

# NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

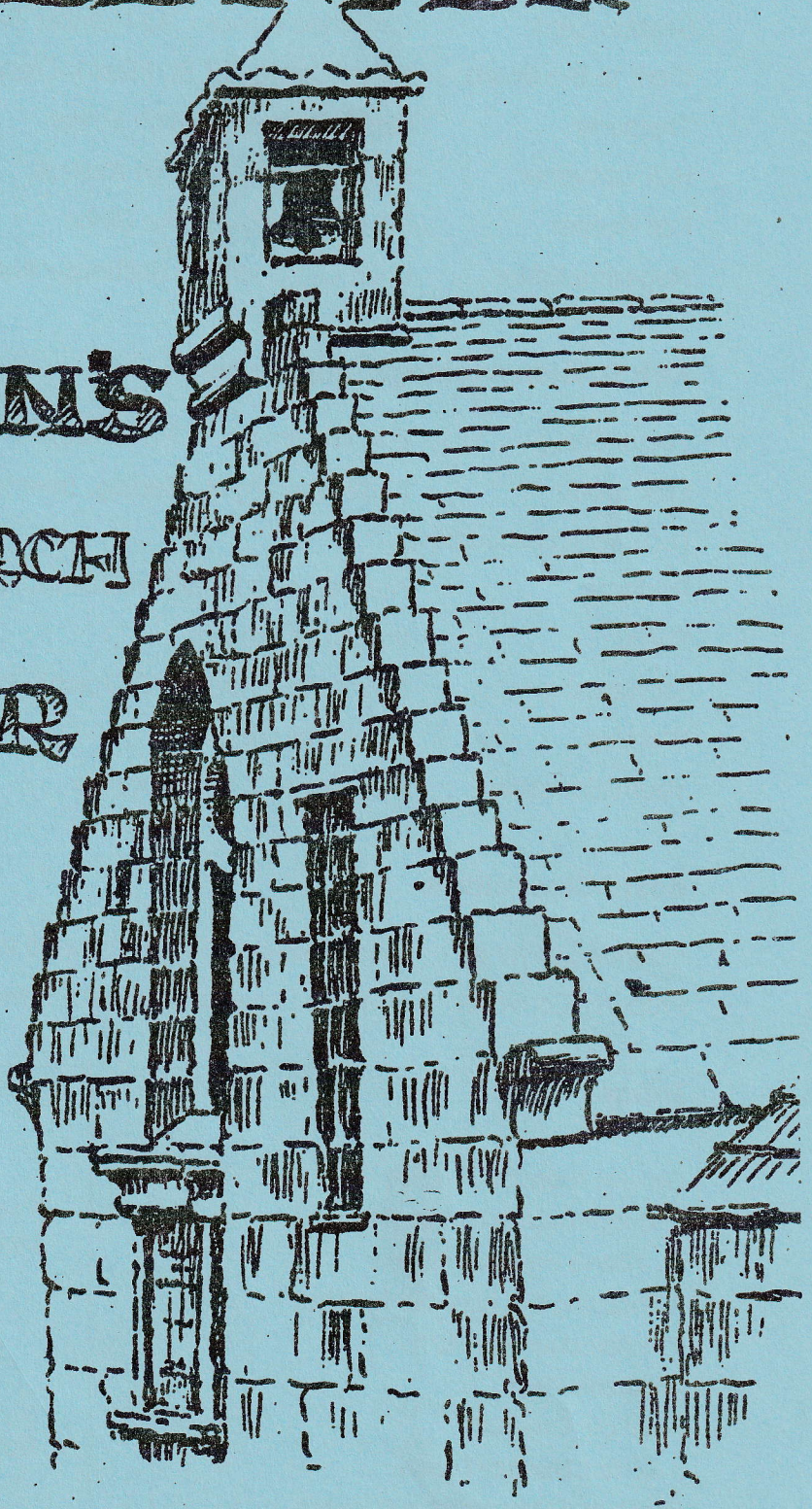
ABERDOUR

from the year

1123.

