

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," 99 Main Street.

Proclamations Officer :
Mr R. C. LYON,
"Park View," Park Lane.

St. Fillan's Church News

CONFIRMATION

Throughout the country the Church has been concerned about the number of people, especially young people, who have been joining the Church, making confession of their faith, promising faithful service, and yet who within weeks of making their promises have ceased to take part in regular church worship. No one explanation covers all the lapses. One would hate to think that they were all cheats, though undoubtedly some are. There are those who join the church to further their own ends and Church Membership is still a status symbol when it comes to applying for some jobs.

The Church itself has sometimes wondered whether the language in which the promises are made is too old-fashioned and obscure. (Though, of course, ministers as a rule explain the meaning carefully to intending first communicants) It is with this in mind, and so that there can be no misunderstanding about what is promised, that the General Assembly of the Church has authorised a fresh set of questions to be put to every new member. They make the duties clear.

1. Do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?
2. Do you promise to join regularly with your fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's Day?
3. Do you promise to be faithful in reading the Bible and in prayer?
4. Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents, and money for the Church's work in the world?
5. Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to confess Christ before men, to serve Him in your daily work, and to walk in His ways all the days of your life?

These questions are worth cutting out and placing in your Bible as a bookmark. Whether you are joining at the next communion, or joined long ago, they are questions which will remind you of your promises and of the duties which you have undertaken as professing Christians.

What is the Church doing ?

One thing our congregation is doing is providing religious instruction throughout the winter for the children of its members. This is one of the primary duties of any church. We are fortunate in having an excellent teaching staff, and we are able to cover all age groups from three to eighteen so that the children are taught in small intimate groups, and where it is possible to establish a personal relationship between the children and the teacher. This we believe is of great importance in religious education.

Children from three to five years of age meet in the small hall at ten o'clock on Sunday mornings under Miss Jean Bald, commencing Sunday 7th September.

Children from five to eight years of age meet in St. Colme's Hall (upstairs) at ten o'clock under Miss Carleen Simmers, commencing Sunday 7th September.

Children from eight to thirteen years of age meet in St. Fillan's

Hall, also at ten o'clock under Mr A.P. Elder, commencing 7th September.

Young people from thirteen upwards meet in St. Colme's Hall (upstairs) commencing Sunday 21st September, at 12.30 p.m. They meet together for their opening act of worship before dividing into two sections for their study. Those thirteen to fifteen years of age meet under Mr J. Anderson; those over fifteen under Mr Rutherford.

Children of non-members will be given a warm welcome to these classes. The instruction given is not sectarian. It is based on the Bible, and covers the main doctrines of the Christian faith.

This is something which the Church is doing for its members and the community. Avail yourself of this free service. We only request that children attend regularly so that they may gain the full benefit of the courses which have been planned.

TESTIMONY

This is a cheerful world as I see it from my garden under the shadows of my vines. But if I were to ascend some high mountain and look over the wide lands, you know very well what I should see; brigands on the highways, pirates in the sea, armies fighting, cities burning; in the amphitheatres men murdered to please applauding crowds, selfishness and cruelty and misery and despair under all roofs. It is a bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are the Christians—and I am one of them.

St. Cyprian (Third century martyr)

The Presbytery Elder

Our Presbyterian form of Church government demands that each Kirk Session elects one of its members to act with the minister at the meetings of the presbytery and synod. The presbytery meets monthly; the synod twice a year. Much of the business of both presbytery and synod is transacted by committees appointed to deal with special aspects of the Church's work, e.g. Youth, Overseas, Union and Readjustment, Properties, Home etc. This work can take up quite an amount of time.

Mr John Bald has represented our Kirk Session at the Presbytery of Dunfermline and Kinross for the past six years. He has been most regular in his attendance at the meetings and has given willing service on the Overseas and the Properties committees. He now desires to withdraw from his appointment and as a congregation we thank him for representing us so faithfully and for his interest in the wider work of the Church.

Mr E. Crow has been appointed by the Kirk Session in place of Mr Bald, and represented us for the first time at the July meeting of the Presbytery.

We are fortunate in having two other elders also members of the Presbytery — Mr R. R. Clarke and Mr A. P. Elder. They are what are known as Parity Elders — elders appointed to make up equal numbers of ministers and elders. Mr Elder is convener of the new Youth Committee which embraces the work done previously by the Youth and Adult Education Committees.

