

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 27

JANUARY

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,

The New Year has begun. May it be a new year in the life of each of you and in the life of the congregation—a year of new blessings; a year of new endeavour in the cause of Christ; and a year of new hopes for the future of mankind. May God grant that at the end of it we shall be able to say that we have grown in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that the kingdoms of this world are coming nearer to being the Kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

During 1952 the life of the congregation was maintained. I believe there was a deepening in the fellowship, which was expressed in better attendance at public worship and in the generous consideration which the Congregational Board's letter on finance was given in most of the homes in the congregation. The aim of that appeal was to avoid the recurring Sales of Work which have been required in order to meet ordinary yearly expenditure, and one of the immediate results will be that the special effort which it was feared would be necessary for the repair and re-decoration of the Hall will not now be required. It will now be possible to devote almost the whole of the very handsome total raised at the Sale of Work in December to that purpose instead of using it to pay our way.

Up to date the **Woman's Guild** have had a very successful season. The meetings have all been interesting and speakers have told of the work of the Church in many lands. They have heard of the work in Kenya, in South America, in our own island of Lewis, while Mr Kerr gave us a first hand account of Mary Slessor in the pioneering days in Calabar, and Mr Lawrence told in a delightful way of the difference and the similarities which exist in Church life in the United States of America. But they have not been listening all the time. They have worked hard as well. The thanks of the congregation are due to them for their part in the grand total of £266 realised at the Sale on 6th December. Mrs Lawrence opened the Sale, and we were all delighted to have opportunity of meeting her and hearing her words of encouragement.

The **Young People's Fellowship** enjoy their Sunday Evenings together. The two series "Life and I" and "The Old Testament" run concurrently, and with the addition of the Broadcast Programme and a Filmstrip on the work of the Bible Society, the syllabus has been varied and interesting. The young people were overwhelmed by the generous response to their Carol Singing in the West Village in aid of the Children's Homes of the Church of Scotland, and deeply disappointed that in the East Village rain should force them to abandon their singing. The collection in all amounted to £11 17s 5d.

With the New Year the **Bible Class** has turned from the great Christians of the 20th Century to the great Christians of the 1st Century. John the Baptist, Peter, John, Thomas, Barnabus and Paul are every bit as interesting as were Schweitzer, Flynn, Somervell and Dunant. The girls of the Bible Class undertook as a piece of practical work the collection throughout the village for the Leper Mission. They collected £8 10s.

The **Bible Class at Dalgety** under Mrs Machin studies the Acts of the Apostles. They joined with the Choir in singing Carols at Dalgety and Hillend, and they collected the sum of Three Pounds Two Shillings in aid of the Children's Homes.

In Aberdour the Sunday School presented the Cantata, "Come ye to Bethlehem," on the Sunday before Christmas. It was prepared by Miss Fairley and Miss Simmers with the help of Mr Gillespie at the organ. In Dalgety the Choir produced another Cantata for which Mrs Forbes and Mrs Machin were jointly responsible on Christmas Eve. There were large congregations on both occasions. Though entirely different, both were excellent portrayals of the Christmas Story, and I am sure that all who witnessed them felt indebted to those who worked so hard to make a perfect sermon of God's love.

The Christmas Day Service in St. Fillan's Church was well attended, as was the Watch Night Service in St. Colme's Church. About a hundred worshippers came to end the Old Year and begin the New within the Holy Place.

Each of the youth organisations mentioned has had a party which was agreed by those who took part in it as being "the best of all." Thanks should be expressed to all who, in the Retiring Offerings and otherwise, gave so generously for that purpose, and to the teachers for making them such a success.

No other comment is necessary on the Christmas activities except perhaps to say how much the gifts of old toys and dolls and books by the boys and girls of the Senior Sunday School were appreciated in the Children's Homes and by the children of the poor. We had formal thanks from the Church Homes, but we learned indirectly through a letter from Isobel, the Fellowship's adopted niece, just how much such gifts could mean to a little girl who on Christmas Day received "a pinny, a han'ky and a sixpence from Santa Claus."

As we go to press news comes of the resignation of Mr Moir as Church Officer in Aberdour. I would express my own thanks and the thanks of the congregation to him and Mrs Moir for all they have done. We shall remember the dignity with which Mr Moir acted as Beadle and the willing help of both of them on many occasions in matters far outside their office.

The letter printed along with this one speaks for itself. Our prayers are needed for the work in Kenya, and especially for those who are so closely connected with us by the Foreign Mission Partnership Plan.

May God's blessing rest upon you all and upon your loved ones in 1953.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

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

16th November, 1952.

DEAR MR RUTHERFORD,

You must be hearing a great deal about Kenya these days and you are probably wondering how we are getting on. Let us say first how conscious we are of your prayers for us in this troubled area. We want to try and give you some impression of how the present trouble has affected us and the work of the Mission.

Before the emergency was declared the police were responsible for our protection, but they were woefully weak to deal with all the calls on their time and services. There had been persistent rumours that the Mau Mau were to attack Tumutumu Mission Station. They called it Jerusalem and said it was the headquarters of the opposition to them in this district. The police gave us two armed African constables to patrol the Station and sent constant night patrols around the immediate area. We asked for volunteers from the senior boys of the boarding school to sleep two each in the servant quarters of the European Missionaries' houses so that we had someone to give the alarm or to defend the houses if needed. An alarm was to be given by the ringing of the Station bell, and would be answered by about 80 boys armed with large knives (called pangas) and sticks.

The police in Nairobi had picked up various threats to kill some of our ministers, and three of them had to be given an armed guard to sleep in their village (homestead) at night.

