

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church

No. 48

SEPTEMBER 1960.

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, 1960.

My Dear Friends,

When children are brought for Baptism parents promise to bring their children up 'in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.' This means amongst other things that the parents promise to ensure that the children receive the instruction in the Christian Faith which is provided by the Church. In Aberdour this instruction is provided by the congregation in a series of graded Sunday Schools and Bible Classes, which commence when the child is still very young. Parents often ask just how old a child must be before entering the Beginners Class which is held in the small hall after the morning service? There is no hard and fast age. We shall be glad to have children as soon as they are able to come and sit with the others. At the age of five the children go through to the large hall to the Primary Sunday School which meets at the same time, and continue there until they are eight, when they enter the Junior and Senior School which meets in the hall at 10 a.m. At thirteen-and-a-half they enter the Bible Class which meets in the small hall at 5.30 p.m., and when they become sixteen they become members of the Youth Fellowship which gathers after the Evening Service. The Youth Fellowship is the class which through lecture and discussion prepares the young people for entering the First Communicant's Class, which meets once a year to prepare them for the October Communion. In Dalgety where the numbers are smaller this same system is carried out, except that all the classes meet at 11.30 a.m. in the Church, and when young people finish with the Bible Class they join the Youth Fellowship. We know that the hours of meeting, especially where there are more than one in the family, are not awfully suitable; but with our accommodation this is the best arrangement which can be come to, and we hope that parents will make every effort to see that the children do receive the instruction the Church provides. Experience has shown that where a child had attended regularly and received this instruction week by week and year by year, it has not been without its effect upon life and character. Along with the attendance at the Sunday Schools and Bible Class should go regular Church attendance. Sunday School or Bible Class should never be a substitute for Church where one worships God, and all but the pre-school child is capable of attending both. A child who sits all morning in the day school is quite able to sit through both Church and Sunday School, especially when there is quarter of a mile walk in between. The Sunday Schools commence this year on Sunday, September 18th, and the Bible Class and Fellowship on September 25th.

I have written on a number of occasions about the heavy burden which the congregation carries with regard to its property. One cannot remember a year when it did not have considerable outlays in order to keep the fabric in order. This year the Congregational Board have decided to undertake two repairs which have been pending for some time. An estimate has been got for the woodworm in the rafters of Dalgety Church. Unfortunately dry-rot was also discovered. The total cost involved will be well over three hundred pounds. But, I am happy to say, that Dalgety has had good news as well as bad. Mr John Brown of Hillend, for many years a faithful attender at Dalgety and at one time an elder, left a legacy of £200 to be spent on the Church. Mr Brown died in June and this kind thought for the Church was typical of his quiet unassuming way.

The other repair is the harling of the Church Hall. This is very much overdue. You may never have been round the back of the hall or seen the gables. They are very much in need of attention if the hall is to be kept in good repair. This will cost nearly £200, so once again, we have almost emptied our Fabric Fund.

Another matter which has been occupying the attention of the Board recently has been the state of the forms and the chairs in the hall. Many of them have given good service and are due for replacement before accidents occur. The Board decided that it was time to begin a programme of buying chairs each year to replace the forms, and will shortly place an order for a small number. It was felt that organisations and individuals might be willing to augment the number and donate a chair. The cost of a chair will be thirty shillings and either the Treasurer (address above) or myself will be willing to receive donations.

It will give pleasure to the members of the congregation to learn that Mr Watts who assisted me throughout last winter was successful in his studies at Edinburgh University and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his thesis. Dr Watts has been called to the church at Red Lake, and we wish him every success when he returns from his service in France with the Canadian Forces.

Dr and Mrs Lawrence along with twelve of their young people from Burlington paid us a visit at the beginning of July. They were spending a few days in Edinburgh before going to Oberammergau and wanted to see St. Fillan's Church and the Abbey on Inchcolm. Our Fellowship entertained them and a very pleasant day was spent together. Dr Lawrence asked to be remembered to the members of the congregation.

We welcome Mr Heaton. Mr Heaton comes from New York, and is at present writing a thesis at the University of Edinburgh. His wife and his four children are with him in this country.

May God's blessing rest upon you,

Your sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

BAPTISMS

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

26th June Lorraine Dykes.

10th July Angela Rose Meiklejohn.

10th July Stuart Robert Meiklejohn.

7th Aug. Anne Elizabeth Lambie Kerr.

MARRIAGES

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

25th June John A. Mitchell to Ethel M. Hynd.

16th July Alexander Thomson to Agnes W. B. Bald.

DEATHS

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

5th June Mr Duncan Philip, "Gowanbrae".

10th July Miss Jessie Ness, St. Colme Crescent

26th June Mr John Brown, Hillend.

8th Aug. Miss Agnes Philip, "Gowanbrae".

