

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 26

OCTOBER

1952

MINISTERS:—The Revd. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., B.D., The Manse, Aberdour.
The Revd. GEORGE W. LAWRENCE, B.D.

Session Clerk—Mr T. M. Patterson, M.A., South House, Seaside Place.

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.

THE MANSE,
ABERDOUR.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Looking back to past Quarterlies I notice that the October letter usually commences "Already a beginning has been made to the winter's work." Once again that is true for all our organisations have made a good beginning. The three **Sunday Schools**, the Primary and Senior in Aberdour and the Dalgety Sunday School, have again a good enrolment and are, for the time being, adequately staffed. The **Scouts, Cubs, Guides** and **Brownies**, though open organisations, are again doing valuable work for the congregation and making good use of the Church Hall. There are **Bible Classes** in both Aberdour and Dalgety. The Dalgety Bible Class meets at the hour of the Sunday School under Mrs Machin, and the Aberdour Bible Class meets at 5.30 p.m., when they study the lives of great Christians of the modern world—Eric Liddell, Mary Slessor, Jane Haining and Edward Wilson, etc. **The Young People's Fellowship** has altered its form of meeting to Tea, Address, Discussion and Prayers, the last being the most important. This winter, while discussing a syllabus under the title "Myself and I," the Fellowship will study the background of the Old Testament. It was with mixed feelings that the Fellowship heard that Morag, their adopted niece, had returned to her father. We are glad that she should now have a normal home life with its love and care, but the young people will miss Morag very much. They are not, however, relinquishing their interest in Hawthornbrae Home, Duddingston, for they have undertaken to support a little girl of the same age, Isobel Roper, who has no one to take an interest in her. The **Woman's Guild** held its opening meeting on Tuesday, 14th October, when the financial position of the church was outlined to them, and they were asked by the Congregational Board to help again in raising the necessary money to meet all the calls upon the congregation. The Guild agreed to hold a **Sale of Work** for that purpose on **Saturday, 6th December**.

The Congregational Board have been considering the serious financial position of the congregation. Each year congregational contributions have risen substantially, but so have the costs—taxes, rates, repairs, etc., and it is a fact that for some years the ordinary givings have been far behind the expenditure. By the time you receive this letter you may have received another through your elders on this urgent matter. The elders have made themselves responsible for the distribution and will collect the replies later. It is hoped that every member will see that a reply is given on the slip provided.

As a congregation we greatly regret that Mr Kerr felt that he could not continue to act as assistant during the winter months. He endeared himself to everyone, and when he took the last service in September, and the Kirk Session afterwards presented him with a small token of our thanks, we all felt that we were very much in his debt for the inspiration he gave and the service he so willingly offered.

The Revd. George W. Lawrence, B.D., who follows him, is assured of a warm welcome to the two parishes. He is a Congregational Minister from U.S.A. on further study at the University of Edinburgh. His wife and two children are with him in this country, and we hope that before they return to America they will have made many close friends amongst the folk of Aberdour and Dalgety.

Appeals of one kind and another come before the Congregational Board. One which came recently and which we all felt deserved our support was that for the **Orkney Gale Damage** for the churches and manses destroyed in the storm. The Board sanctioned a gift of £5.

Mention ought to be made of our open-air services during the summer. The service in the Abbey Garden at Inchcolme had to be postponed until August, but we were again favoured with good weather. The offering in aid of Church Extension amounted to £6. Mr Webster, one of our members, photographed the scene at the service, and is to be congratulated on the excellent photograph which appeared in the September issue of "Life and Work." The service at St. Bridget's, Dalgety, drew a good congregation. Many enjoyed the walk along the drive, by kind permission of the Moray Estates.

The Congregational Board have decided to begin work on the repair and re-decoration of the Church Hall. This will involve the congregation in some effort and expense. It has often been said that a congregation is never healthier than when it is working for something, and I have no doubt that that will be true in Aberdour and Dalgety.

Mention has been made elsewhere in the Quarterly of the death of Mr Fulton. I will not add to what was said from the pulpit, except to say, that in his passing the congregation has sustained a very grievous loss indeed.

And now, as this letter goes to press, there comes the news of the death of an old friend of the congregation, Mr William Williamson, of "Bowbutts," Kinghorn. He was the architect who in 1926 restored St. Fillan's Church, and in its perfection gave to Aberdour one of the most beautiful of all the places of worship in the whole of Scotland. He was the architect of many fine buildings, but his heart was in St. Fillan's. It was a place he loved and it was his own wish that his funeral service should take place there.

This letter seems to be composed mainly of items of news, but it is difficult for it to be otherwise in this shortened form of Quarterly.

May God's blessing rest upon the homes of the parishes and all those connected with them.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

The following Tribute was paid to Mr John Fulton on Communion Sunday, 19th October, in St. Fillan's Church.

It is indeed fitting that any tribute paid to the memory of John Fulton, elder of this congregation, should be paid in this Sanctuary, which he loved, and on the day of the Sacrament, which for so many years he helped to dispense. Ordained to the Eldership in 1919, he was one of the senior members of the Kirk Session. Living almost his entire life within the Parish of Aberdour at Balmule, he was well known, and he has left to all who knew him and did business with him, the memory of a truly Christian gentleman. He was kind and considerate and generous to a high degree. His counsel in the Session was wise and just; his visitation to the homes of his district was looked forward to and appreciated; while his dignified bearing on Communion Sunday was only a reflection of an inner dignity and of a deep devotion to the Church of Christ. His religion was no outward thing; it was a personal faith, revealing itself in his perseverance in the diligent use of the means of Grace, and none partook of a meal in his home without heads being bowed and blessing asked. He had a favourite hymn which might well have been the inspiration of his Christian life:—

"Thou hidden Love of God, whose height,
Whose depth unfathomed, no man knows,
I see from far Thy beauteous light,
Inly I sigh for Thy repose;
My heart is pained, nor can it be
At rest till it finds rest in Thee."

And as our hearts go out to-day in sympathy for Mrs Fulton, our sorrow and hers is turned to happiness by the knowledge that for him the promise of the last words which he often sang is fulfilled:—

"Then shall my heart from earth be free,
When it has found repose in Thee."

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

10th August—Stuart Grieve Harris, Dalachy.

MARRIAGES.

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

26th July—James Hutchison to Margaret King.

2nd Aug.—Walter D. Jamieson to Evelyn Douglas.

6th Sept.—James A. Maxtone Graham to Diana E. Macgregor.

DEATHS.

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

22nd July—Gilbert Reid, Ogden, Murrell Road.

14th Sept.—Gordon Nisbet, 17 Perth Street, Edinburgh.

10th Oct.—John Fulton, Balmule Farm.

ACCESSIONS.

BY CERTIFICATE—Mr and Mrs Ritchie, Bearinnes, The Glebe, from Edinburgh.

Mr and Mrs Gilmour, Viewforth Terrace, from Edinburgh.

Mr and Mrs Walker, 36 Grange Road, Burntisland, from Burntisland.

BY PROFESSION OF FAITH—Mr and Mrs Hanlon, Shore Road, Aberdour.

DISJUNCTIONS.

Mr and Mrs Perryman of St. Davids to North Queensferry.

Mr and Mrs D. Paterson, Hillend to Inverkeithing.