

Aberdour and Dalgety Congregation.

In spite of the fact that we receive £800 annually from Tiends and Trusts towards stipends and repairs, one of the marked features of our Church finances during the past few years has been the discrepancy between the ordinary givings of the congregation and the ordinary expenditure, the deficits having ranged from £195 to £102 per annum. The current year promises to be little better. This has necessitated a special effort each year by the Woman's Guild, to whom the congregation owes so much; but it seems a pity that these special efforts should be required to meet the ordinary running expenses. Surely recourse to a Sale of Work should be needed only when the congregation is faced with expenditure of an unusual nature.

If we are to meet ordinary everyday expenses by our ordinary givings, our congregational contributions must be increased to £1,300, which amounts to a weekly contribution from each *wage-earner* of **one shilling and sixpence**. In giving that figure for each *wage-earner* we are recognising that there are many homes where there is only one purse. There are, too, in the congregation young people, widows and pensioners who cannot contribute that amount, nor do we wish them to try to do so, but it means that for the rest of us **one shilling and sixpence** should be a minimum contribution, and there are some who ought to be contributing much more.

The difficulty of contributing regularly is best solved by making use of the W.F.O. and we invite you, if you have not already done so, to begin to use the envelopes week by week. In order that we may know who want envelopes and who do not, you are asked to complete the enclosed form, which will be collected in a few days.

By whatever means you contribute, we do not want you to give more than you can afford, but if God has given you the wherewithal, remember you are not contributing as you ought if you are giving less than one shilling and sixpence per week.

In the name of the Congregational Board.

J. C. KERR, *Treasurer*.

J. DAWSON MACFARLANE, *Clerk*.

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBER,

The Congregational Board at their meeting on 8th April, 1957, decided to introduce a fully operative Free Will Offering Scheme for 1958.

A large majority of the Congregation are at present contributing by means of this system and some of the explanatory notes are therefore for the benefit of those members not using it. All members and friends, however, who desire to adopt the Scheme for 1958 should study the "procedure to be followed" and should return the enclosed Address Card and Offering Card to the F.W.O. Convener and F.W.O. Treasurer respectively.

On behalf of the F.W.O. Committee,

MARY FRASER,
Convener.

18th November, 1957.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

1. Budget Estimate.

Before the opening of the new year, each member will receive a Budget Statement embracing the sums required by the Congregation for all purposes for the ensuing year.

It will be seen from this statement that the total sum to be raised by members and friends of the congregation during 1958 amounts to £2,575 and if it is estimated that there are 450 wage earners in the congregation this sum represents an average weekly contribution of 2s 3d. It is appreciated that there are some who will be unable to contribute on this scale, but, on the other hand, there are those who are in a position to contribute considerably more than this average figure.

2. Offering Card and Address Card.

With this letter each member will receive an Offering Card and Address Card which they are asked to complete and return to the F.W.O. Treasurer and the F.W.O. Convener, in the addressed envelopes. Where husband and wife wish to contribute jointly only one Address Card (marked Mr and Mrs) and one Offering Card will be used.

3. Weekly Envelopes.

(a) When the F.W.O. Convener receives the Address Card she will send to the member a packet of envelopes, numbered and dated—one for each Sunday in 1958.

(b) The member will mark the weekly amount of the offering on the envelope and place it in the collecting bag during service—Sunday by Sunday throughout the year.

(c) When a member is absent, the arrears of contribution should be placed in the current week's envelope and the total amount marked on the envelope.

4. Attendance at two services.

When a member attends more than one service on a Sunday a further offering is not expected at the second attendance.

5. Altering the amount promised.

The amount promised may be altered at any time by simply putting a note in the Weekly Envelope. "From now onwards the amount in this envelope will be....."

6. Secrecy.

The method of sending Address Cards to the F.W.O. Convener and Offering Cards to the F.W.O. Treasurer ensures secrecy as the Convener deals only with names and numbers and the Treasurer deals only with numbers and amounts.

7. Adoption Voluntary.

Adoption of the Envelope System is entirely voluntary and members and friends desiring to contribute to Congregational Funds by other means are free to do so.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED.

1. How to decide the amount of the offering.

Study the Budget Statement and consider leisurely, prayerfully and conscientiously what your offering should be in proportion to your circumstances.

2. Offering Card.

Fill in the Weekly Offering amount and enclose the card in the envelope addressed to the F.W.O. Treasurer, and seal down the envelope.

Address Card.

Fill in your name and address and enclose the card in the envelope addressed to F.W.O. Convener, and seal down the envelope.

Collection of Cards.

Have both sealed envelopes ready for the Office-Bearers who will call to collect them.

5. Obsolete Envelopes.

Members at present contributing by means of the weekly envelope system will have in their possession a supply of envelopes for the period January to June 1958. These envelopes should be destroyed when the new envelopes for 1958 are received.

Aberdour & Dalgety Parish Church

Dear

We are glad to welcome you to the membership of our congregation, and we hope that it will not be long before you feel part of our fellowship. Now you are one of us, do not think that you need a special invitation to join us in any of the congregation's activities.

We minister to two parishes, and for that reason there are two morning services, the first in St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour, at 11 a.m. and the second in Dalgety Church at 12.30 p.m. An evening service is held in St. Fillan's. Members are free to attend either morning service and to sit in any seat.

