

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 29

AUGUST 1953

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, FIFE.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Our letter this month is designed to give an introduction to the winter's activities, and we hope that it will prove worth retaining as a calendar of events.

The Church Hall is nearing completion after the renovation and redecoration. Already it looks an entirely different place from the dingy building we knew, and I am sure that when the accessories are added the congregation will be very proud indeed of such a possession. The cost is higher than we had at one time expected, but no doubt we shall find the sum required. Our thanks must go to all who have contributed to this work, and especially to Mr Archer, who has given unselfishly of his time and experience to make the hall both useful and beautiful. **Our Evening Services begin again on Sunday, 6th September**, and that will be a fitting occasion on which to meet as a congregation **in the Hall** for worship and declare it open again for the work of the Church.

That day, too, marks the beginning of the **Sunday Schools and Bible Class at Dalgety**. The Sunday Schools meet at 11.30 a.m. and the Bible Class a little after. It is hoped that parents in that part of the parish will avail themselves of the opportunity to send their children to this excellent little Sunday School.

On the second Sunday of the month, 13th September, when the service in Aberdour is in St. Colme's Church, we shall have the pleasure of having **the Rev. James Rennie, M.A., of Wardie Church, Leith**. Mr Rennie was minister of St. Colme's Church from 1925 to 1932. He is assured of a very warm welcome from his friends as he returns to his old pulpit.

September 20th marks the commencement of both **Sunday Schools in Aberdour**. The Primary Department, which caters for children from four years of age to eight years, will continue to meet as it has in the past in the Hall after the morning service. The Senior Sunday School, however, changes both its time and place. By an almost unanimous vote, the parents of the children of the Senior Sunday School welcomed the suggestion from the teachers that it should be held prior to the Church. It will now meet at 10 a.m. in the Hall—not as formerly in one of the Churches. The alteration will take a little time to get accustomed to, but I have no doubt that in the long run it will prove more satisfactory than the present arrangement. The age group for the Senior Sunday School is eight to thirteen-and-a-half years. **The Bible Class** makes a beginning on the following Sunday, 27th September. It meets in the small hall at 5.30 p.m., and all the young people of the congregation up to the age of sixteen years are expected to attend. This class is one of the stages of preparation for joining the full membership of the Church.

The same day, 27th September, will be the **Harvest Thanksgiving Festival** in both Aberdour and Dalgety. Gifts will be received in St. Colme's Church on the Saturday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dalgety worshippers will bring their gifts as usual on Sunday morning. The gifts will be distributed amongst the sick and elderly in the parish and to the hospitals in Dunfermline.

The following Sunday is being observed throughout the country as Old Folk's Sunday. The **Young People's Fellowship** gather for the winter session that evening. All young people of sixteen years and over are invited to join. It meets in the small hall after the evening service.

Sunday, 11th October, is the half-yearly **Communion** at Dalgety. The Aberdour Communion which is in St. Colme's Church falls on the 25th October.

Fuller reference is made in the Pulpit Tribute in this issue to the sudden passing of Mr John Mitchell, one of our most loved elders. The Kirk Session have lost heavily in their numbers in recent months. Not only have they lost those who were mentioned in a previous letter but Mr Ewing, who was elder of a large country district around Dalgety Church, has left to go to Dunshelt, while Dr Primmer of Aberdour has gone to Kirk-

caldy. We shall miss them both and wish them happiness in their new congregations. In view of the vacant districts in both Aberdour and Dalgety the Kirk Session decided to elect, by resolution of the Kirk Session, six new elders for Aberdour and two for Dalgety. In order that no suitable person be omitted, members are asked to submit signed lists of names of members deemed suitable for the eldership up to that number by the 20th September, members in Aberdour for Aberdour and members in Dalgety for Dalgety. The **Ordination** of these new elders will, should all the formalities be completed, take place on one of the remaining Sundays in October.

The Woman's Guild makes a start on the second Tuesday of October. It will meet as in former years on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, and for the most part the meetings this year will be in the afternoon. A warm welcome is given to all ladies in the parish.

Throughout Scotland this winter each district is to hold "A Bible Week," when the attention of the community will be focused on the parts which the Bible has played in our history and its importance for life to-day. "Bible Week" for Aberdour and Dalgety has been fixed for the week October 25th - 1st November.

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 8th November.