Life went on much as usual during the day. I had a lot of medico-legal work to do which involved giving evidence against Mau Mau offenders in court at Nyeri, which is 15 miles away. We saw cases of people beaten up by the Mau Mau, but our hospital work was not much affected. The attendances at our dispensaries fell slightly because people were afraid to go out on to the roads in case they were caught by the Mau Mau and forced to take the oath. At night life was not quite so pleasant for you never knew just what was going to happen. For Africans who opposed Mau Mau it might mean that their hut was set on fire, or a knock at the door which, when answered, might mean a revolver bullet or a spear thrust. There was great fear in the district.

Then came the declaration of the state of emergency. A company of African troops with British officer moved into Tumutumu and camped on the Station. They patrolled the district and made raids on suspected areas and picked up all the men who had been black-listed by the police as Mau Mau suspects. But Mau Mau atrocities still went on and still do go on, though they are much more under control. The company of troops has now been split up and small detachments or platoons spread out through the countryside to give greater security to the loyal Africans. The loyal Africans sometimes suffered too in the early days of the emergency when the troops were taking no chances. Chief Eliud is one of the chiefs near here and he has been attacked three times now by Mau Mau elements who want to kill him, but they have always missed him even though they opened fire on him two days ago at 8 yards range. Yesterday I did the postmortem examination on the man who tried to kill him then, but who was shot by a policeman. Eliud is one of our own Mission and is a very cheerful soul in the midst of all this. Do pray for him in these days of real danger to his life. He has denounced

the Mau Mau, and they will try everything in their power to murder him. He has a police guard of five constables constantly with him.

Our numbers of in-patients and out-patients in hospital have fallen since the emergency began, for people are now afraid of the soldiers as well as the Mau Mau. They are beginning to rise now again. Also, no buses have been running, and so we have not got our usual number of patients from far distances. In some of our schools the number of children fell off for a time because of Mau Mau intimidation of those who sent their children to Mission Schools. Now that Mau Mau or Independent Schools are being closed we shall have to find room for some of the children who went to them.

Mau stands for Mumbi African Union. Mumbi was the mother of the Kikuyu according to tradition, and this is almost entirely a Kikuyu movement. It is the latest phase of a movement which began in the 1920's and which gave our Mission a great deal of trouble over the issue of female circumcision. In 1940 it was proscribed under the title of the Kikuyu Central Association, and now has raised its ugly head again as Mau Mau. The Mau Mau oath contains such things as swearing not to have anything to do with the Christian Church, not to consult European doctors, not to read the Bible, and especially not to join the Revival Movement. There are other clauses too, but these are the ones which mainly affect our work.

Do pray for the African Church, its leaders, ministers, elders and members. This is a real time of persecution for them when they have to declare themselves as wholly on the side of Christ and be marked down and persecuted for doing so. Pray that the Church may take the great evangelistic opportunity which will follow the turning of the people from Mau Mau. Pray, too, for the opportunities of evangelism there are amongst the troops.

Thank you very much for your letter with its news of Aberdour. We saw your photograph in the September "Life and Work."

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

J. WILKINSON.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

2nd November—Alison Rosemary Baxter.
2nd ,, —Graham George Pearson.
12th ,, —James Gillespie Jamieson.
13th December—Norman Myles.
21st ,, —Mary Melville Reilly.
21st ,, —David Rodger Reilly.
21st ,, —Doreen Ann Lamberton.

MARRIAGE.

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

24th December—Robert H. Brown to Mary A. D. Johnston.

DEATHS.

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

11th November—Mr Findlay.
7th Jan. 1953 —Mr Smith.

DISJUNCTIONS.

Mr John Watson to Inverkeithing.
Mrs Sydney Todd to Luss.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Congregation will be held in the
CHURCH HALL on FRIDAY, 20th February, 1953.

Business:—Tea. The Choir. Dance.

ABERDOUR AND DALGETY CONGREGATION.

Abstract of Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st Dec., 1952.

	INCOME.	EXPENDITURE.
To Collections:—		
Church Door Collections ...	£297 15 9	
Weekly Freewill Offerings ...	596 12 4	£90 1 9
Special Collections ...	73 2 10	338 19 6
Donations ...	53 11 0	£429 1 3
Per District Collectors ...	29 13 0	125 0 0
Assembly and Other Funds ...	9 13 6	208 10 0
	£1060 8 5	
" Woman's Guild ...	284 7 7	£177 4 1
" Congregational Organisations ...	117 8 6	147 13 3
" Entertainments ...	57 10 1	78 11 9
	£1519 9 7	403 9 1
" Trust Investments:—		
For Stipend ...	£65 2 5	£100 9 9
" Benevolent Fund ...	8 19 8	11 4 2
" Other Church Purposes ...	13 10 9	9 11 0
" Alex. Wallace Memorial Fund ...	3 15 0	18 10 0
" Assembly Funds ...	34 16 5	
" Repairs ...	6 11 3	139 14 11
	132 15 6	46 18 10
" Rents ...	28 0 0	69 13 2
	£1680 5 1	2 2 0
" Balances brought forward:—		2 10 0
Congregational Fund ...		£7 13 0
Fabric Fund ...	£278 15 11	14 1 5
Woman's Guild ...	50 0 0	11 2 0
Other Funds ...	40 17 6	2 2 0
	124 14 10	34 18 5
	494 8 3	£1461 17 8
	£2174 13 4	£2174 13 4

C. J. KERR, *Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

W. B. ARCHER, } *Auditors.*
R. H. WALKER, }