

DORNOCH PARISH NEWS

February 1988



MINISTER - REV. JAMES A. SIMPSON
CATHEDRAL MANSE

EDITOR - MRS. I. CALDERWOOD
5, THE PILLARS, PITGRUDY

WANTED!

(1) Names and Addresses

In connection with our 750th celebrations in 1989, we are contacting people throughout Britain for whom Dornoch is still home, or a 'second home', and those abroad who have warm memories of our Mediaeval Cathedral. We hope that a goodly number of them might make arrangements to visit us next Summer and join in our celebrations. Many others would probably welcome receiving the pamphlet that has been prepared, listing the special events we are planning and the projects we hope to undertake.

We need your help in supplying us with the names and addresses of people

- who once lived in Dornoch and still have fond memories of our town and church
- of people who for years came on holiday
- of people who were married in the Cathedral or had their children baptised here.

Lists of names and addresses should be given to those on Sunday door duty, or alternatively be added to the sheets available in the church vestibules.

(2) Embroiderers

A few embroiderers are needed to sew kits of the Cathedral, which have been prepared for us in connection with our 750th.

Where these kits are on sale, we would like to have some made-up kits for display and sale.

Anyone interested should contact either Mrs Harriet Murray, St Andrews, Bishopfield or Mrs Susan Wright, Sutherland Road.





LITERARY GIANTS

I often marvel at the sharp contrast in backgrounds between the two Scotsmen who put our country on the literary map - Scotland's finest story-teller, Sir Walter Scott, and her finest poet, Robert Burns. The stories which the laird of Abbotsford penned in his luxury estate house, so enhanced the reputation of Scotland world-wide, that some refer to Scotland as the land of Scott. Robert Burns on the other hand spent most of his life in very lowly homes. Robert Ingersoll, an American, who visited the thatched But and Ben in Ayr in which Burns was born, penned these words:

'Tis but a cot roofed in with straw,
A hovel made of clay,
One door shuts out the wind and storms
One window greets the day.
And yet I stand within this room
And hold all thrones in scorn,
For here beneath this lowly thatch
Love's sweetest bard was born.

For a few years Burns served as a Ploughman. Later he was unsuccessful as a farmer. Finally he got a poorly paid post with the Excise. Though the wolf was never far from his door, yet it is Robert Burns, more than any other, who is now recognised as being the voice of the Scottish people, our national bard. (Had it been possible for him to claim the royalties he would have been a millionaire many times over!) How often and how widely his songs are sung. Recall how each year millions of people from San Francisco to Sydney, from Dornoch to Durban, join in singing the tender song he gave us to toll the passing of the old year - "Auld Lang Syne" - the most popular party song in the world, a song of brotherly love, a song that spells international friendship and goodwill. Though Burns was an intensely national poet, yet what international sentiments his songs and poems expressed. His great dream was that "Man to man the world o'er shall brothers be for a' that."

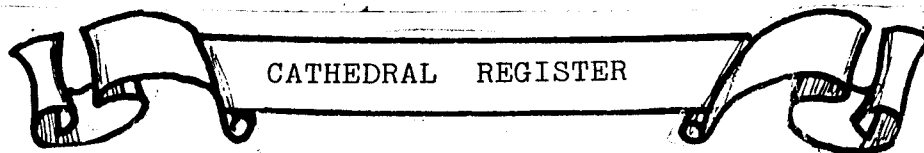
Another paradoxical characteristic about Burns is that though he had no time for the Holy Willies of this world, and though he was turned off by hypocrisy, false piety and religious cant, yet Burns was a strong advocate of all that Christianity at its finest stood for - reverence, caring love, brotherhood, justice and liberty. In a letter which Burns wrote to a Mr Cunningham he said, "I would deeply imbue every child of mine with religion."

In his moving poem about the Cotter, Burns powerfully reminds us that the real religion of Scotland was nourished at its deepest level in the home. His picture of the farmer opening at the end of the day his well-thumbed Bible, is an unforgettable one.

