

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 28

MAY 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 winter activities have come to an end and we are again looking forward to the summer with its outings and holidays.

Our Annual General Meeting passed off successfully. Two new members were admitted to the Board, the one elected, Mr Webster of Burntisland and the other co-opted, Mr Walter Bald. After the business and the tea which was served by the Woman's Guild, the choir gave a first-class concert, and the evening finished up with the usual dance.

The Choir have had a very successful season and they closed their winter practices with a rendering of the cantata, "The New Jerusalem," on the evening of Palm Sunday. Mr Gillespie and his choir are to be congratulated on that occasion, and also on the very excellent leading of the praise at the Sunday services. They now look forward to their summer drive on 27th June.

The Woman's Guild completed a very successful session when Mrs Carter of Dysart addressed the Guild on the life of Helen Keller. Previously, the Rev. J. Aulay Steele of Cleish had spoken of "Nannies of Famous Men," Mr Lawrence of "Church Life in America," and I myself of "On the Road to Tibet," and a coloured film strip on the work of the China Inland Mission was shown. The Party in January was enjoyed by everyone. The Dedication Service was held in St. Colme's Church on 15th March, and it was again taken by members of the Guild. The members are now looking forward to their outing on May 21st when they go by 'bus to Ayr and the Burns Country.

The Young People's Fellowship continued its study of Old Testament background and the series "Life and I." During their spare time they have been preparing for their concert which was in aid of their adopted niece "Isobel" and their other givings to charity. The members, though younger this year than in the past and much beset by examinations, contrived to keep their large audience entertained. The total takings for the evening were £40. Now they look forward to their evening outing to St. Andrews on 27th May.

The Bible Class closed its session with an informal evening in the hall. On the Sunday evenings before church it studied the great figures of the New Testament and saw how each in turn threw light on the events which led up to Calvary and the Resurrection. The average attendance was twelve, but it was regrettable that so many found easy excuses for being absent.

The Sunday Schools have arranged their summer outings as follows :—Aberdour on June 13th to Camilla Loch, Auchtertool; Dalgety on May 30th to Ardmhor, by kind permission of Mr Wilson. Parents and friends will be made welcome, and we hope that the children will be favoured with good weather. The Dalgety Sunday School plans to close earlier this year, at the end of May, in order to avoid the difficulty which children have of getting on a 'bus in the summer months. The Aberdour Primary Department has already closed on account of the renovation of the hall.

The work of renovation and re-decoration has started on the hall. We are glad that at last it has been possible to make a beginning. The work is in the hands of Mr Archer, the Convener of the Property Committee, and we are sure that when it is completed we shall have in Aberdour a hall of which all will be proud.

While I am writing about the hall, may I express the regret which we all feel at the departure for Glasgow of Mr Drylie, one of our elders. The letting of the hall was his special work for the Board, but he was a faithful attender at public worship and took a very personal interest in all the members of his district.

The Coronation has been looked forward to. It is now at hand. Special services will be held. The schools have their own services—Hillend in Dalgety Church on Thursday, 28th May; Aberdour in St. Colme's Church on Friday, 29th May. Sunday, 31st May, will be a day of preparation throughout the whole country, and on the

actual day of the Coronation the service will commence at 9.30 a.m. and will be followed by the tree planting ceremony when two red hawthorn trees will be planted in front of the church hall. There is a great danger that the secular may overshadow the spiritual on this great occasion. The Coronation is a religious ceremony and we must all strive to make it so. Our young Queen has asked us to pray for her that she may be upheld to fulfil the promises she is to make that day. There is no better way of meeting her wishes than that on the day of Coronation she may be surrounded by a people who themselves are dedicated to the same high-calling.

The Communion in Aberdour takes place on Sunday, 14th June, in St. Fillan's Church. The service of Preparation and Admission of First Communicants is at the evening service on the previous Sunday.

With this letter I am printing a letter which Dr Wilkinson sent to the children of the Sunday School. You will all enjoy reading it.

May God's blessing rest upon you and yours.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

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

15th April, 1953.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,

It is time that you had a letter from us here in Tumutumu to thank you for all your interest in us and your prayer for us at this time of danger.

You will have heard about the Mau Mau. Well, Tumutumu is right in the middle of the Mau Mau country. The name is pronounced Toomootoomoo and it is the name of a hill with a flat top about 15 miles from Nyeri, which is the township where Lord Baden-Powell, the first Chief Scout, is buried. Our Mission Station is built on the lower slopes of Tumutumu Hill and faces north to Mount Kenya which is the second highest mountain in Africa. Two of our missionaries have left their names on Mount Kenya, for one smaller peak is called Arthur's Seat after Dr Arthur, and one of the glaciers is called the Barlow Glacier after Mr Barlow who now lives in Dunfermline, but used to work here at Tumutumu. We have a wonderful view of the mountain from our house, and though it is almost on the Equator, it always has snow and ice on its summit. Only this morning we could see that there had been a fresh fall of snow there. Up on the mountain you can skate on ice on a pond which is right on the Equator. This mountain was first seen in 1848 by a missionary called Dr Krapf, and when he wrote home to the Royal Geographical Society to tell them that he had seen snow on the Equator, they did not believe him. But they had to believe him later when others too saw this snow on the Equator.