It may be that before this letter goes to print there will be a further letter from Dr Wilkinson, our Partner-plan Missionary in Tumutumu, but I wish to end this letter of mine by quoting from an extract from his letter to me in May. He was referring to a request which had been made to him to tell us at home how best people could help in the work of his hospital. He wrote as follows:—

"If any of the items appeal to any of your people we will be glad to send further details if they are required. We won't mind if no one is interested in any of the items. We have merely set them out for guidance in case anyone would be interested.

"The items are as follows:—

- "1. Sending out old numbers of illustrated magazines for the patients to read. Only a few read English, but they can see pictures.
- "2. Sending out good general books in simple English for the Nurses' Home Library. These need not be new.
- "3. Purchase of Medical and Nursing books for the hospital library, much of which is sadly out of date.
- "4. Subscription to a Medical Journal, such as the Practitioner, to keep our medicine up-to date.
- "5. Sending out of old toys and used Christmas cards for the children's ward patients.
- "6. Sending out of good second-hand Bibles and old Church Hymnaries in English for the nurses and staff. Also for those patients who can read English.
- "7. Knitting of vests for the babies in the maternity ward, or pullovers for the lepers to wear in the cold rainy season.
- "8. Film-strips—Scriptural and religious.

"We shall be glad to hear from any of your people who can help us in any of the above, but we shall quite understand if they don't appeal. We hope, however, that some will be taken up."

There may be individuals who will respond to some item of this appeal, and I am sure that some of the organisations will feel that they want to make one of them their own commitment.

May God's blessing rest upon all our winter's work, and may He also be with you in your homes.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

Mr John Mitchell—d. 18th June, 1953.

In mourning the death of Mr John Mitchell to-day we are mourning the death of one who will be greatly missed in this parish and congregation. He was much beloved by everyone who knew him. His life was marked by an obvious honesty, a quiet kindness and unflinching cheerfulness, and he possessed that fine quality of making friends alike with those with whom he worked and played. He served in both wars. When still a young man he was in 1922 ordained as a deacon in this church which was then the Free Church, and fourteen years later, after the Union, was ordained to the eldership of this united congregation. He was a faithful member both of the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. He offered good advice in both Courts and was most conscientious and faithful in doing the pastoral work of his large district. He was always ready to do more than was expected of him, and especially so in his visitation of those entrusted to him. He had a great love for his church and carried his profession on a Sunday into everyday life. His death has come with tragic suddenness for us all on a day when sorrow was already in his home, and our hearts go out in sympathy to Mrs Mitchell and to Ian and Elizabeth beseeching God to uphold them in this hour of trouble.

Aberdour Sunday School.

We shall greatly miss members of the staff who have retired on account of leaving our village, and wish to record our thanks for their services in the past. Miss N. Fairley taught the Senior Girls' Class for a number of years, trained the children for Christmas and Easter cantatas in co-operation with Miss Simmers, and in numerous ways showed herself a most generous and zealous supporter of the work of the Sunday School. Miss Shiela McLaren taught one of the Junior Classes for two years.

Letter from Dr R. M. Macphail,

who has preached in St. Fillan's Church when home on furlough, and whose Mission has been one of those to which the Sunday School has contributed for many years under the Partner Plan:

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSION,
P.O. BAMDAR,
VIA SIMULTALA, E. RLY.,
BIHAR, INDIA, 9th June, 1953.

DEAR PARTNERS,

As I write once more to thank you for your continued interest and help, and many of you for letters I've had since last I wrote, I am looking forward to meeting many of you soon. I am already beginning my preparations for leaving here in about a month's time. I plan to have some days with my brother at Madras Christian College, Tambaram, and then to join a boat at Colombo, due in London towards the end of August. Whether it will be possible to visit you all in the course of my furlough depends on what other deputation work the F.M.C. may require of me, but for my part I will certainly do all I can to do so.

While I am away the Rev. W. G. Murison, whose arrival at Bamdhar I reported in my last letter, will be in charge of the station—please address your letters to him meanwhile. He is already well worked in and proving a great help in every way.

We have had the hottest hot weather ever, the temperature twice reaching 117° in the shade, two degrees higher than our previous best. It's just not possible—or wise—to be very energetic in these conditions, and we all had to take things easily for some weeks. Since the beginning of this month, however, we have had a succession of storms which have kept us comparatively cool, and the monsoon broke three days ago, just a day behind time. We realise too that the weather which was so uncomfortable for us gave the Everest team the chance they needed to reach the top—so we have not suffered in vain!

