

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 43

SEPTEMBER 1958.

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.

THE MANSE,
ABERDOUR, FIFE,
September, 1958.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Though I have dated this letter as being written in September, I am really writing it at the end of July before going off on holiday so that you may have information about the winter's activities. **The Sunday Schools** in both Aberdour and Dalgety will make a beginning on Sunday, 14th September, and it is hoped that children will be encouraged to attend. It can make all the difference to a child's attendance if a word of encouragement is given by parents and friends. Irregular attendance is almost as bad as non-attendance. Both **Bible Classes** will commence the following Sunday, 21st September. The Dalgety Class is held at the same time as the Sunday School, that is at 11.30 a.m. and the Aberdour Class at 5.30 p.m. This is the difficult stage when many young people drop off in their attendance and lose touch with the Church altogether. Make sure, if you do have young people of Bible Class age, thirteen and a half to sixteen years, that they do attend. It is the stage where the real systematic instruction in the Christian faith is given. **The Youth Fellowship** for those who are sixteen and over has been keeping together throughout the summer and the members welcome newcomers to join them at their gatherings on Sunday evenings after Church in the small hall. They start off their winter programme on Sunday, 28th September. It will be of interest to the congregation to know that their "adopted niece," **Isobel Roper**, has now left school and will soon be leaving the Church Home at Hawthornbrae, Duddingston, to commence work at East Fortune Hospital. Over the years since she first became associated with Aberdour we have seen her grow up and the Fellowship members have a right to feel proud of the part they have played in supporting her upkeep. Though she is no longer their niece, they will keep in touch with her and continue their interest. The Fellowship is taking on a new commitment with the Social Service Committee of our Church. Again it is a girl—**Barbara Brotherston**. Along with her older brother she has been at Hawthornbrae since last June; she is nine years of age and a very attractive little girl.

The weeknight activities for the young people will be on as usual—the **Boy Scouts** and the **Wolf Cubs**, the **Girl Guides** and the **Brownies** and, we hope, the **Junior Choir**. During the last few years the Junior Choir has been quite a feature of Church life and the operettas have given the children an interest in the winter months. The children particularly will miss Mr Forrester, who has gone to take up the post of organist and choirmaster at Kinglassie. For some time he had felt the strain of travelling in the winter nights from Thornton to Aberdour and knew that he must seek a post nearer his own home. He had a wonderful way with the children, and both **Junior** and **Senior Choirs** will miss the happy evenings practising under him. As a congregation we wish him well in his new sphere of service.

The weeknight activities for members of the congregation will be similar to last winter, and members are encouraged to join and take part in them. Both the Badminton Club and the Drama Club have their plans laid for the season and would be glad to see more members of the congregation joining in their activities. The **Men's Association**, like the Woman's Guild, is open to non-members and an attractive programme is being arranged. Last year the Association had a very successful season, though the numbers were not large. Some of the lectures were extraordinarily interesting, as were the visits to the various works in the district. Good fellowship exists among the members, and I do recommend it to the men of the congregation. Look out for the pulpit intimation of its first meeting. **The Woman's Guild** needs no recommendation. The number who attend in all weathers shows that. It meets twice a month, and the ladies are promised another attractive syllabus. The opening date is Tuesday, 13th October.

In his most recent letter, **Dr. Wilkinson, our own missionary**, writes: "We have been here about four months now, and feel we have been here for years. The main difficulty about Chogoria is its isolation and in the bad rainy days we used to be completely cut off. Now we have a Land Rover with chains for back and front wheels and so we can usually get out no matter how bad the roads are. Our roads are, of course, earth roads, not tarmac. The hospital here is our busiest and there are two doctors. To-day I am just back from taking a clinic for tuberculosis patients at a dispensary about twenty miles away. On the way I visited and inspected three other dispensaries—two belonging to us and one belonging to the Government. It had been raining all night, and so the road was somewhat muddy but we got through in the Land Rover. As you will perhaps hear from time to time, Kenya is at a rather critical stage in its politics just now with the ratification of the Lennox Boyd Constitution. The African members of the Legislative Council are being rather irresponsible in their refusal to join the Government. The new constitution is a step forward for them, but they will not accept it and want more."