Baptisms

March 30	Collette Jennifer Cree
March 30	Dorothy Ness
April 27	Clare de Laval Hughes
May 11	Alastair Peter Morrison
June 1	Colleen Duncan
June 1	Caroline Anne Husband
July 27	Catherine Anne Shepherd
August 3	Jill Margaret Murray

Marriages

March 29	Jonathan Hutton and Jean A. Niven
May 26	Andrew J. Hepburn and Janet G. Kerr
June 4	John M. Rennie and Annie D. Patterson
July 25	John McLeod and Alison M. Guild

Deaths

February 10	Mrs L. Hume, 68 High Street
March 1	Mrs Andrew Wotherspoon, Woodbine Villa
March 16	Mrs H. McIntosh, 1 Murrell Road
March 21	Mrs I. Simpson, Aba, Murrell Road
March 22	Mr R. Spence, North Queensferry
March 31	Mr A. Russell, 28 Dovecot Park
April 2	Miss R.A. McAndie, North House
April 5	Mr A. Snaddon, Shore Road
April 16	Mrs C. Campbell, Starleyhall
April 19	Mrs N. Gould, 16 Main Street
May 15	Miss B. Kerr, Bouprie Farm
June 12	Mrs C. Alexander, 91 Main Street
July 18	Miss F. Mitchell, 7 High Street
August 1	Mrs A. Lister, 3 Murrell Terrace

**"As long as one man suffers in
this world, nobody can be really
happy."**

Mahler.

The Woman's Guild

The Woman's Guild meets in the evening on the first Tuesday of each month; and in the afternoon on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The opening meeting on Tuesday, 7th October will be addressed by Mr Rutherford whose subject will be "Our Responsibility as Christian Citizens", which is the theme of Guild thinking throughout Scotland this winter. The first of the afternoon meetings on 14th October will be addressed by the Rev. J.A. Bremner, minister of St. Mark's Church, Dundee. His subject will be "The Lighter Side of the Ministry".

The Nursery will again operate. Mothers take turns of looking after the children so that the others may take part in the Guild.

A Sale of Work has been arranged in aid of Church Funds on Saturday, 6th December. It will be opened by Mrs J. MacDonald, The Schoolhouse, at 2.30 p.m.

Sunday School

Few Christians today know how much they owe to Robert Raikes, an English newspaper publisher, who was born in 1735. In his day most children received constant religious instruction as a normal part of family life, but Raikes was worried about the children in a nearby orphanage. Their behaviour on Sundays led him to assist in establishing a Sunday School for them, and this led later to the founding of the first Sunday School in Gloucester. He concentrated on children aged six to twelve. There was no attempt to grade the children, and the classes lasted from five to eight hours. The main text was a Catechism, which they had to memorise, and it was illustrated from the Bible.

Raikes met a great deal of opposition from those who believed that popular education of this sort spelled revolution. Some of the strict Sabbatarians objected to these gatherings. In the end, however, he triumphed, and others took up the work he had begun. By the time of his death, 1811, Sunday Schools had become very popular in many parts of the country, until today they are to be found in every parish in the land.

Raikes never intended to replace the home as the principal teacher of religion. He aimed only at supplementing what was taught there. It is sad to think that it may well have been the success of his venture, which has led to carelessness of many Christian parents in teaching their children the fundamentals of the faith. It is doubtful whether Sunday School or Day School will ever make up for what a child should have received from mum and dad. Parents who neglect this Christian duty, which they undertook at baptism, do so at their peril.

The writer of the Proverbs discovered this some 2500 years ago, when he penned the words:—

"Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it."

From our own missionary — Dr J. Wilkinson

"I have just put the Sunday School donation to the cost of a new skin grafting knife we have just bought. This may not sound very exciting, but it is a very important instrument to us, and it is very frequently used. A large number of children come in with deep burns and scalds and have to have skin grafts to help them to heal. Our people do their cooking on a fire which is lit in the centre of the floor of the hut, and it is very easy for a child to fall into it. Their pots are supported by three stones, and it is very easy to pull the pots over. So we have a large number of cases of burning and scalding in children. But also we get a number of cases who are epileptic, and have fallen into the fire during a fit. So you can imagine that the skin grafting knife is often used, and that is why we have had to purchase a new one. When you tell the Sunday School about this, please thank them for their gift to the work here.

Last year was a very busy year for me, particularly its last quarter. For most of September and October, I was in Zambia, where I had been invited to carry out a survey of Christian medical work. It was the hottest time of the year and therefore not the best time to be there. Altogether we covered about four thousand miles and saw about fifty hospitals, both Church and Government. Most of our travelling was by air in a four-seater twin-engine plane, but we also travelled by dug-out canoe on the Zambesi. It was a very interesting and instructive time. I was able to see a lot of places which I had wanted to see, especially Chitambo. The Victoria Falls was not in our itinerary, but I was able to take time off to visit them. They were very impressive and quite remarkable. The mile-wide river just drops into a mile-wide chasm and then emerges through a narrow gorge, or series of gorges to continue on its way. I could have spent much longer in the David Livingstone Room at the National Museum in Livingstone."

