

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 40

JUNE 1957

MINISTER:—The Revd. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., B.D., The Manse, Aberdour.

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.

BRAEFOOT,
EASTER ABERDOUR,
June, 1957.

DEAR MEMBERS,

In view of the continuing rise in costs year by year, together with the heavy financial commitments of the Congregation in connection with the maintenance of the six Church properties, the Congregational Board considers it necessary to work to budget or estimated figures of income and expenditure for future years. To this end it has been decided to extend the Freewill Offering Scheme to enable estimates of income to be prepared and to bring it into line with the method of operation as recommended by the Christian Stewardship Association and as adopted by an increasing number of congregations in Scotland.

The distribution of Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes to those who wish to adopt this method of contributing and the secrecy whereby only the Freewill Offering Treasurer will have the Key Register will continue as at present. The extension to the operation of the Scheme will involve the following slight alterations:—

1. In November each year a Budget Statement showing the estimated expenditure and income required for the following year will be delivered to each member.
2. Along with the Budget Statement each member will receive a Promise Card. Members will be asked to enter on the Promise Card the weekly contribution which they intend to give for the ensuing year. The card can be returned in a sealed envelope which will be provided. The amount promised can, of course, be altered at any time should the member's circumstances alter.
3. Up till now, no acknowledgment has been made of members' contributions and the Congregational Board feel that they ought to be thanked for their offerings. The Freewill Offering Treasurer will therefore issue thanks receipts to members.

Fuller details relative to the operation of the Scheme will be intimated in November, but meantime the Weekly Freewill Offering Scheme is commended to all as the best way of contributing regularly to the Church funds. It is appreciated, of course, that there are many young people, widows and pensioners who are unable to contribute as they would desire and the Congregational Board understands this. It is apparent that there is a large number of members who do not contribute according to their means and the Congregational Board urges that in whatever way members plan their giving they will contribute as God has prospered them.

In the name of the Congregational Board.

J. DAWSON MACFARLANE, Treasurer.

THE MANSE,
ABERDOUR,
June, 1957.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

You have just been reading the letter on finance which the Treasurer has written on behalf of the Congregational Board. I hope you will study its contents. This new plan for giving has not been put forward without a great deal of thought on the part of the Board, and it would not have been necessary at all had it not been apparent that there are quite a number of members who make little effort to honour the promises which they made when they joined the Church. Everyone of us needs to think out our offerings to God in comparison with what we spend weekly on entertainment and pleasure. He has given us all things and we ought not to offer unto Him that "which doth cost us nothing."

A beginning has just been made with a class for *First Communicants*. This class is intended for those who desire to join the Church before the October Communion. Up till now a class has been held before each Communion, but from now on that will not be so. It has become clear that a six weeks' course does not give time for satisfactory preparation and I must confess some disappointment at the irregularity with which some new members attend worship after professing publicly "to share dutifully in the Church's worship and service."

Before Mr Osborne left for Canada the Congregation presented him with a Book Token; the Fellowship and the Bible Class with a Tartan Rug; and the Sunday School with a Book on Fife. These were mere tokens of our feeling of indebtedness to him for all he was and did while he was here with us. We wish him and Mrs Osborne a fruitful and happy ministry in St. Andrew's Kirk, St. Johns, New Brunswick. This forges yet another link between us and the World Church—Australia, India, Kenya, Italy, the U.S.A., and now Canada.

Dr. Wilkinson, our partner-plan missionary in Kenya writes:—

“Please thank the Bible Class and the Sunday School for the money they have set aside for the work here. I have been thinking about how I might best use it, but have not quite decided what to ask for. I feel the need of some books on chest diseases, especially tuberculosis, for I am seeing an increasing number of cases, and with the X-Ray available now I can diagnose them more accurately. There are several possible books, but I want to get the best ones for my purpose and therefore do not wish to buy in a hurry.

I am very grateful indeed for these gifts for they do enable me to get books and instruments which otherwise I would not be able to get. The eye instrument which I was able to get before I left with the money from the Sunday School has proved very useful indeed, and I have had several eye cases recently in which it has been invaluable.”

I feel that some reference ought to be made to the addition to the Vestry at St. Fillan's made possible by the legacies left by Miss Barbara Lean and Mr Alexander Wallace. To the Ministers particularly this addition and completion of the original plan means a great deal, and I would express my thanks to Mr Archer and others who gave services so willingly, and who have enhanced the comfort of St. Fillan's.

The holiday season is almost here, bringing with it its round of outings and special services. One only needs to be mentioned, that is the Broadcast Service, and that is done in a special note. I hope all those who can will be in their place that morning.

May God's blessing be upon you.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

THE BROADCAST SERVICE FROM ST. FILLAN'S CHURCH,
SUNDAY, 14th JULY.

