

Minister :
The Rev. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., M.A., B.D.
The Manse, Aberdour.

FEBRUARY 1967

ABERDOUR

No. 61.

Session Clerk :

Mr W. H. CHALMERS, C.A.,
"Lynton," 18 Dovecot Park.

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.

St. Fillan's Church News

THE KIRK SESSION.

At the end of each year the Kirk Session meets to review the membership of the congregation—to add new members who have joined us either by Profession of Faith or from other congregations or communions, and to subtract those who have left us. Our membership at 31st December was 594, of whom 447 communicated at least once during the year.

One thing which is always perturbing is the number, about forty in all, who appear to take little or no interest in the life of the Church. On our Roll we have members who do not communicate, do not attend ordinary worship and do not, so far as we can discover, contribute to the upkeep of the Church or the spread of the Gospel. They are not elderly people; they are not ailing people; they are not poor people; they are not even always busy people. One always wonders what should be done about them, especially if they will not respond to the invitation to try and fulfil more zealously the vows they took on joining the family of God. The Kirk Session feels that they should be approached to see whether they wish to retain their membership and honour the vows they once made to God. It is always open to those who once said "I believe" to say, "I no longer believe" and to withdraw from the obligations and the privileges of Church membership.

There are other returns which are more encouraging. Our Church gave weekly religious instruction to one hundred and forty-five children and to forty-three teenagers last year. No one can calculate the effect of this instruction. In the past it has been the cumulative effect of such faithful teaching which has played an important part in the development of character. Older folk are convinced of this, and we thank our excellent teaching staff for all the willing service which they have given.

As important as attendance at Sunday School is a child's attendance at Church. We are glad to report that more and more parents are realising the importance for their children of learning to worship with the whole family of God. Worship is not so easily learned later in life. This year the following handed in Church Attendance Cards and received a reward from the Kirk Session.

Sandy Cunningham
Carolyn Hutchison
Lismore Hughes
Donald Peter MacAlister
Jimmy Nicol

Sally Errett
Elizabeth Hutchison
Archie MacAlister
Roy Nelson

The winners of the Temperance Competition organised by the Woman's Guild were:—

8 to 10 years, Angela Redford 11 to 14 years, Carolyn Hutchison

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will take place in the Church Hall on Wednesday, 1st March, at 7.30 p.m. The Financial Report, and the reports of the church organisations will be given, and six members will be elected to the Congregational Board for the ensuing three years.

The following have completed their term of appointment:

Miss A. Haldane, Mrs J. C. Laidlaw,
Mrs D. Nelson, Mrs W. Brown, Mrs
W. Nicol, Mr W. G. McRae.

We take this opportunity of thanking them for their willing and valuable service.

Members should come prepared to nominate members of the congregation to the Board. They should have the permission of those whom they nominate.

Tea will be served after the business is completed and the remainder of the evening will be spent in the usual informal way, songs, games and dancing, an excellent way of making new friends and meeting old ones. This gathering will afford the opportunity of presenting to Mr Archer a token of our appreciation of the work which he did for the congregation as Property Convener during the past seventeen years. Mr Archer who now lives at Lindores, carried through for us many extensive repairs and renovations. He did so without any reward and always with the greatest goodwill.

All who worship with us are invited to join with us at the Annual General Meeting and at the Social afterwards.

DALGETY.

A large number of our members managed to be present at what was a historic occasion in Dalgety Church on Wednesday, 9th November, when the Rev. C. R. M. Macleod, M.A., was inducted to the recently constituted charge of Dalgety. This was a very happy end to what had been a protracted vacancy, through the need to build a new manse. Mr and Mrs Macleod and their family were given a warm welcome at the Social which followed the Induction. Here in Aberdour we all rejoice to see the new manse occupied, and to know that the life of the Dalgety congregation is growing steadily as new members arrive in the new town. Plans are already on the way for the provision of a small hall close to the Church, where it will be possible to meet the needs of the expanding congregation. A number of efforts to raise money for this have already been undertaken, and another is planned in our hall in Aberdour on Saturday, 22nd April.

As a congregation we have tried to play our part, and with the gift of the Wallace Organ from St. Fillan's Church we sent the sum of £175 so that the burden of installing the instrument would not fall too heavily on the Dalgety congregation, at a time when money was urgently required for other things.

