

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

SEPTEMBER 1970

ABERDOUR

NO. 68

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

## The Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. of the congregation took place in St. Fillan's Hall on Wednesday, 4th May. The usual reports were given by the representatives of the various organisations, and the Treasurer gave his account of the Financial state of the congregation.

The following members were elected to serve for the ensuing three years on the Congregational Board:—

Mrs M. Brown, Miss A. Haldane, Mrs J.C. Laidlaw, Mrs D. Nelson,  
Mrs W. G. Nicol and Mrs W. Turnbull.

Mr S. Russell was appointed to serve for two years.

Tea was served by the ladies of the Woman's Guild and an enjoyable evening was spent in an informal way.

Mr Chalmers, our Session Clerk, presented Mrs Rutherford with a handbag, as a token of affection from the members of the Congregational Board. Mr and Mrs Rutherford came to Aberdour twenty one years ago.

## Peruvian Disaster

In view of the emergency created by the terrible disaster in Peru the office-bearers of the congregation decided that the Benevolent Fund Offering at the June Communion should be devoted to the need there. It was clear from the response that the members approved, and the sum of £58 was sent to the Peruvian Disaster Fund through Christian Aid.

This meant that we were able to play a small part in the massive help which was sent to help the suffering and the needy. It may interest members to know the steps which were taken on their behalf, immediately the need was known.

1. Transferred £2,000 to the American Red Cross. This has been used for buying cooking utensils and equipment.
2. Made available 2,000 blankets from the League of Red Cross Societies' warehouse at Bancquilla. These will cost £2,500 to replace.
3. 4,000 blankets flown out on a Government VC 10 last Saturday.
4. £5,000 in cash has been transferred direct to the Peruvian Red Cross.
5. 130 Bell Tents have been purchased at a cost of £2,500. These are being flown out on a Government plane leaving on June 18th.

In addition Christian Aid transferred £3,000 through DICARWS to the Church World Service representative in Lima to be used at his discretion.

## The Woman's Guild

The Woman's Guild meets in St. Colme's Hall on Tuesdays. On the second and the fourth Tuesdays in the afternoon at 2.30 p.m. and on the first Tuesday in the evening at 7.30 p.m. Mothers take turns of looking after the children at the afternoon meetings. You are welcome.

The opening meetings are as follows:—

October 6th (7.30 p.m.)—

"Sight" The Minister.

October 13th (2.30 p.m.)—

"Woman's Social and Moral Welfare"  
Mrs Alexander, Glasgow.

October 27th (2.30 p.m.)—

"The Earl Haig Fund"  
Squadron Ldr. Blair.

November 3rd (7.30 p.m.)—

"St. Ninian's Crieff"  
Rev. Bill Shannon.

November 10th (2.30 p.m.)—

"Quarrier's Homes"  
Dr Davidson.

The Sale of Work in aid of Church Funds will be held in St. Fillan's Hall on Saturday, 28th November. It will be opened by Mrs A. P. Elder, "Armada" at 2.30 p.m.

## COFFEE MORNING

The ladies of the Woman's Guild will hold a Coffee Morning at the Manse on Saturday, 12th September 10.30 - 12.30 Tickets 2/6 or 12½p.

BRING AND BUY STALL

## Monday Evenings

Many members and friends have enjoyed the programmes of sponsored films in St. Colme's Hall on Monday evenings during recent winters. They are arranged on the third Monday of each month and everyone is welcome.

An interesting programme has been arranged for the ensuing winter. Bring your friends. 7.30 p.m.

Monday,  
21st September Seven Days in Japan. (Slides) Mr Walter Bald.

Monday,  
19th October Turkey the Bridge  
Top of a Continent (North West Territories)  
Operation S

Monday,  
16th November Around the World with CAV  
Picture of Hong Kong  
All Change (Decimal Currency)

1971  
Monday,  
18th January Farewell to Steam (Denmark)  
Mediterranean Song  
A Family Affair (West Indies Sugar)

Monday,  
15th February Seychelles  
From Paris to Basque  
Wonderful Sicily  
Sudden Summer (Middle East)

Monday,  
15th March Mekong  
Newspaper Run (Sweden's Frozen North)  
City in a Kingdom (Coventry)

Each Monday evening the Hall is open to members for Badminton, Table Tennis, Billiards etc.

## Twenty Years Ago

"Fete in Aid of Church Extension . . . How amply our prayers for its success were answered. Three hours of fair weather on a rainy day gave us just sufficient time to gather in over Three Hundred and Seventy Pounds—a figure which has since been improved upon, and we shall be able to send this year some £400 towards our target. What appeared impossible to men was proved possible to God."