It has been decided that this service which commences at 9.30 a.m. will take the place of the normal 11 a.m. service in Aberdour. Worshippers who cannot be there at that hour are encouraged to worship at Dalgety Church at 12.30 p.m.

This broadcast service will naturally differ from our usual morning service. It will not be just that the choir meet at 9 a.m. and that the congregation must be in their places by 9.10 a.m.; but the whole aim of the service will be different. Our aim will be, while worshipping God ourselves, to lead a great unseen congregation into the presence of God. We shall scarcely be able to do that unless we ourselves are in His presence. Here is what the Religious Broadcasting Organiser, Scotland, has to say about it:—

“A Broadcast Service gains entrance into many homes which the Church does not normally enter . . . Over a considerable period of time, B.B.C. Audience Research investigations show that anything from one-third to one-half of those listening to the average Sunday Service on Scottish Home Service are people on the fringe or outside the active fellowship of the Church—hence such a broadcast as the Sunday Service presents both evangelical and missionary opportunities. To this “fringe” category of listeners, must be added many house-bound (by reason of sickness, young families, awkward working hours) people who are professing Christians, together with the aged and infirm, all of whom are in great need of the services of the Church. Many infirm people indeed literally find strength to live from broadcast services.

“Even although a minister broadcasts superbly, the service will be largely ineffective unless both congregation and choir realise how vital is their part in the worship and take steps to prepare The whole atmosphere of the service must convey that reverent conviction which is so moving in Christian worship. The listener should be left with the firm impression that “these people obviously mean and believe what they are doing—they have got something that I haven't” When minister and people are together dedicated to this purpose, the congregation becomes a Christian Community with a positive purpose—to bring God to some needy soul through the warmth of worship and preaching.”

Let us hope and pray that that may be so in our Broadcast from St. Fillan's Church on Sunday, 14th July.

BAPTISMS.

“Suffer the little children to come unto Me.”

- 21st October—Rhona Margaret Christie. (a correction)
- 10th March—Elizabeth Hunter Bain.
- 31st March—David Middlemiss.
- 21st April—Kenneth George Connell.
- 21st April—Susan Ann Davis.
- 21st April—Vanessa Swann.
- 5th May—Elaine Knight Ward.
- 12th May—Michael James Paton.

ADULT BAPTISM.

31st March — Mrs Catherine Findlay.

MARRIAGES.

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

16th March— Andrew A. Robertson to Isabella A. Duncan.

23rd March— Hugh Rodger to Mary Dunnett.

30th April — Joseph H. McIntyre to Isabella Scott.

DEATHS.

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

16th April — Mrs Bald, Borland Road, Inverkeithing.

28th May — Mr Nicholson, Viewforth Terrace.

ACCESSIONS.

By Profession—

Mrs Catherine Findlay, Four Lums.
Miss Morella Machin, Wayside.
Miss Alice McLaren, 25 Humbie Terrace.
Mr Maurice Todd, Barns Cottages.

By Certificate—

Mrs J. Graham, Corriemar.
Mr and Mrs Fair, Braefoot.
Mrs Fowler, Hillend.
Mr and Mrs Hunter, Glenelm.
Mr and Mrs Jeffrey, Inverkeithing.
Mr J. G. Maclean, Corriemar.
Mr and Mrs Meikle, Croftgarry Cottages.
Mrs Methven, 4 Murrell Road.
Nurse Methven, 4 Murrell Road.
Mr and Mrs P. Pritchard, Dryburgh House.
Mr R. Gordon-Smith, Cuttlehill.
Mr and Mrs D. Brown, Manse Street.
Mrs R. Colman, Reneville.
Mrs C. T. Macgregor, Schoolhouse.
Miss E. C. Macgregor, Schoolhouse.

Disjunctions—

Mr John Simpson to Croydon.
Miss Virette Williamson to Dunfermline.
Mr and Mrs P. Anderson to St. Monance.
Mrs Sells to Burntisland.
Mr and Mrs Ian Todd to Doncaster.
Mr and Mrs McNab to Alloa.
Miss Ann Stirling to Erdington.
Mr and Mrs V. Ure to Edinburgh.
Miss Alice Binning to Edinburgh.
Mr and Mrs Rae to Carnoustie.
Miss Heather Rae to Carnoustie.
Mrs Dickson to Canada.
Mrs Swann to Bexhill.
Mr and Mrs Drew to Burntisland.
Mrs Gray to Dunfermline.
Mr T. Gibb to Inverkeithing.
Mrs McKay to Dirlerton.
Mr and Mrs W. Todd to Edinburgh.
Mr and Mrs J. Middlemiss to Dunfermline.
F/O and Mrs Grant to Streatham Hill.
Mr and Mrs Bonnar to W. Lothian.
Mr J. Bonnar to W. Lothian.
Mr G. Dryburgh to Kirkcaldy.
Mr and Mrs J. Scott to Kirkcaldy.
Mr Alec Scott to Kirkcaldy.