At the dedication of the newly installed organ in September representatives of our own congregation were present, and were asked to convey to the congregation in Aberdour the thanks of our friends in Dalgety for the gift of an instrument which will add a great deal to the worship in their Church.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM.

It was with pleasure that we learned that in the section set aside for churchyards and the environs of churches, Fife County Council had awarded St. Fillan's Churchyard second place. The first place went to Kennoway R.C. Church, whose beautiful display was high-lighted in a recent B.B.C. Television programme.

We were unaware that there was such a competition and it is a coincidence that its inception should coincide with our own efforts to add to the beauty of the Churchyard by introducing a number of flowering trees and shrubs. We are very much indebted to those who have gifted some of the species which have been planted and also those who gave donations so that we have been able to purchase other varieties. It will of course be a number of years before their worth and their beauty will be fully enjoyed; but they will provide pleasure for many many years to come to those who worship in the Church and to the many visitors who come to admire its beauty. Once again we must thank Mr Stoddart for his helpful advice and for undertaking the planting.

NEW ORGAN.

Elsewhere in this Church News details are given of the cost of the new organ. The Congregational Board decided that a small plate be placed in a suitable position on the wall of the Church recalling the fact that the installation was made possible through the pious benefactions of four ladies: Miss Agnes Elliot of Montreal, Miss Agnes and Miss Helen Downie and Esther Gullen of Aberdour. Each had a great love for the Church and St. Fillan's in particular.

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"If our witness is to be truly Christian, freedom from obsession with material things must be accompanied by utmost concern for the material well-being of others. The question of bread for me is a material question. The question of bread for my neighbour is a spiritual matter."

M. R. Shaull.

## THE HOUR OF SERVICE.

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Since the Dissolution of the Aberdour and Dalgety Congregation the hour of morning worship has been under discussion, both in St. Fillan's and in Dalgety. On the first day of the year a change was made in both congregations to 11.15 a.m. In Aber-

dour the aim has been to make the service fit in better with the bus services in both directions, to allow the Sunday Schools a little longer for their lesson, and to enable parents to collect young children from the Sunday School and to have time to get to Church themselves. Already the alteration has proved worthwhile; Dalgety too has found the early hour and advantage.

STANDARD RATE ?

If you pay Income Tax at the Standard Rate, you can, at no extra cost to yourself, help the Church very considerably. All you have to do is to ask our Treasurer, whose name and address is to be found on the front page, for a Form of Bond of Annuity.

A Bond of Annuity is an obligation to pay a specific sum for a period of more than six years. Normally, the obligation is terminable on the death of the grantor, and it can be paid either to the Congregation here, or if you feel that you do not know how long you may be here, it can be paid to the General Treasurer, Church of Scotland, and transferred to another congregation at a later date. At the present standard rate your contribution of ten pounds would amount to seventeen pounds for the Church. Your contribution need not necessarily be paid in one annual instalment; it may be made under the Weekly Freewill Offering System or otherwise, by arrangement.

If you pay Income Tax at the Standard Rate, this is something you should think about and so help the wider work of the Church.

LONELINESS.

Dr T. B. M. Sloan, the Secretary of the Leprosy Mission, speaking at the Evening Service in the Church Hall in January said that the most terrible effect of leprosy was the sense of loneliness which it brought to those who suffered from it. They became outcasts to even their nearest and dearest. It was just here that

the Church, through its mission to lepers, could often make the greatest contribution. The drugs can now restore to health those who are got to hospital reasonably early, but only the love of God can meet their loneliness.

All lonely people are not lepers. There are lonely people not far from each of us even in a community as self-contained as Aberdour. The love of God spread through His people can meet their loneliness.

"The privilege of prayer to me is one of the most cherished possessions, because faith and experience alike convince me that God himself sees and answers, and his answers I never venture to criticise. It is only my part to ask. If it were otherwise, I would not dare to pray at all."

Dr Wilfred Grenfell
of Labrador.

