

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 32

SEPTEMBER 1954

MINISTERS:—The Revd. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., B.D., The Manse, Aberdour.
The Revd. RAYMOND WELLS, B.D.

Session Clerk—Mr R. M. Walker, Eden Cottage, 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.

September, 1954.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Would it not be a good thing, if in a district such as ours, there existed a group of people bound together in fellowship by ties of love—a core of loving people, in which members and strangers alike could feel at home? If such a thing were to exist it would need to be a fellowship which had the power to draw others in and make them feel that a welcome awaited them. To do that there would have to be a complete absence of self-interest. The members would have to be such as were constantly engaged in helping those in difficulties, not with the aim of adding to their number, but out of sheer love for suffering humanity, and while they would be continually seeking to perfect themselves, there would need to be no self-righteousness or censoriousness as they “remembered the rock from which they were hewn.” There could be no distinctions or snobberies about age or position or wealth—for all would be conscious of both their poverty and their riches—the poverty of their service and their riches in possessing Christ as their Saviour.

What a wonderful idea and how fortunate any district would be if it had such a fellowship. How happy folk would be! Yet that is no more than a very imperfect picture of what Christ meant His Church to be. For himself he spent little time denouncing the sins of his contemporaries, but gave his life metaphorically and literally to establishing just such a fellowship as I have been suggesting. Once upon a time in Jerusalem it became more than a wonderful idea; it became a reality. There, there was a group of men who were bound by ties of love, and who far from being selfish or censorious gave themselves to promote love in the lives of their fellows. It became more than an idea in Jerusalem for at least three reasons. The first was that Christ himself was in it from the beginning; the second, that through Him men came in common prayer together to know God's love for them; and thirdly, that as they came to know that love they learned how to re-distribute it to others. That wonderful idea can become a reality again where these three factors operate.

That is the Tell Scotland Movement as I see it affecting the parishes of Aberdour and Dalgety; that is the task which as church members we ought to feel laid upon us—to create just such a fellowship amongst us, a fellowship of people bound together by ties of love, with no barriers because Christ's love has none. Nor is it an impossibility. We do not need to start from scratch as others have had to do in the past. Already within there is something of a fellowship and without and around us a host of wellwishers. It is the task laid upon our church today. It can be accomplished. It needs prayer and thought and not a little sacrifice, and if we do the little in our power God will use His Almighty power.

What a wonderful idea! How happy we could be!

It was with real regret that we learned that Mr and Mrs Patterson, of South House, intended to leave Aberdour and take up residence in Edinburgh. Mr Patterson has been our Session Clerk for the past two years. He was an obvious choice when he was appointed and has proved a most capable clerk and a very good friend to the members of the Kirk Session. We shall miss him for his kindly help, for the active part he took in the instruction of the young

people, and for his methodical performance of the many duties of the clerk. We wish him and Mrs Patterson happiness in their new home.

On Sunday, 5th September, we welcomed to our congregation Mr Forrester of Thornton, who has taken up the appointment of organist and choirmaster. We assure him of our support and I make an appeal for new members for the choir. It is apparent on a Sunday that there are many good singers in the congregation and we hope that they will come forward and help to lead the congregation in its praise. During the vacancy we have been greatly indebted to those who have shared the duties of the organist and helped to lead the praise so well, and I particularly want to thank Mr John Amos for his ready help.

The Congregational Badminton Club has now commenced play. It meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The numbers are not large and they are urgently in need of new players. A very warm welcome indeed will be given to all connected with the church and not least to beginners.

I will not add to the length of this letter by including the organisations ; I will only express the hope that the young people of the congregation will be encouraged to attend the appropriate class for instruction in the Christian way, and that they will join the week-night organisations.

May God's blessing rest upon your homes and all connected with them.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

SESSION CLERK.

At a meeting of the Kirk Session on Monday, 13th September, Mr R. M. Walker was appointed Session Clerk. We welcome his appointment and assure him of the warm co-operation of the congregation.

PULPIT TRIBUTE TO MR JOHN BALD, SENR. on Sunday, 20th June

It is with deep sorrow that we record the passing yesterday of Mr John Bald, Senior, who gave valued service as an elder for almost thirty years. It was in 1925 that he was admitted to the eldership of the United Free Church. He wrought unsparingly for it, being one of those who, by voluntary labour, built the present session-room in 1928 and later in 1931 transformed the appearance of this Church by reversing the position of the pulpit. In the courts of the Church he represented the congregation in the Presbytery and continued to do so after the union of the congregations in 1940.

Mr Bald took an active part in the life of the village. He was Chairman of the Parish Council, a member of the School Board and a Justice of the Peace. He had the good of the community at heart and entered into every effort connected with the welfare of the village.

As his years advanced he was unable to play the same active part as previously, but he nevertheless was interested in all that was going on and always endeavoured to be present at the courts of the Church and at worship in this building which he loved with all his heart.

An unfortunate fall hastened his end in his 89th year and we remember today one who was much respected in this district and contributed in no small way in times past to the life of the community.

Our sympathy goes out to his sons and daughters in their sorrow and we pray God's blessing upon them.

BAPTISMS

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

May 30—Linda Agnes Wilkie.
June 27—Catherine Davidson.

July 11—Ian William Gray.
,, 11—Ian Thomas Dickson.
,, 11—Alexander Baker Hutton.
Aug. 9—Maris Helen Burrill.

MARRIAGES

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

June 4—James Donaldson Gibson to Jean Mary Flint.
,, 24—Graham Bell to Elizabeth S. Aitkenhead.

DEATHS

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

May 28—Mr Wilson
June 19—Mr Bald.

July 18—Mr Pratt.
Aug. 8—Miss Lyon.

ACCESSIONS

By Certificate—Mr and Mrs James Davidson, Dunedin, Shore Front.
Mrs M. Dickson, Hawcraig Road.
Mrs Downie, Castle Terrace.
Mrs F. Gray, Beechwood.
Mrs Jack, Dalachy Cottages.
Mr and Mrs C. M. MacConnachie, Forthview.
Mrs Staig, Hawcraig Road.
Mr and Mrs Tovani, Cedar Lea.

By Resolution—Miss Adam, "Wellside."
Mrs Anderson, "Blythswood."
Mrs Keith, High Street.

DISJUNCTIONS

Mr John Sinclair to Edinburgh.
Mr and Mrs Patterson to Edinburgh.
Mr Gemmell to Edinburgh.
Miss Badenoch to Edinburgh.