

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 24

APRIL

1952

MINISTER:—The Revd. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., B.D., The Manse, Aberdour.

Session Clerk—Mr A. R. Milne, Station House.

Clerk to the Congregational Board—Mr J. Dawson Macfarlane, C.A., Braefoot, Easter Aberdour.

Treasurer—Mr C. J. Kerr, J.P., National Bank House.

Proclamations Officer—Mr H. Cecil Lyon, Park View, Park Lane.

Organists: Aberdour—Mr J. Gillespie, Ardene.

Dalgety—Mrs Machin, Wayside, Aberdour.

Beadles: Aberdour—Mr Lawrence Moir, Sands Houses.

Dalgety—Mr Harry Moyes, Ardmohr.

TIMES OF SERVICE.

Aberdour—In St. Fillan's Church and St. Colme's Church alternately, at 11 and 6.30. (A notice is put up each week outside the Parish Hall saying in which Church the Services are the following Sunday).

Dalgety—Every Sunday at 12.30.

Primary Sunday School—St. Fillan's Hall, 12.20 p.m.

Senior Sunday School—Alternating according to the Church in which the service is being held, at 12.20 p.m.

Dalgety Sunday School—Dalgety Church, 11.30 a.m.

Junior Bible Class—St. Fillan's Hall, 12.20 p.m.

The Young People's Fellowship—St. Fillan's Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Woman's Guild—St. Fillan's Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.45 p.m., and on the fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.

THE MANSE,
ABERDOUR.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

This Quarterly may be one of the last in its present form. The cost of paper and printing have risen considerably and £28 a year would be quite a large sum of money to spend on such a publication. In future we may have to content ourselves with a single sheet, and still make, through it, a useful contribution to our church life.

With April we have come to the closing of many of our winter activities. All the organisations have had a successful season, and they now look forward to their summer outings. The tiny-tots may look upon their Sunday School trip as a reward for diligent attendance, and the grown-up folk to theirs as a day from home, but we can make of them all a means of deepening the Fellowship—of getting to know the other members of God's family in Aberdour better. Many have been the lasting friendships which have resulted from a Sunday School trip, a Fellowship Drive or a Guild Outing.

On Sunday, 6th April, Mr Martin said "farewell" to us. He has been with us for two years, and during that time he has not only made many firm friendships in the congregation, but he has preached to us the "Unsearchable Riches of Christ" in season and out of season. We wish him every success in his final examination for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, and to Mrs Martin and himself in their work for the Master with Her Majesty's Forces.

We are glad to welcome to our midst the Rev. J. W. Kerr. Mr Kerr is the retired minister of Anderson Church in Glasgow. He now lives in Edinburgh, and he has kindly promised to help us in Aberdour for some months. We look forward to his coming amongst us, and I know that he will endear himself to young and old in the congregation.

We print in this number the letter from Dr Wilkinson our Missionary in Kenya. It was read at a morning service, but to have it here in the Quarterly will give everyone an opportunity to read a letter which is, after all, a personal one to every member of the congregation. I hope that as these letters come we shall all find a growing interest in this particular part of God's vineyard.

May God's blessing rest upon you and your loved ones.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSION,
TUMUTUMU, P.O. KARATINA,
KENYA COLONY,

20th January, 1952.

DEAR MR RUTHERFORD,

First let me thank you for your letter and your Christmas greetings which both safely arrived. Then let me apologise to you for being so long in replying to you and to the congregation. This letter is only a preliminary one, because I am hoping ere long to write a full circular letter to all those churches I visited whilst at home last year. However I have not been able to do that yet, and I do not quite see time in the near future, and so I must make a beginning with my new friends of Aberdour.

I think that I can claim that your people are not altogether strangers to me, because one of my best friends from schooldays is one of their former assistants, the Rev. Brian Thompson now of Aberdeen. He was assistant to Mr Stalker who was your predecessor, I think.