ACCESSIONS (by Profession)

Miss Georgina Anderson, "Rothes,"
Seaside Place.
Mrs D. Cameron, 41 High Street.
Mrs D. Duncan, 5A Manse Street.
Mr Thomas C. Fraser, 5 Morayvale.
Miss Carol Guild, "Greenaway,"
Alexander III St., Kinghorn.
Mr Angus J. Hunter, 14 Park Lane.
Mr Henry S. Meiklejohn, Cullalo Crescent.
Mrs H. S. Meiklejohn, Cullalo Crescent.
Mr George Smithyman, 54 Main Street.
Miss Sheila Walker, "Eden Cottage,"
Seaside Place.

(by Certificate)

Miss Catherine H. Mailer,
Claverhouse Cottage.
Miss Winifred Mailer, Claverhouse Cottage.
Mr I. M. Borthwick, Balmule Farm.
Mr Robert H. Borthwick, Balmule Farm.
Mrs Logan, Balmule Farm.
Mr and Mrs Mellis, 24 Murrel Terrace.
Mrs A. J. Wilkinson, 24 Dovecot Park.
Miss Eileen Henderson, "Sunnyside,"
Manse Street.
Mr and Mrs H. Hanlon, 24 Inch Avenue.
Mrs E. Aitchison, Starleyhall, Burntisland.
Mrs A. Jamieson, 6 Inch Avenue.
Mr and Mrs James F. B. Thomson,
81 Main Street.
Dr and Mrs Greig, 29 Dovecot Park.
Mrs M. Miller, Dalachy Cottages.
Dr and Mrs E. D. Cameron, "Clachaig,"
Seaside Place.
Dr Evan Cameron, "Clachaig,"
Seaside Place.
Mrs M. Cuthbertson, 20 Murrel Terrace.

"THAT'S BETTER."

It is good to be able to report that in response to an appeal about a year ago for increased givings, so that we might increase our contributions to the needs of the world, that our financial position has improved. It has meant that we have been able to give substantial help where it is most needed. The Finance Committee of the Board decided to send an additional £100 to the Church Extension Committee, which has twenty new Churches or Hall Churches under construction and is more than £750,000 in the red, and an additional £100 to the Overseas Board of our Church for Mission Work abroad. It also raised our gift to the National Bible Society of Scotland to £30, and our gift to the United Society of Christian Literature to £20. Both of those societies provide the ammunition which our missions use to combat paganism, materialism and Communism. These are the main increases, and are a step in the right direction, for Churches' business has never been to keep itself alive, but always to seek to revitalise others.

Of course we all know that satisfactory as this is, it is but a drop in the bucket of the world's need, and that "the sky is the limit."

BAPTISMS.

Aug. 28 Jane Ellen MacAlister.
Aug. 28 Bridget Mary MacAlister.
Oct. 2 Robert Marlow Shepherd.
Oct. 30 Robert Doidge.
Oct. 30 Ann Patricia Duncan.
1967
Jan. 8 Angus John Hunter.

Mr and Mrs W. Archer, Couston House
to Abdie and Dunbog.
Miss Janey Watson, 46 Main St. to
Christchurch, N.Z.
Mr and Mrs W. R. Stephen, Dalachy Cott-
ages to Brandsley, Yorks.
Mr F. McQuillan, 98 Main Street to
Lurgan, N. Ireland.
Mrs R. B. Marshall, 11 Inch Avenue to
Bridge of Allan.
Miss G. Clifford, 16 Main Street to
Edinburgh.

ADULT BAPTISM.

Oct. 9 Mrs Mary Meiklejohn.
Mr Thomas Charles Fraser.
Mrs Patricia Duncan.
Mr Angus John Hunter.

MARRIAGES.

Sept. 20 Alexander Macnair Lawson
to Alison Arthur.
Oct. 8 Fred Albert Kadera
to Anne Moir.
Oct. 29 Thomas Charles Fraser
to Georgina Anderson.

DEATHS,

Sept. 23 Mr W. Henderson,
87 High Street.
Dec. 8 Mr R. M. Cowper, "Hollybank,"
West End.
Dec. 27 Mr W. Brown, 7 Manse Place.
1967
Jan. 13 Mr J. Christie, Bentfield,
Burntisland.
Jan. 19 Mr R. Porter, 18 Humbie Terr.

DISJUNCTIONS.

