

NEWSLETTER

ST. FILLAN'S

PARISH CHURCH

OF

ABERDOUR

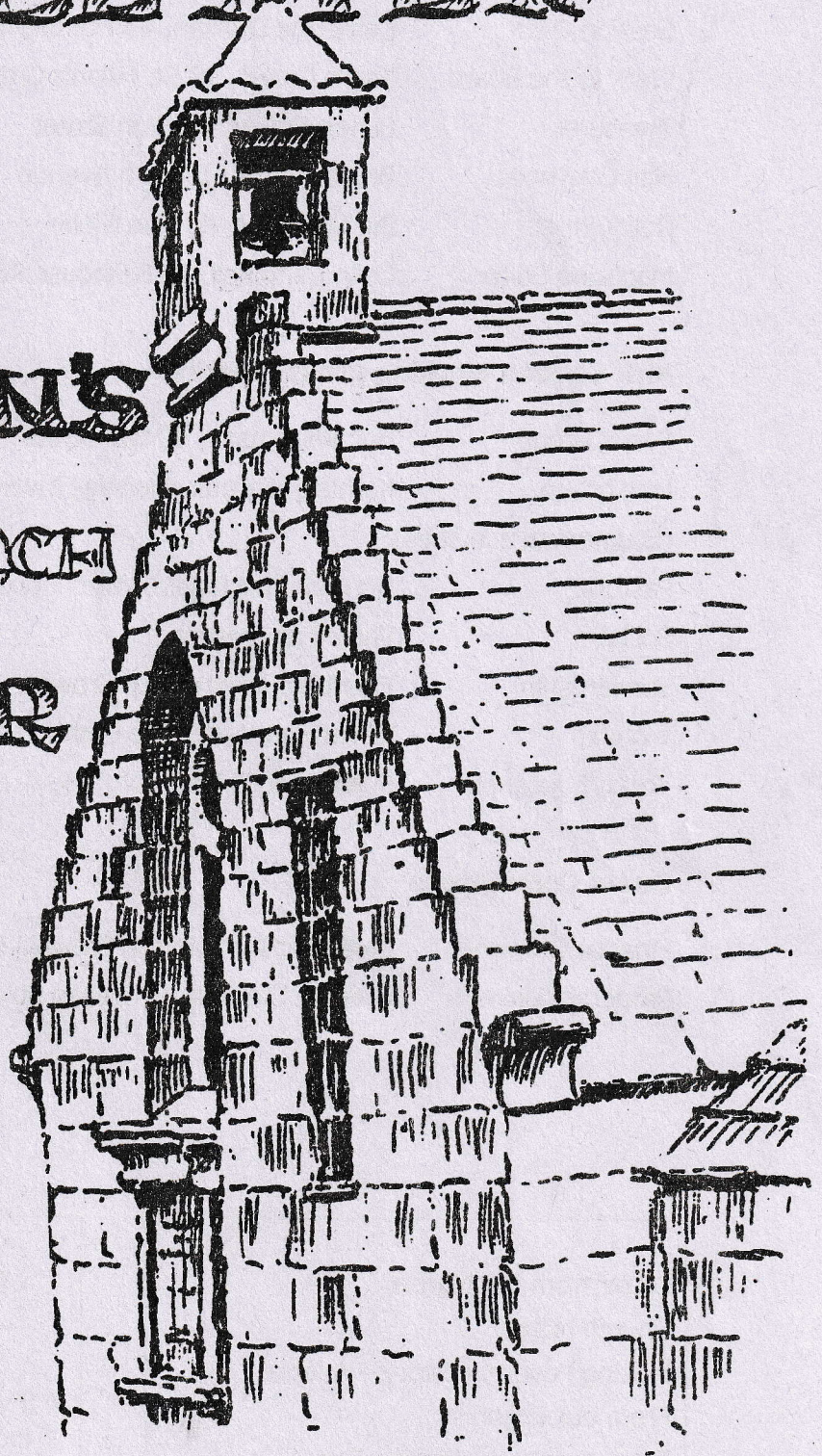
from the year

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JUNE

2005



SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Moderator	Rev. Peter Gerbrandy-Baird	861522
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	David Hannah, 3 The Glebe	860877
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.bigyin.org.uk

Letter from the Manse

AT THE TIME OF WRITING, Catherine Duncan and I are spending many hours pouring over the 'Blue Book', the book containing all the reports to this year's General Assembly. Some important issues will be decided by the Assembly, including the continued re-organisation of the Church of Scotland's central bureaucracy at "121", new ways of training for particular ministries in the Church, and matters relating to re-structuring the Ministry itself. And then there are the more onerous tasks such as attending the garden party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse and the Moderator's reception ...