Compared with this, how poor religion's pride
In all the pomp of method and of art
When men display to congregations wide
Devotion's every grace except the heart!
The power, incensed, the pageant will desert,
The pompous strain, the sacerdota; stole;
But haply in some cottage far apart,
May near well pleased, the language of the soul
And in his book of life, the inmates poor enrol.

According to Burns, the secret of Scotland's greatness was to be found in such homes, homes built on love and faith, hope and honesty.

James A. Simpson.



Deaths

Our thoughts and prayers are with the relatives of those who have recently died.

Peggy Barron, Cambusavie Hospital.

Andrew Macleod, Camore Crescent.

Wedding

Sally Macdonald, "Tigh-na-Machair", Lonemore to Stephen Rowan, Nairn.

(Intimation of this wedding was unfortunately omitted from the last Parish News).

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JOINING THE CHURCH

Commencing Sunday 7th February, Mr Simpson will conduct a series of open communicant classes with the congregation during the morning service. It is hoped that at the close of these special teaching services,

some of our young people
some of our loyal adherents
some of the parents who have recently had their children
baptised,

might take the opportunity of becoming full members of the Church by profession of faith.

Rota of Elders & Deacons for Door Duty and Collections.

February

Elders: J.S. Innes
A.M. Ross

Deacons Mrs H. Bennett
W. Grieve

Deacons Court

The Deacons Court will meet on Sunday 7th February at 7.30 p.m. in the West Church Hall. The Finance Committee will meet at 6.45 p.m.

Cathedral Flowers

January 3rd	Vacant
" 10th	Mrs Phimister, Poole,
" 17th	" " Dorset.
" 24th	Mr & Mrs John Gordon,
" 31st	" " Auld Brig.
February 7th	Vacant
" 14th	Miss W. Budge, Ajmere Cott.
" 21st	Vacant
" 28th	Mrs H. Bennett, Cherry Tree Cottage.

Hall Cleaning Rota

February

Woman's Guild.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Brownies' Diamond Jubilee The Brownies will be presenting a bench seat to the Cathedral after the morning service on Sunday, 27th March, 1988. All parents and ex Guiders are invited to join us for the presentation, followed by soup and celebration cake in the West Church Hall. N.G.


Sunday School & Adventurers We would like to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas parties, which were a great success - to the parents who sent food - the local folk who supported us in so many ways - not least to the teachers who spent an exhausting day. We are grateful for the generosity expressed by the congregation who gave £113.58 to the retiring offering at the Christmas Service.


**Thank
You!**


Would parents please note the following dates:

31st January	-	11 a.m.	Cathedral Family Service.
7th February	-	11 a.m.	West Church Hall classes.
14th "	-	"	" " " " " "
21st "	-	No classes	- School long-weekend break.
28th "	-	11 a.m.	West Church Hall classes.
6th March	-	"	" " " " " "

Please continue to send your children regularly during these Winter months. J.Muir.

 Junior Breakfast Club At the start of this session we welcomed Mrs Evelyn Calder, our new joint leader. The enthusiasm of the young folk to help OXFAM and the generosity of their sponsors for the cycle-run, is resulting in good donations to this cause. We hope to have the final total by the end of January. T.N.C.

 Senior Breakfast Club The young people had a busy time over Christmas. Sunday 20th December was 'all go'. After the Christmas Service, in which they had taken part, they delivered over a thousand Christmas cards. We are grateful to those adults who helped to sort out the cards and to those who drove the young folk round the various areas. In the evening we had a super party out at Pulrossie. Mr and Mrs Burnett had put in a tremendous amount of preparation to make the night so successful.

 On the 31st January at 7 p.m. we look forward to the Deacons Court being with us for a night of "Blockbusters". A dozen members of the Court have volunteered to take part. We hope many other deacons and elders will come along and share as spectators in the enjoyment. H.S. and R.M.

