

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 34

JUNE 1955

MINISTERS:—The Revd. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., B.D., The Manse, Aberdour.
The Revd. ROBERT BAILEY, B.D.

Session Clerk—Mr R. M. Walker, Eden Cottage, Seaside Place.
Clerk to the Congregational Board—
Treasurer—Mr J. Dawson Macfarlane, C.A., Braefoot, Easter Aberdour.
Proclamations Officer—Mr R. C. Lyon, Park View, Park Lane.

THE MANSE,
ABERDOUR,
June, 1955.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

This June letter is intended both as a review of the winter's work and a source of information regarding the summer outings of our various organisations.

Looking back on the winter I do feel that, though it is difficult to say how, we have experienced a forward movement. God is working amongst us. We may attribute it to the All Scotland Crusade or to the Tell Scotland Movement, which many in the congregation have taken up, but there clearly has been a quickening of the Spirit within the Church. We look forward now to a deepening of our fellowship in Christ and a further outgoing to those around us. The words from William Carey's famous sermon might well be our motto:

“EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD—ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD.”

Our Annual General Meeting took its usual form. A profitable and enjoyable evening was spent. At the business part of the evening seven members were elected to the Congregational Board. Amongst them were Mrs J. Bald, Mrs D. Rodger and Mr Waddell, who were elected for the first time. Following upon the happy evening spent at the Annual General Meeting, a few weeks later a meeting was held for Men Only. This proved a most successful evening, and it was unanimously decided by those present to form an association for men which would meet once a month during the forthcoming winter. A temporary committee was elected to prepare a syllabus.

The Woman's Guild brought another successful season to an end in their Service of Dedication in St. Colme's Church on the evening of Sunday, 27th March. Once again it was conducted by members of the Guild. The Guild Outing is already over, but the journey to Dunoon by 'bus and steamer added to the variety of the day.

The young people of the Fellowship continued their study 'Concerning the Faith in Christ,' which was really a study of the Creed. Their numbers were not as great this year as they have been; but their concert in aid of Isobel, their adopted niece, proved to be in no way behind previous concerts. They contrived to keep things going to the entertainment of a large audience. That evening a presentation was made to Mr Wells. Actually it was two presentations in one. One was from the Fellowship and the Bible Class and the other from the Teachers of the Senior Sunday School. We were all sorry that his time was up and that he had to return to the U.S.A. As I write, he has already commenced his homeward journey and we wish him all happiness in whatever work he is called to. We were glad Mr Bailey was able to be with us that evening too with his wife. Already he has won our hearts and we look forward to his ministrations and the thoughtful series of sermons he has planned for us. In Aberdour both the Fellowship and the Bible Class have had the advantage of instruction from them both. The latter has found the study entitled 'The Making of a Christian' a really practical course designed to help them in the difficulties of the Christian life. Their outing has not yet been arranged but the Fellowship plan to return to Crieff and climb the Knock. This year the Presbytery held a week-end Conference for Youth Fellowships at Kinross, and four of our young people enjoyed and benefited from the contact with young people of other congregations and the study of the wider church.

The Sunday Schools have both arranged their outings for Kinross. Aberdour's experience last year encouraged them to go again and Dalgety to follow their example. The Dalgety Trip will be over by the time you read this but the Aberdour Trip is fixed for Saturday, 18th June. Three double decker 'buses have been chartered and it is hoped that parents and friends will avail themselves of the opportunity and make it as successful an occasion as last year's. Dalgety Sunday School has already closed as it is difficult for the children to get on 'buses at this time of the year, but both Flower Services and Prize Givings will take place on Sunday, 26th June.

Perhaps this is the opportunity to express our appreciation of the lead given to our worship and praise by the choirs. The young people in Dalgety have been most faithful and help very considerably in our worship there: In Aberdour the Senior Choir has been the inspiration of many of our services. Mention should be made of the work Mr Forrester has undertaken in training the Junior Choir. The singing of a verse has become one of the features of the Morning Worship. The operetta 'Snow White' was very good entertainment and helped the funds of the Sunday School. It brought great credit to all who had a hand in producing it.

The June Communion in Aberdour will take place on Sunday, 12th June, in St. Fillan's Church.

As I close this letter I have the feeling that I have omitted something important and will no doubt discover what it is once this is in print. Perhaps it is that I feel I would like to add something to what has already been said in the tribute to the late Cathel Kerr. I do not know how to do that, except to say what a deep personal loss his passing is to me as minister.