In Aberdour the Sacrament is normally observed on the third Sunday of February, June and October at morning and afternoon services. At Dalgety it falls on the second Sundays of April and October

Each year after the October Communion a welcome 'get-together' is held for new members as a means of introducing them to the members of the Session and Board and to the Sunday School Teachers. We hope that you will accept the invitation when you receive it, as many have found it a helpful way of making friends. Our Annual General Meeting which is held in March serves a similar function, for our business is got through quickly, and the remainder of the evening is spent in singing and games and dancing, with, of course, a cup of tea. Our Entertainments' Committee organises functions in the summer to promote friendship amongst the members, while during the winter the congregation runs a Drama and a Badminton Club for its members.

The Woman's Guild meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from October to March in the Church Hall at 2.45 p.m., and a warm welcome awaits new members.

There are Sunday Schools and Bible Classes connected with both Churches, and a Youth Fellowship for the "teenagers". The Girl Guides and the Brownies meet on a Tuesday, and the Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs on a Friday.

Please do not regard yourself as a new member, but join in the life of the congregation.

With this letter I am sending information regarding our Free-will Weekly Offering. We hope that you will join the scheme, and through your regular contribution help on the work in which the congregation is engaged.

Your elder's name is

. His address is

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Session Clerk.

FREE WILL OFFERING SCHEME

1. **Budget Estimate.**

Before the opening of a new year, each member receives a Budget Statement embracing the sums required by the Congregation for all purposes for the ensuing year.

2. **Offering Card and Address Card.**

Each member receives an Offering Card and an Address Card which are completed and returned to the F.W.O. Treasurer and the F.W.O. Convener, in addressed envelopes. Where husband and wife wish to contribute jointly only one Address Card (marked Mr and Mrs) and one Offering Card are used.

3. **Weekly Envelopes.**

(a) When the F.W.O. Convener receives the Address Card she sends to the member a packet of envelopes, numbered and dated—one for each Sunday in the year.

(b) The member marks the weekly amount of the offering on the envelope and places it in the collecting bag during service—Sunday by Sunday throughout the year.

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4. **Attendance at two services.**

When a member attends more than one service on a Sunday a further offering is not expected at the second attendance.

5. **Altering the amount promised.**

The amount promised may be altered at any time by simply putting a note in the Weekly Envelope. "From now onwards the amount in this envelope will be"

6. **Secrecy.**

The method of sending Address Cards to the F.W.O. Convener and Offering Cards to the F.W.O. Treasurer **ensures absolute secrecy** as the Convener deals only with names and numbers, and the Treasurer deals only with numbers and amounts.

7. **Adoption of Scheme.**

Members and friends who desire to adopt the Weekly Envelope System are asked to intimate this fact to the Minister or any of the Office Bearers who arrange for "Offering" and "Address" cards to be issued.

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

14th October, 1957.

DEAR MEMBERS,

We have come to a point in our congregational life which calls for decision one way or another.

At the union of the three congregations in 1940 each congregation brought to the union a church in good repair along with certain assets. Until now only running repairs have been required on any of the three church buildings, but the time has now come when the first of the churches needs a major renovation. We have seen it in the offing, but the fact has been brought home to us by the Presbytery's Quinquennial Visitation of the congregation. In connection with this Visitation, the Presbytery's Property Committee visited all our six buildings, the three churches, the hall, the manse and Sandhaven. They congratulated us on the condition of St. Fillan's Church and Dalgety Church, apart from the obvious lack of conveniences at the latter. They were also most favourably impressed with the renovation and re-decoration of the hall. They were sympathetic with our difficulties in keeping so many buildings in good repair. On inspecting St. Colme's Church, however, certain serious defects were revealed. A competent architect surveyed the building and gave the opinion that the discolouration of the interior walls was due to the deterioration in some of the stone work, and that complete re-plastering, along with the harling of the gables, would be required before any scheme of re-decoration could be put in hand. An estimated figure for the complete renovation along with the installation of a new heating system was £2,500. In addition, certain other urgent repairs to the other buildings were noted. For instance, the harling of the two gables of the hall which are in a poor state of repair, exterior painter work at both the hall and the manse, and the taking down of the trees at the gate of the manse, which are pushing over the gate-posts and the adjoining boundary wall. This is estimated at possibly between £700 and £800. The total sum required to put our fabric in order would therefore be in the region of £3,200 whereas the present Fabric Fund amounts to £257.

We have a great deal of property for a congregation of 700 members, so the question has been raised as to whether in view of the foregoing the time has come to make some readjustment. Could we carry on effectively in the Aberdour part of the parish with only one church? All the members who came in at the Union have a natural feeling for the church from which they came, and especially the members who formed part of the St. Colme's congregation; for them St. Colme's Church has many associations and cherished memories, and it would be natural for them to feel regret if it were found necessary to close it as a place of regular public worship. On the other hand, against that must be weighed the practical issue, not just of raising this large sum of money after our recent special effort, but of perpetuating our high overheads for many years to come.

This is the matter which the Kirk Session has been considering. Before putting a proposal to the congregation, either to go ahead and raise the money or to close St. Colme's Church, the Kirk Session would like to know how many members would be strongly opposed to the closing of the church. This letter, therefore, is an invitation to those members who strongly object to write expressing their opposition along with their reasons. These letters should be sent either to the Session Clerk or to the Minister not later than Sunday, 10th November, 1957.

On behalf of the Kirk Session,

R. M. WALKER, *Session Clerk.*

D. W. RUTHERFORD, *Minister.*