*The Presbyterian Church Hospital,
Kikuyu,
Kenya.*

A Gift

Mr and Mrs S. Russell, 26 Dovecot Park gifted a summer seat which belonged to Mr Russell's father for use in the churchyard at St. Fillan's Church. More and more people are visiting the Church and spending time enjoying the peaceful setting overlooking the harbour and the river. Fourteen hundred people signed the visitor's book last year, and those who sign are thought to be a very small

proportion of those who visit the Church. This additional seat will give pleasure to those who sit in the peace and quiet of the Churchyard.

Last year an anonymous donor sent £1 to the Scouts because she enjoyed sitting on one of the other seats, which had been provided by them on the occasion of the centenary of their Founder's birth.

Hospitalisation

Hospitalisation is an American word, but it is as good as any other. Throughout the Presbytery of Dunfermline and Kinross there has been some discussion on the varying arrangement at different hospitals for informing ministers when their members or parishioners enter hospital for treatment. Some hospitals, Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, Cupar, do not send any notification of any kind; some, e.g. Cameronbridge, arrange for the minister to be notified by the hospital chaplain; some, the West Fife Group, send a card out automatically when patients are admitted, unless the patient expressly desires that no notification be given.

Discussion has been going on with both West of Fife and East of Fife Hospitals Boards and it has been agreed that in future the patient or the patient's relatives should ask the hospital authorities to notify the minister. The opportunity will be given as other particulars are recorded. This applies to the Fife Hospital Boards only. No arrangements exist for patients entering hospitals in Edinburgh.

If you or members of your family have to go to hospital, please ask that your minister be notified, better still let him know yourself.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation was held in St. Fillan's Hall on Wednesday, 5th March. The usual reports were given by representatives of the various organisations, and the following members were elected to serve on the Congregational Board :-

Mrs W. Hutchison,
Mrs W. Fotheringham,
Mrs W. Turnbull,
Mr D. Gunn,
Mr K. Hodge,
Mr W. Nelson,
Mr W. Palmer,
Mr W. Shepherd,
Mr R. Stewart.

"A nominal Christian is one who just gets baptised and married."

Anon.

Accessions

Mr and Mrs Andrew D. Lowe,
Kirk Cottages, West End.
Mr and Mrs John M. Smith,
Forth House, Seaside Place.
Mrs Grant Ritchie,
"Gracemount", Main Street.
Mr and Mrs William Main,
15 Bellhouse Road.
Mrs A. Russell, 28 Dovecot Park.
Mr and Mrs G. Frank Ross,
The Bungalow, Bankhead.
Miss Margaret Ross, The Bungalow, Bankhead.
Mrs M. Lamb, Ashley Bank, Murrell Road.

Disjunctions

Mrs D. Duncan, 5 Manse Place to Burntisland.
Mr A. Lloyd, Ivy Bank, Shore Road to Edinburgh.
Mr and Mrs R. Fegance, Dalgety Bay to Corstorphine.
Mr and Mrs J. Errett, 2 Bellhouse Road to Bearsden.
Mrs J. Hutton, Netherhill to Chester.
Mr and Mrs R. C. Hughes, Manse Street to Kilcreggan.
Mrs W. Marshall, Manse Street to Kilcreggan.
Mr and Mrs R. Alan Weallans, Dalvarich to Brisbane.
Mr and Mrs A. T. Hunter, Murrell Terrace to Dalgety Bay.
Mr and Mrs J. Dewar, 54 Main Street to Dalgety Bay.
Mrs G. Boyd, 43 Main Street to Dalgety Bay.
Mr and Mrs J. R. Husband, 16 Morayvale to Kirkcaldy.
Mr and Mrs C. Tankard, Otterston to Dalgety Bay.

Many congregations in Scotland have abandoned the evening service; we still believe in holding ours in Aberdour. It meets a need for a few who cannot be present at the main diet of worship, and it also gives an opportunity of introducing different types of services which would not be suitable at morning worship. Once again the evening services will be divided between the Church and the Church Hall. Normally services on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month will be in the Church and will follow the usual pattern of worship; those on the second and fourth Sundays will take place in the Hall. The second Sunday is the film night and the following films have been ordered.

September 14th — St. Columba.

November 9th — The Work of the Bible Society.

October 12th — North Harris.

December 14th — The Birth — Malcolm Muggeridge

1970

January 11th — Where is your Faith?

April 12th — The Road to Emmaus — M. Muggeridge.

February 8th — The Ministry — Malcolm Muggeridge.

May 10th — Singapore Story.

March 8th — The Work of Christain Aid.

The fourth Sunday is to be used again for gatherings of a less formal kind—special services of praise, community hymn singing, and outside speakers on some particular work which should interest Christian people. Two speakers have promised to come and speak this winter:—

October 26th — "Telephone Samaritans" — Miss Sheila Lyon.