JUNE

2004



## SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Interim Moderator		
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
Magazine Editor	Colin Campbell, 16 Bellhouse Road	860085

### 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 Street	860238

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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](mailto:c.n.campbell@btinternet.com)

Contributions for the October 2004 newsletter are required by

**22 September 2004**

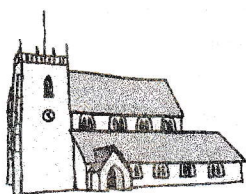
## THE VACANCY – A PROGRESS REPORT



AS MOST OF YOU KNOW the Rev. John Murdoch preached on 18 April as sole nominee for the current vacancy at St. Fillan's and was duly elected by an overwhelming majority in the vote which followed the service. Dunfermline Presbytery accepted the call and matters progressed to the stage that provisional arrangements had been made for a service of Induction in June subject to some formalities being completed.

However, as the Newsletter goes to press (20 May) we have heard that the Rev Murdoch is unable to accept the call for personal reasons. While there is no reason why we should not be able to proceed with a call to St. Fillan's, the way in which this will happen are not known. Hopefully by the time you receive the Newsletter some progress will have been made on this matter.

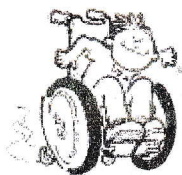
## THE CHURCH ROOF AND PHASE 2 OF THE CHURCH RENOVATION



THE SLATES ON THE ROOF of the Church are delaminating because when the Church was reroofed in 1926 the slates were bedded in mortar. Roof slates expand and contract according to the heat or cold of the weather, but because the undersides of the St. Fillan's slates are fixed in mortar and unable to move, this has caused the slates to split apart internally. Historic Scotland and Church experts are agreed that replacement is now necessary, before damage is done to the interior of the roof. At the same time there is much re-pointing required on all sides, except the West which was repaired under Phase 1 of our Renovation Scheme.

The estimated cost of Phase 2 is £140,000. Future uncertainties include the true nature of any damage and how many of the existing tiles can be reused. We have received a grant of up to £70,000 from Historic Scotland (the Heritage Lottery Fund has been unable to help). With the Church Renovation Fund currently standing at £71,697, we have been able to initiate work. After a competitive tender Tod Taylor have been appointed as our architects. Further fund-raising may well be necessary as the project progresses.

## WHEEL-CHAIR ACCESS TO THE CHURCH AND VESTRY



BY OCTOBER 2004 the law requires that we make all reasonable provision for disabled access to our buildings. The criteria being what is reasonable in the circumstances of each site in terms of both finance, practicability and in the case of the Church particularly, historic importance.

Following advice from Historic Scotland and the Church of Scotland's Artistic Matters Committee, we have purchased two portable ramps. These will allow for wheel-chair access to the Church through the door into the Chancel and thence down the steps, past the font, into the nave. It is a simple matter for one, or better two, people to set up the ramps in about five minutes.

Planned improvements to the Vestry will include consideration of the provision of wheel-chair access to the toilet facilities.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2004**

### **EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE**

#### **Availability of Financial Resources**

This section of the report highlights matters of financial significance or concern, both one-off projects and ongoing areas of work. These include the Tiberias Development, the Netherbow Development, Social Responsibility, Communications and Pensions.

The Church of Scotland's three Pension Schemes are a matter of great concern. The three schemes continued to show very large deficits at the end of 2003. While stock market values increased in 2003, a more prudent actuarial allowance for mortality increased the liabilities of the Pension Schemes.

#### **Conclusion**

The last four years have been extremely difficult in financial terms for the Church of Scotland. Central expenditure has exceeded income by £19 million. Investments have reduced in market value by over £35 million. Many Boards and Committees are incurring deficits and using reserves to maintain existing work. The Board of World Mission is having to cut back on some areas of work as a result of investment in its Tiberias development. The Church's Pension Schemes have moved from an actuarial valuation surplus of £8 million at the end of 2000 to a deficit of £56 million at the end of 2003 (in Financial Reporting Standard 17 terms).

As costs increase, deficits mount, reserves dwindle and membership falls, it is imperative that urgent strategic action is taken to address and resolve the problems inherent in the Rolling Budget. This should involve an examination of the money spent on Church buildings and Parish Staffing.

At the same time, the need to teach and practise sacrificial giving throughout the Church is paramount.

### **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND CONGREGATIONAL GIVING**

The retiring collections after the March Communion services raised £293.55. This sum was given to Chernobyl Children Lifeline, Dunfermline and West Fife Link. The 10 children will be arriving in June and our donation goes to ensuring they have a summer in Scotland that they will never forget.