Mr and Mrs J. H. Crawford, Balmule Farm
to Torthorwald.
Miss Elizabeth Crawford, Balmule Farm
to Watford.
Mrs D. Kelly, 12 Bellhouse Rd. to Milan.

"Show me your God!" the doubter cries.
I point him to the smiling skies;
I show him all the woodland greens;
I show him peaceful sylvan scenes;
I show him winter snows and frost;
I show him waters tempest-tossed;
I show him hills rock-ribbed and strong;
I bid him hear the thrush's song;
I show him flowers in the close—
The lily, violet and rose;
I show him rivers, babbling streams;
I show youthful hopes and dreams;
I show him maids with eager hearts;
I show him toilers in the marts;
I show him stars, the moon, the sun;
I show him deeds of kindness done;
I show him joy; I show him care,
And still he holds his doubting air,
And faithless goes his way, for he
Is blind of soul, and cannot see!

J. K. Bangs.

ABSTRACT of INCOME and EXPENDITURE for Year to 31st December, 1966

1.—GENERAL FUND.

INCOME.	EXPENDITURE
Collections—	Allocation of Funds—
Cash Collections £882 9 8	Assembly Funds—
Weekly Freewill Offerings 1508 13 5	Maintenance of Ministry Fund ... £167 0 5
Bonds of Annuity and Income Tax	Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund ... 75 8 5
Recovered 609 7 4	Co-ordinated Appeal ... £625 0 0
Special Collections 185 2 4	Less: Contributed by Con-
Donations 76 17 3	gregational Organisations 133 0 0
District Collections 34 10 0	492 0 0
Assembly Funds 11 13 10	£734 8 10
£3308 13 10	Outside Organisations 188 1 7
Trust Investments—	£922 10 5
For Stipend £118 10 6	Ministers' Stipend (part of) and Expenses—
„ Benevolent Fund 7 3 8	Stipend £800 0 0
„ Assembly Funds 34 16 5	Allowance for Travelling Expenses .. 125 0 0
„ Sunday Schools 14 16 2	925 0 0
„ Other Church Purposes 11 4 8	Pulpit Supply Fees and Expenses 26 1 0
186 11 5	Salaries 424 5 0
Income Tax Recovered 45 6 0	Upkeep of Church, etc.—
£3540 11 3	Rates, Insurance and Feuduty... .. £120 14 10
Balance brought forward 376 12 0	Heating, Lighting and Cleaning 191 3 0
£3917 3 3	311 17 10
	Repairs and Upkeep (other than to Fabric) 65 5 10
	Printing, Stationery and Publications 164 0 5
	Miscellaneous—
	Communion Expenses £27 19 10
	Assembly, Synod and Presbytery Dues 39 18 11
	Telephone 27 4 9
	Sundry Expenses 61 3 9
	136 7 3
	Benevolent Fund 95 6 4
	Payments to Sunday School 14 16 2
	Donation to Dalgety Parish Church 175 0 0
	Transferred to Fabric Fund 200 0 0
	£3460 10 3
	Balance on hand 456 13 0
	£3917 3 3

2.—FABRIC FUND.

Donation from Woman's Guild £400 0 0	Repairs to Fabric Fund £49 15 6
Collections 56 7 6	Transferred to Organ Fund 290 1 7
Trust Investment—For Repairs 6 19 6	Balance on hand 1054 9 5
Interest 23 7 6	
Transferred from General Fund 200 0 0	
£686 14 6	
Balance brought forward 707 12 0	
£1394 6 6	£1394 6 6

3.—ORGAN FUND.

Contribution from Miss Agnes Elliot's Legacy per	Cost of Installation of New Organ and Related
Mr Rutherford £2000 0 0	Expenditure £3218 5 3
Misses Downie Legacies—Investment Realised 800 0 0	
Miss Gullen's Legacy 112 3 8	
Donation from Children's Concert 16 0 0	
Transferred from Fabric Fund 290 1 7	
£3218 5 3	£3218 5 3

Note.—The foregoing financial statements are abstracts of the transactions and funds of the Congregational Board only.

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

2nd February, 1967.—Audited and found correct.

IAN M STUART, F.C.I.I. }
J. P. AMOS } Auditors.