It is a good thing for us to feel that we are part of the world church these days when the world is becoming so small, and I thought I might include little items of interest which come my way. For instance, Dr. Marcel Pradervand, the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Alliance, wrote recently, "It was my privilege, during the early part of March, to pay another visit to the Evangelical Church of Slovakia, once again I was struck by the faith of our brethren, and by the ways in which—in a totally different situation from our own—they are making their witness as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. There steadfastness is to be seen in many ways; but perhaps most of all in their **regular attendance at worship on Sunday**. Of this I had personal experience at Komarno, a Slovakian village, which has a large Magyar-speaking congregation of the Reformed Church. On the Sunday when I was there, about two thousand people filled the church to capacity. Whilst in Czechoslovakia, I had the opportunity of speaking with government representatives, both in Prague and in Bratislava, and of raising with them, and discussing quite frankly, many matters of interest to the life of the Church."

The Rev. Gardner Scott, our own Church of Scotland minister in Jerusalem, said recently, "**The most pathetic people in Israel are the Hebrew Christians.**" Many of the Jewish Christians in Israel have come, generally as refugees, from many lands and they speak many languages. Most of them have to learn Hebrew. Generally their children learn it first in the schools, and then "the mothers have to learn their mother tongue from their children." The United Society for Christian Literature which we support is providing material for the children so that the parents may learn from them the truths of the Gospel as well as the Hebrew language.

Dr. Collyer, of the American Bible Society, talking to the United Bible Societies Conference of the strategic nature of Latin America said, "It is one of the few under populated areas of the world, but it is filling up rapidly and may in a century support **five hundred million people**.—The tide of Christian faith and life is moving across the area. It needs only to be urged and helped along to the day when Latin America will be truly Christian. What we sow in Latin America to-day will bring its harvest of blessing throughout the world to-morrow." The cost of printing Bibles is rising steeply, but the Bible Societies are sure that as Christian people come to appreciate all the factors involved, they will weigh up on the one hand the benefits which the Bible can bring to the peoples of the world and, on the other, the dangers which threaten if other Gospels, those of Marx, or Buddha, or Mohamet, or Mammon, should supplant the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the lethargy and indifference of His avowed followers.

Little notes such as these may help us to feel that we are part of the World Church, and keep us from thinking too much of our own little corner of God's vineyard.

May God's blessing rest upon each home in our parishes and upon those dear to us who are far away.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

P.S.—The Committee entrusted by the Kirk Session with the task of finding an organist to fill Mr Forrester's place in Aberdour has chosen Mr Charles Guild of Kinghorn. Mr Guild was the first of the candidates. He comes to us with a rich experience as an organist and choirmaster. His last appointment was Martyrs' Church, St. Andrews, and while there he was the founder-conductor of the Cloister Singers. At present he conducts the Kinghorn Choir which broadcast recently. We look forward to having him lead our praise.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

25th May	Ian Gray MacKenzie.
3rd August	Andrew Charles Hughes.

MARRIAGE.

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

John Millar and Elizabeth E. Pratt.

DEATHS.

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

23rd March	Mr Rendall, The Murrel.
21st June	Mrs Dryburgh, Morayvale.

ACCESSIONS.—By Certificate—

Mr and Mrs Peter Bradley, 16 High Street.
Mrs James Shepherd, Moraybank.

Disjunctions—

Mrs Keillor, Cockairnie to Forres.
Mrs James Dunbar, Oatridge to East Kilbride.
Mr Andrew Smith, 27 Humbie Terrace to Doune.
Mr E. Forrester to Kinglassie.
Mrs E. Forrester to Thornton.
Mr I. Stirling, the Barns Farm to Sheffield.