The retiring collection for the June Communion will be for the Bethany Christian Trust, Dunfermline Project. This project, based behind Viewforth Terrace, provides a drop-in centre where people who have nowhere to sleep, often with problems of drug addiction or mental health, can come for help, advice, hot drinks, food parcels, clothing and toiletries. In 2003 there were 3577 visits by 410 individuals. The project needs £20,000 a year to this end.

### **END APRIL 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The budget for this year forecasts a zero balance. To the end of April 2004 Congregational Income totalled £17,716. This was £916 less than budget.

# Christian Outreach in St. Fillan's

## PASTORAL VISITING

SINCE THE BEGINNING of the year Ministers/Visiting teams no longer have access to hospital lists. It is therefore very important to let the pastoral Group or Session Clerk know of anyone in hospital so that pastoral visits can be maintained.

## WEEKLY TAPE MINISTRY



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" please speak with Norman Macdonald 860585

## STAMPS



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND'S World Mission made over £2,000 last year selling stamps handed in from congregations all over Scotland. Help contribute to this by handing them in to Susan Morton at 4, Manse Street, Aberdour, telephone 860051.

## Church Flowers



IF YOU WOULD LIKE either to donate flowers arranged by yourself or to make a payment towards the cost of the flowers, please contact the flower organizer, Mrs. Catherine Duncan at 860611.

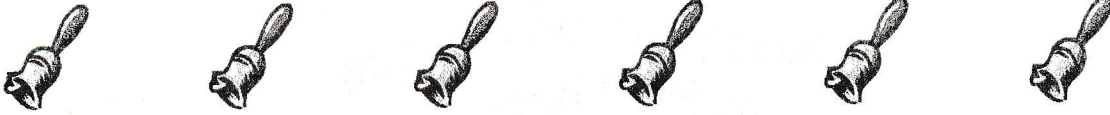
## Crèche facilities at Church Services



A CRÈCHE FACILITY is provided in the Vestry each Sunday during Service time, and parents attending worship are welcome to leave their children there.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Further details
First Thursday of the month	12 noon to 1.30 pm	Lunch in the Church Hall	
Sunday 20 June	10.30 am and 3.00 pm	Communion	



## St. Fillan's Handbell Ringers

*After a very happy and successful season thus far, the Senior Handbell Ringers are busy at practice for several engagements still to come, culminating in our having been asked to play for an hour at the Rosyth Navy Day in June.*

*During this season, we have rung in an Aberdour autumn concert for charity; at Dalgety Bay and at Glenrothes, both before Christmas and recently at Stenton; at the Queen Margaret Hospital Christmas Concert; at Grayforth House in Burntisland; at Aberdour Day Centre; at the Hospice in Kirkcaldy and at Canmore Lodge Dunfermline.*

*A most enjoyable day in April was spent at the annual National Rally for the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain. This was a special occasion for all in the north, as for the first time ever the Rally was held in Scotland, at Erskine Bridge Hotel. We very much enjoyed playing both for and with other bell-ringing enthusiasts from all over Scotland and from south of the border; having the chance of tuition in the workshops; seeing displays of music; seeing the range and different styles of bells from various foundries and meeting friends old and new.*

*In the autumn many of you helped us raise some money for the purchase of another set of bells. Sadly these old bells were found to be incompatible with the set we already own. This predicament is currently being sorted out and in time we will be using the money you helped us raise for the purchase of other bells, to gradually add to and extend our own set.*

*Our Junior Handbell Ringers have also been busy practising week by week. They too played at the Aberdour autumn concert with the proceeds going to the IC Unit at Queen Margaret Hospital; they played with the Senior Group at Grayforth House; at Dunblane in the Handbell Rally for Schools, and by the time you read this, they will be ready to play at the end-of-term Aberdour School Leavers' Assembly. To Mrs Marie Muszynski who trains the group, to parents who support week by week and to each bell-ringer ... well done indeed!*

*Sincere thanks from us all, go to Marie for the time she so generously gives to training both Senior and Junior teams and for her help, enthusiasm and encouragement to each and every one.*

*If you would like to play bells we would be glad to welcome you. Playing is a challenge, it is fun and it brings joy to those for whom we play. Think about joining us in the autumn when we shall begin our new season.*

*Happy summer to all!*



### **A SHOPPING LIST FROM THE INTERNET**

*The words come from an unknown writer.*

"TIME TO GO SHOPPING. I've just realised I'm all out of generosity. I also want to take back the self-satisfaction I picked up recently. Maybe I can swap it for some humility. I hear it wears better.

