

# Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church

No. 44

FEBRUARY 1959.

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,  
*February, 1959.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

As I wrote the date at the head of this letter I realised that it was exactly ten years this month since I was inducted as minister of Aberdour and Dalgety. These have been happy years and, though I do not pay much attention to anniversaries, I should like to express my thanks for all the kindnesses we have received through the years.

The congregation is a very different one compared to that to which we came. The membership has changed almost out of recognition. It will surprise you to learn that since 1949 we have admitted to our membership just over five hundred new members, while during that time we have lost just as many, two hundred and eighty-nine of whom received disjunction certificates to go to other congregations and one hundred and twenty-six of whom passed to their eternal rest. When I mention that the membership this year was returned as six hundred and seventy-eight, you will realise what a tremendous change there has been in the composition of the congregation.

One thing I noticed from the annual return was that out of the six hundred and seventy-eight only four hundred and eighty-three were present at any of the three communions. This is most disturbing. I know, of course, that in the one hundred and ninety-five who did not communicate there are a good many who are elderly and ailing and could not be expected to come; I know, too, that there are some whose work prevents them from attending; I know, too, that for a variety of reasons it can happen that one is absent from three communions in succession; but it does give me food for thought and causes me to wonder, not who they are, for of course that is known, but what it is that keeps them from coming to receive the saving grace at the Lord's Table? What is it that holds them back or prevents them from joining in the Communion or Fellowship of the Holy Spirit?

As in previous years we have received a number of letters from those who have been associated with the work here. Each one wishes to be remembered to the congregation. Dr. George Lawrence is still associate minister in the First Congregational Church, Burlington, Vermont. Mr Wells is teaching in Dickinson College, Carlisle, and Mr Bailey in Dubuque University. Mr Osborne is very happy in St. Andrew's Kirk, St. John, N.B. They all refer to their happy memories of service at Aberdour and Dalgety. Like Mr Hasty, Mr Biddle who is assisting us just now comes from S. Carolina. We are glad to have his services both for leading us in worship and for the instruction of the young people. We are just sorry that his stay with us is to be so short. He leaves at the end of March for a trip on the continent before returning to the States. We wish him and Mrs Biddle well and hope that they will soon be happily settled in a parish of their own.

Dr. Wilkinson, our partner-plan missionary, wrote from Chogoria telling of the variety of work which falls to a mission doctor there—medicine, surgery, dentistry, teaching, preaching and many other skills. As you will notice from the list of our givings to the Schemes of the Church we sent about £125 towards his support. The Bible Class sent an additional £5 to him direct to enable him to purchase some instrument or book which he could not get in the normal way.

While, along with the Sunday School's interest in the work in Santalia in India, the work in Kenya constitutes our main congregational interest in missions, we must never forget that these are but a small part of the whole. All mission is one wherever it is carried on, whether at home or abroad. Wherever it is, one of the greatest needs is for good literature. Here is an extract from a magazine I received:—

"Every year millions of people are learning to read. What shall they read? The means of influencing mass opinion are being exploited by political and commercial bodies. The Church should make the fullest possible use of literature in its approach to the minds and the souls of men. There is urgent need for newspapers, magazines, books, pamphlets in simple and popular idiom, designed to commend Christianity to those outside the Church."

This is the work which is undertaken by the United Society for Christian Literature to which the congregation sent four guineas last year.

Perhaps you are worried about the kind of magazine your boy reads. The Boy's Own Paper will be 80 years old this year. It was started by the Religious Tract Society because then as now:

"Juvenile crime was being largely stimulated by the pernicious literature circulated among our lads. Judges, magistrates, schoolmasters, prison chaplains, and others were deploring the existence of the evil and calling loudly for a remedy, but none seemed to be forthcoming."

The Society undertook the task of producing a paper which should be sound and healthy in tone, and which the boys would buy and read. Its reputation as a modern, up-to-date magazine for intelligent boys is still unrivalled. In a recent popularity poll in St. Helens, Lancashire, amongst teen-age boys the B.O.P. came top against all other rivals. Twelve shillings a year from your newsagent.

Our own Church Magazine, "Life and Work," can be delivered to you monthly for four shillings per annum. Orders should be placed with Mr Clarke, Whitehall, Shore Road.

Christmas is a long way back, but it is not too late to say how much the worship benefited, as it does every Sunday, by the lead of the Choir, under Mr Guild. The Junior Choir of young people led our praise on Sunday, 21st December. There are some promising young singers amongst them, and we hope that they will take the opportunity given them in choral singing.