March 22nd — "The Mound Centre" — Mr Robert Hamilton.

Please keep this list. We hope that some of these at least will drag you from the fireside and the 'tele.'

The Church Choir

A glance at the list of Accessions and Disjunctions in this leaflet will make one realise the tremendous change-over which takes place each year within the membership of the congregation. This is reflected in the membership of the church choir. No sooner are new members recruited, than others depart. This is the pattern of our day-to-day lives.

Just recently there have been more 'outs' than 'ins' and the choir which has played such an important part in our congregational life is for the time being sadly depleted. We appeal to those who have an interest in this aspect of worship to come forward. Mr Guild, our organist will be glad to hear from you. Tel. Kinghorn 261. Choir practices take place on Thursday evenings and commence at the beginning of October.

Professor Robert Osborne

We were delighted to have a visit on Sunday, 29th June of one of our former assistants. Dr Osborne, now professor of New Testament Studies in the University of Carleton, Ottawa assisted us here in 1956 and 1957. He visited Edinburgh this summer in order to study the work being done by our near neighbour, Rev. A. Q. Morton, minister of Culross in the investigation of the authorship of certain books of the New Testament by computer science. The computer makes it relatively easy to compare the use one writer makes of even the simplest words with the use another makes of them, and it is sometimes possible, if not to say who wrote a particular passage at least to say who did not write it. The information given by the computer is a very valuable aid when taken along with the evidence produced by other fields of New Testament scholarship. The study of this particular work will help Dr Osborne in his own line of research, which is to try and discover the true sequence of the events described in the Acts of the Apostles and in Paul's Epistles.

The Rev. James McKerron

Each year in July a service is held in Portmoak Church in memory of Michael Bruce, who was the author of some of the best of the Paraphrases and of such poems as The Ode to the Cuckoo. It gave some of us great pleasure to be present this year. The guest preacher was another of our assistants, Rev. James McKerron, now minister of Kingswells, Aberdeen and he dealt very successfully with the difficult problem of the relationship between Bruce and that other Scots poet, John Logan.

"If you leave a place confident that what you have started will continue you have done a great service to a community."

Nigerian School Teacher.

Challenge

*Your rice bowl is empty, little brother;
Your hands are blue from cold;
Your face is a map of terror and pain,
Old as mankind is old.*

*Men try to reach the moon, little brother,
To lasso outer space,
But would they not come closer to God
If they wiped the pain off your face?*

*Men launch their miracles, little brother,
They send their rockets up;
But should it not be their first concern
To fill your empty cup?*

Lucia Trent.

Another assistant, Dr George Lawrence, minister of the First Congregational Church, Burlington, Vermont, along with his wife, paid us what has almost become a yearly visit, bringing with him sixteen young people from his congregation in America. They enjoyed the hospitality they received in Aberdour and their visits to Dunfermline, St. Andrews and particularly the excursion to the Island of Inchcolm. Besides going on a ten-days tour on the continent, they visited Livingstone, Newcastle, Portsmouth, Chandler's Ford and Cheltenham. Members of their congregation subsidise the visit to Europe, believing that by visiting other nations and by establishing personal contacts with families in them, they are playing a small part in improving understanding between the nations and contributing to world peace. They are very conscious of the bad publicity which press and films give on both sides of the Atlantic, and feel that only by personal contact can the misunderstanding be cleared away.

We thank those in the congregation who put themselves about and gave hospitality to the young people; Mr and Mrs Elder, Mr and Mrs Hodge, Mr and Mrs MacDonald, Mr and Mrs MacLachan, Mr and Mrs Morrison, Mr and Mrs Rennie, Mrs Scrimgeour and Miss Simmers and to Mr and Mrs Anderson for throwing their home open for a 'get-to-gether' of our own young people and our visitors.

Sunday Recital

The Abbey Singers of Paisley Abbey, under their conductor and organist, Mr G. McPhee will give a recital in St. Fillan's Church on the evening of 16th November. Both the organist and the choir are well-known throughout Scotland for their television appearances and also for the records which they have made.

Awards

At the closing service of the Sunday School the following young people who had completed their course were presented with a suitable award by the Kirk Session—Evelyn Drummond, Elizabeth Bain, Patricia Bennett, Angela Redford, Linda Robb, Elizabeth Cowin, Patricia Irvine, Catriona Wilkinson, James Nicol and Roy Nelson. They now join the Bible Class in September.

Telephone Numbers

The Manse	Aberdour 349
Fife Marriage Guidance Council	Dunfermline 22911
	Kirkcaldy 4141
Telephone Samaritans	Dunfermline 22222
Alcoholics Anonymous	031-225 4677