For me, the highlight of the past few months was April's 'Youth Service' led by the members of St Fillan's Senior Sunday School. It was great to work with seven committed youngsters and their Sunday School teachers, who all worked very hard to make the service a success.

On the day, they led us all in worship in a very meaningful way. Built around a theme of 'bullying' they offered prayers, shared thoughts and read Bible passages, bringing out real concerns and issues that confront present-day teenagers (and many others). My favourite song that Sunday was "God's Love", sung to The Flintstone's theme-tune!

The Church is not dead, nor dying. The service organised by our younger folk shows that the teachings of Jesus touches young and old, and that each succeeding generation responds afresh to Christ's message of love and hope. New ways of worship develop to meet different spiritual and devotional needs, keeping the Church a vibrant, living and loving community, ready to serve Christ and His Church.

Sunday 24 April was a great occasion for the St Fillan's Family, and from all comments I have received I can only conclude everyone else who was there enjoyed the experience, too. Let's ask them to do it again before Christmas ...

On Pentecost two new Elders were admitted to the Kirk Session. Marnie Rennie and Alec Stirling will make their own, unique contributions to the spiritual welfare of our Congregation. The Church appears to be concentrating a lot on its Ministers, (auxiliary and full-time), Deacons and Readers. In so doing it seems as if we are in danger of undervaluing the continued contribution to the life and work of congregations and the wider Church by thousands in the Eldership. Please remember our Elders in your prayers.

On 10 July we will come together for a service of thanksgiving for VE and VJ Day. Please share this news with those around you; there may be people who do not come to St Fillan's but who have reason to join us for that occasion. It will be good to remember the sacrifices of the past, to give thanks for great victories won, and to dedicate ourselves to striving for peace and unity at home and abroad.

By now the summer holiday season is almost upon us. May your holiday be a time of enjoyment, relaxation and of recharging batteries.

Yours in Christ,

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird

CHURCH NOTES

PASTORAL VISITING

MINISTERS/VISITING TEAMS no longer have access to hospital lists. It is therefore very important to let the Minister, Session Clerk or Pastoral Group know of anyone in hospital so that pastoral visits can be maintained.

Forth Churches Group - Worship Committee Report

As part of our commitment to making the FCG work we have had a very successful Praise and Worship Music Workshops with over forty people coming along to participate in the singing, bell ringing and instrument playing. Everyone who came along had a great time and we are hoping to have another more structured get together in the Autumn. If you are interested in joining us please let me know. David Hannah.

Hopefully not this summer's forecast

Rain

It rained and rained and rained
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simple bogs
It started raining cats and dogs
After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower
And then the most curious thing of all
A gentle rain began to fall
Next day but one was fairly dry
Save from the deluge from the sky
Which wetted the party to the skin
And then at last the rain set in

St Fillan's Scottish Country Dancing Classes

Aberdour St Fillan's Scottish Country Dancing classes start again on Wednesday 14 September from 7.45pm, in the Church Hall, High Street, opposite the top of Shore Road.

RSCDS qualified teachers Linda Cullen and John Philp will take the classes introducing many new dances as well as the traditional 'old favourites' such as Mhairi's Wedding, Shifting Bobbins and Wind on Loch Fyne. Anyone is welcome to come from those wishing to learn, absolute beginners, rusty leggers and dem teamers. There are no age limits as we have members from 10 - 80 something. Children would be welcome to come, even if only up to half time, around 9.00pm, when we break for tea.

Our classes are very sociable and we walk through all of the dances to make sure everyone knows what to do. Lead by our accordionist Bill O'Donnell our classes are mixed, but we would still welcome more men to even up the balance.

If you are an experienced dancer and would like to help out Jean's Dem Team please let us know. We are currently doing social demonstrations for lunch clubs and ceilidhs.

Unfortunately, this year we are forced to increase the cost of classes to £2.00. This is the first price increase in over ten years.

Please contact me if you need any more information. David Hannah 860 877

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

MakePovertyHistory" Campaign

The following letter was sent to the Moderator of the General Assembly in March. A number of other congregations have sent similar letters.

We, the Congregation, Kirk Session and Minister of St. Fillan's Church are writing to ask you to organise a meeting between your successor, and the British Prime Minister and the President of the United States of America during the "G8" summit to be held at Gleneagles later this year. Both Government leaders are professing Christians, and should be willing to meet the chief spokesman of their host-country's National Church.

We should like the Moderator to ask the two politicians whether they would be willing to spend an equal amount on the cancellation of debts in the Third World as the two countries have spent together on military matters during the preceding year.

As defence and ancillary spending far outstrip spending on debt cancellation, such a gesture would make an enormous contribution to alleviating the crippling debt-burden in Third world countries, and would be a major boost to the "MakePovertyHistory" campaign, organised by Christian Aid and other charities.