The Youth Fellowship took the advantage of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns to arrange a night for the "over seventies." Besides doing some begging and borrowing they saved up their own money to produce what proved to be a very happy occasion. It was their own idea to do something for the older folks. Perhaps modern youth isn't so bad after all!

On Sunday, 18th January, three new elders, Mr Armit, Mr Wall and Mr Welsby, were ordained, and Mr Arthur, who for many years was an elder in the Scots Church, Calcutta, admitted. Only one has been allocated a district. Mr Welsby has taken over Mr Dunn's district in Murrell Terrace. With the additional elders we shall be able to cover the new houses as they are completed.

Dalgety Church was built in 1830. It is at long last to get the conveniences which it ought to have had when it was built. It is a very beautiful church, and just recently the Children's Choir, through their concert, raised sufficient money to provide a new pulpit fall and a table runner for the Communion table. This gift has done much to beautify the Church.

In a recent inspection the depredation of the wood worm in the rafters of Dalgety Church was found to be quite extensive. There is no danger at all for the roof is supported by massive beams, but it is not a thing which can be allowed to go on unchecked and in the not too distant future this will require treatment. It is quite clear that we shall be a long time before we are able to overtake the long list of repairs which require attention.

Our aim is to put this leaflet into all the homes of the district. I hope if anyone does not receive a copy they will just ask. Sometimes in visitation I discover that there are a few people who think that one must be a member of the Church before one can come to its services. That is not so. The doors of our Churches are open to all who desire to worship God.

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation has been fixed for Friday, 13th March. At that meeting new members are elected to the Congregational Board. Think out those ladies and gentlemen who would be most suitable for election; ask them if they would be willing to serve; and then come and nominate them. It is essential that we have members on the Board representing every aspect of the congregation's life. After the business we shall enjoy our usual fellowship of tea and song and games and dancing. Be sure you come. You will enjoy the evening.

May God's blessing rest upon you all.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

LIST OF CONGREGATIONAL AND ORGANISATIONS ALLOCATIONS IN 1958.

1.—To Schemes of the Church.

Maintenance of the Ministry ...	£160	0	0
Foreign Missions ...	115	5	0
Aged and Infirm Ministers ...	29	7	3
Church and Manse Building ...	3	0	0
Colleges and Education for the Ministry ...	3	0	0
Colonial Churches ...	3	10	0
Continental Churches, etc. ...	7	10	0
Highlands and Islands ...	5	0	0
Home Mission ...	35	0	0
Jewish Mission ...	5	0	0
Social Service ...	59	7	0
Temperance ...	1	0	0
Youth and Education ...	13	1	0
Women's Foreign Mission ...	25	11	8
Women's Home Mission ...	15	11	8
Women's Jewish Mission ...	15	16	8
Women's Temperance Association ...	1	0	0
Chaplains to H.M. Forces ...	1	0	0
Public Worship and Aids to Devotion ...	1	0	0
Scots Memorial, Jerusalem ...	4	0	0
Church Extension—National Appeal ...	116	1	0
Hut and Canteen Work for H.M. Forces ...	15	0	0
Ladies' Highland Association ...	2	2	0
The Committee on the Order of Deaconesses ...	1	0	0
Refugee Service ...	39	0	0
Esdaile Centenary Fund ...	1	0	0
Glasgow Lodging House Mission ...	1	0	0
Woman's Guild Central Expenses Fund ...	1	10	0

£680 13 3

Whereof contributed by:—Congregational Board ...	£516	7	3
Woman's Guild ...	66	15	0
Youth Fellowship ...	45	0	0
Aberdour Sunday School ...	37	0	0
Dalgety Sunday School ...	11	11	0
Bible Class ...	4	0	0

£680 13 3

## 2.—To Outside Organisations.

United Society for Christian Literature ... ..	£4 4 0
National Bible Society for Scotland ... ..	14 2 0
British Sailors' Society ... ..	2 2 0
Mission to Lepers ... ..	11 11 0
Aberdour Old People's Committee ... ..	9 17 0
World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association ... ..	2 0 0
Earl Haig Fund ... ..	15 7 6
Waldensian Missions Aid Society ... ..	8 5 0
The Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics ... ..	1 1 0
Commonwealth Youth Sunday ... ..	1 0 0
Quarrier's Homes ... ..	2 0 0
Dr. Wilkinson ... ..	5 0 0
	£76 9 6
Whereof contributed by:—	
Congregational Board ... ..	£40 4 6
Woman's Guild ... ..	9 6 0
Youth Fellowship ... ..	6 10 0
Aberdour Sunday School ... ..	11 0 0
Dalgety Sunday School ... ..	4 9 0
Bible Class ... ..	5 0 0
	£76 9 6

