

# Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 38

AUGUST 1956

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

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

Clerk to the Congregational Board—Miss I. C. H. Simmers, M.A., "Kilravock."

Treasurer—Mr J. Dawson Macfarlane, C.A., Braefoot, Easter Aberdour.

Proclamations Officer—Mr R. C. Lyon, Park View, Park Lane.

THE MANSE,  
ABERDOUR,  
*August, 1956.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I must commence this letter by expressing the thanks of the Congregational Board to those members and friends who in one way or another contributed to the success of the Fête on the 21st July. We astonished even ourselves and yet we shall need every penny of it. To Miss Cunningham especially we owe a deep debt of gratitude not only for granting us her lovely garden but for co-operating so enthusiastically in everything that we planned. The sunshine of the day showed Aberdour House and grounds to advantage, and quite apart from the £560 which we raised, it was a very happy occasion in the life of the congregation. We were happy to have Lady Normand with us to open the proceedings and to renew her long association with our Church. The whole affair reflected the enthusiasm of our members, and both young and old enjoyed the "garden party."

We were glad to have a visit in May from Dr. Wilkinson, our partner-plan missionary from Kenya. The function on the Sunday evening proved an ideal way of meeting our missionary personally and we hope to have him over again before he sails at the end of October, when an opportunity will be given for still more members to meet him. He writes to say that he has been successful in the examinations and the gift of the Bible Class was spent in providing some of the expensive books for his studies—books which will be of the greatest use in his training of his own students in the Kenya hospitals. While we are particularly interested in his work in Kenya we must not forget the other mission work of our Church and so, along with this letter, there goes out a leaflet which will repay reading, for it answers many of the questions which come to people's minds.

As I write this letter, we have Isobel Roper with us, the little girl adopted by the Youth Fellowship. She lives at Hawthornbrae, the Church of Scotland Home for Girls. Each time she comes we are impressed by the way she has improved. This speaks very well for the Church's care and training of its children. One night recently we had an unexpected 'phone call from Nairn. It was from Morag Laird, the first niece the Fellowship "adopted." It is five years since she returned to live with her father, and we had not heard from her for four years. It was nice to think that the child still remembered the kindness shown to her by the people of Aberdour. She asked to be remembered to her friends.

The Church, as you know, has also Homes for aged folk. The latest to be added to a list of about thirty is the one at Leslie, and was only opened in May. It is a beautiful house situated in secluded grounds and yet almost in Leslie itself, which makes it an ideal place for the elderly. Mrs Braidwood who has had a long association with Aberdour is one of the residents there, and it was a great pleasure to see her the other day happily settled, and to hear her say that life there exceeded all her expectations.

The County Home at Starley Hall was also opened in May and three of our members have taken up residence. There are many ways in which we as a congregation will be able to help the ladies there. I hope that as a congregation we shall take a special interest in the life at Starley Hall and help to add to the happiness of the friends there. It is on the doorstep, so let us all put on our thinking caps as to how best we can help—a car to convey them to Church—a car to take them a run—flowers, for they have no garden—a concert—a visit for some who have no one to visit them.

The Fête has shown that our Church is never in better heart than when it is doing something for God or for others. We stagnate when we are not doing something to advance the cause of Christ in our parishes. This winter we have to set ourselves, along with the rest of the Church, to the strengthening of our own spiritual life, and the winning of others into the Kingdom. The latter can be done by our patient friendliness, waiting the opportunity to bridge the gaps which exist between people even in a community like ours. There are so many lonely and friendless people and there is not one who will not respond to Christian love. But it is not possible to undertake the work of bridging the gaps unless our own spiritual life be strong. That can only be as we use the means of grace with which God has provided us. Last winter I was surprised more members did not avail themselves of the Bible Study periods. Not because numbers count at all, but just because they were missing so much. Here is what one middle-aged member of the Bible Study Group wrote of it:—

Those of us who attended the class last winter felt that we had not only gained in knowledge from a study together of a part of the New Testament, but received a very real though intangible blessing. It is to be hoped that there may be a few members in the coming session to share in the release of power which comes when "two or three are gathered together in My Name."

There is no doubt that vital life is growing in our congregation, let us make it our business to further its growth—and God give us the increase. May God's blessing rest upon us.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

P.S.—The Old Folk's Home at Starley Hall has no piano. Is it possible that there is someone in the parish who has one that is no longer required? A piano would give a great deal of pleasure.

D. W. R.

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#### BAPTISMS.

*"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."*

8th July—Stephen Frederick Clegg.  
17th July—Catherine Murdoch.  
5th Aug.—Robert James Smallman.  
5th Aug.—Andrew William Fenton.

#### ADULT BAPTISM.

10th June—Andrew Stewart Dykes.

#### MARRIAGES.

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

16th June—Joseph Pennie Meiklejohn to Mildred Ann Taylor.  
7th July—William McIntosh to Margaret Ann Morris.

#### DEATHS.

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

17th June—Mrs Robb, Hillend.  
24th July—Mrs Hunter, Sands Cottages.

#### ACCESSIONS.

##### *By Profession—*

Alexander F. McK. Buchan. <sup>10</sup>  
Douglas A. W. Buchan.  
David Currie. <sup>49.</sup>

Andrew S. Dykes. <sup>money bank P.</sup>  
Robert H. Jamieson. <sup>29</sup>  
Mary H. Wells. <sup>7/10/10</sup>

##### *By Certificate—*

Dr. William Henderson, Sunnyside, Manse Street.  
Mr and Mrs Rae, Croftgarry Cottages.  
Miss Heather Rae, Croftgarry Cottages.  
Mr and Mrs Bonnar, Shore Road.  
Mr James Bonnar, Shore Road.

##### *Disjunctions—*

Mr and Mrs A. Tucker to U.S.A.  
Mr Ingram Tucker to U.S.A.  
Mr and Mrs D. Gordon to Portsmouth.  
Mr and Mrs Jack Bald to Kirkcaldy.  
Miss V. Lochtie to Canada.