Woman's Guild The New Year at the Woman's Guild got underway on Tuesday afternoon, January 12th, when we had our own 'Centenary Celebrations'. We watched a video of the pageant which took place in the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh last April. In forty minutes we saw a potted history of the decades that made up the first hundred years of the Guild. The fashions and the narration made us smile and laugh and remember. We were delighted that Miss Ruby Munro our oldest member - 95 years young this year - was with us. She cut our birthday cake. The whole meeting was a lovely start to 1988 and we look forward to the rest of our meetings. H. Simpson.

January 26th, 7.30 p.m. Rev J. Rushton, Helmsdale and Mr M. Burnett. "Now and Then". The speakers will put forward their views as to how they see the Church in the year 2000.


February 9th, 2.30 p.m. Rev. Mrs Susan Brown - "Dedication".

February 23rd 7.30 p.m. Rev. Duncan McClements - "Homes for All".

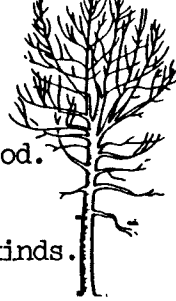
Reminder

Young Woman's Group There was a good turnout at the January meeting for the microwave cookery demonstration. There were plenty of ideas for keeping cool in the kitchen - no need to 'slave over a hot stove' to produce a nourishing meal. Thanks were expressed to Mrs I. Calderwood and Mrs M. MacKay who prepared a variety of dishes for tasting.

On February 1st we will be welcoming Dr Wall who will speak on 'Christian Counselling'.



OVERSTEPS



The residents enjoyed visits from several organisations over the Christmas period. Amongst these was the Woman's Guild from Brora who presented a Nativity play which was much enjoyed. Dornoch Cubs sang carols and presented each resident with a gift. Many other individuals and organisations gave gifts of various kinds. Grateful thanks goes to them for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

The Christmas party given by the Local Committee was held on Saturday afternoon, the 16th January. Amongst the many friends present were residents from Seaforth House in Golspie. Entertainment was provided by Mr and Mrs Dan MacPherson, Miss Cathie Ross, Mrs Anne Dunlop, Mr Roddie Maclean and Miss Elaine Simpson and Mrs Maggie Thatcher alias Mrs Helen Kruger. An impromptu choir led the community singing. Santa Claus, in spite of a lack of snow, was able to attend. A big thank you to staff, friends and helpers for making it such a success. M.M.

DORNOCH S.W.R.I.

President Mrs M. MacKay welcomed a good turnout to the first meeting of the new year. Mrs E. Hayward gave a report on the toy-makers' school held recently and the fine display of jointed teddies and other soft toys was evidence of the skill learned. At the close of the lengthy business, the President gave a warm welcome to the evening's speaker, Mrs I. Skillicorn. Several members had come prepared with garments in need of Mrs Skillicorn's wealth of experience in alterations and hemming, etc. Her dressmaking tips for cutting-out patterns, sewing in zips and just generally sharing her knowledge ensured a very interesting evening for all.

Mrs Skillicorn was invited to judge the January competitions and the results were as follows:

Victoria Sponge - 1. Mrs M. Cameron, 2. Mrs E. Courtney, 3. Mrs M. MacKay.
Home made sewn article - 1. Mrs M. MacKay, 2. Mrs C. Swallow, 3. Miss Pettigrew.

The tea hostesses who provided the lovely tea were Mrs Hutton, Miss Pettigrew and Mrs Smart.

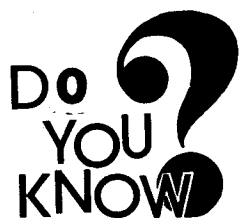
The February meeting will be held in Oversteps on the 16th.

HERITAGE SOCIETY

Mr Ted Courtney will be taking a 'Plain man's look at our Northern heritage' on Thursday 28th January at 7.30 p.m. in the Library Building.