"I'll throw out that self-indulgence I've had for too long and replace it with some kindness, I believe it's much better for you. Oh, and patience. I saw some on a friend recently and it was really very becoming.

"While I'm out I'll take my sense of humour to be repaired. And I must remember to pick up some goodness. It's amazing how quickly you can run out of it. And I'll keep an eye open for special offers on charity, optimism and love. You can never have too much of these things."

No doubt there are some things on the list which we could do with stocking up ourselves.

### **Chernobyl Children**

Eileen Harper would like to thank all those who have contributed so generously to this appeal. So far this year she has collected £170 which has been passed on to the charity. Some people have passed on silver as well as coppers and this has been a great help. St Fillan's had special collections at the March Communion services and passed on another donation from the Church.

Eileen asks that we keep saving and she will happily pass the money on.

Contributions can be passed on either through church officers or by telephoning her on 860151.

### **A NEW SCHEME FOR GIVING TO CHARITY**

FROM APRIL 2004, individuals who complete Self Assessment Tax Returns are able to nominate a Charity to receive all or part of any repayment due to them. **St Fillan's Church is a registered charity under this scheme.**

The Tax Return form incorporates a Gift Aid Declaration and Gift Aid tax on this donation will be paid without the Charity having to make a claim. Donations will be paid directly to the Charity's bank account.

**THE ABERDOUR MORTCLOTH**  
**(From the Aberdour Kirk Session Records**  
**researched by Miss Stewart, Hawcraig Road).**

*The Mortcloth was a Pall used to cover the Coffin at a funeral and was hired from the Kirk Session - the money gathered in this way was used to help the poor of the village. The matter exercised the minds of the Kirk Sesion on many occasions all these years ago.*

27<sup>th</sup> March 1723.

This day it was enacted that any man who keeps (looks after) the mortcloth shall not presume to give the Best mortcloth to any that live on Charity or are in a mean condition without the advice of two or three of the Elders otherwise he must pay for it himself.

16<sup>th</sup> March 1728.

This day the new mortcloth bought at Edinburgh on the first of this instant was brought before the Session, view'd and approv'n. It was bought from one David Spence. The Quantity was Imprimis 8 ½ yds, of black velvet at 18 shillings per yard which amounted to seven pounds and thirteen shillings sterling. Item five ¾ yards of Black Shalloon at Eighteen pence per yard which amounted to Eight shillings seven pence halfpenny. The whole was Eight pounds one shilling sevenpence halfpenny for all which the Session has his Discharge.

1<sup>st</sup> March 1756.

The Session in consideration of their best mortcloth being some worn and having in their last sederunt lowered the price of it from five shillings to four shillings their having this day resolved to purchase a new one which is to be let out at a (...ron) to the Session and the Minr. Resolving to go to Edinburgh they have given him fifteen pounds in order to buy it.

20th July, 1787.

The Minister represented that he had laid the bad state of the Mortcloths before a meeting of the Heritors of yesterday the 24th instant and that the said meeting authorized him and the Session to purchase; either the Hammermens Mortcloths or new ones as they shall see proper for which the Heritors will pay. The Session appoint David Anderson and Lawrence Balingal to commune with the Hammermen and to acquaint the Minr. Of the lowest prices at which they are willing to dispose of their Mortcloths.

21<sup>st</sup> May, 1821.

Charge for Mortcloths.