Our request is rooted in our belief that the Old Testament concept of "Jubilee" needs to be taken seriously, and that all of us should follow the example of Jesus, and "proclaim good news to the poor".

We urge you to arrange such a meeting. The "G8" summit in Scotland is a unique occasion, and in this way the National Church will make a real impact in this very important campaign.

If the two leaders do agree to such a meeting, they may not wish the media to be present, although that would be helpful. If that were to be the case, the Moderator and the two politicians may consider making a statement to the press after their meeting.

We pray that you will have an enjoyable and rewarding time while you continue to serve the Church as Moderator.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird
Minister

Catherine Duncan
Session Clerk

FROM OUR ORGANIST JIM FAIRLIE

That man still at the "Kist O' Whustlies"



THE PREVIOUS EDITION of this magazine, produced a curious result re George Thomson, Robert Burn's music publisher.

A telephone call from Frank Glynn, Aberdour, inviting me to have a look at one of George Thomson's violins

Needless to say a meeting was arranged and in St. Fillan's ancient church. I held in my hands the said violin.

Slightly shorter than the normal modern violin (length and width), no doubt about its age, dull of colour and coming apart at some of the seams and sure enough inside the casing on the bottom corner was a George Thomson signature, inserted obviously when the instrument was being constructed.

My only thought when handling it was that Burns, who was a violinist, could have held that same instrument whilst demonstrating some particular melody.

My mind was being carried away. Still.....

(Power of the word, even with St. Fillan's church magazine)

Frank also passed me a book to read "George Thomson 'the Friend of Burns' His Life & Correspondence. The signature under a portrait corresponds with the one inside the violin.

Thomson also during his lifetime corresponded professionally with amongst others Beethoven and Hayden, the great music composers of the day.

(Beethoven appeared to be very much in favour of expanding 'Scottish music')

He died in his 94th year, 19th February 1851 and was laid beside his wife in Kensal Green cemetery, in London, an inscription on the stone being written by Charles Dickens who incidentally married his granddaughter.

It is also interesting to note with the annual Edinburgh Festival due that according to the Scots Magazine in 1815 Thomson was very much engaged on the arrangements for the first Edinburgh Music Festival (which filled the week between October 30 and November 5.) and was also a director.

According to the Scots Magazine the celebration created such excitement that for many miles round in all directions there was not a post-horse to be had on any road, and hotels inns, and lodging houses were full. Has anything changed over the years? (Delete 'post-horse' insert 'stagecoach').

Incidentally the Kist O' Whustlies is now back in order, after rectification following the unfortunate rainwater incident. Thanks to Ken Sinclair's quick action ('action man') in clearing the gutter fault making the situation 'minor' rather than 'major'.

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 19 June	10.30 am and 3.00 pm	Communion	

From our World Mission Representative

David Graham

Thank you for all the used stamps.

Last year the Church of Scotland raised £2,802.40 for the Al-Sarooq School for the Blind in Jerusalem.

This year they hope to raise £3,000 for insecticide treated nets for the community around the Chigoria Hospital in Kenya.

The scheme is to reduce the incidence of malaria, a serious and sometimes a life-threatening disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Since the mosquitoes bite mostly at night, this is when protection is the most effective. The most vulnerable groups are young children and pregnant mothers.

The scheme trains the community on malaria - its prevention and control, it sells mosquito nets and teaches how to treat the nets with insecticide to increase their effectiveness - even for those not covered by the bednet.

Recently the scheme has been extended to provide bednets at the subsidised price of 35p (normal price £2.20) for all pregnant mothers and children under 5 years. These nets are being distributed by the project, and already many of the groups most vulnerable to complications of malaria have been able to purchase these subsidised bednets. But still there are those in the community who cannot afford to pay even this price.

You can hand in your used stamps any Sunday at Church to help this project.

St Fillan's Church - Charity Fundraising Concert & Barbecue – Monday 4 July

Once again St Fillan's Church are hosting a visiting American School Choir. This year it will be Colorado Springs Summit Ensemble, final year students and friends, led by Marcia Hendricks.

Aberdour has become famous across the USA for it's hospitality to visiting school groups and this year, as previously I am looking for 'host' families to take two or three members of the choir group home for tea. Collecting your guests from St Fillan's at 5.00pm and bringing them back for 7.00pm. Every group has said that the highlight of their tour was being taken into someone's home and being made to feel like one of the family.

This year, the tour arranger has asked if, as the 4th of July is American Independence Day we would organise an after concert Barbecue and Get Together for the Choir and Audience - we will, with the help of Aberdour and Dalgety Bay Rotary Club.

If you would be willing to take two or three people home for tea, come to the concert and barbecue or help in any other way please contact me.
David Hannah - 860 877.