The Kikuyu believed that a Great Spirit lived on the top of Mount Kenya. Because one of their names for the mountain was the Ostrich Mountain, some would tell you that this Spirit was like an ostrich. They believed too that this Spirit visited the other hills in Kikuyu country from time to time. These hills were sacred and Tumutumu was one of them. It had on its top a wild fig tree at which the people left sacrifices of goats and other things. During the war this tree fell down in a thunderstorm, and in the church here we have a cross made from the wood of the tree and beneath it in Kikuyu is the text, "Behold I make all things new," from Rev. 21, 5. The meaning of this is that the people no longer go up Tumutumu Hill to sacrifice to the Great Spirit, they come to our Church at the foot of the hill to worship God through Jesus Christ His Son. They have learned about Him and have believed in Him as their Saviour.

To-day, in this beautiful land in which they live, the members of the Kikuyu Church are living in times like those you read about in the Acts of the Apostles. They are having to suffer for being Christians, and are being persecuted for believing in Jesus Christ. At Easter time we had a memorial service here for those members of our Church who had died because they believed in Jesus Christ, and the minister who was taking the service read out the names of 22 men, women and boys who had given their lives because they were Christians. They had been killed by the Mau Mau. Others have been injured but have not died. I have often been able to save the lives of those brought into hospital after they have been attacked.

This brings me to the hospital at Tumutumu which is the place where I am working. Tumutumu Hospital is the largest Mission Hospital in Kenya. Even so there are times when we are so full that we have to put two and even three people in one single bed! Fortunately they do not mind sleeping together like that!

Before I close I want to thank you all very much for the lovely and useful Bible pictures you sent out to us here. They will be very useful in our ward services and also our wall pictures which we have framed in the wards need renewing, and we will probably use your pictures for this. Then we have dispensaries out in the district around, and it struck me the other day that we do not have pictures there and these would be very good to frame and hang up there so that the Dispenser could have a picture to tell about to the sick people who come to him and so teach them about Jesus too.

Yours very sincerely,

J. WILKINSON.

Tribute to Mr Samuel McNae, Dalgety.

To-day, the congregation of Aberdour and Dalgety mourns the death of Mr Samuel McNae, one of its elders. Mr McNae came from south-west Scotland over forty years ago and settled in this corner of Fife, where he soon became attached to the church in Dalgety—an attachment which, though by reason of his work was at times strained, was never really broken. He loved Dalgety Church, both the friendliness of the building and the kindly friendship of its members. It was after the Union that in 1944 he was ordained to the eldership, and though living in North Queensferry he was regular in his attendance at service, ready with his welcome at the door of the church and undertook his duties at the Sacrament with a quiet dignity.

In North Queensferry he interested himself in the welfare of the community. In his work as clerk at the Base he made many friends. He was one of the first members of the Development Association which sought to improve the village; he had a close interest in the Old Age Pensioners' Association, and after his service in the 1914-18 war he was for some time Secretary of the British Legion.

He will be missed in North Queensferry where he lived, and equally so in Dalgety Church where, in his visitation in Hillend, he was a friend to many, and where on the Sabbath and at the Sacrament he quietly and conscientiously performed his duties as elder.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs McNae and his sons and daughter at this time of sorrow, and we pray to-day for God to comfort them that they may be upheld in the day of trouble.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

8th March—Larry Paul Stephens.
8th „ —Linda May Stephens.
5th April —Georgina Jane Drew.
19th „ —Margot Inkster Yellowley.
19th „ —David George Bain.
3rd May —Catherine Winifred Dryburgh.

MARRIAGES.

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

19th February—John McN. J. Taylor to Ellen A. McAndie.
21st March —Benjamin J. Eldred to Janet H. Gold.
4th April —Patrick G. Swann to Christine Lyon.

DEATHS.

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

7th January —Mr Smith.
27th „ —Mrs Haldane.
18th February—Mr McNae.
10th March —Mrs Inglis.
25th „ —Mrs Pratt.

ACCESSIONS.

By Profession—

Mrs Marjorie Douglas, Viewforth Terrace.
Mr Benjamin J. Eldred, Seaside Place.
Miss Janet H. Gold, Seaside Place.
Mr George P. M. Grant, Morton Place.
Mr David A. E. Lloyd, Shore Road.
Mr John C. Simpson, Kirk Houses.

By Certificate—

Mr and Mrs Aitkenhead, Station House.
Miss Jean Cabrelli, Hollybank.
Mrs Findlay, Manse Street.
Mr and Mrs Gibb, Park Lane.
Mrs Jack, Williamson's Buildings.
Mr and Mrs Main, Main Street, E. Aberdour.
Mr and Mrs Milton, Seaside Place.
Mr and Mrs Rouse, Craigowan.

DISJUNCTIONS.

Mrs Hamilton, Humbie Terrace, to Kirkcaldy.
Mr and Mrs Lees, Hillend, to Selkirk.
Mr Hunter, Humbie Terrace, to Canada.
Mrs Eagle, Milne Place, to Edinburgh.

Mr and Mrs Ross, Hillend, to Dunfermline.
Mr Nicholson, Croftgary, to Lochgelly.
Mr and Mrs Drylie, Seaside Place, to Glasgow.
Mrs R. H. Brown, 27 High Street, to England.