One very encouraging feature of the life of the congregation here of late has been the revival of a Youth Group. There were very flourishing ones at all our stations some years ago, but for one reason or another they all gradually died out. Some of us have been feeling of late that there were young men and women eager to do something but just waiting for a lead, and last year a Course for potential youth leaders was arranged by the Santal Christian Council—to cover the whole Santal country. Each congregation was asked to choose a young man or woman, a potential leader, and send him or her. Delegates brought some of their own food and their travelling expenses were paid by their congregations, the rest of the expenses being met by the Santal Christian Council. Of course, all congregations did not respond, but about 60 young men and women met at Pakaur, the station of the American Methodist Mission, for a week. That they were both inspired and helped has been shown by the fact that vigorous groups have sprung up since all over the country. Bamdhar congregation chose Patras Tudu, a young schoolmaster, and the group he has organised here grows in strength. They meet for Bible study and discussion after the morning service, and also practice hymn-singing, organising a choir which has greatly improved the singing of the congregation as a whole. After the afternoon service they go out preaching. Sometimes they visit a household of lukewarm Christians, who seldom come to church, seeking to inspire them afresh. Sometimes they go to one of the non-Christian villages near, gather the people by singing some hymns, and then preach the Gospel to them.

In February, we had an inspiring meeting of the Santal Christian Council in Assam, at a tea-garden owned by our Scandinavian neighbours, the Santal Mission of the Northern (Lutheran) Churches. It involved a long and wearisome journey from here, about 48 hours each way, but was well worth while. After the Council business was over, we were all invited to stay on for the first day of a Convention for Santal Christians in Assam. There is a vigorous church there among Santals who have emigrated in recent years, mostly as tea-garden labourers, and at one of the meetings the congregation—meeting in the open, with the help of a loud-speaker system—was estimated at 3,000.

We also had a smaller, but equally inspiring, Convention for our own Church of Scotland area at Pokhuria in March. We made a new experiment there—the main part of the programme, instead of large meetings, consisted of Bible study and discussion in small groups. Some of us were doubtful as to how this would work among a group of people many of whom are still illiterate, but they soon got the idea, and we all felt it had been well worth while. The general theme was "The Church," and one outstanding contribution was an address by Ruel Soren, of Pokhuria, who graduated as a B.D. from Serampore College early this year, on "Church and Mission," which gave us all food for thought and hope that the Santal Church is really accepting its responsibility in this area.

With all good wishes, and again warm thanks.

Yours sincerely,

R. M. MACPHAIL.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

5th July—Susan Edge.
16th Aug.—Janice Jeffrey.

MARRIAGES.

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

6th June—George P. M. Grant to Ameris J. C. W. Aitchison.
4th July—John Bald to Margaret Black.

DEATHS.

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

7th June—Mrs Kirkham.
15th „ —Mr Alston.
16th „ —Miss Mitchell.
18th „ —Mr John Mitchell.

ACCESSIONS.

By Profession—

Miss Andrena F. Aitkenhead, Station House.
Miss Pamela C. Baker, Aberdour Hotel.
Mr George C. Betty, Milne Place, Easter Aberdour.
Mr George W. Drew, High Street.
Mrs Charlotte C. Drew, High Street.
Miss Elspeth M. Henderson, St. Helen's, Seaside Place.
Mr Andrew D. Robertson, The Glebe.
Mr Larry P. Stephens, Station House.

By Certificate—

Miss Elspeth S. Aitkenhead, Station House.
Mr and Mrs D. Fraser, Morayvale.
Mr and Mrs D. R. Waddel, Manse Place.
Mrs Bain, Manse Street.
Mrs Burrill, Silversands Cottage.
Mr and Mrs Duncan, Station Houses.
Mr and Mrs A. Davidson, Barns Cottages.
Mr Archibald Davidson, Barns Cottages.
Mr and Mrs John McK. Davidson, Four Lums.

DISJUNCTIONS.

Miss Jane Chalmers to Kinghorn.
Mr and Mrs McLaren to Edinburgh.
Miss Sheila McLaren to Edinburgh.
Dr and Mrs Primmer to Kirkcaldy.
Mr Ewing to Dunshelt, Falkland.
Miss Ewing to Dunshelt, Falkland.