This Fete was held in the grounds of Aberdour House and was opened by the Countess of Moray.

"On Sunday, 29th October the memorial to Dr Johnstone was unveiled and dedicated. A very beautiful memorial in brass and vermillion, it contains the names of the ministers of St. Fillan's from Pre-reformation times, and has special reference to Dr Johnstone, through whose vision the Church was restored in 1926. The Memorial is placed on the North Wall of the Chancel, and was unveiled by Dr Johnstone's son, Lawrence, minister of Clyne, and dedicated by the Rev. D.M.G. Stalker, B.D. Mrs Johnstone and members of the family were present. It was a day full of memories of one who was so deeply revered in the parish.

"Times of Service—Aberdour—In St. Fillan's Church and St. Colme's Church alternately at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. (a notice is put up each week outside the Parish Church Hall saying in which church the services are the following Sunday).

Dalgety—Every Sunday at 12.30 p.m.

## Baptisms

22nd March Alexander Roy Taylor  
5th April Rhona Elizabeth Carr  
5th April Ewan Stanley Carr  
24th May Alexandra Eileen Hopker  
26th July Robert Prevost Ness  
26th July Elizabeth Jean Rennie

## Marriages

5th June Ian C. McAndie  
and Christina I. M. Nelson  
28th July William Mitchell  
and Barbara J. Herbert  
1st August Alistair Adamson  
and Agnes F. D. Currie  
1st August J. Russell Teague  
and May L. Smith  
8th August John Liston  
and Isabel E. Coltart

## Deaths

1969  
26th November  
Mr A. Adams, Greenwood,  
Park Lane.

1970  
22nd March Mrs T. Robertson, 7 Humble Terr.  
23rd March Dr A. Stanton, 11 Home Park  
14th April Mr T. MacKay, 32 Dovecot Park  
20th April Mr N. Selkirk, 87 High Street  
5th May Mrs A. Robertson,  
Croftgary, Sawmill.  
9th May Mr. P. Robertson, 7 Humble Terr.  
23rd May Mrs A. E. Bostron, 2 Sands Place  
30th May Mr A. Graham, 1 Murrell Road  
22nd June Mr P. Pritchard, "Dryburgh House,"  
17 Main Street  
24th June Capt. H. Oakley, R.N. Rtd.

HOW SELDOM WE WEIGH OUR  
NEIGHBOUR IN THE SAME  
BALANCE WITH OURSELVES.

— Thomas a Kempis.

## How to read the Bible

It shall greatly helpe ye to understande  
Scripture,  
If thou mark  
Not only what is spoken or wrytten,  
But of whom,  
And to whom,  
With what words,  
At what time,  
Where, To what intent,  
With what circumstances,  
Considering what goeth before  
and what followeth.

John Wycliffe.

## Accessions

(By Profession)

Mrs R. Gordon, 26 Morayvale  
Mrs A. J. Loughlin, 23 Hawkcraig Road.  
(at school)  
Mr J. Watson Inglis, Dalachy Farm.

(By Certificate)

Mrs C. Gardner, 5 Main Street.  
Mrs J. M. Crawford, 25 Dovecot Park.  
Mrs M. Hopker, "Sunnyside," Manse Street.  
Mr and Mrs Henderson, 89 Main Street.  
Miss Kathleen Henderson, 89 Main Street.  
Mr and Mrs J. S. Carr, 87 Main Street.  
Mrs E. Hook, 6 St. Colme Crescent.  
Mr and Mrs G. M. Pollock,  
"Sandhaven," High Street.  
Mrs J. M. Rennie, Prathouse Farm.  
Mr and Mrs J. MacDonald, 2 Manse Place.  
Mrs C. McGonigal, 1 Manse Place.  
Mr Andrew Rutherford, "Brooklyn,"  
West End.  
Miss Thomasina Rutherford, "Brooklyn,"  
West End.  
Miss Helen Rutherford, "Brooklyn,"  
West End.

## Disjunctions

Mr and Mrs P. K. Morrison, "Brooklyn" to  
Haddington.  
Mr and Mrs Ian C. McAndie to Edinburgh.  
Mr and Mrs Wm. Sharp, 43 Main Street to  
Portmoak.  
Mrs J. A. MacKinnon, 42 Main Street to  
Blairgowrie.  
Mr and Mrs Wm. Fotheringham, Shore Road to  
Dunfermline.  
Mrs M. Cabrelli, Holly Bank to Bearsden.