May God's blessing be on the homes of the congregation.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

Pulpit Tribute paid to Mr CATHEL J KERR, J.P., on 10th April.

I do not find it easy to pay tribute to-day to the life of Cathel Kerr who was an elder of our congregation for twenty-five years and our faithful treasurer for thirty. It is said that no man is indispensable and that there will always be someone to take his place, but I doubt very much whether that is always true and certainly not in his case. Any attempt to recite the manifold services he rendered to our Church or of the various offices he held in the community would at the best be paying only a very superficial tribute to one who by his personal example, more than anything else, contributed so much to the life of our village and to the welfare and happiness of so many people in it. For years now life in Aberdour revolved around him in the Bank; but he was always in the background, unobtrusively undertaking the heavy burden of finance; offering good and wise counsel; and throughout the difficult years of our church's development a vital and reconciling influence—one to whom men of every shade of opinion turned for guidance and help. Many regarded him as the one person to whom they could go for advice, so that when his retiral came, and he was no longer easily accessible at his place of business, that in itself seemed a catastrophe for the village. How much more now his sudden death. This life which was so completely devoted to the service of others in the community and the Church, was the outcome of a deep and simple faith. His religion was real. He loved his Master and his Master's Church, and he translated that love of his in the practical application of the words of the Apostle James:

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

To us it seems doubly tragic that his sudden death should occur just as he began to enjoy his well-earned retirement, but for myself, I believe that here was one who had finished the work God had given him to do, and has been called for further service before the face of His Glory.

Since last Sunday we have been a village in mourning and to-day as a congregation, we seek to identify ourselves with the deepest expressions of sympathy with Mrs Kerr and the family in this time of sorrow for us all.

232, ST. VINCENT STREET,
GLASGOW, C.2.

May, 1955.

DEAR SIR,

We write in the name of the National Church Extension Committee to thank you, your office-bearers and members for your fine contribution to National Church Extension during the ten-year period 1944-1954. You are one of the 641 congregations which have attained or passed the target set by their Presbytery, and we would like you to know that your contributions have played a greatly valued part in the establishment of the Church in the new housing areas.

The work in the recent period has been giving much encouragement. In some areas there have been first communicants' classes with a membership of about 150, and in one of these as many as 86 were baptised as adults.

In one parish, where services were being held temporarily in school accommodation, it had been reported that some would not "join" until there was a proper building. On the Sunday after the dedication of the new Hall-Church there, so many worshippers presented themselves that the Kirk Session met and resolved to hold two morning services as from the following Sunday, and they now have 837 scholars in the Sunday School.

It is natural that large Sunday Schools should continue to be a feature of our work in the new housing areas, for we can expect those with growing families to bulk largely in the allocations to new houses. It is, therefore, a strategic matter of the utmost importance that the Church should be active and possessed of all necessary equipment in the way of buildings in those areas, where the future citizens of Scotland are learning the habits and ways of life which will mould their future citizenship and in increasing measure fashion the

pattern of national life. We are therefore grateful for the part which you and your people have had in ensuring a place for the Church and Christian ordinances in the midst of the new houses of post-war Scotland, and we take this opportunity of writing to express thanks before we are too preoccupied with the new appeal for Church Extension, concerning which Presbyteries are now approaching congregations.

Yours sincerely,

MARTIN SHIELDS,
Vice Convener.

ROBERT MACKINTOSH,
Secretary.

HORACE WALKER,
Secretary-Depute.

IVAN F. TIBBS,
Organiser.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSION, P.O. KIKUYU, KENYA COLONY.

20th April, 1955.

DEAR MR RUTHERFORD,

By to-day's mail there arrived two of the books you very kindly have had sent to me—"Everyday life in NT Times" and "Bedside Diagnosis." The third one arrived some time ago, but I waited so that I could acknowledge them all. I am very grateful to you all at Aberdour for sending them out for they are all very valuable for the work here.

As you will see we have now removed from Tumutumu to Kikuyu. We have been here nearly two months now. My wife and the children hope to fly home to Scotland in July, and I shall follow by sea in November. It does not seem long to wait now. The family are going ahead of me so that they arrive in the summer and not in the bleak midwinter, and also so that Patricia can begin school in Edinburgh in September and have a complete session before we return next year.