### PULPIT TRIBUTE TO JOHN N. BARR.

John Barr was first ordained and admitted to the eldership in Dalgety Church on 1st March 1931 and, though a few years later he was compelled to resign his office temporarily on account of illhealth, it is from that date that his service of the Church began. In those days it was still the custom when an elder resided outwith the bounds of the parish to which he was being ordained that a certificate of character be sought from the Kirk Session of the parish in which he had his residence. In our own minutes there is an extract of a letter sent by the Kirk Session of St. Peter's Church, Inverkeithing, stating "that they approve of Mr Barr's election to our Church and parish and that he is of good character and eligible for the office of eldership." I am sure that tribute paid so many years ago would be endorsed to-day, not only by those amongst whom he lived in Inverkeithing, but by all connected with this church here. He was indeed a man of good character and one who was most eligible for the office of eldership. His religion spread through the whole of his life and as a Master Craftsman his great joy was in a thing well done. He was widely respected and highly honoured for his skill. He gave good and generous service to his church and was always more than willing to give of his own time and experience for the beautifying of the Sanctuary. A faithful elder, he was conscientious in all the duties of the office, whether by his visiting of his district, his attendance at Kirk Session meetings, his bearing at Communion, or his regular presence at the church door. Though having to travel all the way from Inverkeithing, on many occasions in those last years he was at worship when he would have been wiser at his age to have stayed at home. He possessed a deep personal faith and it is not too much to say that his whole life was centred in his love of the Church. His last illness was a long and trying one, and I will not forget my visit to him a fortnight or so before he died how, lying helpless as he was, his whole face lit up as I brought news to him of his friends at Dalgety and of the improvements contemplated on the Church.

We deeply regret that Mrs Barr, who was his constant companion throughout the years should herself be so frail and clouded in mind, but our sympathy goes out to his son and family, with whom until recently they made their home.

#### BAPTISMS.

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

26th Oct.	Suzanne Joyce Johnston	16th Nov.	Laura Jane McKenzie
,,	Lindsay Margaret Webster	11th Jan.	William Latto

#### MARRIAGES.

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

30th Aug.	Ian C. Kerr to Elvira A. Cabrelli	27th Dec.	William Harper to Mary B. Bald
4th Oct.	Edward N. Marsh to Sheena W. Spence	10th Jan.	Donald F. Griffin to Alice McLaren.

#### DEATHS.

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

2nd Sept.	Miss Malcolm, Castle Terrace	2nd Jan.	Mr Butters, The Institute
13th Nov.	Mr McLaren, Oatridge	12th Jan.	Mr Carmichael, Murrell Terrace
1st Dec.	Mr Barr, Inverkeithing	19th Jan.	Mrs Methven, Murrell Road
25th Dec.	Mrs Amos, West End		

#### ACCESSIONS.—By Profession—

Miss Jean Bald, Hillwood, Murrell Road	Miss Dorothy Macfarlane, Braefoot
Miss Helen Colman, 29 Humble Terrace	Miss Margaret Anne MacKenzie, Murrell Road
Miss Rita Dryburgh, Rose Cottage	Miss Dallas Nairn, Ardmohr, Dalgety
Mrs Harvieson, Hawkraig Road	Miss Sheila Russell, Harveyton

#### By Certificate—

Mr Robert Birnie, c/o Malcolm, Castle Terrace	Mr and Mrs J. C. Laidlaw, Wellside
Mrs Henderson, Hawkraig Road	Mrs McIntyre, Morayvale
Mr Edwin Henderson, Hawkraig Road	Mrs D. McLaren, 2 Morton Place
Mrs Johnston, Old Manse	Mr and Mrs W. Nelson, 7 Hawkraig Road
Mr and Mrs Andrew Latto, Morayvale	Mr and Mrs James Shepherd, 2 Moraybank

#### By Resolution—

Mr and Mrs H. Macgregor, 34 Humble Terrace	Mrs M. G. Henderson, Clachaig, Seaside Place
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#### Disjunctions—