## Do you know what you are doing?

It is often said that the Church's publicity is poor, and that it fails to get its message over to its members; that few of them are aware of the magnitude and the importance of the work in which their Church is engaged.

Older people will remember the flood of pew leaflets which filled the churches on a Sunday morning. Each committee of the church vied with the others to get their own work over to the worshippers. A very large number of these leaflets found their way into the stokeholds, a few were taken home, most of them were unread. Today the committees seek to inform the Church's members in other ways—particularly through the production of films illustrative of the work that is being done. The very latest films have been secured for our congregation and it is hoped that those who are really interested in what they are doing will make a point of seeing them. In other purchases folk always want to see what their money is buying, and members ought to be interested in what their contributions are achieving. So, please come on a Sunday night when those films are being screened and see what is being done with your money. These films are one of the few ways in which we keep our members informed of what they are doing.

September 13th "Mission in Scotland" (the work of the Home Board).  
October 11th "The Lord's Prayer"  
November 8th "No one is a Stranger" (Our Churches in Europe).  
December 11th "Under the Red Pagoda" (The National Bible Society of Scotland).  
1971  
January 10th "Behold All Things New" (World Council of Churches; Uppsala).  
February 15th "In the Name of Jesus" (Donald Frazer Memorial Hospital at Sibasa, South Africa).

Do not remain ignorant of what you are doing.

Keep this list for reference.

## Christian Stewardship

*Said Jesus, to Whom be peace, "This world is a bridge. Pass over it, but build no house thereon . . . . ."*

"Why does a Christian have to be a steward?" asks Dr Leonard Small in his pamphlet written for the Mission and Service of the Church of Scotland. The simple answer to the question, he writes, is just that a Christian is a steward of his time, talents and material possessions whether he realises it or not.

What is a steward? Someone who is responsible for a limited period for someone else's property. We come into this world with nothing and we go out of it with nothing, but while we are here we are stewards — factors, if you like. We are responsible for *possessions* — house, car, golf-clubs, what you will, but we can't take them with us. They have been lent to us by our Creator. Likewise our *talents*: when we give up our stewardship we will be required to report on how we have used, or abused, them in the *time* lent to us.

Christian Stewardship may be described as a challenge flung at everyone who calls himself a Christian, to take a new look at these three things which are ours for so long as we are on this bridge we call life. Today, more than ever before, we are responsible for more and more things in the world about us. Take a look at the myriads of T.V. masts on housetops; at car-loaded roads, etc. . . . so much *getting*.

Christian Stewardship challenges a man and his family not to *get*, but to *give* evermore of time, talents and possessions. It has, in a very natural manner, linked itself with Church finance where the aim is for one family offering per week.

Many Churches have run a Stewardship Campaign and the vitality of those churches has gone up most impressively. At their next meeting our own Stewardship Committee will be considering whether or not some form of campaign should be organised for St. Fillan's. If the Kirk Session decides to go ahead with such a scheme it will involve the preparation of a draft outline of the Campaign and the members will be kept informed and given the opportunity to ask questions or put forward suggestions.

R. S. Arthur,

*Stewardship Promoter.*

**STORMS MAKE OAKS  
TAKE DEEPER ROOT.**

— *George Herbert.*

## YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY

for thinking before acting,  
for hearing before judging,  
for forgiving your enemies,  
for being candid and frank,  
for helping a fallen brother,  
for being honest in business,  
for thinking before speaking,  
for being loyal to your church,  
for standing by your principles,  
for stopping your ears to gossip,  
for bridling a slanderous tongue,  
for harbouring only pure thoughts,  
for sympathising with the afflicted,  
for being courteous and kind to all.

## Our Church

"How old is the Church?" This is the commonest question asked by those who visit St. Fillan's Church. I cannot remember a single wedding, when one of the visiting guests did not ask this question, and I thought it might be of interest to our own members if I set down what is known about it.

The answer is "Probably, about nine hundred years old." The earliest hard and fast date which can be given is 1123. We know that it was already in existence by that time. About sixty years later William de Mortimer, who lived in Aberdour Castle got involved in a very acrimonious dispute with the Abbot of Inchcolm because he had tried to intrude his own nominee as the incumbent of the Church. The Abbot won the day, and William, giving up all claim to the patronage, admitted that the Church of Aberdour had always belonged to the Canons of Inchcolm from the days of King Alexander I. As Alexander died in 1123 we can assume that the church was standing then, if not before.

