up to date by contacting
Catherine Duncan (860611) or Bill Cochrane (860786)**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Further details
First Thursday of the month	12 noon to 1.30 pm	Lunch Club in the Church Hall	Sandra McSkimming 823454
Every Sunday in June	10.00 am to 12 noon	JAM (Jesus and Me) Club in the Church Hall. Primary school children	Christine Waddell 860802
Tuesday 10 June	8.00 pm	The Choirs of Heriot Watt University	Retiral Collection Steve King 0131 451 3705
Saturday 14 June	7.30 pm	Napa Valley College Chamber Choir in the Church	Retiral collection for CHAS , Rachael House, Kinross David Hannah 860877
Sunday 15 June	10.30 am and 3.00 pm	Communion Retiral Offering. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association (Kirkcaldy)	
Sunday 31 August	Depart 3.30 pm. Return 6.00pm	Visit to Inchcolm Island	Simon Fraser 860361
Saturday 20 September	10.30 am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning and Book Sale in the Church Hall	Catherine Duncan 860611
Friday 26 September	7.30 pm	Ceilgh in the Church Hall	Families welcome Susan Farrar 860851

Special collections at Church have so far raised the following amounts: -

Scottish Huntingtons Association	£161.93
Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Appeal	£117.50