7th July Mr Robert Stewart, Murrell Terrace.

ACCESSIONS—By Certificate—

Mrs Liles, 1 Shore Road.

Miss Anne Stirling, Barns Farm.

Mr Smart, "Sunnybrae".

Disjunctions—

Mr W. R. Russell Buchan, Morayvale to Kirkcaldy.

Mrs Ian Mitchell, "Niloc" to Southsea.

Mr and Mrs Robert Birnie, "Belmont" to Australia.

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church

Dear Member,

Are we keeping faithfully all the vows we took upon joining Christ's Church?

Among other things we promised to give it our financial support. Does this mean keeping 90% of what God has given us, giving back to Him 10%? Or should we keep 95% and give 5% to God? Or keep 99% and only give him 1%?

Clearly this is a matter which each member must decide for himself, but we, the Congregational Board, hope that however you give, whether by the Open Plate or by Deed of Covenant, or by the Weekly Free Will Offering Scheme, you will decide your own percentage and give it regularly.

To help you understand our financial problems the Board each year submits a review of the financial position of the Church for the current year, and estimates of income and expenditure for the ensuing year. They take this opportunity of expressing their thanks to all those who throughout the past months have contributed so regularly and generously.

CURRENT YEAR

The position relative to members and contributions for the nine months ending 30th September, 1960, was as follows:—

	Number of Members	Amount of Contributions
Free Will Offering Scheme, ...	328	£1016
Open Plate ...	342	401
	<hr/> 670	<hr/> £1417

The amount to be raised by the Weekly Free Will Offerings and Open Plate Collections during 1960, as set out in that year's Budget Statement, amounted to £2296. Three-quarters of this sum amounts to £1722 which figure can be used for a rough comparison with the figure of £1417 stated above. Such a comparison reveals a Budget Deficiency of £305 which the Board hopes might be reduced by the end of the year. During the current year the Board have been faced with exceptionally high expenditure on fabric upkeep and repairs and there is therefore the very real necessity to have a sum available at the end of the year which can be transferred to the Fabric Fund.

YEAR 1961

The Finance Committee have prepared a Budget Statement for 1961, a copy of which is attached to this letter. The sum to be raised by members and friends of the Congregation during 1961 by means of Weekly Free Will Offerings and Open Plate Collections amounts to £2264.

F.W.O. SCHEME

The more fully operative Free Will Offering Scheme is now in its third year and the Board have decided to complete a further year before again issuing Promise Cards to members. As was the case last year, therefore, the F.W.O. Treasurer will assume that the member wishes to continue the present weekly offering amount for the ensuing year unless he receives intimation of a change in the promised amount.

The F.W.O. Scheme makes for easier budgeting and accounting, and provides facilities to members to contribute to their own Church and to "others" on a regular basis according to their means. The amounts contributed by individual members are not known to the F.W.O. Treasurer or to any other member of the Congregation, and the Promised Amount can be altered at any time by merely placing a note to this effect in the weekly offering envelope.

The figure of 49% of the total membership in the F.W.O. Scheme does not compare favourably with other Churches, and the Board earnestly appeals to those outwith the Scheme to reconsider the matter at this time, and to adopt the weekly envelope system for 1961.

On behalf of the Congregational Board.

ISABEL C. H. SIMMERS, Clerk.

J. DAWSON MACFARLANE, Treasurer.

November, 1960.

ABERDOUR AND DALGETY PARISH CHURCH

BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1961

1960

“ FOR OURSELVES ”

£900	Minister's Stipend (part of) and Salaries of Organists, Church Officers, and Cleaner	£920
180	Rent, Rates, Insurance and Feuduty	180
170	Heating, Lighting and Cleaning	200
150	Repairs and Upkeep (other than to Fabric)	150
160	Printing, Stationery and Publications	150
125	Sundry Expenses including Communion Expenses, Telephone and As- sembly, Synod and Presbytery Dues	120
250	Repairs to Fabric	250
<u>£1935</u>		<u>£1970</u>

“ FOR OTHERS ”

	Assembly Funds.	
£200	Maintenance of the Ministry	£200
50	Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund	49
	Co-ordinated Appeal	£577
390	Less: Estimated Contributions from Organisations	150
		<u>427</u>
£640		£676
40	Outside Organisations including National Bible Society, Mission to Lepers, etc.	35
25	Special Appeals arising throughout the year not provided for in the above allocation	25
<u>705</u>		<u>736</u>
£2640		£2706
	Less:	
165	Income from Trust Investments	£160
14	Rents	28
100	Miscellaneous Income	150
65	Bonds of Annuity and Income Tax recovered	104
<u>344</u>		<u>442</u>
<u>£2296</u>	Leaving amount to be raised by Weekly Freewill Offerings & Collections	<u>£2264</u>