A surprisingly large part of that church is to be seen in the present building—the Chancel, with its lancet windows, and the North Wall, excluding of course the gallery which holds the organ console, which has the date 1608 over the door. It was added at that time by the Phinn family which lived at Whitehill. The church at its foundation was basilican, that is, it was oblong with the chancel, and no doubt the South Wall was similar to the North Wall and ran where the great pillars are now. Both walls were lit by lancet windows similar to the window beside the pulpit. The St. Fillan's window on the North wall may well have been a side door; but the main door would be in the West Wall, which has been completely rebuilt on a number of occasions. Whether the floor level was the same as it is now is a matter of conjecture. From the masonry work it looks as though the level had originally not been much below the level of the chancel. If you can visualise it as it was then, you will realise just how appropriate Theo Lang's description of it is, when he called it the "Miniature Cathedral."

It was not, of course, bare stone as it is to-day. The walls were plastered. There are remains of the plaster to be seen at the two consecration crosses on either side of the chancel. It may all have been whitewashed, but more likely the walls were in colour, depicting the stories of the Gospel and the lives of the saints; as was so in the Church on the island. This was their way of teaching the worshippers the message of the Gospel. It is almost impossible to visualise how it looked to those who worshipped in it 800 to 900 years ago, but it is possible to experience something of what they felt. The church is so orientated that at dawn the first light of the rising sun penetrates through the eastern window casting a radiance on the Holy Table—no better symbol of the Resurrection morning. (To be continued). — D.W.R.

## The Waldensian Church

The Waldensian Church is the main Protestant body in Italy. Its origin dates back before the Reformation, and it had to withstand centuries of persecution such as few churches have withstood. Today with much greater freedom than it has ever known before it is a missionary church, reaching out from the valleys in the North, where it was cradled, into the South and to Sicily. There the Gospel is being brought to thousands for the very first time.

By our standards it is a very poor church indeed, and has always been dependant on Christians in other countries to help financially. We in Aberdour have played our part and send about thirty pounds a year. One of their ministers, Pastor Renato Coisson, of Serre in the Valleys, is coming this autumn to tell us of what is happening in his Church. He will be staying at the Manse part of the time and he is going to speak to the congregation at a meeting in the Church Hall on the evening of Sunday, 25th October.

### Do you like it?

Our Father in heaven,  
holy be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
Do not bring us to the test  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and for ever.

This modern version is commended for experimental use.

## Young People

There never was a time when young people had greater need of thorough instruction in the Christian faith. The pressures of the secular society are very great, and for this reason the Sunday School and Bible Class have greater importance than ever. It is true that some instruction is given in schools but nothing is quite equal to the personal interest of a dedicated Christian, and many will be deeply conscious of the debt which they themselves owe to someone who imparted to them in Sunday School much more than just the bare bones of the Christian message.

Using the most up-to-date Lesson Schemes, we in our Sunday School seek to provide religious instruction for the children of the

congregation and also the children in the community. We hope parents will avail themselves of this service which is provided free, and ensure that children are encouraged to attend regularly without too many interruptions. We study to fit in with school week-ends and holidays, so that there is a minimum of dislocation.

The pre-school child is catered for in the Nursery Department, under Miss Jean Bald. It meets in the Small Hall.

The five to eights, under Miss Simmers, meet upstairs in St. Colme's Hall.

Mr A. P. Elder is the superintendent of the Junior and Senior Sunday School which meets in the main hall, St. Fillan's Hall. The age group is 8 - 13.

All these departments meet at 10 a.m. commencing Sunday, 13th September.

The teen-agers (13 - 18) meet in St. Colme's Hall at 12.30 p.m. After short devotions they separate into two groups 13 - 15 and 15 - 18. Mr John Anderson of 9 Bellhouse Road takes the younger group and the minister the seniors. The commencing date is Sunday, 20th September.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL—

All Departments—10 a.m. 13th September.

### BIBLE CLASS—

12.30 p.m. September 20th.

## Awards

The closing service of the Sunday School was held in St. Fillan's Church. The Children brought gifts of flowers and produce which were distributed to the "over-eighties," the sick and the needy.

Booklets were given to the children of the Infant and Primary Departments to encourage them.

The young people who were leaving the Sunday School and proceeding to the Bible Class were presented with a Book Token on behalf of the Kirk Session. The following received the award:—

Lorna Adams, Susan Doidge, Barbara Lochtie, Fiona MacDonald, Elaine Robertson, Caroline Senior, Philip McNair, John Mackay, Norman Serridge and David Slater.