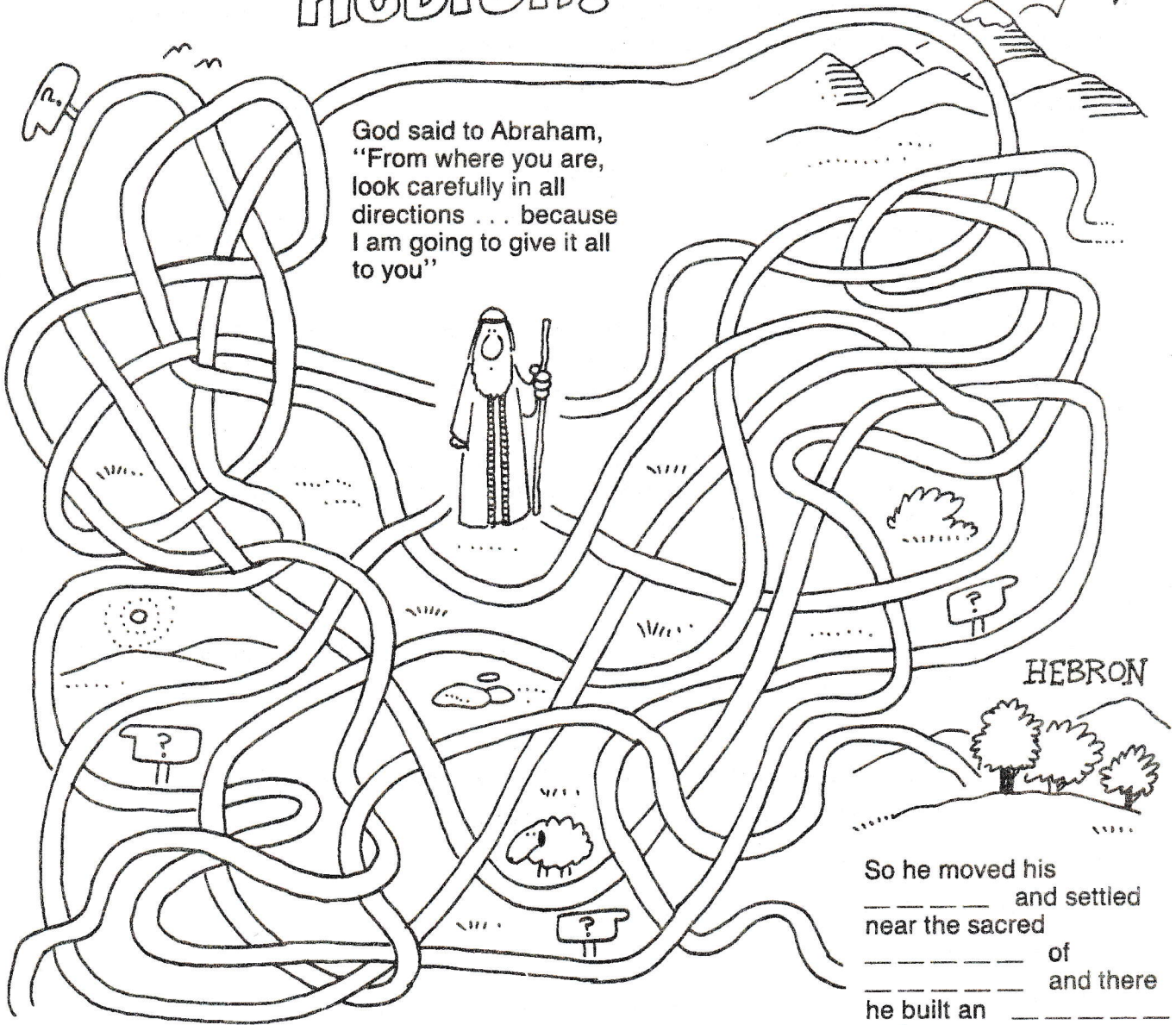
Charge for the best Mortcloth	5/-
Do. Second Do.	4/-
Do. Child's Do. 2/-- second Do.	1/8
Dues to the Beadle ... .. in town	6/-
Do. Do. ... .. in country	1/-
Do. For bidding the inhabitants of The Village to Funerals ... ..	1/-



# Which way leads to Hebron?

YOU'LL FIND IT IN GENESIS 13: 14-18

God said to Abraham, "From where you are, look carefully in all directions . . . because I am going to give it all to you"



So he moved his \_\_\_\_\_ and settled near the sacred \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and there he built an \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## OH, BROTHER!



DRAW LINES BETWEEN THE BROTHERS

James

Matthew 4: 21-22

Cain

Genesis 4

Simon

Mark 1: 16-18

Jacob

Genesis 25: 24

Joseph

Genesis 35: 22-26

Esau

Abel

Andrew

Benjamin

John

## FROM OUR ORGANIST JIM FAIRLIE

That man at the "kist O' whistles"



My input to the church service this past month has been mostly on the music of Handel and Bach and I have had sothe comthents.

I did of course 'slip in' one or two pieces that caused more than a ripple i.e., Howard Goodall's version of the 23rd psalm, a few head scratching, "I just know that piece" (T.V. Addicts of 'Vicar of Dibley).