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

DEAR MEMBER,

The decision of the Congregational Board to initiate a fully operative Freewill Offering Scheme for 1958 has been amply justified by the very considerable increase in income which has resulted therefrom. The Board desire to thank all who have contributed to Church Funds and to those who, through the Scheme, have faithfully maintained their weekly contribution throughout the year.

It is not considered necessary to issue to members the detailed explanatory notes on the working of the Freewill Offering Scheme as was done last year, but anyone desiring such information should apply to the F.W.O. Treasurer. The Finance Committee have, however, prepared a Budget Statement for 1959, a copy of which is attached to this letter. It will be seen from this Statement that the total sum to be raised by members and friends of the Congregation during 1959 amounts to £2716. This is £141 in excess of the current year's figure, and when Offering Cards have been collected the Board will be able to view the position and judge whether or not this target is likely to be achieved.

Following the same procedure as last year, members who have adopted the Freewill Offering Scheme or are desirous of doing so, are asked to complete the enclosed Offering and Address Cards, place them in their respective envelopes, seal down the envelopes, and have them ready to hand to the Office-Bearer who will call to collect them—alternatively, the envelopes can be handed to any of the Office-Bearers or sent by post.

The Freewill Offering Committee wish the following points to be brought to the notice of members.

1. Amount to be entered on Offering Card.

While it is desirable for budgeting purposes to have an amount entered on the Offering Card, members who do not wish to state a fixed weekly contribution amount should enter the words "amount not specified" on the card.

2. Altering the amount stated.

The amount entered on the Offering Card may be altered at any time by simply putting a note in the weekly envelope stating "from now onwards the amount in this envelope will be....."

3. 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.

4. 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.

On behalf of the Congregational Board.

ISABEL C. H. SIMMERS,
Clerk.

J. DAWSON MACFARLANE,
Treasurer.

10th November, 1958.

ABERDOUR AND DALGETY PARISH CHURCH.

BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

"FOR OURSELVES."

Minister's Stipend (part of) and Salaries of Organists, Church Officers and Cleaner ...	£900	0	0
Rent, Rates, Insurance and Feuduty	180	0	0
Heating, Lighting and Cleaning	170	0	0
Repairs and Upkeep (other than to Fabric)	250	0	0
Printing, Stationery and Publications	160	0	0
Sundry Expenses, including Communion Expenses, Telephone, and Assembly, Synod and Presbytery Dues	125	0	0
*Repairs to Fabric	500	0	0
	<u>£2285</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

"FOR OTHERS."

ASSEMBLY FUNDS—

Maintenance of the Ministry	£160	0	0
Foreign Missions	100	0	0
†Church Extension— National Appeal	100	0	0
Home Mission	35	0	0
Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund	50	0	0
Other Schemes of the Church	95	0	0
	<u>£540</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Outside Organisations, including National Bible Society, Mission to Lepers, etc.	40	0	0
Special Appeals arising throughout the year not provided for in above allocation	25	0	0
		<u>605</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>£2890</u>	<u>0</u>
Less—Income from Trust Investments	£160	0	0
Rents	14	0	0
		<u>174</u>	<u>0</u>
Leaving amount to be raised by Weekly Freewill Offerings and Collections	<u>£2716</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

* The budget amount of £500 is not sufficient to meet the cost of all the repairs and renovations which, of necessity, must be carried out in the near future, but it represents the sum which the Board hope to have available for this purpose in 1959.

† The Church Extension National Appeal Committee have asked congregations to increase the amount of their agreed commitment by 50% in 1959 and 1960, *i.e.*, to raise an additional 5/- per member in these years. The Board feel that this additional demand should not be met from the normal givings "For Others," but should be raised by some special effort, such as a Sale of Work. For this reason they have not included this additional sum in the 1959 budget figure.