A month later, on Thursday 25th February (same time, same place), Mrs M. Mackenzie, Curator of Tain Museum, will address the Society.

A plea from JANE



The words of the poem, 'CUDDLE DOON' ?

The author " " " " " ?

The title of the book of poems in which it can be found ?

The Editor will pass any replies to JANE.



The following essay was written by Scott Mackenzie, a second year pupil in Dornoch Academy. Mrs Sutherland the English teacher, thought it might be of interest to our readers.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

The fire smouldered, no longer with the roaring flames it once had had. The earlier onlookers had vanished except for a single man, well dressed, in his early 18th century clothes. He thought to himself how the spectators had vanished as soon as the screams of the woman, (woman? no, he corrected himself, the witch), had subsided amongst the crackling flames. For this fire had caused the death of the witch Janet Horne and the only sign of the fire's purpose was the now charred post pointing to the sky. The man did not feel guilty and why should he? The woman had been a witch and he had sentenced her to be burnt - crime and punishment.

He reflected on the day as he stared into the flames of his own fire before retiring to his bed. Crime and punishment. The words flashed through his mind and he snatched himself from sleep, jerking fully awake again. He was tired. There was something odd about his home that night. The shadows seemed longer and the corners of his room a huge yawning blackness which could lead to, and from anywhere. Why am I thinking this rubbish? he chided himself. Guilt? No. Why did he keep feeling guilty? That case of Janet Horne's had been no different from any other and yet He could not explain it and he decided not to try and went to bed.

Crime and punishment. The words shrieked at his mind and he woke in a cold sweat, cowering and snivelling. His nervous, frightened mind received a great jolt as he perceived HER standing at the end of the bed. She was wearing a long skirt and a woollen shawl over her bent figure and she seemed to be grinning, grinning at his discomfort.

"Wha are ye?" the man ventured. "Ye ken weel enough wha I am David Ross", she replied. Ross tried to get a grip on himself. He must be dreaming. That was it, he was dreaming. "You are not dreamin'", said the woman, and Ross gaped in surprise. "This is reality. Ye've done whit ye've done an' there is no escaping the consequences o' your deeds." She walked forward, seating herself in a chair by Ross's side. "Crime and punishment, that's your genme. But this time there was no crime - an' so to make it even - a crime has tae be committed. Fair? I wud say so."

"But there was a crime. You - you were a witch. We proved it." Ross realised that he had nothing to lose. "Proof!" The ghost spat through her teeth. "That was nae enough proof to hang a cat. Nay, Ross, nay, ye ken yersel' I wis nae guilty. Now Ross I'll tell ye that ye shall nae see the morn for by then the Reaper will hae taken ye on yer way." The woman had risen by now and stood with her arms thrown upwards, muttering strange words. Her voice rose to a crescendo until there was a flash and then the malicious screaming of the words, "And may ye burn in Hell!"

Just a short time later the streets of Dornoch were alive with people scurrying to the house of David Ross of Littledean, the Sheriff Depute. By the side of the charred remains on which the witch Janet Horne had met her death, stood a young woman. She hid her face and hands from the passing crowds, but could feel nothing but delight at the sight of Ross's blazing house, too far gone to be saved. Ross and his servant would have died long since.

A bent, decrepit figure hobbled against the flow of people, away from the flames of destruction and when she reached the young woman she pulled open the shawl and held the young deformed hand.

"Aye whit a bonnie blaze", she murmured as she walked away to the town.

EEEEEEEEEEEE



"God loves a cheerful giver", but as someone said recently, "He also accepteth from a grouch!"

FOOTBALL AS A RELIGION

Have you ever noticed certain striking resemblances between an ardent follower of Christ and an ardent follower of, say, Arsenal or Aston Villa?