Mr John Hutchison, Hillend, to Liverpool	Mr and Mrs G. McNair, Humble Terrace,
Mr David Anderson, Hogh Street, to Maidstone	to Kyle of Lochalsh
Mrs W. Murdoch, Pleasants Cottage	Mrs D. P. Dingwall, Easter House, to Spean Bridge
Mr W. Turnbull, Humble Terrace, to U.S.A.	Mr and Mrs John Methven to Burntisland
Mr Ian Rose, Shore Road, to London	

# ABSTRACT of INCOME and EXPENDITURE for Year to 31st December, 1958.

## 1.—GENERAL FUND.

INCOME				EXPENDITURE.			
1957		1958		1957		1958	
<b>Collection :—</b>				<b>ALLOCATION OF FUNDS :—</b>			
£408	Church Collections ... ..	£470 5 0		<b>Assembly Funds :—</b>			
1041	Weekly Freewill Offerings ... ..	1379 3 9		Maintenance of Ministry			
77	Special Collections ... ..	62 15 3		£137	Fund ... ..	£160 0 0	
113	Donations ... ..	88 13 10		345	Other Schemes of the Church	356 7 3	
30	District Collection ... ..	33 7 6		£482		£516 7 3	
33	Assembly Funds ... ..	40 10 10		38	Outside Organisations ... ..	40 4 6	
£1702		£2074 16 2		£520		£556 11 9	
<b>Net proceeds of Competitions and Concert :—</b>				350	Minister's Stipend (part of) ... ..	475 0 0	
	Dalgety Children's Concert ... ..	£23 0 0		Salaries of Organists, Church Officers and			
	Treasure Hunt, Barbecue and			298	Cleaner ... ..	318 18 0	
	Dance ... ..	14 14 0		Upkeep of Churches, etc. :—			
	Country Dance ... ..	7 1 0		146	Rent, Taxes, Insurance and		
	Golf Competition ... ..	1 7 6		158	Feuduty ... ..	£154 5 5	
21			46 2 6	Heating, Lighting and Cleaning			
<b>Trust Investments :—</b>						312 14 7	
102	For Stipend ... ..	£102 16 10		108	Repairs and Upkeep (other than to Fabric)...	85 14 9	
8	„ Benevolent Fund... ..	8 10 8		154	Printing, Stationery and Publications ... ..	126 14 3	
35	„ Assembly Funds ... ..	34 16 5		<b>Miscellaneous :—</b>			
5	„ Sunday School ... ..	9 5 0		Communion Expenses ... ..			
9	„ Other Church Purposes... ..	8 18 11			Assembly, Synod and	£11 6 9	
			164 7 10		Presbytery Dues ... ..	27 15 0	
21	Rents ... ..		13 18 8		Telephone ... ..	22 19 5	
£1903		£2299 5 2			Laundry Expenses ... ..	42 12 9	
471	Balance brought forward ... ..	469 7 10		99		104 13 11	
				50	Benevolent Fund ... ..	52 18 4	
				22	Payments to Sunday School ... ..	9 5 0	
					Transferred to Fabric Fund ... ..	250 0 0	
				£1905		£2292 10 7	
				469	Balance on hand ... ..	476 2 5	
£2374		£2768 13 0		£2374		£2768 13 0	

## 2.—FABRIC FUND.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
1957		1958		1957		1958	
£200	Grant from General Trustees ... ..	£0 0 0		£240	Expenditure on repairs to Fabric ... ..	£386 10 11	
	Net proceeds of Sale of Work at Dalgety ... ..	53 0 0		412	Balance on hand ... ..	388 10 1	
228	Donations ... ..	7 10 0					
22	Collections ... ..	33 13 10					
7	Trust Investment—For Repairs ... ..	7 2 3					
6	Interest ... ..	11 6 4					
	Transferred from General Fund ... ..	250 0 0					
£463		£362 12 5					
189	Balance brought forward ... ..	412 8 7					
£652		£775 1 0		£652		£775 1 0	

## 3.—OTHER FUNDS.

Balance brought forward ... ..	£60 0 0	Repaid to Baird Trust ... ..	£60 0 0
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**Note.**—The foregoing Financial Statements are abstracts of the transactions and funds of the Congregational Board only.

J. DAWSON MACFARLANE, C.A., Treasurer.

24th January, 1959.—Audited and found correct.

IAN M. STEWART, }  
J. P. AMOS. } Auditors.