There is not much space on one of these air letter forms to tell you about the work out here: the work of the Church of Scotland began in Kenya in 1891 as a daughter mission of the work at Blantyre. The directors of the Imperial British East Africa Company, especially Sir William Mackinnon and Mr A. L. Bruce, invited the Church of Scotland to begin work amongst the tribes in the interior of British East Africa. In response to this invitation, a party came from Blantyre led by Dr Stewart of Lovedale. They had hoped to reach the Kikuyu country, but were prevented from doing so by reports of fighting and unrest amongst that people. Consequently they set up the first mission station at a place called Kibwezi (Kibwayzi it is pronounced). However, it was soon realised that this site was unhealthy, and to-day there is a small cemetery on the site of that first mission station as the only remaining indication of its position. Also it was realised that the station was not in the centre of a fixed population, and so it would be very difficult to establish a permanent work. The result was that in 1898 the work was transferred to the station that we know now as Kikuyu. Thus our jubilee as the Kikuyu Mission was celebrated in 1948, and the coloured film taken at that time is the one which is in circulation in the Home Church now.

Kikuyu is about 14 miles from Nairobi, which is, as you know, the capital city of Kenya—the first city of the Colonies. It is said that the original station was opened beside a halt on the great Uganda Slave Route. To-day that halt is a railway station. When the first missionaries, led by the Rev. Thomas Watson, came to establish their station at Kikuyu, they had first to fell the trees of the forest which covered the countryside. To-day there are very few of those trees left, one still remains in the manse garden to remind us of the majesty and beauty of those forest giants. At Kikuyu we have all three departments of the work—Church, School and Hospital. There is not time at the moment to tell you about them.

The second station to be founded was that of Tumutumu (you pronounce it Toomootoomoo) which is the station where we are working at present. It was established in 1909 by a party from Kikuyu. It was at first just an out-station of Kikuyu although about 90 miles away, but has now grown up to become a station in its own right with a larger hospital and school than Kikuyu. It is in the centre of a far more populous area than Kikuyu is.

We have two other stations now: one at Chogoria which was founded in 1922, and the other at Kambui, which was taken over by us from an American Mission when the missionary pioneers died and left the station and work with no one to supervise and guide it.

The tribe amongst whom we work are Kikuyu. They had a bad name for their treacherous dealings with the early travellers, but they have shown a great response to the Gospel. As a result of the work of the Church of Scotland Mission there is now in being the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, which is a completely self-governing Church. The missionaries are members of the Church Courts, but are no longer in controlling positions. This is in line with our Foreign Mission policy of building up a native or indigenous Church quite free of foreign control, so that if the foreign missionaries ever had to be withdrawn the native Church could carry on the work of evangelism.

There are great opportunities of evangelism before the Church here, but we and they are so short of staff. The Kikuyu Church has the great opportunity of evangelising their hereditary enemies the Masai, and a start has been made and we now have five schools amongst them, but the Masai are asking for a European Missionary to be sent to them, but we have no one to spare.

Greetings from my wife and myself and our little daughter (Patricia) aged 2.

Yours sincerely,

J. WILKINSON.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The Annual Business Meeting was held in the Church Hall on Wednesday, 20th February, the Rev. D. Rutherford, M.C., B.D., being in the chair. In the unavoidable absence of Mr Macfarlane, Clerk to the Congregational Board, the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mr A. R. Milne, Session Clerk. The Treasurer's report was submitted by Mr C. J. Kerr, J.P., and the report of the Woman's Guild by Mrs D. Rutherford, the President. Miss Mary Bald, the President, reported on the work of the Youth Fellowship; Mr R. R. Clarke on the distribution of magazines, and Mr H. C. Martin on the work of the Sunday Schools. The Rev. D. Rutherford then spoke on the work of the Parish and stressed the responsibilities of membership of the Church, and expressed his thanks to all who worked for the good of the Church in the various spheres of its work. It having been decided that the number of the elected members of the Congregational Board be increased from 12 to 18, with the particular objects of increasing the number of younger members and spreading interest in the work of the church, Messrs A. Elder, R. M. Walker, Ian Stewart and J. Amos, and Misses M. Bald, A. Fairley, M. Fraser and C. Steel were elected to make up this number. The composition of the elected portion of the Board is now as follows:—

Due to retire February, 1953.

Miss Simmers, Miss McLauchlan, Mr Macfarlane, Mrs Noble, Mr Ian Stewart.