Ardent followers of Christ regularly assemble themselves together, express their feelings by singing hymns, give of their time and money, rejoice when things are going well, and hope for better times when they aren't.

Ardent football fans regularly assemble together, express their feelings, at times, in song; give of their time, energy and money, rejoice when things are going well with their team, and hope for better times when the team's fortunes slump. Following football can be, and for some is, a substitute for the Christian religion.

Deep down in human nature is an instinct that finds satisfaction in identifying with some cause bigger than ourselves, to which we can give our dedication and loyalty. But that doesn't mean that all such causes are equally satisfying or valuable.

A MAN SHOULD NEVER be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but to say in other words that he is wiser than he was yesterday.

JONATHAN SWIFT

TRY TO UNDERSTAND



Teenagers tips for getting along with parents:

Don't be afraid to speak their language. Try using strange words and phrases like "I'll help wash the dishes," "yes," "thank you," and "please."

Try to understand their music. Play Glenn Miller's 'Moonlight Serenade' on the stereo and accustom yourself to the strange sound.

Encourage them to talk about their problems. Try to keep in mind that things like earning a living and paying off the mortgage are important to them.

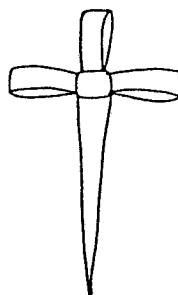
And most important of all: if they do something you consider wrong, let them know it's their behaviour you dislike, not them. Remember, parents need to feel loved!

"LET NO MAN pull you so low that you hate him. Always avoid violence. If you sow the seeds of violence in your struggles, unborn generations will reap the whirlwind of social disintegration."

— MARTIN LUTHER KING



"NOTHING PERSONALNOTHING PERSONALNOTHING PERSONAL"



Television commercials are educational. They teach you how stupid advertisers think you are

Radar spelt backwards is radar—they get you coming and going

My husband is a Do-It-Yourself man—every time I ask him to do something, he says, "Do it yourself!"



THE WELCOME CLUB

A festively decorated West Church Hall was the venue for the Christmas Party.

Mrs Rutherford welcomed the members and introduced Mrs Reed and the Bonar Bridge Girls' Brigade who provided a delightful entertainment of 'Song and Dance'. Mr Kirkwood played cheery selections on his accordian. A sincere vote of thanks was proposed by Mr W. Ross.

Rev. J. Macpherson said the Grace and then a Christmas tea was served.

Mrs Wood presided over the January meeting. She thanked the knitters for their hard work - Mrs Bella Maclean gave a knee rug and Mr and Mrs Sinclair a knee rug and a child's jumper.

The guest speaker, Mrs Swallow, accompanied by her husband Col. Swallow, were warmly welcomed by Mrs Wood. Mrs Swallow gave a most entertaining account of her wonderful holiday touring various parts of India. Col. Swallow showed beautiful slides to illustrate the talk. A warm vote of thanks was given by Mrs Reid.

The next meeting of the Club will be held on Monday 8th February at 2.30 p.m. in the Free Church Hall.

The W.R.V.S. are most grateful for a generous donation to the funds of the Welcome Club from the Aberdeen Students' Charities Campaign.

I.R.

DORNOCH LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY COST £1

Copies of the new Directory are on sale at Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale Bank and D. Purvis. They have been produced jointly by Dornoch Area Community Council and East Sutherland Council of Social Service.



DORNOCH TOWN JAIL

A grateful customer was so pleased with the service provided by the staff at Dornoch Town Jail that she sent a cheque for £3 to Mrs Clubb, Manageress asking her to donate it to the charity of her choice. Mrs Clubb has chosen the Highland Hospice.

Satisfied customers will encourage others to visit our area. Well done and thanks to all at the Jail from the Highland Hospice.

Thanks!



HIGHLAND HOSPICE HIPPOS

Evelix Garage raised £10.43 and Gillespie's £8.10. Thanks to all who donated.