Kikuyu has always been our head station, but some of its glory has already departed and more is to depart later. The headquarters of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa are to be in Nairobi, and not at Kikuyu and so there is taking place a gradual transfer of staff and equipment down there. In the past we have concentrated on the rural areas of Kikuyuland, but now we feel we must begin work in the towns in more earnest for it is in the towns that Mau Mau had its stronghold.

Kikuyu is a far larger station in area than Tumutumu, but its hospital is not so busy nor so large. We have around us here on land which formerly belonged to us, the large institutions of the Alliance High School for Boys, the African Girls' High School and the Thogoto Rural Secondary School for Boys. These are all under Mission influence and represent a large part of the senior secondary school work of the Colony. Consequently we find ourselves in the midst of quite a large European community to which I am also Medical Officer.

The Mau Mau situation is not so pressing here as in Nyeri District. We can go out for a walk at night without an escort. In fact, I have just come back from a visit to hospital by myself, a thing I would never have done at Tumutumu. Nevertheless this place has known more Mau Mau attacks than we have at Tumutumu—the Thogoto School was raided one night and all the students' bedding removed, and only last week the house of the Alliance High School woodwork teacher was attacked. We heard the firing across the valley. The Mau Mau are still about.

The work in the Hospital is rather different here. We have a higher grade of training and therefore a more intelligent type of student. The diseases are somewhat different from those at Tumutumu. For instance we hardly ever see a case of malaria here, whilst malaria is very common at Tumutumu.

We are quite near Nairobi which is only 13 miles away and about 1,000 feet lower in altitude. Some people find their ears crack when they come up to us from Nairobi! This means we can keep more in touch with civilisation, but also it means that the cost of living is much higher than in the more rural areas such as Tumutumu.

At present we are at the beginning of our rainy season and we all hope that rains are going to be good, for the food of the people depends on them. They have begun well, but we have had several days without rain. We have a constant wind blowing here for we are near to the Rift Valley from which hot air constantly rises. The Rift Valley is a magnificent sight to see.

Please do thank all our kind friends at Aberdour for the books and all their personal and prayerful interest in the work here in Kenya.

Yours sincerely,

J. WILKINSON.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

30th January—Linda Jean Mackie.

20th March—Angela Fernie.

15th May—Scott Edward Benzie Burnett.

ADULT BAPTISMS.

20th February—Mrs Jean M. Fraser.

Mrs Mary Ness.

MARRIAGES.

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

4th April—Albert Aitken to Christina Steel.

20th April—Alfred Robin Holburn to Rosaleen Marjorie Robertson Mair.

DEATHS.

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

24th January—Mrs Williamson, Dryburgh House.

29th January—Mrs Jamieson, Morayvale.

30th March—Mr D. Simpson, Aba, Murrell Road.

3rd April—Mr C. J. Kerr, Flock House.

9th April—Miss J. Stewart, Kinloch House, Collessie.

9th April—Mrs Smith, Morayvale.

23rd May—Mrs Tait, Seaside House.

ACCESSIONS.

By Profession—

- ✓ Mrs Jean M. Fraser, 5 Morayvale.
- ✓ Mrs Euphemia B. Lough, 6 Morayvale.
- ✓ Mrs Mary Ness, 3 Morayvale.
- ✓ Mr Alfred Ingram Tucker, 31 Humble Terrace.

By Certificate—

- ✓ Miss Auld, 2 Seabeach House.
- ✓ Mr and Mrs R. Butters, The Institute.
- ✓ Mrs Isa Henderson, Croftgary Cottages.
- ✓ Mr and Mrs Hynd, West End.
- ✓ Mr and Mrs McLaren, Oatridge.
- ✓ Miss Sheila McLaren, Oatridge.
- ✓ Mr and Mrs W. G. McRae, Whitehill Lodge.
- ✓ Mrs Wm. Henderson, Sunnyside, Manse Street.
- ✓ Mr Donald Cameron, 20 Morayvale.
- ✓ Miss M. Soutar, Ardgowan.

Disjunctions—

Mrs Jack, Dalachy Cottages, to Hamilton.

Mrs G. Bell, Station House, to Ladybank.

Mr and Mrs Fernie, 2 Murrell Terrace, to Leven.

Mrs E. Forrester, Belmont, to North Queensferry.

Mrs A. Aitken, Morayvale, to Bonnybridge.