And the Sunday prior to Christian Aid Week a hymn setting of the 'Lords Prayer' music by Paul Simon 'The Sound of Silence'.

At the climax of the weekly service to serve the Dominican community of Los Peres the congregation stands with linked hands to sing the Lord's prayer. It is sung in Spanish to the tune of the 'Sound of Silence', the 1966 song performed by Simon and Garfunkel.

In the Dominican Republic it is sung to a simple guitar accompaniment. Between the second and third verses the guitar continues and the words of the Lord's prayer are read in Creole, the first language of Haitian members of the congregation.

St. Fillan's did the English version of the concept.

(It maybe also of interest that the hymn 'silent night' was first hears to the accompaniment of a guitar as a mouse had decided to make a meal of the organ bellows, just before the church service).

There are also several other pieces of music stamped in the public's minds, such as:-

- Bach: Air on a 'G' string - the infamous 'Hamlet' cigar advert.
- Vivaldi Allegro from the Four Seasons Autumn - T. V. play Casanova
- Khatchaturian Theme from Spartacus - The Onedin Line
- Moussorgsky Promenade - Bank of Scotland
- Beethoven Theme from the Choral Symphony - film Clockwork Orange
- Mozart A Musical Joke - Horse of The Year Show with his Symphony No. 40 captured by International Showjumping.

My own favourite: (for those of a more mature age) the film serial as a boy watching the cowboy Hopalong Cassdiy galloping over the desert to the opening music of Mendelssohn's The Hebrides and Fingal's Cave with it's crashing waves.

Although I must admit that it was a good few years later at a musical lecture during my national service, that I actually 'cottoned on'.

With music adapted in this way, a good or bad thing? I leave it to you. As a musician I tend to skirt around playing them, or risk "I know that tune".

P.S. Again thanks to Eileen and Norman Macdonald for supplying the 'Music Kist' to the organ loft. It must have been a real wrench Norman".

P.P.S: Re the minister vacancy at St Fillan's

A local newspaper from Ayrshire was passed to me and in the diary column (100 years ago), that there were 75 applicants for the Coynton church minister vacancy, (a village on the outskirts of Ayr). No shortage of Church of Scotland ministers in those days and think of the work for the Vacancy Committee.

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### St. Fillan's Lunches



*The place to be on the first Thursday of every month is The Church Hall!! Soup and Filled Rolls, plus tea/coffee are served there from 12 noon to 1.30pm at a cost of £1.50. The food is good and the Fellowship is even better. However, we could do with more waitresses!! - aprons provided!*

*If you can help please contact Sandra (823454) or Catherine (860611)*

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### A PERFECT NUMBER SQUARE

1	14	14	4
11	7	6	9
8	10	10	5
13	2	3	15

Add across, down and diagonally and you should get the same answer. What is its significance and where would you find it? Answer on the next page.

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### Eglise de St Fillan's - Chiesa di St. Fillan

*From David Graham*

For visitors to St Fillans Church this summer, information sheets are provided in English, French and Italian, highlighting some of the main points of interest in the church.

Thanks to all those that helped with the translations. Spanish and German translations are planned for the future.

## PARISH AND CONGREGATION REGISTER

### Baptisms

*Jesus said "Let the children come to me"*

### Marriages

*God is love and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them*

### Bereavements

26 February Andrew Smith  
8 March Mrs. Ann Inglis  
23 April Mrs. Ellen Adie

*Things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining have all been prepared by God for those who love Him      Corinthians 2:0*

### Members going to other churches

Mrs. Martha Barker to Dunbar

*By Transference*

Mrs. Christine Briffitt to Coventry City Corps. Salvation Army

*We wish them every blessing as they move to another spiritual home*

### New Members

*By Transference*

Mrs. Yvonne Nisbet, 9 Humble Terrace

*Welcome and we hope you enjoy your fellowship here*

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

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### Answer to the Perfect Number Square

Each line totals 33, the age Jesus was reputed to be when he died on the cross. The squares appear at several locations on the Temple de la Sagrada Damilia in Barcelona. It is claimed that a total of 33 can be counted in up to 310 different ways.

Construction of the cathedral started in 1882 and still continues today. It is a major tourist attraction in Barcelona and provides magnificent views of the city.