Due to retire February, 1954.

Miss Anderson, Miss Wilkie, Mr E. Crowe, Mr D. Gunn, Mr Archer, Miss A. Binning, Miss M. Bald.

Due to retire February, 1955.

Miss A. Fairley, Miss M. Fraser, Miss C. Steel, Mr J. Amos, Mr A. Elder, Mr R. M. Walker.

At the conclusion of the Business Meeting, tea was served by the ladies of the Women's Guild, after which a musical programme was rendered by members of the choir, under the conductorship of Mr Gillespie. In addition to concerted pieces by the choir, solos were rendered by Mrs E. Crowe, Mrs Bowman, Misses Mary Bald, Shiela M. McLaren and Helen M. Clarke, Mr R. M. Walker and Mr Thomson, and violin solos by Mr Gordon Betty. The customary dance followed, the music being provided by Messrs Gillespie, Gordon, G. Betty and S. Burniston.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.

PRESENTATION TO MR H. CORY MARTIN.

At an informal gathering held in the Church Hall on the evening of Wednesday, 2nd April, to which the members of the Congregational Board and the Sunday School teachers were invited, a presentation was made by the Youth Fellowship and teachers of the Sunday Schools in Aberdour and Dalgety to Mr H. Cory Martin on the occasion of his way-going after two years as student assistant to the congregation. Miss M. Bald, president of the Youth Fellowship and a teacher in the Sunday School, making the presentation of a travelling case, spoke appreciatively of Mr Martin's work among the young and wished him and Mrs Martin Godspeed in their new sphere. Addresses of tribute were also given by Mr George Lamb, Senior Elder, and the Rev. D. W. Rutherford. Mr Martin takes up duties in June with the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

ABERDOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL.

In addition to the departure of Mr H. Cory Martin, who conducted the Sunday School for the last time on Sunday, the 6th April, an appreciation of whose personality and work is recorded in another section of the magazine, the staff and scholars also greatly regret the departure of Miss Rena Anderson, who has been a teacher in the Senior Department for over four years, and has also been Treasurer of the Sunday School, and in thanking her for all her work in the Sunday School and in all the activities associated with it, we extend our best wishes for her future in the West of Scotland.

DALGETY SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Junior Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, 23rd April, with the object of producing a cantata at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. It was with great regret that the members in Dalgety heard of the death, after a long illness, of Mrs Lake, who for many years led the Sunday School. Her work and influence on the young people of the parish will be gratefully remembered by many in Dalgety.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

- 19th January—Arthur Fernie.
20th „ —David McIntosh Gordon.
20th „ —Elizabeth Harriet Ann Gordon.
27th „ —Robert Watson Inglis.
27th „ —Shena Isobel Low.
10th Feby. —Deirdre Margaret Eleanor Collyer.
10th „ —Rosemary Hamilton Watson.
9th March —Gordon Fyfe McGillvray.
6th April —Ronald William Hill Graham.
6th „ —Anne Gay Liston.

MARRIAGE.

"What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

- 2nd April—Alan Edge to Ada Ann McGregor.

DEATHS.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

- 10th January —Mrs Williamson, The Murrel.
15th „ —Mr David Christie, Dalgety Cottage.
15th February—Mr Dunbar, Hillend.
23rd „ —Mr John Campbell, "Clachaig."
29th „ —Miss N. Todd, Aberdour.
6th March —Mrs Blaik, Humberie Terrace.
3rd April —Mrs Lake, Park Lane.

ACCESSIONS.

- BY CERTIFICATE—Mrs Denver, 3 Milne Place, from Australia.
Mr and Mrs Fernie, 2 Murrell Road, from Auchtertool.
Miss Johnston, 27 High Street, from The Salvation Army.
Mr and Mrs Marnock, Croftgary Cottages, from Auchtertool.
Mrs Lamberton, Letham Cottages, Hillend, from Newmill, Keith.

DISJUNCTIONS.

- Mrs J. M. Adams, "Moirdene," Seaside Place, to Simonstown, S.A.
Miss Helen Bowman, West End, to Dunfermline North Church.