

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 31

JUNE 1954

MINISTERS:—The Revd. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., B.D., The Manse, Aberdour.
The Revd. RAYMOND WELLS, 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 R. C. Lyon, Park View, Park Lane.

THE MANSE,
ABERDOUR, FIFE.
June, 1954.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

This is a suitable time for the publication of the congregational letter, for it gives me the opportunity to comment on some recent events, and at the same time to draw your attention to others which we have planned.

For some months now we have all known that the day had to come when our beloved organist, Mr Gillespie, would cease to lead us in praise; we have seen him failing, but when news of his passing came to us, all who knew him felt a profound sense of personal loss. That loss I tried to express in a tribute from the pulpit, which I set down here:

“Had Mr Gillespie been spared until next year we should have been remembering in a practical way his fifty years’ service as organist and choirmaster in Aberdour. It was in 1905 that out of sixteen applicants he was appointed organist and choirmaster in the United Free Church and took the place of the precentor who had just died. There Sunday by Sunday, and since the union of the Churches alternately, Mr Gillespie performed his duties without fail. I doubt if apart from holidays until his recent illness, he was absent from his place on more than half-a-dozen occasions. Everyone who worshipped in the Churches knew the zest with which he led the praise and the pleasure he got out of doing it; but only those who worked with him knew the hours of patient and meticulous preparation which went to everything he did. Those who knew him in his heyday were privileged indeed.

“He had, besides his love of music, a life-long interest in young people, and when over eighty was still enthusiastic about the preparations for the Children’s Christmas Cantata, and was looking forward to the day when, with the children around him, he would produce another of his kinderspiels. These were the highlight of the village year and entailed an immense amount of work, and yet, with all that, he was Scoutmaster too, running a first-class troop—a tremendous influence for good amongst the lads of the village. Many here this morning must be conscious of the debt they owe him, and yet they are only a handful out of the many he helped along life’s way.

“His interests and enthusiasms knew no bounds. He was knowledgeable on many subjects far removed from music, which made his conversation a continual delight. But perhaps the thing about him most striking was his sense of purpose. It meant that all he did was done with a rare devotion to duty, which was combined with a love of his Church and a loyalty to his Master. It is not too much to say of John Gillespie that by his faithful and devoted service he benefited everyone associated with him and enriched the whole life of this community.

“Our sympathy goes out at this time to Mrs Gillespie in these days of temporary parting and to all his family. He was one whom we shall find it hard to forget.”

Each year the **Young People’s Fellowship** seeks to raise sufficient money for the support of their adopted niece, Isobel Roper, who lives in the Church of Scotland Home in Duddingston. Last year they contributed to her upkeep and her happiness to the extent of about £42. Their main effort has always been their concert at the end of April, and once again they wish to thank their friends for enabling them to reach the figure of over £42. It is never easy to find fresh material for concerts, and this year they were fortunate in having Mr Lawrence, whose display of conjuring was a great attraction. This opportunity was taken by the Congregational Board and friends to make a presentation to him in recognition of the work he had done while assisting me during the last twenty months. We have all enjoyed our association with him and his family, and we wish them great happiness as they return to their homeland. Other presentations were made by the Young People’s Fellowship and by the Sunday School—tokens of the warm affection in which Mr Lawrence was held by members of all ages.

To Mr Wells who follows him we extend a very warm welcome. Mr Wells also comes from the United States of America, from California. His wife and little girl are with him in Edinburgh where he is studying, and we look forward to meeting them.

Before this letter is in print three of the congregational outings ought to have taken place. At this very moment as I write the **Woman's Guild** and their friends ought to be somewhere on the road to Inverness. We only hope that their drive is as successful as the past session has been. The **Fellowship** have planned their outing to Stirling and aim at scaling the Castle Ramparts by the Back Walk. **Dalgely Sunday School** have chosen Culross, and whether the day is good or bad it will be one full of interest for the children and the grown-up folk too. With its Abbey and Palace and old buildings Culross has much to offer.

The Bible Class in Aberdour aim at an evening picnic in the direction of Dunearn Hill, while the **Sunday Schools** are going further afield this year to Kinross. The park by the shore has been granted by the Town Council, and the East Church have very kindly granted us the use of their hall should the weather prove inclement. We leave by bus, and in view of the distance and the extra cost a charge will be made this year. Three double decker buses have been chartered, and it is hoped that parents and friends will avail themselves of the opportunity and make it one of the old-fashioned family picnics. The date is Saturday, 26th June.

Quite a substantial sum of money is still required to pay off the cost of the renovation of the Church Hall. The Congregational Board decided that special efforts would be required if we were not to draw on moneys which were subscribed for other purposes. The ladies of the Congregational Board under the convenship of Miss Wilkie are to hold a **Bring and Buy Sale in Hillend School on Saturday, 19th June**, when Miss Mackie, our Schoolmistress, will perform the opening. Though it is being held in Hillend, the Sale is for the whole congregation, and goods will be received in the hall in Aberdour on the morning of the sale as well as at Hillend School. A promise has been given by some members of the congregation who have cars that they will run a taxi-service from Aberdour to Hillend, and it is hoped that others will offer their services.

The Communion in Aberdour falls upon the third Sunday and will be observed in St. Colme's Church. A welcome is given to all members of the Christian Church to join with us then.

May God's blessing rest upon you and yours.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

March 28—Thomas Herbert Smith.	May 2—Cynthia Mary Elizabeth Clegg.
April 4—John Watson Inglis.	" 16—Elissa Stuart Mitchell.
" 18—Robert Alexander Laird.	" 23—Robin Addison McAndie.
" 18—Ian Richard Colberg.	

MARRIAGES.

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

March 13—George Mowatt Colman to Louise Cadden.
" 27—William Falls to Pearl H. Garvey.
April 3—David Christie to Margaret Rose Feaks.

DEATHS.

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

March 16—Mr Beattie. May 6—Mr Gillespie.
May 3—Mrs Day. " 10—Miss Banks.

ACCESSIONS.

By Profession—David Duncan Anderson, High Street.
By Certificate—Mrs E. Campbell, The Institute, Shore Road.
Mr and Mrs John McDowall, Kinniker Cottage.
Mr and Mrs Monteith, Reneville.
Mr and Mrs John Wells, Pleasants Cottages.

DISJUNCTIONS.

Mr and Mrs J. Balfour Lindsay, Police Station House, to Dunfermline.
Mr and Mrs D. Hamilton, Rosyth, to West Linton.
Mr and Mrs G. Sandeman, Humble Terrace, to Stonehaven.
Mr H. Sandeman, Beechwood, to England.
Mr and Mrs Milton, Moirdene Cottage, to Dunfermline.
Mr and Mrs Davidson (Sen.), Four Lums Cottages, to Ladybank.