PARISH AND CONGREGATION REGISTER

Baptisms

March 3 Charles Alexander Michael MacPhee
April 10 Isobel Sophie Lyall
April 17 Rebecca Katherine Robinson

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Marriages

April 16 Roderick Hannah and Elsie March

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

Bereavements

March 2 Mrs. Mary Haggart
March 30 Mrs. Nan McGregor

April 15 Graeme Low
April 19 Jack Gibson

May 2 David A. Dennison
May 14 Mrs. Martha Barker

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*

Joining by Transference

Mrs. Jacqueline Spilane, 23 High Street

Welcome, and we hope you enjoy your fellowship here

Please advise editor of any omissions from above – these will be included next time

POSITIVE RESPONSES

Contributed By Margaret Tollick

Question: - What do 'Hear, Hear': 'And so say all of us': and 'Amen': all have in common?
Answer: - All three are communal, strongly expressed responses of assent and approval of something that has just been said.

I have personally been aware of such heartfelt responses at 3 events recently - at the schoolchildren's afternoon tea party to mark the retiral of John Pegg, our local school's janitor, when their "Mr. Pegg is the Best" raised the roof; at an annual class reunion last week when the warm welcome expressed by this year's host to someone unable to come for several years, was echoed loudly and gladly by the rest of us. And thirdly, on Easter Sunday at St. Fillan's Church during the celebration of Communion.

Hang on a minute though! I began by talking of 'strongly expressed responses' - but while this was certainly true of John Pegg's 'do', and at the class reunion, am I the only one in the congregation who feels that when given the opportunity to respond with one clear voice, it comes across as rather peevish - wally and tentative - if indeed at all. And that's just the Amens!

When it comes to the ancient and beautiful statements and responses during the actual Communion liturgy, it seems very often that we are over-taken by a kind of pious diffidence, so that the ancient tradition of the Minister leading and the congregation responding firmly, has now become 'a one man band'.

Maybe I was lucky to be brought up in a church where all the congregational spoken responses were offered up as prayerfully, but also as heartily, as the singing of the Psalms and Hymns.

The words of the Responses in the Sacrament of Communion go back a long way in the history of the Church of Scotland, and, to quote from 'An Outline of Christian Worship' by W.D. Marshall, published in 1936 and republished up till 1958 to allow changes and amendments, "after due deliberation and experiment "The Book of Common Order" 1940 appeared as the authorized standard of the Church of Scotland. This version was replaced by a revised Book of Common Order in 1979 by the C. of S's Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion, which is still in use today.

It still contains all the Minister's words and the congregational responses during the Sacrament of Holy Communion - i.e.

The Salutation

Minister: The Lord be with you. **The People:** And also with you.

Sursum Corda

M: lift up your hearts. **P:** We lift them up to the Lord

Sanctus

M: Holy- Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

P: Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

M. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **P.** Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

M: Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the World, **P.** Have **mercy** upon us.

M: Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the World, **P:** Have mercy upon us.

M: Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the World- **P:** Grant us thy peace.

Recently, someone at church remarked to me on how enthusiastically the congregation sings these days.

Would that we could also lift up, not just our voices in song, but our voices in response to prayers, and during the Sacrament of Communion. I hope very much that maybe someone else, who has perhaps 'lost their tongue' for a while, will find it again and join with me in offering all our responses in clear affirmation and to the glory of God.

I finish with two quotations:

From the Book of Common Order, 1979, as part of the Introduction

It is clear that the language of today must be pressed into the service of the Church not just because it is modern, but because it has a contribution to make to the mission and service of the Church. It is equally clear however, that traditional prayer language must be used and developed in the service of the Church, not just because it is traditional, hallowed by usage centuries long, but because it has a contribution to make to the worship and mission of our Church, because it is an art-form of rare quality and part of our culture.

From The Presbyterian Churches, 1928, written by Dr. James Moffat and referring to the situation in the mid 19c.

The reaction against liturgies in Scotland was partly due to an honourable but exaggerated devotion to freedom in spirit and worship, as though this was incompatible with the use of any forms of prayer. It is a pity when minds work by reaction. Progress is not attained by recoiling as far as possible from what other people hold, nor by discarding a practice incontinently either because it is being abused by contemporaries, or because it has acquired some compromising associations. Unhappily Presbyterians for a time parted with some precious elements in their heritage of worship - and one of these was orderly liturgical prayer, which like good music acquired odium from its connection with episcopacy. It was for a long time believed that spontaneous, unpremeditated prayer was more inspired than any carefully drawn up collect. Even the Lord's Prayer has been tabooed! These sad days are over. It is at last becoming more and more recognised that we are free to use forms of prayer in our worship.

You may not agree with my point of view. That's great, because you can continue the discussion in the next issue of the Church magazine. Dialogue shared among friends is always useful.

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